



WILLUNGA WALDORF SCHOOL

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

VOLUME #1 - 2026



Class of 2014 – 10 Year Reunion 2024

Featuring:

Head of School Report

Alumni Spotlight – Tom Marshall & Pierah Summers

Staff Spotlight – Scott Johnston

Blast from the Past photos



Address: 1 Jay Drive, Willunga SA 5172

Phone: 08 8556 2655

Web: <https://www.wsa.edu.au>

Email: office@www.wsa.edu.au

Instagram: [willungawaldorfschool](https://www.instagram.com/willungawaldorfschool)

Linkedin.com/company/willunga-waldorf-school

HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT

Dear WWS Alumni,

We are excited to launch the first edition of our alumni newsletter and connect with our growing alumni community.

From first opening our doors to a group of 8 children on March 15, 1989 the school has now grown to over 430 students ranging from Kindergarten to Class 12. After expanding into High School in 2005, we have now seen over 200 students complete their schooling journey and graduate from Class 12 at Willunga Waldorf School.

In 2024 a significant step was taken when we opened the doors to our first dual stream class – Golden Wattle Reception. In 2026 the school now boast dual streams in Reception, Class 1 and Class 2.

With the school now growing by a classroom each year it has been necessary to address the infrastructure needs to support this. As such the school developed a Master Plan in 2025 identifying 3 stages of growth. We are currently in the process of Stage 1. You can view the Master Plan on our website <https://wws.sa.edu.au/master-plan/>.

Our new Class 2 Building was officially opened on 7 April 2026 by Senator Charlotte Walker. The building houses are two Class 2 rooms – Willie Wagtail and Welcome Swallow.



Jodie Thomas
Head of School



Additional to buildings the school identified the need for Steiner trained teachers and in 2024 launched the Willunga Waldorf School Foundation Certificate. The certificate was designed for those wishing to develop their

understanding of Waldorf schools, teaching, pedagogy and anthroposophy. We now have over 40 graduates from the course including some previous students. The course will again be offered in 2026/2027.

As our school has grown so have the number of our staff and we have been lucky to welcome back some former students into different roles within the school (please see student to staff page below). We are also lucky to still have long term staff like Irene Bragg (24 Years), Sophie Binder (celebrating 20 years), Allye Sinclair (19 years) and Scott Johnston (18 years) to name a few.

We are proud to still be offering our outdoor education program that is fundamental to the student's development and our curriculum. So far this year our students have travelled to the Yorke Peninsula (Class 10 Oceanography Camp) and the Flinders Ranges (Class 11 Botany Camp & Class 9 Art and Cultural History Camp). As well as many local excursions.



We are so blessed to still have the amazing backing of our Parents and Friends group who help coordinate our annual Autumn Fair and Xmas Market. These community events continue to highlight our amazing school community to the wider community and are always well attended.

The school continues to celebrate festivals, so far this year we have held our Autumn Harvest Festival and Winter Solstice Festival and look forward to celebrating the Spring Festival in Term 3 (**Friday 18 September 11:20am**).



We continue to acknowledge the first day of schooling for our Class 1 students with the Rose Ceremony. This beautiful ceremony continues to be memorable.



The school still has a strong focus on curriculum meeting the child development and learning needs for each year. The curriculum is broad based and continuously being reviewed to meet the students of today without losing the fundamentals of Steiner philosophy.

The school is still supporting Class 12 students undertaking a major research project in their final year of schooling. This year's Class 12 students will be presenting their Class 12 Project Practicals on **Wednesday 21 October 2pm - 4pm** in our school hall before presenting their project speech on **Friday 30 October and Saturday 31 October**. More information on what projects our current Class 12 students are doing is available on our [Instagram page](#).

We always encourage our alumni to come back and visit the school and see the changes that have occurred. To continue to stay in touch with our alumni we have created an [alumni contact form](#) on our website. We hope to be able to share an alumni newsletter twice a year as well as other information highlighting what our alumni are up to and alumni events.

