

# Semper



# Time

by Peiwen Bai, Year 6

Time stays strong, never losing the eternal rhythm.

Even through days when havoc seems to be all that is there.

But time ticks on. A clockwork toy that never stops, never  
tires, never ending.

When the mist of merriment comes, time only flows faster,

Sometimes, faster than the days of disaster and loss.

And when the mind is a whiteboard, recently cleared,

All is quiet and calmed, time ticks by calmly.

It lives in a world of its own, responding to no command  
nor bidding.

Time guides others, a teacher, friend and even enemy.

Whatever the world experiences, time is always there.

Time stays strong, never losing its beat.



**Semper**, the Ravenswood School for Girls' magazine.

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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Love RAVO Day 2021



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# Principal's Message

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## The RAVO Spirit

**A** young, visionary educator, Mabel Fidler, had a dream 120 years ago. She founded Ravenswood with just eight students and a profound commitment to excellence in education, to empower young women to achieve well beyond the expectations of the time. A scholar in her own right, and a woman of strong faith, she was described as a great encourager who, in offering a vibrant and multifaceted education, inspired her students to strive *always towards better things*.

Miss Fidler's legacy weaves like a golden thread through the Ravenswood of today, connecting generation after generation who have continued to share this commitment to kindling the potential, passion and purpose of every girl.

As Principal, I could not be more proud of our inspirational students, our dedicated and talented staff, our

supportive parents and broader community. And I could not be more encouraged about what the future might hold for us as a school.

This optimism stems in part from the indomitable RAVO spirit. At Ravenswood, we understand we are stronger together; that our sense of connection, unity and belonging not only empowers our girls' learning but helps us all to overcome challenges and thrive.

It is a spirit that radiates from every part of our community in 2021, as we mark 120 years of educating and empowering our Ravenswood girls.

Serendipitously, the first day of school this year was 28 January - the same date Mabel Fidler opened Ravenswood's gates in a little house in Henry Street in 1901. Throughout the day, we paid tribute to those who have come before us, making an immense contribution throughout the years, by sharing stories



from the archives, enjoying anniversary cupcakes and attaching commemorative pins to our lapels.

Our primary celebration was *Love RAVO Day* on 17 June, one of the more jubilant and event-filled days in recent memory. Teeming with RAVO spirit, the festivities catered to the whole Ravenswood family and lasted from sun up to well beyond sun down.

The campus was a vision of anniversary balloons and streamers, as well as decorations evoking years gone by.

Our Alumni, and even some past staff, joined us from early in the day, to share memories over morning tea, against the backdrop of a thoughtfully curated archival display. We also had the opportunity to hear wonderful reflections from these valued guests about their experience of Ravenswood - from humorous stories to recognition of the difference

our School has made in their lives - as well as their enduring affection for Ravenswood.

Following their lessons, girls from Prep to Year 12 and staff came together on the oval, for the official 120th anniversary photo that graces the cover of this issue. A picnic lunch preceded an afternoon of old-school games, including lessons in how to do the 1920's Charleston dance.

Many of us immersed ourselves in the multi-sensory, multi-screen journey through Ravenswood's history - *RAVO Alive*, specially created by our valued archivist and longstanding history teacher, Robbie Robertson. It screened at regular intervals in the Lorraine Smith Auditorium, offering a window into our history, rich with a sampling of the stories, experiences, people and events that have helped make Ravenswood what it is today.

Love RAVO Day coincided with our first 24-hour online Giving Day. In a true reflection of RAVO spirit, our community from around the country rallied to donate towards bursaries for students who would not otherwise have the opportunity of a Ravenswood education, the Building Fund and the development of a Wellbeing Track - to loop the inside perimeter of the School and link established gardens with a pathway for students and staff to enjoy - a lasting legacy for generations of girls to come.

The extraordinary generosity of the Ravenswood family overwhelmed us, resulting in a total of more than \$570,000 raised, well in excess of our original \$300,000 goal.

We are so thankful for the outstanding efforts of the Ravenswood Foundation who dedicated significant time to the planning of this Giving Day, together with all the parent volunteers who came into the School on the day to lend their support.

RAVO spirit was also exemplified in the messages of support and encouragement that came from every quarter, equally marking the success of this initiative.

As the sun went down, Ravenswood parents and friends poured through the Henry Street gates for the official opening of the Senior Learning Centre (SLC) and a cocktail event. We were privileged to be joined by the NSW Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services, The Hon Alister Henskens SC MP, who helped unveil the plaque, while

the NSW Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning, The Hon Sarah Mitchell, MLC, presented via video. In particular, our students took great delight in touring our parents through the building for the first time and shared with them so eloquently the reasons it is cherished by girls and staff alike. Excitingly, we are not alone in celebrating the SLC's unique beauty, functionality and state-of-the-art design - it was recently shortlisted for the 2021 Royal Australian Institute of Architecture (RAIA) Awards and the World Architecture Awards. Thank you to the Property & Building Committee for their excellent work and expertise in supporting this development.

Comprising a myriad of facets and elements, *Love RAVO Day 2021* was a truly collaborative effort on the part of teams and individuals from across the School, including our superb staff, parents, and alumni. It is humbling to think of the time and energy devoted by so many. We are so grateful.

As always, this year our students have continued to inspire us with dedication to their studies, stunning academic achievements and care and compassion for others. Recent examples include our Community Problem Solving team, which won its division in the world competition for an extraordinary 18-month project that supported student and Alumni wellbeing (see pages 12-13). Our Year 12 entrants in the incredibly challenging Space Design Competition, were awarded for their industry-standard entry (pages 10-11) and our Ethics Olympiad and Languages students have also excelled on a national and international level (pages 16-17).





Our RAVO spirit can also be found in the continual innovations and creativity of our teaching staff, who this year trained with the University of New South Wales, focusing on the latest research into responding to the needs of gifted girls, tailoring rich learning experiences for these students while further developing a nuanced approach to the differentiation of the curriculum for all students. Another staff team continues to work in partnership with the University of Queensland on Mind Brain Education (MBE) Science, an emerging transdisciplinary field that stands at the nexus between research and practice for educators (see the story on pages 28-29).

Combined with our dedication to academic excellence, wellbeing continues to be an area of strong focus at Ravenswood. We are honoured that our significant commitment and endeavours in wellbeing have been recognised, with an *Excellence Award for Best Wellbeing Program* in the 2021 Australian Education Awards. We are also looking forward to the opportunity to host the 2021 national Positive Education Schools Association (PESA) conference later this year. I hope many of you will join us for the insights into wellbeing for young people that will be shared. Further, our students and staff welcomed a new member to our Wellbeing team this year: Daisy, a trained therapy dog, who accompanies our Director of Psychological Services and team in various counselling sessions and has won hearts in a short time.

Mabel Fidler set in motion the RAVO spirit and tradition for academic excellence from the School's first days. In this issue of *Semper*, we shine a light on the life of Dr Grace Cuthbert-Browne MBE (Class of 1917). Dr Cuthbert-Browne was the first female registrar at the Royal North Shore Hospital and went on to revolutionise Australian maternal and baby care (see pages 30-31). As the challenges of COVID-19 continue, we also look at the careers of two current Alumni who are contributing to the medical sphere in significant ways. Claire Harris (1983) is overseeing the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine in NSW and Dr Lisa Pryor (1996), pivoted from an award-winning international career in journalism, to life as a general practitioner, with a focus on mental health (pages 34-35).

As I write, NSW is once again in lockdown and we don't know what the future holds, but as I often reflect in addressing our students, we know who we are and what we can do together. We will certainly continue to respond to this uncertain and concerning time with our customary resilience and hope – *semper ad meliora*.

I think the Eleanor Roosevelt quote emblazoned on the wall of our new SLC building, says it well: *'The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.'*







TOTAL RAISED

**\$570,584**

ABOVE TARGET

**190%**

AVERAGE DONATION  
ON THE DAY

**\$440**

'The Ravenswood we know and love is the result of generations of generous contributions from parents, grandparents, Alumni, staff and friends.'

**THANK  
YOU**



# Love Ravo Giving Day 2021

The Ravenswood Foundation, School Council, Anne and I were humbled by the generosity and purpose of our School community, as we came together for the first ever Love RAVO Giving Day on 17 June. This clearly demonstrates we are a community that deeply believes in the transformative power of education and helping others, something we can all be very proud of.

Our collaborative effort raised an exceptional \$570,584, well above our original \$300,000 goal. We would like to express our deepest thanks to the matching donors who generously tripled every dollar donated, as well as to the 398 Giving Day donors who contributed online during the course of our first ever 24-hour campaign.

Many others gave their time and expertise, including helping to plan the event and staff the phones. It was a team effort that reflected

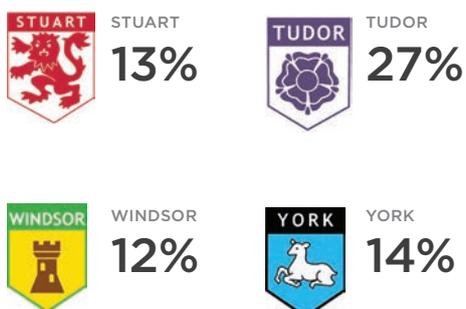
a deep love of Ravenswood, firm belief in its leadership and purpose, and a strong desire to make a lasting difference to future generations of girls.

The Ravenswood we know and love is the result of generations of generous contributions from parents, grandparents, Alumni, staff and friends. Most recently, donations to the Building Fund have helped enable the construction of our exceptional Senior Learning Centre, while donations to the Bursary Fund are changing the lives of numerous deserving girls.

