

Semper



Ravenswood

PG 12
BREAKING THE
GLASS CEILING

PG 14
SUPPORTING
OUR ALUMNI

PG 30
CELEBRATING THE
CLASS OF 2020

We are the Stars and the Sea

by Paris Lay-Yee, Year 10

They tell us we're made of bones and skin,
Of cells and blood and genes.

But what they mean to say is
that there is
stardust
in our veins,
and water
coursing through our body.
And so
our cells,
and our blood,
and our genes
swim through a galactical ocean.

And just like the vast deep chasm that is our seven seas,
We rise like the waves, and we
fall,
crash,
break,
hard.
Only to be swept up into the current once more.

So when we
poison,
taint,
bleach
Our oceans,
We're only holding the toxins to our very lips.

And yet while this vial is clutched in our hands,
So is the anecdote.

To save our
aquatic universe.

Like the waves that rise to meet the man on the moon,
We need to
Come back home.



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 Prep to Year 12 with boarding from Year 7. As a Visible Wellbeing and Positive Education school, we focus on the whole student to build academic and co-curricular achievements while boosting confidence, resilience and physical health.

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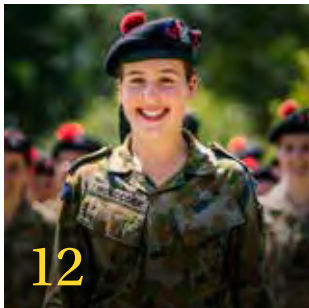
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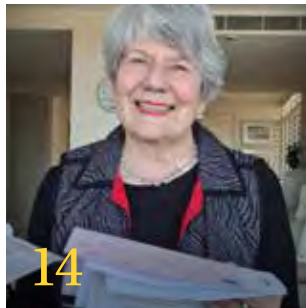


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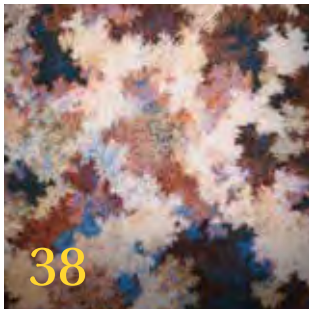
Contents



BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING



LETTERS DURING LOCKDOWN



RAW ART PRIZE

- 04 PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE
- 08 A MESSAGE FROM OUR STUDENT LEADERS
- 10 AI FOR GOOD
- 12 BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING
- 14 LETTERS DURING LOCKDOWN
- 16 SPEAKING UP & MAKING WAVES
- 18 FLOURISHING DURING COVID-19
- 20 FROM GOOD TO GREAT
- 22 STUDENT SHOWCASE
- 26 SPORT
- 27 PERFORMING ARTS
- 28 ALUMNI STORIES
- 30 COMMUNITY NEWS - CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2020
- 35 VALE
- 38 THE RAVENSWOOD AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S ART PRIZE



Principal's Message

As we conclude a most unforgettable and unprecedented academic year, navigating the challenges of a global pandemic and the most significant disruption to education in our lifetime, I am both inspired and humbled by the way our students, staff, parents and Alumni have worked so powerfully together, to overcome challenges and make a positive contribution in our Ravenswood community. They have accomplished so much, while making a difference in the world around us.

With the support of our devoted staff team, our girls have triumphed in their academic achievements in 2020, attaining national and international awards and school records, in a large range of spheres.

Our students achieved more HSC Showcase and Exhibition nominations than ever before, particularly in Visual Arts. We recorded international successes in the Future Problem Solving International Program and Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships, which feature on pages 16 and 23 of this issue of *Semper*.

Our students were recognised nationally in the domains of STEM, History, Creative Writing, Speech and Dance. In a year when external sporting competition was cancelled, our Ravenswood girls achieved an extraordinary 15 school records in Athletics and Swimming.

Even more praiseworthy have been the demonstrations of excellence of character. To quote author John



Luther, good character is built ‘... piece by piece — by thought, choice, courage and determination.’

The girls in the Class of 2020 have served as exemplary role models of positivity, courage, determination, integrity and fortitude.

During Assembly and the Secondary School Presentation Ceremony, I spoke of the exquisite timing of our opening of the new Senior Learning Centre (SLC) on the girls’ first day back after lockdown. I also explained that the building’s beguiling turquoise exterior is made of copper, which has been specially treated to undergo stresses to fast track the aging or refining process. Its beautiful patina now acts as a protective layer, making the building’s exterior stronger and more resilient.

The parallel with the girls of the Class of 2020 is strong. Rather than being diminished by the stress of a global pandemic during their final year of schooling, they *bounced forward*, exerting themselves in their studies - learning and growing - and in their commitment to imparting hope and joy, not only to each other, but also to their younger peers. Like the pre-aged copper adornment of our new SLC building, they have become more beautiful in character and substance in the process.

We pay tribute to these young women. Led by School Captain Vivienne Yang and Vice Captains Danielle Fenech and Maddie Rudan, they were a Year Group who launched 2020 with a rather prophetic and poignant theme *The RAVO Connection*. During a

period of distance and dislocation, they worked to strengthen and deepen a central Ravenswood characteristic — our warmth and connectedness.

In turn, we rallied alongside to support Year 12, creating as many opportunities and memories as we could, to fill the void left by postponed or cancelled rites of passage. On the day that would have been the Year 12 Formal, we instead hosted an *Informal* and decorated their new Senior Learning Centre with balloons and glittering streamers, and screened a feel-good film for them to watch together after school.

Staff took delight in making each girl a corsage, while a photo booth captured their memories of the day. During their exams, we created a wall of *Bucket Fillers*, replenishing them with uplifting personalised messages of encouragement, and treats. In Final Assembly, we gifted them each a mortarboard, a symbol of a most hard-won graduation - and they symbolically threw these in the air at the conclusion of their schooling. Then, when the State Government announced the return of school formals in September, albeit with limitations, we organised two joyous events in one evening at Miramare Gardens, for students and parents to celebrate this wonderful milestone reached. The photos from this event feature on pages 32-35.

As the emotional toll of the pandemic around Australia and the world became clear, we mobilised a myriad of support for the Class of 2020 and the entire School body, including parents and staff. *Flourishing During COVID-19* (page 18), outlines some of the wellbeing events we staged. The CEO of the National Mental Health Commission and National Suicide Prevention Advisor to the Prime Minister Alumni Christine Morgan (Class of 1978), joined us not once but twice, encouraging the girls in Assembly and supporting parents at an evening webinar, alongside headspace the Youth Mental Health Foundation of Australia. The author and motivational speaker Lisa Messenger provided inspiring advice during a daylong session for the Secondary School. We were also invited to showcase our School's pioneering work in Positive Education at the International Positive Education Network (IPEN) Conference, hosted a Q&A keynote presentation with Professor Martin Seligman for the Shipley School Positive Education Conference, and presented at the *Youth got This* online forum. The latter was organised for parents through The University of Sydney's Matilda Centre, by Ravenswood parent Emma Cook.

Importantly, the students also rallied to support one another. *Letters During Lockdown* (page 14) details the Years 8-9 Community Problem Solving team's



efforts to organise warm letters of support and affirmation for our Alumni. Our Social Justice Prefects oversaw *RU OK Day* (page 25) which, rather than a one-day event, is fast becoming an ongoing, daily campaign at Ravenswood.

The *Educator* magazine recognised these efforts in November, naming us one of Australia's *Most Innovative Schools*. It also acknowledged our leading-edge work in the area of Mind Brain Education, which features in *From Good to Great* (pages 20-21).

This issue of *Semper* also profiles Alumni Unjoo Moon (1982), who helped boost the spirits of a world in lock down with her film about the life of music superstar and feminist icon Helen Reddy and its inspiring message of overcoming (*Sisters in Success*, page 29).

