

WINTER 2019

Semper



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PERFORMING
HOUSE FESTIVAL

PG 08
SPOTLIGHT ON
WOMEN IN ART

PG 16
DARE2BME



Ravenswood

The Mountains

Follow the soothing whistle of the wind that

Only whispers to the brave but also

Twirls in the banksias and bottlebrushes that carry

The sweet chirps of the baby magpies.

Just follow the heavy trudge of steel-capped boots

Crunching down onto the shattered pieces of eucalyptus gum

Muffled by the breathless breaths of hikers ascending onto

The hills soaked in the sound of sunlight.

There you will see the pearly glint of a river

And perhaps even a flash of the mountain lake that

Flows from the waterfalls of purity where you will hear

The delicate roar of her cascadeness.

There you will see peaks dotted with white that

Kiss the heavens and cuddle the clouds

Amidst a midnight sky speckled with silver

As vast as the eye can wander.

Kayleigh Li (Year 9)



Semper, the Ravenswood School for Girls' magazine.

Semper is the magazine of the Ravenswood community.

Established in 1901, Ravenswood is a leading Uniting Church School for girls from Kindergarten to Year 12 with boarding from Year 7. As a Positive Education school, we focus on the whole student to build academic and co-curricular achievements while boosting confidence, resilience and physical health.

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Principal's Message

As Principal, it is a joy and privilege to have the opportunity to witness every day significant academic achievements and mastery, as well as the blossoming of our students into young women of character and purpose under the guidance of Ravenswood's talented and dedicated teaching staff. So far this year, our girls have excelled in a myriad of areas and this issue of *Semper* highlights their achievements from public speaking to robotics and social justice to athletics.

The inaugural House Performing Arts Festival, held at Sydney's International Convention Centre in May, was a vibrant celebration of House spirit, student leadership, creativity and collaboration. The production featured every girl in Years 7-12 and was made more special by each House taking inspiration from a selected art work from the Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize. The girls presented their interpretations through rousing choral pieces, drama, dance and technology, creating performances that showcased the Ravenswood heart and spirit. The atmosphere was electric and the sense of

belonging, heartwarming. I could not be more proud of each girl and hope you enjoy the images and story behind the Festival on pages 6-7.

The 2019 Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize has been an outstanding success this year, attracting a record 1238 entries (50% more than last year) from every state and territory in Australia, including remote and very remote regions. It was wonderful to see a record attendance at the Opening Night and to give girls from all Year Groups the opportunity to visit and learn from the works during the Exhibition of Finalists. It was my pleasure to announce two exciting new developments for the Prize in 2020: the Indigenous Emerging Artist Prize, generously supported by the Tritton family and new Gold sponsor, R.M. Williams *Outback* magazine.

For 118 years, Ravenswood has encouraged its students to develop the courage to lead and to follow their dreams and our 2019 Student Leaders are determined to continue this legacy. In February, they launched a year-long campaign called *Dare 2 B Me*, which spotlights



authenticity and encourages each girl to find and share her unique voice. This campaign has been thoughtfully designed to progressively evolve from authenticity of self to authenticity of relationships and authenticity of community. The Student Leaders gave life to their theme by launching it through *Spirit Week* – five lunchtimes of well-orchestrated activities with an emphasis on student involvement in meaningful yet fun events. The story of their efforts can be found on pages 16-17.

In April, we celebrated International Women's Day with a new Mother and Daughter Breakfast Forum, featuring an impressive panel of alumni and mothers who shared their stories of courage, wisdom and triumph with a sold-out gathering. This event was one of many that brought our community together this year. The photos and details can be found on pages 32-33.

It has been an honour this year to represent Ravenswood at two significant international forums, the World Government Summit in Dubai and a special, invitation-only Positive Education Summit held in Philadelphia and

hosted by the Eisenhower Fellowships and the University of Pennsylvania. I was humbled to be one of five people in the world to be recognised as an honouree at this summit, for pioneering work, contribution and internationally-recognised leadership in Positive Education. It gave me great pleasure to share highlights of Ravenswood's Positive Education curriculum and programs with renowned global academics and leaders, including those from developing nations, and also explore the possibility of further meaningful collaborations, as we continue to shine as a light-house school in this important area.

We are excited about all that is in store for the second academic semester of 2019, including the much anticipated arrival of the internationally-recognised founder of Positive Psychology Professor Martin Seligman, as our Inaugural Eminent Psychologist in Residence in early Term 3. We look forward to continuing to support our inspirational students in all their endeavours – and strive, *semper ad meliora!*

Mrs Anne Johnstone, Principal





House Performing Arts

The House Performing Arts Festival united girls in the Secondary School in a triumph of unity and imagination.

Drawing their inspiration from the 2018 Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize, the House Captains began their creative process in November last year. Each House took responsibility for everything from music choice to script writing and choreography, costume and lighting design, as they collaborated on a 20-minute performance based on a Prize finalist's work.

'The Performing Arts Department supported the students with their creative visions, by providing a specialist staff member in each discipline to brainstorm ideas and guide their rehearsal process,' says Acting Director of Music and Performing Arts Michael Varecka. 'With every Secondary girl involved either on stage or behind the scenes, the

Windsor



Stuart



Tudor

production at the International Convention Centre was a spectacular night of student achievement.'

The performances were evaluated by performing arts professionals including the renowned actor, singer, producer and director Peter Cousins, who starred in the London production of *The Phantom of the Opera*.

'The process developed the girls' creativity and leadership skills, built strong connections between Year Groups and fostered a sense of belonging,' according to Principal Mrs Anne Johnstone. 'My congratulations not only to the winner York, but to every girl who participated.'





L-R Mrs Anne Johnstone, Joanna Braithwaite, Chris Casali, Mark Steinert

Spotlight on Women in Art

The Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize is going from strength to strength, playing an increasingly prominent role in efforts to increase visibility and recognition for the country's female artists.

Now in its third year, the Prize attracted 1238 entries — 50% more than last year and 319 more than the Archibald Prize.

'It is so important for Australia to have a prominent art prize for women that amplifies the relevance and reality of careers in art for generations of Australian women to come,' says Prize judge and Visual Arts Coordinator Edwina Palmer.

The Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize is the largest and richest art prize for women in the country and consists of two categories, the Professional Artist Prize worth \$35000 and the Emerging Artist Prize of \$5000.

Established in 2017, it aims to provide a platform to inspire, promote and connect female visual artists and assist in the professional development of emerging artists, through a unique mentoring program.

