20. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

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Semper, the Ravenswood school magazine

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

Long before the advent of positive psychology, Helen Keller wrote an essay titled *Optimism* - not about over-confidence or the donning of rose-coloured glasses but about the optimism that motivates us to set challenging goals and stay the course.

This year, after overwhelming feedback from the girls, we added *Optimism* to Ravenswood’s Guiding Principles and it became a guiding theme for Semester 2 - as a community, we aimed high and achieved much.

‘Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.’

Helen Keller

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RAVENSWOOD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS | 5
For our students there were National and State wins in Public Speaking, Community Problem Solving, Writing, Snow Sports, AFL, Rhythmic Gymnastics, Dance and much more. The 2017 Prefects organised a professional standard forum on gender equality and the 2018 Prefects introduced both a new school acronym, PRIDE (Purposeful Relationships Inspiring Dreams Everyday) and a new student award, The Meliora Prize, for the girl who best personifies Ravenswood’s Guiding Principles.

There has been much to celebrate for our broader community as well, including welcoming more than 1,000 Ravenswood parents and staff, psychologists, educators and members of the public from across NSW and Australia for the rare experience of hearing the founder of Positive Psychology, Professor Martin Seligman, share his insights on hope and flourishing. We launched the richest art prize for women in the country, attracting more than 780 entries and staged an extremely successful Ravenswood Foundation Gala Ball. Another highlight was the filming of the Ravenswood ‘ignite’ video when hundreds of students and staff converged on the oval to form the Ravenswood crest in a spirit of unity and connection.

Ravenswood has a proud history of philanthropy. Every year your generous donations enable us to provide the best possible learning environment and resources for our current and future students. I would like to gratefully acknowledge the contributions from alumni, current and past parents and the Ravenswood community to the 2017 fund raising initiatives. Thank you for your support of the 2017 Ravenswood Annual Appeal, the 2017 Tuition Fee Raffle, the 2017 Ravenswood Foundation Gala Ball and the Voluntary Building Fund. Thank you also to those who have given so generously of their time as volunteers at one of the many events of 2017.

While we are a proudly all-girls’ school, we offer our students the best of both worlds through our relationship with our brother school Knox. This year, we extended our collaboration beyond Australian Business Week, Cadets and service learning experiences, to our inaugural musical co-production, Fiddler on the Roof. The rousing, heart-filled performances not only provided wonderful entertainment for the audience but valuable learning opportunities for students at both schools.

At the end of this year, our outstanding Chair of Council, Mr Mark Webb concludes his tenure on Council. His contribution and support has been invaluable. A former parent, Mark has also served as a member of the Ravenswood Council, Foundation and Property Committee, adroitly steering some of the school’s most important projects to completion, including the construction of the Mabel Fidler Building, the Petre Innovation Centre and the introduction of Positive Psychology, to name a few. We are deeply grateful to Mark for his astute guidance and wise counsel over the course of his significant term.

I am delighted to announce that Jo Karaolis AM, the former Principal of St Catherine’s, Waverley and St Lucy’s School in Wahroonga, has been appointed Chair of Council from 2018. Jo’s long and esteemed career in education, has included roles as a member of the NSW Board of Studies and a member of Council at the University of NSW. She has been a member of the Ravenswood Council for the last five years.

Finally, returning to the theme of optimism, I would like to quote Helen Keller’s essay once more, ‘As I stand in the sunshine with a sincere and earnest optimism, my imagination paints yet more glorious triumphs on the cloud-curtain of the future.’

With many more projects and events in train as we deliver on the school’s Strategic Plan 2017–2020 and Master Plan, Ravenswood has reason to look with great optimism towards the years ahead.
Always towards better things
A Message from Our Student Leaders

Lucy Woodcock, Tess Webster and Lucy Kellaway

With the new year fast approaching, we have been reflecting on the impact we would like to make on the Ravenswood school community. As leaders of the school, we will strive to make Ravo a happier, more exciting and better place. We have identified three main goals: increasing student participation; encouraging and supporting interaction between girls, irrespective of classes, Year Groups or House Groups; and encouraging educational perseverance and involvement in social service initiatives, to hopefully inspire the girls to lead more purposeful and meaningful lives.

On this last point, we were excited to introduce in Assembly our new student focus: Ravo PRIDE, an acronym we have created that stands for: Purposeful Relationships Inspiring Dreams Everyday. Ravo PRIDE sums up a commitment to go that extra step to make someone’s day brighter. It aims to inspire our fellow students to be generous, brave and optimistic in their interactions, because we achieve far more with others than we ever do alone.

