

RAVENSWOOD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS | SUMMER 2019

# Semper



Ravenswood

# Tarmac Waves

It's funny how I still feel as if I'm not meant to cross the road alone,  
like I'm still supposed to be guided across as a child,  
supported with a

gentle  
trail  
of  
hands

Each finger a stretch of skin,  
of path,  
reaching out to carry me across,  
guide me,

It's funny how I see the flat mirage of black roughness from a different angle,  
lower and lower,

It seems like a bigger ocean every time,  
rolling waves of black tar,  
holding memories of scraped knees and the burnt pads of feet,  
the smell of summer, long passed.

I seem to have lost my guiding hand.  
I am not a big enough boat to cross the ocean alone.

Where is my oh so beautiful lighthouse?

I am stuck in my envisionment of oceans and roundabouts  
roundabouts  
roundabouts

struck by the headlights of passing motors,  
they lure me in,  
a fish on a hook,  
I thought it my lighthouse

but I am still alone,  
running roads,  
floating oceans

I am too scared to cross.

I can't face the other side without  
footsteps to follow,

You weren't meant to let go of my hand.

"Come back,"  
distant cries heard in the background  
music of my turmoiled sleep,  
tossing and  
turning,  
remnants of my road waves,  
bound by tar.

I just wanted you to hold my hand.

By Mia Solomon (Year 10)



**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 Visible Wellbeing and 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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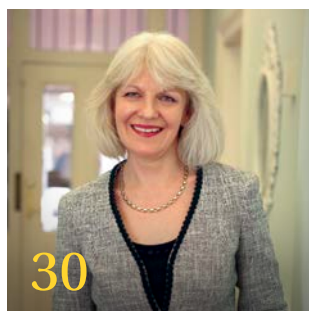
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# Principal's Message

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*'The way we choose to see the world and the way we choose to respond to the challenges we face, the setbacks and the opportunities we are presented with in life is critically important; and we do indeed have the power to choose,'* – Ravenswood's inaugural psychologist in residence, the eminent Professor Martin Seligman.

When I reflect on the year gone by, I feel an overwhelming sense of pride. A tremendous amount has been achieved by our girls, supported so wholeheartedly by staff, parents and members of our community.

This Summer edition of *Semper*, is a testament to the girls' determination and the way they have embraced our Guiding Principles of Excellence, Respect, Courage, Optimism and Compassion.

In 2019, Ravenswood has continued to excel at state, national and international competitions, including in Problem solving, Mathematics, Public Speaking, Debating, Music, Art and Sport. You can read about many of these achievements in the Student Showcase section from page 20.

Recently we were thrilled to be named one of Australia's most innovative schools by *The Educator* magazine, for our ground-breaking work in the areas of Positive Education, Robotics and Engineering. Discover how our Junior School engineers used their STEM skills to create sophisticated wellbeing robots on page 9.

Ravenswood contributes to more than 25 charitable organisations each year, including *Days for Girls*, where our students are leading the way as official ambassadors in Australia. On page 10, we have published the beautiful mural created by a group of Year 11 International Bacculaureate girls to spotlight

these important social justice projects and to inspire others to give.

This edition of the magazine also details the achievements of some remarkable Ravenswood Alumni. A profile of Christine Morgan, the CEO of the National Mental Health Commission and Suicide Prevention Adviser to Prime Minister Scott Morrison, can be found on page 30 and the story of two Alumni working in senior Australian diplomatic positions in Tehran and Vienna is on page 12.

A privileged moment in the life of the School came in August, with the arrival of Professor Martin Seligman, for his week-long visit as our inaugural *Psychologist in Residence*. In a rare opportunity, Professor Seligman worked directly with our girls from Kindergarten to Year 12.

In his address to Assembly, he told the girls that despite suggestions in the media to the contrary, theirs is a generation of extraordinary good fortune. 'You have around 15-20 more IQ points than previous generations,' he told them. 'You live in an age of unprecedented material prosperity and technological advancement.' He then explained that despite this the high prevalence worldwide of depression among young people was growing. He unpacked some of the evidence from his research that shows that the skills to increase resilience, positive emotion, engagement and meaning can be



learnt and that Ravenswood girls are 'receiving the highest quality of Positive Education instruction.'

Professor Seligman was inspired by the way the girls are creating and implementing their own initiatives in Positive Psychology. One of the finest examples of this, is the 2019 Prefects' *Come Sit with Us* campaign. The campaign aims to encourage a culture of compassion and connection across the campus and ensure that every girl has someone to sit with and talk to, at lunchtime. You can read about this on page 21.

Professor Seligman's public lecture was a sold out event, attracting more than 1000 members of the Ravenswood community and general public to our Community Forum event.

As the year draws to a close, it is time to say goodbye to the Class of 2019, who have shown heart, soul and SPIRIT in all their endeavours and have become truly amazing young women of substance. In keeping with their theme of authenticity of self and with others, I encourage you to be yourselves, live with respect and compassion, respond to challenges and opportunities with courage and shine your light brightly on those around you. Remembering the words of Professor Seligman: we all have the power to choose how we see the world and how we respond. Girls, I encourage you to choose to live your life with purpose, to create a positive ripple

effect for those around you and for those who may follow in your steps.

We also say farewell to our Deputy Principal, Mrs Kim Bence and thank her for the outstanding service and contribution she has made to Ravenswood, over the last three and a half years. We wish her all the very best as she prepares to return with her family to Melbourne, to take up an exciting new role.

I wish you all a wonderful, happy and healthy Christmas break and look forward to seeing you in February 2020, for the start of an exciting new decade and school year.

'The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.' John 1:9

**Anne Johnstone**

Professor Seligman is the founder of Positive Psychology, the most cited psychologist in history, Director of the Master of Applied Positive Psychology (MAPP) program at the University of Pennsylvania and a former President of the American Psychology Association. He has written more than 300 scholarly publications and 25 books that have been translated into more than 45 languages.



## A Message from our Student Leaders

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**W**e feel extremely fortunate as a Leadership Team, to have enjoyed a very long association, not only with the School but with each other. Vivienne began at Ravenswood in Kindergarten and we have been together as a trio, since our days in 3B!

In planning for our leadership year, we reflected on what makes Ravenswood such an amazing place. It is a long list, including that we have a Principal who after almost four years, still stands at the front gate to greet us when we arrive; that when we walk through the campus, we see so many girls we know, who always take the time to smile and say hi; that as a fairly small, community-based school, the teachers all know our names; and that we are a unified school, uplifting one another and celebrating each other's achievements. In a way, Ravo feels like a home.

We created our *20/20 Vision* (pun intended!) with the theme to launch the decade: *See the Ravo Connection*. It is our commitment as School Leaders, to make Ravenswood's beautiful qualities like connection, sisterhood, support, teamwork, spirit and unity, even more visible. We want to leave the girls with the sense that, 'your sisters have your back'. Our initiatives will aim to blur the lines between Year Groups and between the Junior School and the Secondary Schools, even more.

The most important things in life are the connections you make with others. Our message to our fellow students is that there are so many girls at the School waiting to meet and support you. We encourage you to find your *20/20 Vision* and *See the Ravo Connection* — because it starts with you.

Danielle Fenech (Vice Captain), Vivienne Yang (School Captain) and Madeleine Rudan (Vice Captain).