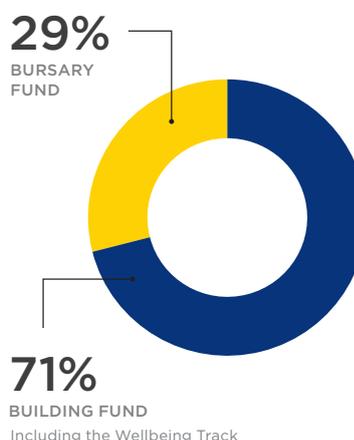
It is heartening to see the spirit of giving at Ravenswood is as strong as ever and we look forward to continuing to work together, as we create a lasting legacy for current and future students to flourish for decades to come.

**Mark Steinert, Foundation Chair**

## DONATIONS SPLIT BY HOUSE



## DONATIONS SPLIT BY FUND





### THREE GOALS



#### The Building Fund

which supports the ongoing development of our beautiful and functional campus.



#### The Fitness and Wellbeing Path

which will wind its way along the inside perimeter of the School, promoting increased physical activity for students and staff.



#### The Scholarship and Bursary Fund

which provides the life-changing gift of a Ravenswood education to exceptional girls, who may not otherwise have the opportunity to attend Ravenswood.



Donors   Teams	
<b>145 DONORS</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE AMOUNT</b>
Allison Griffiths	\$900
<i>Donated with Will To my home away from home</i>	
Zhi Jian Li	\$450
Anonymous	\$1,000
<i>Donated with Will</i>	
Erin	\$1,000
<i>Donated with Will</i>	

## GIVING DAY MATCHERS

Gold	Bronze		
Tritton Family - Foundation Member	Church Family	McLean Family - Foundation Member	Steinert Family - Foundation Member
	Fan Family	Petty Family - Foundation Member	Justin Woodcock Family
	Gordon-Mills Family - Foundation Member	Qian Family	David Woodcock Family
<b>Silver</b>	Huang Family	Sault Family	Xu Family
Kelly Family - Council Chair	Johnstone Family - Foundation Member	Seeto Family	Yang Family - Foundation Member
Reed Family	Li Family	Shi Family - Foundation Member	Zhang Family
Anonymous Family	Lynch Family		



# Future Focused



## Excelling at the national Space Design Competition

Space is predicted to become a boom industry in Australia and contests such as the Australian Space Design Competition aim to attract the brightest minds to the field.

Ravenswood Year 12 students Justine Xue, Laura Zhang, May Zhou and Ojasvi Rana, joined the national contest in January, producing an industry-appropriate tender for a 400-occupant research settlement on Mars, in only 48 hours.

We were required to imagine the technology and infrastructure that might exist 45 years from now and plan every detail from the costs, timeline, design, construction and manpower required,' said Justine, who was CEO of the Ravenswood team. 'It was as much a test of our business and marketing skills as it was about STEM.'

'I would say it was the most challenging contest I have ever participated in,' said Laura, who won the Best Speaker Award for her presentation on Human Factors (the science of understanding how humans work best). Her role was to design healthy, safe and secure living and working quarters, incorporating green spaces, food production and leisure solutions,

while mitigating against risks such as Martian dust storms. 'The two-day deadline was such a time-crunch and there were so many of us collaborating online rather than face-to-face. The resource and time constraints forced us to work into the early hours of the morning, trying to absorb vast amounts of information and cover every eventuality. It was exhausting but amazing.'

In acknowledgement of the pressures of space industry employment, the Space Design Competition also evaluated students on their proactivity and collaboration. May, won the Peter O'Keefe Silent Award for creating an inclusive environment and demonstrating humility and service to others. Along with Justine, Laura and Ojasvi, she is now helping lead a Ravenswood team of students from Years 9-12, as they prepare the School's 2021 competition entry. 'This competition makes you take the attitude of professionals, not school students. You learn so much. I definitely recommend it to other girls,' May said.

Justine and Laura's presentations can be viewed on the Space Design Competition Facebook page.



Year 12 students Justine Xue, Laura Zhang, May Zhou and Ojasvi Rana



# Innovating for Social Change

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## Students win University of Chicago innovation challenge

**A**rmed with abundant ingenuity and initiative, a team of three Ravenswood students won the Chicago University Social Innovation Challenge in February.

Driven by the University's Centre for Radical Innovation for Social Change (RISC) and open to anyone in the world, the competition sought viable solutions to animal welfare issues that could be brought to market.

Year 12 students Ojasvi Rana, Michelle Bulin and Krystal Sun, collaborated on a proposal they called *Hen Pals – a gamified platform for changing animal welfare that's everything it's cracked up to be*.

'Our approach was to brainstorm multiple really crazy and outrageous ideas, before settling on an app that pairs chicks to avatars and encourages people to interact with them as if they were their online pet, redeeming points as they care for them,' Ojasvi said.

According to RISC, judging the competition was 'an incredibly competitive process, with nearly 100 well-written and thoughtful proposals from around the globe. We made some tough choices to narrow it down ...'

The girls' prize was a meeting with Ojasvi's idol, Steven Levitt, the author of the bestselling book

*Freakonomics* and Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago. 'We chatted to Professor Levitt and the whole RISC team, to discuss how the proposal might be developed for the real world. It is exciting to think that some of the brightest minds in this space are now working on making our idea a reality,' she said.

## BIOTech Futures Challenge

Also in February, Ojasvi Rana was part of a two-person team that came second in the University of Sydney BIOTech Futures Challenge. The competition brought together 250 students from 27 schools throughout Australia, Jordan and Bahrain, to collaborate on a current public health or environmental issue.

Ojasvi's proposal was a solution to the play and therapy needs of children with cerebral palsy. 'We identified a gap in the care of younger children with this condition and designed an app that could customise a small playground to be delivered to their home for use in the backyard. Through the app, parents would relay videos of their child using the equipment, to doctors and therapists, who would monitor their physical progress and make adjustments to their therapy program as necessary.'

# World Winning

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Ravenswood's Community Problem Solving team came first in the world, for devising a strategy to reduce stress and build meaningful connections, not only across Year Groups but generations. Their multi-faceted wellbeing project included fundraising for a labyrinth on the Ravenswood campus.

## Big Sisters

Future Problem Solving Program International (FPSP) was established to 'empower young people to create a better tomorrow through creativity and problem solving.' Ravenswood frequently fields teams in the Community Problem Solving (CPS) and Scenario Writing and Scenario Performing categories.

CPS teams identify an *Area of Concern* from their community and address it over the course of the school year.

When the NSW lockdown was announced in March 2020, the Ravenswood team (girls who were then in Years 8-9), quickly identified the area of greatest need. 'We read media reports about the negative mental health effects that lockdown was causing for many young people,' said Phoebe Lay Yee (Year 10). 'The isolation, fear for friends and family and uncertainty about the future were adding up to a significant problem.'

The girls' solution was a peer-to-peer wellbeing program they called *Big Sisters*. First they paired themselves with students in Years 5-6, after conducting interviews to determine compatible likes and interests. They then developed a strategy of care based on the principles of SEARCH, designed by internationally renowned thought leader, academic and author Professor Lea Waters AM, PhD. SEARCH consists of six pathways for wellbeing: Strengths, Emotional Management, Attention and Awareness, Relationships, Coping and Habits and Goals. The *Big Sisters* met with the younger girls for half-an-hour to an hour each week, identifying strengths, talking about their lockdown experiences, brainstorming coping strategies and doing activities together that could create genuine and meaningful relationships. 'Over MS Teams, we wrote poetry and stories together, did craft activities, played games, cooked biscuits and cakes and of course, chatted a lot,' said Olivia Stipo (Year 10).

The *Big Sisters* followed up each session with an evaluation to assess its effectiveness and strategies

for improvement. 'We were able to take the younger students' minds off the pandemic and build-up invaluable skills using wellbeing as a resource during stressful times,' says *Big Sister* Sydney Bao (Year 10). 'Our program was effective and ultimately helped to forge long-lasting friendships.'

The work of the *Big Sisters* even caught the attention of Professor Lea Waters herself. She interviewed the girls about the details of their approach, to inform future work on SEARCH.

School resumed on 6 May 2020 but the *Big Sisters* not only maintained their weekly online contact with the Years 5-6 girls over MS Teams but also turned their attention to another sector of the community who were feeling the brunt of the lockdown: the aged.

'Our team reached out to elderly Ravenswood Alumni who were also feeling isolated due to the reduction of face-to-face visits. Through writing cards with our buddies to over 400 alumni, we were able to not only reach out to vulnerable members of our community and show our support, but also foster inter-generational bonds,' Sydney said.

Another *Big Sisters* project was to author picture books, each based on a different Ravenswood Guiding Principle, such as *Respect*, *Compassion* and *Optimism*, for the enjoyment of grandparents and grandchildren alike. They also interviewed inspirational older members of the community, recording their stories and sharing them with the Junior School girls, to inspire and create meaningful connections between the generations.

Finally, the *Big Sisters* fundraised as part of their CPS entry, making and selling items such as re-usable food covers, candles, resin keyrings and chocolates. It is hoped the funds they raised will contribute to the construction of a labyrinth on the Ravenswood campus.

As a result of the *Big Sisters*' strategic, purposeful and multi-faceted entry, they took out First Place in the Middle Division - Education section, of the international 2021 Community Problem Solvers Competition.



