

# OLD CONCORDIANS' Connect

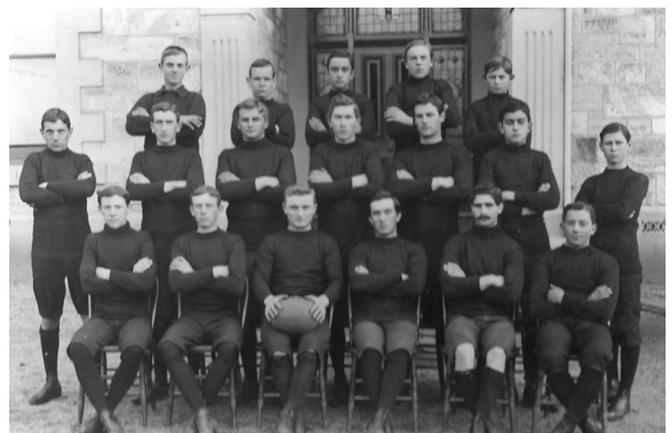
## Welcome to 2026

Welcome to the summer 2026 edition of Old Concordians' Connect. We hope you take the opportunity to stay connected to your fellow Old Concordians and the College this year through reunions, alumni events, sports groups, volunteering, networking and mentoring opportunities.

Thanks to those who have contributed to this edition of Old Concordians' Connect. Happy reading!



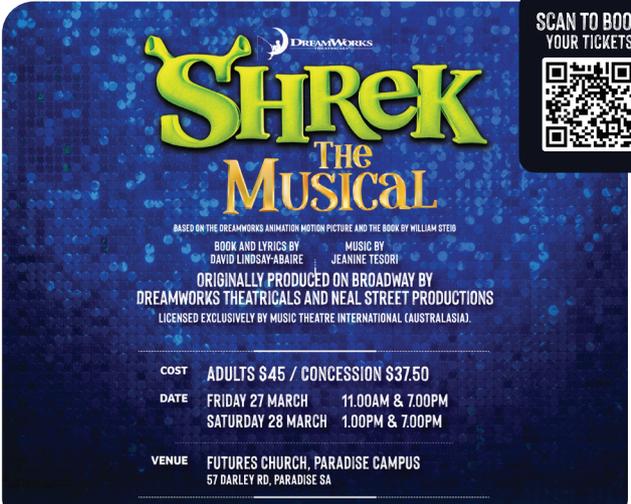
Your 2026 Old Concordians' Association Committee



## Sporting Flashback

Flashback to 1907 and this photo of the Concordia football team, the earliest football photo in the College archive.

Football has been popular at Concordia since the College opened at the Highgate campus in 1905, and today the College has two boys' teams and three girls' teams. A highlight of 2025 was a game played between Concordia Year 12 boys (as well as some brave staff members) and players from the Adelaide Lutheran Football Club, where a number of Old Concordians are team members.



**SHREK THE MUSICAL**

BASED ON THE DREAMWORKS ANIMATION MOTION PICTURE AND THE BOOK BY WILLIAM STEIB  
 BOOK AND LYRICS BY DAVID LINDSAY-ABAIRE      MUSIC BY JEANINE TESORI  
 ORIGINALLY PRODUCED ON BROADWAY BY DREAMWORKS THEATRICALS AND NEAL STREET PRODUCTIONS  
 LICENSED EXCLUSIVELY BY MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL (AUSTRALASIA).

**COST** ADULTS \$45 / CONCESSION \$37.50  
**DATE** FRIDAY 27 MARCH 11.00AM & 7.00PM  
 SATURDAY 28 MARCH 1.00PM & 7.00PM  
**VENUE** FUTURES CHURCH, PARADISE CAMPUS  
 57 DARLEY RD, PARADISE SA

SCAN TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS



# Spotlight on an Old Concordian

## Q&A with **Eliza Thomas**—Class of 2019



### **What has your journey been like since leaving Concordia?**

I went straight into a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in history after finishing at Concordia. Unfortunately, my first year was during COVID-19, so I had a hard time, but I discovered a passion for social and public history. I ended up researching community cookbooks for my BA capstone project, which has led me into some very exciting research opportunities. I did my honours year last year, studying South Australian quilting practices and how they relate to social, political and economic factors. I also taught myself to knit and crochet (both left-handed)! Picking up hobbies has been really useful as a time-management skill, and making things has really helped me connect to my research.

