

Semper



06.
COMMEMORATING
ANZAC

Ravenswood



10.
THE SOUND
OF MUSIC

ALUMNI LIGHTS
UP VIVID

29.
ALUMNI LIGHTS
UP VIVID



What is water?

Water is a goddess' tears

Falling from heaven.

It is a paradise,

Filled with endless wonders.

It is a splash of blue paint,

Bringing life and colour to the Earth.

It is a living body,

Moving and changing with every minute.

Water is a precious crystal,

Embedded in the land.

By Abigail Percy, Year 5



Semper, the Ravenswood School for Girls' magazine.

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

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08.

COMMEMORATING ANZAC



12.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC



29.

ALUMNI LIGHTS UP VIVID



Principal's Message

In April, we gathered as a community to commemorate Anzac Day and mark 100 years since the end of World War 1. The moving ceremony brought to life the experiences of the soldiers and their families, through the re-telling of stories from the childhood of Joan Wilson (Tebbutt, 1951) a cherished alumni and special guest.

Joan's father William Tebbutt, was a hero who served in both world wars and his story is detailed in our Anzac Day coverage in this issue of *Semper* magazine (page 8). The Ravenswood Anzac Service also featured an exemplary performance by the Ravenswood Cadets, whose polish and professionalism were again on show at the Knox Grammar School Anzac Service and Parade in May and the Queen's Birthday Parade in June.

The former Chief Executive Officer of Westpac and St George Bank and former Ravenswood parent, Gail Kelly, inspired us at our Presentation Ceremony in December, with the launch of the *Gail Kelly 'Making a Difference' Award*. The award recognises a student in Year 11 who is passionate about contributing to society. We look forward to sharing with you what I am sure will be the extremely valuable outcomes of this ongoing initiative.

The school's Community and Wellbeing Prefects launched an important

student-led service initiative in May, the inaugural Ravenswood *Mind Your Mind Day*. This joyful event had a serious message - the importance of prioritising mental health. The Prefects' aim is for the girls to help each other, calling on them to broaden their friendship circles, connect more deeply and speak out if they are feeling down.

At Ravenswood, we care passionately about our girls' wellbeing and support them in establishing and maintaining meaningful relationships in every way that we can. Mobile device use can prevent opportunities for true and authentic communication. I was thrilled with the overwhelming support from our students, parents and staff for the introduction of new protocols that limit student access to mobile phones during the school day. It is a pleasure to see the girls connecting more directly and playing ball games during recess and lunch, rather than on their phones and other devices.

As a school, we have the rare privilege of maintaining strong connections with our alumni community, some of whose stories grace the pages of this magazine. This *Semper* also details the community events we have held in the first half of 2018, from the *Welcome to 2018 Cocktails* event to *Careersearch* and the Ravenswood Association of Past Staff High Tea. I hope you enjoy reading it, as you relax over the winter break.





At Ravenswood's moving 2018 Anzac Day Service, Principal, Mrs Anne Johnstone, paid tribute to special guest, Old Girl Joan Wilson (nee Tebbutt, 1951) and her father, William Alston Tebbutt, who served with honour in both World Wars.

Extracts from Mrs Johnstone's speech have been reproduced below:

Mrs Joan Wilson attended Ravenswood from 1944 to 1951 and was Windsor House Captain and a fine athlete. In 2014, she received an Order of Australia for her 50 years of contribution to the cause of the exiled Tibetan community.

Joan's father William was a man of great courage, strength and wisdom, who led an amazing life. Joan began to write his story when she found a special box, tied with a gold ribbon, full of the letters he sent her mother which had been lovingly kept.

'I realised that this is the story of the great love affair of my parents,' Joan wrote. '... I hang onto the fact that my memory of my parents is one of love, laughter and very happy times, with father teaching us skills of survival, and of always being positive. I hope that you will discover, as I did, that he tried to keep his promise: 'I'll be back as soon as possible.'

William Alston Tebbutt was sixteen and a half years old (though he said he was 20) when he enlisted in the First Australian Imperial Force in September 1914, to serve his country.

He wanted to join the war effort and in a letter to his parents, he said:

'I have gone out to have another shot at enlisting. Australia must get the contingent she promised. ... In your innermost soul, I know you don't mind. I have heard you say you would be proud. ... I'll look after myself ... PS. I'll be back as soon as possible.'

How must his parents have felt? Imagine this young man leaving Australia and heading for Egypt for training.

He landed with the first wave of Anzac troops at Gallipoli, on 25 April 1915, in the chaos and confusion, under Turkish fire. He fought there for the next five months before being wounded and taken to England to recuperate.

Promoted to the rank of lieutenant, William then fought against the Germans in France in 1917, before being wounded in the leg at Ypres, an area of Flanders which had become a quagmire; fields of nothing but mud. After convalescing (though a piece of shrapnel remained in his leg), he returned

to Australia in February 1918, receiving a thank you letter from the King, George V, which read:

'The Queen and I wish you God-speed, a safe return to the happiness and joy of home life with an early restoration to health. A grateful country thanks you for faithful services.'

How difficult it must have been to return to 'normal' life but this is what William Tebbutt did. He returned to work, married and had two daughters.

How amazing that when the Second World War began he re-enlisted, this time being posted to Malaysia as a Major in 1941. As Year 10 history students know, this entire area fell into Japanese hands in February 1942 with the fall of Singapore and William Tebbutt became a prisoner of war. The family received a letter dated February 1942 but then heard no more until receiving official notification that William Tebbutt was missing. The next year they were informed that he was in Changi Prison Camp. Then, finally in 1945, the family received a postcard with a few words on it saying, 'I am quite well. Do not worry about me at all. Love to Shirley and Joan.' They knew he was alive.

Another letter arrived shortly after the war ended which said:

'Dearest Shirley and Joan,

Soon I'll be back with you. I try and picture you two young ladies ... You must be prepared to make allowances for your father. It will be our intention to have a family of which we can all be proud and one to which all of us can turn for complete trust and real love and comfort. A big kiss to you both, Daddy.'

There was much rejoicing when finally William returned home. Only much later, through the army reports, did Joan find out about the horrors of the POW camps, in Palembang and Changi. William Tebbutt kept this secret, shielding his family.

Joan's father did indeed keep his promise, 'I'll be back as soon as possible.' Through his story, we learn about courage, strength and perseverance, and perhaps most of all, about love. His hopes for his family are both admirable and timeless - 'a family of which to be proud and one we can turn to for trust, love and comfort. In times of great adversity these are the things to be valued and treasured.'

To coincide with Ravenswood's Anzac Day Ceremony, Joan contributed her father and husbands' wartime memorabilia to a remarkable exhibition displayed in the Learning Resources Centre. It included items and photos belonging to William Tebbutt. Later this year, Joan has been asked to join the commemorations in France to mark the end of the war, another great honour.



Alumni President, Sarah Beresford (1984) and Joan Wilson (Tebbutt, 1951)



William Alston Tebbutt and his daughters Shirley and Joan

Archival material provided by Ravenswood Archivist, Robyn Robertson

One of the country's most sought-after garden designers turns his talents to Ravenswood's garden 'heart.'



The Old Girls' Courtyard Gets a Celebrity Makeover

Charlie Albone graces Australian screens most weeks as the star of the television series *Selling Houses Australia*. He and his team lent their extensive skills and expertise to transform Ravenswood's original Old Girls' Courtyard, into a garden retreat during the summer holidays.

