



MOUNT BARKER
WALDORF SCHOOL

Term 1 Week 7 – 2026 Newsletter

From the Principal

Dear Mount Barker Waldorf School Community,

Autumn greetings to you all. The weather has been doing that lovely Hills thing where one moment the sun is shining and the next a soft rain rolls through for a soft soaking. It feels like the year is gently turning toward its autumn rhythm. The recent rain has been a welcome guest. The bush is soaking it up and the Bush Kindy site is quietly being primed for Banksia Rose next term. It always feels like the land knows something special is on the way.

At this time of year I often find myself thinking about the small daily rhythms that make a school come alive. One of the most important of these is simply being present. Attendance matters. The classroom is where the magic happens. It is where the relationship between student and teacher grows day by day. It is where the social puzzles of friendship are worked out. It is where a tricky maths question suddenly clicks, or where an unexpected idea appears during a story.

We know that life is busy and that appointments sometimes need to happen during the school day. It is not always easy to fit everything in. What we ask is that we treat attendance as a shared priority. When school and families work together with learning at the centre, students feel that sense of purpose and belonging. It is part of what you can do for your child.

So as the leaves begin their slow drift to the ground and the air carries that unmistakable autumn freshness, let us keep the rhythm strong. Please keep showing up and ensure your children keep stepping into the classroom. The learning is waiting there.

Warm regards,
Liam Waterford
Principal



Key dates this week

Monday 16 March

Harmony Week

16 - 20 March 2026

SAPOL Youth Driver Education

Classes 11 & 12, Educational Tour - Mile End
9am - 2pm

Tuesday 17 March

Class 3 Main Lesson Excursion (Farming, Processes & Strategies Maths)

Lenswood Pick Your Own Orchard
9.15am - 3pm

Wednesday 18 March

Class 10 Immunisations

High School Autumn Festival - Courage Games

Various classrooms & Oval

Thursday 19 March

Autumn Festivals in Kindergarten

9am to 12 noon

Friday 20 March

Class 10 Poetry Walk to Laratinga

Laratinga Wetlands
9.15am - 11.15am

Primary School Autumn Festival

LAC
11.15am - 12.30pm

Safe Parking at MBWS

Dear Mount Barker Waldorf School Community,

Please remember that Disabled Parking Bays are **strictly only for use by those drivers holding a disability parking permit.**

You must not stop your vehicle in a "No Standing" zone or on a solid yellow line, not even for a few moments.

However, you may stop briefly in a No Parking zone to immediately pick up or set down your child, and drive away as soon as possible. Do not leave your vehicle parked or unattended. **DO NOT WAIT IN THE ZONE IF YOUR CHILD IS NOT IN SIGHT.**

Parking restrictions are for the safety of our students and for the staff, parents and caregivers and help achieve a safer environment across the School.

Please remember also to limit your driving speed when on School grounds, and to stop fully at pedestrian crossings.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Regards,

Rebecca Kennedy
Business Manager
Mount Barker Waldorf School



Upcoming Events

Monday 23 March

Class 9 Australian History Main Lesson

Victor Harbor & Encounter Bay

8.15am - 4.15pm

Swimming Lessons Classes 2-5

Summit Aquatic & Leisure Centre

Cl 3 & 5 - 11.30am - 12.30pm

Cl 2 & 4 - 12.30pm - 2pm

Monday to Friday, 23 - 27 March 2026

Wednesday 25 March

Kindergarten Photo Day

Kindergartens, morning only



OSHC ~Afternoons Only

Monday-Friday PM

School finish-6.00pm

(\$30 flat rate)

To book, please email

oshc@mbws.sa.edu.au

TERM 1, 2026

Monday 2 February
to
Friday 10 April



Eurythmy for Adults

Mondays
9 am - 10 am



Friends of the Plant Nursery

Tuesdays:
9.15 - 10.45am
Meet at the School's Plant Nursery



Beehive

Tuesday 3 March 2026
9am - 11am
Cafe and Shop



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

Join Us in Shaping the Future of Waldorf Education – Senior Leader for 2026, Temporary Position

Nestled in the beautiful Adelaide Hills, Mount Barker Waldorf School is a thriving, values-driven community committed to the art of Waldorf education and the unfolding of each human being. We are at an exciting point in our journey – deeply rooted in Steiner's pedagogy while boldly embracing the challenges and possibilities of contemporary education.

This is an opportunity for an experienced leader who is ready to stretch their skills, inspire others, and co-create meaningful change. You will work within a culture that values curiosity, courage, and co-development, where your capacity to navigate complexity, foster collaboration, and hold true to the spirit of Waldorf education will make a lasting impact.

