

SUMMER 2018

# Semper



04. LOVE RAVO DAY

12. GAIL KELLY  
AWARD

16. DESIGNING OUR  
FUTURE



Ravenswood



He looks out to sea with those cold blue eyes,  
He imagines a place never seen before by him.  
The cold blue sea looks up at him urging him on,  
The wind fills the sails and heaves them along.

The crew behind him scurry along hoisting the sails,  
Tending to their wounded who look up at them,

Staring into the distance,  
To a land never seen by man,

Hearing the whipping he turns his head,  
And looks on with those cold blue eyes.

He stands at the prow,  
The wind in his face calling directions,  
Looking onward towards a better future,  
With those cold blue eyes.

Storms brew, trees bend and groan,  
Thunder rumbles, lightning strikes,  
But still he perseveres,  
The world seems to go against him.

Then land comes into view,  
Then a porpoise or two,  
Then a sandy coloured dog,  
Bounding along on two, powerful legs.

# An Unforgiving World

By Imogen Taylor-Thorne  
Year 6



**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.

---

ISSUE No. 54  
ISSN 1037-1583  
Summer 2018

---

#### Ravenswood School for Girls

Henry Street,  
Gordon NSW 2072  
+61 2 9498 9898  
admin@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au

[ravenswood.nsw.edu.au](http://ravenswood.nsw.edu.au)

---

#### Prepared by

The Ravenswood Marketing, Communications and Engagement team

#### Editor

Christina Barriere

#### Design & layout

Digital Hero and XAgency

#### Front cover

Ravenswood gathers to celebrate the unveiling of the RAVO Sculpture

#### Photography

Nick Stewart, Clint Nielsen and Ravenswood staff and students

#### Production

Jacqueline Sherlock

#### Proofing

Louise James  
Jane Selig



CRICOS 02306K

# Contents

---

**04.**

Principal's Message

**08.**

A Message from our Student Leaders

**10.**

Advancing Art and Opportunity

**12.**

The Gail Kelly 'Making a Difference' Award

**14.**

Moving for Mental Health

**16.**

Design Thinking

**18.**

Fundraising for Farmers

**19.**

Supporting Positive Education in Rural Communities

**20.**

Spotlight on the Rigorous Research of the IB Extended Essays

**22.**

The Meliora Prize

**24.**

Junior School

**26.**

Performing Arts

**28.**

Sport

**30.**

Student Showcase

**32.**

Alumni News

**38.**

Community



**13.**

GAIL KELLY MAKING A DIFFERENCE AWARD



**27.**

K-12 MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA



**32.**

ALUMNI SOPHIE WRIGHT







# Principal's Message

---

The immense warmth and connectedness of the Ravenswood community was showcased powerfully on 15 November, when the School came together for our inaugural *Love RAVO Day*, and the unveiling of the iconic new RAVO sculpture.

This vibrant installation was commissioned for every member of our community in celebration of our extraordinary School. My hope is that it will serve to inspire us as we walk past it on campus each day.

The RAVO sculpture was designed to capture some of the heart and spirit of our beloved Ravenswood through the signature term of endearment, RAVO, used by generations of girls, families and staff.

Its brilliant red colour represents the heart of our School crest - the flame - reflecting our philosophy that an education at Ravenswood is about the kindling of a flame, igniting potential and inspiring passion and purpose. Our School colours of yellow and blue also feature.

The genesis of this idea came during the time I spent studying on campus at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, while completing a Master of Applied Positive Psychology last year.

I would walk past the famous LOVE sculpture, first created in 1970 by American pop artist Robert Indiana, and reflect on the significance and impact of love in a community.

I would think about the sense of belonging and support for the fulfilment of potential and flourishing that characterises our own school community. I would think of the vibrance of our students as they stride through our gates together each day, shining with potential, possibilities and purpose. I would reflect on their commitment to excellence, respect, courage, compassion and optimism - as well as their grit, resilience and integrity, all of which are the essence of Ravenswood. I would think of our brilliant, altruistic and fabulously collegial teachers and staff - who are so willing to contribute, and go above and beyond. I would also reflect on the fact that, so often, Ravenswood is described as a community, a family, and even a sisterhood.

School Captain, Hannah Walsh, expressed it eloquently in her speech: 'We are surrounded by the context that makes this sculpture more than what it is. We are surrounded by Ravo spirit ... our students make choices every day that define what it means to be a Ravo girl ... it is only in the pursuit of purpose that we contribute to something bigger than ourselves. Just like the generations of women who have come before us, we must continue to nurture this place for the generations to come.'

As a Uniting Church School, we are founded in a Christian ethos - and, as such, from a Christian perspective, we are called to live a life of love.



I hope that ultimately this RAVO sculpture, made by accomplished Australian artist, Will Colhoun, will remind us of the importance of love in our School community - that we should strive to love one another just as Jesus loves us - and may it also remind us that above all, nothing can separate any of us from God's ever-abiding love.

As a Ravenswood family, it is my hope that we may all shine like lights in the world here in our School, and in the world well beyond our School gates - living lives with a real sense of meaning and purpose: *semper ad meliora - always towards better things!*

I hope you enjoy this engaging edition of *Semper* magazine which is a testament to the immense effort and grit of our girls. Their endeavours in an array of spheres have been inspirational, supported so wholeheartedly by staff and parents.

From our public speakers, writers, poets, scientists and mathematicians qualifying for national and international competitions, to our Champion School status at the Secondary Snowsports Championships, and second place at the Independent Girls' School Sports Association (IGSSA) Gymnastics, it has been a busy semester.

Finally, as the academic year draws to a close, it is time to say goodbye to our dear Head of Junior School, Cheryl Bailey, who for the last ten years, has led the Junior School with wisdom, grace and a passion for both learning and wellbeing. Cheryl's significant contribution has included the introduction of the Primary Years Programme (PYP) of the International Baccalaureate (IB), and Positive Education and Visible Wellbeing programs into the Junior School. Importantly, Cheryl has helped generations of Junior School students, and staff, thrive through the commitment, care and boundless energy with which she has approached this leadership role.

I wish you all a wonderful, happy and healthy Christmas break and look forward to seeing you in February 2019 for the start of another exciting school year.