Reddy's soaring anthem *I am Woman*, celebrates the finding of strength in the power of hope and resilience to make a difference in the world. The song was also the backdrop to Ravenswood's 2020 *Year in Review* video, which can now be viewed on the home page of our School website. With its themes of female strength and solidarity, it reflects both the challenges of the times and the way our girls are developing the grit and resolve to advance, without ever losing sight of their goals.

Similarly, the incoming Prefects' theme for 2021, *You Strengthen the Sisterhood*, is a recognition of the revitalising force of the RAVO *sisterhood*, the importance of valuing one another's unique contribution and the extraordinary power of women united. The girls outline their vision on page 8 and we look forward to seeing all that they have planned.

It brings me great pleasure to welcome one of Australia's most influential business figures, the former CEO of Westpac Bank Group and former parent Gail Kelly, to the role of Chair of the Ravenswood School Council from next year. I would like to offer my thanks and gratitude to the outgoing interim Chair of Council, Guy Fowler whose strategic insights, commercial acumen and real-possibility thinking have brought immense value to the School and the broader Ravenswood community.

Excitingly, next year marks 120 years since our founder Mabel Fidler established Ravenswood, to empower young women with a rich, vibrant and multifaceted education - preparing them for university and meaningful careers and lives. I am looking forward to sharing with you the exciting events and experiences that we are preparing, to celebrate this important milestone together.





A Message from our Student Leaders

Reflecting on this unprecedented year has reminded us to appreciate what we take for granted in our education - especially all that Ravenswood does to strengthen the authentic connections that make our School community so special. Every day, we received smiling welcomes and undivided support from our teachers, regardless of whether we were learning face-to-face or online. Non-teaching staff worked around the clock to help us to adapt to constant changes and remain connected. Each girl, whether they knew it or not, drew on their unique strengths to 'See the RAVO Connection,' and together we made it through one of the toughest years yet.

As the new Student Leaders for 2021, our focus lies in three main areas, inspired by the power of connection and teamwork that we saw this year. We aim to continue to foster high quality relationships and inclusivity, irrespective of classes, Year Groups or Houses. We would also like to see stronger participation in co-curricular activities, School initiatives and greater application to academics. But, most importantly, we will strive

to emphasise the importance of authenticity, self-care and balance, because we want each girl to thrive in all areas of life.

With this in mind, the Prefects are beyond excited to reveal our new theme *YOU Strengthen the Sisterhood*, for 2021. This theme embodies our vision for each girl to harness her own unique strengths, and find the power within them. In doing so, we will highlight the inherent value of each individual student within our Ravenswood sisterhood. We hope that School-wide activities and upcoming initiatives created by many girls across campus, will bring to the fore the many tremendous individuals we have in our midst, and recognise them for who they are.

So, on behalf of the 2021 Student Leaders and the Class of 2021, we are thrilled to celebrate what each girl brings to our wonderful sisterhood over the next 12 months and to our beautiful girls, remember that YOU truly do strengthen our sisterhood.

Lauren Robinson, Imogen Ryan and Michelle Bulin



Ravenswood Prep commencing February 2021 – ENROL NOW

Ravenswood is thrilled to announce the introduction of a new Prep Class (pre-kindy), commencing in February 2021 in our Junior School. This means that the Ravenswood journey of education now begins from just four-years-old. The inaugural Ravenswood Prep Class will offer our littlest RAVO girls an enriching and nurturing transition to School, by providing early work in the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme, with a blend of the Reggio Emilia approach and some wonderful elements of Positive Education.

For more information, please contact our Head of Enrolments Mrs Bec Carolan, at enrol@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au or phone +61 2 9498 9908.

Anne Johnstone – Appointed Chair of PESA

Australia's peak association for Positive Education, the Positive Education Schools Association (PESA), appointed Ravenswood Principal Mrs Anne Johnstone Chair in September. 'It is exciting to continue my work with PESA, having had the privilege of being a founding board member of the Association since 2014,' Mrs Johnstone said. 'Now, more than ever, young people need our support but the good news is that schools are well-placed to help make a positive contribution to the lives of young people every day – and indeed to the lives of staff, parents and the broader School community.' Ravenswood will proudly host the 2021 PESA Conference in August.

2020 Innovative Schools Award

For the third year in a row, Ravenswood has been recognised by *The Educator* magazine for innovation in education. The initiatives cited by *The Educator*, include the launch of the Ravenswood Institute Professional Learning Series (RIPLS), which provides ongoing training for teachers by teachers. Our proactive efforts to address the wellbeing challenges for students, staff and parents posed by COVID-19 also received significant mention.



Artificial Intelligence for Good

Two Ravenswood Year 9 students won a prestigious national Microsoft competition in November, for an app that promises to improve daily life for millions of people with disabilities.

Neither Sydney Bao nor Ailis Sweeney have met many people with a disability, but through their work in elective Information Systems Technology class and entry in the Microsoft AI for Good competition, the girls have become passionate advocates for the differently abled.

Microsoft conceived AI for Good to teach secondary school students how Artificial Intelligence works, its ethical implications and ways to apply it to solve entrenched societal problems.

Sydney and Ailis entered an app called *Aldaptyle*, which offers a way for people with disabilities to order fashionable clothes that fit.

'Fashion is empowering and clothing is identity but for over half a billion disabled people worldwide, dressing with confidence is a daily struggle,' said 15-year-old Ailis.

'The mainstream fashion industry actively excludes people with disabilities and while adaptive clothing is functional, it is not stylish - that is where our AI concept comes in,' said 14-year-old Sydney Bao.

Aldaptyle can be operated through voice command. It scans the user's body with the camera on their phone, invites them to enter their clothing modification preferences, such as magnets instead of buttons or Velcro instead of zippers, and select outfits using mainstream shopping platforms. *Aldaptyle* then applies pattern-making rules to produce modified patterns and sends them to a production house for manufacture and shipping.

In developing *Aldaptyle*, the girls were required to incorporate ethical principles such as reliability, safety, liability and transparency. They also conducted lengthy research on encryption and firewalls to ensure their app offered privacy and security.

More than 631 teams from 108 schools entered the AI for Good competition. According to the judges, *Aldaptyle* stood out because it could be produced immediately. 'It uses existing technology and could actually go to market - we can picture it now on a site like The Iconic. In addition, the girls' business model and pitch were excellent and they had carefully evaluated the ethical considerations,' said Judge Aaron Tait, Director of Innovation at Education Changemakers.

Microsoft visited Ravenswood with a film crew on 19 November, to announce the girls' win and present them with prizes, including a laptop computer each. The technology company also named Ravenswood ICT Integrator Bronwyn Moreton, Microsoft AI for Good Teacher of the Year. 'The AI for Good challenge has been a wonderful vehicle to focus the students on innovation and the purposeful use of technology. Intelligent, creative and genuinely compassionate students need real-world problems to solve and Sydney and Ailis are well-deserving of this affirmation,' Bronwyn said.

'*Aldaptyle* is a beautiful fusion of our work in the areas of STEM, Positive Education and Social Justice and I am immensely proud of the girls' work,' said Principal Mrs Johnstone.





Breaking the Glass Ceiling

Year 11 student Emma Woodcock made history in September, when she was appointed Senior Cadet Under Officer (SUO) of the Knox Grammar School Cadet Unit (KGSCU), the largest in Australia. Here she outlines the lessons she has learned and her aims for the future.

Tell us about your role in the KGSCU

As the SUO, I will be responsible for overseeing approximately 900 male and 300 female Cadets, running the Cadet program, leading various ceremonial parades and planning and executing an eight-day annual camp.