Charlie is a two-time silver-gilt medal winner at the Chelsea flower Show in London. He has fond memories of the times he spent as a child in the beautiful gardens of his English school and wanted to recreate that experience for the girls of Ravenswood. 'I wanted to design a garden that was not only for enjoyment but also for creating memories,' he says. 'This is a space where the girls can have conversations together; they can look out onto the garden and enjoy the garden and do their work and relax here. It's all about having fun areas where the girls are going to be able to sit down; that the girls are going to enjoy, but also use to study.'

'The Old Girls' Courtyard first opened in 2000 as part of the Centenary Centre development and its 2018 redesign came as the result of insightful feedback from our girls,' said Ravenswood Principal, Mrs Anne Johnstone. 'The paved areas include hundreds of bricks engraved with the names of Old Girls and Ravenswood families, who have contributed to the school and the garden's redevelopment. It is thrilling to now see this vibrant reinvigorated space being enjoyed by our girls after so many months of planning, design and hard work.'

The new courtyard was officially opened at the Welcome to 2018 Cocktails event at the beginning of the school year. It includes a variety of creative seating options.' Under the old Chinese tallow tree, there is an oversized wooden day bed that can also double as a performance stage. There

are overlapping seats and sandstone blocks, and a series of large, articulated seats that face different directions.

Mrs Johnstone was keen to have a garden that blooms all year round,' Charlie says. To address this, his new plantings include wisteria, magnolias and climbing yellow roses. In time, four over-sized funnels that resemble rusted trees will be shrouded in star jasmine, creating a dramatic green archway. There is also a new Chinese tallow tree, and three new pink crepe myrtles that were donated by the Class of 2017.

'I have intentionally chosen a variety of crepe myrtle that flowers at the beginning of the year when school returns,' says Charlie. 'The idea is that whenever students see a flowering crepe myrtle, I hope it will bring back happy school memories for them.'

At the southern end of the courtyard is a large metal dome. Charlie was inspired by the domed shape of woven willow sculptures from the UK. 'In time, this metal structure will be covered in sweet-smelling wisteria, and hanging baskets will be suspended from the interior ceiling,' says Chair of the Ravenswood Foundation, Mark Steinert.

'The redevelopment of the Old Girls' Courtyard is a credit to the commitment and generosity of members of the Ravenswood Foundation and the hard work of the Property and Building Committee. We thank all those who have contributed so much and supported us over the years including of course, the Ravenswood Old Girls' Union, the Ravenswood Parents' Association and members of our Ravenswood community,' Mrs Johnstone says. A video about the redesign of the Old Girls' Courtyard can be viewed at: youtube.com/watch?v=VTmD-UQQ4fl.

OPPOSITE PAGE
Charlie Albone and Mrs Anne Johnstone





A giant Ravenswood cast and crew brought the world's best-loved stage show to life in a sell-out season, with a standing ovation at every performance.

Heather Aird,
Director of Music and Performing Arts

Rodgers and Hammerstein's iconic musical delights audiences young and old. Every student who auditioned for the Ravenswood production gained a role and the huge cast touched hearts with their renditions of some of the most memorable songs ever performed on stage, including *My Favourite Things*, *Do-Re-Mi*, *Climb Every Mountain* and *The Sound of Music*.

The maturity and professionalism of the performers was outstanding, including Year 11 student Julia Sterrett, as Maria. 'I have always loved this musical, I watched it when I was small and I feel a big

responsibility taking on such a beloved and iconic role,' she said.

The stunning Austrian scenery was re-created on a wall of 64 LED panels that delivered the audience into the hills of Salzburg. Professional choreographers and musicians, the school's L-ACOUSTICS sound equipment and a five-night run exposed the students to professional performance conditions.

'Ravenswood gives us so many opportunities to work with professionals in their respective fields, like choreographers and musicians,' said Madeleine

Aarons (Year 11) who played the role of the Mother Abbess. 'It has been really good fun to play a character who is rather stern in personality - unlike myself!' she said.

'The production has been a wonderful way for us all to enhance our musical theatre skills in singing, dancing and acting, as well as form new friendships between Year Groups and with male students,' said Elizabeth Woodcock (Year 11) who played the Baroness. A behind-the-scenes video can be viewed at: youtube.com/watch?v=Aqyts7KnFBI.





Tildesley Tennis Celebrates 100 Years

Ravenswood tennis players past and present joined the celebrations when the longest-running tennis tournament in Australian History, the Tildesley Shield, marked 100 years of contribution to women's sport.

The Tildesley Shield was established in 1918 with the aim to encourage girls to compete for their school, rather than just for themselves.

For the tournament's centenary in March, the Australian Heads of Independent Girls' Schools Association (AHISA) organised a gala event that attracted former and current players from 24 schools across NSW, including eight Ravenswood alumni.

Ravenswood has been committed to the tournament since its inception, winning in 1919 and eleven times since, including eight years of back-to-back domination in the 1980s and 90s.

'Competing at Tildesley was like playing at Wimbledon,' says former Ravenswood Tennis Captain Suzie Day (Elkin, 1984). 'The atmosphere was electrifying.'

Suzie played at Tildesley on three occasions and was Captain of the winning team in 1984 that broke the Ravenswood drought. 'When we won the Tildesley Shield for the school after 61 years, the Principal, Miss Evans, was so proud. We were all given beautiful gold Tildesley badges as a memento of the occasion.'

'It was obviously the girls who made the team what it was,' says Carole Langford, who not only coached Ravenswood through its years of consecutive wins but was herself a former Australian Open competitor. 'A lot of our success was the depth we built ... and it was exactly what Miss Tildesley envisaged all those years ago.'

Ravenswood's 2018 team consisted of nine singles and six doubles players. Among them were Ravenswood School Captain, Lucy Woodcock and Vice-Captain, Lucy Kellaway, playing doubles at Tildesley for the fourth time.

'It's a great atmosphere when the whole Ravenswood team is on the sidelines watching you play and they are cheering you on regardless of whether you're winning or you're struggling.'

To get through these stressful moments, the two Lucys developed a secret technique: They would write inspiring slogans such as 'just do it' and 'cool, calm and collected,' on their hands and whenever they high-fived each other during the match, they would utter the slogan to each other.

'There's this feeling of an amazing school spirit. It's really all about school pride and doing your best for your school,' Lucy Kellaway says.

A video detailing Ravenswood's participation in the Tildesley Shield centenary celebrations can be viewed here: [youtube.com/watch?v=SLerJ_GvOLA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLerJ_GvOLA).

TOP RIGHT
Ravenswood's 1919 Tildesley Shield Team

BOTTOM LEFT
Vice Captain Lucy Kellaway and School Captain Lucy Woodcock

BOTTOM RIGHT
Mrs Johnstone and past Ravenswood Tildesley players



Global Learning

Our girls travelled far and wide in the April holidays, gaining exposure to the customs and cultures of far flung lands and broadening their world view.

Chinese and history students explored the vast continent of China, experiencing everything from camel rides in the Gobi Desert to bike riding along ancient city walls and night-river cruises through Shanghai. They also took lessons in calligraphy at their host school and performed the Chinese harp to local audiences. 'One of the highlights for many of us was the toboggan slide near the Mutianyu section of the Great Wall of China ... all the girls had a go even if they were reluctant at first,' wrote Oriana Allen (Year 8) and Jasmine Searle (Year 11) in the group's online blog. 'Once we all reached the bottom we begged the teachers to go again.'