The judges selected 116 finalists this year, comprising 58 professional artists and 58 emerging artists. A number of finalists were Indigenous women from the Central Desert Region and Western Australia.

The winner of the Professional Artist Prize was Joanna Braithwaite from Leichhardt in Sydney, for her work, *Bold and the Beautiful*. The judges described it as a bold and delightfully humorous work; a masterful painting that characterises our unique Australian birds, whilst celebrating the eccentric in all of us.'



The Emerging Artist Prize was won by Chris Casali from Earlwood in Sydney, for her work *Mutawintji Dreaming*. The judges said: ‘This is an intriguing, shimmering dreamscape — a complex work that conjures the space of the imagination. As graphite slides over the surface of the silver paper, a spatial landscape is formed where the abstract becomes figurative and the surface becomes depth. Confident gestures and details in the use of the graphite watercolour become shimmering water-like surfaces or dramatic sliding falls, cave-like crevices, craggy precipices and rocky platforms. But this work is not representational. It is a playful invocation of land and sea from multiple viewpoints in the landscape of the mind.’

The Ravenswood Australian Women’s Art Prize will grow again next year, with the recent announcement of a new Prize for 2020: **The Ravenswood Australian Women’s Indigenous Emerging Artist Prize**, worth \$5000. It is hoped the new Prize will give a platform and a voice to Indigenous women across the country.



Bold and the Beautiful by Joanna Braithwaite

Thanks to our Sponsors

Ravenswood is extremely grateful for our sponsors’ generous support of the Ravenswood Australian Women’s Art Prize:

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Gold Sponsors
Macquarie University
R.M. Williams Outback
Park West Foundation

Silver Sponsors
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To Future Women exhibition

The internationally recognised work of artist Georgia Saxelby (2008) has occupied revered museums and engaged global leaders in a history-making celebration of women's empowerment.

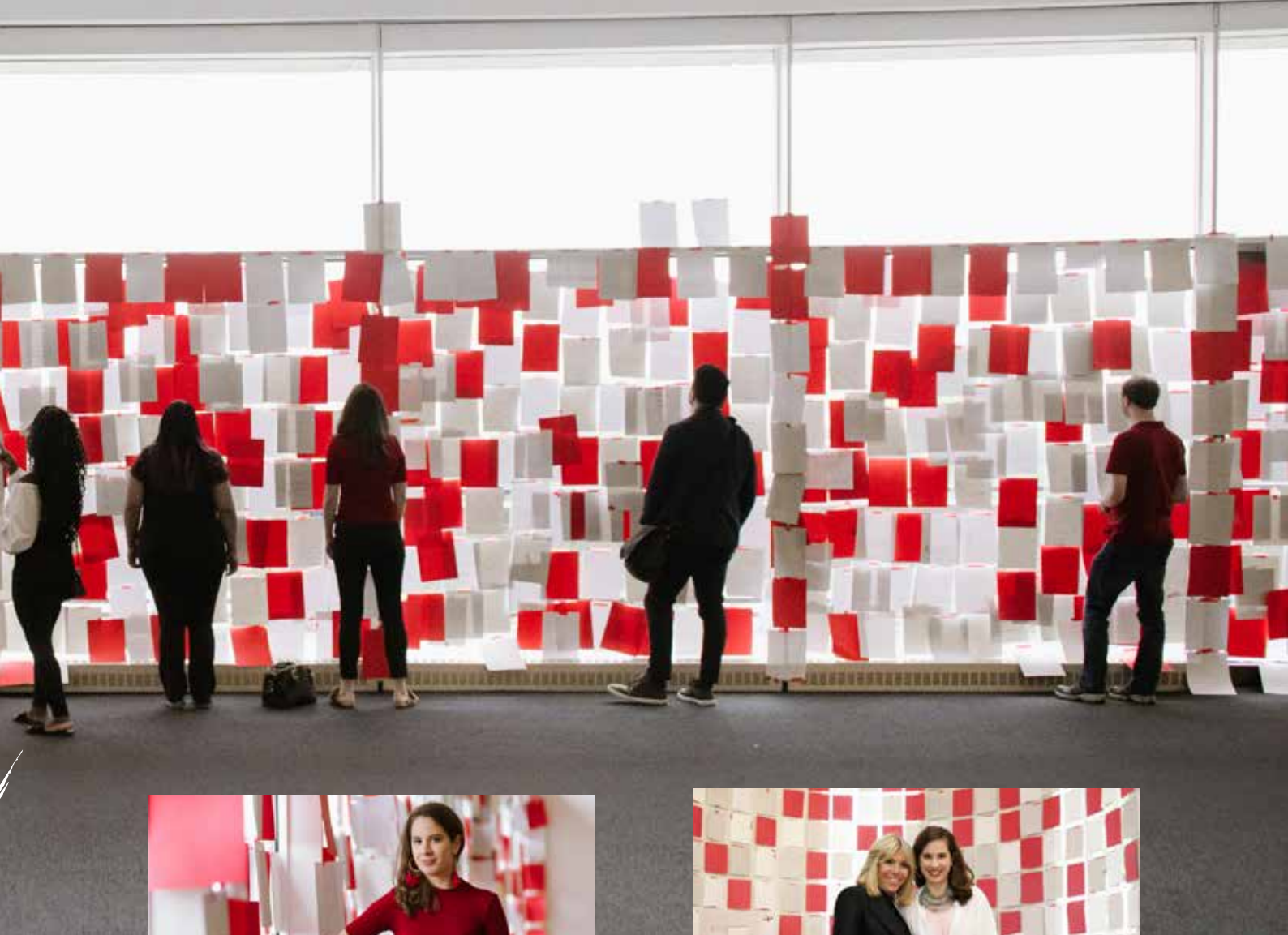
It began on Saturday 21 January 2017, when over a million people filled the streets of capital cities across the globe for one of the largest single protests in history — the Women's March.

For artist and Ravenswood alumni Georgia Saxelby, (2008) who attended the Women's March in Washington DC, the rapid mobilisation of women, the atmosphere of women's solidarity and subsequent #MeToo movement were deeply affecting. 'It felt like we knew we were taking part in an historic moment,' she says. Georgia used the experience as the stimulus for a large-scale participatory installation, *To Future Women*, that transformed five Washington DC museums and galleries into platforms of self-expression, dialogue and reflection. Opening on the one-year anniversary of the Women's March, *To Future Women* invited museum visitors and people the world over to write to the women of 2037, detailing their stories, hopes and

expectations for the future. Over six-months, as the installation moved between museums, more than 3000 participants wrote letters both in person and by mail, including former United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Each installation responded to the architecture of that space, designed so that people could 'sit down and ritualistically write their letter in a meaningful way,' Georgia says. The letters were taped on the surrounding installation, forming a beautiful gateway of personal narratives. Now placed in a 20-year time capsule in the Smithsonian Archives to be re-exhibited on the anniversary in 2037, Georgia says the artwork was intended to 'historicise one of the largest ever networked protests and ensure that women's histories will not be forgotten.'

