

Generations of girls love boarding at Ravenswood

NEW Year 7 boarder Lily Oosterveen from Orange is thriving in the boarding Ravenswood Residential College.

"Everyone is so welcoming," she said.

"My mum told me that you can make friends across year groups, and it is true. Dinner times are especially fun, and the older girls are really good at giving advice."

Lily is a fourth-generation Ravenswood student, following in the footsteps of her mother Angela Oosterveen and aunt Sally Stevenson, who both boarded in the 1990s.

Her great-aunt Lyndal Stevenson was also a boarder, and her great-great-grandmother Louisa Chilton and great-great-aunt Hattie Chilton were day students.

"My advice was to ensure she made close friendships because my own experience is that Ravenswood boarders genuinely become like one big family," Mrs Oosterveen said.

"I still regularly see the boarders from my day. They



MAKING FRIENDS: Lily Oosterveen in the dining room with boarders at Ravenswood Residential College.

are like extended sisters and I wanted that for Lily."

Mrs Oosterveen has also inspired her daughter to embrace every opportunity. So far Lily has joined softball and sprints as part of the athletics program.

"Now Lily's little sister Saskia has seen the bright lights of Ravenswood she is pretty keen to board there herself one day," she said. "As a family, we couldn't be happier."

Ravenswood offers boutique boarding for up to 50 girls in Year 7 to 12, providing a tight-knit and safe community where lifelong friendships and bonds can be made.

Students have more than 100 exciting and diverse co-curricular activities to explore their passions outside the classroom, from Code Club to musicals and equestrian to AFL in award-winning, world-class facilities.

In 2011 Ravenswood became the first girls' school on Sydney's North Shore to offer cadets, with a large number of boarders developing their leadership skills, discipline and self-reliance in collaboration with the Knox Grammar School Cadet Unit.

Ravenswood is the only school on Sydney's upper north shore to offer a choice of the HSC or the Interna-

tional Baccalaureate Diploma (IB). In 2021, three Ravenswood students achieved the highest possible ATAR of 99.95, with Ravenswood achieving 20th in NSW in the HSC school rankings. Boarders also have access to in-house tutoring from some of its highest-achieving alumni, including former duxes, of the school.

Since the arrival of Principal Anne Johnstone in 2016, Ravenswood has received a series of accolades for its transformative work in wellbeing and innovation, including an Australian Education Excellence Award for Best Student Wellbeing Program in 2021 and three Innovative Schools Awards.

From effective study habits to high-quality connections, students are equipped with a wellbeing "tool kit" of evidence-based strategies that benefit them during school and long after graduation.

■ Families can discover more about Ravenswood at the 2022 Boarding Schools Expo in Tamworth from July 22 to 23.