**Anne Johnstone**











L - R: Sian Hamilton, Principal Anne Johnstone, Hannah Walsh and Jasmine Etough





**W**e are so grateful to be part of this community and look forward to building upon its already strong foundations. Throughout 2019, we will strive to display active leadership that encourages authenticity and empowers girls to transform seemingly ordinary interactions into extraordinary and meaningful relationships. We hope to nurture an atmosphere of inclusivity and involvement within Ravenswood and increase participation in activities outside of the classroom. We hope that this involvement will enable girls to connect with like-minded peers, explore new passions and take responsibility for their self-care. In particular, we aim to promote an attitude of selflessness through social justice initiatives. Throughout our time at Ravenswood, we've all found a sense of purpose through social justice activities. Now as leaders, we will encourage others to do the same.

It is important to us that girls feel genuinely connected with both peers and staff, as this will enable them to pursue passions with confidence and persevere through challenges. With this goal

in mind, we aim to launch a Prefect theme in the New Year with a focus on authenticity. This theme will embody our vision for the year and connect initiatives between leadership portfolios. We've chosen authenticity as the basis for our theme, as we believe it applies to relationships, both with ourselves and with others. Authenticity of self is crucial in establishing the confidence needed to be yourself and pursue true purpose. Authentic relationships are also necessary for building genuine support networks. As part of an 'online generation', our goal is to ensure that relationships extend beyond our screens.

We look forward to getting to know the student body over the next 12 months. On behalf of the leadership team and all Year 12 students, we are committed to ensuring continued excellence for Ravenswood, a school that we are proud to be a part of.

**Hannah Walsh (School Captain),  
Jasmine Eatough (Vice Captain) and  
Sian Hamilton (Vice Captain)**

# Student Leaders







# Advancing Art

**T**his year's winner of the Professional Artist's section of the Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize was Sydney video artist Angela Tiatia, a previous finalist in both the Archibald and Sulman Prizes and the 2018 guest judge of the Sulman Prize. She says that this year's theme of *Resilience* speaks to her powerfully every day. 'As an immigrant from the Pacific, my mother's concern was for her daughters to make money. When I voiced that I wanted to be an artist, she said "no way." I have had to be so resilient and trust my pathway.'

Angela's winning work *The Fall*, reflects the resilience of survivors during the fall of Singapore in 1942 and is told in one unbroken, choreographed shot. The Art Prize Patron Jennifer Turpin, describes it as

a 'masterful video work with the richness and theatricality of a 19th century tableau vivant.' Angela says winning the \$35,000 prize money will allow her to pursue her next work. 'You question yourself all the time as a female artist. This is a massive signal that I am doing okay and should keep going.'

The winner of the 2018 Emerging Artist's Prize was Hobart artist Amber Koroluk-Stephenson, for her painting *Marooned*. 'The Art Prize is a wonderful opportunity for female artists to push themselves and to gain recognition for their work,' she says.

The Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize is the richest art prize for female artists in the country and was established in 2017 to advance art and opportunity for emerging and established female artists. 'It is our hope that this Art Prize will give





female artists across Australia a greater platform for their creative expression and a greater opportunity to showcase their works - to be seen and heard, not only in Australia but around the world,' says Ravenswood Principal Mrs Anne Johnstone. 'It aims to inspire generations of female artists and foster emerging artists through its unique prize structure and mentoring element.'

This year, the Art Prize attracted more than 820 entries from every state and territory and 1650 people visited the exhibition of finalists' works. The exhibition also provided a unique opportunity for Ravenswood girls to gain inspiration from the incredible talents of Australian female artists. 'To be able to see the diversity of this work, to be able to analyse, interpret, reflect on it, is amazing,'

says Ravenswood Visual Arts Coordinator Edwina Palmer.

'I am confident the Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize has and will play a major role in championing Australian female artists. The School is very grateful to the Prize sponsors Stockland, Park West Foundation, Active Networks, The Art Scene, Buildcorp, Clarke Murphy Print and our new sponsor Macquarie University for their financial support,' says Mark Steinert, Chair of the Ravenswood Foundation.

Entries for next year's Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize are now open and close on 20 March, 2019. The Opening Night will be held on Friday 31 May and the Exhibition of Finalists runs from Saturday 1 to Sunday 9 June.









# The Gail Kelly 'Making a Difference' Award

---

This year, Ravenswood was honoured to launch the annual Gail Kelly *Making a Difference* Award, in partnership with one of Australia's most influential business figures, the former CEO of both Westpac and St George banks, Gail Kelly. Ms Kelly is a former Ravenswood parent whose daughters Sharon Robertson and Anne Kelly, graduated in 2004 and 2007.

The Award is designed to both encourage the girls' philanthropic, leadership and career skills and support the charity sector. Ravenswood Year 11 students can apply by nominating a charity, making a rigorously researched, formal presentation about its merits and demonstrating their commitment to the cause. The winner receives \$5000 to donate to her charity and the opportunity to be mentored by Ms Kelly.

## Elisabeth Woodcock - World Bicycle Relief

In its inaugural year, 12 girls applied for the Award, presenting on behalf of a range of outstanding philanthropic organisations. The winner was Elisabeth Woodcock who nominated World Bicycle Relief, which provides large-scale, bicycle distribution programs to reduce poverty in developing countries. 'To have the opportunity to help someone my age, on the other side of the world, is unique and empowering,' Elisabeth says. 'What appeals to me about World Bicycle Relief is that 70% of the bicycles are donated to young women. As a result of my \$5000 donation, doctors will be able to visit more patients, farmers will be able to transport more goods in less time and children will be able to travel to school more safely and efficiently.'

Elisabeth hopes to continue working as a student voice for World Bicycle Relief and feels privileged to have the chance to learn from the woman who featured on Fortune and Forbes magazines' Most Powerful Women in the World lists for

many years. 'I aspire to be as ethically grounded and professional as she is,' Elisabeth says.

The runners-up in the Award were Lauren Gunson for *Project Change*, an Australian charity based in Cambodia, and Meghana Reddy, who nominated the international charity *Days for Girls*.

## Lauren Gunson - Project Change

'Working with Project Change has been one of the greatest experiences of my life. It provides employment opportunities for Cambodian women, building their self-sufficiency and helping them exit the poverty cycle. My own involvement has included Christmas drives, fundraising stalls and the hosting of a Cambodian girl who visited Sydney to raise awareness about *Project Change's* impactful work.'

## Meghana Reddy - Days for Girls

'*Days for Girls* is one of Ravenswood's principal charities. It provides quality menstrual care solutions to young women in more than 120 countries around the world, allowing them to stay in school, which improves their prospects for life. By empowering girls, you can reduce poverty and improve outcomes for entire communities. At Ravenswood, we have gained teamwork, collaboration and leadership skills by volunteering through *Days for Girls'* programs and making sanitary kits and other items to send overseas.'



