



MOUNT BARKER
WALDORF SCHOOL

Term 1
Week 2 – 2026
Newsletter

From the Principal

Dear Mount Barker Waldorf School Community,

Welcome back to 2026!

What a wonderful beginning to the year we have had. The weather is shining, and so are the students. While the Rose ceremony now seems somewhere in the distant past, the warmth and love of it still flows through the school. And we won't forget the question – what are you focusing on this year?

Before the year began, the teachers worked together to enrich and enliven what happens in the classroom. They looked at Steiner's 'The Art of Teaching' and how we don't just teach content and curriculum, we teach young human beings. It was a wonderful opportunity to recognise one of the things that makes our school great – the learning that happens in the relationships between teachers and students. When the teacher can truly 'see' the young person in front of them, they can use all their knowledge of the content, curriculum and pedagogy to help these young people to grow and be their best selves. The teacher's actions do not exist in a vacuum, they work best when teachers have the opportunity to grow as a community; discuss, work with and challenge each other. Our conference this year gave our teachers many opportunities to support each other in their growing artistry of teaching.

These connections between teachers are ones that are built through our values of care, curiosity, courage and community. When our teachers are invested in more than their own classrooms, our school thrives. You too have the opportunity to be a part of these values throughout the coming terms. You can live our values when you come to school every day and show the courage to reach beyond your immediate friendship group to someone who may be new to the school, or new to you. You can care for your class community by coming to the class meetings happening over the next few weeks and contributing to their health. You can demonstrate curiosity for the challenges that will inevitably arise, and show courage to lean into the uncomfortable, knowing that this is where learning and growth happens. Together our values can live and thrive.

Don't forget to look out for the different opportunities to engage with the school this year. We can't do this without you.

Kind regards,
Liam Waterford, Principal

27 Sims Road (PO BOX 318)
Mount Barker SA 5251

08 8391 0411
office@mbws.sa.edu.au

mbws.sa.edu.au

Key dates this week

Tuesday 10 February

Class 1 Parent / Teacher meeting

Classroom
6pm - 7pm

Class 2 Parent / Teacher meeting

Classroom
6pm - 7pm

Class 7 Parent / Teacher meeting

Classroom
6pm - 7pm

Banksia Rose Kindergarten Parent / Teacher meeting

Banksia Rose Kindergarten
7pm - 8.30pm

Thursday 12 February

Class 9 Monarto Zoo

Monarto Zoo
9am - 3.30pm

Class 5 Parent / Teacher meeting

Classroom
7pm - 8pm

Class 6 Parent / Teacher meeting

Classroom
7pm - 8pm

TERM 1, 2026

**Monday 2 February
to
Friday 10 April**

Cover Image: Class 12 Scuba Camp



Lost Rashie Set

We had a report of a rashie set gone missing from the Rose Ceremony morning tea in the LAC on Monday 2 February. If you happened to collect this in error, please return to the front office. Thank you.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 17 February

Class 8 Origins & Landforms Main Lesson Excursion

Hallett Cove Conservation Park
9am - 3.15pm

Class 8 Parent / Teacher meeting

Classroom
6.30pm - 7.30pm

Class 9 Parent / Teacher meeting

Classroom
6.30pm - 7.30pm

Wednesday 18 February

Class 6 Aquatics Camp

Port Noarlunga Jetty
18/2/2026 - 20/2/2026

Thursday 19 February

Class 10 Parent/Teacher Meeting

Classroom
6.30pm - 7.30pm

Class 3 Parent/Teacher Meeting

Classroom
7pm - 8pm



If you have any feedback for the MBWS Board, please contact them via email at: secretary@mbws.sa.edu.au



Eurythmy for adults

**SESSIONS
ON
HOLD**



Friends of the Plant Nursery

Tuesdays:
9.15 – 10.45am
Meet at School
Plant Nursery



Beehive

Tuesday 10 February 2026
9am - 11am
Cafe and Shop



Yoga Thursdays

A slow pace yoga class
suited for everyone.