Jodie Thomas – Head of School

From Student to Staff

For some alumni, graduation is not the final goodbye. We have a growing number of former students who have returned to Willunga Waldorf School and taken up various roles as staff members. This unique situation brings a beautiful connection between past and present generations and highlights the strength of our school community.



Dakota Barnes –
Receptionist
Class of 2014



Tom Marshall – PS
Assistant
Class of 2019



Eliza MacDonald Hall –
HS Specialist Teacher
Class of 2017



Will Guyton – TRT
Teacher
Class of 2015



Dorien La Ronde -
Maintenance
Class of 2021



Melody Summer –
TRT Teacher
Class of 2019

TOM MARSHALL



What have you been up to since graduation?

Since graduation, I have explored many fields of work and study. A job I felt connected to was building Rammed Earth walls, for Stabilised Earth Adelaide. I worked for this company for 5 years and loved learning the process. It's an old style of building, that has been done the same way for nearly 100 years. The product is fully sustainable and has many great properties.

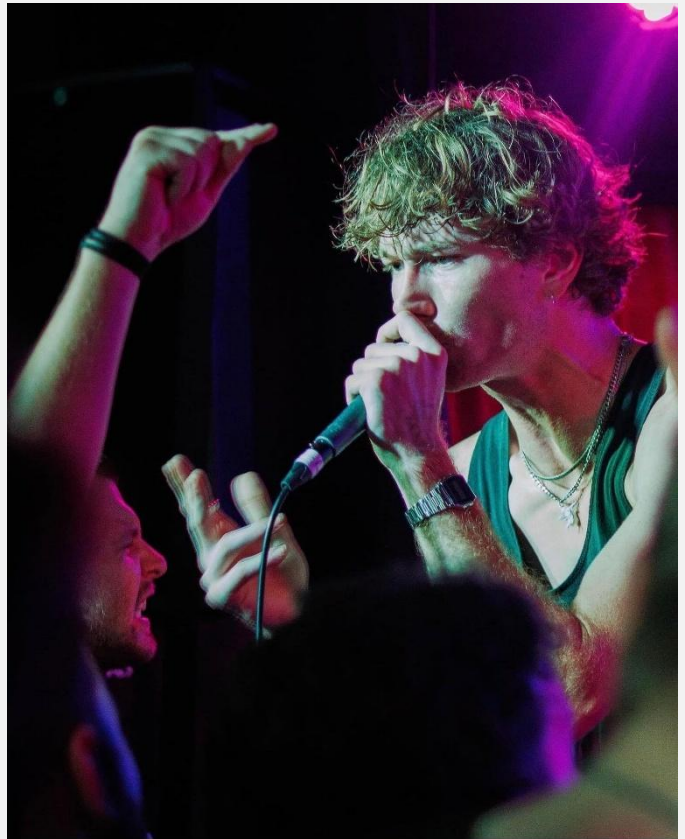
I completed a Certificate 4 in Musical Performance at Tafe which opened my eyes to a new world of possibilities and connections. After Tafe I began my own solo music project and started working with a producer and eventually began performing my own shows. This project has grown to be another stream of income and has allowed me to travel and perform my music interstate, which has always been my dream. Since Class 10 I have been in a punk rock band with mates from school, this year marks 10 years of playing together and we are still writing more songs and playing shows.



What are you currently doing now?

Recently I've been working at Willunga Waldorf School as a Class assistant for Class 5 and 7. This has been a highlight since completing school as I feel the community at WWS continues to grow and is always so accepting with people who love to create. I love the values the school has set in place, and I can't wait to see how WWS continues to grow.

I am still doing my solo music project and performing at festivals and community events all over Adelaide. Performing my own music to people is the best feeling in the world and something I'll always cherish.

