

Semper

08.

ADVANCING
WOMEN IN ART

18.

ANZAC SPIRIT

20.

PROBLEM SOLVING
IN NEPAL





Semper, the Ravenswood school magazine

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

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Principal's Message

Igniting Potential
Inspiring Passion
& Purpose

Welcome to our first edition of *Semper* for 2017, it certainly has been a busy and rewarding six months.

As you know, educating and empowering young women is at the heart of Ravenswood. We believe that igniting potential and inspiring a passion for excellence enables young women to flourish and thrive so that they may lead meaningful and purposeful lives.

With this as our foundation, I believed it was time for us to move beyond *Ravenswood widens her world* to a deeper intent - **Igniting Potential, Inspiring Passion and Purpose.**

This new inspirational concept sets a clear agenda for growth and development that I believe will position Ravenswood as a **world-class lighthouse school of excellence, educating girls for life.**

At the start of the year we joined together as a community to celebrate the 2017 school year and it gave me great pleasure to introduce the key elements



of the Ravenswood Strategic Plan 2017–2020. The new Strategic Plan sets a strong agenda for growth that will enable us to: extend our **potential**, drive excellence and chosen **passions** in the service of girls' education, and inspire **purpose** through deeper contributions to education and humanity.

This plan is the result of a comprehensive process of consultation and collaboration with Council, students, parents, Alumni, Foundation and staff (past and present), and I thank everyone for their insightful contributions. The three key elements of the plan include our purpose, vision and focus.

Our purpose is shaped by our Five Guiding Principles: *Excellence, Respect, Optimism, Courage and Compassion*. To achieve this, we have identified six primary goals.

Our vision is based on the Ravenswood motto *always towards better things* and the school's commitment to an understanding of education as 'the kindling of a flame.'

Our focus encompasses six goals fundamental to Ravenswood being a world class school of excellence.

1. Learning – Achieve excellence and leadership in Learning and teaching.

2. Wellbeing – Embed wellbeing as a cornerstone to enable students to flourish.

3. Contribution – Invigorate the social justice commitment at the heart of Ravenswood's Christian ethos.

4. Community – Harness Ravenswood's strength of community and sense of belonging.

5. Sustainability And Development – Invest in resources and practices that underpin future development of Ravenswood.

6. Leadership – Continue to develop Ravenswood's identity as a leading school of choice and a lighthouse school of excellence

This year Ravenswood has opened its doors to the wider community in developing our role as a world lighthouse school. Highlight events have included hosting the 2017 Positive Education Schools Association Conference (PESA) in March, which attracted more than 230 educators, world-leading researchers and parents. In April we hosted more than 100 exceptional students from ten countries for the World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships. Four of our girls achieved outstanding results and we especially congratulate Jacqueline Farrell (Year 12) who came first in the world in the Persuasive Speaking category.

Another standout lighthouse project has been the Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize, a significant national cultural initiative, which is now attracting enormous interest from female artists around the country. We thank our major sponsor Stockland for its generous support and promotion of this event.

A wonderful student led initiative this year, has been *The Ravo Ripple Effect*. It is inspiring to see our girls leading by example and striving to build a positive culture of encouragement and optimism in the classroom and beyond.

In May we welcomed more than 60 accomplished Old Girls back to Ravenswood for one of our most successful ever *Careersearch* evenings. Record attendance from both our girls and alumni demonstrated the value our community places in developing our young women and inspiring their passion and purpose for the future.

As the only Visible Wellbeing school in NSW, we have been implementing training to support students, staff, parents and our wider community and it has been heart-warming to witness so many examples of positive transformations taking place across the school.

In this 40th anniversary year of the Uniting Church in Australia, we are called to look to the future with hope. Together let's join as a community as we continue to strive ... *Always towards better things*.

Mrs Anne Johnstone, Principal



*Always towards
better things*



Ravenswood Advancing Women in Art

ARTWORK CREDIT
Susie Dureau

Up to 70% of Australian art school graduates are female, yet women exhibit in galleries and receive art prizes at less than half the rate of men.*

In a national initiative to promote and connect Australian female artists, the Ravenswood Foundation has launched the Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize (RAW) for professional and emerging artists. It carries a Professional Artist Prize of \$35,000, making it the country's largest art prize for women.

'RAW will strengthen the profile and legitimacy of careers in art for current and future generations,' says Ravenswood Principal, Mrs Anne Johnstone. 'Equally significant is its potential to promote and connect Australian women artists. Under the prize conditions, the Professional Artist Prize winner will mentor the Emerging Artist Prize winner for a year. 'We are most grateful to our sponsors, Stockland and Buildcorp for their support.'

RAW was conceived by two enterprising Ravenswood mothers, Alex Bogle and Kathyne Grigor, who share a background in interior design and a passion for the visual arts.

As a long-term strategy and focus for the community, the prize will 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 whilst giving current students opportunities to explore the potential of a career in art,' says Edwina Palmer, Head of Visual Arts at Ravenswood.

RAW finalists will be exhibited in the school's Centenary Centre Foyer for a week and the event schedule will include artists' talks and workshops. These elements of the project ensure the link to Ravenswood pedagogy and create the potential to inspire the school's current students and expand their understanding of the value of art and the artistic process.

The inaugural Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize will be officially opened and prize winners announced in the **Centenary Centre Foyer at Ravenswood on Friday 4 August, 2017 at 6pm.** The exhibition will be open from Saturday 5 August to Saturday 12 August.

For more details, please go to:
www.ravenswoodartprize.com.au/artprize/home

**The Countess Report, 2016, Elvis Richardson, Cruthers Art Foundation, NAVA*

THIS PAGE

Jade Oakley, Jennifer Turpin, Yolande Oakley

Artistic Connections



The Patron of the Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize is Old Girl Jennifer Turpin (1975). Her award-winning public space sculptures blend art, science, 'the environment' and engineering, and add cultural depth to some of Sydney's more prominent locations.

The celebrated works are created with collaborator Michaelie Crawford and include *Tied to Tide*, a meditative, kinetic artwork between the boardwalk and the seawall at Pyrmont Point Park and *Halo*, an engineering feat in Broadway's Central Park.

Jennifer's career took root in Ravenswood's Visual Arts classrooms and was particularly inspired by teacher and mentor, Yolande Oakley. Hers was a winding path. As an academic female in the 1970's, Jennifer was encouraged to become an art historian rather than eke out an existence as a working artist. She eventually found the courage to become a sculptor full-time and says while an art career is no longer frowned upon for women, female artists still struggle for income and recognition.