If you are seeking a role that will challenge and nourish you in equal measure, we invite you to join our committed faculty, dedicated families, and curious students in shaping a school where learning, community, and the human spirit can flourish.

Senior Leader – Mount Barker Waldorf School

We are seeking a visionary Senior Leader to join our Senior Leadership Team (SLT). You will model and nurture generative and transformational leadership, guiding our school in learning, flourishing, connection, and co-development, from Early Childhood to Year 12. We are looking for someone who brings skills that complement our existing team and who thrives in working collaboratively. In return, we will provide onsite professional development and training to support your growth and success in the role.

You bring:

- A deep alignment with our values of Care, Courage, Community, and Curiosity.
- A passion for Waldorf pedagogy and holistic child development.
- A commitment to collaborative leadership, mentoring teachers, and empowering innovation.
- Skill and passion for shaping positive behaviour and student growth.

This role offers:

- Shared responsibility across four leadership domains.
- A rare opportunity to shape a values-centred, future-facing educational culture.

A description of the role can be found [here](#).

To apply, please send a cover letter and CV to Principal Liam Waterford at lwaterford@mbws.sa.edu.au.

Applications close Friday, March 20, 2026.

Confidential enquiries are welcome and can be directed to Liam by email, or by contacting the school on (08) 8391 0411.

Around Our School

Hosting Opportunity - Visiting Waldorf Students from India

In Term 2 our school will welcome 14 students and one teacher from a Waldorf school in India who will be joining our Class 10 students for the Surveying Camp program.

The group will arrive on Saturday 25 April and take part in the Surveying Camp from 28 April to 8 May. After the camp, the students will remain in our community until Monday 25 May, and we are looking for families who may be willing to host a student during this time.

This is a wonderful opportunity to welcome a fellow Waldorf student into your home. Although they come from far away, our visitors share many of the same educational experiences and values as our own students. These exchanges often lead to meaningful friendships and a deeper appreciation of different cultures and ways of life.

Our visiting students are thoughtful, respectful young people who are very excited to experience Australian family life and connect with our community.

Hosting would be from Friday 8 May until Monday 25 May.
A small payment is provided to help cover the cost of food and household expenses.

If your family might be interested in hosting, please contact Ian and indicate:

- whether you would prefer to host a male or female student
- whether the student would have their own bedroom or share
- whether hosting one student or possibly two might suit your household

Please note: Several of the students follow a vegetarian diet, while others have no specific dietary requirements.

Thank you for helping make this special cultural exchange possible for our visiting students and for our School Community.

Ian Price
Outdoor Education Coordinator

Afterschool Rehearsals - Beauty & The Beast JR.

A reminder that the rehearsals for this year's musical production of Disney's *Beauty & The Beast JR* are every Wednesday afternoon in Term 1 from 3.30pm - 4.30pm starting in Week 6.



Class 6 Aquatics Camp | Lake Bonney

In Week 3, our Class 6 students enjoyed a wonderful Aquatic Camp at Lake Bonney. It was a fantastic few days filled with outdoor activities, teamwork, and lots of fun on the water.

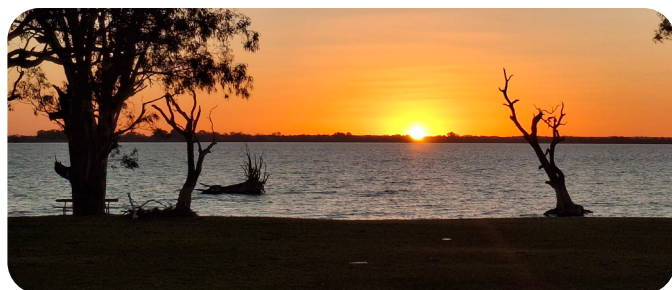
One of the highlights of the camp was the knee boarding activity, which quickly became a favourite among the students. Impressively, every student managed to master the skill.

The camp instructors commented on the excellent behaviour and positive attitudes of our Class 6 students throughout the program. It was lovely to see the students supporting each other and embracing new challenges.

A big thank you to Ian for organising the camp and transport, and to Eri and Olivia for their support during the camp.

After such a successful experience at Lake Bonney, we are now looking forward to the next adventure — Kangaroo Island!

Jeremy Board
Class 6 Teacher



Class 12 Special Project Spotlight - Ezra Waterford

For my year 12 project I am researching how biophilia and imagination can impact hope.