What are the most significant lessons you have learned?

The biggest lesson that Cadets teaches us is that no matter your level of seniority and experience, there will always be more to learn and additional opportunities to grow. Another is that communication is key at all levels. With students from both Knox and Ravenswood in the Unit, it is essential to ensure that everyone receives the same messages across both schools.

What does your appointment mean for younger Ravenswood Cadets climbing the ranks? Do you feel a sense of responsibility?

Today, glass ceilings are being broken all around the world and I hope that my appointment is just another example of this. I am striving to be a great role model for current and future Ravenswood Cadets and hope they will now see they can aspire to any position within the KGSCU and beyond high school. To those girls currently in the Unit or planning to join Cadets, I would say the following:

- Cadets can be an amazing opportunity to broaden your skill set, to learn how to follow and to lead and to make some lifelong friendships - what's not to love about that?
- Find some role models within the Unit and seek out their advice to help set goals.
- Look to be a great team player and remain humble.

What do you enjoy most about being a Cadet?

It gives me the opportunity to work within teams, lead teams and learn the benefits of discipline. Cadets has helped me to develop a multitude of skills - it is an example of the philosophy that if you work hard, you can achieve your goals.

What skills have you gained?

I have learned to remain calm and confident when placed in pressurised situations. During the experience of lockdown, I also learned how to communicate under unique circumstances and approach situations with an open mindset.

Is it daunting to be in command of 1200 Cadets, including 900 males?

No, I don't find it daunting. The Unit has trained me for the role and I have had some terrific role models. I actually find the process of managing and working with teams and hundreds of Cadets exhilarating. On parade, everyone gets nervous but this is simply because we all want to do well.

To me, the co-educational nature of the KGSCU is a great initiative. The larger number of males does not affect my approach to lead or to learn and I have found that the Knox boys have been great to work with.

How do you think your Cadet experience has prepared you for the road ahead?

Cadets prepares people well for a wide range of environments and potential opportunities. When I leave school, I would like to study Medicine. Cadets has prepared me well for a high-pressure career that requires a calm demeanour.

Letters During Lockdown

Cultivating the art of correspondence during COVID-19

Ravenswood's Years 8-9 Community Problem Solving team won first place at the 2020 National Future Problem Solving competition in October for their *Big Sisters* project, an online buddy program that helped girls in the Junior School to thrive during lockdown.

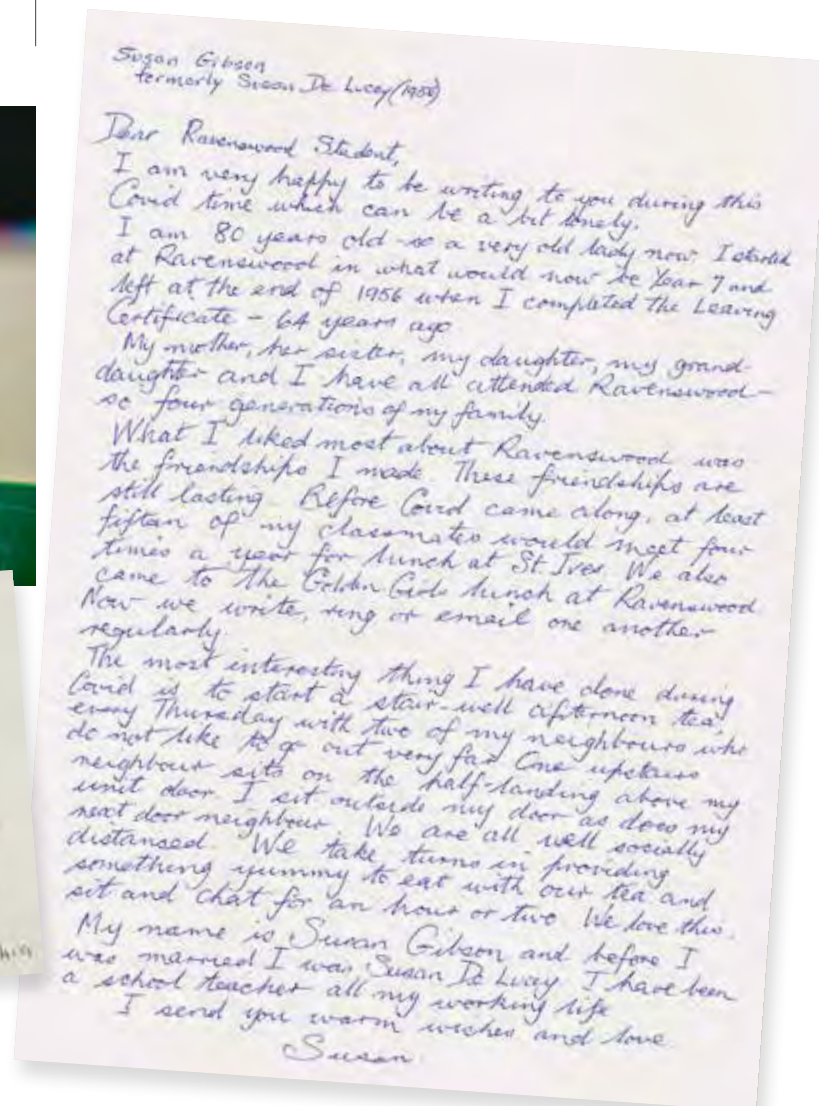
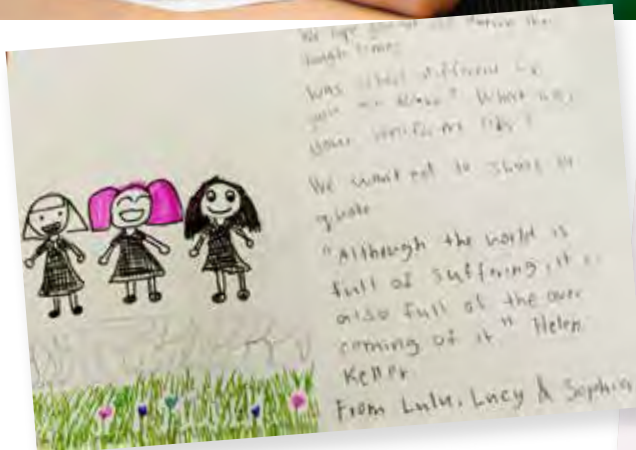
Now competing in the international stage of the contest, the *Big Sisters* have turned their attention to the needs of people at the other end of the age spectrum - Ravenswood's elderly Alumni.