Teachers: 8–8.30am
Students: 8.30–8.55am
Parents: 9.15–10am

Kindy/Playgroup Carpark - New Fence Installation

We would like to advise our School community of the upcoming fence installation.

On Tuesday through to Thursday this week, there will be contractors installing a fence at the Playgroup/Kindy carpark area.

The fence will be situated alongside the yellow line and will provide protection for pedestrians from cars and will prevent young students jumping between the carpark and the path which is a potential hazard due to the level difference and due to the potential conflict with vehicles. We had hoped to schedule this for the holidays but materials were not available until this week.

Works are scheduled to commence after drop-off is complete and closure of the carpark is not currently seen as required, but please nonetheless be aware of works in progress in this area.

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact the Business Manager, Rebecca Kennedy at businessmanager@mbws.sa.edu.au.

Introducing New and Returning Staff

It is our great pleasure to welcome new and returning staff to our school. Please extend your warmest welcome to them as they join our community.

Dear Families,

As a new addition to the Leadership Team, I would like to thank you for the warm welcome I have received. The welcoming nature of the school has been evident from the outset, reflected in the kindness and positivity of both our students and staff.

This strong sense of community was one of the key reasons joining your school was such an easy decision for me. While leaving a school I loved dearly was not easy, arriving in a community as warm and welcoming as this one has reinforced that I made the right choice.

I look forward to spending more time getting to know the families of our wonderful school community.

Kind regards,
Daniel Hickey, Assistant Principal



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As the playgroup baton is being passed, I'd like to acknowledge the incredible work of Anna Maletz, who for 16 years held a beautiful space for countless families and children, including my own. Our family's Steiner journey began at playgroup with Anna at the school, as well as at outdoor playgroup with Kate McMurray from Mindful Family Life.

I've spent the past 20 years working with children and families as a theatre maker and workshop facilitator, and for the past two years have been leading bush-based outdoor playgroups for Mindful Family Life in Ashton. I'm also a mama to two small people in Class One and Three.

It has been with great excitement that this week I stepped into the role of Playgroup Leader at MBWS, and I'm delighted to offer a nourishing morning rhythm filled with song, story and connection from Monday-Wednesday each week.

Fun Fact: My dad helped build the Playgroup room back in 1980, before I was born!

Nikki Rydon

Hello families,

I hail all the way from Alice Springs and am about to embark on my teaching journey. I'll be joining the Waldorf team as a graduate pedagogical intern - learning from all the teachers across both the primary and high school.

My attraction to Waldorf is that they walk the walk when it comes to child-centred pedagogy and provide the freedom for teachers and students to explore all sorts of wonderful creative endeavours. I feel really privileged to be a part of the Waldorf community - this is something that I thought would come much later in my career.

Outside of teaching I spend lots of time in the garden and the outdoors with my dog Milo. I also love reading and writing about anything and everything. I look forward to bringing these passions into my teaching and can't wait to meet everyone at this school.

Tim Torzsok

Please join us in warmly welcoming back Grace Vai-Stierman and Arran Stierman. These two valued colleagues have been in Samoa for the past two years. They shared some of their new perspectives and great stories of adventure with the high school faculty this week. Do ask them about it if you get the chance!

Grace will be teaching maths and science classes and Main Lessons in the High School and joining Josh McDonald as co-Guardian of Class 7.

Arran will be the High School learning support teacher and will be teaching high school intervention and support classes e.g. in numeracy and cross curricular and supporting other high school teaching areas.

Welcome back to the team!



Around Our School

Playgroup Welcomes 2026

As many of you know, Anna finished up in her role as Playgroup Leader at the end of last year. We are deeply grateful for the time and passion Anna dedicated to her years at MBWS.

Nikki Rydon will be stepping into the position this year, leading the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday sessions from 9:30am to 11:30am for children ages 2 to 4. Nikki has been facilitating bush-based outdoor playgroup sessions for the past two years (ongoing) for Mindful Family Life in Ashton. These playgroups are underpinned by Steiner philosophy weaving together storytelling, song, and strong rhythmic practices to create meaningful experiences for young children and their families, while connecting deeply to nature and community. In her new role at MBWS Nikki is very much looking forward to meeting everyone, and welcoming families into a nourishing and connected space to enjoy together.