# Moving for Mental Health

---

The raspy tones of Tina Turner circa 1974 rang out across the oval in Term 3, as the Social Justice Prefects mobilised the entire School body to dance *Nutbush City Limits* in unison, to raise awareness about the growing problem of depression and anxiety in Australia.

The event was a follow-up to the Prefects' *Mind Your Mind Day* in May and involved every student from Kindergarten to Year 12 and most members of the teaching and support staff, in a giant line dance. On everyone's feet were colourful socks, to raise money for the mental health charity, Batyr.

Dancing to Tina Turner's song *Nutbush City Limits* is more popular in Australia than anywhere else in the world and at Ravenswood, it has become a symbol of joy, unity and proactive mental wellbeing. 'Each of us will be affected by a mental health issue in our lifetime, whether we suffer ourselves or know someone who suffers. The problem is increasing amongst young people but there are steps we can take to reduce its incidence, like exercising, focusing on what is going well rather than what is not and reaching out to friends on a regular basis,' say Social Justice Prefects Zara Gatland and Holly Ambler (Year 12). The fun of the day was captured on video by Year 9 student Lili Kablau.

As a Visible Wellbeing and Positive Education school, it looks like *Mind Your Mind Day* and the *Nutbush* will feature in the Ravenswood calendar for years to come.











**Y**ear 9 students became architects for a semester, in a collaborative STEM project with real-world applications.

We know that education works best when students are doing rather than observing; when they have a stake and a say in their learning.

This year, Ravenswood's new Master Plan provided the perfect platform for authentic, cross-curricular STEM instruction, as the School engaged the services of every girl in Year 9 to design our upcoming *Wellbeing Centre*.

The students were divided into teams, each tasked with envisaging a different area of the Centre, from the *Great Hall*, which will be used for everything from sport to performing arts and community events, to the classrooms, catering facilities and landscaping.

The project integrated key learning across faculty areas including science, mathematics, English, ICT, TAS, history, geography and social science. 'The beauty of this project was that it offered many rich and relevant tasks to engage in,' says ICT Integrator Bronwyn Moreton. 'It gave the students authentic opportunities to develop key competencies such as critical thinking, communication, creativity, character and citizenship.'

The Positive Education curriculum was brought into play, as the girls were required to empathise with their clients - the student body - to define their needs and find ways to accommodate them.

The students used the VIA Character Strengths Survey to determine their personal strengths and those of their team members. 'They were learning to harness the capacities and strengths of each member of their group, just as is required for





well-functioning teams in the professional world,' says Deputy Principal Kim Bence.

Anna Duckworth (Year 9) was part of the group that designed the landscaping around the building: 'The project opened up our understanding of how to collaborate effectively. My strengths are curiosity, zest and humour. I got to use my zest by remaining enthusiastic when things did not go to plan and my curiosity to ask questions and develop my critical thinking.'

Once the teams could communicate their shared vision and had determined their design approach and the elements required, the Team Leaders collaborated on the overall design to ensure they were progressing towards a cohesive, synergetic result.

Throughout the process the girls had access to professional mentors, from Head of Operational

Services Emmett Hope, who is in charge of the real Wellbeing Centre build, to Robyn Robertson the School Archivist, who provided historical context for the building so the girls' designs could take into account what has gone before.

'We wanted to design in a way that would stand the test of time,' Anna Duckworth says. 'Our aim was to create something we could be proud of, that would maintain the high standard of design established with the Mabel Fidler building.'

The project culminated with a *Shark Tank* session in mid-November, when the girls presented their design plans to a panel of judges that included professional architect Alice Kaplun.

Ravenswood's official architects BVN will consider incorporating some of the girls' proposals when the time comes to design the actual Wellbeing Centre.







Ravenswood staff supporting *Farmers' Day*

## Fundraising for Farmers

In Term 3, Ravenswood rallied to support the country's farmers during the worst drought in living memory. With a number of our Boarding families directly affected by record-low rainfall, motivation was high to fundraise for drought relief.

The teachers boosted the mood by dressing in their country finery and the Junior School girls joined Head of Junior School Mrs Bailey, in a boot-scootin' country line dance.

'It felt really good to see so many people supporting the farmers and getting a taste of farming life,' said Sophie Kirk a Year 7 Boarder from Condoblin. Her mother Kate Kirk agreed: 'This sort of event makes an incredible difference to rural families and it has been really important for girls like Sophie to see that the School as a whole supports the country Boarders.' Sophie and fellow Year 7 Boarder Matilda Stuckey, were on the *Farmers' Day* organising committee and have been generating awareness and donations throughout 2018, by making speeches in Assembly and presenting in class on the impact of drought.

Year 11 Boarder Lily Dunn, has organised a campaign of a different kind - *The Big Drought Dress Drive*, which matches girls from farming families with pre-loved formal dresses from city girls. 'A friend of mine from home told me that she couldn't ask her parents for a formal dress because her family is experiencing such financial hardship right now. It made me think of all the dresses that many of us buy and only wear for one occasion. I launched *The Big Drought Dress Drive* to put them to better use,' Lily said. If you have a dress to donate please email: [dept.boarding@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au](mailto:dept.boarding@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au)



L - R: Matilda Stuckey, Director of Boarding Lucy Cumming, Sophie Kirk and Lily Dunn



# Supporting Positive Education in rural communities

**A**s a lighthouse school in the area of Positive Education, Ravenswood is lending its expertise to locals in the Upper Hunter region in NSW, in their bid to introduce a Positive Education approach into every pre-school, primary school and high school in the region.

Ravenswood Principal Mrs Anne Johnstone, is the Vice-Chair and a founding member of the Positive Education Schools Association (PESA). Deputy Principal Kim Bence is the NSW Chair of PESA. Together they are supporting the Upper Hunter charity *Where there's a Will*, by contributing to training sessions for teachers and school leaders. Ravenswood girls have travelled to the region to participate in student conferences.

'The student leaders we met, really responded to the material we discussed and were excited about going back to their schools and trying to implement some of the activities we have at Ravenswood,' says Karla Tuktens (Year 11). 'It made us feel humble to think of the opportunities that we receive here and fortunate to be able to share them with other young people,' says fellow Year 11 student, Laura Kenny.