Japanese students journeyed through the Land of the Rising Sun, discovering the splendour of ancient temples and shrines, learning about a day in the life of a student at the Fujimigaoka Girls School, broadening their Japanese vocabulary and making real and decorative food. 'The people there were very welcoming and kind to us,' said Mia Viljoen (Year 7) and Danika Archer (Year 8).

Intrepid Ravenswood girls and their fathers joined with students from Knox Grammar School for a trek through Kokoda in Papua New Guinea to coincide with Anzac Day. The challenging trip called for grit and resilience but was an extraordinary opportunity to learn about the diggers who fought in arguably Australia's most significant campaign of the Second World War. The Ravenswood crew even had the chance to catch up with some of our Papua New Guinean alumni for dinner.

Our French students enjoyed a spectacular New Caledonian adventure with their Knox Grammar School peers. They took French lessons every day at the Institut Voltaire, improved their practical French on scavenger hunts in beautiful Nouméa and deepened their understanding of Melanesian culture in the homes of their generous host families. 'It truly has been an incredible trip, and time certainly has flown. We can certainly say it has been an incredible journey,' said Mia Solomon (Year 9).

OPPOSITE PAGE CLOCKWISE FROM TOP
Students in Kokoda; Visiting a primary school in Nanjing;
Ravenswood girls in Japan



Student Showcase



The Gail Kelly 'Making a Difference' Award

Gail Kelly, the former Chief Executive Officer of Westpac Bank and St George Bank and former Ravenswood parent, has joined with the school to launch the inaugural *Gail Kelly 'Making a Difference' Award*. The Award recognises a student in Year 11 who is passionate about making a difference to society. It offers the chance to oversee a \$5000 donation to the charity of the student's choice and receive mentoring from Gail Kelly herself. Twelve girls submitted impressive presentations that covered the work of their organisation and their personal contribution to the cause. The winner was Elizabeth Woodcock and the charity World Bicycle Relief, an international, non-profit organisation that provides large-scale, comprehensive bicycle distribution programs to aid poverty relief in developing countries. The runners up for the prize were Lauren Gunsen, who has been working with the youth-driven non-profit organisation, Project Change and Meghana Reddy who has been contributing to the Days for Girls charity, which empowers women in developing countries world-wide. 'Each student is to be congratulated on the strength and detail of her proposal,' said Mrs Johnstone.



Applying STEM Thinking to Third World Problems

A philanthropic and entrepreneurial group of Years 7 and 8 girls are dreaming up ways to use science, technology and maths to help students in Nepal, who lack access to electricity and other basics. The girls have fundraised for 24 solar light kits and are creating an easy sewing pattern for a warm jacket that the Nepalese children will be able to sew themselves. The Ravenswood girls are also preparing to give the Nepalese students online maths tutoring and are fundraising to buy a Lego robotics kit, so they can collaborate on a joint coding project using the program SCRATCH.



Mind Your Mind Day

Ravenswood Social Justice Prefects Zara Gatland (Year 12) and Holly Ambler (Year 12), launched *Mind Your Mind Day* in Term 2 to encourage girls and staff across the school to remember that not only is good mental health as important as good physical health, but that it can be built up one habit at a time. *Mind Your Mind Day* featured a full schedule of fun activities in the Secondary and Junior Schools. Students and staff wore silly socks and pledged to incorporate healthy mind habits into their days, such as expressing their feelings, connecting with friends and practising gratitude. The girls made gold coin donations to the youth mental health organisation, Batyr, and everyone gathered on the oval for a giant *Nutbush City Limits* dance in preparation for the school's attempt to break the world record for the largest *Nutbush City Limits* dance in September.



da Vinci Decathlon and Latin Competitions

Ravenswood has again performed exceptionally in the national Latin Examination with 60% of our girls coming home with awards. The school's final tally included four gold medals, four silver medals, two Magna Cum Laude certificates and three Cum Laude certificates. In the da Vinci Decathlon, Year 5 won the silver medal after coming first in English and Science and second in Creative Producers and Engineering. Year 10 came first in Art and Poetry and second in English, Year 7 came first in English, Year 11 came third in Ideation and Year 6 came third in General Knowledge. 'The English was quite difficult, although we very much enjoyed the writing task. It gave you a story start and you had to continue with an unexpected twist, fitting with the theme of *The Unexpected*. We were ecstatic with our results!' said the Year 5 da Vinci team.

Friendship Building in the Residential College

The Ravenswood Residential College was opened to girls from Year 7 at the beginning of the year, a change that coincided with a series of initiatives to build genuine friendships between Year Groups. Director of Boarding, Lucy Cumming, holds a Masters in Applied Positive Psychology (MAPP) and has been working closely with Boarding Captains Anna Wang (Year 12), and Leah Tippet (Year 12), to introduce a Positive Education approach. Meal times and closed boarder weekends often feature theme nights, dinner games and fun conversation prompts. Lucy says the weekly boarders have been choosing to stay at school rather than go home on the weekends so they don't miss activities like excursions, knitting circles and Sunday bake-offs. 'It has been really fun since the younger girls arrived,' says Anna. 'Everyone is really enjoying each other's company and is so supportive of each other.'



Student Showcase



'The Visit'