### **You have completed a Bachelor of Arts (Honours), and are now studying a Masters of Information Management (Archives and Records Management). What led you there?**

When I was younger, I'd go with my grandfather to pick up my grandmother from her volunteer job at the Lutheran Archives. This inspired me to join the field—working in archives and public history has been the goal since I was five, and I'm very lucky that I've had the support to follow this dream! While I didn't know exactly how to qualify as an archivist, and after an attempt at applying for a bachelor's degree in digital humanities, I feel that my chosen path of historical study has brought some nuance and context to my work as an archivist. After finishing my BA I knew I wanted to go into honours to get some practice writing a thesis, and also to improve my social history repertoire with some independent research. This year turned out to be a really great experience and solidified my love for easily accessible historical collections. Without databases such as Trove, the Art Gallery of South Australia, and the National Wool Museum, I would not have been able to complete my research. I want to help revamp the archiving sector and preserve it for decades to come, and so going to the University of South Australia and starting my masters seemed like the best option.

### **You are currently employed one day a week in the Concordia Heritage Centre, helping to sort, catalogue and digitise the extensive collection of archives. Can you tell us about that?**

We're in the middle of a complete rehaul of the collection. Due to the 2016 amalgamation with St John's and the 2023 amalgamation with St Peters, the collection's size has exploded. My job is to digitise documents for retention and to catalogue the items on our shiny new Accessit database. I'm also currently working on a concurrent project placement with the university, where I'm digitising the contents of our VHS collection, burning the copies to DVD and cataloguing the digitised videos. This has been a really exciting opportunity to learn more about legacy media and the history of Concordia from the perspectives of students and teachers.

### **How has Concordia shaped your life?**

I just keep coming back! In reality, Concordia has been part of my life for the last 18 years, and I don't think it's ever not going to be a part of my life. I was a fourth-generation student—my mother and uncles are alumni, my grandmother is an alumna of Concordia and St John's, and my great-grandfather studied at the Seminary here in 1908. I pretty much grew up in the Murtoa building and the staffroom, waiting for mum (who teaches at the College) to finish staff meetings and classes. Concordia has been a part of my life as much as the church, university and my ever-growing book collection are a part of my life. However, Concordia has also taught me a lot about perseverance, resilience and patience. The Heritage Centre in particular has taught me a lot about the need for publicly available historical knowledge, especially regarding history in Adelaide and South Australia. Without accessible knowledge of daily life in the past, we lose our connection to those that came before us, and that connection is what helps us as we go into the future.

### **What advice would you give to current students?**

First, I'd say to apply for everything you possibly can—scholarships, research grants, volunteering positions, internships and placements. It's the best way to grow in your profession and make sure that you can keep up with our rapidly changing world. Second, I'd say to make as much time as possible for a hobby, preferably one that doesn't involve a screen. Hobbies are so important for emotional regulation, and I've really found that working on a personal project has increased my capacity to work in the archiving field. It has also given me a unique perspective on my work and has helped me come up with some creative solutions!

Finally, I'd say to enjoy Concordia but be reminded that high school is not the 'be all and end all' of your life. There are so many wonderful things waiting for you, and if you end up back here then that can only be a good thing!

# Old Concordians Blazing a Trail

## Alex Theel—Class of 2015 & Reuben Gore—Class of 2015

### What have you been up to since graduating from Concordia in 2015?

**Alex:** I went straight to uni, where I gained a Bachelor of Commerce and started my first full-time role as the Communications Officer at Meals on Wheels in 2018. I loved seeing how the skills I learned were used to make a tangible difference in people's lives. I've also worked at a couple of marketing agencies.

On a more fun note, I married a fellow Old Concordian (Stacey Tonkin, 2014), have done a bit of travel and I'm about to run my first ultra-marathon. I also have a bad knee... I'm sure the two aren't related...

**Reuben:** Since graduating from Concordia, I was fortunate to move relatively quickly into paid freelance videography and photography work. In the earlier years this included shooting at some major music and arts festivals like Laneway, WOMAD and Groovin the Moo, which was a great overlap with my love for music. The creative work evolved into other areas and expanded rapidly, which led to Alex and I reconnecting and starting an agency together.

### What is Topbunk and where did the idea come from?

**Alex:** Topbunk is a marketing and communications agency. Our vision is to help create a more informed and compassionate world by partnering with 'for-purpose' organisations.

Some clients we currently partner with include Guide Dogs, St John Ambulance, Zoos SA, Hutt St Centre, and the Centre for Social Impact.

**Reuben:** Alex and I both had very complementary skill sets across creative and marketing, and collaboration between the two of us led to the start of Topbunk. Topbunk as a name came from the debate of whether the top or bottom bunk is better—it's a bit of a relatable dilemma that gets people thinking, like all good marketing should.