Lily Dunn (Year 11) is a new Boarder from Murrurundi near Scone. She says no-one from her local area has been left untouched by youth depression or suicide and is convinced that Positive Education is a big part of the solution. 'Ravenswood is a much more positive school culture than I have ever experienced before,' she says. 'Positive Education has taught us to be more open-minded, connected with each other and conscious that the way we speak and act impacts others. If it has helped me as an individual and our School as a whole, it can definitely help a whole region.'

'It can be hard to convince teachers in public schools about the benefits of Positive Education,' says the founder of *Where there's a Will*, Pauline Carrigan. 'Ravenswood has such a caring and sharing nature that the other schools have come on board and responded very positively.'

All 22 schools in the Upper Hunter region are now on the road to implementing a Positive Education approach and 21 have partnered with Professor Lea Waters in her Visible Wellbeing program. Ravenswood became the first Visible Wellbeing School in NSW in 2017.



L-R: Laura Kenny and Karla Tuktens





# Spotlight on the Rigorous Research of the IB Extended Essays

Every student who sits the International Baccalaureate must write an Extended Essay in the subject of their choice. Not only is this 4000 word academic work the culmination of 18 months of research, reflection and writing rigour, it is an exciting opportunity for IB students to stretch the boundaries of their knowledge and polish the skills of written argument, synthesis and expression. Completing an Extended Essay in Year 12 is a reward in itself. Throughout the process, students develop research, writing and time management skills that are invaluable tools for their academic futures.

**Katharina Colmer, Extended Essay Coordinator**

## Are sporting champions born or made?

Chelsea Hagglund's Extended Essay looks at the extent to which genetic and environmental factors influence athletic success. Did you know that the Kenyan domination in marathon events is due to a genetically higher red blood cell count, attributed to chronic adaptations over generations living and training at altitude? (Arlidge 2000). Or that low arousal levels are associated with low motivation and diminish athletic performance, except in archery where a low heart rate and low arousal are required for optimal precision? Chelsea's work is a detailed and insightful exploration of the complex interplay between race, psychology, access to opportunities, birth timing and coaching techniques. She concludes that genetics has 'limited significance unless enhanced by external factors.'

## Can music therapy rival conventional stroke treatments?

Stroke is the leading cause of disability in industrialised countries worldwide and Winny Tsai argues that it is time to give the approach of Music-Supported Therapy (MST) some serious thought. Her Extended Essay discusses the weaknesses of prevailing therapies and the potential for MST to help to rebuild a stroke patient's movement, cognition and emotional equilibrium. Studies have shown that music genre is important – classical and meditative music reduces pain, stress and anxiety, while heavy metal and jazz, can produce detrimental outcomes. MST is not appropriate for severely compromised patients but Winny believes it holds promise for a large proportion of patients.





## Boosting household green energy use

For her Extended Essay in Economics, Ravenswood School Captain and Boarder Lucy Woodcock, spent almost 18 months preparing a research paper that looks at ways for the Australian government to effectively increase household green energy use. She surveyed 154 individuals from a range of rural and urban localities within New South Wales, to determine the effectiveness of government incentives. Her paper suggests that solar panel uptake in Australia could be significantly increased through the replacement of rebates with low-interest loans and the introduction of community-level education programs. Lucy hopes to present her findings to the NSW Minister for the Environment and her local member, once it has been processed by the IB Organisation.

## The spread of political instability in Europe

Ashleigh Nicholls spent weeks in the bowels of the State Library, examining 200-year-old European primary sources to prepare for her Extended Essay. The history buff chose to look at the unexpected ways that political instability can spread between nations. Her focus was the political unrest that arose in the relatively insignificant state of Bavaria in the 1700s and the causes of its transfer into France, which ultimately resulted in the French Revolution. Ashleigh's work includes an exploration of the fascinating and rapid rise of the secret societies, the Illuminati and the Freemasons. She says the lack of available academic research made her task particularly challenging but rewarding.





The Meliora Prize is a prestigious new Ravenswood award initiated by our 2017-2018 School Captains. It stems from the school motto *semper ad meliora* – *always towards better things* and recipients are selected once a term by the student body. The Prize recognises girls who best embody the School's Guiding Principles, by seeking to find the best in themselves and others and promoting acceptance and tolerance throughout Ravenswood.

Here, our first four recipients share their feelings about the prize.

# The Meliora

## Jasmine Eatough (Year 11) Term 4 2017 recipient:

I feel grateful to be recognised for the thought that I put into contributing to the School's inclusive and supportive environment. My efforts are in response to the nurturing that I have myself received from countless staff and students. At Ravenswood, I have learned to make the most of opportunities and to treat everyone with compassion.



## Zoe Jago (Year 8) Term 1 2018 recipient:

I wear the badge with enormous pride and feel that it is such an honour and a privilege. Each morning, I am happy and excited to see my Ravenswood peers, greeting them at their lockers. I also seek to support and welcome new girls either into our Year Group, York (my House) or my own friendship group.





# Prize



## Jacinta Giacometti (Year 12) Term 2 2018 recipient:

Throughout my time at Ravenswood I have supported the School by getting involved in as many co-curricular programs as I could and by working to ensure that everyone feels valued and accepted. Ravenswood has encouraged me to approach everything I do with enthusiasm, hard work and fun. I feel honoured to be a part of such an amazing school community.

## Kei Joe (Year 10) Term 3 2018 recipient:

Every day my peers, teachers and other members of the Ravenswood community encourage me to be the best student, friend and person I can. In return, I try to help and support my peers in any way I can, in every aspect of their schooling. It is humbling to receive a prize from such a great community.





# Junior School

Cheryl Bailey, Head of the Junior School



## Tackling hot topics in Year 6

The Year 6 International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme Exhibition was the culmination of six weeks of mature investigation into self-selected topics such as gender inequality, media influence and human rights. The girls' verbal and written presentations revealed a level of knowledge acquisition and understanding that went far beyond their years. They engaged the many visitors to their stands in passionate discussions, developing skills that will help prepare them for their future academic and work lives.



## Spreading Christmas cheer across the seas

Year 3 is making life a little less isolated for our service men and women at sea this Christmas. Sad to discover that many naval personnel will be far from loved ones on 25 December, the girls made them cards to spread some holiday cheer. The Christmas messages were dispatched to the approximately 30 staff on HMAS Pirie that will be stationed in waters off Darwin in December and January. 'While at sea in a navy patrol boat, it is sincerely welcoming to have a tangible connection to back home,' says the Commanding Officer of HMAS Pirie, Lieutenant Commander Scott Walker. 'The crew proudly displays the girls' cards on a string across the ship's bridge and plays a game that whenever one or more of the cards falls, the nearest crew member must recover it and read it out loud.'