## Senario Writers and Senario Performers

Four Ravenswood students qualified for the international stage of the Scenario Writing and Scenario Performance sections of the FPSPI.

Scenario Performers Jacqueline Mao (Year 7) and Phoebe Young (Year 6) placed seventh and ninth in the world respectively, after each writing and presenting a five-minute memorised speech on one of five sub-topics relating to neurotechnology.



Scenario Writers Charlotte Brown (Year 7) and Sophie Li (Year 7) spent months researching neurotechnology, in preparation for the June competition. They were presented with a scene set 20 years in the future and asked to write scenarios in which their characters resolved an area of concern. Both girls reached the Finals.



# Learning from a Master

Ravenswood Drama students gain expert guidance from 'one of the 21 hottest creatives of 2021.'

Sydney director, writer and producer Constantine Costi, has enjoyed a steep career trajectory that has included directorial roles with the Vienna State Opera, Opera Australia, the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra and Belvoir St Theatre.

A recipient of the Berlin New Music Opera Award, *The Australian* newspaper recently named him, 'one of the 21 hottest creatives of 2021.'

Despite the accolades and a prodigious talent, Constantine remains grounded by his memories of life as an inexperienced actor and his passionate desire to help form the next generation. He says the chance to direct Ravenswood's Years 9-12 production of Shakespeare's *The Comedy Of Errors*, thrilled him to his artistic core.

'It was something I enjoyed so much when I was young that really helped develop my passion for the

performing arts,' said Costi, who was drafted to work with Ravenswood's budding stage stars via his playwright brother Michael, who teaches debating and public speaking at the School. 'To be a part of that on the other end has been really exciting and humbling.'

COVID-19 denied Costi a solo directorial debut when Opera Australia cancelled its March production of Verdi's *La Traviata*, due to the virus. But his first experience of directing in a school helped fill the void. Working for an afternoon each week and four hours on Sundays, he said he was greatly impressed by the way the cast of around a dozen, tackled the inherently tricky task of making sense of Shakespeare.

'I was really blown away by their handling of the text - something I thought was going to be really challenging turned out to be quite an exciting and inspiring experience. It's been amazing to see how



switched on, capable and intelligent these young women are.'

After the final curtain came down on *The Comedy of Errors* on 6 June Costi threw himself into developing a new musical for Opera Australia through his role as co-artistic director of the Old Fitz Theatre in Woolloomooloo. His name continues to rise, yet in working with the Ravenswood girls – and pointedly treating them the same as he would professional actors – he gave an appreciative nod to the teachers and staff who did the same for him.

'To contribute to the next generation, I couldn't think of a more rewarding thing to do. I think they are all stars in their own way.'

'As Assistant Director, I enjoyed being involved in Con's process and seeing his incredible, outside-the-box thinking. Overall it was such a fulfilling and incredible experience!' said Amelie Parker (Year 11).

'I was really blown away by their handling of the text – something I thought was going to be really challenging turned out to be quite an exciting and inspiring experience. It's been amazing to see how switched on, capable and intelligent these young women are.'

# Untangling Ethical Dilemmas

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**R**avenswood has once again excelled at the competition that tests student perception and deep thinking - the Ethics Olympiad. Students are challenged to use their critical thinking skills as they examine current ethical issues, with points awarded for perception, deep and careful thought and an appreciation for diverse points of view.

The Ravenswood Junior School team came second in a field that included students from schools across Australia and New Zealand.

'We looked at issues such as human selfishness, our impact on the environment and whether human rights are equal for everyone,' said Eden Nasr (Year 5). 'I think because we study the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme, we are better prepared for this sort of competition. It makes us think more about important issues that are

happening around the world and how we treat each other. We learned a lot from participating, because we considered a lot of questions that are important for everyone to think about.'

The Middle School team reached the national Finals, where they examined questions such as the ethics of mass quarantine, controversial environmental practices and the repatriation of foreign fighters. 'These are issues that are important for everyone but which students our age do not always engage with closely. It was a really fascinating exercise,' said Ria Verma (Year 10).

In May, the Ravenswood Senior School team came fourth in the state in a field of more than 20 schools, which included James Ruse Agricultural High School. The girls tackled international issues such as the ethics of truth and public safety during the COVID-19 pandemic and the movement to de-fund the police.





## Perfect Latin Scores

Latin has featured in the Ravenswood curriculum since the early days and the learning has never been more vibrant or successful. In the 2021 National Latin Exam, Year 9 students Leah Teoh and Esther Cho, achieved rare perfect scores and the School recorded seven Gold and four Silver medals. Our Secondary School students also achieve success in numerous other national and international competitions and attend Latin camps, Latin dinners and Latin study days.

‘I love learning Latin because of the chance it gives you to explore cultural and historical aspects of ancient Rome and Roman Britain and discover the origins of so many English words,’ said Leah.

Now Ravenswood Junior School students are receiving the opportunity to study the ancient

language, with the re-introduction of compulsory Latin classes for all girls in Year 4. ‘It is a wonderful opportunity to challenge the younger girls, with a course that blends Latin vocabulary with Greek mythology, puzzles and English derivatives,’ said Head Latin Teacher Heather Powell. ‘Latin students become logical thinkers and fluent writers. They go on to possess a broad general knowledge and develop a connection with the same core values that we hold dear at Ravenswood. In fact, our School’s Guiding Principles are the same as the Romans!’

‘Another great thing about learning Latin is that you get to study fascinating authors and read original versions of fascinating ancient literature,’ said Esther. ‘It’s also fun to be among such a small cohort of Latin students in the world. People are always surprised when I tell them I learn Latin!’ she said.

# Student Showcase



## Table Tennis

Daisy Xie (Year 6) is the number one U11 female Table Tennis player in Australia. She represented the country at the Oceania Hopes Championship Table Tennis competition in July, after winning the Under 12 Hopes Girls' Singles Champion title at the National Hopes Table Tennis Challenge in Melbourne.

Daisy has been playing Table Tennis for the last five years, inspired by her grandfather, who is a fan of the sport.

The 11-year-old practises for around 16 hours a week, including weekly training sessions with the NSW State team. 'I have made lots of friends playing Table Tennis, which has really built my concentration, perseverance and resilience. Table Tennis is also really good for fitness - I recommend it to everyone,' Daisy said.



## Youngest Australian coding competitors

Young robotics experts Linda Ziling and Sophia Lin (Year 4), became the youngest coders to represent Australia in the Primary division of the world's biggest robotics competition, the VEX World Championship in May.

The girls competed against more than 30,000 teams from over 70 countries via an innovative remote tournament interface. 'I really liked the competition. I want my coding skills to get better and better because I think I want to work in coding one day, so I am going to continue taking part in competitions like this,' Linda said.

The girls devote up to 10 hours a week outside of school time, to developing their robotics understanding and expertise. 'It feels more like play than learning and I am getting better all the time,' Sophia said.

## Languages victory

In March, Ravenswood Languages students took out the 2021 G6 Language Championships, against five neighbouring independent schools: Knox Grammar School, Barker College, Roseville Girls' College, Abbotsleigh and Pymble Ladies' College.

The same month, our girls came seventh in Australia and 64th out of 1,894 schools at the Education Perfect World Championships. The competition saw the girls spend an estimated 526 hours learning languages online.

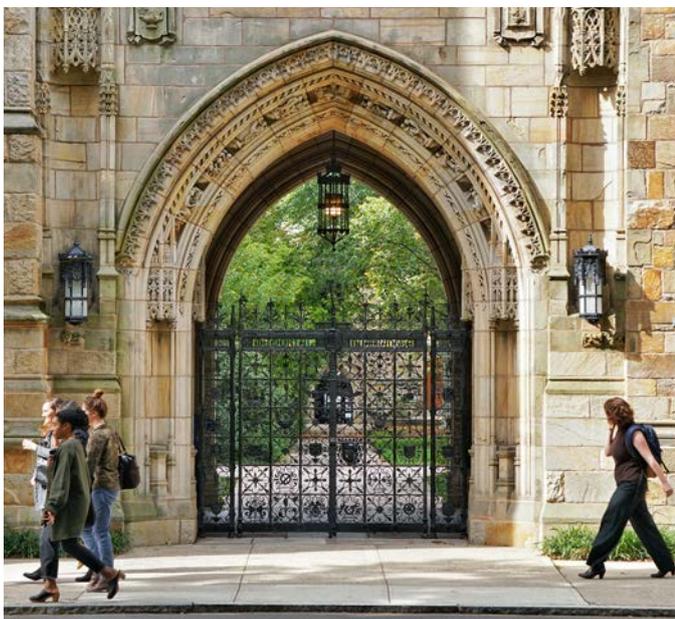


## Elevating the debate

Debating at Ravenswood is growing in size and vitality. The support of girls to achieve at the highest levels runs parallel to a strategy to broaden and deepen skills across the School.

In June, four Ravenswood students represented Australia at the five-day online World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships (WIDPSC). Lucy Lambert (Year 12), Paris Lay-Yee (Year 11), Kayleigh Li (Year 11) and Lucy Walsh (Year 11), competed alongside almost 120 students from across the globe. Paris reached the Finals for Impromptu Speaking and Interpretative Reading and Kayleigh reached the Finals for Interpretative Reading.