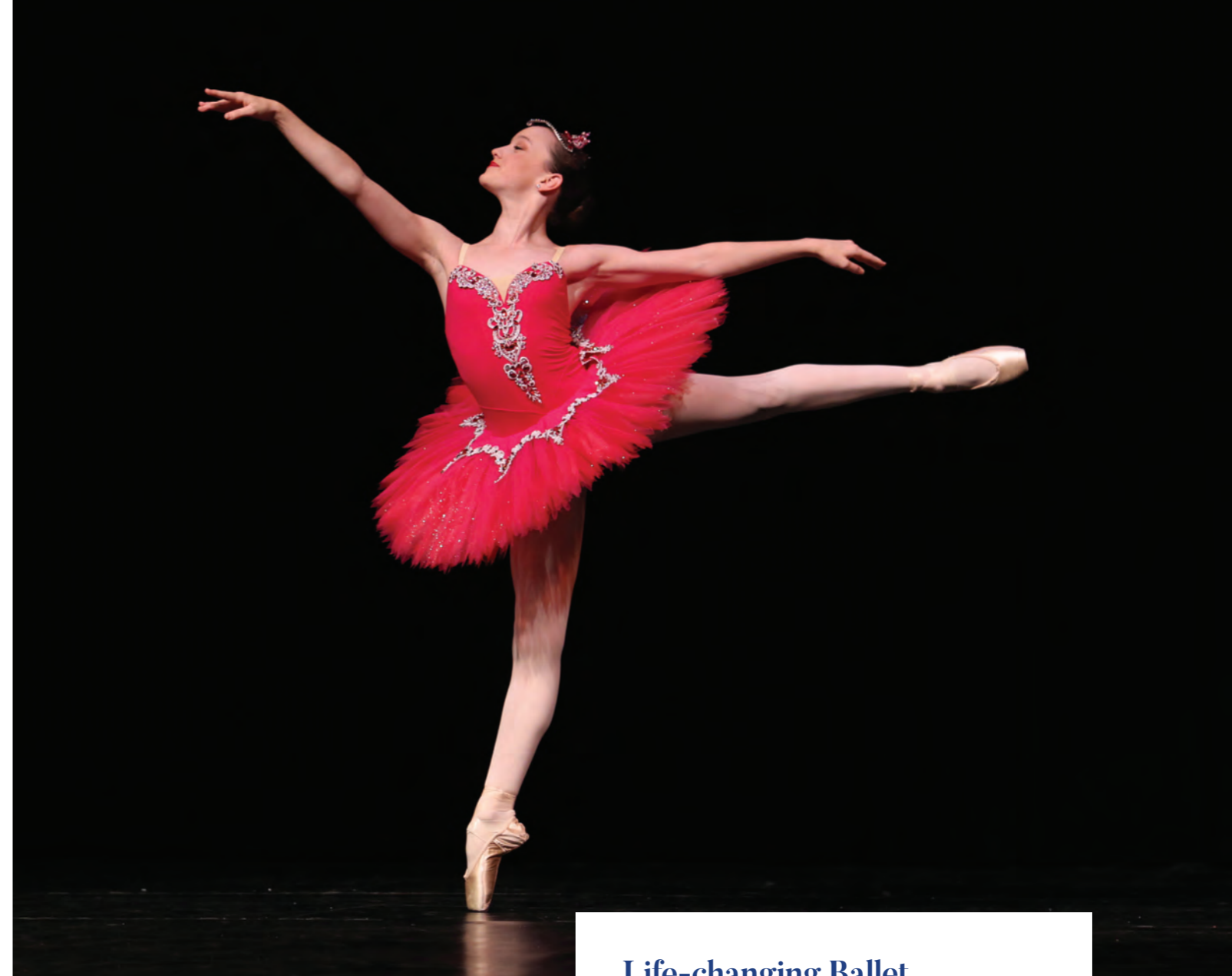
Secondary School drama students tackled the challenging tragi-comedy *The Visit* this year, a satire that juxtaposes frightful and comic elements to tell the story of a wronged but evil woman's plot for revenge. Set in a fictional Eastern European town, it centres on the character of stratospherically rich Claire Zachanassian, who returns to the hardship-stricken community of her birth, with the promise of delivering financial fortune and a secret plan to extract a dreadful price.

'It is a really mature play for a student cast to tackle,' said Olivia Inwood (Year 11), who played Claire. 'It contrasts love and hate and looks at the way some people prosper at life and some people don't.' Olivia devoted around 45 minutes every afternoon to building her understanding of the text and the role. 'I had to work hard on the emotional pitch - it is a role that keeps the audience in suspense!' she said.



Cadet Achievements

The Ravenswood Cadet program is going from strength to strength, with 93 Year 8 girls signing up in Term 4 of 2017. In March, Gabriella Pancino (Year 10) became the first girl to dux the Junior Leaders Course, while Second-In-Command of the Knox Grammar School Cadet Unit, Cadet Under Officer, Ashleigh Nicholls (Year 11) received a Student of Merit award in the Cadet Under Officers' Course. Year 11 students Elisabeth Woodcock, Miranda Riddell, Tara Bone and Amy Toft took part in the most physically challenging cadet event in the country, the week-long National Adventure Training Award. The girls faced a series of gruelling activities including rappelling off a 43-metre high Department of Defence building, conducting a 17 kilometre Three Peaks Walk and participating in conflict resolution simulations. Cadets from all over the country took part in the event and the Ravenswood girls came home with the highest individual accolade awarded - the prized boomerang and torch pin.



Life-changing Ballet Opportunities

Two Ravenswood dancers were selected to participate in esteemed ballet workshops over the holiday break. Sophie Burke (Year 9) was chosen for the prestigious Australian Ballet School 2018 Invitee program in Melbourne for the second time. 'I felt so honoured to have been selected from thousands who auditioned from around Australia,' she said. The opportunity was just one of many that Sophie has received of late, including a place in the Senior Elite Transition program with former Australian Ballet prima ballerina, Lucinda Dunn. She also represented NSW in the Rhythmic Gymnastics National Junior Squad. Meanwhile, Emma Price (Year 8) who has been studying ballet since she was three years old, attended the London Royal Ballet school's Spring Intensive Program. She stayed in the School's headquarters, White Lodge, and danced for six hours a day. 'I gained a real insight into the life of a full-time dancer. The teachers were incredible, the environment was inspiring and I loved every moment,' Emma said.



Junior School

Cheryl Bailey, Head of the Junior School

Young Environmentalists Make an Impact

Year 5 students have been studying environmental science under the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme, not just learning content but initiating and implementing projects to make a tangible impact on the world.

Year 5 student Mathilde Druce, received media attention when she distributed a flyer to her West Pymble neighbours, asking them to join her in turning their lights out for Earth Hour and delivering their plastic bags and mobile phones to her home for recycling. Mathilde's parents cannot believe the change in her since she started at Ravenswood at the beginning of the year. 'This student-directed style of learning has woken something up in her,' her mother Jenny says. 'We are so proud of the initiative and leadership she has shown.'

Rose McBride (Year 5) made an appointment with the Manager of Mabel's Café to present a costed proposal for the school to move from plastic to wooden cutlery and paper cups and straws. 'It is such a small cost compared to the great cost of killing animals and ruining our planet,' she said.



Mabel's Café is now investigating the purchase of environmentally friendly items.

Year 5 members of the Ravenswood Environmental Protection Agency (REPA) are running a *Refuse to Use* straws campaign and mobile phone recycling drive, across the Junior and Secondary schools.

With young people of this calibre making up Generation Z, I can't help but feel confident about the future of the world.



Chess Champion

Annabel Li (Year 3) has only been playing chess for a little over a twelve months but she has already won both the Under 8 Lightning, and the Problem Solving competitions at the 2018 Australian Junior Chess Championships at Swinburne University in Melbourne. Annabel's mother Cindy, says chess is a chance for her daughter to make friends, improve her concentration skills and learn to 'deal with the highs and lows of victory and defeat.'



Peer Support

The 2018 Peer Support program is titled *Moving Forward* and focused on developing resilience in the girls. Through a carefully-written curriculum, the students are learning to understand the importance of being proactive and to identify the key people who can provide them with support. This year, Year 5 girls have been included in the program as Leaders in Training.



Spartan Race

Thanks to the hard work of Year 6 student Emma White, Ravenswood's student participation in the Spartan Race increased by 470% this year. The gruelling event pits competitors against a punishing obstacle course through the mud on a hot day. Emma printed posters and made public announcements at as many Junior School events as she could, resulting in the recruitment of 80 Junior School girls to Team Ravo 2018. 'It was an amazing experience seeing so many girls with huge smiles on their faces, it was so much fun that it is hard to describe. It was awesome having so many of our parents and friends on the sidelines cheering us on, because it gave us all determination to keep on going and finish the course,' Emily said. All participants were taken a long way out of their comfort zones and Emma learned that with enough passion and drive, you can achieve great outcomes for many. We now have hopes of introducing a Secondary School team and a parent team in 2019.



Sport

Cameron Childs, Director of Sport

A New Era in Sport

Sport at Ravenswood has entered a new chapter, in-step with the empirically validated science of Positive Psychology.