# Ravo Connection

## Championing Women

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When Erin Brady chose the topic of female empowerment for her Year 6 International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme research, she aimed high. The-11-year-old approached one of the most prominent women in the world for an interview via Skype, Robyn Denholm, who replaced Elon Musk as Chair of the Board of Tesla. They talked about the role of women in the workplace and how to inspire girls who want to succeed.

**Erin:** *Are there any other women on the board with you?*

**Robyn:** Yes there are. There is another lady named Kathleen Wilson-Thompson who is the Executive Vice President and Global Chief Human Resources Officer of Walgreens Boots Alliance, which is a very large pharmacy company in the US.

**Erin:** *Why do you think there are so few women?*

**Robyn:** The numbers have increased over the last few years. I was the only woman for a while and we had three for a period of time, out of a pretty small board. Now we have two, so it is actually a good place to be building from.

**Erin:** *How tough is it working in a male dominated industry?*

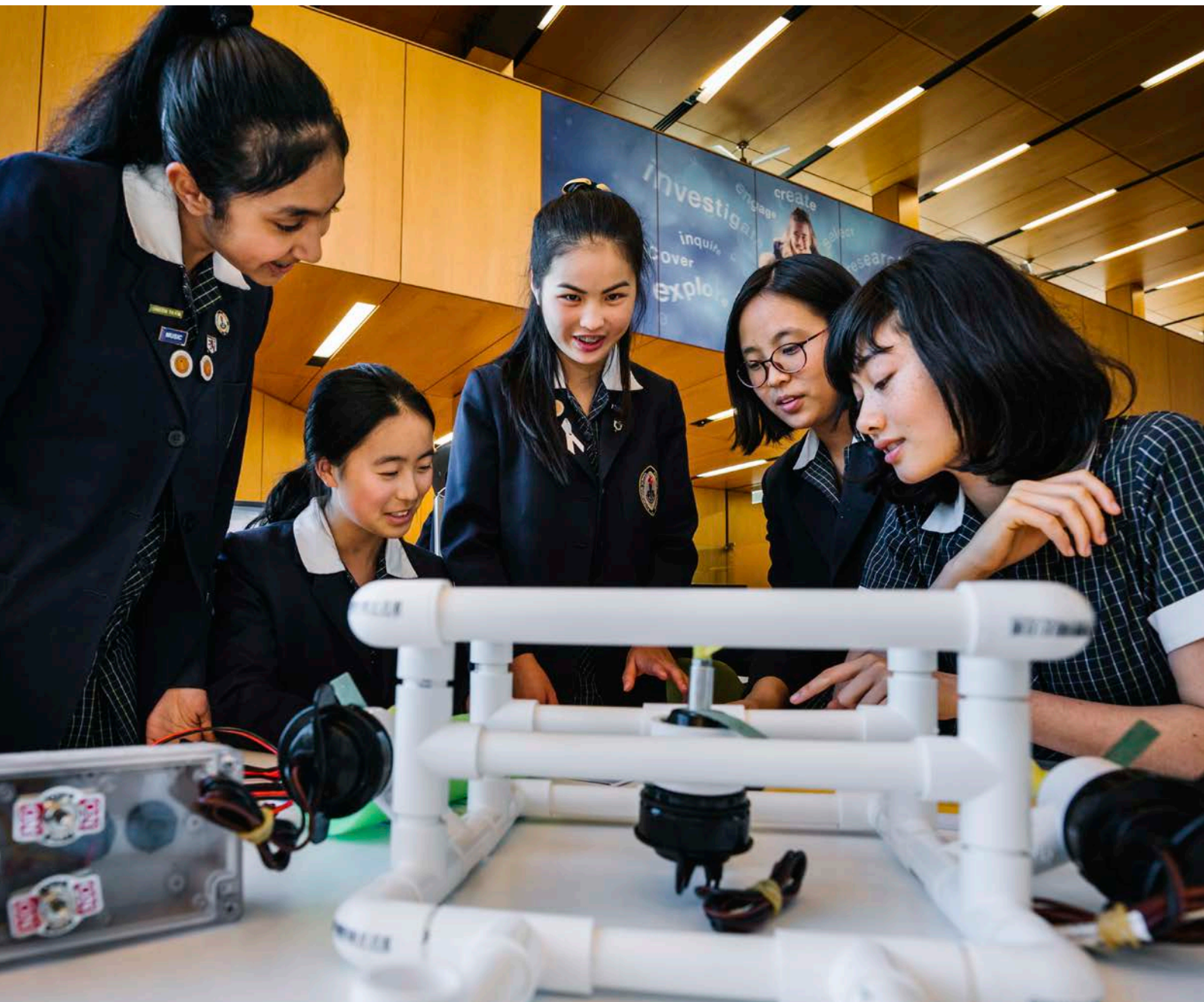
**Robyn:** When I joined Arthur Andersen a very long time ago, 30% of people in our intake year were women. Today, if you go to any of the big firms, it is a 50:50, if not 60:40 ratio of women to men. When I worked at Toyota, there were very few women in senior positions. When I went to Telstra, it was good because there were four of us on the Executive team. So, I think over time it has increased in terms of the proportion of women. There is still a lot of work to do to get equal representation but I think we are doing well in terms of increasing the numbers.

**Erin:** *How has sexism in the corporate world affected you in your career?*

**Robyn:** I think from a personal perspective, it is easier when there are more of you because you are not always having to be the only woman in the room. I am really pleased as we look at the rank and file coming through, that there are more women - really smart women - appearing in every facet of business. The more women there are, the more there will be, because they act as role models. I think your generation will do incredibly well as they move through, which really encourages me. I am an optimist in terms of how the changes over time will happen, so I am very impressed with the calibre of women coming into the work force.

**Erin:** *If you could give advice to young aspiring girls what would you say to them?*

**Robyn:** What I would say is, do what you really love and don't put yourself into a box about any type of role you could do, or any type of discipline. Don't think about stereotypes. It doesn't matter what gender or ethnicity, or what background you have. You can really do anything by applying yourself and really going for it. My advice to all young women and young men is to really follow your passions and go for it. Be confident about what you can do.



## Subs in Schools

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A group of Year 9 girls flies to Adelaide this December, to represent NSW in the world's first in-class submarine design contest. The Subs in Schools Technology Challenge, is a combined initiative of the Department of Defence and the corporate sector, arising from the Federal Government's \$50 billion Future Submarine program. It aims to attract young people to the complex field of maritime engineering.

The girls used industry-standard technology to build a Remotely Operated Underwater Vehicle

(ROV) to strict technical regulations and produced a supporting portfolio, marketing campaign, and verbal presentation, for judging by university academics and industry members.

'One of the best opportunities was the chance to meet the Australian Minister for Defence Industry, the Hon. Melissa Price MP. She really made us feel excited about the possibilities of a future in engineering,' said Yvonne Wang (Year 9).





## Robots for Wellbeing

They could cheer you up with a joke, inspire you with a wise quote and came dressed as your favourite animal. The Wellbeing Robots created by Year 6 for their Year 4 buddies, were carefully personalised to the wellbeing needs of their recipients.

‘First we interviewed our buddies to find out what they like and don’t like, as well as the things that make them happy and sad,’ says 11-year-old Yixing Lin (Year 6). ‘My buddy told me she likes the colour blue and teddy bears but doesn’t like jokes, so we created a robot for her that looked like a bear and could play music.’

‘As a class activity, it worked really well to both develop creativity, problem solving and robotics skills and encourage girls in Years 6 and 4, to focus on what does and does not lead to wellbeing,’ said ICT Integrator Matt Scadding.