Closer to home, Year 9 student Catherine Swemmer, came third in the state, at the 2021 NSW Rostrum Voice of Youth competition and a Year 6 team achieved seven straight wins at the Independent Schools Debating Association (ISDA) competition, despite limited experience. 'Studying the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme prepared us well as it encourages us to watch the news and learn and read more widely,' said Zara Huljich (Year 6). 'It gave us a background on a broad range of issues which allowed us to speak with more authority. I have learned to see issues from multiple angles and merit in arguments that I would have disagreed with otherwise.'



## Yale Young Global Scholars Program

After an extensive four-month qualification process, Laura Zhang (Year 12) became part of a tiny percentage of Australian students selected for the 2021 Yale Young Global Scholars Program, the most multicultural academic enrichment program in the world.

Participating in the Politics, Law, & Economics stream, she will attend lectures and seminars by Yale professors on topics such as human rights, public policy and cooperation across borders, before producing a capstone research project.

'To be learning from academics at such a revered institution, with committed students from over 130 countries, including 50 US states, is an amazing opportunity,' Laura said.



**T**he House Performing Arts Festival (HPAF) is always as much a feat of student leadership as it is a showcase of the girls' dance, drama and music skills.

In 2021, due to the COVID-19 requirement to physically distance, it became an extreme technological challenge, requiring exceptional organisation and minute attention to detail.

HPAF challenges Ravenswood Houses to produce a cohesive, entertaining, skilful and meaningful multi-disciplinary performance, featuring every girl from Years 7-12.

With only a limited number of girls allowed onstage at one time, each phase of each performance had to be

filmed separately and pieced together. Remarkably, the final video, screened live to parents via Zoom, was as exhilarating as a regular HPAF performance at Sydney Town Hall, with Windsor House the well-deserved overall winner.

In 2021, each House based its performance on an element of the Positive Education wellbeing framework. As a special surprise at the opening of this event, we heard from Professor Martin Seligman, the founder of positive psychology (and our 2019 Ravenswood Eminent Psychologist in Residence) via Zoom. He wished the girls well in their endeavours and reflected on the significance of PERMA during the pandemic.



Alice Bayliss (Year 12) led Stuart to a win in the House Tech and Media category, with the theme *Engagement*. 'The role did bring a few challenges in terms of the timeframe and the need to learn new applications and procedures but with help from Ravenswood AV staff, I quickly became familiar with the process.'

Windsor won best costume design under the leadership of Kate Kelly (Year 12). 'My goal was to create costumes that would enhance and compliment the dance and drama pieces and really connect with the musical number, using the theme of *Relationships*.'

York chose the theme *Accomplishment* and won for Best Drama, led by Justine Xue (Year 12). 'My goal was

to deliver a cohesive story and impactful message in subtle and poignant way.'

Tudor won the Dance category with a polished and energetic performance led by Madeleine Batten (Year 12).

The 2021 judges were industry experts and included the much-loved Australian actor Rachael Beck, whose past credits include *Hey Dad*, *Home and Away* and *A Country Practice*.

'As I look back, on the process, even the times that brought stress and confusion, I smile and think how lucky we are to have opportunities like this in our final year of school!' Alice Bayliss said.

# Sport



## School record blitz

In a show of remarkable participation and performance, Ravenswood students have exceeded all expectations by creating 20 new school records in 2021. This comes on top of the 15 school records established in 2020, despite the significant impact of COVID-19.

At Ravenswood, sporting school records can only be achieved in Athletics and Swimming.

‘Wonderful narratives accompanied these special performances,’ said Director of Sport Cameron Childs. ‘In the pool, Gabrielle Naumovski (Year 12) set a new record in the 50 Metre Breaststroke for a third consecutive year. It is no surprise she is a former IGSA Sport champion in this discipline. Elaine Hu (Year 4) also produced memorable performances, establishing three records in three separate disciplines. Swimming Captain Elijah Malkin (Year 12), wrote herself into the record books by claiming the 18 Years 50 Metre Backstroke.’

‘On the track, it was a case of déjà vu for Jessica Maciver (Year 12), who repeated her 2020 achievement of three records with a further three



accomplished at the Secondary School House Athletics Carnival.’

Sports Captain Kara Selvarajah (Year 12), and Athletics Captain Phoebe Fitton (Year 12), also achieved records, alongside Ruby Fryer (Year 12) and Lucie Bonjer (Year 11) as members of the all-conquering 4 x 100 Metre Senior Relay,’ Cameron said.

## Supporting our emerging stars

Ravenswood has a sport for all philosophy that prides itself on encouraging broad participation and a love of fitness in every girl. Alongside this approach, sits the equivalent goal of providing guidance and support for our high-performing athletes.

Enter the new Ravenswood Emerging Athlete Program (EAP), established at the beginning of this year. An innovation of the Sport Department, the EAP is structured to foster both sporting and academic success.

Through a network of specialist sport coaches and educational staff, identified students will receive access to academic support, strength and conditioning, movement screening, wellbeing monitoring, coordination with medical practitioners, access to seminars and workshops and mentoring opportunities, as well as tertiary admission and career advice.

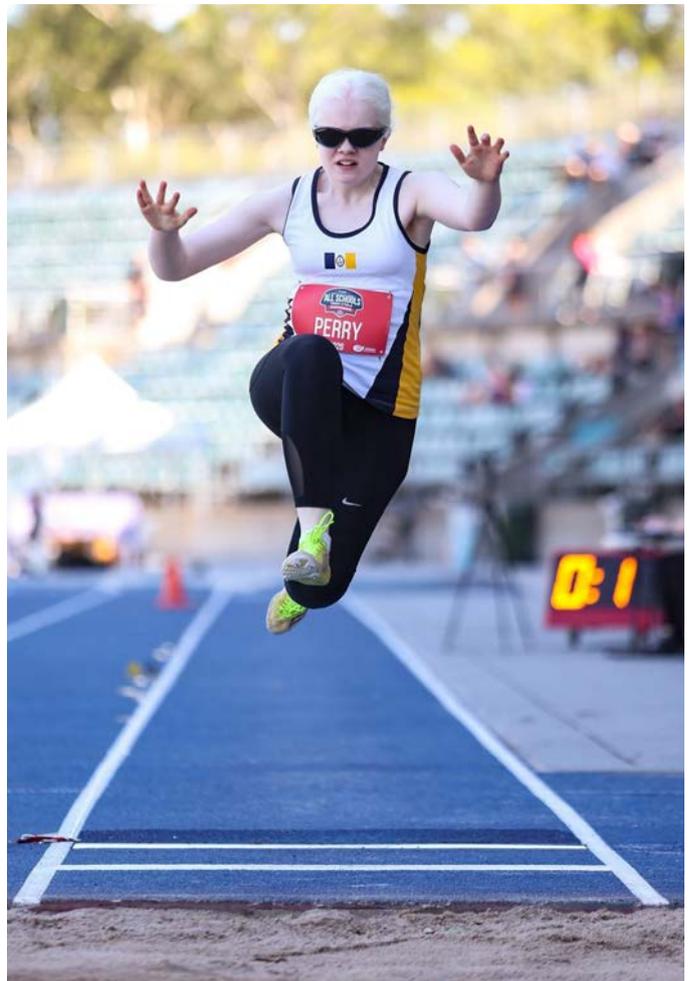
Alicia MacMillan (Year 11) is a multi-sport athlete who competes at national level in Hurdles, High Jump, Triple Jump and Snowsports and has competed at international Hockey tournaments.

‘For me, the EAP has been particularly helpful in providing advice on how to balance participation in different disciplines. I find this a particular challenge during athletics meets, when I might be competing in the Hurdles, High Jump and Triple Jump on the same day, each of which require a different mindset,’ she said.



## Visionary athlete

Year 10 athlete Zara Perry has been named a Visionary Athlete Scholar by Blind Sports and Recreation NSW. This honour will not only support Zara as she pursues her own sporting goals but gives her the opportunity to encourage and inspire younger vision impaired athletes who are coming up through the ranks. ‘I have felt the benefits of being a part of this sporting community in my own life, especially in relation to social connection, confidence and self-esteem – all things that can be challenging for people with a vision impairment, as well as people with other disabilities,’ Zara said. ‘The sporting community can be an amazing space to foster connection and build confidence. My goal is to help as many people as possible to find a love of sport and feel these benefits. I also hope to start changing the perception of disability among young people, encouraging them to question whether it should be regarded as disability, or rather diverse and multifaceted ability,’ she said.





# Positive Education and Wellbeing

## Passing it on

Students from Ravenswood and Knox Grammar School combined to present the first-ever student-led wellbeing conference in NSW in June.

*Leading Wellbeing: A Student Perspective*, was the result of weeks of planning by leaders from both schools. It was offered to students in Years 10-12 from across Sydney, giving them the chance to discover and experience positive wellbeing strategies they could in turn share with their own school communities.

‘Coming from schools whose values are strongly rooted in Positive Education, I think we had a heightened awareness of both the sensitivity and importance of such discussions,’ said Ravenswood Wellbeing Captain Rachel Halliday-Shand (Year 12). ‘Each one of us was excited to have the opportunity and wanted to give it our all.’

The students’ passion translated into rigorous research and vibrant brainstorming as they devised ways to share the information as effectively and dynamically as possible.

‘We collaborated really well and learned to have fun with the process, resulting in some really stimulating conference activities,’ Rachel said. ‘Several people came up to me afterwards to say how useful it had been. I felt really grateful to be at a school that normalises mental health and wellbeing learning, breaking the stigma that often surrounds these issues.’