Serving the people that need support the most has always been a priority for us, and building Topbunk into a force for positive change has been at the forefront of our decision making.



### What do you specialise in as a business and how can people connect with you?

**Alex:** We've somehow grown to a team of 10, which is equal parts scary and exciting! As a result, we offer a broad range of services, including videography, photography, brand identity, media buying, web development, and signage/wayfinding.

The best way to contact us is probably through our website [topbunk.com.au](http://topbunk.com.au) or via email—[reuben@topbunk.com.au](mailto:reuben@topbunk.com.au) or [alex@topbunk.com.au](mailto:alex@topbunk.com.au)

### What would you say to current students interested in starting their own business?

**Alex:** Don't start a business just for the sake of starting one. Instead, identify a problem and provide a solution. If your solution improves your customer's life—whether by saving them time, money, stress or solving a specific pain point—you have a much better chance of succeeding. Most importantly, just be a good person. People do business with people, and truth, compassion and authenticity always win in the end.

**Reuben:** Think about your personal values and, where possible, integrate these into your work. Doing this has continued to keep me motivated every day, and to grow our team and client base of like-minded individuals.

### What are your most funny or fond memories of Concordia?

**Alex:** It is hard to pick one, but some of my most fond memories are rooted in the Media Department—whether it was experimenting in the studio, getting lost in an edit or helping with the school musical as a vision switcher and camera operator.

**Reuben:** I really enjoyed getting creative with music performances in Chapel. The peak was in Year 12—we did an electronic-dance-music-themed service. We converted the usual Chapel songs into dancefloor remixes and had colourful spinning lights shining on us. I'd love to come back and do it again.

# Lifelong Connections

## OCA Sporting Clubs

Our sporting clubs are a great way to connect with other Old Concordians for recreation and some exercise! Support for setting up and running of the clubs is provided by the Old Concordians' Association, so please email [alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au](mailto:alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au) for information about joining or starting a club.



### Basketball

The Old Concordians' Basketball Club has four teams, with three teams registered in the SA Church Basketball competition. To get involved, please email [alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au](mailto:alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au)

### Cricket

 [ConcordiaCricket](#)

The Old Concordians' Cricket Club has three teams and new members are always welcome. For more information, please visit [www.concordiacricket.com.au](http://www.concordiacricket.com.au) or contact the Club at [concordiacricket@hotmail.com](mailto:concordiacricket@hotmail.com)

### Football

The Old Concordians' Association has formed a new partnership with Adelaide Lutheran Football Club. To get involved or just to find out more, please email [alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au](mailto:alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au)

### Netball

The Old Concordians' Netball Club plays in the summer nights competition. If you're interested in joining an existing team or entering your own, please email [alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au](mailto:alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au)

### Pedal Prix

The Old Concordians Racing team has a great year planned for 2026. New riders are welcome. If you are interested in joining the Old Concordians' Pedal Prix team, we would love to hear from you— please email [OCRPedalPrix@outlook.com](mailto:OCRPedalPrix@outlook.com)

### Soccer

 [OldConcordiansSoccer](#)

The Old Concordians' Soccer Club has begun its preseason for 2026. For those looking to get involved, we encourage you to reach out to the Club ([concordiaocfootball@gmail.com](mailto:concordiaocfootball@gmail.com)) with any questions. The Club fields three teams in the Collegiate Soccer League, with teams currently in divisions 1A, 1B and 4. Preseason trainings are held on Tuesday and Thursday nights. All new and returning players are welcome.

# Lifelong Connections

## Recent Reunions

1. **Class of 1995 – 30 Year Reunion**  
*Friday 29 August 2025*
2. **60+ Lunch for the Class of 1965 and prior**  
*Thursday 11 September 2025*
3. **Class of 1960 Reunion Tour and off-site lunch**  
*Friday 12 September 2025*
4. **Year 12 Old Concordians' Association Breakfast**  
*Tuesday 16 September 2025*
5. **St Peters Campus Reunion**  
*Friday 26 September 2025*
6. **Reunion for Current Parents who are Old Concordians**  
*Friday 17 October 2025*
7. **Class of 2005 – 20 Year Reunion**  
*Friday 31 October 2025*
8. **Class of 2015 – 10 Year Reunion**  
*Friday 14 November 2025*
9. **Class of 2020 – 5 Year Reunion**  
*Friday 28 November 2025*