It was also our privilege to introduce a prestigious new award into the school, the Meliora Prize, stemming from our school motto semper ad meliora – Always towards better things. The Meliora Prize will be awarded each term to the girl who best embodies the school’s Guiding Principles, among other things, by seeking to find the best in themselves and others and by being accepting and tolerant of everyone.

We believe these initiatives will help to build an even warmer, more positive environment at Ravenswood and are so excited to embrace this opportunity, with the help of our Year 12 cohort, in our final year of school!
The success of the Ravenswood Australian Women’s Art Prize (RAW) surpassed all expectations, attracting 789 high quality entries from across the country and hundreds of new visitors to the school.

‘We frequently talk to our girls about advocating for women and the importance of equity,’ said Principal Mrs Anne Johnstone. ‘By hosting and sponsoring the largest art prize for women in the country, Ravenswood is taking steps to redress the imbalance in the art world.’

The $35,000 Professional Artist’s prize was won by Blackheath artist Joan Ross, who gained national attention earlier in 2017 as the winner of the Sulman Prize at the Art Gallery of NSW. Ms Ross’ digital animation work, Colonial Grab was based on a painting by early landscape artist John Glover and commended by the judges for its sophistication, humour and witty visuals that ‘engage the viewer to laugh at and then question our colonial past.’

‘Winning the Ravenswood Australian Women’s Art Prize makes it possible for me to relax into just making work,’ Ms Ross said.

Painter Katrina Collins from Haberfield in Sydney’s inner west, was named the winner of the $5,000 Emerging Artist prize for her richly coloured and joyful abstract work, Split Complementary.

‘This is all about celebrating success, celebrating women and celebrating diversity,’ said John Schroder, CEO of Commercial Property at Stockland, the Prize’s major sponsor. ‘Ravenswood should be absolutely congratulated for not only coming up with the idea, but for making it happen.’

The Ravenswood Australian Women’s Art Prize advanced the school’s reputation for commitment to the visual arts and the promotion of women in artistic spheres.
‘Prizes like this begin to ignite and activate the pathways we need to create the big thinkers of the future. It is not just about art, it is about the big thinkers of the world,’ said Josephine Sukka, Principal at Buildcorp, a Ravenswood Australian Women’s Art Prize sponsor.

Ravenswood students visited the exhibition throughout the course of the week to engage with and learn from the works. ‘The fabulous success of RAW would not have been possible without the support of our parents Alex Bogle and Kathryne Grigor and the Chair of the Ravenswood Foundation, Mark Steinert,’ said Mrs Johnstone.

Entries for the 2018 Ravenswood Women’s Art Prize open on Thursday 1 February and the Opening Night event will be held on Saturday 26 May.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT
Split Complementary by Katrina Collins; Screen shot from Colonial Grab by Joan Ross; Alex Bogle and Kathryne Grigor; Mark Steinert, Foundation Chair, Katrina Collins, Emerging Artist winner, Joan Ross, Professional Artist winner, John Schroder, Group Executive at Stockland, Mrs Anne Johnstone, Principal, Edwina Palmer, Head of Visual Arts, Jennifer Turpin, Prize Patron; Joan Ross, Mrs Anne Johnstone, Edwina Palmer at RAW Opening Night
Insights from a Giant in the World of Psychology
Professor Seligman is Zellerbach Professor of Psychology at the University of Pennsylvania, a former President of the American Psychological Association and a scientific pioneer in the area of Learned Optimism and Learned Helplessness.

More than 1,000 Ravenswood parents and staff as well as educators and psychologists from around the country, came to the school for An Evening with Professor Martin Seligman, to hear him share his insights on ways to help build wellbeing in young people, and flourish as individuals and communities. Professor Seligman’s presentation covered the origins and history of positive psychology, tips for applying its principles to daily life and his predictions for the future of this exciting field. It combined theoretical depth, practical tips and plenty of humour.

Earlier in the day, Professor Seligman spent time with Ravenswood’s students, touring the campus, answering their questions and posing some of his own. He also met with the school’s Senior Leadership Team and the Ravenswood Council. ‘It was a rare privilege for our community to host Professor Martin Seligman. It gave me particular pleasure to see him interacting with our students and staff, answering questions and giving advice, as well as hear him comment on how impressed he was with our girls and the school,’ Mrs Johnstone said.

A collection of highlights from the evening presentation:

‘There is a circuit that is sufficient and necessary for producing helplessness. We each have it – and even better, there is a circuit high in the forebrain that enables us not to be helpless. We found that those of you, who generally believe when something bad occurs in your lives that it is temporary, it is just this one situation, it is not your fault and you can do something about it – you do not become helpless.’

‘Why do kids need to be educated about the positive side of life? The reason is, the negative stuff comes naturally. What good parenting is about, what a good life is about, is not correcting your errors, but finding what you are really good at and running with it – building your life around it.’