Jamileh will continue leading the Thursday and Friday playgroup sessions, from 9.30am to 12noon for the children turning 4+ yo. These sessions allow the older children to deepen into the work and play opportunities presented. **We currently have places available on Monday, Tuesday and Friday.** Please contact Deborah Bottin to learn more about our sessions and application process. We look forward to growing our community connections this year.

Nikki and Jamileh, Playgroup Leaders

The Beehive Cafe & Shop - Callout for new Parent Volunteers!

Initially dreamed up as a place to support the needs of school families via cafe connection mornings and a craft & materials shop, Beehive has also been a cherished home to many other parent-led initiatives over the years including: the dedicated school craft group, art, healthcare, gardening, craft & sustainability workshops, a 'covid-friendly' walk & talk group, parent support group meetings, adult Steiner study groups, a produce & plant sharing hub, Waldorf-style op-shop, the Parent & Teacher Association, a shared food garden, and many child-friendly Spring Fair meetings and crafting frenzies! It has also now become a home for OSHC, providing a welcoming space each afternoon for a new generation of families.

Part of the magic of Beehive has been the generosity of our community in providing exactly what was needed at the time. Starting out with little more than a room, everything from the coffee machine and furniture, to the handmade cushions and cakes came from donations. Over time there have been many different volunteers and supporters, and we share such gratitude for all the people who have helped provide connection, learning & support beside the beeswax, gumboots and craft. The honesty & generosity of patrons using our 'pay as you can' system has built up a fund to support new initiatives that respond to the needs of our community.

However, after six years at the helm it is now the time for us to move on, and **we are trusting the magic of the Beehive will bring a new cohort of guardians forward to guide the space into 2026 and beyond.** Beehive Cafe will open 9-11am on Tues 10th Feb and welcome interested community members to meet and share ideas.

With thanks,
Nick Woods & Bec Haynes

Class 12 Scuba Camp

Week One of Class 12 began not with desks and timetables, but with the vast horizon of the Yorke Peninsula. Over the course of the camp, students worked towards completing their open water scuba diving licence, meeting physical and emotional challenges that required focus, resilience, self-trust, and cooperation as they learned to navigate an unfamiliar and demanding environment. For most, this was their first time breathing underwater. Learning to scuba dive requires attentiveness, patience, and respect for clear procedures, qualities that in many ways mirror the inner work of young adulthood. Students were guided step by step to manage equipment, regulate their breathing, and remain present and composed, even when nerves naturally arose. In this way, the ocean was a powerful teacher.

The camp fostered a strong sense of community. The class relied on one another as dive buddies, learning that safety and success depend on mutual care, communication, and responsibility. These moments of cooperation, checking gear, offering reassurance, celebrating small achievements, were just as significant as the dives themselves. Away from screens and daily routines, they connected deeply with peers and teachers through shared meals, conversations, main lesson work, a quiz night, a talent show and much reflection and much dreaming into being 'the leaders of the school'.

Time spent underwater offered a rare stillness. Many students spoke of the calm and focus they experienced below the surface, a contrast to the pace of everyday life. Observing marine life in its natural habitat also nurtured a sense of wonder and respect for the natural world, reinforcing themes of environmental stewardship that are central to our curriculum. They were pleased to see that life under the sea is returning after the devastating effects of the algae bloom.

As a culminating experience in Class 12, the scuba camp supports students in crossing an important threshold: meeting fear with courage, responsibility with maturity, and experience with reflection. We are proud of the way the students supported one another, embraced challenge, and grew through this shared journey.

Rose Duggan
Class 12 Guardian



Raising funds and awareness to support the Bob Brown Foundation

Hi all!

Next month, Tim and I will be heading over to Lutruwita/Tasmania to run 22km through the ancient takayna/Tarkine rainforest, raising funds and awareness to support the Bob Brown Foundation in their work to protect one of the last great temperate rainforests on Earth.