## Year 5's charity drive for cancer research

An enterprising trio of girls from Year 5 recruited the Junior School in a *Pink Ribbon Day* initiative that captured our imaginations and raised more than \$1000 for the Cancer Council. Erin Brady, Isabella Mason and Yimeng (Fiona) Pan organised the sale of tasty pink food and engaged their peers from Kindergarten to Year 6 in games and activities. Their celebrations included the creation of a giant pink paper chain and a pile of get well cards that they delivered to staff at the Royal North Shore Hospital Oncology Ward for distribution to the patients.



## Farewell from Cheryl Bailey

When I reflect on my ten happy years as Head of the Ravenswood Junior School and the transformational programs that I have had the privilege to introduce, I feel an overwhelming sense of pride.

The most significant of these educational initiatives have been: the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme; the strategic, incremental STEM program, which has gained national and international praise; our partnership with the CSIRO STEM Professionals in Schools program, which gives the girls access to fascinating mathematics and science professionals; the Future Problem Solving program; Positive Education and Visible Wellbeing; Emotional Logic, Better Buddies, Resilience Doughnut, Bounce Back and daily mindfulness; gifted and talented enrichment classes; a Thinking Skills program based on the world of De Bono, Ryan and Bloom; weekly staff professional development; a one to one devices program and our popular holiday care offerings.

Of course, without the dedication and commitment of my talented staff, the Junior School would not be the vibrant, happy place that it is today.

I am enormously thankful to have had the chance to witness each girl's development and for the treasured relationships that I have built.

Many fond memories will accompany me into retirement, as I spend time with my family and continue my work with developing communities in South America. I am grateful to be leaving the Junior School in the very capable hands of Ms Sarah Guy and look forward to keeping in touch with you all.



## Inspiration from a trailblazer

In preparation for their International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme Exhibition, Year 6 received a visit from Aboriginal politician Linda Burney MP, the Federal Shadow Minister for Families and Social Services.

Ms Burney was the first Aboriginal person to serve in the New South Wales Parliament and the first Aboriginal woman to be elected to the Australian House of Representatives.

She encouraged the girls to follow their dreams, recounting a comment she received at their age that spurred her to achieve: 'When I was in Year 6, a woman told me that I would never amount to anything because of my aboriginality. I still remember it like it was yesterday and it has motivated me for the whole of my life.'

However, the message Ms Burney most wanted to impress upon the girls, was the importance of compassion, kindness, manners and generosity. 'These are things that don't cost you anything ... but they are the things that inspire me,' she said.







26 FEBRUARY 2018



# Performing Arts

Heather Aird, Director of Music and Performing Arts

## K-12 musical extravaganza

More than 900 guests enjoyed the inspiring sounds of Ravenswood's Kindergarten to Year 12 students, as our youngest musicians to our most seasoned performers joined forces to present an eclectic, joyful program in August. Highlights included an uplifting orchestral rendition of Louis Armstrong's *What a Wonderful World* and a show-stopping performance of the anthem *This is Me*, from the film *The Greatest Showman*, by the Years 5-6 Choir. Another treat was the chance to see the debut of our Year 4 string players, who have developed from novice to performance-standard in just a few short months.



## Choral and Dance Spectacular

What do you get when you mix song, dance and the spirit of *The Beatles*? The Ravenswood 2018 House Choral and Dance Spectacular! This exciting new event in the Performing Arts calendar replaced the Choral Festival and House Dance Festival. It allowed for a greater number of Secondary School students to perform simultaneously and included our finest musicians who formed a bespoke orchestra. Professional choreographers and vocalists guided intensive rehearsals to prepare the girls to collaborate with the band *The Beatle Boys*, live at Sydney Town Hall. A unique seating plan gave the audience a bird's eye view of the enormous dance space, encouraging them to sing along in rousing unison. Thanks to our Music Coordinator Michael Varecka, technical staff and very talented Choral and Dance Captains for this extraordinary event.



## Annie Jr. the musical takes centre stage

Year 6 brought the story of the irrepressible comic strip heroine Annie to life in November. Every girl in the Year Group took to the stage to present a dynamic and entertaining version of this Tony Award-winning musical. The uplifting show is centred on the tale of an orphan with a heart of gold. It spread messages of positivity and resilience and showcased the many talents of its 78-member cast.





# Sport

Cameron Childs, Director of Sport



## Ravenswood named snowsports champion school

Ravenswood's 2018 snowsports campaign was the most successful in the School's history. A record 50 students took to the slopes for the Sydney Regional Championships, with Ravenswood named Champion School in the secondary school division after achieving a first in snowboarding and a third in skiing. Our Junior School girls came second overall, having come first in snowboarding and fourth in skiing.

Remarkably, 29 Ravenswood competitors qualified for the prestigious NSW Interschools Championships. In a demanding week of competition, 13 girls progressed through to the nationals, where Madison Gilson (Year 4), claimed a medal in every colour: gold in the Ski X, silver in the Snowboard X and bronze in the Alpine.

Congratulations to Snowsports Convenor Dale Berg, who has grown the Ravenswood team from eight to 50, in only a few short years.



## Independent Girls' Schools Sports Association champions

Ravenswood gymnasts achieved second place overall in the hotly-contested Independent Girls' Schools Sports Association (IGSSA) Gymnastics Championships on Friday 2 November. Our rhythmic gymnastics students were named IGSSA champions for the third consecutive year and our artistic gymnasts came fourth, for the fourth year in a row.

## Swimming

Chloe Small (Year 9) has had a strong season, including as a member of the gold medal winning NSW 4 x 50 Metre Medley Relay team at the School Sport Australia Swimming Championships. She also won bronze in the Individual 50 Metre Butterfly at the national event.





## Ravenswood athletes make their mark

Ravenswood athletics has had an incredibly successful 2018 season.

A fifth-place finish from a total of 24 schools at the IGSSA Championships was just reward for the commitment displayed by students and coaches alike. Head Coach Athletics and Fitness Annabel Davies has led the team from tenth to fifth place in just three short years.

Fourteen students were selected to the IGSSA team to compete at the CIS Championships. Athletics Captain 2018 Gemma Lapsley, claimed gold in the 17 Years javelin whilst 2019 Captain elect Emily Britton won the 17 Years 100 Metre Hurdles title.

The NSW All Schools Championships saw 12 personal best performances. Emily Britton once again dominated the hurdles, establishing a blistering new personal best time of 13.91 seconds.