‘Pessimism is a major risk factor for cardiovascular disease and optimism is a protective factor.’

‘You can teach people to have realistic reasons for their optimism and realistic reasons not to be pessimistic. Hope gets you doing things and finding out that things you didn’t think were achievable, are actually achievable.’

‘We only do what we measure. If we start measuring wellbeing, then our policies will be around building wellbeing. The kids at schools who learn Positive Education are not only markedly happier a year and two years later, but they are better at national standardised exams.’

‘Professor Seligman visited Ravenswood at the invitation of Principal, Mrs Anne Johnstone. Mrs Johnstone is one of very few Australians to have completed a Master of Applied Positive Psychology (MAPP) from the University of Pennsylvania. Mrs Johnstone wrote her Capstone thesis under Professor Seligman’s supervision.'
Gender Empowerment Forum

In an exciting initiative, the 2017 Prefects brought together an esteemed panel of experts to highlight the issue of workplace gender inequality.

When Ravenswood’s 2017 Prefects were first commissioned, they announced a goal to raise awareness about the issue of gender inequality, not only with their fellow students but the wider community.

The girls spent months organising every detail of the August Forum, including approaching respected thought leaders and inviting their fellow Prefects from schools across Sydney.

The Keynote speaker was Christine Bartlett, Chairman of The Smith Family and Non-Executive Director of Mirvac, GBST Holdings, Sigma Pharmaceuticals, Clayton Utz and TAL Australia. She told the crowd of around 130 people that Australia has made disappointingly few gains, despite decades of government and corporate initiatives.

‘More women than men graduate from university in Australia but the picture changes radically by the time they reach the workforce,’ Ms Bartlett said. ‘Australia is among the seven worst performers in the OECD when it comes to pay equality, behind Mexico, Chile, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Hungary and Greece. Women in Australia earn 23.1% less than men and retire with less than half the superannuation. Australia ranks 54th in the world for women in Parliament. This puts us behind Rwanda, Afghanistan, Mexico and Ethiopia. Fewer large Australian companies are run by women than are run by men named John, Peter or David.’

The panel featured Professor Nalini Joshi, Australian Laureate Fellow and Professor in the School of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Sydney; Tim Reed, Chief Executive Officer at MYOB; Sanushka Seomangal, Special Counsel at Thomson Geer and Claire Braund, Executive Director of Women on Boards.

During the discussion, the predominantly young audience was encouraged to seek out employers who are serious about gender diversity. The things to look for are:

- How many women do they have on their board, in the executive team and across the business? Are there role models for you?
- Do they offer workplace flexibility? What is the take up by men and women?
- Do they have pay equity across comparable roles at the same level and across the organisation?
- How do they remove unconscious recruitment bias? Do they involve both men and women in the recruitment process?

Other wisdom and advice included:

- The harder you work, the luckier you get
- When evaluating a role, take a hard look at who you will be working for – will they support, stretch, coach and sponsor you for promotion?
- Networking both internally and externally is essential
- Finding industry mentors and sponsors is crucial
In June a group of Ravenswood Years 8 and 9 students travelled to Houston, Texas and Huntsville, Alabama for the ultimate Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) experience.

The trip to HASSE Space School was designed to develop the students’ interest in space science and encourage them towards STEM careers. The engaging, experiential program was designed by NASA scientists, professors and educational personnel and facilitated by the Alliance of Girls Schools Australasia in conjunction with The Houston Association for Space and Science Education (HASSE).

The students participated alongside their peers from fellow Australian girls’ schools, visiting the international space station and participating in a simulated mission to Mars, launching rockets and experiencing the Neutral Buoyancy Lab and Mission Control Centre. In a series of experiential activities, they took on the role of crime lab investigators, marine biologists and astronauts to collaborate, problem solve and develop critical thinking skills.

The daily schedule included motivational presentations from former astronauts and senior NASA staff, with a focus on leading female scientists and sessions on motivation, goal setting, project planning and crisis management.

American cultural experiences were also on the itinerary, such as visits to a baseball game, a cowboy park and 4 July celebrations. ‘It was an extraordinary experience and such a privilege,’ said TAS teacher Natalie Ford. ‘At one stage we saw four states in a day: Texas, Alabama, North Carolina and Nashville. The girls learnt so much.’

Below
Simulating an astronaut repair mission
Official Opening of the Petre Innovation Centre

In September, Ravenswood officially opened the new Science precinct, The Petre Innovation Centre, named in honour of the Petre family for their powerful and enduring contribution to the school.