Participation for all, combined with the holistic formation of confident and resilient young women sits at the core of the program's motivations.

Students are provided opportunities to define success as a measure against their previous self. Challenge and failure are viewed through a lens of optimism, in which disappointing events are viewed as temporary, changeable and local. Resilience – the human capacity for stress related growth – is promoted in order for students to overcome difficulty and begin to understand their immense range of capabilities and powers.

By harnessing our collective strengths and innovative thinking, the Sport Department is continuing to create a culture that places the student at the centre of all that we do. This emphasis on a thriving culture can determine behaviours, which in turn drive habits and ultimately deliver results.

Improvements to infrastructure providing the latest facilities, sit boldly within the strategic plan, contributing to ambitions for Ravenswood Sport to become a world-leading program. This will create opportunities for our girls to realise their best possible future selves and step up as articulate, reflective and compassionate young women, with the potential to provide outstanding leadership in their spheres of influence.



Ravenswood Shines at the 2018 Commonwealth Games

The Ravenswood Swimming Club produced exceptional performances at the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast.

Year 11 student, Tiffany Thomas Kane, placed fourth in the finals of the S8 50 metres Butterfly and 50 metres Freestyle. An impressive feat considering that Tiffany is an S7 swimmer.

James Magnussen, former 2011 and 2013 100 metre Freestyle world champion, under the tutelage of Ravenswood coach, Mitch Falvey, won Gold as a member of the 4 x 100 metre Freestyle Relay team.

In Track and Field, Ravenswood Athletics Throws Coach, Alysha Burnett, finished ninth in the Women's Heptathlon. The Heptathlon is a demanding event where athletes compete in seven disciplines over two consecutive days. Track events are a combination of sprinting, hurdling and middle distance requirements with Field events comprised of jumping and throwing. Alysha won the Javelin with a season-best throw, placed second in the High Jump with a Personal Best performance and second in the Shot Put.



Gymnastics Honours

Ravenswood Gymnastics has been producing outstanding results on a consistent basis. At the 2017 Gymnastics NSW Awards, Ravenswood received high honours as the Rhythmic Gymnastics Club of the Year, as well as the Levels Coaching Team of the Year.

Year 11 student, Olivia Owens, received the Senior Levels Athlete of the Year. Olivia, Sophie Burke (Year 9) and Anya Patel (Year 11) were recognised for their international achievements. Subsequently, these three girls have performed to a high standard at the State Titles, gaining selection to the NSW Team which will compete at the Australian National Championships in May/June.

A talented Ravenswood squad of Artistic Gymnasts will be in action in the second half of the year at the regional qualifiers and the Term 3 IPSHA and IGSSA Trials.



National Softball Participation

Ravenswood Softball Captain, Ellie Marks' softball career continues to build. The Year 12 student has been included in the Australian U19 Development Squad for tournament play in Japan and named Captain of the NSW U18 Schoolgirls' Team.

Meanwhile, the Ravenswood Firsts Softball team has produced another successful season, contesting the IGSSA Division 1 Championship game.

Three runs behind with only minutes remaining, Ravenswood tied the scores to send the season decider into a final inning. Alas, divisional honours were denied by a solitary run.

It was an incredible match in which the Ravenswood students strove for excellence in the face of adversity to come from behind on three separate occasions.



Staff News

Sharing Ravenswood's Positive Education Journey

Ravenswood Principal Mrs Anne Johnstone, and Deputy Principal Mrs Kim Bence, shared evidence of the benefits of Ravenswood's Positive Education approach at the national Positive Education Schools Association conference in Geelong in mid-April. Mrs Johnstone also gave a keynote address titled *The Power of High quality Connections in Schools*, which included inspiration and insights from Ravenswood's journey in Positive Education that form the basis of her current PhD studies. She also conducted an on-stage interview with the father of Positive Education, Professor Martin Seligman. The conference was attended by delegates from around Australia as well as China, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Canada, America, the United Kingdom, India, Taiwan, Ireland and Malaysia. A large group of Ravenswood teachers who serve as student mentors, were also present as Ravenswood continues to deepen and broaden its delivery of Positive Education across the school and its community.



Principal Anne Johnstone Wins National Award

In May, Principal Mrs Anne Johnstone was awarded the Australian Speech and Communication Association (ASCA) Award for Excellence in Communication. Past recipients of the annual award include ABC journalist Tony Eastley, and actress Holly Brisley. Mrs Johnstone gave the keynote speech at the award presentation, sharing witty anecdotes about her public speaking experiences, including her time as a lawyer.



Flying the Australian Flag in Korea

Ravenswood TAS teacher and alumni, Hannah Campbell Pegg, was Australia's third-ever Olympian luger, the first to go to two Olympic Games and responsible for not only helping establish the Australian Luge Federation but instigating a re-birth of the sport in this country. Now a Director of Luge Australia Inc and Manager of the Senior Athletes, Hannah travelled to the Korean Winter Games earlier this year, to accompany Australian Men's Luger Alex Ferlazzo, as he achieved the country's best ever luge result. 'It is such a challenging sport - there is always something to learn and something difficult to master,' Hannah says.



Precious Historical Sources Boost Student Learning

Modern history teacher Heather Carr, spent an inspiring week investigating the extensive collection held at the Australian War Memorial (AWM) as a recipient of a 2017 Ravenswood Institute Fellowship:

'The discoveries I made with the assistance of the AWM's professional staff, were truly astounding. Not only did I have the chance to read moving accounts of the experiences of Prisoners of War at Changi, I viewed wonderfully evocative sketches produced by Australian nurses in order to barter with locals during wartime (and survive). I examined captivating photographs of young women training to be part of the Australian Women's Army Service and learnt of a female Australian civilian spy who carried a Holt pistol and 100 rounds of ammunition as self-protection, as she made courier runs across the Pacific Ocean between 1939 and 1942!

I am inspired to continue my research, visiting Canberra again in the next school holidays to undertake further research at the National Library of Australia and the National Archives of Australia. It is my intention to combine all my research into a digital resource designed for both individual and group learning, requiring students to use a range of communication forms (written, digital and oral) and extend their knowledge using the sources and their own personal research.

Heather Carr
Modern History Teacher

Dragon Boat Champion

Ravenswood Enrolments Assistant, Emma Ingersoll, is in training for a berth at the 2020 Dragon Boat World Championships in Aix-les-Bains, France. Dragon Boat racing is one of Australia's fastest growing water sports, with 5000 people competing across the country each year. Emma's crew won silver in the Senior A Women's division of the Australian Championships in early 2018. She is also aiming for a place on the national team, The Auroras, which will compete in the 2019 World Nations Championships in Thailand. Emma took up Dragon Boat racing as recently as 2017, after relinquishing her first love, netball, due to a significant injury. 'I tell myself it will hurt, it will take time, it will require dedication, but when I reach my goal, it will be worth it!' Emma says.