## Daisy arrives

Dogs are scientifically proven to be good for mental health, reducing stress and increasing feelings of positivity. But Ravenswood's new wellbeing dog Daisy, is no ordinary pooch. The eight-year-old Tamaruke Labradoodle is a trained therapy dog who has been taught to be extra intuitive to the needs of the people she interacts with. 'Daisy is loving being part of the Ravenswood Community and can't wait to jump in the car to come to school in the morning,' according to our Director of Psychological Services Penny Moussa, who is Daisy's owner. 'Already she is a well-loved member of the Ravenswood Wellbeing Team and has made friends with many students and staff members.'

## Best wellbeing program award

Ravenswood's efforts in the area of student wellbeing have again been recognised, with an *Excellence Award for Best Wellbeing Program* in the 2021 Australian Education Awards.

Ravenswood was the first Visible Wellbeing School in NSW and our staff have received training from the founder of Positive Psychology Professor Martin Seligman, the former President of the American Psychological Association.

Principal Mrs Anne Johnstone, is the Chair of the Positive Education Schools Association (PESA) and Vice Chair of the International Positive Education Network (IPEN).

Ravenswood received Innovative Schools Awards in 2018, 2019 and 2020, which also recognised our efforts in the area of student wellbeing.

## Happiness boosters

We joined celebrations for the United Nations International Day of Happiness on 24 March, creating a Sunshine Wall covered in student messages about their actions to boost the wellbeing of others. The exercise was a heartening reflection of the value of our ongoing work as a Visible Wellbeing School.

Meanwhile, our Bucket Fillers initiative made a welcome return. A wall covered with treats and supportive notes for every student in Year 12, it was a heartfelt way to wish them well, during the stress of their final year of school.





# The Launch of the New Ravenswood Prep

It was an historic moment in the School's 120th year, as Ravenswood Principal Mrs Anne Johnstone, and Head of Junior School - Deputy Principal Sarah Guy, turned the first sod on a beautiful magnolia tree, marking the start of pre-kindergarten education at Ravenswood.

Ravenswood Prep is a rare and special offering, with a curriculum that combines the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Reggio Emilia philosophy and Ravenswood's renowned Positive Education approach.

'Both the PYP and Reggio Emilia prize each child as unique,' said Mrs Johnstone. 'They are student-centred and inquiry based, with a strong focus on student agency. With the added benefits of Positive Education, this is a rich program that lays an exceptional foundation for a child's entire learning journey.'

'We have purposefully designed the curriculum and environment of Ravenswood Prep to encourage wonder, creativity, collaboration and exploration,' said Sarah Guy. 'The aim is to develop in our youngest girls, a love of learning and the problem-solving mindset of an engaged, successful learner. I truly believe this reflects the best in pre-kindergarten education.' Alongside the core curriculum, the girls receive regular lessons in subjects such as

Sport, Visual Arts, Speech, Religious Education, Music and Languages, from specialist teachers in the Ravenswood Junior and Secondary Schools. Elements of the Early Stage 1 curriculum will also be available to Prep children who show a readiness to engage with these outcomes.

A tour of Ravenswood Prep reveals the beauty of nature at every turn. According to the philosophy of Reggio Emilia, the environment is a third teacher and natural materials are prized. 'Everything is carefully curated, down to the order and flow of colours, sizes and shapes,' said Ravenswood Prep Teacher Linda Yeates. 'Each item has a purpose and serves as a provocation for learning. This sparks inquiries in the girls that we help them to pursue.'

Creating this beautiful environment has been a labour of love for Sarah and Linda, who even recruited family members to the cause. 'We had a tight deadline to meet but it was exciting to see it all come together. I am so grateful to people like my husband who pitched in, turning wooden logs into whimsical stands for the scissors and helping to transform the sand pit into a fairy wonderland.'

This emphasis on the natural environment teaches the Reggio Emilia concept of continuity between the inside and outside, the idea that learning is



constant and can happen anywhere. 'For example, if one of the children discovers an interesting insect in the gardens, we take our magnifying glasses outside. This leads to cross curricular learning, as we sketch the insect, name its body parts and ask questions about its lifecycle,' Linda says. 'We also incorporate numeracy and literacy in a way that is appropriate to this age group. Cosy corners inside the classroom and the construction of a little street library outside, will ensure the joy of reading and discovery is instilled.'

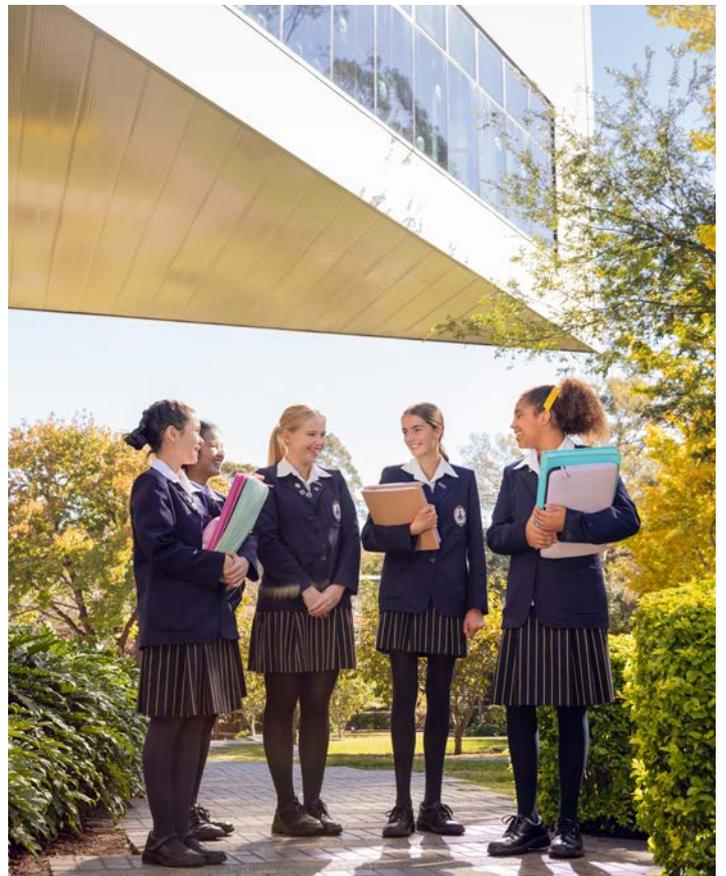
Infused throughout the program, are the elements of the PYP framework, including the children's increasing use of the PYP Learner Profile. The children are beginning to see themselves as *Inquirers* for example, or labelling their actions as *Reflective*, *Caring* or *Open Minded*. 'This helps them to become confident learners and engaged communicators as they begin to understand the purpose of what they are doing and how to make their learning visible,' Linda said.

It also helps to develop school readiness. Studies of pre-kindergarten children in a combined IB PYP and Reggio Emilia environment, have shown that overall, children achieve at levels equivalent to, or higher than their peers.

Ravenswood's Positive Education approach is also present throughout the school day, as the children learn to recognise and name strengths in themselves and others and pay attention when someone has displayed kindness or gratitude.

Employing this multi-layered approach is a fascinating journey for Linda, who joined Ravenswood after a long career as an educator at schools in Sydney. She has held numerous teaching and leadership roles, including Deputy Head of Junior School at Pymble Ladies' College. 'I feel like I have accomplished a lot in my long educational career, from overseeing the introduction of Gifted and Talented, Wellbeing and Information Technology programs, to overhauling Mathematics curriculums. However, the chance to set up a pre-kindergarten program from scratch was one of my ultimate dreams. I am very grateful to have had the chance.'

Part of Linda's excitement is due to her deep belief in the amazing potential of each and every child. 'I am very drawn to the Reggio Emilia philosophy in which you see each child as a clean slate. Every single one of them has so much potential. We are just tapping into the innate ability of every child to learn.'



# Those Who Teach, Learn

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## Partnering with the tertiary sector to advance student outcomes

Ravenswood Professional Development gained momentum this year, with teachers across the Junior and Secondary Schools, completing programs with the University of New South Wales (UNSW) School of Education, and the University of Queensland's (UQ) Science of Learning Research Centre.

### The UNSW Mini COGE

'Participation in the Mini COGE is part of the School's strategic direction and tied to the Ravenswood Guiding Principle of *Excellence*. Our girls are inspired to embrace academic challenge and extend their abilities in order to fully engage and thrive,' said Gifted and Talented Coordinator Kerrie Besgrove.

At the beginning of this year, every Ravenswood teacher completed two modules of the Mini COGE, with 25 going on to complete the whole course.

'We are keeping our staff updated on current evidence-based teaching practices to address the needs of diverse learners, and in particular, the significant proportion of high performing students at Ravenswood.'

The course supported teachers to better understand the unique learning needs of each student and offered a variety of actionable strategies for differentiation. The curriculum and pedagogical design can be adapted to guide all students in reaching their academic potential.

'You start with the syllabus outcomes, but then push ahead in certain areas for some students and review concepts as needed for others. Our teachers understand that learning is a continuum and that they can offer each student the next steps. Rather than designing one lesson that hits the middle, it's about targeting everyone at their point of challenge and moving them forward,' she said.

Part of the process is understanding individuals, looking at what they need academically but also the other

aspects of their character as a learner that might be having an impact, such as their social, emotional and wellbeing needs.

'One of the greatest benefits has been that we now have consistent language and understanding amongst the staff, through every key academic department, and a shared platform to plan learning experiences. Our staff are well supported to nurture talent and optimise the strengths of the full range of high potential learners.'