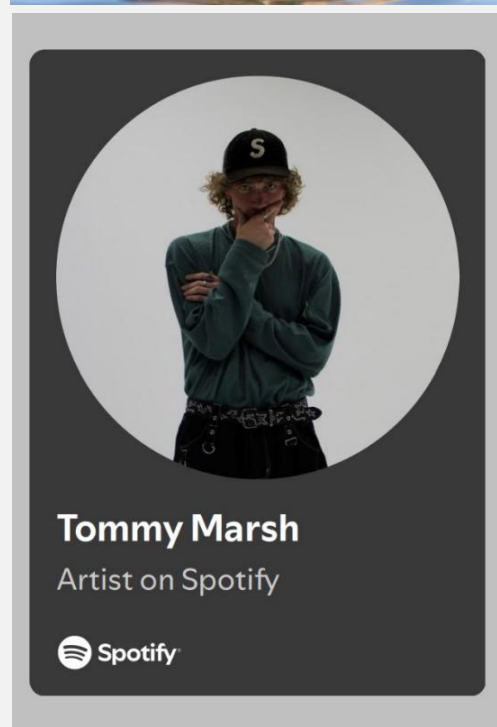


What is your favourite memory about WWS?

My favourite memories from WWS would have to be all the fun camps I got to go on. At this school you get to experience the outside world like no other. I believe it's a healthy thing for growing youth and is something I'm very grateful I got to experience.

Another great memory is playing basketball with my mates every day at lunch time, and I still to this day, will catch up with those same mates once a month and play basketball and catch up on what is going on in each other's lives since we finished school.

Willunga Waldorf School feels like a family that I've had my whole life and helped me become the person I am today and I will always be grateful.



PIERAH SUMMMERS



What have you been up to since graduation?

Since graduating from Willunga Waldorf School in 2018, I have been fortunate enough to explore a variety of new hobbies and career prospects, eventually discovering my passion for working in the Adelaide film industry.

I completed a Bachelor of Creative Arts (Screen) at Flinders University, where I continued to pursue my passion for creating visual art through a camera. During Uni, I wrote, directed, shot, and edited a multitude of short films, music videos, adverts, documentaries, and experimental pieces. I also had the good fortune of taking a summer intensive class that brought me to the Hong Kong International Film Festival, where my love for experimental storytelling and international cinema blossomed.

I received a \$ 5,000 grant to produce an experimental film in 2025, which I wrote, directed, and shot using a mix of an Arri Alexa 35 digital camera with vintage Leica lenses, a 16mm celluloid film camera, and a DV tape camcorder. This project helped me network and discover my own unique style and industry goals.



What are you currently doing now?

As is the case with a filmmaker's career, I am currently working concurrently between freelancing on corporate shoots, TV shows, and feature films and working part-time at Picture Hire Australia, a camera and film equipment rental store in Adelaide. I was fortunate enough to win the 'Emerging Cinematographer' award from the Australian Cinematographers Society and have been using the grant to fund my own projects this year, including a recently finished short film about friendship and self-discovery. So far this year, I have worked on an ABC TV show as a Data Wrangler & Ingest Assist, and on an upcoming Adelaide feature that will premiere at Adelaide Film Festival as the on-set Data Wrangler. In September, I will be working on another TV show shooting here in Adelaide.

Although my paid work primarily focuses on the technical aspects of the camera department, in my free time, I continue to write and direct projects and work with celluloid film. My hope is that my career will continue to take me to new places and introduce me to new people, as well as fund my passion for travel.



What is your favourite memory about WWS?

I have many memories of Willunga Waldorf School, as I was a student there from playgroup to Class 12. Some memories I am fond of include making bread in playgroup, finding the bay leaf in kindy, learning maths from the mysterious elves in primary school, and exploring photography through my year 12 project in high school. My teachers were a big inspiration to me, particularly when it came to Music, Art, and English. The way lessons were organised, including the integration of a 'Main Lesson' in the morning for 3-4 weeks, was extremely rewarding and helpful for my learning and also allowed for a wide variety of subjects throughout the school. I also think the emphasis on the Class 12 Creative Project was a valuable opportunity for me to discover my passion for photography and also overcome my fear of failure. Without this project, I might never have pursued my career as a Cinematographer.

I regularly look back proudly on the support I received from the strong female role models who were my teachers, particularly Jodie, Sophie, Allye, Rebecca, and Renee, who all encouraged me to keep pursuing my passions.