Ravenswood's Mitch Falvey Appointed to National Coaching Position

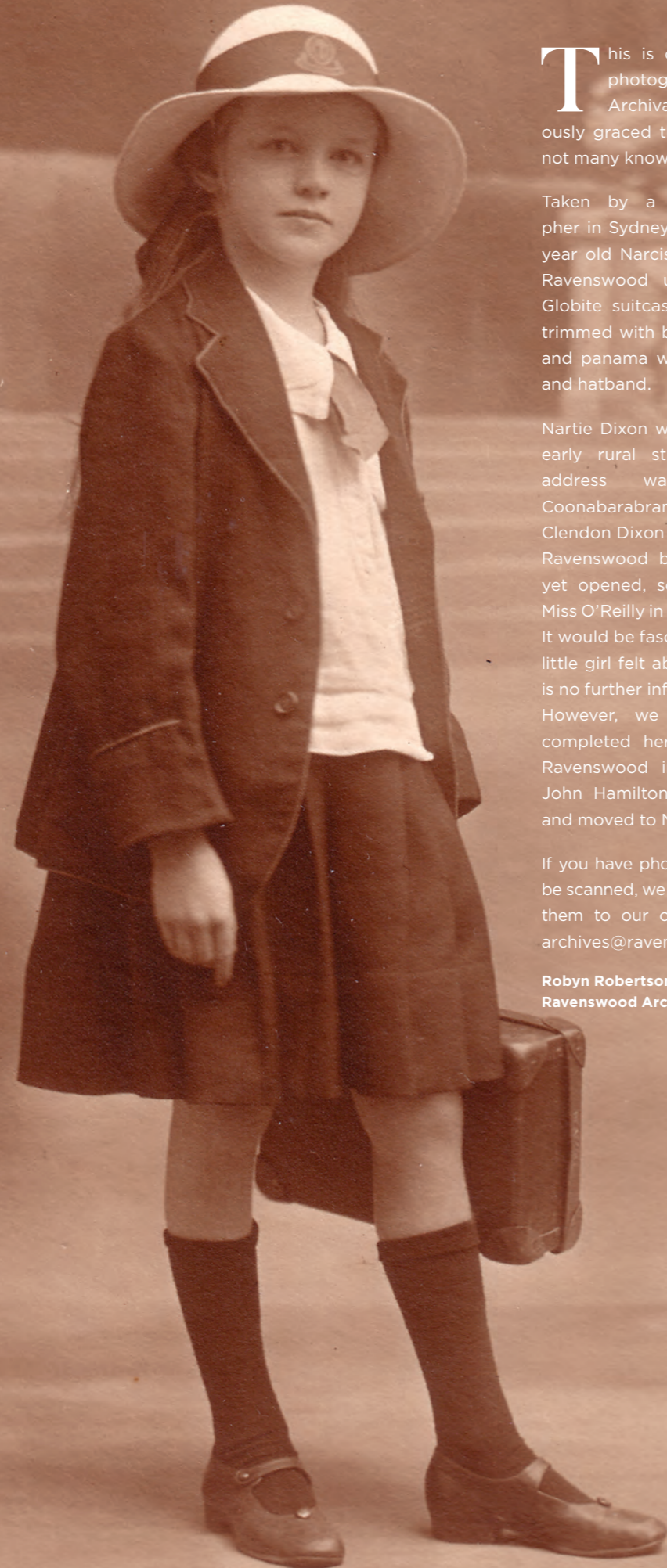
Ravenswood Head Swimming Coach, Mitch Falvey, has been appointed coach to the Australian Junior team that will compete at the Junior Pan Pacific Championships in Fiji this August.

Joining him will be two of his charges from the Ravenswood Swimming Club, Lewis Blackburn and Jack Edie.

This is the second national swimming team appointment for Mitch who has been coaching Olympian and former world record holder, James Magnussen, for a number of years.



From the Archives



This is one of the most prized photographs in the Ravenswood Archival collection. It has previously graced the cover of *Semper*, but not many know its story.

Taken by a professional photographer in Sydney in 1922, it depicts eight year old Narcissa (Nartie) Dixon in her Ravenswood uniform, complete with Globite suitcase. Her navy blazer was trimmed with black braid, and her shirt and panama were white, with navy tie and hatband.

Nartie Dixon was one of Ravenswood's early rural students and her home address was The Courthouse Coonabarabran, as her father Fletcher Clendon Dixon was the Court Clerk. The Ravenswood boarding house had not yet opened, so Nartie resided with a Miss O'Reilly in Pymble during term time. It would be fascinating to know how this little girl felt about this but sadly, there is no further information in our Archives. However, we do know that Nartie completed her Leaving Certificate at Ravenswood in 1931, married Gilbert John Hamilton at Chatswood in 1936 and moved to Neutral Bay.

If you have photographs to donate or to be scanned, we are always grateful to add them to our collection. Please contact archives@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au.

Robyn Robertson
Ravenswood Archivist

Alumni News



Alumni Leonie Herson turns complex science into compelling images for *Vivid* 2018

Alumni Lights Up Vivid

Among the stunning light displays that made up this year's *Vivid* in Sydney, was the fascinating work of Ravenswood Old Girl Leonie Herson (2010), one of the country's few biomedical animators. Titled *Beautiful and Dangerous*, the display gave visitors to The Rocks a personal encounter with some of our most dangerous enemies - infectious biological agents, represented as strikingly beautiful forms and magnified up to one billion times.

Leonie was the lead biological animator for the project, which she created as part of her work with the CSIRO and the Garvan Institute of Medical Research. 'The opportunity came to me out of the blue and resulted in an exciting, two and a half month whirlwind of a project and the opportunity to work with my long-time idol, world-leading biomedical animator, Dr Drew Berry,' Leonie said.

Leonie has a Bachelor of Medical Science and a Masters in Scientific Research and Biomedical Animation. Hers is an increasingly important field - as scientific data grows rapidly in volume and complexity, she and designers like her are building on decades of research and mountains of data, to create images that help doctors, biologists, pharmaceutical companies and medical students think about the body's complex inner workings in a whole new way.

It was studying art at Ravenswood that set Leonie on the path to a biomedical animation career. 'I always had an interest in both biology and visual arts, so in my final years I submitted an art piece that showcased various aquatic creatures, amphibians and reptiles as charcoal-based art and intricately-cut paper skeletons, sandwiched between Perspex,' she says.



Alumni News

Hollywood Producer's Passion Project

Nicole Alexander (1996) is a Los Angeles-based director, producer, cinematographer and editor who has raised more than \$80,000 to make a documentary about the remarkable fight back to health of her nearest and dearest friend, James Gribble (SHORE, Class of 96 alumni). James became a quadriplegic after a catastrophic accident during a trip to find the elusive Tiger Fish in Zambia. Titled *Tiger Fish*, the documentary is narrated by Australian television personality, Dr Chris Brown, and celebrates James' courage and campaign to raise funds and awareness for fellow spinal injury sufferers. Nicole has worked with some of the biggest names in Hollywood, including MTV (Director of Production) NBC Universal, *Jimmy Kimmel Live* and *The Voice*. She will return home next year to direct her first feature - a \$10 million darkly comedic thriller, set in New York, London and Melbourne.



Impressive Debut for Australian Medical Students' Association President

Since her election in January 2018, the Australian Medical Students' Association President and Executive Director Alex Farrell (2013), has been working hard to further the interests of medical students, medical practitioners and patients around the country. Alex has established herself as a sought-after media commentator, featuring regularly in publications like *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Australian* on issues like full-fee paying medical schools and the undersupply of post-graduate medical training. As a medical student who has done research work with the Clinical Research Unit for Anxiety and Depression (CRUFAD), she has been vocal in the area of medical professionals' mental health, calling for a change to mandatory reporting laws to allow doctors and medical students to seek treatment without risking their careers. 'Doctors should be able to expect the same level of health-care for themselves that they would offer to anyone else that walked through the door,' she said. 'We are reaching a point in medicine where we can't ignore that mental health is an issue, and unfortunately the stories that keep coming up are a concern that something needs to change.' Alex has also championed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and gender equity in the workforce and made a big impact with her address to the Australian Medical Association annual conference in May.