## The University of Queensland's Science of Learning Research Centre (SLRC) Partner Schools Program

This evidence-informed model of research translation, brings universities and schools together to ensure the transfer of current educational research to the classroom.

A ten-member Ravenswood team is participating in the program, in partnership with representatives from the SLRC. Over the course of 12 months, they will work alongside researchers to design, implement and analyse a research project that addresses a school-based issue. This project will draw on current research across neuroscience, cognitive psychology, and education.

Over the course of 12 months, they are planning, evaluating and reflecting on their teaching practice, while drawing on current research across neuroscience, cognitive psychology, and education. It is hoped their final report will contribute to a better understanding of what works, why it works and how it will benefit teaching in the Ravenswood context and more generally.

'Working collaboratively with researchers allows teachers to become active participants, respected for their teaching expertise, in building usable and relevant knowledge that can make a real difference for our students and classroom practice,' said Learning Enrichment and Research Coordinator Fiona Cooney.

# Always Towards Better Things

In our 120th year, we look back on the life of Ravenswood's most celebrated Alumni, Dr Grace Cuthbert Browne MBE (Cuthbert, 1917).

If you were to ponder who among 120 years of Ravenswood Alumni has most profoundly impacted the world around them, Dr Grace Cuthbert-Browne's inclusion in *200 Australians Who Made Australia Great* is a compelling nod to her credentials. There can surely be no greater recommendation than to say your life's work was to give life itself.

The story of Grace, whose deep care for mothers and their babies before and after birth ushered forth a revolution in maternal child health, is a highlight of the Ravenswood archives. More than a century after her graduation, Grace's efforts to elevate the status of professional women everywhere, underpin her legacy as profoundly as her many medical accomplishments.

Grace died in 1986, two years before the Bicentennial Authority hailed her life in its celebration of influential Australians. Her Ravenswood years coincided with World War I; the impact of her schooling ran deep, and speaks to a place of great learning – not only in academia but in life.

'The academic training was regarded as important and in those days this, was exceptional,' Grace recalled in a 1972 interview. 'One had to plan to go to university and study medicine and of course, one's academic efforts had to be maintained at School and this was greatly encouraged and very well conducted.'

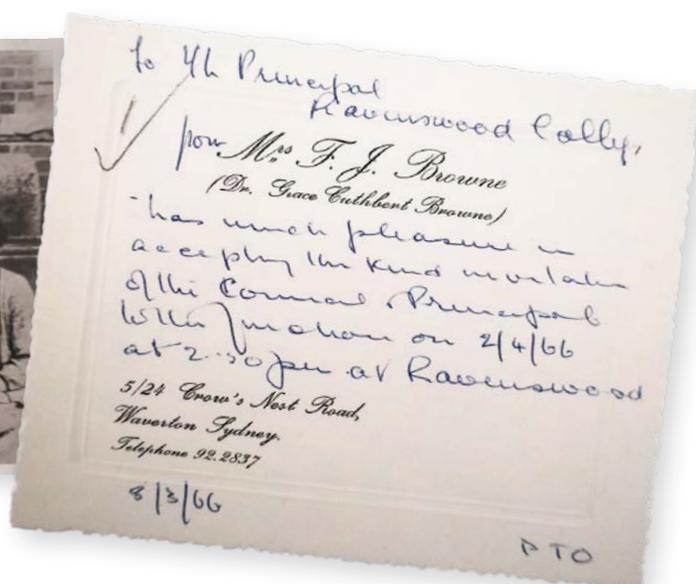
She remembered in particular the influence of Miss Mabel Fidler, Headmistress and owner of Ravenswood

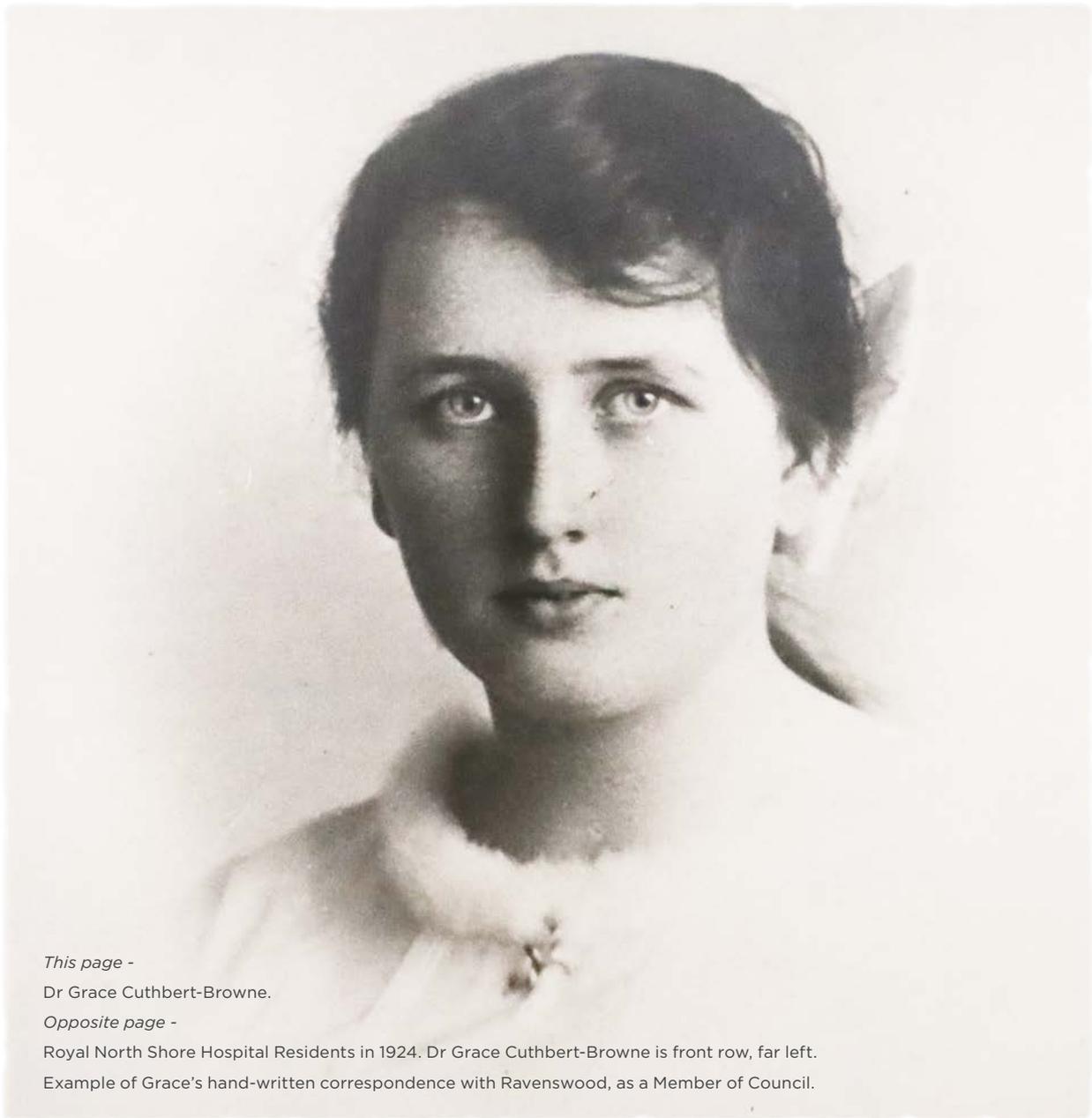
at the time. Miss Ella Slack, was another who left an indelible impression, *the great encourager and helper* of students who were sitting their Leaving Certificate, then the requirement for university entrance.

'My great cry has been that whatever medical science has produced, so we must hand on to the mothers and babies.'

Together, they emboldened Grace to believe that women could do anything and hardship was to be overcome. Her final year at Ravenswood was curtailed when one of three brothers, a chemist, was killed on the front line in France and Grace took time out to be with their mother.

She finished her studies with distinction and was one of 25 women among 100 medical students at University of Sydney. Driving a shift to meticulous ante-natal supervision and improved teamwork, she became the first woman resident medical officer at the Royal North Shore Hospital and later Director of Maternal and Baby Welfare in the NSW Department of Health.





*This page -*

Dr Grace Cuthbert-Browne.

*Opposite page -*

Royal North Shore Hospital Residents in 1924. Dr Grace Cuthbert-Browne is front row, far left.

Example of Grace's hand-written correspondence with Ravenswood, as a Member of Council.

When she took on the latter role in 1937, five mothers and 41 babies died for every 1000 births in NSW. When she left in 1964, those figures had dropped to 0.32 and 19.9 respectively.

In 1950, she met distinguished obstetrician and gynaecologist Francis Browne, who was lecturing in Australia. The many updated editions of his seminal book, *Antenatal and Postnatal Care*, already filled Grace's bookshelves. They married a year later in London, and upon his death in 1963 she spoke of his 'gentleness, loving kindness, unflinching shared concern for the expectant mother and unborn baby'. Theirs was what Shakespeare would term 'a marriage of true minds.'

Grace never had children of her own, yet she effectively oversaw a revolution, a change in perspective to the centrality of mother and babe. Free baby health centres are among her many legacies.

As Sir Hermann Black noted in bestowing the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine upon her in 1988, she devoted her life 'in the service of mothers and the many lives they bore. It is no play on words to say that Grace was her name and gracious her whole nature. A handsome woman, she had that indefatigable quality - a presence.'

Always, her work melded the latest developments in medicine to those most fundamental human traits of care and compassion. She set targets so high as to never quite reach them, yet drew great happiness from advancing the cause and prospects of mothers and their young.