## Innovative Schools Award



Ravenswood was honoured to be named one of Australia’s most innovative schools by *The Educator* magazine in November. In particular, the award recognised our work in the area of Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematics (STEM). It was also an acknowledgement of our leading approach to Positive Education and the achievements of Ravenswood Principal Mrs Anne Johnstone, the only woman in the world to be honoured by the Eisenhower Fellowship Trust at the University of Pennsylvania, in July. In the words of the judges: ‘this is a fantastic achievement that really sets you apart in the industry as [a school] to watch.’



## Mural of Giving

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A group of Year 11 International Baccalaureate students spent the July holidays painting a mural to celebrate the School's charitable activities and inspire their peers. The girls fundraised for their own materials and researched the exact colours and size ratios of each charity's logo, to create an eye-catching, permanent reminder to give back, on an exterior wall in the Secondary School. 'The girls at Ravenswood contribute so much to so many organisations. We wanted to both reflect our pride in that and encourage them to start thinking at an even younger age, about fundraising, volunteering, or initiating a project of their own,' said Claire-Louise McCabe (Year 11).





## Days for Girls

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Ravenswood students have stepped up as local ambassadors for the international charity *Days for Girls*, speaking at public events to highlight the organisation's life-changing impact in 125 countries.

*Days for Girls* improves the health and educational prospects of young women in developing nations by providing them with colourful, re-usable feminine hygiene kits, that enable them to attend school and participate in sporting and other activities, even when they have their periods.

'The charity works by mobilising people around the

developed world, to produce the kits in groups,' said Amelia Rundle (Year 11). 'At Ravenswood, we not only make the kits but promote the organisation's work to potential volunteers, alongside the adult representatives of rival charities.'

'Our message is that it is fun and fulfilling to collaborate as a team to produce the kits for a charity that is changing lives for people in the developing world,' said Emily Horbach (Year 11).

Ravenswood has been associated with *Days for Girls* since 2014 and it has become the School's most significant charitable partnership.



Anna Oldmeadow, Australian Deputy ambassador to Tehran



Alison Drury, Australian Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations in Vienna

# Alumni Ambassadors

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Two years apart at School, Ravenswood Alumni Anna Oldmeadow, (1997) and Alison Drury, (1995) reconnected at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in Canberra in 2015. Today, both hold senior diplomatic roles in high-profile international cities, collaborating regularly through their respective roles in monitoring and analysing aspects of Iran's nuclear program, while providing each other with friendship and support.

Anna Oldmeadow is the Australian Deputy Ambassador to Tehran, heading up the political and economic section of the Embassy, during a particularly turbulent period in Iran's relationship with the West. A former lawyer and Rhodes Scholar, with a PhD in Politics from Oxford, she spent 12 months learning Farsi (also known as Persian) in preparation for her role.

'Iran has an increasingly complex regional context and life there is constantly in flux,' she says. 'My team and I are charged with keeping ahead of the changes on behalf of Canberra. I am also responsible for Embassy security and act as Ambassador, when the Ambassador is away.' (Australia's first female Ambassador to Iran has recently taken up the role).

Anna's working and personal life is impacted by the raft of sanctions imposed on Iran, which have cut the country off from the international banking system and prevent the use of credit cards, ATMs and even traveller's cheques. Another adjustment has been wearing the compulsory hijab (headscarf and coat), especially in the height of summer. 'Conversely, when I am out of Iran, I often have moments when I suddenly fear I've left the house without it - until I remember where I am!' she says.

More than 3000 kilometres away, Alison lives and works in very different circumstances as Australia's Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations and other international organisations in Vienna. She has a Masters in International Relations from the Australian National University as a Hedley Bull Scholar and a significant diplomatic background,

including a former role in the Australian Embassy in Tel Aviv, analysing Middle East Peace Process issues and regional security.

Her current role involves the promotion of Australia and its interests, within Austria and neighbouring countries. As an Australian official to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), she works with representatives from other member state countries to uphold international rules on the use of nuclear technology. This includes the careful verification of Iran's nuclear program under the 2015 Iran deal, which brings her into close working contact with Anna.

'For all that we are separated by geography, Anna and I are connected by our common professional purpose of assessing the prospects of the Iran deal and what it means for Australia,' Alison says. 'Anna's reports provide essential input to my understanding of this sensitive international issue, which I monitor from the technical side in Vienna. Certainly our Ravenswood past has built a connection that goes beyond just the foreign, trade or corporate issue of the day!'

While Alison loves living in Vienna, her international career does demand flexibility on the part of her husband and young family. With her posting set to end next month, she is focused on managing a move back to Canberra. 'At a time when the international environment is marked by uncertainty and change, I expect there will be a vast array of exciting issues to work on ... and as for Canberra — it's better than you think!' she says.

Meanwhile, Anna thoroughly enjoys life in Tehran. 'Visitors are usually shocked when they realise that there are lots of large shopping malls and upmarket restaurants, including a lot of sushi,' she says. 'On weekends I have the opportunity for both domestic and international travel to popular spots such as the Caspian Sea, the Persian Gulf, or many historical and archaeological sites. Winter affords excellent skiing just a couple of hours from Tehran and the Iranian people are renowned for their friendliness and hospitality.'



# International da Vinci Decathlon Race around Italy

The captivating beauty of Rome, Florence, San Gimignano and Siena made for a stunning backdrop to a challenging intellectual contest in September – the International da Vinci Decathlon. Sixteen girls in Years 7-10 spent seven days exploring the vestiges of the Italian Renaissance, from classical artworks and antiquities to catacombs, basilicas and ancient monuments. 'It was incredible to walk along the breezy corridors, imagining being a Roman lady, dressed in a stola, trying to think of what it could have been used for, and who else might have stood where we stood. It really put our world into perspective,' said Emily Ra (Year 10) and Alicia Benson (Year 10).

On day eight, the girls put their new knowledge to the test against students from international and Australian schools, including Knox Grammar, in the Race Around the Renaissance quiz. This was followed by a series of more traditional da Vinci Decathlon problem solving and creative challenges. The Ravenswood Junior and Secondary teams gained second and third placings respectively. 'This tour has not just been about the academic level of competition. More importantly, we built great friendships and knowledge between schools and countries,' said Lilien Rudas (Year 8) and Man Ni Lin (Year 8).



# Ravenswood Scholar Challenge Launched

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Academically demanding yet inclusive, the inaugural Ravenswood Scholar Challenge was an in-house version of the Knox Grammar School da Vinci Decathlon competition, delivered to every girl in Years 7-8.

‘It was important for us to provide all girls with an opportunity to engage with rigorous intellectual challenges with the support of a team, to challenge their self-perception around what is possible for them to achieve,’ said Kerrie Besgrove, Gifted and Talented Coordinator.

The 320 girls were divided into 32 teams to compete within their House and Year Group. The challenges developed aspects of the Ravenswood Guiding Principles and Wellbeing framework, by focusing on collaboration, academic rigour and creativity. The girls tackled questions covering ten academic disciplines, as well as performing creative tasks, including building a useable table from nothing but paper and devising a dance, song or skit.

Ravenswood’s Year 11 da Vinci team members helped prepare and guide the event, acting as keynote speakers and mentors for the younger girls. Assisting in its mammoth organisation were more than 50 Ravenswood staff.

‘What worked well was getting to use critical thinking and problem solving skills in a fun, non-stressful environment,’ said Lani Marshallsea (Year 8). ‘It was a good exercise in teamwork, with everyone contributing to the group using strengths in different areas.’