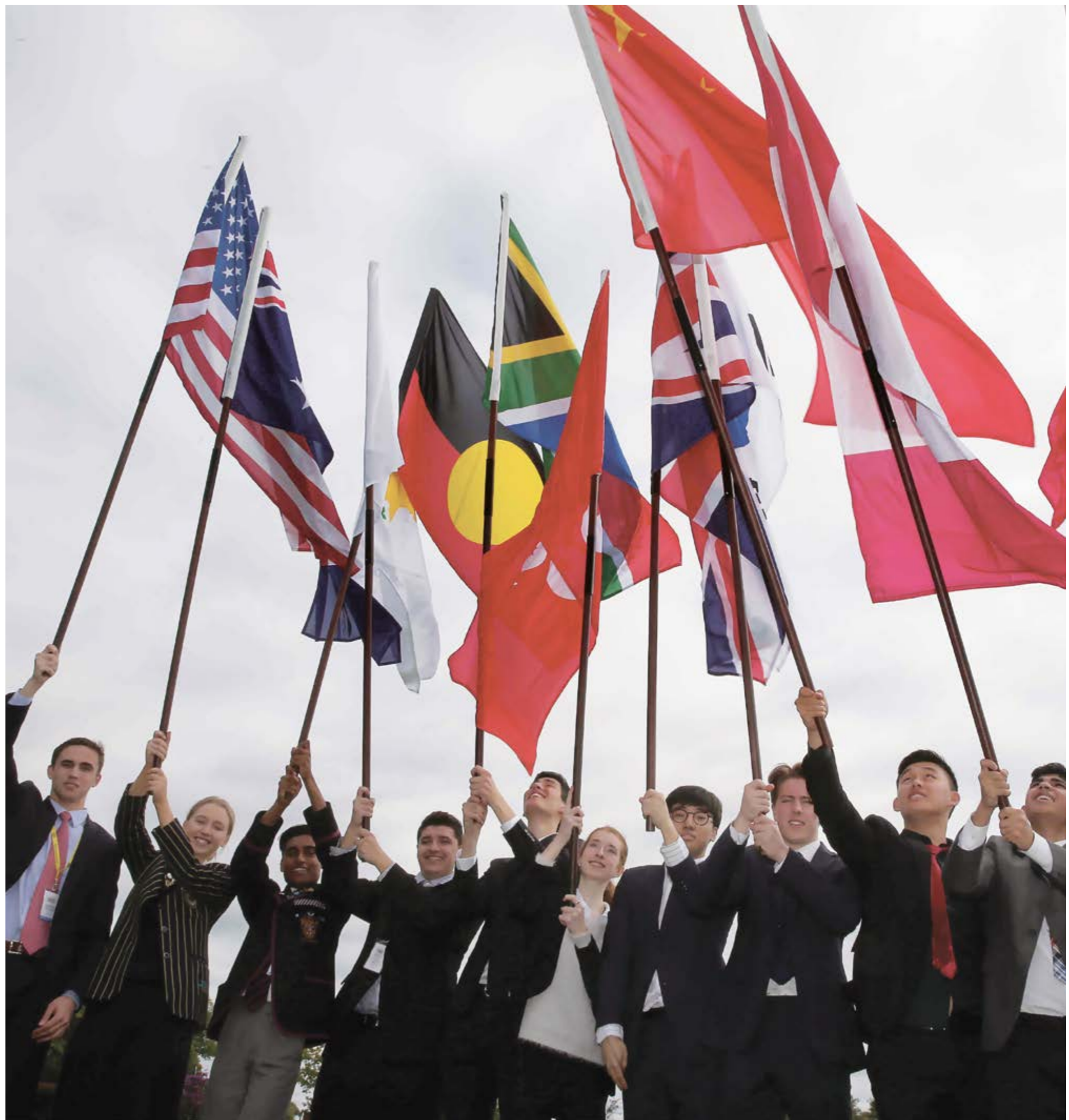
'Many people underestimate the costs incurred by artists both in time and money. They are significant - which makes the size of the RAW Art Prize and the recognition it will bring, very important,' Jennifer says. 'It is wonderful that RAW has started off big and bold. Down the track there is potential for it to develop and engage even more with the students at Ravenswood, expanding their minds in pedagogically significant ways.'

'It is enriching for the Ravenswood girls to witness this happening on their own turf,' says Yolande. 'It is also important for them to see the value that the school places on artistic pursuits.'

Yolande's daughter Jade Oakley (1993) is a Ravenswood Old Girl and artist who has recently been commissioned by Waverley Council to produce a series of public space sculptures for Waverley Mall. 'It is a unique predicament to be a female artist, especially when you are a mother. This prize says, "we take female artists and their work seriously," I think that is great.'

World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships at Ravenswood

Tomorrow's leaders from around the world
converged on Ravenswood for a battle of ideas.





In April 2017, Ravenswood became the second Australian school to host the prestigious World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships (WIDPSC). Participants from nine countries travelled to Sydney for the 30th annual WIDPSC, testing their skills in intense competition for the title of Grand Champion of Debate, Impromptu Speaking, Persuasive Speaking or Interpretive Reading. The contest targets tomorrow's leaders, providing the opportunity to fine-tune their communication skills and gain recognition for their ideas in a global environment.

This was the 30th annual WIDPSC which originated in the United Kingdom in 1988 and has been hosted in countries as diverse as the USA, South Korea, Hong Kong, Lithuania and Botswana. The Ravenswood community threw itself into the preparations to

ensure a memorable experience for the event. It began with a dramatic Aboriginal smoking ceremony, followed by a Welcome to Country from former Ravenswood student, Elizabeth Poole (2011), and a barbeque hosted by a team of hardworking Ravenswood parents on the Peace Lawn.

While Canada came out on top in the overall competition, five Australians were placed in the top 20, and of these, three were Ravenswood Year 12 students: Isabelle Gerardi (15th), Laura Lambert (16th) and Jacqueline Farrell (18th). Most excitingly, Jacqueline Farrell was awarded World Champion of Persuasive Speaking for 2017, the only Australian to achieve a world title in this year's competition. Year 10 student Hannah Walsh did extremely well to qualify for the championships.