Takayna is an incredibly special place- thousands of years old, carbon-rich, and home to endangered species- yet only around 4% is currently protected, with ongoing threats from logging, mining, and industrial activity.

As a biology teacher, and as part of the Waldorf community, caring for the natural world is something I'm deeply passionate about. This fundraiser feels like a positive, practical way to turn that care into action, and I'd absolutely love for the MBWS community to be involved in any way that feels right- through donating, spreading the word, making posters, bake sales, or simply starting conversations. I'd love to hear from you.

P.S. We're also hosting a local fundraising festival at Mollydooker Wines with live music, raffles, and stalls. Find details in the link below! Please feel free to share, donate if you can, or simply get outside and reconnect with the living world around you

Fundraiser link:

<https://chuffed.org/project/protecttakayna26>

Tess Franson, High School Biology Teacher



After School String Ensemble for Classes 7-12

We are happy to announce that Nick Miceli will be leading our After School String Ensemble on Mondays from 3:30pm-4:30pm, beginning in Week Two (9/2/26). Come and learn exciting string pieces, develop skills for performance and share the joy of playing a wide range of music.

Please let me know by email if your children are interested in joining our After School String Ensemble!

Warm regards,

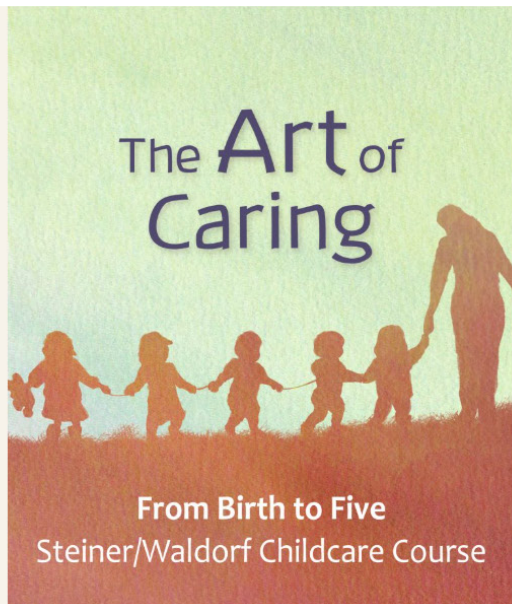
Ruth: rbormann@mbws.sa.edu.au



Community News & Events

Sydney Rudolf Steiner College

Steiner Education at Home Modular Courses - Click on the picture to find out more.



The Art Of Caring

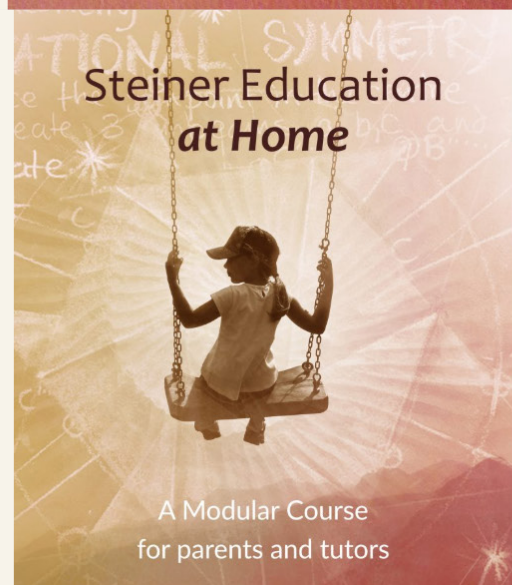
Steiner/Waldorf Childcare Course from Birth to Five

Developed in response to the growing demand for Steiner/Waldorf childcare, this comprehensive part-time course is designed to support Family Daycare providers, childcare educators, playgroup leaders, as well as parents and carers—whether new to working with children or seeking to deepen their practice. It offers thoughtful guidance and inspiration to deepen your understanding of the underlying *why* of Steiner/Waldorf education, supporting a nurturing and developmentally aligned approach that brings Steiner education to life for the young child (birth to five).