'My work has always had an underlying interest in womanhood as I try to figure out what feminine strength looks and feels like,' Georgia says. 'I am



Georgia Saxelby



Georgia with French First Lady, Brigitte Macron

interested in how sisterhood works and how women connect with each other. I always felt very empowered at Ravenswood and this is probably a natural extension of that.'

Georgia is a star on the rise. She recently won a Samstag Scholarship, the most prestigious award in Australia for young artists, as well as the renowned Australia Council of the Arts Career Development Grant. She was recently shortlisted for the 2019 NSW Visual Arts Emerging Fellowship and named *One of 25 Change-Making Artists to Track in 2019* by New York publication *The Clyde Fitch Report*.

This year, Georgia will present a solo exhibition at the Australian Embassy in Washington DC. In August, she will commence a Master of Fine Arts at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, USA, the country's foremost art school for socially-engaged art practices, where she has received a full scholarship.

Georgia left Ravenswood in 2008, prepared to study a Bachelor of Economics/Law at the Australian National University, after a gap year of backpacking. It was through this travel abroad that she determined her path would be as an artist and changed course to study at the National Art School, where she graduated, winning three awards in Painting and Overall Achievement. As an interdisciplinary artist, Georgia's ideas and hunger for social change lead her practice. 'I think that is the kind of robust academic approach that Ravenswood prepared me for - to want to use my brain. Art can be a very intellectually rigorous pursuit steeped in research. It has the power to affect deep change by altering how we feel about things. I consider myself very privileged to call myself an artist.'

You can see more of Georgia's work at www.georgiasaxelby.com



Forging a path in STEM

Almost half of Ravenswood's 2018 graduates are now completing Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM) degrees. Their motivation — the chance to improve the world.

It was in 2015, as a Year 9 student, that Natalie Kerry (2018) began dreaming of a career as an engineer. 'The School held a STEM immersion day with visiting professionals who talked about the potential for women to make a difference in the world through STEM careers. I suddenly saw I could use my creativity, along with my love of Maths and Chemistry, to solve problems in ways that might help ordinary people every day.'

Natalie was awarded the Alexandria Ada Lam Scholarship through the University of New South Wales (UNSW) Women in Engineering scholarship program and is now completing a double degree in Engineering and Commerce, with her sights set on the nuclear energy industry.

'I know that the challenges faced by women working in STEM have been highly publicised but I feel supported by the foundation that we received at School and the constant reminders to believe in and value ourselves and to persist no matter what.'

Another Ravenswood recipient of a UNSW Women in Engineering Scholarship is Ashleigh Nicholls (2018), who also shined at the 2018 NSW Young Scientist Awards, where she won first prize in the Years 11-12 Chemistry category and second prize in the Years 11-12 Working Mathematically category. Now studying alongside Natalie at the University's Randwick campus, she dreams of one day working with a renewable energy company in an area such as solar power or pumped hydro. 'My interest in the environment and renewable energy definitely came through school,' Ashleigh says. 'I was Environment Prefect



L-R Tess Webster, Imogen de Lorenzo, Ashleigh Nicholls, Natalie Kerry

and heavily involved in the School's Green Team. All the co-curricular activities I took part in also taught me communication and collaboration skills and to problem solve.'

'It is remarkable that Ravenswood girls won two out of just 11 UNSW Women in Engineering scholarships for city students in 2018,' says Elise McDonald, Career Pathways Advisor. 'It is an amazingly high percentage.'

Winnie Tsai (2018) and Imogen de Lorenzo (2018) are also studying Engineering at UNSW. Winnie is aiming for a career in medical technology such as artificial organs or pharmaceuticals. Imogen is studying mechatronics and biomedical engineering, with a view



to working with a company like Tesla or in the cochlear implant industry.

IB Dux Tess Webster (2018), was one of only 30 high school students in the country to gain entry into the Doctor of Medicine (MD) course at the University of Sydney. She is now working towards a specialised career as a neonatologist, concentrating on high-risk babies in intensive care. 'Ravenswood's strong social justice focus widened my perspective on the issues which many people face in our local community as well as on a global scale,' she says. Chelsea Hagglund (2018) meanwhile, has been awarded the Farrand Science Scholarship from the University of Sydney. 'I am grateful to Ravenswood for having offered the

International Baccalaureate which developed our independent study skills and academic writing skills, which have proven invaluable now that I am at university,' she says.

'It is extremely pleasing to watch our graduates soar and realise the benefits of Ravenswood's dynamic learning environment, which inspires girls with the confidence to vigorously pursue their dreams,' says Principal Mrs Anne Johnstone. 'We are continuing to enhance our teaching of STEM and 21st Century learning skills, which start from Kindergarten, are strengthened by the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme and solidified as students progress through the School.'



Building



The Future

The new Ravenswood Senior Learning Centre (SLC) is emerging from the ground, promising a bold, flexible and innovative design, ideal for 21st century learning.

Wrapped in a beautiful façade of pre-aged copper, the Senior Learning Centre (SLC) has been conceived with a distinctive, ageless aesthetic and impressive environmental credentials.

The three-storey construction will accommodate nine classrooms, adaptable open areas, study hubs, staff facilities, informal kitchen areas and a central, tiered space in the spirit of the Learning Resources Centre's La Scala. The state-of-the-art interiors will support independent inquiry, collaborative learning, and interdisciplinary study and

are inspired by some of the best features of the country's finest libraries and tertiary institutions. The SLC will vastly improve the visual appeal of the Ravenswood campus, connecting Mabel Fidler with Corner House and Casa Lingua.

Planning for the new building commenced after a detailed consultation process with students, parents, staff and other members of the Ravenswood community. Every element has been comprehensively thought through from the perspective of those who will use it, providing a home for learning that will engage, enrich and inspire.





#DARE2BEME



 Ravenswood

Dare to be Me

Our Student Leaders entered 2019 with grit and determination, choosing authenticity as their theme for the year and launching a three-term campaign to encourage the girls to be authentic with themselves, in their relationships and in the wider community.