The success of WIDPSC 2017 can be attributed to the extraordinary hard work of its co-convenors: Coordinator of Speech, Jillian Burgess and History teacher, Heather Carr. The event received the enthusiastic support of everyone in the school, from Principal Mrs Anne Johnstone to the Years 4-12 student assistants and the Property Services and catering staff who set up the venues and prepared delicious meals. Further highlights included the performance of Ravenswood's Senior Vocal Ensemble under the direction of Michael Varecka and the inspirational address by former student Sarah Wheeler (2004) on her enterprising rise from graduate mining engineer in 2008 to Managing Director of her own registered engineering consultancy company.

In summing up the 30th WIDPSC, Principal Mrs Anne Johnstone praised the competitors and coaches for their dedication to the 'articulate and rational presentation of ideas in a way that illuminates our common humanity.' The Ravenswood spirit was evident in every aspect of the event, serving to unite the talented young competitors and inspire them to use their exceptional gifts of communication to make a difference for peace in a divided world.

PREVIOUS PAGE

WIDPSC participants celebrate after the Championships

THIS PAGE

WIDPSC competitors, coaches and organisers



Unconscious Biases



This is an extract of Year 12 Vice Captain Jacqueline Farrell's speech on gender bias and female empowerment which earned her first place in the Persuasive Speaking section of the World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships.

Here on this stage, I stand behind a barrier. A barrier that exists because of my gender. No I'm not talking about the wage gap, affirmative action, access to education or anything as tangible. Instead the obstacle is sub-conscious bias that impacts every person in this room, even though you aren't aware of it. The things that make me a woman, are also making you doubt my speech. The inherent bias, means that even the pitch of my voice, impacts my ability to persuade you.

The first issue; our gendered body language is taught subtly and absorbed young. We teach our children that how they move, sit and act says a lot about who they are. We teach boys, to make themselves big, confident, and aggressive, to show power and competence. We tell our girls less is more. Society has visualised gender stereotypes that make massive statements about dominance.

The second area is vocal tone. Studies show that the female voice is more difficult for men to register. Can you believe that? Social conditioning has literally muted the voice of an entire gender. An MIT study found that when using an identical script for a video pitch for a new company but with one voice-over being female and the other male, the male voice was 40% more likely to receive funding. Deeper voices get the votes.

And thirdly, the biggest danger is that women are not seen as qualified to speak about the same content as men. And it comes from teaching our children that before a woman may speak on a topic, she must be the absolute expert in the field, while men are taught to feel free to comment and criticise whatever they may like, that men are inherently better qualified.

How many female sports commentators can you name? Why are there fewer female CEOs in Australia

than there are CEOs named John?... Why are men entitled to an intellectual space that women aren't?

Because ultimately, we teach our boys to carve out their own space but fail to teach our girls the same. We are failing to give our women a voice, to prepare them to succeed.

So how can we solve this? The first step is accepting, that no matter how educated you are, how vocal, how passionate about feminism and equality, man or woman, every person in this room has been socialised to see men as more dominant and more capable. When listening and speaking with women, be aware of the space you are taking up - of your own instinct to discount their ideas. Because it's not men choosing to be oppressive, it's the ideas imposed on us by society, the thoughts we didn't know we have. It is only active consideration which will stop this.

The second step is to stop teaching our girls to say sorry before asking a question. Stop teaching them to be perfect and instead teach them how to be brave. Forget about sitting like a lady, in it's place don't teach them to stand like a man but to stand like a person who is comfortable and confident.

The third step, stop believing that femininity is inferior to masculinity. Stop acting as if little boys playing with dolls is a crime. Don't use 'throw like a girl, act like a girl, speak like a girl' as an insult. It's time we stopped raising our children to be boys or girls, but to simply be human beings.

Change starts in this room. I need you to start changing your assumptions. Because there is a silence where our women's voices should be. So stand up, shout out your answers, make yourself heard. It's time that we filled the damn silence.

Ravenswood Hosts National 2017 PESA Conference

Over 300 educators from as far afield as China and the United Arab Emirates came together at Ravenswood in March for the 2017 Positive Education Schools Association (PESA) Conference.

Held over two days, PESA 2017 featured seven uplifting keynote speeches and over sixty practical workshops. Highlights included tips on goal-setting and excellence attainment, linking Science with Positive Education practice and building wellbeing through mindfulness techniques.

A standout speaker was dynamic American author and researcher Caroline Adams Miller, the author of five books including *Creating Your Best Life*. Caroline called on her audience of school leaders, teachers and parents to work against the prevalent 'everyone's a winner' culture. 'We have to help young people to practice patience, to focus and develop passions deep enough to fuel their purpose,' she urged.

Another popular presentation was from award-winning researcher, Professor Richard Ryan, a world-leader in the study of human motivation. Professor Ryan developed Self Determination Theory (SDT) which offers a nuanced understanding of motivation, its positive consequences for learning and wellness and how easily it can be undermined.

Professor Ryan's hypothesis is that motivation stems from three basic psychological needs: competence or the desire to control and master the environment; relatedness or the desire to interact with and care for others; and autonomy or the desire for free will and to act of our own interests and values. 'It is the type rather than the quantity of motivation that best predicts student performance,' Professor Ryan has found.

PESA 2017 also featured a keynote speech from Professor Felicia A Huppert, the Director of the Well-Being Institute at the University of Cambridge who advises the British Government and international bodies on wellbeing policy. Professor Huppert's keynote looked at mindfulness and its potential to transform the classroom into an optimal learning environment. Her rigorous work draws on data from large population samples, longitudinal cohorts and intervention programs such as the Mindfulness in Schools Project. Professor Huppert encouraged the audience to apply mindfulness to their own lives to find balance, ward off burnout and pass on the benefits to their pupils and children.



ANZAC Spirit



ANZAC Day commemorations hold an important place in the Ravenswood school calendar

The Ravenswood ANZAC Day Service is always a moving event as we recognise Australians and New Zealanders who served and died in war or operational service. This year, we were delighted to welcome back Old Girl Joan Wilson (1951), OAM, who was representing both her late husband who served in Malta in World War Two, and her father who was in the first wave of troops to land at Gallipoli and was later captured by the Japanese during World War Two. Joan was accompanied by Commander Michael Hickie DSC RN RAN, a former member of both the Royal Navy and the Australian Navy who received the Arctic Star in 2013. 'It is important for the girls to meet and hear the stories of real heroes who contributed in battle,' Joan said.

School Captain, Charlotte Fouché focused our minds on the many unknown soldiers who gave their lives. 'Words will never be able to fully express the gratitude and honour these men and women deserve ... however, I do believe that words such as endurance, courage, grit, good humour and mateship express the very heart of the ANZAC spirit,' she said.