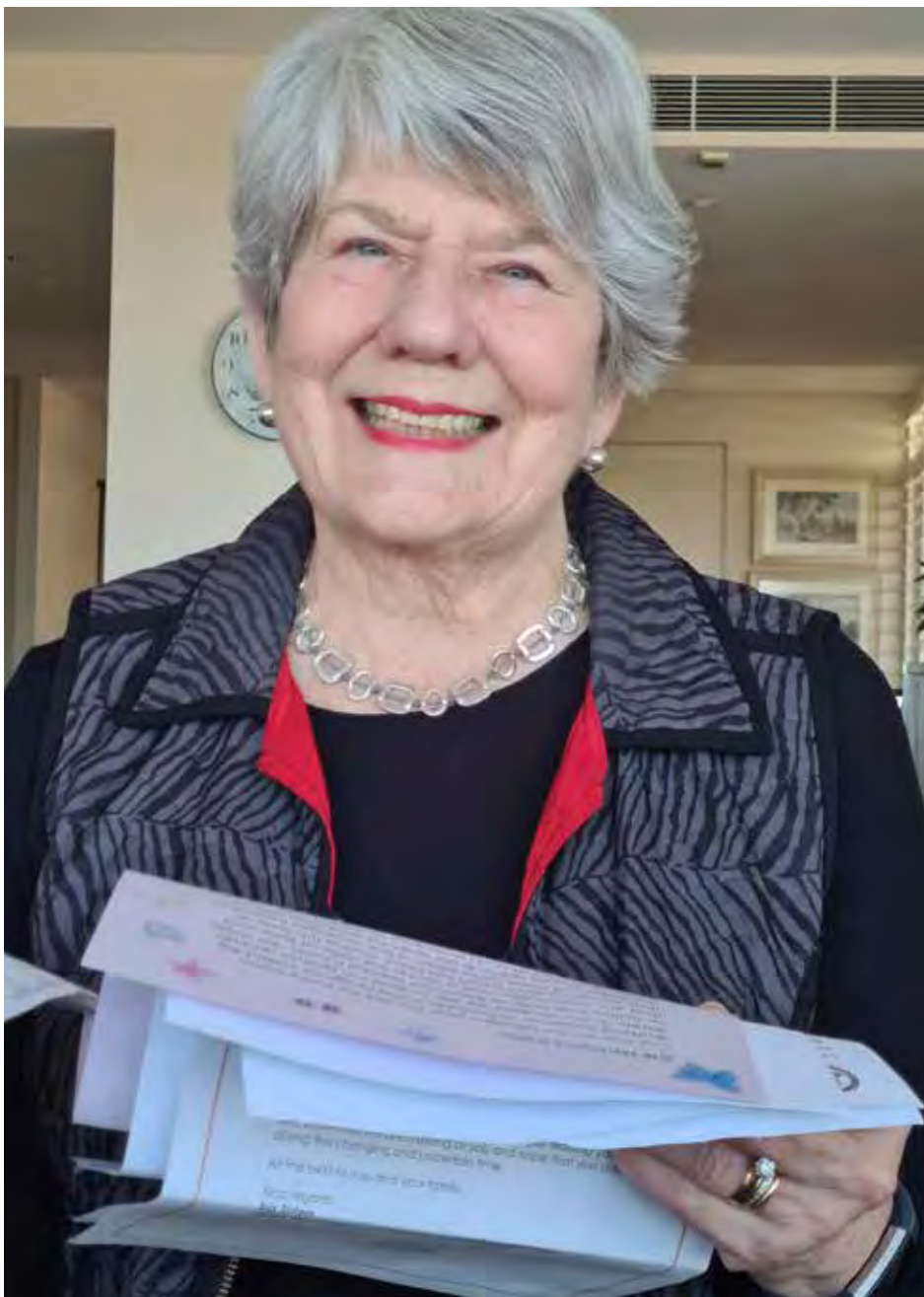
'We knew that older people were also facing difficulties this year and that they might be cut off from their relatives and activities and need a boost. We thought that if we and the younger girls, wrote letters to them, it might make all of us feel happier,' says Chloe Carr (Year 9).

'We suggested to the younger girls that they find quotes that would be inspiring and really think about what would lift the spirits of an older person. They put so much thought into what they wrote and the way they decorated the letters - it was amazing,' says Pia Bobeff (Year 8).

'I tried to convey hope and joy in my letter,' says Sophia Denney (Year 5). 'I enjoyed writing to the Alumni because it would have made them feel happy knowing that the RAVO community had not forgotten them.'

Many Alumni responded to the girls with long letters, detailing their memories of Ravenswood and the ways they have been keeping busy, despite the recent restrictions.







'The need for unstructured play'

'Combating modern day slavery'

'The impact of ocean acidification'

Speaking Up

Ravenswood Speech students are delivering youthful wisdom on complex subjects and achieving national and international success.

Ravenswood is renowned for the quality of its Speech teaching and regularly produces national and international champions.

'In the words of author Alexander Gregg, "There are three things to aim at in Public Speaking; first get into the subject, then get the subject into you, and finally get the subject into the hearts of the listener," says Coordinator of Speech, Jillian Burgess.

This year, Kayleigh Li (Year 10) won the title of Australian Speakfest Champion. Her Persuasive Speech highlighted one of the world's most complex challenges — contemporary slavery. 'Most people do not realise there are more slaves in the world today than at any time in human history. We have a moral obligation to know which companies employ unethical practices and avoid them,' she says.

Lucy Walsh and Paris Lay-Yee (Year 10) will represent Australia at the World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships (WIDPSC) in South Africa in April, after successful performances at the 2020 Australian Championships in September.

Lucy tackled the cost of the decline of play in our technologically advanced but increasingly isolated world. 'One of my favourite quotes is from Ruth Bader Ginsburg, "Fight for the things that you care about. But do it in a way that will lead others to join you." Lucy says. 'Speech at Ravenswood is available to everyone. I believe the skills we learn are essential to life, as how we communicate impacts our relationships, careers, and engagement in our world.'

A founding member of the Australian Speaking Association (APSA) and Vice President of The Australian Speech Communication Association (ASCA), Jillian Burgess celebrated 25 years at Ravenswood this year. In 2021, she will oversee Debating as well as Speech Communication, in her new role as Head of Voice. Her plans for Ravenswood debaters include the continuation of a number of outstanding initiatives introduced by Sam Bowers, who previously held the Debating Coordinator position.

Making Waves

Imagine being published alongside a poet who you are studying in class — when you are only in Year 10. Paris Lay-Yee is a writer with an exciting future ahead.

Like many teenagers, Paris Lay-Yee is passionate about the environment, in particular ocean acidification.

‘The risks are more real than most people realise,’ she says. ‘Ocean acidification is the evil twin of climate change. Its impact on developing island communities and Australia’s beloved beach culture is potentially devastating.’

First, Paris wrote a powerful speech that earned her a place representing Australia at next year’s World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships (WIDPSC) in South Africa:

‘This is not another quintessential climate change speech. This is a cry for help. My hand is up, clenched in a fist, the emergency signal for when you’re drowning. Because we drown our ocean in our emissions. And we pay the price for that. That price is the extinction of sea life, mass starvation

for Pacific Island nations and ... the eradication of memories within the water.’

Then she wrote a poem and submitted it to Red Room Poetry’s *Writing Water: Rain, River, Reef* project. Titled *We Are the Stars and the Sea* (see page 2), it was the only student work selected for publication and appeared in the anthology alongside accomplished professional poets, including Eunice Andrada, whose work Paris and her classmates studied in Year 10 English this year. In addition, Paris was one of only four poets chosen to recite her poem at the book’s online launch on 16 November.

‘Paris’ poem *We are the Stars and the Sea* united the universal perspective of bodies of water with the water within each of us. During the dislocation and distance that we have all experienced this year, it was a moving poem that revealed the tangible impact young people’s voices can make,’ says Tamryn Bennett, Red Room Poetry Artistic Director.



Flourishing During COVID-19

In a year when more than three quarters of Australians reported declining mental health,* Ravenswood acted to help students, staff and parents to thrive, not just survive.

Online student webinars

Ravenswood Alumni, CEO of the Mental Health Commission and National Advisor to the Prime Minister on Suicide Prevention Christine Morgan (Class of 1978), has developed a close working relationship with Ravenswood. She joined us via Zoom in August to answer the girls' questions on how to sustain good mental health and support friends who are struggling. 'Sometimes the best thing to do for a friend is to just be present, listen and ask what they need without judgement,' she said. 'In your own lives, prioritise connections, balance academic work with co-curricular and social activities and enjoy your learning rather than just chasing marks.'