‘The work and organisation that went into the Prefects’ campaign was breathtaking,’ said Principal Mrs Anne Johnstone. ‘The idea of authentically celebrating and helping each other to thrive is very much grounded in a culture of respect, compassion and above all, love for one another. This is the authentic spirit of Ravenswood,’ she said.

‘The influence of social media today puts enormous pressure on young people, making girls especially feel that they have to conform to a particular ideal,’ said Vice Captains Jasmine Eatough and Sian Hamilton, (Year 12). ‘They can spend a lot of time filtering what they want to say and altering the images they present of themselves.’

Added School Captain Hannah Walsh, (Year 12): ‘We’re encouraging the girls to represent themselves as they are, including following their passions, even if they are not in line with what everyone else is doing and respecting the passions of others.’



The Prefects underlined their key messages by organising five days of entertaining and original events. They included *Mindfulness Monday*, *Taco 'Bout it Tuesday*, *Thankful Thursday* and *Feel Good Friday*. The most fun was *Wacky Wednesday*, when the oval filled with academic gowns, striped scarves, footballs and hoops, for a student versus teacher Quidditch match. Players fought for the ball with broomsticks tucked between their legs, accompanied by a hilarious, punning, commentating duo: 'Congratulations must go to the triumphant teacher side, you truly did Slyther-win! The Year 12s were Hufflepuff-ed after a valiant effort ... we Gryfindored being your commentators!'

**'Be yourself.
Everyone else is
already taken.'**

Oscar Wilde





Introducing our new Head of Junior School – Deputy Principal Sarah Guy

Sarah Guy is a highly esteemed educational leader with a deep commitment to helping girls harness their unique strengths and fulfil their potential. She holds a Master of Education (with Merit) and a Bachelor of Education (Primary) from the University of Sydney. Sarah came to Ravenswood from St Catherine’s School where she was Deputy Headmistress and Head of Junior School. She has also served as Head of Junior School at Pymble Ladies’ College, and Deputy Head of Junior School at both Ravenswood and Meriden School. Sarah shared with us her thoughts on the joys of working in primary education and her approach to Junior School pedagogy.

Building strong relationships is one of the greatest joys of teaching. They are at the heart of what we do and provide the foundation from which we can ignite the imagination and develop the intellect. As the Head of Junior School, the need to connect with each child does not diminish. I make a point of visiting classrooms for that interaction, even if just for a minute or two. These moments are often the highlight of my day. They refresh me and remind me of why we are here – to facilitate learning and to foster strong engagement in school life.

I value deeply the interpersonal and collaborative elements of teaching and leadership. Maya Angelou’s famous words have influenced me greatly in this regard throughout my

career: ‘People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.’

Each of our students is a precious, unique individual whose character and curiosity must be cultivated daily at school. Ensuring that we have an exceptional team of teachers and support staff is therefore very important to me. Every member of staff plays a vital role in ensuring that our girls are nurtured and inspired in the pursuit of academic excellence. I aim to support and nourish staff in their professional growth so that together we can create a captivating, purposeful learning environment which truly engages and excites young learners.



Year 4 Qualifies for International STEM Competition

Raising children who can confidently and happily make the most of their potential in an exciting but unpredictable world, is not something we can leave to chance. Our response to this challenge is the intentional blending of character education with a rich curriculum — in practice this means teaching subject matter in a way that demands rigour, spurs inquiry, and nurtures open-mindedness, perseverance, curiosity and creativity. In this way, we are developing the intellectual character, or habits of mind, needed to succeed at school and beyond. Aristotle's words of wisdom still ring true: 'Good habits formed at youth make all the difference.'

Completing the Positive Psychology Program for Educators, delivered by Professor Martin Seligman's team from the University of Pennsylvania, had a remarkable impact on me. Since then, I have been committed to weaving the principles of Positive Psychology, including character education, into the fabric of school life. When Positive Education is combined with a vibrant curriculum and an acute awareness of the needs of each student, the effect is transformative. It is this powerful combination that enables our girls to unleash their potential and flourish.'

A team of enthusiastic Year 4 girls has advanced to the semi-finals of an international STEM competition organised by the British International Education Association. The competition engages young people in the 'battle of protecting wild and endangered animals' and is designed to build bridges between science, technological innovation, education, and young people across a variety of industries.

Alicia Lin, Carrie Zhu, Queenie Keung, Helen Zheng and Macayla Wu, spent hours meeting at recess and lunchtime to design a drone that can count and monitor the population of the endangered Nepalese tiger, identifying the tigers' stripe pattern, so as not to record the same animal twice.

Their entry was accompanied by a detailed Powerpoint presentation and won them \$184 for a small drone to complete the challenges required to get them to the next stage of the competition.



Student Showcase

International Photography Finalist

Digital camera student Linda Peng (Year 12), was named a finalist in the national *Head On Photo Festival* in April for the second year in a row. Her enchantingly ethereal image was taken in the Lorraine Smith Auditorium and selected from thousands of entries by the Festival's international judges.



Second Place in World Competition

Catherine Swemmer (Year 7) has come second in the Scenario Performance section of the 2019 Future Problem Solving International Conference. Her presentation at the event in Massachusetts, USA, focused on the topic of the ethics of de-extinction. Catherine and Fiona Pan (Year 6) qualified for the event out of 23,000 international competitors. Fiona participated in the Scenario Writing section, which required her to produce an impromptu written scenario, in collaboration with a group of students who she had only just met. 'The competition is designed to make you think with logic and creativity about world issues,' she says. 'I learned so much during the process.'



L-R Fiona Pan, Catherine Swemmer



Country Hits

Students from Years 7-12 donned denim and cowgirl boots to share the heart and soul of country music at *Ravo Presents – Women of Country* on 27 March. The fast-paced program featured global hits from superstars like Dolly Parton, Shania Twain, Taylor Swift and Linda Ronstadt. It included both songs of heartbreak and spirit-lifting tunes that had the audience dancing in their seats. The girls' strong vocals were backed by musicians from Ravenswood's student orchestras, along with some big names from the Australian music industry. They included the 2018 Country Music Association of Australia Musician of the Year winner Clare O'Meara, and former *Moving Pictures* Bass Guitarist Ian Lees.



Kids Lit Quiz

In April, our Years 6 and 7 book lovers participated in the international competition that recognises excellence in the sport of reading – the *Kids' Lit Quiz*. The Year 7 team reached the national finals after triumphing over some very curly questions, that covered a huge range of literary titles. Each girl prepared by immersing herself in a different genre, from nursery rhymes and Dr Seuss to the latest teenage bestsellers. A huge thank you to the girls' mothers who provided tireless support.