New Zealanders were represented at the service by Property Services staff member, Ian Ross who laid a wreath on the Peace Lawn for his countrymen and women. Ian's grandfather served in World War One, his father in World War Two and he himself was enlisted for military training in the 1950s.

Ravenswood Cadets received warm praise from His Excellency General the Honorable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) on their impressive performance at the ANZAC Memorial Service and Ceremonial Parade held on Knox Grammar School grounds.



Future Problem Solving in Nepal

Ravenswood girls in Years 9 and 10 are applying a multi-dimensional approach to improving educational opportunities for students in Nepal.

Known as the Children for Children team, the girls have partnered with The Centre for Learning and Children's Rights (CLCR), an Australian international not-for-profit organisation working in Nepal. The Himalayan country is the third poorest in the world, where the caste system bars children of lower social standing from gaining an education. Those who do not attend school are often physically abused. The Ravenswood girls' efforts are focused on the Heartland Academy in Kathmandu, a co-educational school for students in Kindergarten to Year 10. Heartland Academy has a high proportion of female pupils from the Dalite caste group, who suffer extreme discrimination.

The Children for Children team's first step was to fund-raise for stationery kits for the 40 preschool students who began at Heartland Academy this year. They then wrote and decorated educational picture books that feature both English and Nepali text and created folders of activity sheets, posters, dress up costumes and games and an educational app. To finance their projects, the girls created and sold sock toys, a cookbook, cupcakes and chocolates. Their work also included presentations to the Ravenswood community to raise awareness about the plight of children in Nepal.

'The Ravenswood girls in this group have had a huge impact on the Heartland students,' says the CEO and Founder of CLCR Australia, Patrick Price.

The Ravenswood girls' efforts form part of their participation in the Future Problem Solving Program, an initiative that encourages young people around the world to brainstorm solutions to real-life problems and develop their teamwork, communication and leadership skills.





Three Generations of Tennis Champions



Year 7 student Jade Russell is one of Ravenswood's finest tennis players and the youngest to reach the fourth round of the 2017 Tildesley Shield Tennis Competition. As a third generation player, tennis is in Jade's blood. Her grandmother, Carol Langsford contested the Australian Open women's singles events between 1962 and 1970 and won the Tennis Australia *President's Spirit of Tennis Award* in 2014, after a long coaching and tennis administration career.

Carol's arrival at Ravenswood as a tennis coach in 1984 coincided with a golden age of tennis for the school - eight years of Tildesley Shield dominance. At the time, it was the longest running streak of any one school. Carol attributed her players' success to their commitment but her daughter Sharon (Langsford, 1991) points out that many Ravenswood girls who reached the final rounds of Tildesley had

never competed outside of school. Carol had a rare understanding of her players' strengths and a second sense when it came to pairing them as doubles partners.

Sharon says her family lived and breathed tennis. She herself was a member of the Ravenswood Tildesley squad at an early age and Singles Runner Up in 1986 as a Year 7 student. She went on to win the Singles competition two years later.

Sharon's sister Tricia Langsford (1989) was an extraordinary sportswoman. Her framed blazer has pride of place in the Ravenswood Archives, with badges and pockets galore, not only for tennis but also for hockey and cricket. Tricia played doubles as well as singles in the Tildesley Shield. In 1985 she was Doubles Runner Up, in 1986 Doubles Winner, in 1987 Singles Winner and then Doubles Winner again

in 1989. Sadly, Tricia passed away from Multiple Sclerosis (MS) in 2002 at age 30, after she captained the Australian Women's Youth Cricket team. Carol and her husband, Roy Langsford founded and continue to run the Trish MS Research Foundation.

Today, Carol continues to influence the Australian tennis community as a national women's selector. She ferries Jade to and from tennis training and offers advice, but the family is keen to ensure that the 13-year old maintains a balance between her sport and academic pursuits. 'Girls in Jade's age group train 20 plus hours a week and the commitment that is required is increasingly greater than in the past,' Sharon says. 'Jade loves her tennis and it has given her the opportunity to make friends with girls from all around Australia.'

Jade's little sister Mia is in Year 4 and also keen on the game. We watch her progress with interest.

OPPOSITE PAGE:
1986 Ravenswood winning Tildesley Shield teams. Back row 3rd from left: Carol Langsford; bottom row 3rd from left Tricia Langsford; bottom row 2nd from left Sharon Russell

THIS PAGE, TOP TO BOTTOM
Tricia Langsford as a Prefect,
Jade Russell, Carol Langsford
and Sharon Russell



Student Showcase



Order of Australia for Tiffany Thomas Kane

Year 10 student, Tiffany Thomas Kane received an Order of Australia medal in January for service to sport, following her medal haul at the 2016 Paralympics.

Tiffany won gold in the 50m breaststroke and bronze medals in the 50m freestyle, 50m butterfly and 200m individual medley at the Rio games. She was the youngest person to make the Order of Australia honours list this year. 'If you have a dream to get to a high level, you need to just keep training until it comes and never give up,' she says.

Pacific Schools Games 2017

Congratulations to Year 8 butterfly swimmer, Chloe Small who is heading to the Pacific Schools Games (PSG) in Adelaide in December. In 2015, at age 11, Chloe was the second fastest butterfly swimmer in the country, winning silver at the PSG. This year, she broke a three-year-old butterfly record for her age group at CIS, before winning gold at the State Championships.

Chloe's biggest inspiration is the career and regimen of Olympic medal winner James Magnussen, who trains alongside the girls in the Ravenswood Swimming Club's *Gold Squad* twice a fortnight. 'Watching his focus, drive and approach to training, fitness and nutrition is a big influence for me,' says the 13-year old.

Also heading to the PSG is Year 11 softball player, Ellie Marks. Before she gears up to represent the State, the 16-year old will play for her country in Brisbane in July as a member of the 2017 Australian-under-17 softball squad. Ellie is one of nine NSW players called up to play in the 32-women squad that will face teams from countries including the United States, Japan and New Zealand.