# Succeeding Against the Odds

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Imagine being a champion rhythmic gymnast and learning you have scoliosis so severe that you not only have to give up gymnastics but will never play many of your favourite sports again. That was what doctors told Ravenswood student Cara Mai Beaumont Conway, when she was just 14 years old.

**C**ara Mai underwent surgery followed by a long journey of rehabilitation including two months of home-bound incapacitation.

Four years later she has just finished the HSC at Ravenswood and is training for the 2020 Australian Athletics Championships to represent NSW.

It was in 2015 that doctors diagnosed scoliosis, with surgery being the only option. Cara Mai spent time in the high dependency ward and confined to a wheelchair. 'I am not the sort of person to feel self-pity but the loneliness and lack of power started to really get to me,' Cara Mai says now.

Almost worse was that the surgeons had advised against all sport for a year and told Cara Mai it would be 18 months before she could start trying to run again. Contact sport and Cross Country, were forever out of the question. Cara Mai says it was then that her strong will really came to the fore. 'As soon as I heard that, a little voice inside my head told me I would prove them wrong.'

Through sheer determination, she began track competition, just 15 months after her operation. 'Every step of progress came thanks to the support of my parents, who encouraged me to remember my goals and exceed my limits,' Cara Mai says.

The family immigrated to Australia towards the end of that year and Cara Mai began at Ravenswood School for Girls, signing up for every sport that her doctors thought she would never be able to play. Cross Country became a burning passion. 'There are lots of things I love about it but the biggest thing is the doctors told me I couldn't do it,' Cara Mai says.

In 2018, when she was in Year 11, Cara Mai missed out on her goal of representing the School as a member of the Ravenswood Athletics team. 'That was really hard ... but all it did was cause me to train harder than ever.'

She increased her training schedule to 45 minutes of Cross Country a day, often seven days a week, with the dogged desire to not only succeed in the sport but break any conceptions that she might be less able than her peers. This year, her hard work started to pay off. In her beloved 6km event, she finished tenth at the Independent Girls' Schools Sports Association Championships (IGSSA), ninth at the Combined Independent Girls' Schools Sports Association Championships (CIS) and an impressive 13th at the NSW All Schools Championships. Using the experience and skills she gained throughout the Cross Country season, Cara Mai capped off a stellar sporting year with the State title in the 800m and third place in the 1500m, at the Athletics NSW All Schools event.

Off the track, Cara Mai has used her personal struggles to inspire the younger girls in her roles as Prefect, Cadet Under Officer and Cross Country Captain. 'It has given me pride to teach them to find the motivation they need to push their hardest. It's a skill that I have developed as a result of my difficult experiences and I am grateful to be able to pass it on. I tell them that I don't care if they are coming first or last, just so long as they don't walk and don't give up.'

Cara Mai's career goals lie somewhere in the area of national defence. She knows she won't qualify for the military due to her back but in typical style, won't be deterred. 'I am trying to find other ways of getting in, maybe by studying counter terrorism and intelligence.'

Cara Mai also wants the chance to help other young people diagnosed with scoliosis. 'My own experience was that there is not much information or support available. I want to let them know that if they need someone to talk to, they can come to me,' she says.







## AFL in the DNA

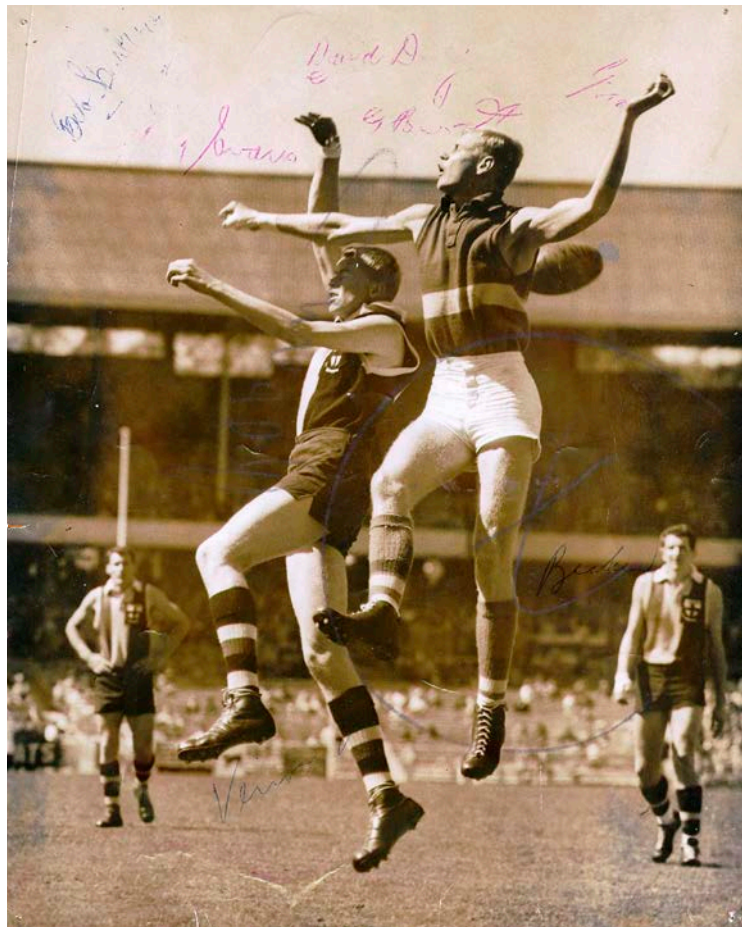
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**M**elbourne might be the traditional home of AFL but across Sydney, the game is as healthy as it has ever been and Ravenswood is playing its part, with a growing number of teams and increasing success.

In 2019, we participated in the inaugural Independent Primary Schools Heads Association Junior School competition, fielding three teams. They included three players that are following in the footsteps of family members who have and continue to play at some of the highest levels.

Stephanie Lotz (Year 5), plays an exciting brand of football, just like her grandfather, the late Ken Middleton, a Ruckman who played more than 100 games for the reserves of the Geelong Football Club. In Stephanie's first AFL season for Ravenswood, she proved footy runs deep in her veins, turning in high-standard performances to claim the Junior School AFL Best and Fairest Award.

Eloise Marschner (Year 5) shares her love of football with her grandfather Niels Becker, who played for Footscray (now the Western Bulldogs), winning the



1962 Reserves Premiership. Eloise plays ruck and wins the majority of hit-outs, tapping the ball to her midfield players for a stoppage win. Eloise also produced exceptional performances at the Junior School House Athletics Carnival to claim Overall Champion honours.

Junior School AFL Captain Lucy Stanton (Year 6), has commenced her playing career in fine style, demonstrating a natural aptitude for the hard-running midfield role. It is no surprise that her third cousin Lily Mithen, has played the last three seasons

with the Melbourne Football Club in the Australian Football League Women's (AFLW). Lily has been a round nominee for the AFLW Rising Star Award and won Geelong's 2017 Best and Fairest Award.

We can't wait to watch the girls' progress in season 2020.

**Contributed by Cameron Childs, Director of Sport.**

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Eloise Marschner, Stephanie Lotz, Lucy Stanton, Niels Becker (foreground), Ken Middleton flying high as a Ruck.