Presented by some of our most experienced Early Childhood educators, the course includes in-depth talks and practical workshops on child development and the art of conscious caring, to equip participants with the essential foundational knowledge of Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood education.

Presented online via weekly webinars from February to September, with one 3-day in-person Seminar in April 2026.

Webinars begin Tuesday, 17 February 2026



Steiner Education At Home

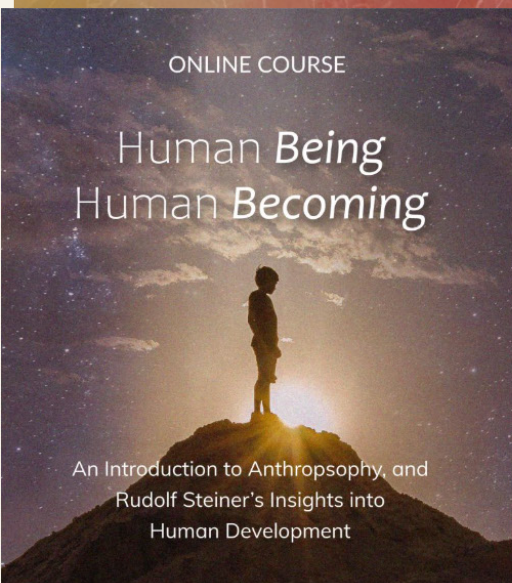
A Modular Course for Parents and Tutors

This self-paced, modular course is designed for parents, carers, and educators—whether new to home education or seeking to deepen their practice. It offers thoughtful guidance and inspiration to deepen your understanding of the underlying *why* of Steiner/Waldorf education, supporting a developmentally aligned approach.

Spanning the early childhood to primary years, the course explores practical, creative, and philosophically rich modules that help bring Steiner education to life in your home.

Developed with working parents and educators in mind, the flexible hybrid format allows participants to complete modules sequentially or select them individually, progressing at a pace that suits their personal and professional commitments.

Module 1 begins 17 February 2026.



Human Being, Human Becoming – Online Course

Rudolf Steiner's Insights into Human Development

Begins February 18 2026

An immersive introductory course that explores the principles of Steiner education and anthroposophy as the foundation of Steiner/Waldorf education, recommended for all new teachers..

A course for anyone seeking new perspectives in understanding the nature of the human being and human development, covering all essential topics recommended for educators, support staff, and parents new to Steiner/Waldorf education.

Presented by international speaker and experienced Steiner/Waldorf educator, Sven Saar.

Delivered online across 12 webinars, Wednesday evenings from 7pm – 8.30pm (AET)

No previous experience is necessary, international students are welcome.

Workshops and Courses

2026 - Term One

Mindful Family Life - Kate McMurray

Birthday Workshop

Saturday 21st February

Week 7 Workshop

(For past MFL participants)

Saturday 14th March

Mindful Family Life - 6 Week Course

Part One via Zoom

Monday 16th 23rd 30th March

Monday 27th April, Monday 4th 11th May

7.45 - 9.30 pm via Zoom

Dad's Workshop

Wednesday 18th March

Contact Kate on 0403 890 234 to register

https://www.instagram.com/mindful_family_life/

New family to MBWS looking for short-term accommodation

Our family of four will be arriving from overseas in early June. We are delighted for our children to attend the Waldorf school in Mount Barker!

We will be searching for a home in the Adelaide Hills and needing short-term accommodation for our family and a friendly indoor family dog. If you know of a flat, studio or home either in the hills or town that we could rent monthly, please send a note to acorrn@protonmail.com. We also have lots of previous experience house sitting for friends in the Canberra region, looking after their pets and farm animals, and would love to do something similar again.

We truly appreciate any advice, and look forward to joining the community soon!