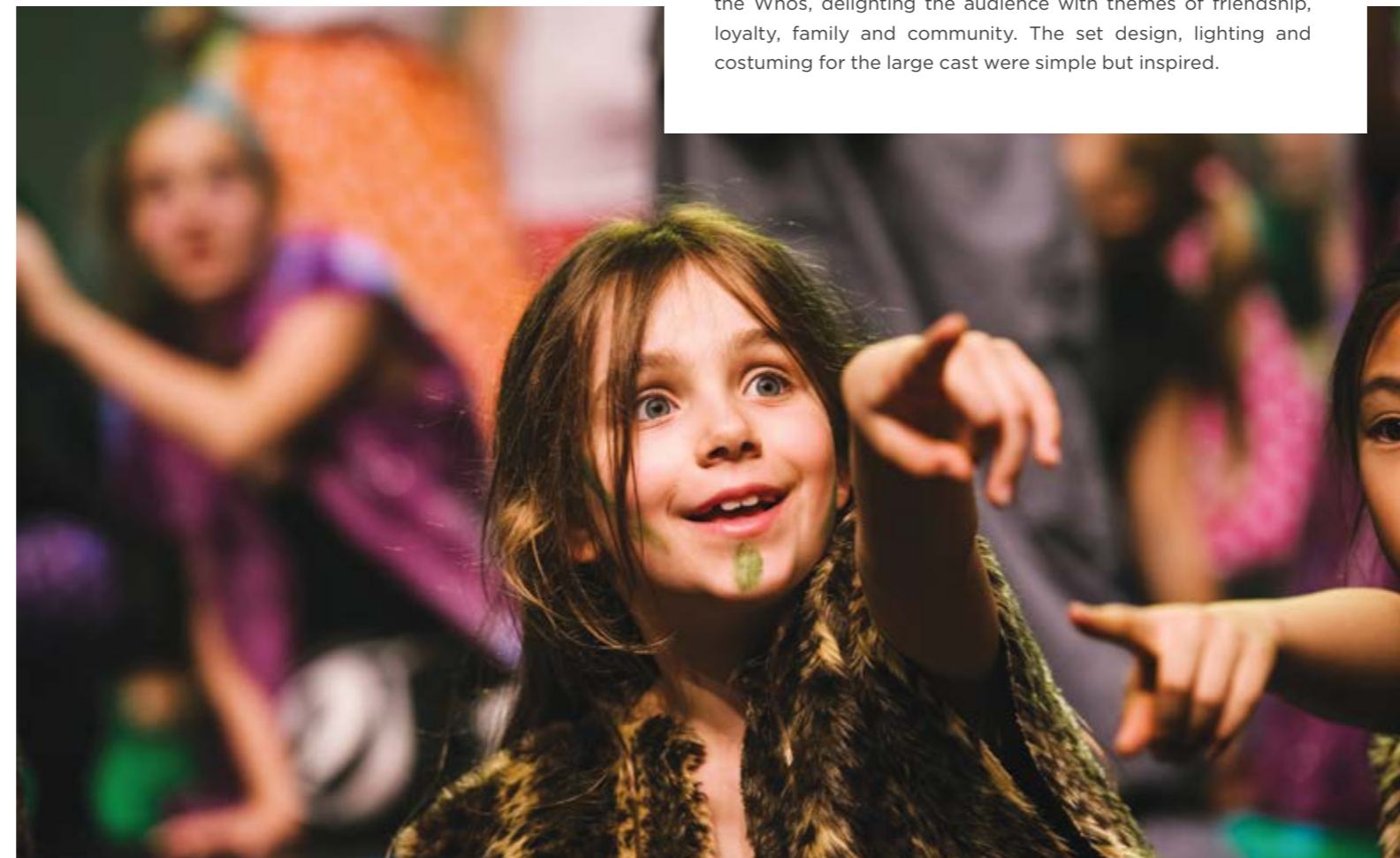


Sydney Youth Orchestra Honour

Year 10 student Madeleine Aarons enjoyed the trip of a lifetime in March, travelling to Europe with 85 fellow members of the Sydney Youth Orchestra (SYO). The trip took in Vienna, Budapest, Salzburg, Prague and Berlin and saw Madeleine perform in world-renowned venues, work with leading classical musicians and attend performances by world-class orchestras.

Seussical

Years 3 and 4 revelled in the stories of Dr Seuss in May as they performed the fantastical musical extravaganza *Seussical Kids*. The large and colourful cast told the story of Horton the elephant and his transformative journey to save his tiny friends the Whos, delighting the audience with themes of friendship, loyalty, family and community. The set design, lighting and costuming for the large cast were simple but inspired.



Representing Australia – Rhythmic Gymnastics

Three Ravenswood girls proudly represented Australia at the Singapore Open International Rhythmic Gymnastics Competition in early June. Sophie Burke (Year 8) placed seventh in the Junior competition, Anya Patel (Year 10) placed eighth in the Senior International competition and Olivia Owens (Year 10) placed eleventh in the Junior International competition. This success topped off an amazing first half of the year for our girls. At the end of May, Olivia, along with Elizabeth Chapman (Year 10) and Amy Burke (Year 10) represented the NSW Rhythmics team at the Australian National Championships in Melbourne. Olivia was named Level 9 National Champion and Clubs National Champion. Elizabeth took out the bronze medal and was crowned Ribbon National Champion, while Amy placed fourth in Ribbon, narrowly missing out on a podium finish. The girls are exceptionally dedicated and deserve high praise.



Student Showcase



 **Uniting Church in Australia**

Celebrating 40 Years of the Uniting Church in Australia

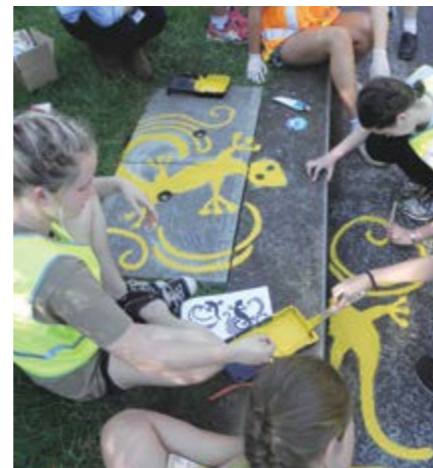
On 22 June, more than 1200 young students from the Ravenswood Junior School, Wahroonga Preparatory School and Knox Grammar Preparatory School came together to celebrate the 40-year anniversary of the Uniting Church in Australia. The lighthearted event featured award-winning singer and entertainer Colin Buchanan, who engaged the crowd in an interactive performance with songs and puppets.

Ravenswood supplied cupcakes and a celebratory cake was cut by dignitaries from the Uniting Church. They included the Rev Dr William Ives (father of Ravenswood Coordinator of Religious Education, Mrs Catherine Leal and the Rev Michiel Groeneweg (father of Ravenswood Religious Education teacher, Mrs Kate Prowse). Student representatives from each of the schools led the prayers.