# Student Showcase

## Walking in the Footsteps of International Designers

Chelsea Parkes (Year 12) will walk in the footsteps of international designer Jimmy Choo, next year when she takes up a place at the world renowned University of the Arts, London. Chelsea gained entry to the prestigious institution, in part thanks to her major work completed for this year's HSC. 'It was inspired by the logo of the eating disorder charity The Butterfly Foundation, and features hundreds of beads and butterflies that I made and applied by hand,' Chelsea said. The Year 12 student also filmed a drone video featuring the dress, for use in a social media awareness-raising campaign. 'The whole project took me an enormous number of hours to produce but I am extremely glad the finished product will support a charity that saves hundreds of lives every year.'



## Young Writers' Award

Year 5 student Sophie Li has been selected as a national winner of the 2019 Young Writers' Award for her beautiful poem *The Old Man of Storr*. The award uncovers writing talent in children aged nine to 13. Sophie received her award in Melbourne on 30 November and says she looks forward to sharpening her creative skills in the coming years. Fellow

Year 5 student Amelia Robinson, was one of just six Stage 3 students in the State to win a Gold Award in the NSW *WriteOn* competition. Amelia's piece was titled *Fallen Warriors*, and the judges said it was recognised for its interesting perspective and the way it took the reader on a journey.



## Distinguished HSC Showcase Achievements

Music, Drama, Dance and Visual Arts pieces created by our 2019 Higher School Certificate cohort have resulted in 13 showcase nominations. Eleven Ravenswood girls achieved six nominations for the Music showcase ENCORE, three nominations for the Drama showcase OnSTAGE, three nominations for the Visual Arts showcase ARTEXPRESS and one nomination for the dance showcase Callback (achieved by an accelerated dance student in Year 11).



## Ravenswood Cadets Make History

For the first time, three of the Regimental Headquarters top positions in the Knox Grammar School Cadet Unit (KGSCU) 2019-2020 Leadership team, were awarded to Ravenswood students. They were Gabi Pancino (Year 11), the 2IC and Ravenswood Cadet Prefect; Katherine Fieldus (Year 11), the new Adjutant; and Emma Woodcock (Year 10), the Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM). This is the first time that the KGSCU has appointed both a female RSM and Adjutant. 'We feel very proud to be members of the KGSCU and grateful for the tremendous opportunity to contribute to the unit through our leadership roles,' Gabi said.

## Come Sit with Us

The Class of 2019 Prefects continued their year-long theme of authenticity in Term 3, highlighting the concept of authenticity of community. To support their aim of building inclusion in the playground, they launched coloured flags emblazoned with the words *Come Sit with Us*. The campaign encouraged the girls to fly the flags as a signal that they welcomed any student from any Year Group, to join them for a chat. 'It was a fantastic way to try to ensure that everyone has someone to be with at morning tea and lunch ... and a sign of Positive Education in action,' said Deputy Principal Mrs Kim Bence.



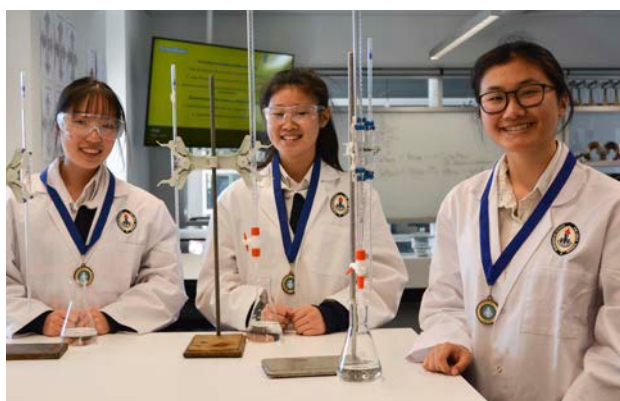
# Student Showcase



## Snowsports Honours

At the NSW Snowsports Championships in Thredbo, the Ravenswood Snowsports team achieved the Overall Girls' Secondary Champion School title for the third year in a row. They were

also named the Snowboard Champion School in both the Primary and Secondary divisions and Madison Gilson (Year 7) was crowned the NSW/ACT Champion in her age group.



## National Science Success

Ravenswood Science students Victoria Yoong (Year 12), Jessica Yoong (Year 12), and Alyssa Rahardja (Year 11), tested their skill and accuracy in the challenging National Titration Competition, held by the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI) in September. After coming fourth in the State competition against almost 400 teams from 100 schools, the girls came fourth in a competitive three-hour National event at the University of NSW.



## Hair with Heart

Volunteer hairdressers turned the Gymnasium into a pop-up salon on 15 November, giving students and staff a brand new 'look' to raise money for Variety, the Children's Charity. The hair has been dispatched to companies who create wigs for people with long-term medical conditions and the money raised will support the purchase of items such as wheelchairs and school uniforms for disadvantaged children.



## Future Problem Solvers

Eighteen Ravenswood students represented NSW in the challenging Future Problem Solving (FPS) National Finals held in Brisbane in October. FPS develops students' critical, creative and futuristic thinking abilities, by engaging them in activities that teach the skills to design and promote a more positive future. The Ravenswood girls achieved a number of placings, with Michelle Bulin (Year 10) and Sophie Luo (Year 6), invited to represent FPS at the International Conference in America next year. As part of the competition, the Ravenswood Years 7-8 Community Problem Solving team raised \$10,000 to build a new canteen for a school in Nepal.



## Four-time Rhythmic Gymnastics Champions

In a spectacular performance, the Ravenswood Rhythmic Gymnastics team won the Independent Girls' Schools Sporting Association (IGSSA) Division One Championships for the fourth year in a row in November. The girls also claimed the Rhythmic Gymnastics Point Score Champion School title for the fourth consecutive year. Ravenswood finished in second position in the Overall Champion School category, after the Ravenswood Artistic Gymnastics team finished in a commendable third place in Division One. This was the final school competition for our talented and hardworking Year 12 rhythmic gymnasts Elizabeth Chapman, Amy Burke and Olivia Owens.

# Student Showcase



## Elf the Musical Jr.

Year 6 celebrated the Christmas spirit with a colourful production of the beloved story *Elf the Musical Jr.* The ensemble cast featured every girl in the Year Group and told the story of Buddy, a young orphan, who is mistakenly delivered to the North

Pole on Christmas Eve and raised as an elf. The girls rehearsed throughout Terms 3 and 4 to perfect their song and dance routines, producing a funny, high-quality production, full of holiday cheer.







## Fostering a Love of Learning

Can pink tulle and fairy wands leverage high-quality learning? Our Kindergarten girls attest they can.

In August, a community of mysterious woodland creatures sprouted in the Kindergarten playground, marking the beginning of a magical learning experience.

The Kindergarten teachers designed a curriculum that covered every subject from English to Science and Mathematics to Visual Art, through a fairy lens. 'The girls learned literature and grammar through traditional fairy stories and poems. They were introduced to advanced concepts like fractions and scientific method, by making fairy 'potions' and had their multiplication understanding reinforced through the painting of number dots on 'magic' stones. They even looked at Victorian-era fairy paintings and learned how to follow a recipe by making fairy cupcakes,' said Aya Onishi, who teaches Kindergarten G.

This creative teaching approach aligns with the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme aim, to create a curriculum that is engaging, relevant, challenging and significant.