Academic Accolades

Old Girl Rachael Gibson (2013) has been awarded four tertiary scholarships since she began her journey as an Economics and Commerce student at the University of Sydney. Her academic recognition includes an entry scholarship, an International Exchange Outbound Scholarship, the Mary Henderson Scholarship for the study of Economic History and a scholarship for studying at Honours level in fourth year. Rachael recently completed her degree with First Class Honours.



American Leadership Scholarship

Jemma Frost (2017) has been awarded a place in the Robertson Scholars Leadership program to study Biomedical and Health Sciences Engineering (BMHE) at the University of North Carolina. The four-year scholarship rewards 'young leaders who strive to make transformational contributions to society,' and not only covers full tuition and board but three summers of domestic and international service experiences as well as leadership and professional development opportunities. 'As a result of this experience, I hope to become a leader in the field of biomedical engineering, contributing to the development of life-saving medical technologies and empowering people in the developing world to use their own resources to build a better and safer health system in their countries,' Jemma says. She will take up the scholarship in late July.



Community



Exploring Career Options with Our Alumni

A record number of Ravenswood alumni lent their advice and expertise to our senior Secondary girls at *Careersearch* in May. The fields represented ranged from medicine to law and urban planning to environmental science, as the Old Girls provided insights on tertiary choices, career paths and work-life balance. We were extremely grateful to every alumni who gave so generously of her time, wisdom and insights to support our girls as they explore different areas of aspiration.



Welcome to 2018 Cocktails

Record numbers of parents and friends of the school, joined us for drinks and delicious canapés as we welcomed in the 2018 school year in the newly re-designed Old Girls' Courtyard. The atmosphere was charged with unity and positivity as we looked back on the achievements of the 2017 academic year and ahead to the exciting activities and events planned for 2018.



Community

Parent Forums

The Ravenswood Parent Forum series provides our parents with access to high-quality speakers in areas relevant to the raising of girls. Ravenswood past parent and philanthropist, Daniel Petre AO, has been a leading player in the technology industry for more than 30 years. His career highlights include responsibility for developing strategies and products for Bill Gates at Microsoft's headquarters in the US and founding three major technology investment companies in Australia. He also serves on a range of corporate and not for profit boards. The author

of four books, Daniel provided a fascinating look at the future of technology and what the changes on the horizon will mean for our girls. Known as the 'cyber cop,' leading cyber-safety expert, Susan McLean, took parents through the skills, knowledge and strategies to help them guide their children in safe, smart and responsible internet use. The interactive presentation detailed ways to protect young people's digital reputation, cyberbullying and how to encourage a reduction in screen time.



Ravenswood Past Staff Connect Over High Tea

In May around 35 members of the Ravenswood Association of Past Staff (RAPS) gathered at Avondale Golf Course to hear former parent and Ravenswood Fidler Fellow, Pam Melocco, tell the story of her family's extraordinary Terrazzo company, Melocco Brothers. The Melocco's are responsible for the marble work in most of Australia's iconic structures including Parliament House, the State Theatre and St Mary's Cathedral. RAPS members relished the chance to hear details of the family's challenges and triumphs and their contribution to Australia's architectural heritage.



Generations Breakfast

Around 80 guests joined us in May for the 2018 Ravenswood Old Girls' Union (ROGU) Mother, Granddaughter and Daughter Breakfast, and it was inspiring to see the strong connections between Ravenswood girls, old and new. A number of families were represented by three generations, as we celebrated the large Ravenswood family and what it means to be a part of our special community.



Vale

Elizabeth Wade Dyson (Roberts, 1947) (1931–2017)

Elizabeth passed away in Newcastle on 17 October 2017 after a short illness, aged 86. Elizabeth was a Prefect and Captain of Stuart House and always spoke fondly of Ravenswood. She was very pleased when her granddaughter Sarah Dawes (2014) and step-granddaughter Lucy James (2017) attended Ravenswood. Elizabeth remained the closest of friends with Judith Macansh (Tebbutt, 1949) until she died. They lived a few doors apart in Killara as children until they married and moved to Toronto and Newcastle.

Maralyn McIntosh (Thornley, 1963) (1945–2018)

Maralyn passed away on 29 January 2018. She attended Ravenswood in the 1960s.

Laurice Alberta Hinder (Wood, 1937) (1921–2018)

Formerly of Gordon, passed away on 26 June 2017.

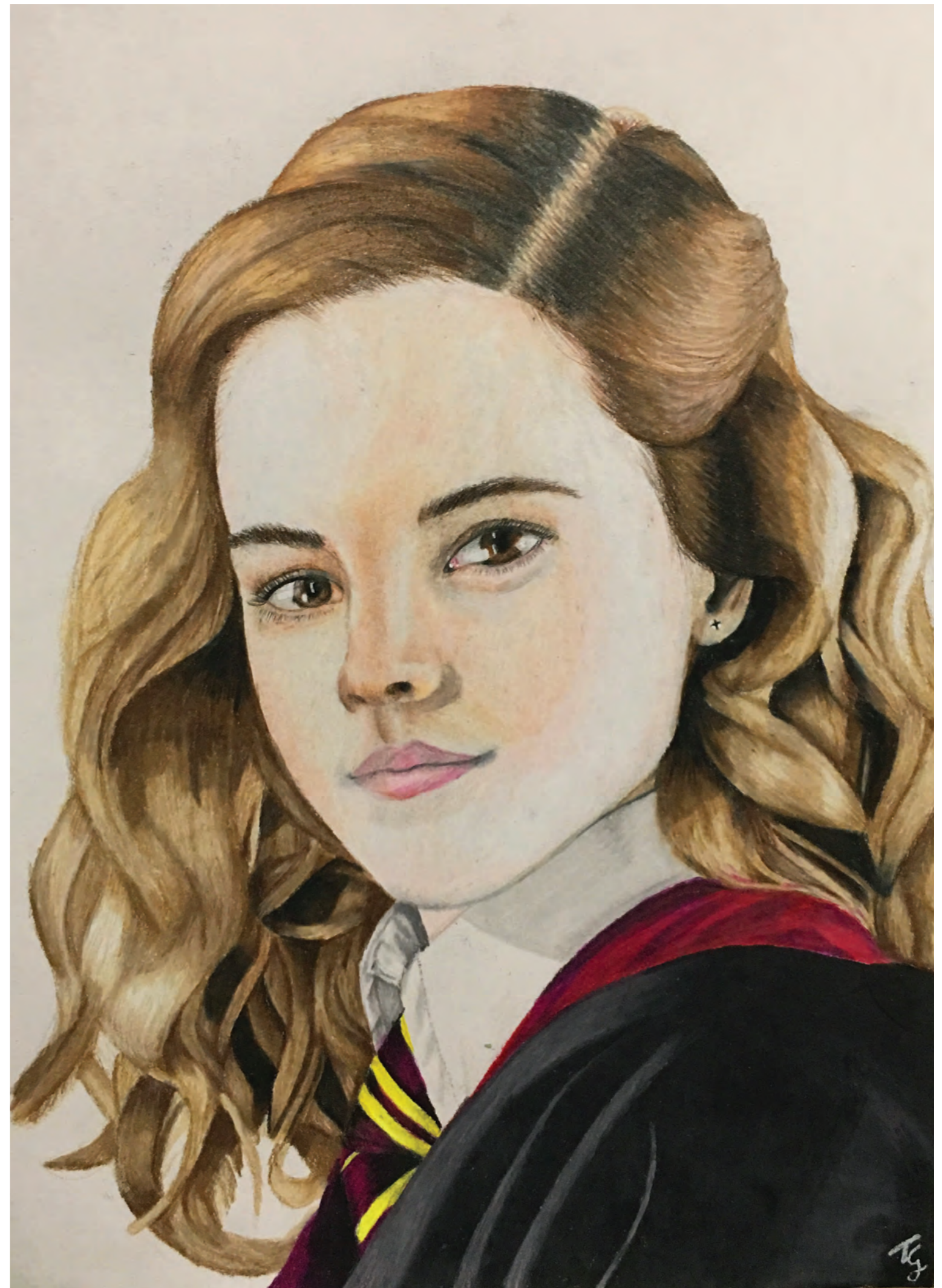
OPPOSITE PAGE TOP TO BOTTOM: Ravenswood Past Staff High Tea; Philanthropist and past parent, Daniel Petre