Animal Farm

In Term 1, students from Years 8-11 produced an intelligent and thoughtful rendition of the stage version of George Orwell's brilliant satire *Animal Farm*. The classic play is a political allegory about the Russian

Revolution that casts animals in the role of humans. The girls brought a wide range of experience and acting ability to the performance, collaborating to interpret and dramatise Orwell's incisive messages.



Small Schools Camp

A group of Ravenswood students and specialist staff brought city learning opportunities to a group of isolated students in rural NSW in April. The bi-ennial Small Schools Super Camp was held in Nyngan for children who come from schools with only a handful of students, or who study through the School of the Air. The children spent the week learning subjects like STEM, art, music, dance and gymnastics from expert teachers from Ravenswood and other schools. The camp caters for up to 200 children and is organised by the Uniting Church of Australia.



Fundraising for Disadvantaged students in Nepal

Sixteen Years 7 and 8 students are working hard to raise \$10,000 to build a new canteen, greenhouse and vegetable garden for students at Heartland Academy in Nepal. The canteen would serve 500 meals a day and seat a large number of students and staff. The greenhouse and vegetable garden are conceived to teach the children about nutrition, farming and food. Additional funds would be directed towards the purchase of cooking materials like plates, bowl and burners.

Heartland Academy educates students from kindergarten to college level, providing high-quality learning in a country where the adult literacy rate is only 64%. Ravenswood has an ongoing commitment to support the school. Past efforts include the provision of computers, software, toys and learning materials, purchased or handmade by the girls. Ravenswood students have also engaged the Nepalese children in online mathematics classes via Skype.

Doonas for Drought

Australia's worst drought on record continues to bite and Year 8 Boarder Sophie Kirk, is determined to ensure city-dwellers remember the dry, dusty paddocks that are causing such financial hardship and sadness in country regions. Last year, Sophie and fellow Condobolin Boarder Matilda Stuckey (Year 8), helped organise a School-wide fundraising event to generate donations for a Uniting Church drought charity. This year, Sophie is selling beautiful quality doonas to raise money for dog food for farmers in Central NSW. Manufactured by Dynon Wools, the doonas are 500 GSM and made from 100% Australian wool, with a 100% cotton sateen cover. They insulate against heat and cold, regulate air moisture content and promote sound sleep. Forty-per-cent from the sale of each doona will go directly to the farmers. Purchases can be made at: www.trybooking.com/BCEFU until the end of July.



Classics Excellence

Ravenswood has excelled once again in state and national classics competitions. The National Latin Exam is a prestigious worldwide competition for Latin students from Years 9-12, run by the American Classical League. Ravenswood achieved a perfect

score, a gold and three silver medals in the international contest, along with a slew of other certificates. In the Classical Association of NSW Latin Reading Competition, two students reached the finals, two were highly commended and one was commended.



Student Showcase



The Gail Kelly Making a Difference Leadership Award

As the 2019 recipient of the Gail Kelly Making a Difference Leadership Award, Madeleine Rudan will oversee the donation of \$5000 to the energy charity Solar Buddy. Ravenswood bestows the annual Award in partnership with one of Australia's most influential business figures and former Ravenswood parent, Gail Kelly. It recognises girls in Year 11 who have 'the courage, passion, resilience and generosity of spirit to take on leadership roles that make a positive difference to society.' Madeleine's chosen charity Solar Buddy, recruits school students to build and donate portable solar lights and has so far illuminated the lives of more than 320,000 people in developing regions.

The runners-up in the 2019 Gail Kelly Making a Difference Leadership Award were Hannah Marjoram, who selected the veterans charity The Road Home and Olivia Bloom who nominated Sight for All, which works to reduce blindness in low-income countries. The 2019 Award was presented by Gail Kelly's daughter, alumni Sharon Robertson (Kelly, 2004).

Cadets

Ravenswood Cadets have helped the Knox Grammar School Cadet Unit take out the CAS Drill Competition for the sixth year in a row. Ten girls were part of the 24 member Drill squad who trained with exceptional dedication over four months, rain hail or shine. Five cadet units from six schools compete in the challenging annual competition that tests the cadets' precision and synchronisation when performing a series of advanced movements as a squad.





Gymnastics Honours

Ravenswood has continued its exceptional performance in Rhythmic Gymnastics, with Elizabeth Chapman (Year 12) coming 12th in the world and eighth in Australia at the 2019 Australian Gymnastics Championships. Level 10 Rhythmic Gymnasts Amy Burke, Olivia Owens and Anya Patel (all Year 12), claimed the bronze medal for NSW. Artistic gymnast Sophie Finegan (Year 9), placed 16th overall in the Junior International section to help her NSW team claim the silver medal. Early in the year, Amy Burke was announced Senior Levels Athlete of the Year for 2018. The girls compete with Le Ray Gymnastics Ravenswood, which was named Club of the Year in 2017 and 2018 and Levels Coaching Team of the Year in 2016, 2017 and 2018.



L-R Elizabeth Chapman, Marija Vuk-Luboya (Le Ray Gymnastics Coach)



Chinese Debating Champions

Our Chinese debaters took out the challenging 2019 NSW High School Chinese Debating Championship at the end of May. Twenty-six schools competed in the state-wide event that was established to improve Chinese language skills through intensive practice in reading, writing, listening and speaking. The title of Best Grand Final Debater went to Kristen Huang (Year 11). Her teammates were Sophia Xing, Elena Chen (Year 11) and Mary Tan (Year 10). 'It was great to have the opportunity to improve our use of the language at the same time as develop our logical and higher-order thinking skills,' Kristen said.



Student Showcase

Australian Athletics Championships

A fantastic performance at the Australian Athletics Championships helped Zara Perry (Year 8), to a National Record in the U16 Para Javelin. Emily Britton (Year 12) achieved third in the U20 100m Hurdles and Kate Wahby (Year 12), came second in the U20 4 x 400m Relay.

IGSSA Softball Honours

The Independent Girls' School Sport Association Softball team finished equal first at the NSW CIS Championships. Coached by Ravenswood's own Annabelle Davies, the team also featured two of our Year 11 students, Annabelle Brown and Annika Smith.