Junior School students also enjoyed considerable success, with seven selected to the IPSHA team to contest the CIS Athletics Championships.



## Introducing Rugby 7s

In an exciting development, the Ravenswood Sports Department added Women's Rugby 7s to its ball sports line-up this year.

The Ravenswood Rugby 7's team built immense momentum, as we capitalised on growing interest in the sport to compete in the inaugural Independent Girls Schools' Competition. The Ravenswood girls gave their all and were named Most Improved Team. Another highlight of the season was the selection of Year 10 student Lucy Bradwell to be the Australian flag bearer for the Wallaroos versus Black Ferns Test Match, a prelude to the Bledisloe Cup test between the Wallabies and All Blacks.

Meanwhile, Ravenswood AFL girls upped their training throughout Term 3, developing their skills for the AFL NSW Gala Day, where a number of talented players emerged.





# Student Showcase



## Six international competition qualifications

Two Year 6 girls have qualified for the International Future Problem Solving (FPS) Conference at the University of Massachusetts in June next year. Eleven year old Yimeng (Fiona) Pan was named Best Junior Writer at the national finals in Melbourne in October. Catherine Swemmer won the Public Speaking section of the competition. In all, six Ravenswood girls qualified for the Melbourne finals.

In April next year School Captain Hannah Walsh (Year 11) and Kate Rahme (Year 11) will represent the nation at the 2019 World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Competition in Toronto, Canada. Hannah won second place overall and Kate Rahme came tenth overall in the national competition (AIDPSC). Taylor Quin (Year 11) won the After Dinner Speaking section of the hotly contested event.

## Year 6 debaters sweep the pool

In a stand-out performance, Ravenswood's Year 6 IPSHA debaters won every debate at the IPSHA Debating Gala Day held at Abbotsleigh on Monday 29 October. Participating schools included Abbotsleigh, Amity College, Knox Grammar School, Lakes Grammar, Masada College, MLC School, Roseville College, St Luke's Grammar, St Pius X College and Wahroonga Preparatory School.

FPS and AIDPSC competitors







## National poetry winners

Two Year 6 poets gained national recognition this semester. Imogen Taylor-Thorne was selected as a winner in the prestigious Young Australian Writers' Award and Keira Keayes took out the national Bette Olle Award. Imogen's poem *An Unforgiving World* is reproduced on page two of this edition of *Semper*.

## Minds on mathematics

In a strong year for mathematics, ten Ravenswood girls from Years 7-10 gained entry to the Australian Intermediate Mathematics Olympiad. Congratulations to Siyi Yue (Year 10) and Zhuxuan Zhou (Year 9) who received a High Distinction; Michelle Bulin (Year 9) and Xinyi Chen (Year 10) who received a Distinction and Justine Xue (Year 9), Sydney Bao (Year 7), Elspeth Furnival (Year 9) and Laura Zhang (Year 9) who received a Credit.

Siyi Yue and Zhuxuan Zhou have been invited to sit the five-hour international competition Tournament of Towns at the University of Sydney on 8 December, while Siyi Yue is one of around just 25 Australian students selected to attend the Australian Maths Olympiad Committee (AMOC) School of Excellence in Melbourne.

At the 2018 Australian Night of Mathematics, Elspeth Furnival (Year 9) received the Cheryl Praeger Award, which recognises the top female student in each Year Group.

## State STEM wins

International Baccalaureate student Ashleigh Nicholls (Year 12) has won first place in the Years 11-12 Chemistry category and second place in the Working Mathematically category of the Science Teachers' Association of NSW Young Scientist Awards. The Awards are billed as the premier student STEM competition in the State. Ashleigh also received sponsored awards from the National Measurement Institute, the Australian Institute of Physics and the Royal Australian Chemical Institute. She has been invited to submit her chemistry project to the national BHP Billiton Science and Engineering Awards.

OPPOSITE:

Year 11 student Taylor Ayres' portrait of her much-loved grandmother, which was hung in the K-11 Visual Arts Exhibition in November.





# Alumni News

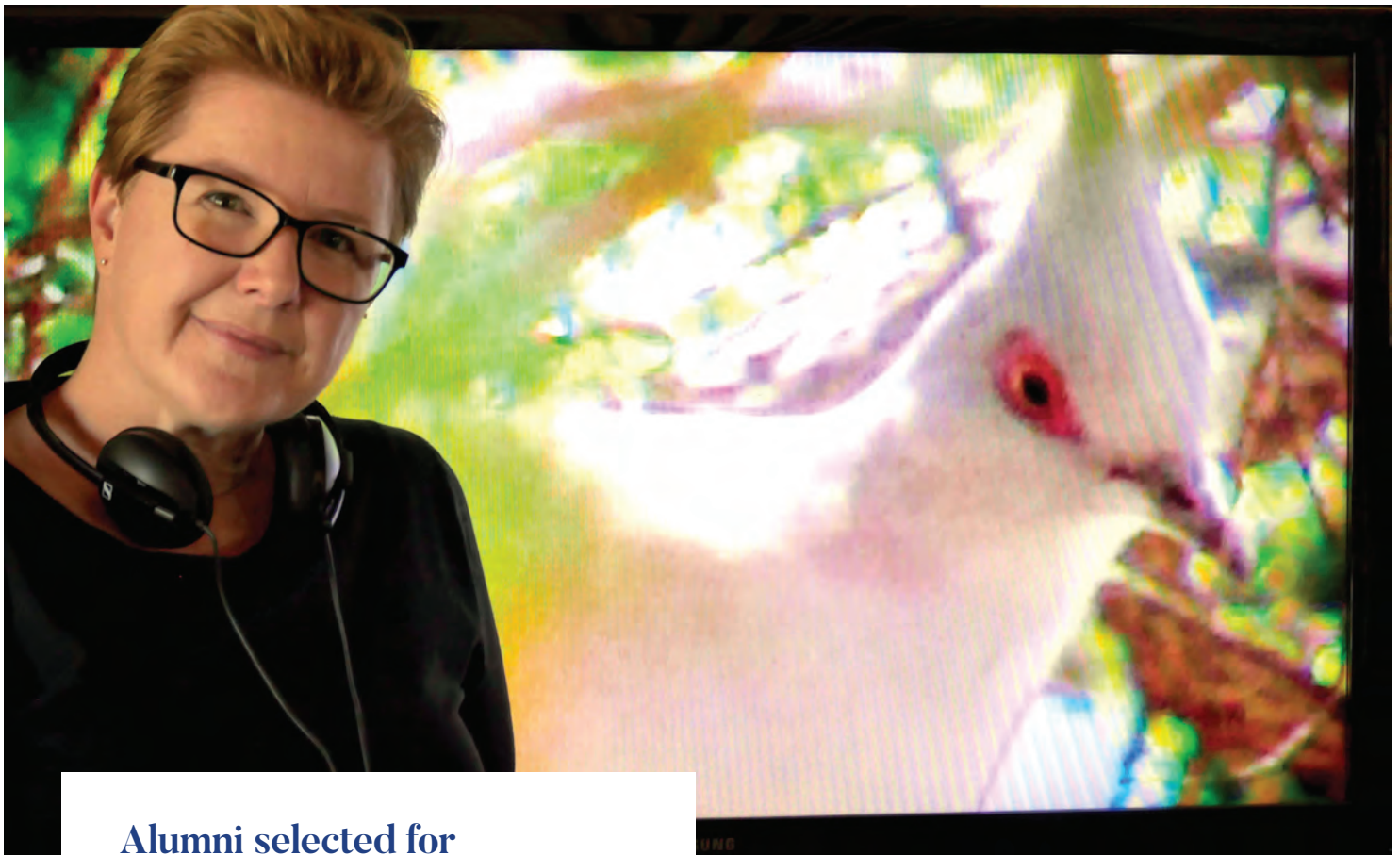
## Star of screen and stage spotlights peer support