Alana and Brian Corr

ink pot arts inc Ink Pot Arts Workshops... ARTS for LIFE TERM ONE 2026

[SPONGEBOB THE MUSICAL](#) with Jen Edwards,
Tayla Arbon & Riley Love

**8-16 year olds Musical Theatre COME & TRY at the Adelaide Hills
Farmers Market Sat 14th Feb 2026**

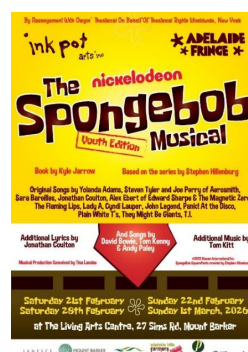
<https://events.humanitix.com/ink-pot-arts-farmers-market-come-and-try-program-2026>

Get into the mood for seeing *SpongeBob the Musical*, happening at the Living Arts Centre, Mt Barker during the Fringe 2026.

Singing tutor Tayla Arbon will take you through a warm-up and song or two which promises to be 30mins of fun at the markets!

**Adelaide Fringe performances on Sat 21- Sun 22 February 2026,
Sat 28th February – Sun 1st Mar 2026.**

Book now: <https://adelaidefringe.com.au/fringetix/the-spongebob-musical-youth-edition-af2026>



[SPRINGBOARD CREATIVES](#) Youth Theatre Ensemble
with Zoe Taylor & team

For High School students Tuesdays 6.00pm-8.00pm
Venue: Eurythmy Room, Mt Barker Waldorf School,
27 Sims Road Mount Barker

Come & Try Tuesday 10th Feb 6-8pm Cost \$30

Term One Fee (9 sessions): \$261 + \$35 subscription

This program is assisted by the South Australian government through CARCLEW

CARCLEW



Bookings essential: <https://events.humanitix.com/springboard-creatives-youth-theatre-ensemble>

Info: quill@inkpot.com.au or 0429 673 327

Get ready to spring into a year of theatre-making with Zoe Taylor & team! Ink Pot Arts is super excited to welcome Zoe in 2026, to bring this special program for teens. What can you expect? Springboard Creatives is designed to build performance confidence, nurture team-building, and draw upon the ideas & interests of the participants to create a script for the Adelaide Fringe 2027. Hop on board to make new friends and hone your performance skills!

Zoe Taylor is an actor, intimacy-coordinator and theatre-maker thriving on Kaurna Yerta. When Zoe doesn't have her face glued to a book, film or theatre show, she is a calm and consent-focused creative - creating, acting, moving and mentoring young people. With Ink Pot Arts she will create diverse and engaging environments for young people to stimulate their innate story-telling abilities.

Location 34-38 Gawler Street, Mount Barker SA 5251
Post PO Box 1177, Nairne SA 5252
Phone 8388 0353 Mobile: 0429 673 327
Email quill@inkpot.com.au

www.inkpot.com.au
 www.facebook.com/inkpotarts

Feminine Vitality Yoga and Ayurveda Retreat

30th April - 3rd May 2026

*Experience rest, rejuvenation, inner
connection and nourishment.*

Includes:

Daily guided meditation & yoga

Quiet time to relax or walk in nature

Delicious Sattvic Vegetarian meals

Wisdom circles to support your hormone
balance, inner connection and wellness.