Rev Jon Humphries, Ravenswood Chaplain

Beautifying Council's Stormwater Drains

In April, our International Baccalaureate students helped Ku-ring-gai Council to give storm water drains on the North Shore a facelift and deliver an important environmental message. The girls painted community drains on St John's Avenue and Wade Lane in Gordon, with images of plants, animals and the planet to remind the community to think before pouring waste down household pipes.



ABBA Revival

In May, we sang and swayed to effervescent 70's disco sounds at *Ravo Presents the Music of Abba*. Students from Years 7-12 performed the chart-topping band's greatest hits including *Honey Honey*, *Dancing Queen* and *Mama Mia*, supported by a professional four-piece band and a powerful LED light show. 'The evening showcased the amazing warmth and camaraderie of our Ravenswood community,' said Principal Mrs Johnstone.

Building Positive Performance in Sport

Positive Psychology Sports Coach Matt Scholes, visited Ravenswood in March to train our girls, staff and parents in techniques designed to support student wellbeing and performance.

Matt is a leader in embedding positive psychology in sporting organisations and consults high-profile bodies like the Australian Football League, Cricket Australia and the Oceania National Olympic committee. His Positive Sports Coaching approach is backed by rigorous science and helps individuals to perform better under pressure and improve their mental wellbeing.

Matt ran three workshops at Ravenswood aimed at students, coaches and parents. His key message was to correct areas of weakness by first focusing on what is going well. 'The aim is to re-frame the way coaches deliver feedback and incorporate a greater focus on strength development,' he says. 'From a wellbeing perspective, sport is an exciting and effective way of building optimism and resilience in our students that can then translate into their performance in the classroom and other areas of their life.'

Big Red Day

Ravenswood went a shade of red on 17 May to celebrate *Big Red Day* in the lead-up to the Salvation Army's Red Shield Appeal. Year 11 organised the event, which featured a visit from Member for Ku-ring-gai and Parliamentary Secretary for Finance, Services and Property Alistair Henskens and Channel 9 Reporter and personality, Jayne Azzopardi. Ten days later, around 50 Year 11 students collected door-to-door, helping the Salvation Army to raise around \$12,000 from residents in the Gordon area.



Professional Learning



Innovation through Coding and Robotics

Ravenswood ICT Integrator Matt Scadding, shared his coding and robotics insights at the National Future Schools conference in Melbourne in March. Matt's leading-edge approach has earned him a Ravenswood Fellowship to study technology and innovation at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The Institute marries teaching with engineering and scientific studies and has produced an unending stream of advancements. Matt will attend lectures and participate in group tasks, bringing back to Ravenswood an even deeper understanding of critical thinking and the nature of innovation.

Leading by Example

Principal Mrs Anne Johnstone (pictured left) and Deputy Principal – Learning and Wellbeing Mrs Kim Bence (pictured bottom left) presented at the third National Positive Education Schools Association Conference in March on *Leading Positive Organisational Change K-12* and *The Ravenswood Model of Visible Wellbeing – Igniting Potential, Inspiring Passion and Purpose*.

Student Engagement Research

In April, former Deputy Principal - Head of Learning Innovation Terrie Jones and Coordinator of Teaching Quality Amy Van Arkkels, were invited to a Carnegie Foundation conference in San Francisco to present their research on how to build student autonomy and engagement.



Masters Graduation Day – University of Pennsylvania

Congratulations to our Principal Mrs Anne Johnstone on graduating with a Master of Applied Positive Psychology (MAPP) from the University of Pennsylvania. Mrs Johnstone already has significant credentials in Wellbeing and Positive Education as the recipient of a Winston Churchill Fellowship to explore ways to foster resilience in learning and as a founding Board member and Vice Chair of the Positive Education Schools Association.

The University of Pennsylvania Master of Applied Positive Psychology has allowed Mrs Johnstone to learn directly from the founder of Positive Psychology Professor Martin Seligman (pictured above) and world-leading researcher in the area of grit, Angela Duckworth. The experience has enabled her to study and apply positive psychology topics most relevant to her work at Ravenswood.

Mrs Johnstone will complete a capstone (thesis) under the supervision of Professor Seligman. 'I am so excited about continuing to share my learnings from this degree with our staff and students and continuing to apply the latest research and practice in Positive Education,' she says.

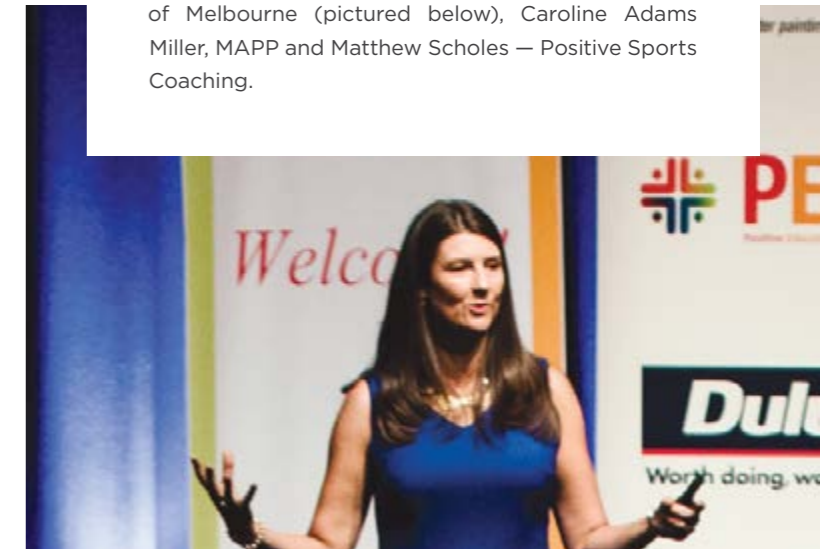


MBA – First in Australia

Congratulations to our new Director of Marketing, Communications and Engagement, Deanne O'Shea who was recognised as Dux of the Master of Business Administration (MBA) Executive program at the Australian Catholic University in May. Deanne was the highest ranking MBA student for academic performance in Australia, achieving a High Distinction average.

World Experts Teach at Ravenswood

As part of Ravenswood's Professional Learning program, staff and community had the privilege and opportunity to learn directly from world-leading experts in positive psychology. Presenters at Ravenswood so far this year have included: Michael F Steger, PhD – Colorado State University (pictured below), Lea Waters, PhD – Gerry Higgins, Chair, Centre for Positive Psychology – University of Melbourne (pictured below), Caroline Adams Miller, MAPP and Matthew Scholes – Positive Sports Coaching.