L-R Zara Perry, Annabelle Davies



Phoebe Fitton

Best and Fairest

Year 10 student Phoebe Fitton, has received the Independent Schools Competition Best and Fairest Player Award for overall performance and contribution to the game, in her very first AFL season. Ravenswood fielded two teams in both the Years 7-8 and Years 9-10 categories of the 2019 competition. All four teams recorded victories, despite most players being debutantes. The Independent Primary Schools Heads of Australia (IPSHA) will introduce AFL from Term 3 this year. 'AFL is a demanding sport that requires physical, tactical, technical and psychological excellence,' says Director of Sport Cameron Childs. 'We look forward to Ravenswood's continued success in this discipline.'



Anna Duckworth (front)

Staff Showcase



Honourees: Sir Anthony Seldon, Steve Pilch, Mrs Anne Johnstone, Professor Martin Seligman, Jim Hovey, Chair of Eisenhower Fellowships, Stephen Meek, Simon Murray OAM

Principal Honoured with International Recognition

Ravenswood Principal Mrs Anne Johnstone, continues to achieve global recognition for her work in the area of Positive Education. In June, she was the only woman in the world chosen by the Eisenhower Fellowship Trust and the University of Pennsylvania, to be celebrated as an Honoree at an invitation-only Positive Education summit in Philadelphia. Mrs Johnstone was selected for her pioneering work, her contribution and her internationally recognised leadership in the area of Positive Education. As the only honoree asked to make a formal presentation at the summit, Mrs Johnstone drew on her 15 years of work in the area to share what she believes to be the future of Positive Education, highlights of Ravenswood's Positive Education curriculum and approach, as well as the research she has completed towards her distinguished Master's Capstone thesis and current PhD studies.



Published Author

Ravenswood Learning Resources Centre Coordinator Katharina Colmer, has released a new book, *Can't Beat the Chemistry*, which is already earning very warm reviews. The coming of age novel is published by Rhiza Edge and includes wisdom and valuable life lessons, alongside an engaging story about book-smart MJ and her search for love. Kat's last book was *The Third Kiss*, which has achieved an impressive rating of 4.2 on the online book review site, *Goodreads*.



Retrieve, Retreat by Morgan Veness

Visual Arts Achievements

Two teachers in the Ravenswood Visual Arts Department achieved recognition in external art competitions and exhibitions this year. Salvatore Gerardi was named an Acquisitive Prize Winner in the 2019 Artists' Book Award, for his combined etching and relief printmaking work *Coastal Lagoon*. The piece was exhibited at the Manly Art Gallery and Museum. Morgan Veness' work *Retrieve, Retreat*, was selected from more than 600 artists around Australia, to feature in the Blacktown City Art Prize. Another of Morgan's works was chosen for the **North Sydney Art Prize**, held at Balls Head.





From the Archives

As we came together to mark Anzac Day 2019, Principal Mrs Anne Johnstone shared the story of Alumni Diana Mack (1953), who entered the Ravenswood boarding house in the aftermath of World War II, and became the first in a long line of girls from Papua New Guinea to attend the School.

Diana Mack was born between the wars to Chinese parents in Papua New Guinea. She was interned in a prison camp along with her family and the entire Chinese community, after the invasion of Rabaul. The community survived by growing their own food and digging tunnels into the mountains to escape the bombing. Putting their lives in grave danger, they helped the war effort by covertly passing vital intelligence to the Australian Coast Watchers.

The Australian forces liberated the Chinese camp on 18 September 1945 and celebrated by distributing tins of meat and margarine, the first Diana had tasted in three years. The community set about rebuilding, with the children working alongside their parents to help return village life to normal. At this time, an official military photographer immortalised Diana in a photo now held by the Australian War Memorial. It shows her proudly contributing to the community by operating a rice crushing machine built by her father. It was soon recognised however, that children like Diana needed to go back to school. In the absence of amenities in Rabaul and through the help of Mrs Mary Jenkins, an Australian educator living in Papua New Guinea, Diana was sent to the Ravenswood boarding house in 1948 to resume her studies.



LEFT: Diana Mack; front row, fourth from left
TOP: Diana (middle)

Diana described Ravenswood as being 'like heaven!' She worked hard to overcome the language barrier, rising in the early hours to study alone in the lounge room. Her family had little money so she could only return to Rabaul once a year. Ravenswood became her 'home away from home.' Diana learned to play the piano and performed at the 1951 Eisteddfod on the recorder. During the holidays, she would often be invited to stay with the country girls.

On graduation, Diana began a nursing career, later marrying in the Ravenswood Chapel, in recognition of the significant role the School had played in her life. The Boarders formed a guard of honour and to their delight, were given the bottom section of her wedding cake for supper.

Diana and Bill became successful business people, spending their working lives in Papua New Guinea

and later Brisbane, where they established a construction company.

As a result of Diana's fortunate experience at Ravenswood, many of her descendants and extended family followed in her footsteps. They include Natalie Chee (1993), Tulip Fong (2018), Kylie Lo (Fong, 1993), Jeanette Wong (Leo, 1972), Evelyn Edwards (Leo, 1976), Carolyn Hammer (Leo, 1973), Jenna Leo (2004), Cassandra Wong (1998), Yasmine Wong (2001), Akira Wong (2005), Denika Seeto (2009), Chevonne Seeto (2011), Taylah Seeto (2013), Sophie Seeto (2019) and Megan Seeto (2022). A number are still enrolled at the School, continuing Ravenswood's long and proud association with the New Guinea community.

With thanks to Roderick Seeto (father of Sophie and Megan Seeto) and Robyn Robertson, Archivist, for their contribution to this article.



Alumni Shine

Lucy Keeler (Young, 1999) took on the prestigious role of Curator of Vivid Light in 2019, after creating 319 sculptures and more than 25 building projections in the first ten years of Vivid Sydney. 'Light art is breaking down the white cube by taking the art off the wall, taking it out the door and giving art back to the wider population,' she says. 'Outdoor light art festivals are rapidly spreading across the globe, and it's no surprise — light affects all human beings on a fundamental level.'

Lucy is the managing director of Public Art Australia, a studio that designs and directs light festivals across Europe and Asia. The 2019 Vivid creation that brought her most pride was a new installation from Pixar Animation Studios, which closed Argyle Street in the Rocks and traced the history of 3-D animation. 'Visitors were able to watch concept art from one of the world's most influential animation studios, while lying down in the middle of the road. It was amazing,' she says.

Lucy was enrolled at Ravenswood from the age of four to eighteen and grew up listening to Kate Moore (1997) play the cello and Vivian Choi (1997) play the grand piano in the School's various ensembles and orchestras. She says she was thrilled when they agreed to play a role in Vivid Sydney at Chatswood.