Ayurvedic Gifts

Fun techniques to connect with your Feminine Essence

Private & peaceful accommodation surrounded by nature

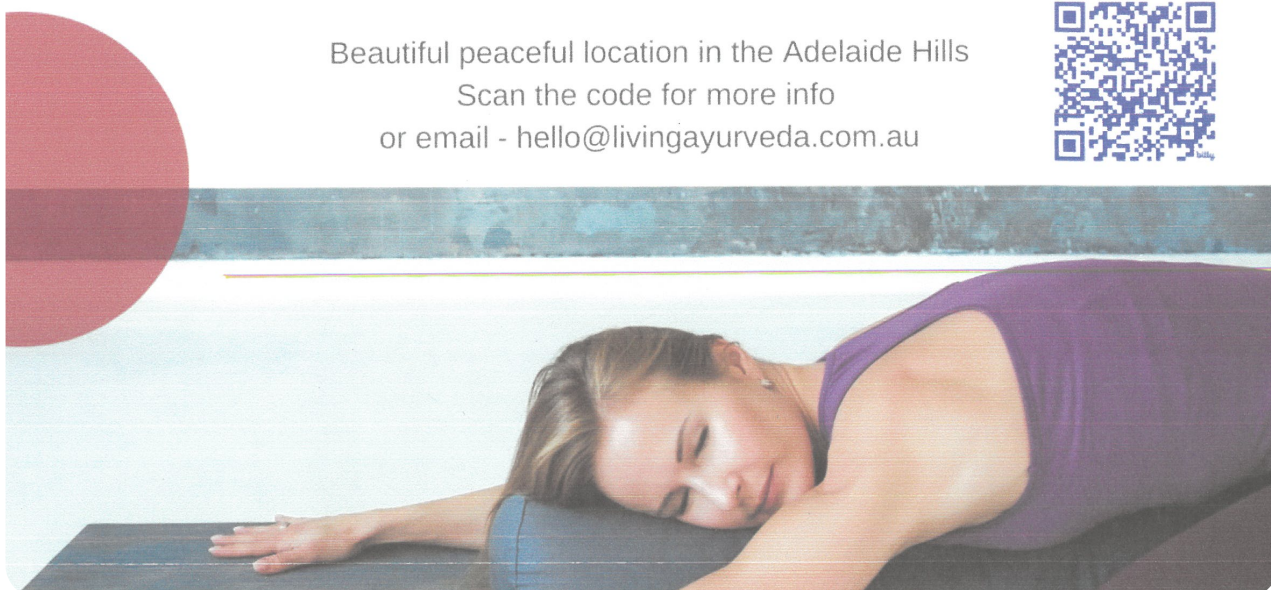
Optional Massage Treatment



Beautiful peaceful location in the Adelaide Hills

Scan the code for more info

or email - hello@livingayurveda.com.au



WHAT'S ON!

at your Community Centre

February 2026

Date

Time

Community Connections Program		
<i>Providing support to build connections with your community, networks and services</i>		
English for Fun	Wednesday 28th January	4.30—6pm
Creative Writing Group, meets weekly	Starts Friday 30th January	10.30am—1.30pm
Womens Shed Workshop	Monday 2nd February	9am—2pm
Inclusive Dance All ages All abilities	Wednesday 4th February	3.45—4.30pm
Sapol Forum—Technology facilitated abuse <i>Mt Barker Community Library</i>	Wednesday 4th February	6—8.30pm
Pathways to Empowerment 9 session program for women <i>with the Zahra Foundation</i>	Starts Thursday 5th February	9.30am—2.30pm
LGBTQIA+ Support Group—Gaggle of Gays and Theys	Monday 9th February	3—5pm
Tech Help Drop In Sessions	Wednesdays fortnightly 28th Jan, 11th and 25th February	2—4pm
Living Well Suicide Prevention Network Re-Launch <i>Free BBQ</i>	Wednesday 11th February	6—7.30pm
Macclesfield Coffee Group **Spark connection** <i>Macclesfield General Store</i>	Friday 20th February	11am—1pm
Lunar New Year Celebration	Sunday 22nd February	10am—1pm

Bookings essential for all events. Most events can be booked online:

<https://events.humanitix.com/host/mtbcc>



MOUNT BARKER
COMMUNITY CENTRE

Like us and share [W mtbcc.org.au](https://www.mtbcc.org.au) P 83912747 E enquiries@mtbcc.org.au | 3 Dumas Street Mount Barker SA 5251

Discover the
Magic of Science!
Ages 5–10

Free
Program



Feb-Mar 2026

Mondays 4-5pm
at Mount Barker
Community Library
Dumas Street
Mount Barker

- 9 Feb – Magnetic Force
- 16 Feb– Exploring Crystals
- 23 Feb – Fab Physics
- 2 Mar– Bubble and Planes
- 16 Mar – Marble Runs
- 23 Mar– Revisit our Favourites
- 30 Mar – Chemistry – going out with a BANG!

Bookings Essential at mbcl.eventbrite.com.au

**YOU BELONG
IN BLUE**

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Visit achievemore.com.au

 **SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE**
SAFER COMMUNITIES

 **Government
of South Australia**