# Staff Showcase



## Improving Maths Outcomes with a Growth Mindset

Ravenswood teacher Carmen Brading, received a Ravenswood Fellowship to fly to America to learn from a world leader in maths pedagogy, researcher, author and Stanford University Professor, Jo Boaler. Carmen studied Ms Boaler's internationally revered Youcubed approach and its key focus – the adaption of pedagogy to promote a growth mindset. 'This involves providing students with open-ended maths problems and giving them the language to reframe their thinking as they embrace difficulties,' Carmen said. 'I have begun to implement these practices in my own teaching and have noticed my students are more engaged, respond positively to challenges and are unafraid to share and discuss their mistakes,' she said. 'This has resulted in greater student efficacy with Mathematics, a key step to improving the engagement of women in STEM subjects.'



## Doctor of Philosophy

Acting Head of Performing Arts Dr Michael Varecka, graduated with a PhD in Philosophy from Deakin University in the September holidays, after eight years of study. 'My thesis examined the connections between music education and literacy education and the ways that a multimodal pedagogical approach, in particular the audio mode, can aid learning,' he says. In a multimodal approach, teachers employ multiple communication channels such as music, speech, images and movement, to enhance student understanding.'



## Graduate Study to Improve Student Wellbeing

Year Coordinators Kate Barbat (L) and Lisa Bass (R) are seeing positive results in their classrooms and Mentor Groups after completing Graduate Certificates in Positive Education this year. Their studies focused on a myriad of relevant topics including wellbeing, resilience, emotional regulation and character development. 'The course equipped us to embed a range of positive interventions across curriculum contexts, to ensure that student wellbeing outcomes are backed by strong data, theory and research,' they say. Kate Barbat participated in the course through the Ravenswood Fellowship Program.



## The Science of Learning

Learning Enrichment Coordinator Fiona Cooney, travelled to Boston, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Hawaii as part of her Ravenswood Fellowship. Her aim was to investigate, 'the building of bridges across education, neuroscience and technology, for preeminent pedagogical practices and successful learning for all.'

Fiona attended symposiums such as the International Mind, Brain and Educational Society Conference, met one of the world's most inspiring and respected educationalists Ken Robinson, and visited three universities and three leading American schools.

'My learning intentions included the broadening of my knowledge of the best neuroscience-informed technological advances and educational practices that exist today, in order to assist in appropriately applying and embedding them within the Ravenswood context,' she said.







## From the Archives

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**D**rama and debating have been a passion of Ravenswood students from the School's early days. In 1930, the Elocution Class produced Sheridan's play *The Rivals* in the Killara Hall, writing in *The Ravenswood Magazine*: 'The first performance was held on July 6th, which proved to be the night chosen for the most severe cyclonic disturbance since 1880! ... The girls taking part acquitted themselves right nobly ... The financial result meant a substantial increase to the Cot Fund.'

That same year, Ravenswood's first Debating and Dramatic Society was established: '... All the enthusiasm and energy, all the ability to debate and act,

which had lain dormant, was given the opportunity to express itself. As yet this ability is as a tiny bud but at every meeting a new leaf is opened, a new talent discovered and developed into something good and valuable ... The purpose of the Society is to encourage purity of speech, the art of debate and an interest in drama and stage-craft ... We hope later on to arrange some debates against other schools.'

How the opportunities have grown and the talents developed over the past 118 years!

**Contributed by Robbie Robertson,  
Ravenswood Archivist**



# Alumni Profile

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As the CEO of the National Mental Health Commission (NMHC) and the new National Suicide Prevention Adviser to Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Christine Morgan (1978), has one of the most challenging dual roles in the country.

**A**t the National Mental Health Commission, Christine is responsible for establishing Vision 2030 for improving mental health and suicide prevention in Australia.

As Suicide Prevention Adviser, she has been tasked with assisting the Prime Minister in his goal of driving down Australian suicide rates to 'towards zero.'

Both roles place her at the front line of some of the biggest issues facing the country, work for which she recently won the sector's highest national honour - the Australian Mental Health Prize.

In her acceptance speech, Christine credited her two teams and the importance of collaboration. 'You can be fortunate enough to be the one to receive the prize, but actually that comes from the shoulder-to-shoulder work with just so many people, you just can't achieve anything on your own,' she said.

After graduating from Ravenswood in 1978, Christine studied Law and enjoyed a high-level corporate career at Telstra, culminating in the role of Executive General Manager, responsible for strategic direction and business unit effectiveness. 'It was back-to-back work, major refinancing, top end of town, 20-hour days. I loved it. It was totally consuming and absolutely incredible to work with people who were really top notch. Looking back, I was influenced by a philosophy I learned at Ravenswood - to bite off more than I could chew and chew like mad.'

After 18 years, Christine felt it was time for a complete change and she accepted a role at the Wesley Mission, working her way up to General Manager of Community Welfare, including the oversight of two psychiatric hospitals, one for people with eating disorders. In 2009, she became the CEO of the Butterfly Foundation, a national eating disorder charity, working closely with the Federal Government to increase understanding and support for those experiencing or caring for someone with an eating disorder. 'It was important to raise awareness and dispel the persistent myths around eating disorders. They are very complex neuro psychiatric

disorders and can be extremely challenging to treat. Early intervention is very important.'

During her ten years with the organisation, Christine helped set up a national eating disorders helpline, established the National Eating Disorder Collaboration, which now has over 3000 members and successfully lobbied for a dedicated Medicare Benefits Scheme item number for eating disorders. 'It was satisfying to have been able to take the Butterfly Foundation on a journey to national prominence.'

It was an achievement not lost on the Federal Government which headhunted her for both the NMHC and Suicide Prevention Adviser roles.

Christine's desire to work in the area of service and social justice has been strong since her school days. 'Ravenswood taught me that if I was equipped for it, I could achieve whatever I set my mind to. The educational calibre of the school was always very high and I learned to strive for excellence in everything. Looking back, I was also taught to be inquisitive - to continually ask questions and drive deeper and deeper into a text. This quality has served me throughout my career.'

A questioning curiosity is something Christine has been calling on a lot lately, as she tours the country, looking at the issues of mental health and suicide prevention from a whole-of-government perspective rather than only through a health lens. 'To move towards true prevention you have to go upstream,' she says. 'Do they have housing security? Do they have financial security? Food security? All these things can make for a scaffold that can hold people. By addressing them, I fundamentally believe that we can reduce the national suicide rate markedly.'

Another factor Christine says is essential for positive mental health is connection. 'I am glad to see Ravenswood's strong commitment to building relationships and community. As I chat to people around the country, I have seen the extent to which Australians want and need to be connected to others ... if you get right down to it, people really want to help other people.'



# Australia's First Indigenous Emerging Art Prize for Women

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**R**avenswood is excited to launch a new Indigenous Emerging Artist Prize as part of the 2020 Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize.

'We believe this is Australia's only art prize dedicated to emerging indigenous female artists in Australia,' said Principal Mrs Anne Johnstone.

Indigenous art is centered on story-telling, conveying knowledge of the land, events and beliefs of Indigenous people. 'It is our hope that the Indigenous Emerging Artist Prize will inspire indigenous female artists to share their stories of culture and be recognised for their creative and artistic talents' said Mrs Johnstone.

Sponsored by the Tritton family, the Ravenswood Australian Women's Indigenous Emerging Artist Prize provides a unique platform for indigenous emerging female artists from across Australia, including from remote and very remote communities, to be seen and heard.

'The importance of supporting Indigenous art from our perspective is to do our bit in helping female artists to receive greater recognition' said Don Tritton.

In 2020, Art Prize patron and judge Jennifer Turpin, and judges Kathryn Hendy-Ekers and Edwina Palmer, will be joined by Hadyn Wilson, as guest judge for the 2020 Art Prize.