Motivational Workshops with Author and Speaker Lisa Messenger

Lisa Messenger is the founder of one of the world's first positive publication groups, the magazine and website platform Collective Hub. She spent an intensive day in the Secondary School in July, which encompassed a focused session for students in Years 11-12. Lisa's wisdom included, 'mindset and purpose is everything; live according to your own expectations, not those of others; the only thing you can control is your mindset; surround yourself with like-minded people; build up your resilience muscle and never give up.' Lisa gifted each girl an inspiring motivational journal and advice on how to use it to enhance day-to-day life.

Youth Got This Online Forum

Ravenswood parent Emily Cook initiated this forum for sharing knowledge and wisdom about youth mental health, organised through the University of Sydney Matilda Centre. It brought together psychologists, professors, scientists and Ravenswood Principal Mrs Anne Johnstone, to help parents support their children during the pandemic. Mrs Johnstone shared how Ravenswood is creating a deep culture of wellbeing and connection that provides a high degree of protection against mental illness. 'You can teach these skills and their effectiveness can be measured,' she said. 'It is about recognising that while life can be hard, we have the tools to bounce back, build our psychological capital and lift others up as well.'

Headspace Webinar for Parents

The Youth Mental Health Foundation of Australia headspace, spoke at an online Ravenswood parent event in September. The Foundation advised on the warning signs of depression and how to talk to young people about grief and suicide. Above all, they advised parents to trust their gut. 'No-one knows your child better than you do; you are the expert when it comes to identifying when something is off-base.' They also recommended parents prioritise their own mental health, in order to support their children. 'Australian parents see it as a privilege to get the sleep and exercise they need, whereas it is in fact, essential.'

*Black Dog Institute 2020.



URSTRONG and Friendology

The Ravenswood Junior School is working with the URSTRONG organisation to enhance our younger girls' social and emotional wellbeing, by developing their friendship skills. Through games and other fun activities, the girls are learning to set specific, measurable, realistic and time-bound friendship goals, manage conflict and tell the difference between healthy and unhealthy relationships. They have also considered concepts such as navigating friendships in a digital world, handling different personalities in a friendship group and treating themselves as their own best friend. Practical resilience techniques and 'power phrases' to stay strong in the face of friendship disappointments, have also been helpful.



The International Wellbeing in Education and Shipley Conferences

Principal Mrs Anne Johnstone, is on the board of the International Positive Education Network (IPEN), which brings together teachers, students, parents and governments, to promote Positive Education. In October, a group of Ravenswood staff, including Mrs Johnstone and Head of Junior School - Deputy Principal Sarah Guy, presented at the IPEN Global Wellbeing in Education conference, to an estimated audience of up to 40,000 people from 140 countries. Mrs Johnstone also conducted a Q & A with the founder of positive psychology Professor Martin Seligman, at the Shipley School Positive Education Conference. 'Teachers - the future of humanity is in your hands,' Professor Seligman said.



Student-led Initiatives

Student ownership of Positive Education continues to grow, as evidenced by the girls' introduction of Spirit Week, the embedding of RU OK Day and much more. A House chalk drawing competition on the first day of Term 3, was a fun and colourful way to demonstrate their internalisation of concepts such as the importance of courage, growth mindset and overcoming challenge.





From Good to Great

'Every teacher needs to improve, not because they are not good enough, but because they can be even better.'

Dylan Wiliam

Students are not the only ones inquiring, collaborating and discovering at Ravenswood. All of our teachers are active learners in their chosen field, exercising the same growth mindset they encourage in their students and demonstrating that learning is a way of life and a habit of mind.

The Ravenswood Institute was established five years ago to facilitate professional development and drive classroom innovation, by granting Fellowships and fostering partnerships with renowned scholars, universities and industry.

This year, the Institute launched the Ravenswood Professional Learning Series, a collection of online courses by teachers for teachers, accompanied by the new publication *RIPLS*, which features articles by staff keen to share their knowledge and expertise.

One fascinating area of Institute-sponsored research focuses on neuroscience and the principles



of Mind Brain Education (MBE). Staff participated in a two-day workshop at the beginning of 2020 with Glenn Whitman, the Director of the Centre of Transformative Teaching and Learning (CTTL) at St Andrew's School Maryland in Washington DC.

Glenn encouraged them to consider the question, 'What makes a good teacher a great teacher?' and explore a range of teaching principles, including memory, cognitive load and social-emotional learning.

Following the visit, a dedicated MBE translation team was formed, comprised of around 15 teachers from across the Junior and Secondary Schools and a range of subject areas.

Throughout the 2020 academic year, team members employed MBE strategies in their classrooms to leverage the link between learning and emotion and

find ways to make learning more meaningful and purposeful for their students.

'Some team members have described the techniques as game changing in terms of their capacity to help students find both challenge and joy in their learning experience,' said Learning Enrichment and Research Coordinator Fiona Cooney. 'There is no greater reward than seeing a student beaming after they receive a positive result from a challenging task, knowing that the strategies you have encouraged have made a difference to their learning experience.'

The MBE team has so far shared its learning through an online training module and a live panel discussion. Next year, it hopes to offer a certified course through the Institute, which will continue to inform new approaches to excellence in teaching and learning at Ravenswood.

Student Showcase



First in NSW – the National History Challenge

‘History is an interesting subject overall as you take a step back in time where there is so much to learn,’ says Daniela Bazouni (Year 7), whose research into the death of Tutankhamun, led to a State win in the National History Challenge. The History Teachers’ Association of Australia conducts the competition to reward and encourage the effective analysis and evaluation of primary and secondary sources. The 2020 theme was *Contested Histories* and Daniela says she gained enormous pleasure in studying the theories about Tutankhamun’s demise, including how and why they have changed over the years.

The War on Waste

Year 11 student wins award to tackle the growing problem of food waste

If Laura Zhang is passionate about food waste, it is because she began her life with food insecurity.

In November, The 16-year-old won the 2020 Gail Kelly *Making a Difference* Leadership Award, with an impassioned essay on the issue. It includes her memories of sitting with her grandfather on the steps of a church in Sydney’s inner west, drinking soup and eating bread — ‘something we rarely had.’

Laura says Australia has the fourth highest food wastage rates in the world, which is not just an ethical problem but also an economic and environmental one. ‘Rotting food releases methane, which is terrible for the environment and is costing us billions of dollars each year.’

The Gail Kelly *Making a Difference* Leadership Award is an annual collaboration between Ravenswood and one of Australia’s most influential business figures, Gail Kelly. Laura has received \$5000 to donate to her charity of choice — Australia’s leading food NGO, OzHarvest.



Future Problem Solving Success

Ravenswood came second in the world in Scenario Performance and reached the Finals in Senior Scenario Writing, at the 2020 International Future Problem Solving (FPS) Conference. The contest featured 1800 students from 14 countries and 40 American States. Michelle Bulin (Year 11) reached the Finals after winning Best Senior Scenario Writer at national level.

The 2020 conference topic was terraforming, the hypothetical process of deliberately modifying the atmosphere, temperature, surface topography or ecology of a planet to make it Earth-like and habitable. 'With the Earth's resources and environment deteriorating, countless experts and researchers say we need to be looking for another place to live right now,' Michelle says. 'The concept of space exploration for future human colonisation

seems like science fiction but it will occur in the not-so-distant future. What fascinates me most, are the methods to heat or cool a new planet's atmosphere to support life. It is an uncertain and exciting concept.'