Sophie Wright (2008) received a prestigious Helpmann Award nomination and praise from the one and only Cindi Lauper, for her starring role in the 2017 Australian production of *Kinky Boots*. She also had a lead role in the puppet musical *Avenue Q*, toured with Hugh Jackman in his *Broadway to Oz* arena show and understudied for the central role in *Wicked*. Now the graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts has received one of her biggest breaks to date - the starring female role in the Channel 10 comedy *Mr Black*, which will hit screens next year.

Alongside her performing career, Sophie runs a wellbeing and coaching consultancy to help younger generations build the resilience required to survive in show business. 'It is hard for actors to find the courage to stay on the audition treadmill and maintain their skills between roles,' she says. 'There needs to be just as much emphasis and support around mental health and mindset as on the performance side of the industry.' Sophie is studying for a Bachelor of Psychology to support this aspect of her career.







## Alumni selected for prestigious Icelandic artist in residency

It is hard to think of fields more diverse than digital art, farming and radio journalism. Former Boarder Kim Goldsmith (1987) entertained students and staff at a special Boarders' Assembly in Term 3, explaining that to her, they have been the sum of a perfect career.

The theme of the Assembly was *Equip, Empower, Connect, Contribute and Thrive* – the words upon which the positive Boarding community culture is built. Kim shared how she overcame her childhood shyness and terror of public speaking, to become a prominent ABC Radio rural reporter, travelling the State and interviewing Prime Ministers, Premiers and farmers on every agricultural issue.

Radio reporting was her dream job but entrepreneurship called and Kim left to carve a path as a marketing and communications consultant, helping farmers and regional business owners to share their stories more effectively.

She also put her Applied Science Degree in Systems Agriculture to use by running her own farm 60km north-west of Dubbo, raising sheep and growing crops for ten years, seven of them during drought.

Visual Arts was another love and Kim turned to it during the dry seasons, building on skills she gained as a 3-Unit Visual Arts student at Ravenswood. She now has a professional arts practice, producing digital media and sensory installations that have featured in solo shows and more than 20 group exhibitions.

In August next year, Kim will travel to Iceland for a two-month artist's residency. She will collect material for a major multimedia installation called *Eye of the Corvus*, an exploration of urban, peri-urban and rural landscapes from the perspective of ravens.





# Ravenswood Alumni Reunions

Kim Williams, Alumni Manager

## 5 YEAR REUNION (2013)

at the Dove and Olive, Surry Hills on 6 October

## 10 YEAR REUNION (2008)

at the Rose and Thistle, Erskineville on 17 November

## 20 YEAR REUNION (1998)

at the Oaks, Neutral Bay on 22 September

## 30 YEAR REUNION (1988)

at the Greens, North Sydney on 27 October

## 40 YEAR REUNION (1978)

at the Beach Club, Balmoral on 15 September

## 50 YEAR REUNION (1968)

at the Greengate Hotel, Killara on 17 November

## 60 YEAR REUNION (1958)

in the Southern Highlands, 26 to 28 October

## 70 YEAR REUNION (1948)

at Ravenswood on 29 November.



## 40 Year Reunion

On a beautiful sunny Saturday and following a small group tour of the school, 50 girls from the Class of 1978 enjoyed a sit-down lunch at the Balmoral Beach Club. A large group continued chatting and making connections over a few more drinks at the Mosman Club Fernery. With fun and laughter, many old friendships were rekindled and new friendships made. They discussed their 50-year reunion and the possibility of a 45-year reunion. Someone even suggested that they not wait that long and hold a giant combined 60th birthday party in three years' time. Much excitement ensued.





### 30 Year Reunion

The 2018 30-Year Reunion was enjoyed by 50 1988 alumni at The Greens in North Sydney. Roughly a third of the year's cohort. Lively conversations on the joys and challenges of careers, parenting and partnerships were peppered with reminiscences of school days. The Boarders turned out in strong numbers to share raucous laughs as they remembered boarding house antics. School Captain Jane Heydon (Metcalf) and Caroline Jumpertz (Chisholm) organised the event. Helen Dawes (Cousins), Michelle Harris (Mayfosh), Paola Tamberlin and Patricia Lai represented the group that went from Kindergarten through to Year 12 together. There was much discussion of a reunion in five years in 2023.



20-Year Reunion



### Back to Boarding

On Friday 19 October, Boarders from the Class of 1976 visited the Ravenswood Residential College and delighted our current Boarders with stories of life at the School in the 1970s. They were joined by Boarders from the Class of 2017 for tea, a tour of the College and an exchange of memories and anecdotes.



10-Year Reunion





# Weddings



## Naomi Scott (Penny Hopkins, 1960)

married Don Menkens in May 2017. Naomi had lost her first husband Tom, and had been living on her own before meeting Don 18 years later. Naomi met Don through the website Christian Connection and after first meeting in January 2017 she is thrilled to 'have a dear companion again to share life's journey'. Naomi and Don now live on a property in Kremnos, between Coffs Harbour and Grafton.