ALUMNI REUNION LUNCH

In 2025 we hosted our inaugural Alumni lunch. We invited the previous years' Class 12's to a lunch catch-up with their guardians followed by the afternoon sessions of the Class 12 Project Presentations. This gives us a chance to check in with our graduates and see what they are up to nearly a year after they have graduated. We will look to continue this tradition by inviting our Class of 2025 to the Project Presentations on Saturday 31st October (keep an eye out for an invite).



Class of 2024 Alumni lunch

November 2025

CLASS 12 PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

We invite our alumni community to this year's Class 12 Project Presentations on **Friday 30 October 11:20 – 6pm and Saturday 31 October 9am-4pm**. If you are interested in seeing what some of this year's project presentations are about you can head to the Willunga Waldorf School Instagram page and click on the Class 12 Projects highlights.

SCOTT JOHNSTON

HS Specialist Teacher



How long have you worked at Willunga Waldorf School?

I have worked at WWS from 2008 onwards, other than a year out to teach at the Australian Science and Mathematics School in 2010. Which by the way, convinced me that WWS was the right place for me.

What brought you here?

A series of unlikely events led me to this school. Before teaching at WWS I had spent 32 years teaching at Kingscote school on Kangaroo Island and while I was there, I built an astronomical observatory, and I think it was in 2005 that Felicity's Class 6's at the time visited for an observation night. Before then I knew nothing of Waldorf Steiner education and, it's embarrassing to admit, but I had it confused with Walford, yikes!

I may have learned a lot more about the school on that night with those Class 6 students than they learned about astronomy. So, when I started to look for a teaching job on the mainland and an opening for a mathematics and physics teacher at WWS dropped into my inbox, my jaw dropped.

What has kept you here?

As to what keeps me here? It's quite a list! The students are stunning, they produce the most stunning questions for me when I teach them, and they show such friendship and interest in what I deliver. The staff is uniformly amazing and fascinating and so inclusive and understanding. The school grounds themselves are beautiful and continue to mature and evolve and the educational philosophy of the entire enterprise feels like home.

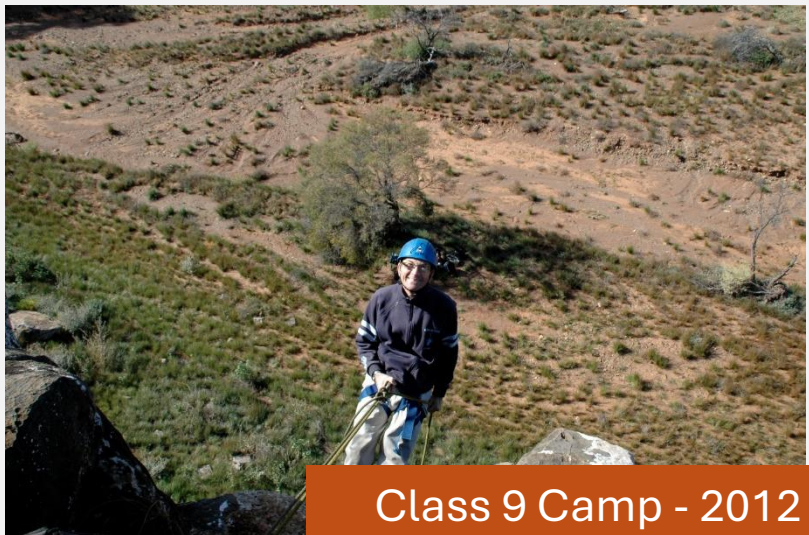
So, that all adds up to one very powerful attractor.

What is your favourite memory of your time here?

There are so many favourite times but, the one quickest to mind was when I was teaching mathematics to the first Class 12 class (a memorable bunch amongst many!). When I arrived in the lesson, two of them were producing 'music' of sorts, one playing a discordant tune on the piano and another making what could loosely be described as digeridoo sounds with a long cardboard tube. It was an hilarious performance but I suggested that the lesson had indeed started and they should go to their desks and get organised. And they obligingly did this with no fuss. No more than ten seconds after they had sat down and were diligently pouring over a calculation that Libbi (the Educational Facilitator at the time) dropped in with a group of parents to see the marvellous year twelves at work. As they say, "timing is everything".