'My great cry has been that whatever medical science has produced, so we must hand on to the mothers and babies.'

In her later years, Grace also found time to give back to her old School, serving as a valued member of the Ravenswood Council between 1960 and 1976.

# United in Purpose

Each year in Queensland, the impact that sisters Dr Jean Stobo (1914) and Dr Joyce Stobo (1917) had on their profession, is given a fresh and richly deserved airing, when the female medical student who achieves the highest marks in the state, receives an award in their honour.

From their earliest years, the sisters shared an uncommon bond and a dedication to improving the lot of others.

Ravenswood was a formative place for both women, educating and inspiring them under the guidance of Miss Fidler, who is remembered for encouraging her students to aim high, with university studies and career in mind.

That Jean and Joyce would number among Ravenswood's finest was evident when they became the first sisters to both win the Fairfax Prize for their Junior Examinations.

They went on to lead remarkably similar lives, both holding resident medical officer posts at different times at the Brisbane General Hospital and the Hospital for Sick Children.

More is known about Joyce, who graduated from medical school in 1923 and was appointed medical officer at the Sydney Women's Hospital. She ran private practices in Brisbane and in 1926 became Honorary Outpatients Orthopaedic Surgeon at Brisbane Children's Hospital, channelling her talents where her chief interest lay - in the welfare of mothers and their babies. According to the Medical Journal of Australia, 'from the beginning showed evidence of her brilliant mind and aptitude for study.'

Joyce had high ideals and demanded of herself - and inspired in others - high standards in the art of living. She was blessed with a 'fine and rational mind and an understanding heart.' Her understanding of human frailties endeared her to her patients, along with her 'keen and responsive sense of humour and ready laughter.' Tellingly, she had a keen antenna for people who displayed affectation or hypocrisy or whose actions caused injustice to others.

When Joyce died prematurely in 1953 aged 52, her obituary told of 'a very rare personality,' a woman who boasted complete sincerity, married to 'an inner dignity and reserve, a great moral and physical courage, an independence of spirit and strength of character.' Joyce had an intense and unflagging

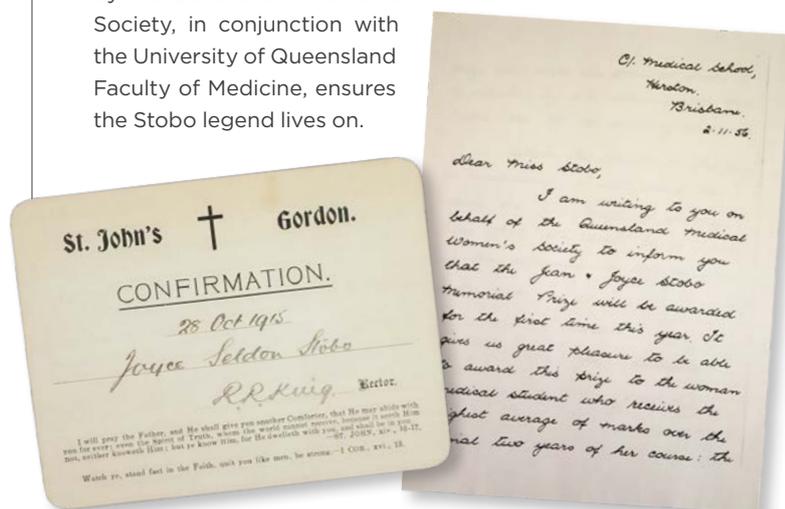
interest in people, a keen sympathy with suffering, 'and showed complete abnegation of self, sacrificing her own health for her work, which she loved, and which gave her very great satisfaction.'

Jean completed an Arts degree at the University of Sydney, before deciding to focus on medicine, graduating with a combined degree in medicine and surgery in 1923. She undertook post-graduate studies in London and Vienna, followed by 20 years maintaining a busy practice in the rural town of Kingaroy, where she also served in an honorary capacity at Kingaroy District Hospital.

'She was admired for her ability, esteemed for her unfailing goodness and kindness and for the unswerving devotion of her work for suffering humanity.'

When Jean died a year after her sister, aged 57, the local newspapers told of a gloom being cast over the district. 'Many will feel the poorer for her passing,' a close friend wrote at the time. 'Dr Stobo served her generation faithfully and bravely, upholding the highest ideals both as a citizen and a member of the medical profession. She was admired for her ability, esteemed for her unfailing goodness and kindness and for the unswerving devotion of her work for suffering humanity. She will be held in everlasting affection and regard by all who knew her well.'

The founding in 1956 of the Drs Jean and Joyce Stobo Memorial Prize and Medal, still awarded to this day by the Queensland Women's Society, in conjunction with the University of Queensland Faculty of Medicine, ensures the Stobo legend lives on.

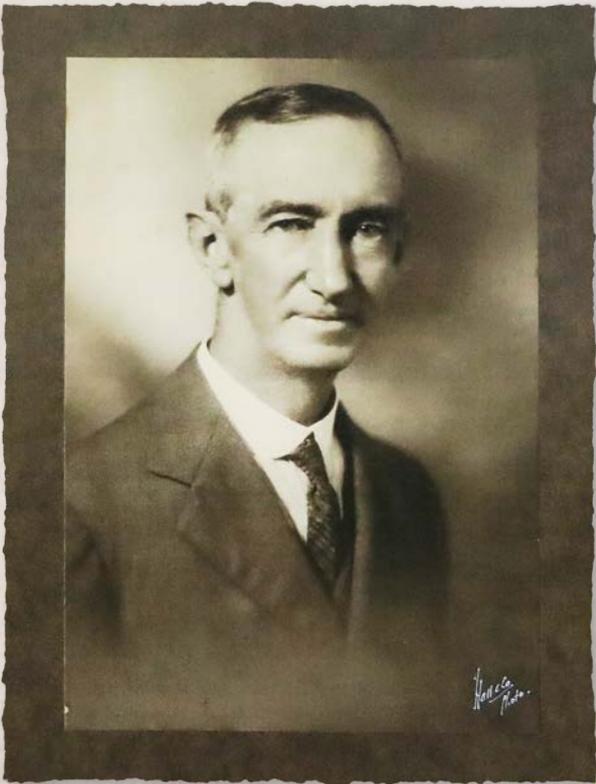




Jean Stobo



Joyce Stobo



Archibald Dunlop Stobo, father of Jean and Joyce Stobo



Florence Mary Stobo, Jean and Joyce's mother

# Changing Course to Benefit Young Minds

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Dr Lisa Pryor (1996) gave up international recognition as a journalist and author to enrol in medical school and contribute to the understanding of youth mental health.

**D**r Lisa Pryor's most memorable New Year's Eve was not a conventional one but it did hasten a career change that has brought her great satisfaction.

It was 2009 and the renowned journalist and Ravenswood Alumni spent the night in the emergency department of St Vincent's Hospital Sydney, as part of her research for a book she was writing about illicit drug policy.

'I just had the most amazing New Year's Eve ever, I loved being in emergency,' Lisa recalled. 'I had a weird epiphany - maybe it wouldn't be totally crazy to apply for medicine.'

Two years later and with a three-month-old baby in tow, the respected columnist, opinion editor and investigative reporter at the Sydney Morning Herald, traded in her hard-won career to enrol in a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery. Her view was that if it did not go anywhere, the experience could only help her writing.

'One of the nice things about journalism, no knowledge or life experience is ever wasted. I thought whether I get in or not, if I do a year of medicine and then change my mind, I'll still have this extra knowledge that will be helpful as a journalist.'



Now Lisa is a Psychiatry Registrar, training to be a psychiatrist but only working part-time to safeguard quality of life and family.

She says the evidence that the pandemic is greatly impacting the wellbeing of young people is of great concern. But her burning desire to change the world has been tempered by a realisation that it takes a lot of work just to stop the world from becoming worse, which can be an achievement in itself.

'I do feel a sense of satisfaction in my current job and a sense that you might have a positive impact on a young person's life is a nice feeling at the end of the day.'

Lisa has set aside writing a monthly column for the New York Times to concentrate on psychiatry, but would love to one day contribute to the discussion about mental health, in the context of the societal challenges faced by young people and their parents.

'So many of the problems at the moment are about inequality in society, kids being divided into winners and losers ... I think that's as much a part of the story as brain chemistry.'

# Delivering Australia's COVID-19 Response

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As Director of Nursing for the Northern Sydney Local Health District, Claire Harris (1983), is at the frontline of the country's vaccination rollout.

**O**n graduating from Ravenswood, Claire Harris had a strong desire to pursue a career in visual art. Luckily, for the many who have experienced her care and guidance since, she did not get into the course.

Now the Director of Nursing and Midwifery Services for the Northern Sydney Local Health District, Claire has no regrets, only gratitude for those around her.

'This last 18 months will be a period of my career like no other and I am incredibly proud of how Northern Sydney Local Health District has done it,' she said. 'You see that on a day-to-day basis in the care that's provided, but also in the way teams have responded to this COVID-19 pandemic. It's been quite extraordinary.'

Claire's recent focus on the vaccination rollout 'looks different every single day,' initially recruiting staff to run the hubs, purchasing equipment to properly store vaccines and setting up electronic record-keeping. Now it is happening in winter, when nursing resources are already stretched. 'Nevertheless we are still delivering,' she said.

Her grounding in pandemics is strong. For a dozen years from the late 1980s, Claire managed the HIV ward at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. 'We got to know these people incredibly well. It was hard, because we did care for them so deeply. But it taught me so much about living a life of gratitude.'