All my life, nature has felt special to me. Walking through a world as a young child so deeply steeped in wonder it is only natural, I think, that as I grew up and the world began to reveal it's bleakness that I sought beauty. My inner world of beauty and wonder has now for a long time been disconnected with the outer world I walk through; and the moments I feel them align once again is standing beneath towering trees under a sky speckled with stars, or looking out to sea- that infinity of endless waves and sky, and in watching the sparrow and the butterfly dance. In short, I found wonder once again in nature. And that is what gives me hope, that deep awe is what inspires me to stand up against the tide; to stand up for change. And that is what I am exploring: how do I create hope in the face of a world full of desperation, fear and terrible sadness? How can we make positive change, and in doing so nurture joy, kindness, resilience and hope?



I have been planning and dreaming about my project for a very long time- starting in year three when I first joined this school where my hope was to sail around the world- and while the scale of my dream has changed (quite significantly) my ambition has not. I feel strongly that it is essential that we not give in to the system's numbness but stand up against it in defiance; in our anger and in our joy. I want to find creative solutions that centre community voices in creating spaces that welcome all and foster kindness, resilience, hope and joy.

I love the world so deeply that I am moved to imagine a future different to the one I am presented with, and I would like to invite all in our community to collectively have the courage to imagine something different, to recognise and champion the possibility.

After all,

"Possibility is the hope we wear when we charge into battle. It is stronger than assumption or reaction because it is intentional. It is an awareness that cannot be snatched away- the knowledge that there is always another ending in play".
Kelly Hayes

A Student's View of Studying Abroad: Izumino Steiner School, Hokkaido, Japan - Student Exchange Update

When I first heard about the opportunity to do an exchange in Japan, I wasn't sure if I should apply. The idea of going to school in another country and staying with a family I didn't really know was pretty scary. But I also knew it would be a great chance to experience another culture, meet new people, and challenge myself. And I am so glad that I did.

I did my exchange at Hokkaido's Izumi Steiner School. Everyone at the school was so welcoming and kind, which made settling in much easier. I also joined some school activities like futsal and volleyball, which has been a lot of fun and a great way to meet new people.

Life in Japan was an amazing experience and even though there are challenges including the language barrier and different routines, it was also really rewarding. My host family was wonderful and has given me so many incredible experiences and memories that I will never forget.

Some of my favourite parts of living there was Hokkaido's amazing snowboarding, which I absolutely love, as well as going out with friends and spending time with my host family.

I would definitely recommend the Study Abroad program to other students. It is an incredible opportunity to experience a new culture, grow confidence, and create unforgettable memories.

Kind regards

Kousei H.

Current MBWS Student

Photo Credit: Kousei H



VITAL YEARS 2026

EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE

"Kindness Strength and Love"
Weaving a mantle for today's children and their tomorrow

Celebrating 100 years of Steiner/Waldorf early childhood education

5 - 9 July 2026

Naarm / Melbourne

Scan to learn more



Presented at Melbourne Rudolf Steiner School
with main lecturer, **Dr. Michaela Glöckler**
Learn more at steinerearlychildhoodaustralia.org



Autumn School Holidays at Woodhouse Adventure Park UNPLUGGED Bookings Now Open!

Whether the kids are attending the 'Drop & Go' UNPLUGGED program, you're visiting as a family for the day, or settling in for an overnight stay, you can expect memorable screen-free fun at Woodhouse in Piccadilly!

School Holidays UNPLUGGED, our 'drop & go' kids-only day camps, feature adventures designed to keep primary school kids active and entertained all day... with a different theme daily, including Challenge Hill obstacle course and Tube Slide (weather permitting).

Just \$80 per day (Scout Members save 20%) from 9am to 5pm

www.woodhouse.org.au



LAWNS AND GARDENS MT BARKER

WE'RE HIRING SCHOOL BASED TRAINEE



About us:

- Ashley & Kylie, from VIP Garden & Lawn Maintenance franchise have been operating for over 16 years in the Mount Barker area.
- We are looking for some self-motivated team members to help our consistent workload on a School Based Traineeship initially.

Qualifications:

- Current Police clearance
- NDIS & Working with children clearances
- Current clearances can be obtained after hiring

Tasks & responsibilities

- Grounds maintenance
- Hedging & pruning
- Lawn mowing including ride on mowing & edging
- Pest & weed control
- Soft landscaping
- Lawn installation
- Irrigation repairs & installation
- Basic maintenance of machinery



**Contact Us
For More
Information:**

Ashley Davis
ashley.kylie@viphomeservices.net.au