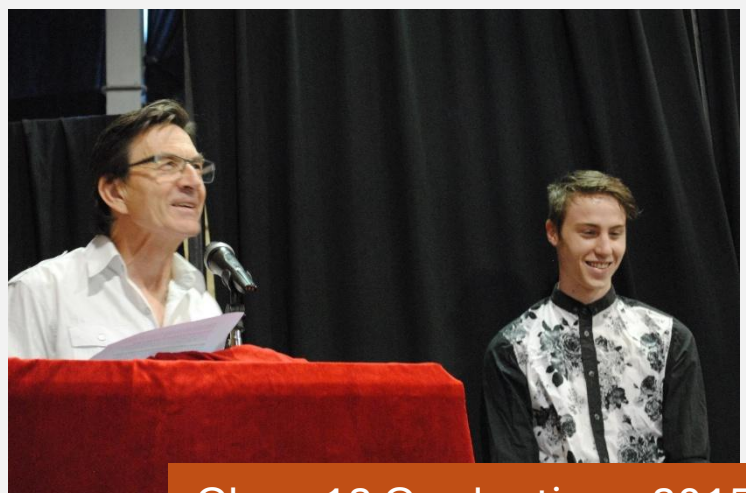
Staff Social - 2008



Class 9 Camp - 2012



Staff Cricket - 2009



Class 12 Graduation - 2015

BLAST FROM THE PAST

W
I
L
L
U
N
G
A

W
A
L
D
O
R
F

S
C
H
O
O
L

1991



First Kindergarten Class

1991

Row 1: Felicia Carli, Brochelle Georgeson, Marita Huxholl (Teacher), Naomi Bragg, Nina Dean, Tristan March, Danijel Lukic
Row 2: Greta French-Kenney, Amy Gilbert, Avery Frey, Jonathan Scott, Joshua McGough



2013 Rose Ceremony

Featuring Class of 2013 Alex McKay
and Class of 2024 Bodhi Porteous



2006 Harvest Festival

Featuring a young Sophie Binder
and Allie Sinclair who are still
teaching at WWS.

STEINER VOICES XYZ

Steiner Voices XYZ is a podcast series created by Steiner Education Australia that showcases some of the varied voices of ex-students, parents and teachers within Steiner school communities. You can listen to any of these podcasts, some which include Willunga Waldorf School alum via apple podcast or spotify. Head to <https://steinereducation.edu.au/steiner-voices-xyz/> to have a look.

Research – Product – Community: Learnings from the Class 12 Major Project

X: Students



Nicolai, Charlie, Marni and Finley are four students who graduated from the Willunga Waldorf School in SA at the end of 2025. In this podcast they tell of their journey with the Major Project, just one part of a very full Class 12 academic program. The projects require the students to conduct independent research, to produce a tangible, useful product, and to make a positive contribution to the wider community. While the content of each of the projects is significant, the process and personal growth the students undergo in completing them are just as significant. They share their journeys of learning and contribution, and the gains they made in confidence and awareness of self, demonstrating one of the overarching themes of Steiner education, that genuine learning is always meaningful personal growth as well.



Think Bigger: From Steiner Pessimist to Advocate

X: Students



Here is a podcaster being podcasted! For his Class 12 Major Project, Steiner X **Oskar Scarman** created a podcast series called A Search for Meaning that explored the themes of meaning, purpose and vulnerability. It reached the top 15% of podcasts worldwide, and now, just two years out of school, Oskar has established a successful business in Adelaide employing 16 people. Oskar reflects on his journey through the Willunga Waldorf school, recalling fondly his time in the “magic garden” of Kindergarten, his class teacher time of imagination, deep connection and personal care, but also his middle high school years when he rebelled against so much of what his Steiner school offered. How he came through that crisis of meaning and went on to achieve great success in Class 12, including a high mark and the offer of entry to a Law degree, makes a fascinating story. Overall Oskar describes his journey as a move from being a Steiner pessimist to being an advocate. What makes the point of difference? He says, “It makes you think bigger!”