Community

Breakfast Events

The Ravenswood Father and Daughter Breakfast series has created some very special moments for our girls and their fathers this year. Each event was designed to provide an uplifting start to the day with musical performances and lighthearted speeches over a nutritious breakfast in the Assembly Hall. The Year 8 Mother and Daughter breakfast on 4 May was a sold-out event with tables overflowing into the Centenary Foyer and an atmosphere of joyful camaraderie. The girls sang ABBA's hit *Super Trouper* and presented their mothers with a handmade gift.

Mother's Day Stall

Thanks to the great work of the Ravenswood Parents' Association, the Mother's Day stall was a resounding success. During the school day girls were able to purchase beautiful, bespoke gifts for their mothers to enjoy. Trestle tables arranged in the Boarders' Courtyard were laden with affordable delicate feminine pieces, practical items and hard to find objects individually sourced by members of the RPA to appeal to any mother. Gift wrapping was also available.

Ravenswood Association of Past Staff

More than 40 members of the Ravenswood Association of Past Staff (RAPS) celebrated the festive season with a scrumptious morning tea at The Landings in Turrumurra on 13 December 2016. They caught up again in March this year to board the Riverboat Postman and take a cruise down the beautiful Hawkesbury River.



Welcome Drinks

The 2017 Welcome Drinks event on Friday 24 February was an opportunity to celebrate the strong spirit of enthusiasm for Ravenswood from current and prospective parents. Everyone came together under the stars for canapés and drinks on the Rooftop Terrace. It was an opportunity to enjoy each other's company and listen to Principal Mrs Anne Johnstone and the Chair of the Ravenswood Council, Mr Mark Webb, outline the exciting projects planned for the year.

New Parents' Dinner

On Friday 3 February, Ravenswood welcomed more than 200 new parents from every Year Group to the New Parents' Dinner. Connections were made and friendships were forged as guests chatted over long communal tables and share plates filled with tasty morsels. The alfresco setting featured thousands of twinkling lights, symbolic of the illumination that comes with a Ravenswood education and the importance of lighting the way for others.



2015 Leavers' Gathering

The Ravenswood Old Girls' Union organised an informal event to reconnect our 2015 Leavers on Friday 10 March. It was a most enjoyable evening with lots of talk and much laughter as the girls shared memories and caught up on each other's lives, a year out from school.

Careers Night 2017

A record number of Old Girl and parent mentors from a broad range of industries made 2017 the best *Careersearch* yet. Ravenswood students in Years 10-12 attended the night to gain information and advice on their dream careers. The mentors had a wonderful time providing assistance and commended the girls on their enthusiasm and motivation.





Weddings

Caroline Wood & Jaskaran Singh

Caroline Singh (Wood, 2005) celebrated her marriage to Jaskaran Singh on Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 October, 2016. The couple enjoyed a Sikh ceremony on 1 October at the Sikh Gurudwara in Turramurra and a Christian ceremony the following day at St Andrew's Anglican Church in Roseville. A reception was held at the Taronga Centre following the Sunday ceremony. Caroline's bridesmaids included Katie Dean (2005) and Laura Brodyk (Field, 2005). The wedding was attended by Lauren Curtis (Taylor, 2005) and Kathryn Lee (2005). After a 10-day honeymoon in New Zealand, Caroline and Jas are now living in Warriewood with their two cats and one rabbit.



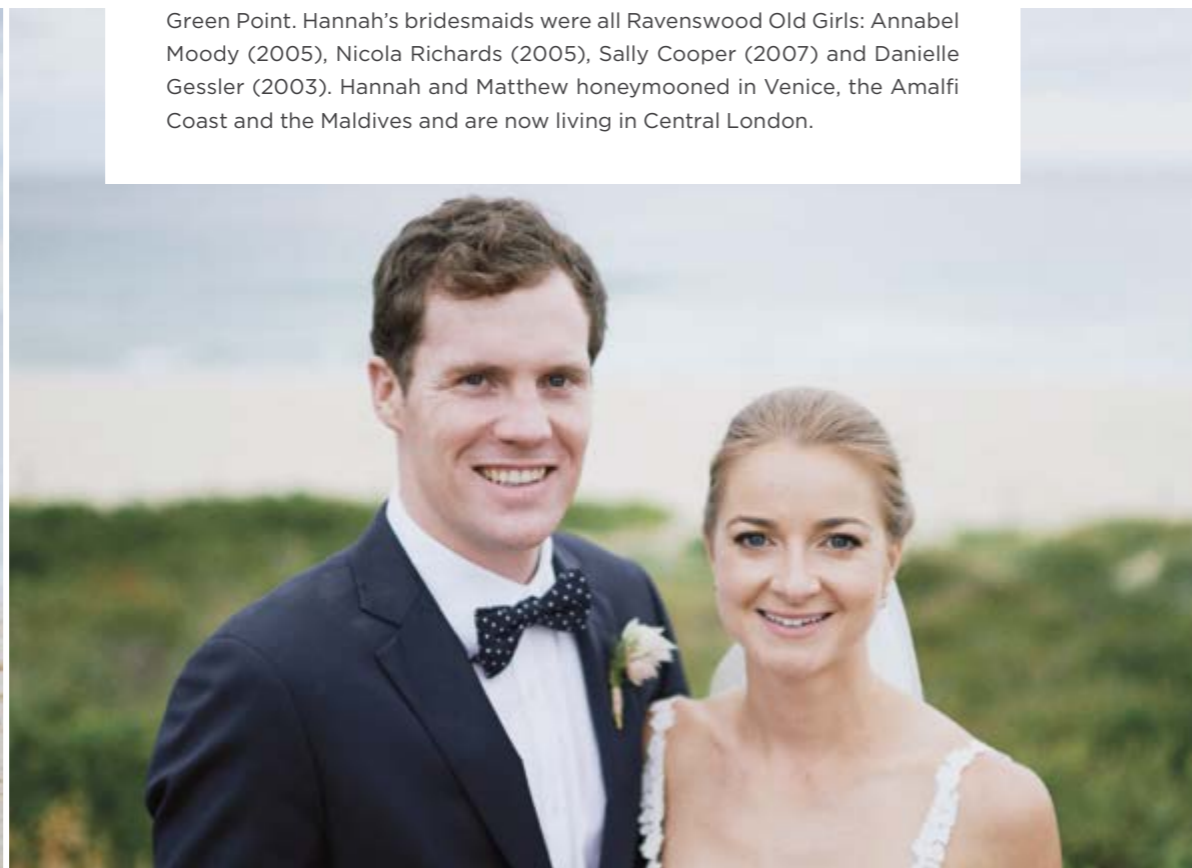
Penelope Little & Christopher Glennan

Penelope Little (1998) married Christopher Glennan at a beautiful ceremony on 8 January 2016 at St Philips Church in Sydney, followed by a reception at Pier One. A number of Ravenswood Old Girls were among the guests. The couple honeymooned in Italy and now live in Glen Innes, NSW.