Ravenswood is extremely grateful to our sponsors for their generous support of the Art Prize: Platinum Sponsor - Stockland; the Tritton Family - the Indigenous Emerging Artist Prize; Gold Sponsors - R.M.Williams OUTBACK, Crestone Wealth Management, Active Networks and Park West Foundation; Silver Sponsors - The Art Scene, Buildcorp, Clarke Murphy Print and Macquarie University.

Australia's highest value art prize for women, the Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize commenced in 2017 as an annual prize to advance art and opportunity for emerging and established female artists in Australia. Now in its fourth year, the Art Prize has grown from strength-to-strength with more than 1200 entries received in 2019 and has already played a significant role in raising the profile of female artists in Australia.







**RAVENSWOOD**  
AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S  
**ART PRIZE**

Australia's Highest Value  
Art Prize for Women



*Bold and the Beautiful* Joanna Braithwaite, 2019 Professional Artist Winner

Professional Artist Prize **\$35,000** acquisitive

Emerging Artist Prize **\$5,000** acquisitive

Indigenous Emerging Artist Prize **\$5,000** acquisitive

To Enter

[ravenswood.nsw.edu.au/artprize](https://ravenswood.nsw.edu.au/artprize)  
[artprize@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au](mailto:artprize@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au)

**02 9498 9898**

**Entries Close** 18 March 2020 (midday DST Eastern Australia) | **Opening Night** 29 May 2020

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SEMPER SUMMER 2019

# Community News

The 2019 Ravenswood Foundation Gala Ball was held on Saturday 24 August at Doltone House, Hyde Park. It was a glittering black-tie affair, attended by more than 350 members of the Ravenswood community, who danced the night away to Gabe Music and kept to time with the help of our extraordinary Master of Ceremonies Mr Tim Reed, a Ravenswood parent. The more than \$60,000 raised through an online auction and raffle, will contribute to scholarships, the development of an innovative 21st century campus, leading educational and co-curricular programs and Ravenswood's continued growth as a lighthouse school in the area of Positive Education.

The girls treated their fathers to delightful gifts from the Ravenswood Parents' Association (RPA) Father's Day Stall on Thursday 22 and Friday 23 August. Manned by some of our most enthusiastic parent volunteers, the stall was a chance to find something desirable for dad and contribute to the RPA's ongoing, fundraising for the School.

The *Pavers and Pavlovas* afternoon tea was attended by Alumni and current students who have made a donation to Ravenswood, through the purchase of a Commemorative Paver. The pavers are inscribed with the student's or former student's name and laid among the beautiful plants in the Old Girls' Courtyard. The sun shone as the families chatted over tea and pavlova, enjoying the chance to see their personal paver in situ. If you would like to secure a paver as a memento of your, or your daughter's Ravenswood days, please email: [sberesford@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au](mailto:sberesford@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au).

The Valedictory Dinner saw the moving farewell of our Year 12 students and their parents. Held on Friday 23 September at Jones Bay Wharf, the evening was a chance for the students to share treasured memories of their Ravenswood days and thank their parents and staff. The Year 12 fathers surprised us all with the highlight of the night — a well-coordinated dance flash mob to Queen's *Crazy Little Thing Called Love*.

We were fortunate in November to welcome psychologist, researcher, speaker and author, Professor Lea Waters PhD for a Community Forum that focused on the latest developments in and benefits of, our Positive Education and Visible Wellbeing approach. In particular, Professor Waters detailed research that reveals the significant academic advantages enjoyed by students in Visible Wellbeing schools.



Professor Lea Waters (L), Mrs Anne Johnstone (R)



The Camellia Show hosted by Ravenswood on 8 and 9 July



The Camellia Show



RPA Chantry Golf Day held in September



Ravenswood Foundation Gala Ball



Ravenswood Foundation Gala Ball



Valedictory Dinner



Ravenswood Foundation Gala Ball

# Ravenswood Alumni Reunions

## 60-Year Reunion (1959)

Twenty-seven Alumni from the Class of '59 joined us for our 60-Year Reunion lunch at the Novotel Sydney Manly Pacific Hotel. It was a wonderful day enjoyed by all, with lots of laughter and memories. Girls travelled from New Zealand and across Australia and NSW to attend. We took the decision to meet again, in our 80th birthday year!!

## 50-Year Reunion (1969)

We enjoyed drinks on the terrace, followed by dinner at Killara Golf Club, to celebrate 50 years since we left Ravenswood in 1969. It was a lovely setting in terrific company, as we laughed over our many memories of School and caught up on each other's lives.

## 45-Year Reunion (1974)

The Class of 1974 celebrated their 45-Year Reunion overlooking Sydney Harbour at Quay West on 13 April, this year. What a wonderful night!!! Almost one-third of the year attended and certainly laughter and conversation flowed. The truly enjoyable gathering was well represented by the Boarders. Special thanks to everyone who helped organise such a fantastic event.

## 40-Year Reunion (1979)

The 40-Year Reunion of the 79'ers was held at The Alcott in Lane Cove. It was a great success, with 35 of us coming from all over NSW, Australia and even New York! We reminisced with photos from the Archives, sang *Kindle the Flame* and enjoyed a quiz. It was fantastic to have Principal Anne Johnstone, join us to share insights into Ravenswood's new developments. We will definitely hold a 45th Reunion for those who missed out - this one finished all too soon!

## 30-Year Reunion (1989)

We had a fantastic turnout at The Oaks of around 60 girls from our year. Almost a full contingent of the year's Boarders attended our 30-Year Reunion, with some girls travelling from interstate and even Singapore. There were lots of laughs and memories shared. The connections continued after the night with more funny stories shared on social media and friendships rekindled. To those who couldn't be there, we'd love to see you at the next one!

## 25-Year Reunion (1994)

Our Reunion was so much fun - more than 30 of us from the Class of 1994 gathered at the Terminus Hotel in Pyrmont, laughing and reliving stories from our school days and catching up on the last 25 years. We convinced each other we all still looked the same - not a day over 18! Everyone is looking forward to the 30-Year Reunion already.

## 20-Year Reunion (1999)

Thirty-nine leavers from 1999 got together at The Oaks for a wonderful catch-up marking 20 years since we left Ravenswood. None of us could believe so much time had passed, as the room was full of the same fun and laughter that we enjoyed at School!

## 15-Year Reunion (2004)

The Class of 2004 celebrated its 15-Year Reunion on Saturday 12 October at The Commodore Hotel, North Sydney. The event was well attended, many friendships were rekindled and memories, stories and laughter were shared. The group is looking forward to gathering again for the 20-Year Reunion in 2024!

## 10-Year Reunion (2009)

We had 40 girls attend our Reunion! It was great to catch up with everyone, and many memories were shared, along with what everyone is up to now. It seems that we have many of our Year Group living or travelling overseas or interstate at the moment, but we loved getting the messages from everybody and look forward to our next Reunion!

## 5-Year Reunion (2014)

The Class of 2014 met at The Tilbury Hotel for our 5-Year Reunion. It was awesome to have 53 girls in attendance, some of whom travelled from interstate to attend the overdue catch up! It was lovely to meet up over a glass of bubbles and some canapés with those that we hadn't seen in a while. Some of us are travelling overseas, others finishing up their university studies and quite a few have joined the 9 to 5 working world. We are looking forward to the 10-Year but hoping that doesn't come around too fast! A great night and a big thank you to everyone who was able to make it.