Claire was at Ravenswood from Years 6-12 and remembers it as a nurturing place where she felt stable and cared for. After nursing studies at Royal North Shore, she put herself through a Bachelor of Visual Arts, and when her HIV experience left her feeling jaded and in need of a change, the two worlds collided.

'I took my long service and worked in the film industry as a nurse on set,' she said, recalling a two-year stint that included feature films such as *Lantana* and TV dramas like *Water Rats* and *All Saints*.



It crystallised her desire to work in public health. After a Masters in Health Management and progression through the ranks, she now has more than 6,000 nurses under her umbrella.

Her greatest achievement has been 'managing some incredible workforces in both small and large facilities,' not least seeing them step up throughout the pandemic.

Claire is comfortable with her career choice. 'I did stick with art,' she laughs. 'I just do it at home!'

# Alumni News



## Sophie Wong and Ollie Watt

Sophie Wong (2014) married Ollie Watt at Northlight Anglican Church in West Pymble, followed by a reception at Seargent's Mess in Chowder Bay. Many Ravenswood friends were among the guests who shared in her happy day.

**Left to Right:** Emily Mew-Sum, Ollie Watt, Sophie Wong, Esther Shim

## Gretel and Patrick Jones

Gretel Hickling (2012) married Patrick Jones in November 2020 at St Martin's Church, Killara, with a reception at Jonah's Whale Beach. 'It was wonderful to have so many of my RAVO friends there to celebrate this special day with me,' she said.

**Back:** Sophie Leijer, Alexandra Bartholomew, Nina Harriott, Gretel Hickling, Patrick Jones, Rachel Haynes, Stephanie Selig, Jessica Tafft, Natasha Whiteman  
**Front:** Shemira Jeevaratnam, Sophie Ray, Jennifer van den Heuvel, Jess Porfiri





## Five generations of RAVO girls

Kate Pagett (2003), her sisters Amy Pagett (2004), Sophie Pagett (2007) and Georgi Pagett (2011), great grandmother Helene Shipton (1913), grandmother Jo Harris (Law, 1950) and mother Vicki Pagett (Harris, 1974), were all proud Ravenswood girls.

Kate's beautiful 18-month-old daughter Layla Valentina Rohanna, is currently enrolled for Year 7 in 2032. The brand new addition to Kate's brood is William Rohanna, born in June this year.



Kate's great grandmother Helene Agnes Shipton graduated from Ravenswood in 1913

## Vale

Ravenswood was saddened to learn of the deaths of the following Alumni:

**Carol Clayton** (Graham, 1958)

**Carolyn Wood** (Edgecombe, 1959)

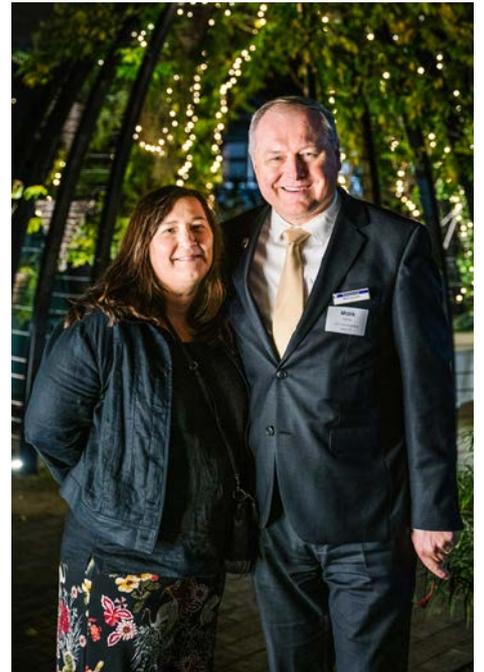
**Joy Rasmussen** (Wilson, 1959)

# Community News

As NSW COVID-19 restrictions eased in the first half of 2021, our community rejoiced in the chance to come back together for a myriad of events reflecting the many facets of RAVO life.

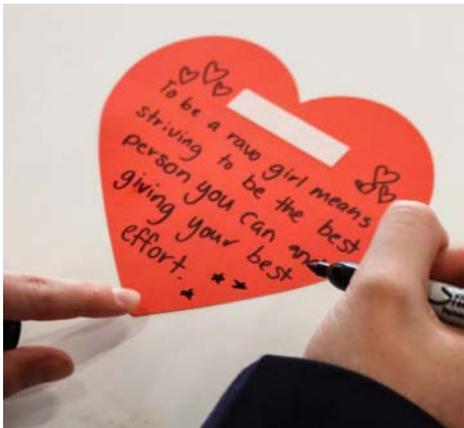
Photos taken at the Mother's Day Stall, Year 11 Morning Tea, Junior School Discos, Valedictory fundraising BBQ, Ravenswood, the Ravenswood Anzac Day Service, Love RAVO Day and International Women's Day.





# Community News





# Record Entries Received in Fifth Year of Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize

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The Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize celebrated its fifth year in 2021, with a record 1,677 entries – more than double the number received when the prize launched in 2017.

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

'United through a love of art and our passion for supporting women artists' the Art Prize gives a voice and platform to women of our time,' said Mrs Johnstone.

'There is no doubt the Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize is of genuinely national significance,' said Federal Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts, and Member for Bradfield, the Hon Paul Fletcher MP. He officiated at the opening of the 2021 Art Prize on 14 May in the Centenary Centre. Due to COVID-19 regulations, for the second consecutive year, the event was held with only a few guests onsite and the rest online.

Many of the 1,677 entries received this year focused on the pressing issues of our times - the general crises of environmental destruction and collapse of eco systems due to climate change, specifically the aftermath of the 2020 fires and the global pandemic. Finalists selected for the Exhibition represented every state and territory in Australia, including remote and very remote regions.

Caroline Rothwell's masterly painting *Vault*, won the Professional Artist Prize. It is an interrogation of the wunderkammer (cabinet of curiosity) - a 19th century practice of collecting specimens from nature and Indigenous culture material displayed in

custom designed cabinets in museum houses. The judges described it as a poignant, beautiful and major work.

The Emerging Artist Prize was won by Simone Male, for her artwork *Contagious*, an upbeat, lively painting about the pandemic, depicting a woman in the act of 'performative cleaning.' It is a theatrical and playful work with a sense of the triumph in the joy of helping others. The title has a double meaning; the COVID-19 pandemic is contagious but so is the love and joy generated when helping vulnerable people in need.

Imelda Wood Melamurrk from the Bugul community, in the Northern Territory, won the Indigenous Emerging Artist Prize for her artwork *My Sister's Birth on a Full Moon*. It is a 'women's' business' painting, an abstract interpretation of a birth taking place in a special outdoor coastal place.

A highlight of the 2021 Art Prize was the inaugural Peoples' Choice Award, sponsored by Visual Arts Coordinator Edwina Palmer, and won by Leila Jeffreys for her artwork *The wound is the place where the light enters - Bleeding heart dove*.

The Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize is Australia's highest value art prize for women, with a \$35,000 Professional Artist Prize, as well as an Emerging Artist Prize of \$5,000 and an Indigenous Emerging Artist Prize of \$5,000.

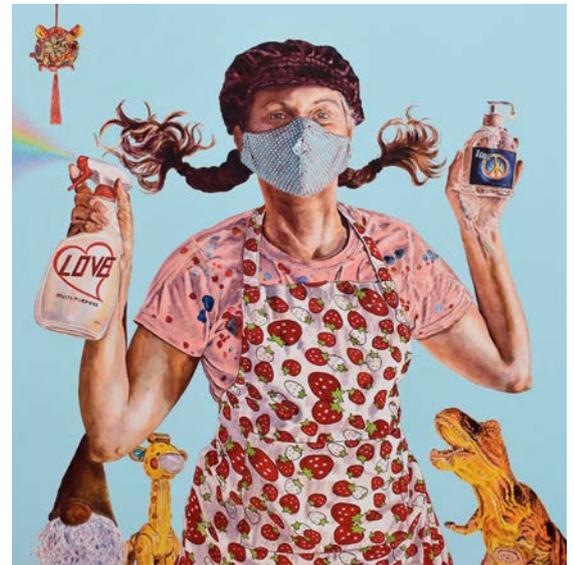
Ravenswood is most grateful to Platinum Sponsor, Stockland; Gold Sponsors, R.M. Williams OUTBACK, Crestone Wealth Management and Active Networks; Silver Sponsors The Art Scene, Buildcorp and Clarke Murphy Print; and the Tritton Family, sponsors of the Indigenous Emerging Artist Prize, for their generous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



2021 Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize Opening



2021 Professional Artist winner, Caroline Rothwell, *Vault*



2021 Emerging Artist winner, Symone Male, *Contagious*



*The wound is the place where the light enters - Bleeding Heart Dove* by Leila Jeffreys



2021 Indigenous Emerging Artist winner, Imelda Wood Melamurrk, *My Sister's Birth On A Full Moon*



## Commemorative Paver Program

Open to all members of the Ravenswood community, the Commemorative Paver Program is an enduring way to celebrate your connection with the School.

Commemorative pavers may also be laid for current students from Prep to Year 12 and inscribed in a variety of ways, often with a girl's full name, peer year and House.

Each paver represents the lasting legacy of a tax-deductible donation to the Ravenswood Building Fund of \$500.

Please contact the alumni staff at [alumni@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au](mailto:alumni@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au) or (02) 9498 9898.



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