Hannah Cooper & Matthew Donaldson

Hannah Cooper (2005), married Matthew James Donaldson at historic St James Anglican Church in The Lakes Way, Bungwahl on 26 October 2016. The reception was held at the private home, Turtles Crossing in Green Point. Hannah's bridesmaids were all Ravenswood Old Girls: Annabel Moody (2005), Nicola Richards (2005), Sally Cooper (2007) and Danielle Gessler (2003). Hannah and Matthew honeymooned in Venice, the Amalfi Coast and the Maldives and are now living in Central London.



Vale

Joan Helen Goff (1932–2016)

Joan Helen Goff was Deputy Headmistress at Ravenswood from 1968 to 1986 and known to her friends as highly intelligent, a talented athlete, a skilled photographer and organiser, with a great sense of humour.

Born in Melbourne on 31 October 1932, Joan was enrolled at Ravenswood in 1940 and served as Captain of Tudor House in her final year. After training at the Australian College of Education, she returned to Ravenswood as one of two Physical Education teachers.

In 1952, Joan was selected for the New South Wales Cricket team. She left the school in 1956 to teach in Northern Rhodesia and on her return four years later, Ravenswood readily found her a position. She remained at the school until retirement.

Joan will always be remembered at Ravenswood, the school to which she devoted so much of her life.



2017
Gala Ball
THE RAVENSWOOD FOUNDATION

SATURDAY 12 AUGUST
6:30PM

THE WESTIN SYDNEY
1 MARTIN PLACE
GRAND BALLROOM

WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/QAOG
(02) 9498 9828

Message from the ROGU President

The Ravenswood Old Girls Union has brought our Old Girls together for more than 100 years and provides a unique opportunity for Ravenswood alumni to continue to inspire passion and purpose, and ignite their bond with the school and other Old Girls.

As president of ROGU, I am delighted to welcome you to 2017 and look forward to another successful year for Ravenswood and the ROGU. It's been an absolute pleasure to see our Old Girls in action as they connect with members of the Ravenswood community at some key events in past months, including the 2017 CareerSearch which saw more than 60 Ravenswood Old Girls take on the role of Mentors and speak with our senior students about their career aspirations.

The ROGU Mother Daughter Breakfast was another fabulous event bringing our Old Girls together with their daughters to celebrate and acknowledge the special bond between mothers and daughters, and in some cases, also with grandmothers.

We encourage all Ravenswood alumni to join ROGU. For details please contact Kim Williams, Manager Alumni and Foundation on kwilliams@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au

Mrs Anne Nielsen
President, ROGU

2017 Reunions

Each year, Ravenswood alumni celebrate with a reunion to mark significant years since leaving the school. Reunions planned in 2017 include:

5 YEAR (2012) - SATURDAY 26 AUGUST

Evening event at the Rag and Famish Hotel, North Sydney;
Contact Ashley More at ashley.more@mcn.com.au

10 YEAR (2007)

If any 2007 leavers would like to arrange their 10-Year Reunion, please contact Kim Williams at kwilliams@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au for assistance.

20 YEAR (1997) - SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER

7.00pm at The Oaks, 118 Military Road, Neutral Bay; Contact Natalie Pettman, natalie@bigpicturerecruitment.com.au

30 YEAR (1987) - SATURDAY 9 SEPTEMBER

6.00pm at Swifts, 68 Darling Point Road, Darling Point;
Contact Cathy Mackay, cathy.mackay@bigpond.com

40 YEAR (1977) - SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER

School tour at 12.30pm followed by High Tea at Eryldene, 17 McIntosh St, Gordon;
Contact Elizabeth Bowe, e_bowe@yahoo.com.au

50 YEAR REUNION (1967) - FRIDAY 13 OCTOBER

School tour at 11.00am, followed by lunch at the Greengate Hotel, 12.00pm for 12.30pm;
Contact Pam Rendall, pamralf@bigpond.net.au

60 YEAR REUNION (1957) - WEDNESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER

School tour at 11.00am followed by lunch, venue to be confirmed; Contact Jan Taylor, alanjantaylor@bigpond.com

Dates and contacts for Ravenswood Reunions are shown on the Ravenswood website at [community/alumni/reunions](#). Please contact Kim Williams, Manager Alumni and Foundation at kwilliams@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au regarding Ravenswood Reunions.

Upcoming Events

AUGUST

Opening 4 August	Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize
12 August	Ravenswood Foundation Gala Ball
16 August	Year 9 Father/Daughter Breakfast
23 August	HSC/IB Music Recital and Major Works Exhibition
27 August	K-12 Music Showcase

SEPTEMBER

1 September	Year 12 Father/Daughter Breakfast
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NOVEMBER

9-12 November	Ravenswood/Knox Grammar School Musical <i>Fiddler on the Roof</i>
11-14 November	Years 7-11 Visual Arts Exhibition
24 November	RPA Christmas Lunch
27 November	Secondary School <i>Choral Festival</i>
30 November	Golden Girls' Luncheon

DECEMBER

3 December	Secondary School House <i>Dance Festival</i>
3 December	Combined Carol Service

TERM DATES

18 July - 22 September	Term 3
10 October - 7 December	Term 4



**RAVENSWOOD
AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S
ART PRIZE 2017**

LARGEST AUSTRALIAN FEMALE ART PRIZE

Ravenswood Australian
Women's Art Prize 2017

OPENING NIGHT AND PRIZE ANNOUNCEMENTS
Friday 4 August 2017
6.00pm – 9.30pm

EXHIBITION OF FINALISTS
5-12 August 2017

ARTISTS TALKS

Sunday 6 August

3.00pm: Jennifer Turpin and Jade Oakley

Wednesday 9 August

6.00pm: Susie Dureau

To purchase tickets to the Opening
Night and further information visit
ravenswood.nsw.edu.au/artprize or
email artprize@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au

Image courtesy of Susie Dureau

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