60-Year Reunion



40-Year Reunion



20-Year Reunion



25-Year Reunion



15-Year Reunion

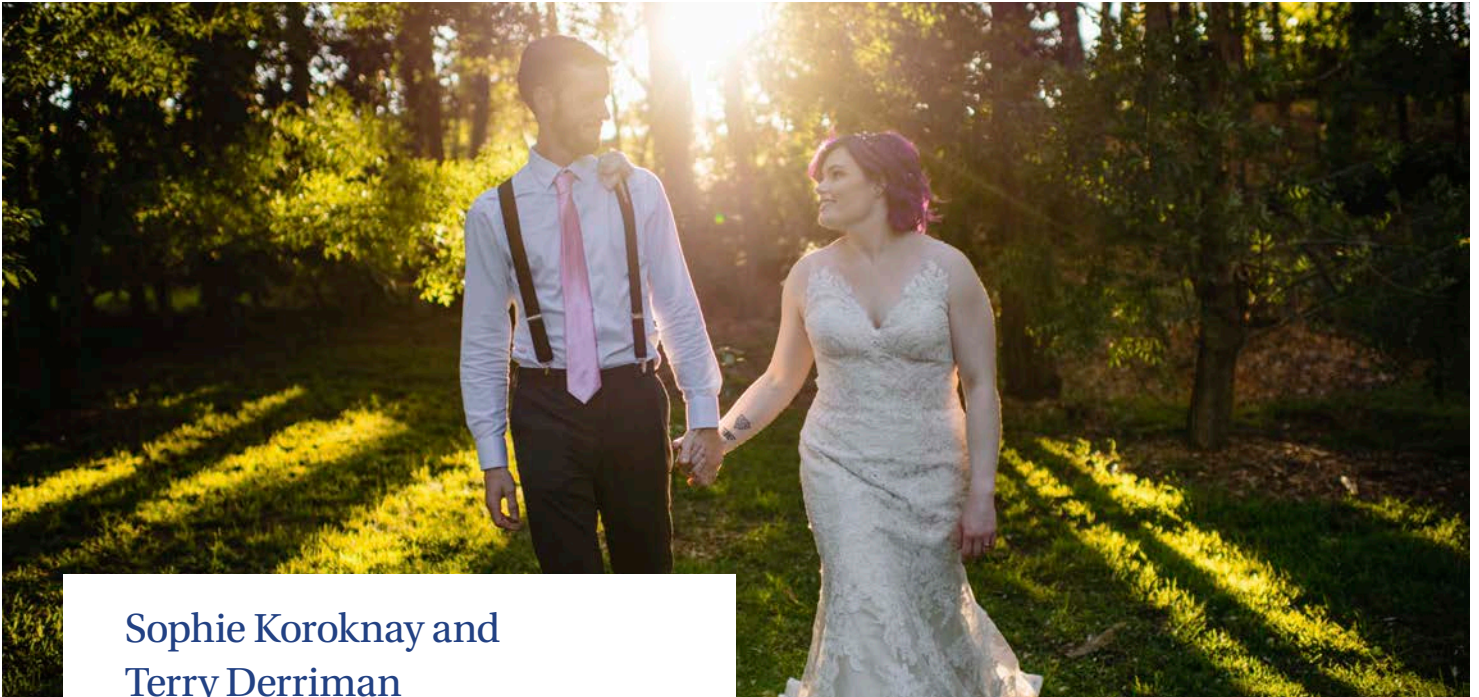


30-Year Reunion



10-Year Reunion

# Weddings



## Sophie Koroknay and Terry Derriman

The wedding of Sophie Koroknay (2012) and Terry Derriman on Sunday 20 October at the Allegro function centre in Kenthurst, was a very Ravenswood occasion. Snapping photos was Nick Stewart of Skipping Stone Photography, an official Ravenswood photographer. He tells us he was more than surprised when during the shoot, the bride and her bridesmaids began to sing *Kindle the Flame*. It

turned out that not only the bride but all her bridesmaids, were Ravenswood Alumni: Eliza Maxworthy (2012), Victoria Pasquali (2012) and Rebecca Everist (2010 and Sophie's sister). Even the mother of the bride Heather Koroknay (1985), was a former Ravenswood girl, with a proud history of membership to the Ravenswood Alumni Committee.



## Commemorating ANZAC Day 2020 at Ravenswood

An invitation to Alumni, parents and other members of the Ravenswood community. If you or a friend or family member serve or have served our country, we invite you to join us for our annual Ravenswood ANZAC Day Service on 28 April.

For further information please email:  
[sberesford@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au](mailto:sberesford@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au)  
or call: 02 94989983

**Correction:** the 2019 winter edition of Semper magazine stated that Frances Elizabeth Lilley (1941 - 2018) played with the 1958 Senior A Basketball team. The photo that accompanied the text, was of her sister Edwina.

# Vale

## Audrey Mona Zemancheff (1923–2019)

Audrey Mona Zemancheff (Schubert, 1931) passed away on 21 April 2019, at the age of 96. Audrey is described by her family as ‘a cherished friend who will be sadly missed by many’ and someone who, ‘enjoyed a colourful life, lived to the fullest.’ Audrey’s Ravenswood connection lives on in her two granddaughters, who both work at the School. Rosie Zemancheff is a PDHPE teacher and Emily Noonan (Butler, 2001) teaches Year 4.

## Sheena Lewis (1944–2018)

Sheena Lewis (Black, 1961) passed away in Melbourne on 22 December 2018. She is fondly remembered by her dear friend Janet Aickin (1961). ‘Sheena and I grew up in Normanhurst and began our friendship at Peter Rabbit Kindergarten in Wahroonga in 1947. We started at Ravenswood as Year 1 students, travelling to and from school together every day,’ Janet says. Sheena was a member of Tudor House and took co-curricular speech lessons during her Ravenswood years. On graduation, she trained as a nurse and moved to Hobart to study midwifery and then to Melbourne, for her husband Ian’s work. ‘Our friendship endured for more than 70 years and I miss her very much,’ Janet said.

## Jean Brodie (1931–2019)

Jean Brodie (Le Lievre, 1946) passed away peacefully on 30 May 2019. She attended Ravenswood with her sister Joan Letchford (Le Lievre, 1946). According to the School’s archival records, they were Ravenswood’s first set of twins. On graduation, Jean studied nursing at the War Memorial Hospital in Waverley and was a Senior Theatre Sister at Sydney Hospital. In 1958, she followed her husband Peter to Wollongong, where she worked as a midwife until her retirement in 1974. Jean then pursued an active life as a volunteer and gardener, possessing strong ‘green thumbs.’ Jean’s grandniece Megan Le Lievre (2014), is also a Ravenswood Alumna.

# Upcoming Events

## 2020 EVENTS

- 10 March** International Women’s Day Breakfast
- 23-27 March** *Careersearch*
- 28 April** Anzac Day Service
- 13 May** Generations Breakfast
- 29 May** Ravenswood Australian Women’s Art Prize Opening Night
- 30 May - 14 June** Ravenswood Australian Women’s Art Prize Exhibition

## 2020 TERM DATES

- Term 1** Wednesday 29 January to Thursday 9 April
- Term 2** Tuesday 28 April to Friday 26 June
- Term 3** Tuesday 21 July to Friday 25 September
- Term 4** Tuesday 13 October to Wednesday 2 December



1944-1945 The first set of twins to attend Ravenswood - Joan and Jean Le Lievre



# Ravenswood

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