Kate and Vivian enjoy a close friendship fostered during years at the School. Kate is now a sought-after composer based in the Netherlands, who has worked with the world's finest ensembles, in venues

such as Carnegie Hall and the Sydney Opera House. Vivian lives in New York, plays recitals and festivals around the world and has been lauded by *Fanfare* magazine as, 'an exemplar of the modern global pianist.'

The former classmates joined the 2019 Vivid lineup to perform the Australian premiere of Kate's new composition, *Lucidity: Eyes of Hands*. Kate wrote it as a 40th birthday present for Vivian and both women were excited to perform it at The Concourse in Chatswood, the site of the old Willoughby Town Hall, where they spent so much time as teen-aged musicians. 'I see it as a gift for Vivian, to be presented in the place we come from,' Kate said.

Revisiting her old haunts reminded Kate of her Ravenswood days. 'There was a seminal moment at Ravenswood that changed the course of my life,' she says. 'When selecting senior electives, I had felt obliged to choose practical subjects but at the very last minute before the cut-off date, I had the burning realisation that music was what I loved. I raced to the office to change my elective to music and never looked back.'

'Ravenswood gave me the space and encouragement to follow my passion and the perfect foundation for my profession as a composer. I constantly draw from my experiences from School and have fond memories performing with talented colleagues, including Natalie Chee (1993), Vivian Choi, Rowena Crouch (1996) and Naoko Keatley.'



Lucy Keeler



Kate Moore



Vivian Choi

at Vivid



Community News

Chair of the Ravenswood Foundation Mr Mark Steinert, hosted the 2019 *Foundation Dinner* on 14 June. The special guest at the sold-out event was past parent, founding member of the Ravenswood Foundation and 25th Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon John Howard OM, AC. During an on-stage interview with Principal Mrs Anne Johnstone, Mr Howard discussed the value his family placed on a Ravenswood education, the importance of student wellbeing and his reflections on leadership. The event was made more special by an address from our School Captain Hannah Walsh and musical performances from Performing Arts Captain Lauren Gunson and Choral Captain Madeleine Aarons. Our Years 11-12 Hospitality students welcomed attendees and waited tables with professionalism and grace.

Ravenswood celebrated International Women's Day on Monday 11 March with an inaugural mother and daughter breakfast, featuring a panel of esteemed Ravenswood women: Penny Gerstle (1983) Sydney Chair and Australian Co-Chair of Human Rights Watch Australia; Dr Michelle Phipps, Ravenswood parent and Group Head of Talent, Learning and Inclusion at Coca Cola Amatil, Kate McLoughlin (1996) Chef de Mission of the 2016 and 2020 Australian Paralympic teams; Sallianne McClelland (1984) winner of the 2018 NSW Premier's Local Woman of the Year Award and President of the Board of the Hornsby Ku-Ring-Gai Women's Shelter. Their wise insights included: 'Don't live in an echo chamber. Surround yourself with people who challenge your ideas and friends who don't agree with you,' - Dr Michelle Phipps. 'If you don't get what you want straight away ... there is always a path to get there,' - Kate McLoughlin; 'Ravenswood gave me an incredible grounding, to go out and conquer the world and I did it ... anything is possible,' - Sallianne McClelland

Our Anzac Day Service was held on 30 April and attended by members of our community who have served for their country or are the relatives of former service men and women. Principal Mrs Anne Johnstone, spoke movingly of the debt we owe, not only to those who died in World War 1, but for the contribution and suffering of those who have served in all wars and peace keeping efforts.

Welcome to 2019 Cocktails — 22 February

Careersearch — 28 March

Generations Breakfast — 9 April

RIGHT: Selected photos from the *Welcome to 2019 Cocktails*, *International Women's Day Breakfast*, *Foundation Dinner*, *Careersearch*, *Carols on the Lawn*, *Trivia Night*, *Generations Breakfast* and the *Mother's Day Stall*.





Community News



A selection of images from the *Welcome to 2019 Cocktails* and *Ravenswood Anzac Day Service*



Vale

Neroli Colvin (1965–2018)

Neroli Joy Colvin (1982) achieved at high levels in music, academia and journalism — success that came despite the rare bone disease diagnosed soon after her birth, which affected her profoundly but never defined her. During Neroli’s Ravenswood years, she performed three times at the Sydney Opera House and won the Ravenswood School Music Festival piano championship. She finished in the top one-per-cent in the HSC and completed a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Sydney. Neroli worked her way to senior roles for the Australian Financial Review and Sydney Morning Herald and achieved a Master’s Degree in adult education from the University of Technology Sydney. Her PhD from Western Sydney University, focused on cultural diversity in regional schools. Neroli Colvin’s full obituary as it appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald, can be found at: bit.ly/2XxHDF5.

Frances Elizabeth Lilley (1941–2019)

Frances Elizabeth Lilley (1958) contributed significantly to School life, as a Prefect of Stuart House, a valued member of Crusaders and a keen basketballer on the 1958 Senior A Basketball team. The Ravenswood Old Girls’ Union is extremely grateful for her generous bequest towards scholarships to benefit current and future students of the School.



Ravenswood Alumni Reunions

Message from the Alumni President Lisa Boyce

I was elected President of Ravenswood Alumni in late 2018, following the appointment of our previous President Sarah Beresford (1984), to a senior role at the School. It is a privilege to serve in this role. I'm from the Ravenswood class of 1990 and my daughter, Madison, is in year 8, having started in Kindergarten in 2011. Madi is a third generation Ravenswood girl as her grandmother (my mum), Pamela Clancy (Burnet), left in 1964.

Earlier this year, the inaugural International Women's Day Breakfast featured a panel of four esteemed alumni who shared wisdom and advice gained through professional and personal experiences since leaving Ravenswood. Alumni panellists included Penny Gerstle (Henderson, 1983), Kate McLoughlin (Perrin, 1996) and Sallianne McClelland (Crow, 1984).

Sixty-five mentors (including alumni, parents and even alumni parents) joined us for another successful *Careersearch* at the end of March. The annual event attracted around 500 girls and their parents to gather information about career and university options. We were extremely grateful for our alumni's time and expertise.

We commemorated Anzac Day with a Service featuring the story of alumni Diana Lee (Mack, 1953), who became the School's first student from Papua New Guinea. I was proud to lay a wreath with our guest-of-honour Valmai Cameron (Kennedy, 1952), on behalf of Ravenswood alumni who currently serve or have served as members of the Australian Defence Force.



Ravenswood grandmothers, mothers and daughters came together for one of the most loved events on the calendar – the 2019 Generations Breakfast. It was wonderful for alumni to share memories about our own school days with the girls and to connect over this special bond.