# Upcoming Reunions

## CURRENT PARENTS WHO ARE OLD CONCORDIANS

Friday 1 May, 5–6pm

G70 Breakout Space, Concordia Campus // Free Event  
Cocktail function with the Head of College  
RSVP to Sue Kleinig – 08 8291 9339 or  
email [alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au](mailto:alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au)

## 70+ HARMONY IN THE CHAPEL

Friday 15 May 2026, 2–3:30pm

Concordia Chapel and Narthex // Free Event  
Concert by Concordia Music students and an  
afternoon tea for the Class of 1956 and prior.  
RSVP to Sue Kleinig – 08 8291 9339 or  
email [alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au](mailto:alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au)

## ST PETERS CAMPUS REUNION

Friday 5 June 2026, 6–7:30pm

St Peters Lutheran Church Hall // Tickets: \$25pp  
Drinks and finger food.  
Bookings: [www.trybooking.com/DIFYH](http://www.trybooking.com/DIFYH)

## CLASS OF 1986 – 40 YEAR REUNION

Friday 7 August 2026, 6–9pm

The Suaviter, Concordia College // Tickets: \$40pp  
Complimentary drink on arrival + catered meal.  
Bookings: [www.trybooking.com/DIFZP](http://www.trybooking.com/DIFZP)

## CLASS OF 1996 – 30 YEAR REUNION

Friday 28 August 2026, 6–9pm

The Suaviter, Concordia College // Tickets: \$40pp  
Complimentary drink on arrival + catered meal.  
Bookings: [www.trybooking.com/DIFZY](http://www.trybooking.com/DIFZY)

## 60+ LUNCH FOR THE CLASS OF 1966 AND PRIOR

Thursday 17 September 2026, 12 noon–3pm

The Suaviter, Concordia College // Tickets: \$30pp  
Three-course lunch and entertainment.  
Bookings: [www.trybooking.com/DIFZZ](http://www.trybooking.com/DIFZZ)

## CLASS OF 1976 – 50 YEAR REUNION

Friday 16 October 2026, 6–9pm

The Suaviter, Concordia College // Tickets: \$40pp  
Complimentary drink on arrival + catered meal.  
Bookings: [www.trybooking.com/DIGAB](http://www.trybooking.com/DIGAB)

## CLASS OF 2006 – 20 YEAR REUNION

Friday 30 October 2026, 6–8pm

Atrium Courtyard, Concordia College // Tickets: \$30pp  
Finger food and drinks, kids eat free.  
Bookings: [www.trybooking.com/DIGAE](http://www.trybooking.com/DIGAE)

## CLASS OF 2016 – 10 YEAR REUNION

Friday 13 November 2026, 6pm

Cremorne Hotel Garden Courtyard // Tickets: \$25pp  
Complimentary drink on arrival and finger food.  
Bookings: [www.trybooking.com/DIGAI](http://www.trybooking.com/DIGAI)

## CLASS OF 2021 – 5 YEAR REUNION

Friday 20 November 2026, 6pm

Cremorne Hotel Garden Courtyard // Tickets: \$25pp  
Complimentary drink on arrival and finger food.  
Bookings: [www.trybooking.com/DIGAK](http://www.trybooking.com/DIGAK)

## Partners welcome to all events.

For information about our program of reunions and events,  
please contact the Alumni Manager, Sue Kleinig  
[alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au](mailto:alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au) or phone 08 8291 9339.



## If it's important to you it's important to us!

We love hearing from Old Concordians of all ages, both near and far,  
so please do get in touch to share stories, milestones and any news, or  
simply to update your contact details.

To update your details, visit our website ([www.concordia.sa.edu.au/community/old-concordians/update-your-details/](http://www.concordia.sa.edu.au/community/old-concordians/update-your-details/)) or email our  
Alumni Manager ([alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au](mailto:alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au))

### Interested in joining the Old Concordians' Association Committee?

We would love to hear from you!  
Please contact the Alumni Manager, Sue Kleinig,  
for more information ([alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au](mailto:alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au))



OldConcordiansAssociation

## Keep up to date and follow us on Facebook



OldConcordiansAssociation

If you are interested in holding a reunion that is not  
listed, please get in touch with us, as we would love to  
assist in any way.

## Connect as Alumni on LinkedIn

Did you know our College LinkedIn page now allows  
Old Concordians to list themselves as alumni by  
adding Concordia College Adelaide to the 'Education'  
section of their profile?

We'd love you to stay in touch with the College on  
LinkedIn, and to wear your connection with Concordia  
as a digital badge of honour, so please connect with  
us today!

[au.linkedin.com/school/concordia-college-adelaide/](http://au.linkedin.com/school/concordia-college-adelaide/)