Solving World Problems

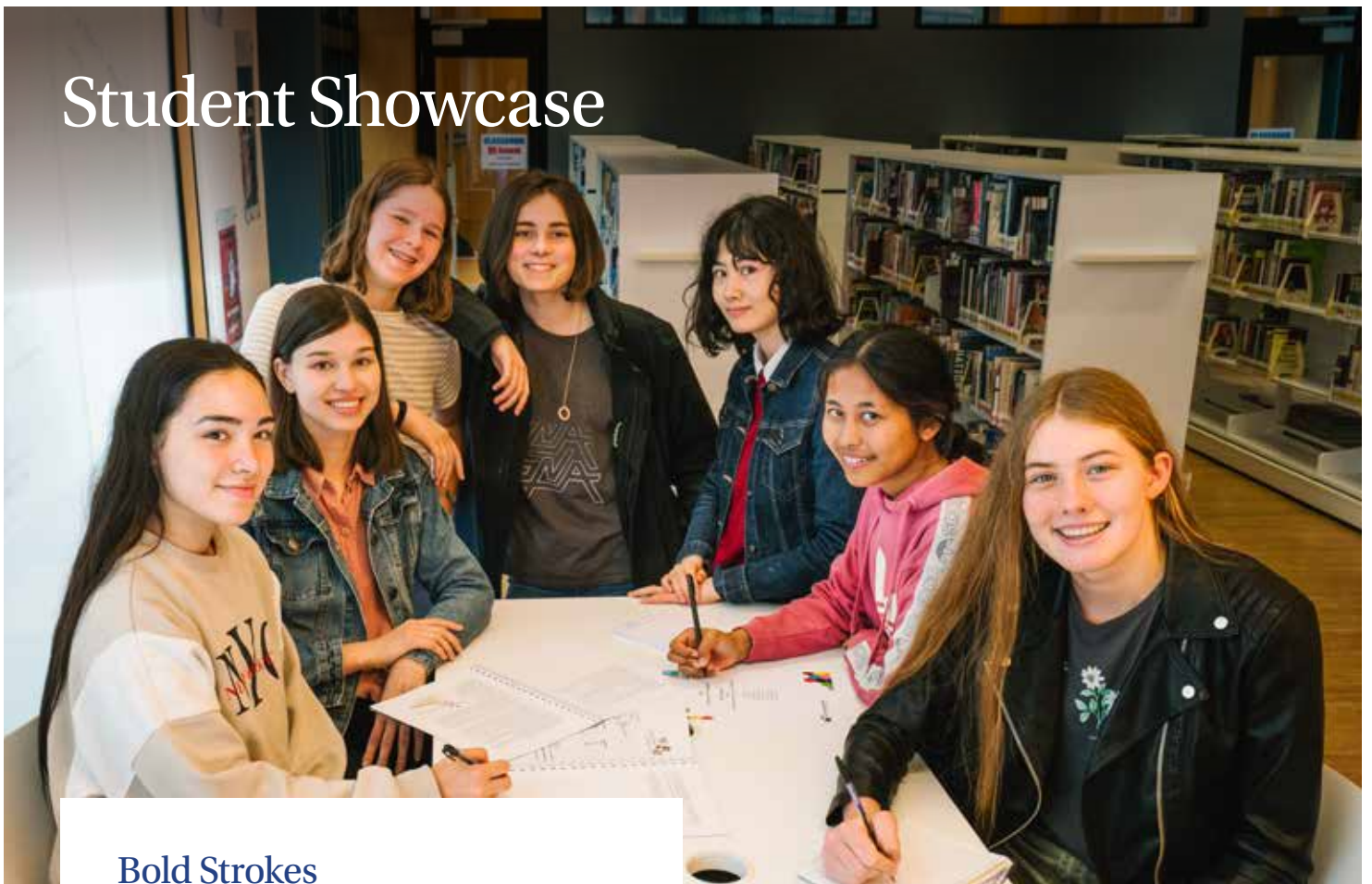
Ravenswood's Year 6 International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP) Exhibition, took the students' critical thinking and problem-solving skills to new heights this year. Conducted under the guidelines of the IB's *Enhanced* PYP, it focused on student agency - the girls' ability to own their learning. The fascinating topics included solutions for homelessness, protective measures to prevent domestic violence and the overcoming of male dominance in the publishing sector. Twelve-year-old Rebecca Chew's presentation investigated the dangers of unbridled technological

advancement. 'Cyber bullying and computer hacking are huge issues that young people of my generation will need to face,' she says. 'I enjoyed learning about them in detail and being able to teach my friends things they didn't know.'

'The *Enhanced* PYP approach has given the girls an understanding of the interrelatedness of complex issues that is far beyond what is usually achieved by students of this age group,' says Ravenswood Head of Junior School - Deputy Principal, Sarah Guy.



Student Showcase



Bold Strokes

For the first time, a Ravenswood team was short-listed for the national level of the Write-a-Book-in-a-Day (WABIAD) competition, with a story about the importance of passion over perfection.

WABIAD gives student teams just 12 hours to write and illustrate a book from start to finish, raising money for children's hospitals across the country. Digital editions of the completed stories are then donated to sick children.

Year 10 student Imogen Hughes says a key element of her team's success was organisation. 'Prior to the day, we nominated ourselves to be writers, illustrators or organisers and reflected on how we could contribute and work efficiently,' Imogen says.

The other element was strategy. 'WABIAD parameters call for an element of fantasy through a non-human character. We feared that if we stuck too closely to this, our story might be implausible and un-relatable. By focusing on the struggles of our character and the moral of the story, we created a better outcome.'

The final book *Bold Strokes*, is an entertaining read with some valuable lessons about living authentically. The girls say they had not expected it to do so well. 'After 12 hours of writing and illustrating we were too exhausted to reflect on it or consider how it might compare to the competition!'

International Astronomy and Astrophysics Competition

Filled with wonder about the mysteries of the universe, Tiana Pendray (Year 9) received Finalist Honours in the demanding 2020 International Astronomy and Astrophysics competition (IAAC) earlier this year. Tiana is also the recipient of the 2020 Ravenswood Selby Scientific Foundation Scholarship. She spent part of Term 4 studying Astronautics and Human Spaceflight at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (online). 'I have been fascinated by everything to do with space for as long as I can remember,' she says. 'My dream is to one day work in the field.'



Sustainable Social Justice

Since its inception, Ravenswood has prioritised Social Justice and fundraising activities. The girls contribute to up to 25 charities every year, from bushfire and drought relief to homelessness and medical aid. This year, the Cerebral Palsy Alliance event September attracted wide support. Eighty students and staff walked, rode and swam the equivalent of 10,000 steps a day, to raise over \$9000.

2020 marked a change of direction, as our new Social Justice Prefects and Social Justice staff, looked deeper at ways to ensure meaningful service activities, curriculum integration and opportunities for structured reflection. 'We want to give the students a more authentic understanding of social need,' says Social Justice Prefect Evelyn Thomson (Year 11). 'We are encouraging discussions about the root causes of social problems to build a foundation for sustainable activities with long-term impact.'

An example was NAIDOC Week in September. In preparation, around 30 Year 11 students formed a Reconciliation Group, meeting weekly to plan not only lunchtime activities but also collaborations with Heads of Department. The idea was to incorporate learning, such as the study of Aboriginal poetry in English classes, or the impact of the First Fleet's arrival in History lessons. 'We also learned from Aboriginal leaders such as Brooke Prentis, the CEO of Common Grace and Aunty Pearl Wymarra and listened to Aboriginal stories. Successful fundraising activities for the NGO Yalari, took place but we were also determined to ensure NAIDOC made a tangible difference to the girls' understanding of Indigenous culture and issues over time.'

In a similar way, RU OK Day became an everyday event in Terms 3 and 4. 'We extended the focus beyond the selling of badges and wristbands for mental health initiatives, to an ongoing commitment to conversations with and care for, people outside our social bubble,' Evelyn says. 'More and more Year 11 students are jumping on board to embed this initiative, not only during Mentor Groups or Positive Education classes but on the playground and in every aspect of our lives at School.'