THIS PAGE TOP AND BOTTOM: (ROGU) Mother, Granddaughter and Daughter Breakfast



National Recognition for Young Artist

Year 8 student Tian Garland, is a self-taught artist with a remarkable talent for capturing animals and people in pencil. In late 2017 she won the Middle School Drawing section of the 2017 Young Australian Art Prize, with her carefully rendered work *Fox*. Each piece takes Tian around six to seven hours to create.



Message from the Alumni President



2018 sees an historic change to the Ravenswood Old Girls' Union, brought about by a survey conducted this past summer. 76.39% of 538 respondents voted to contemporise our branding, thereby bringing greater inclusivity to our membership and the life-long connections we share. We are now known as Ravenswood Alumni!

At our AGM in March, I was bestowed the honour of the Presidency of Ravenswood Alumni and am proud to continue the wonderful work of Anne Nielsen and the Committee. I have an enduring passion for our school, which began in 1972 when I joined in transition, going on to complete my HSC in 1984. My daughter, Emma, started in 2011 and is now in Year 7. I am looking forward to representing you and learning more about your journey since leaving.

Our recent Generations Breakfast for current students with their alumni mothers and grand-mothers had 82 guests, and it was wonderful to see three generations share their Ravenswood school life and memories.

A focus of the annual ANZAC Day Service was the heroic story of William Tebbutt of Roseville through WW I and WW II, father of Joan Wilson OAM (Tebbutt, 1951). Together with Joan, I laid a wreath to remember our alumni who have or are serving Australia in our armed forces and who 'represent the best of humanity: courage; perseverance; and sacrifice,' as expressed by the current School Captain.

More than 60 inspiring alumni supported *Careersearch*, delivering mentoring and many years of wisdom to ignite the professional and academic pursuits of girls in Years 10-12, as well as offering those of us who attended a fun and engaging way to reconnect!

We welcome your connection! Contact Kim Williams, Manager Alumni and Foundation, at kwilliams@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au. Follow Ravenswood on LinkedIn, refresh your LinkedIn profile to add Ravenswood's logo, like Ravenswood on Facebook, and tweet via #RavoAlumni!

Warmest wishes,
Sarah Beresford
President, Ravenswood Alumni

2018 Reunions

Each year, Ravenswood alumni celebrate with a reunion to mark significant years since leaving the school. Reunions planned in 2018 include:

5 YEAR (2013) - DATE AND VENUE TO BE ADVISED

Contact: Georgia Stewart, georgia.stewart96@hotmail.com

10 YEAR (2008) - SATURDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2018

7pm at The Rose of Australia, Erskineville

Contacts: Sally Kunkler-Warren, sally.kunklerwarren@gmail.com and Elke Pierce, elke.pierce@gmail.com

20 YEAR (1998) - DATE AND VENUE TO BE ADVISED

Contact: Mandy Williams, mandy.williams122@gmail.com

30 YEAR (1988) - SATURDAY 27 OCTOBER 2018

Evening function at The Greens, 50 Ridge Street, North Sydney

Contacts: Caroline Jumpartz (Chisholm), carolinejumpartz@me.com and Jane Heydon, heydofam@optusnet.com.au

40 YEAR (1978) - SATURDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2018

Commences with a tour of Ravenswood from Gate 1, Henry Street at 9.30am, followed by lunch at The Beach Club, Balmoral.

Contact: Bron Dowling gumble-estate8@bigpond.com

50 YEAR (1968) - SATURDAY 17 NOVEMBER

2pm-5pm at The Greengate Hotel, Killara.

Contact: Di McKenzie, di.mckenzie@interiorsintoto.com.au

60 YEAR (1958) - FRIDAY 26 TO SUNDAY 28 OCTOBER 2018

A weekend reunion in the Southern Highlands commencing on 26 October with dinner at Jenny Scamps (Probert) at Wildes Meadow, lunch at a vineyard and dinner at a restaurant on 27 October and finishing with a lunch at Bendooley Estate, Berrima on 28 October.

Contact: Sally Andreas, sallylang@bigpond.com

GOLDEN GIRLS LUNCHEON - THURSDAY 30 NOVEMBER

11.30am for 12.00pm, Lunch in the Centenary Centre Foyer
Invitation to be sent out later

Contact: Kim Williams, Alumni Manager
kwilliams@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au

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

Upcoming Events*

AUGUST

1 August	Discover Ravenswood Tour - Secondary School
2 August	Year 10 Father/Daughter Breakfast
16 August	Discover Ravenswood Tour - Junior School
22 August	Year 9 Father/Daughter Breakfast
23 August	HSC Drama Showcase
29 August	HSC Music and Visual Arts Exhibition Opening Night
30 August	K-12 Music Showcase

SEPTEMBER

7 September	Year 12 Father/Daughter Breakfast
28 September	Year 12 Valedictory Dinner

NOVEMBER

14 November	Year 6 Musical
16 November	Ravenswood Parents' Association Christmas Luncheon
19 November	Ravenswood Parents' Association Annual General Meeting
21-22 November	Years 7-8 Play
24 November	Co-curricular Dance Concert
25 November	Combined Carol Service
29 November	Golden Girls Christmas Luncheon

DECEMBER

1 December	Carols on the Lawn
4 December	Junior School Presentation Ceremony
5 December	Secondary School Presentation Ceremony

* These details are correct at the time of printing. Please be advised to check the website closer to the relevant date.

RAVENSWOOD PERFORMING ARTS HOUSE EVENT

MUSIC & DANCE

SPECTACULAR FEATURING

YORK



WINDSOR



TUDOR



STUART



— THE —
beetle
BOYS

WITH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, CHOIRS AND DANCERS



Monday 26 November 2018 | 7.00pm

Sydney Town Hall

Ravenswood School For Girls

Tickets available at:

www.trybooking.com/VTFU



Ravenswood