## Kathryn Moulden (Lee, 2005)

married Daniel Moulden at the beautiful Bird Amphitheatre in Taronga Zoo on 10 February 2018. The couple also enjoyed a traditional Chinese tea ceremony earlier in the afternoon. The reception was held at the Taronga Centre with fantastic views of Sydney harbour. One of Kathryn's bridesmaids was Amanda Wong (Algeo, 2005). The wedding was attended by Lauren Curtis (Taylor, 2005), Jessica Micallef (Smart, 2005) and Caroline Singh (Wood, 2005).



Health and fitness have always been a cornerstone of the Ravenswood curriculum. In the 1920s, calisthenics were considered to be a key ingredient in the recipe for a long life. Our Year 2 girls replicated the exercises as a learning provocation for their International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP) unit, *Where We Are in Place and Time*. 'The girls got a real kick out of studying the archival photos (especially the long dresses!) and imagining themselves in the shoes of our alumni from around 100 years ago,' said teacher Melissa Mülle.

**Robyn Robertson, Ravenswood Archivist**



# From the







# Vale

## Cynthia Jane Dudley (1952-2018)

Cynthia Jane Dudley (Lennon, 1970) passed away on 4 May 2018. Cynthia was an active member of the Ravenswood Old Girls' Union and enjoyed attending reunions. Cynthia maintained her love of music throughout her life, which was something she enjoyed as a student at Ravenswood. Cynthia's two nieces, Emma and Kate Dudley, attended Ravenswood.

## Valerie Hilda Farr (1920-2017)

Valerie Hilda Farr (Pyle, 1938) passed away on 4 December 2017, four days short of her 97th birthday. Valerie regularly attended Golden Girls' Lunches and enjoyed meeting the Ravenswood students who helped at the lunches. Living in Gordon, Valerie attended Ravenswood and spoke of it being a small school with only about five or six children in her class.

## Susan Val Spooner (1945-2018)

Susan Val Spooner (Felton, 1962) passed away on 12 August 2018 after a long battle with cancer. She had a wonderful zest for life which was filled with many interests and friends, and a 'let's get on with it' attitude. In Form 4 Sue was made Stuart Sports Captain and her love of music and drive to share her passion with others led her to instigate House Choirs in 1961. In 1962 she was a Prefect and Stuart House Captain; the same year *Kindle the Flame* was introduced at Ravenswood. As a Primary School teacher Sue's passion for music continued. She travelled to Japan to learn the Suzuki Method of teaching the piano and was one of the first to teach this method in Australia. Sue became a professional piano teacher, teaching piano for 40 years.

## Pamela Wilson (1947-2018)

Pamela Wilson (1963) passed away on 4 June 2018. During her time at Ravenswood Pamela had a passion for art and was very creative. Pamela was a successful business woman running her own self-storage business for more than 20 years, which is now under the directorship of her daughter Holly Wilson. Pamela lived in Waterloo for eight years and was previously a resident of Neutral Bay.





# Community News

Artists, school parents, Ravenswood alumni, staff and special guests walked the red carpet to attend the Opening Night of the 2018 Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize on 15 June. The gala event showcased finalists' artworks with more than 300 guests applauding the winners of the Professional and Emerging Artists Prizes. The community continued to enjoy this fabulous exhibition in the week following the opening, which saw more than 1650 students, alumni, staff, parents, community groups and school groups viewing the exhibition.

A group of 26 very excited Alumni from Annesley School for Girls were welcomed to Ravenswood by Principal Mrs Anne Johnstone for their reunion lunch on 10 August. The ladies have met each year since the school closed in 1964 and will continue to hold their reunions at Ravenswood. Annesley was based in Bowral and over the years has had a special connection with Ravenswood.

The Ravenswood Parents' Association (RPA) Trivia Night was an uproariously fun event as parents pitted their wits against some curly questions, while dressed as everything from construction workers to angels.

Ravenswood parents and alumni were well represented in a field of 60 golfers at the RPA Chantry Golf Day, held at Monash Country Club on 1 November.

The 2018 Valedictory Dinner at Jones Bay Wharf in Pyrmont was a glamorous evening made more memorable by the surprise flash mob dance performed by the Ravenswood mothers to the sounds of ABBA's *Mamma Mia*.

The newly elected Ravenswood Alumni President is Lisa Boyce (1990), mother of Madison (Year 7) and the daughter of Pamela Clancy (1964). Lisa has taken over the position from Sarah Beresford (1984), following Sarah's appointment as the new Director of Enrolments and Development at Ravenswood. Lisa is supported by Vice President, Jenny Wells and an enthusiastic Ravenswood Alumni Committee.

The newly-elected RPA President is Don Tritton (father of Holly in Year 9). Don is also the Foundation Committee representative for the Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize and together with his wife Tina, has a history of significant contribution to our School. Don is supported by Cassandra Gordon (mother of Georgia in Year 10) as Vice President, and Amanda Vince (mother of Lucy in Year 6 and Hannah in Year 4) as President of the Junior School RPA.







# 2019 Events

- Wednesday 20 March** Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize entries close
- Thursday 28 March** Careersearch
- Tuesday 9 April** Ravenswood Alumni Mother Daughter Breakfast
- Friday 31 May** Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize Opening Night
- Saturday 1 – Sunday 9 June** Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize Exhibition of Finalists
- Thursday 28 November** Golden Girls' Lunch

# 2019 Term Dates

- Term 1** Wednesday 30 January to Friday 12 April
- Term 2** Tuesday 30 April to Friday 28 June
- Term 3** Tuesday 23 July to Friday 27 September
- Term 4** Tuesday 15 October to Wednesday 4 December

LEFT:  
 Photos of the Valedictory Dinner, Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize Opening Night, RPA members, RPA Trivia Night, RPA Chantry Golf Day and the Father/Daughter Breakfasts.







**RAVENSWOOD  
AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S  
ART PRIZE**

# AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST ART PRIZE FOR WOMEN

Image: Marooned by Amber Koroluk-Stephenson



**ENTRIES: Now Open**  
**ENTRIES CLOSE: 20 March 2019**

**OPENING NIGHT: 31 May 2019**  
**FINALISTS' EXHIBITION: 1-9 June 2019**

Proudly sponsored by



**Stockland**  
*its your place*



**MACQUARIE  
University**



**PARK WEST  
FOUNDATION**

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

**RAVENSWOOD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**  
A UNITING CHURCH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS K-12,  
BOARDING FROM YEAR 7  
Henry Street, Gordon NSW  
A POSITIVE EDUCATION AND IB WORLD SCHOOL