Sport

Best and Fairest

Ravenswood 2020-2021 Sport Captain Kara Selvarajah (Year 11) and 2020-2021 Sport Vice Captain Phoebe Fitton (Year 11) share a unique accomplishment with their performances in Australian Rules Football (AFL).

Both have won a League Best and Fairest Award, recognition that they were judged and voted to be the dominant player in a competition across an entire season.

Kara earned top honours in her first ever season of community club AFL in the Sydney Harbour Youth Girls U16 Division 1 competition, whilst Phoebe was judged the game's best in her first ever season of the AFL NSW Independent Girls' Schools competition.

Kara and Phoebe also excelled at club level in 2020, with Kara claiming the Best and Fairest Award and Phoebe receiving the Runner-Up Best and Fairest Award, playing in the same team that qualified for a Grand Final.

Ravenswood 2020 - 2021 AFL Captain Ella Garvey (Year 11) also produced a season to savour as she played a pivotal role in her club team, winning the Premiership at the U18 level, alongside fellow students Emily Davie (Year 11) and Lili Kablau (Year 11).

History-Making Performances

Ravenswood sporting students embraced the challenges posed by COVID-19 and triumphed this year - breaking an historic 15 School Athletics and Swimming Records.

'2020 brought into sharp focus the commitment that Ravenswood students have towards their sporting preparations and performances,' says Director of Sport Cameron Childs. 'In what has been a chaotic and disruptive year, the girls have strived to be the very best version of themselves and proved that there is reward in all toil.'

Across the Junior and Secondary Schools, records were broken in everything from the High Jump to the 50 Metre Breaststroke. Year 11 student Jessica Maciver broke three Records, the 17 Years 200 Metres, the 17 Years long Jump and the 17 Years Shot Put. 'It has been a challenging year, with many competitions cancelled, which created a lot of uncertainty,' she says. 'I maintained my dedication towards training however, and would attribute my success to the hard work and love I put into Athletics.'



Performing Arts



National Champions

Dance was more impacted than most activities this year, as classes moved online and students were forced to practise their routines from the confines of their bedrooms. 'They did an amazing job, maintaining their early morning lessons and reproducing what they saw me do on their screens,' says Dance Convenor Ebony Keys. 'But it is much harder to perfect your form and your timing, when you are learning remotely.'

Dance classes resumed face-to-face from June but social distancing regulations continued to create complexity. Group rehearsals and video-recorded performances required military precision. It was for this reason that the Performing Arts Department was overjoyed when students in Blue Company Jazz were named National Champions for their performance of *Thriller* at the DanceLife Unite Australia online schools competition. The Years 1-6 Junior School Dance Companies, Hip Hop Crew and Blue Jazz Company also received a variety of national awards.

'2020 dance has been challenging but really fun as well,' says Ruby Evans (Year 10). 'I think if anything, the difficulties and restrictions made us even more determined to succeed.'



Sisters in

After honing her skills in the top design houses in the world, **Sunjoo Moon** (1983), is now bringing a fresh sense of cool to the Californian fashion scene. The Creative Director of Marna-Ro, Sunjoo's designs capture California's eternal youth spirit, with an added classic luxury twist.

Sunjoo says her love of fashion took root at age 15, while she was still a student at Ravenswood. 'My mother would not let me buy fabric to make clothes, so I took some sheets, hand-painted them and sewed in waistbands. I sold my first dress while I was still at school and ended up making quite a lot of money trading in what were really just hand-painted sheets ... My whole life was in uniform - hats blazers and ties - from age 5-17. I guess that was the creative in me, you have to look different when everyone looks the same.'

Sunjoo's parents had wanted her to become a doctor but she persuaded them to buy her a ticket to Paris, to 'improve her French.' Instead, she used her time to scout for design schools, eventually gaining a place at the famed Studio Bercot, studying alongside her now close friend, French designer Isabel Marant.

Following graduation, Sunjoo worked at some of the finest design houses in the world, including Kenzo, Thierry Mugler and Missoni. 'Those years and what I learned about notions of fabrics and manufacturing have definitely inspired my aesthetic. Also, they informed me of the importance of developing authenticity and having your own voice,' she says.

Eventually, Sunjoo bought her own little boutique in Paris with a studio out the back, from where she sold her 'colourful and girly' designs to clients in Europe, the Middle East and Japan. When her French husband decided to move to Los Angeles, Sunjoo says she followed him 'kicking and screaming' but has since found her niche, designing clothes for Marna Ro that cross the boundaries of the Parisian and Californian aesthetic. Her advice to young design students is this: 'If you have a true love for design, and you have really strong conviction, then stick to your guns ... anyone who sticks to their convictions makes it through, whether you're working for a big design house or your own business.'



Sunjoo Moon

Success



The release of *I am Woman* in May was perfectly timed, not just because it brought joy to a world in lockdown but because it coincided with the global #MeToo movement.

The synchronicity is not lost on Ravenswood Alumni **Unjoo Moon** (1982), who is now based in Los Angeles. 'I am pleased by public reaction to the film and its message to women to keep fighting for change. It is a film for this time. It has great relevance for everybody,' she says.

Growing up on Sydney's north shore in the 1960s and 1970s, Unjoo was too young to understand Helen Reddy's impact on international music and feminism. What she does remember is watching her mother and her mother's friends singing Reddy's anthem *I am Woman*, at high volume in the car, their fists in the air.

Decades later, when she spotted Reddy across the room at an event in California, Unjoo swapped seats to chat with the singer and learn more of her story. What she discovered was an irresistible tale about a woman who had landed in New York with her three-year-old daughter, a suitcase and \$230. Within five years, Reddy had become an international superstar – Australia's first ever Grammy Award winner and an icon of the 1970s feminist movement. Yet despite this extraordinary success, it seemed the world had almost forgotten her. 'I walked away from that dinner convinced that someone had already made a film so I was really, really surprised when there wasn't one,' Unjoo says.

Unjoo filmed *I am Woman* in NSW and Los Angeles and premiered it at the 2019 Toronto Film Festival. It is filled with the joy and strength of Reddy's music and vividly depicts her smashing of the patriarchal norms of her time, with fearless ambition and passion. Once the film was completed, Unjoo organised a special screening for 78-year-old Reddy and her family. 'Helen sang along to her songs and when she cried [it was because] she found the whole experience so touching and I think really cathartic in a way,' Unjoo says.

***I am Woman* was the song chosen for Ravenswood's celebratory Year in Review video, to mark the conclusion of the 2020 academic year.**

Community News



Celebrating

Like Year 12 students across NSW, the Ravenswood Class of 2020 rejoiced when the State Government announced formals could proceed after all. The rite of passage was held at Miramare Gardens and despite the absence of partners, was brimming with happy, vibrant energy — especially on the dance floor. Parents enjoyed the chance to celebrate the end of their daughter's schooling at their own Twilight Drinks event next door.









Community News

Ravenswood community events were a little different this year with many going online

The Ravenswood Parents' Association Trivia Night might have been via Zoom this year but it was as full of friendship and laughter as ever. Registrations were at a record high and all proceeds contributed to the Richter family's *Ride with Richter* campaign, to help son AJ regain his independence and live his best life.

The Year 6 Graduation was a roving event, with girls moving from photos with their parents on the Peace Lawn, to a relaxed lunch on the Roof Terrace, before a formal service in the Lorraine Smith Auditorium and a disco in the Old Girls' Courtyard. The theme was *Hollywood* – a perfect way to mark the transition to Secondary School.

Four impressive recent graduates joined us to address Year 10 during *For the Future*, a rich program designed to prepare the girls for their impending careers. The Alumni advice included to gain a breadth of experience, focus on building resilience and bounce back if nothing goes to plan.