The recent Opening Night and Finalists' Exhibition of the 2019 Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize showcased some of the country's most creative women. We were proud to see works from our alumni included in the exhibition and the role our School is playing in inspiring and supporting female artists across the country.

The Ravenswood Alumni Committee is considering how it can continue to enhance connections and the value of Ravenswood alumni and is exploring some initiatives. If you have any thoughts or feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Please email Sarah Beresford, Head of Development and Alumni, at alumni@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au

A promotional poster for the 2019 Gala Ball. The background is dark blue with a golden, sparkling bokeh effect. The text '2019 Gala Ball' is written in a large, elegant, golden cursive font. Below it, 'THE RAVENSWOOD FOUNDATION' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. To the right, event details are listed in white text: 'Saturday 24 August', '6.30pm', 'Doltone House, Hyde Park Ballroom', 'Level 3, 181 Elizabeth Street', 'Black Tie', '\$195 per person', 'RSVP', and 'www.trybooking.com/BAHZD'. At the bottom right, there is a yellow rectangular box containing the Ravenswood logo (a circular emblem with a book and a torch) and the word 'Ravenswood' in white. At the bottom left, a line of text reads: 'Online Fundraising Auction open to all community – bidding to commence prior to event featuring Commission Free Property Sale, generously donated by Luschwitz'.

Alumni Reunions

Kim Williams, Alumni Manager

For help to organise a reunion, please email alumni@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au. To see if ticket sales have opened for your reunion, please visit TryBooking.com and search 'Ravenswood'. Reunion dates and details are listed on the Ravenswood website at community/alumni/reunions.

1959 LEAVERS' 60 YEAR REUNION

Monday 9 September 2019

11.30am at Zali's Restaurant, Novotel Sydney Manly Pacific

Organiser: Maria Benardos (Feros)

gmbenardos@gmail.com

1969 LEAVERS' 50 YEAR REUNION

Date, time and location TBC

School tour followed by dinner

Organiser: Barb Campbell (Davey)

barb@bcampbell.com.au

1979 LEAVERS' 40 YEAR REUNION

Saturday 17 August 2019

4.30pm school tour and dinner at The Alcott, Lane Cove

Organisers: Jenny Wells (Page) and Glenda Stevens

jjwells_1964@hotmail.com

1989 LEAVERS' 30 YEAR REUNION

Saturday 21 September 2019

5.00pm school tour followed by cocktails at The Oaks Hotel

Organisers: Melissa Ghiazza (Pearson) and

Kara Boden (Thomson) ravogirls89@gmail.com

1999 LEAVERS' 20 YEAR REUNION

Saturday 19 October 2019

Cocktails at a time and venue TBC

Organisers: Sophie Hartigan and Philippa Stone

soph_19@hotmail.com

2004 LEAVERS' 15 YEAR REUNION

Saturday 12 October 2019

5.00pm for Drinks then Dinner at The Commodore

Organiser: Shell Pallot (Slater), Anna Ching (Bosch) and Kate Mahilraj (Rigby)

katemahilraj@gmail.com

2009 LEAVERS' 10 YEAR REUNION

October 2019

Date and Venue TBC

Organisers: Amelia Crawford and Emma Cohen

amelia.r.crawford@gmail.com

2014 LEAVERS' 5 YEAR REUNION

Friday 8 November 2019

Cocktails at the Tilbury Hotel, Woolloomooloo

Organiser: Sarah Selig

sarahselig4@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

JULY

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 13-14 July | NSW Camelia Research Society Show |
| 22 July | Boarders' Parents Dinner |
| 29 July | Alumni Committee Meeting |
| 30 July | An Evening with Professor Martin Seligman |
| 31 July | Year 4 Father/Daughter Breakfast |

AUGUST

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| 5 August | RPA Chantry Golf Day |
| 24 August | Gala Ball |
| 29 August | Year 9 Father/Daughter Breakfast |
| 11 September | Year 12 Father/Daughter Breakfast |
| 27 September | Year 12 Farewell Breakfast |
| 27 September | Year 12 Valedictory Service |
| 27 September | Year 12 Valedictory Dinner |

OCTOBER

- | | |
|------------|--------------------------|
| 21 October | Alumni Committee Meeting |
| 28 October | RPA Volunteer Drinks |

NOVEMBER

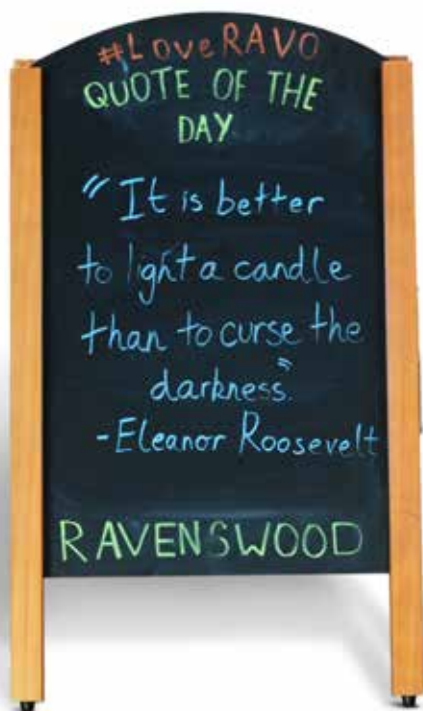
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| 22 November | RPA Christmas Lunch |
| 28 November | Golden Girls' Lunch |
| 30 November | Carols on the Lawn |

DECEMBER

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 3 December | Junior School Presentation Ceremony |
| 4 December | Secondary School Presentation Ceremony |

Daily Inspiration

The 2019 school year saw a fun new feature introduced to the Ravenswood campus – the Wellbeing Captains’ Quote of the Day. The chalkboard greets us at the top of the Henry Street steps, featuring a daily dose of wisdom and encouragement. ‘It lifts the spirits of everyone who comes through the School gates and gives them something to ponder and talk about,’ say Wellbeing Captains Holland Touw and Olivia Morris. Human beings have passed down the astute sayings of great philosophers and thinkers since ancient times. ‘For those of us who are drawn to inspiring quotes, they provide motivation to stay focused on our goals and remind us that whatever we might be dealing with, we are not alone,’ the girls say. In late May, the Junior School introduced its own Quote of the Week, which will be selected by the new Quote of the Week Ambassadors. The most popular quote chosen by the Wellbeing Prefects so far has come from Eleanor Roosevelt: ‘It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.’







Ravenswood

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