Like all of our significant School events in 2020, Ravenswood Presentation Ceremonies were streamed live to be enjoyed by many thousands of members of our community. We were grateful to be able to invite our Year 12 parents to the outdoor Secondary School Presentation Ceremony, held against the beautiful backdrop of the new Senior Learning Centre.



Alumni Talk for Year 10



Year 6 Graduation



Trivia Zoom Night



Senior School Presentation Ceremaony



Indigenous Artist Wins 2020 Prize

If ever there were a time when we should slow down to look and listen the way artists do, it is now,' says Patron and Judge of the Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize Jennifer Turpin. The 2020 Prize was postponed in May, due to COVID-19 restrictions. When the Opening Night and Exhibition could finally be held on 26 November, they proved a welcome celebration for artists and the community, following months of uncertainty.

Vicki Cullinan from Iwantja Arts in South Australia, was announced the winner of the \$35,000 Professional Artist Prize, in a live stream watched by audiences across the country. The judges said of her work *Munga Ilkari (The Night Sky)*, 'it takes us out, way beyond the frame, to consider the cosmos and our tiny human role within it.'

Danielle Guyot from the NSW Central Coast, won the Emerging Artist Prize of \$5,000 for her sculpture made from foam cups, *Watagan Balga - Relic from a Forgotten World*. Lynette Lewis from Ernabella Arts in the Central Desert Region won the inaugural Indigenous Emerging Artist Prize of \$5000, for her acrylic on canvas artwork, *Tali Womikata*.

Special guest, the Federal Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts, the Hon Paul Fletcher MP, spoke of the significance of Indigenous art and the distinctive perspective women artists bring, while commending

Ravenswood for conducting the Art Prize. A virtual tour of the Exhibition and an online art sales platform complemented the live stream and generated interest from far and wide.

The Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize has grown from strength to strength, attracting 1388 entries in 2020. One hundred and five artists from every state and territory qualified for the Exhibition of Finalists.

Established in 2017 by Ravenswood School for Girls to recognise, encourage and promote women in the visual arts, the Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize is grateful for the generous support of the Platinum Sponsor, Stockland; Gold Sponsors: R.M. Williams *OUTBACK*, Active Networks and Crestone Wealth Management; Silver Sponsors: Buildcorp, The Art Scene, Clarke Murphy Print and Macquarie University.

'As Principal of Ravenswood, I am immensely proud to oversee this, our fourth annual Prize and Exhibition for women artists,' said Mrs Anne Johnstone. 'At Ravenswood, we are passionate about empowering women and this generous Art Prize is a way for us to advance Australia's talented women artists, providing them with greater career opportunities.'

The winning artworks are displayed overleaf.



Professional Artist winner, Vicki Cullinan with her artwork *Munga Ilkari (The Night Sky)*



Emerging Artist winner, Danielle Guyot with her artwork *Watagan Balga - Relic from a Forgotten World*



Sponsors of the Indigenous Emerging Artist Prize, Don and Tina Tritton with the category winning artwork, *Tali Womikata* by Lynette Lewis



Paul Fletcher MP with 2020 winning artwork Vicki Cullinan *Munga Ilkari (The Night Sky)*



Mark Muller from sponsor R.M.Williams *OUTBACK* magazine and Judge, Jennifer Turpin



Andrew Johnstone, Anne Johnstone, Principal, Mark Steinert, Chair of Foundation and Simon O'Brien from sponsor Crestone Wealth Management



RAVENSWOOD
AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S
ART PRIZE

Entries are now open and close on 3 March 2021

Opening Night: 14 May 2021

Exhibition of Finalists: 15 - 30 May 2021

To enter visit: ravenswoodartprize.com.au

Vale



Winsome Combe (Bradley, 1950) boarded at Ravenswood from the age of 10 and her fondest memories included visits to the country homes of friends during the holidays. She undertook a Diploma in Fashion and Design and later worked at Ronay's ladieswear shop in Lindfield. Married to John Combe, she had two daughters Linda Campbell (Combe, 1980) and Amanda Antcliff (Combe, 1982), both of whom attended Ravenswood. Winsome maintained strong friendships with a number of Ravenswood Alumni, was actively involved in garden clubs, Rotary and Probus and enjoyed honouring her father's role in Gallipoli each ANZAC Day. She will be remembered for her elegant fashion, sense of humour and kindness to all.

Lorna Hickey (Wedlock, 1936) joined the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force (WAAAF) as a radio operator after the love of her life was shot down over Holland fighting the Nazis during World War II. 'Mum vividly recounted her wartime experiences to me and my brothers throughout our childhood and did not miss an ANZAC Day march until she was 99-years-old,' says daughter Rosalie Geddes (Hickey, 1964). When Lorna died from pneumonia aged 101 this year, her family received permission to lay a wreath at her beloved Cenotaph in Martin Place. Lorna's two granddaughters, Fiona Hayden (Geddes, 1993) and Sally Newman (Hickey, 1991) are also Ravenswood Alumni.

Geraldine Hill (1961) was a paediatric anaesthetist with a passion for helping others. She contributed long service to the Adventist Cleft Lip and Palate Program in Kathmandu, Nepal, volunteering as part of a team of talented health workers from Australia and New Zealand. In addition to being a skilled anaesthetist, Geri was a wonderful embroiderer. She is described as a great friend to many and was a Prefect in the Class of 1961. In particular, Geri's friends fondly remember her participation in Biology class and their 1960 trip to Cairns with Mrs Wilson.

Diana MacQuillan (Honey, 1956) began at Ravenswood in the first year of Middle School and is remembered as an excellent artist. Diana was the much-loved wife of Michael and her connections with Ravenswood include her sister-in-law Lucy Broad (1977) and her nieces Laura Honey (2009) and Georgia Honey (2014).

Diane McAuley (Crocker, 1957) was a Boarder at Ravenswood from 1952-1955. On leaving school, she worked as an accountant, before devoting herself to the raising of her three sons Lachlan, Mathew and Campbell. Diane is described as a woman with a keen wit, caring manner and fine sense of humour, who 'became a close long-term friend of all fortunate enough to meet her.' She was also a passionate rugby league expert and guests at her funeral were tickled by the the sight of her casket, decorated in the colours of her beloved Parramatta Eels. Diane is survived by her husband John McAuley, sons Lachlan and Campbell, and sister, Christine Bookallil Pearce (Crocker, 1960).

Deborah Meddows (Lands, 1968) commenced at Ravenswood in Kindergarten in 1955 and began Year 7 in 1963. She was fondly known as 'Debs' and 'Debbie' and forged countless friendships during her years at Ravenswood, which she maintained throughout her life. Deborah passed away on Sunday 25 October 2020 at her home in Tewantin, Queensland. She will be greatly missed by all those whose lives she touched but especially by her beloved husband David and adored son Sam.

Jan Taylor (Hindwood, 1957) often topped her class and is remembered for her enquiring mind, intellectual honesty and sense of responsibility beyond her years. Class Captain in her final year, she trained as a teacher and worked at St Ives High, Leeton High, and North Sydney Girls' High schools and later as an ABC Radio producer. Jan married Alan Taylor in 1976, and her daughter Alison (1993), also attended Ravenswood. Described as warm and caring, Jan was a woman of faith, who served her church in various roles and helped organise two Ravenswood reunions. 'It is as a friend that many of us will miss her most.'





RAVENSWOOD
AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S
ART PRIZE

Australia's Highest Value Art Prize for Women



Munga Ilkari (The Night Sky) Vicki Cullinan Professional Artist Winner

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

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To Enter
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Entries Now Open | **Entries Close** 3 March 2021 (midday DST Eastern Australia) | **Opening Night** 14 May 2021

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