‘From an educational perspective … now more than ever, schools and individuals need to focus on working towards better things, constantly improving processes and approaches,’ said Daniel Petre AO. ‘We wanted to be associated with the Innovation Centre because at its core, innovation is hope. If you are not innovating every aspect of your life, you are going backwards. Technology is dramatically changing every job, company, organisation, industry and country and it is coming at us faster than ever before.’

Daniel Petre has served as a former Chair of both the School Council and the Foundation as well as played a leading role in initiatives to help connect parents and contribute to Ravenswood’s warm culture.

He has been a leading figure in the Australian technology industry for more than 30 years and served as Vice President at Microsoft’s Corporate Office in the United States and Managing Director of Microsoft Australia. He has also co-founded three technology venture capital firms including AirTree Ventures.

The opening event was attended by Ravenswood donors, alumni and staff. Mrs Johnstone said, ‘All-girls’ schools like Ravenswood carry a great responsibility and have a greater opportunity to prepare larger numbers of young women for careers in Science and innovation. The tailored environment of an all-girls’ school actively encourages girls to pursue excellence and take positive academic risks. We are well-placed to foster scientists and innovators of the future.’

Below, Left to Right
Daniel Petre AO; L–R: Carolyn Petre, Daniel Petre AO, Alice Petre, Principal Mrs Anne Johnstone, Council Chair, Mark Webb, Grace Petre, Council Member, Guy Fowler and Eliza Petre
Overseas charity work is a Ravenswood tradition and during the June school holidays, 38 girls travelled to Cambodia and Fiji for experiences of contribution and cultural understanding.

The annual Ravenswood and Knox Grammar School combined trip to Cambodia is in its sixth year. Divided into three groups, the students visited Siem Reap and Phnom Penh and worked for up to six hours a day teaching English to children from pre-school to Year 6.

‘The school instantly embraced us all, with each of us being swarmed with children,’ wrote Lucy Woodcock in her group’s travel blog.

Service activities included weaving wall panels to waterproof homes and conducting dialogue with the local adults to learn about their lives and dreams for the future.

‘Our experiences have encouraged us to try to respond to the injustices we have witnessed in Cambodia by developing habits that will help minimise poverty from our side of the world, whether it be sharing our experiences with other people or being selective about the brands of clothing we buy,’ said Year 11 students Asha Gatland and Lili Beavis Smyth.

8,700 kilometres away, a smaller group of Ravenswood girls was teaching English to primary aged children at the severely under-resourced Tagaque District School in Fiji.

The Ravenswood girls arrived with donations of sports equipment and health products. They had pre-prepared fun and engaging lessons, designed to inspire a love of English learning in their primary-aged students, many of whom had additional needs.

‘The best part was helping the kids who struggled and seeing their excitement when they got the answers right,’ said Remy Hayman (Year 11).

‘These kids are truly amazing. It will be so sad to leave them … we are very thankful we have been given this opportunity,’ said Year 11 students Veronica Hardman and Sascha Odisho-Mauceri.

RIGHT
Grace Robertson (Year 11) with children in Fiji
Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, and Coding
Ravenswood’s exciting Year 6 robotics program featured in a recent issue of Teacher Magazine. Some extracts have been collated below:

Can computers think? What is intelligence? Can we build a robot that learns from its past experiences? These are some of the tricky questions Year 6 students have been tackling as they explore the role of robots and machine technology in society while learning to code.

The exciting units of work for this year’s robotics program at Ravenswood School for Girls in Sydney have been developed through a CSIRO STEM Professionals in Schools partnership, which pairs classroom teachers with experts working in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) industries.

Matthew Scadding, ICT Integrator and TAS teacher has been working with Dr Joshua Ho, Head of the Bioinformatics and Systems Medicine Laboratory at the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute and senior lecturer at the University of New South Wales.

In Term 3, students worked with a lawn bowling robot to discover if it could deliver a perfect performance every time by learning from its past mistakes. Professor Ho built the lawn bowler using a Lego Mindstorms EV3 robotics kit. By coding the arm, students were able to control the accuracy of the ‘ball’ (in this case, two EV3 tyres) bowled after observing the robot’s performance and giving it feedback. As the students continued reporting back, the robot adjusted the force it applied, improving its accuracy each time until it delivered the perfect ball.

‘Joshua has really improved my thinking about what’s possible,’ Mathew says. We keep hearing about the future of work, automation, robots and the impact of that, and even at a young age in Year 6 the more they understand what’s happening, the better prepared they are for that future.’

Student Showcase

Young Inventor’s National Win

Nine year old Xinjie (Claire) Ma is one of 12 national finalists in the littleBIGidea competition for her invention of a remote control traffic light receiver. Xinjie came up with the concept after witnessing the safety issues faced by people in wheelchairs or pushing prams when trying to access the traffic light button. Xinjie’s invention was chosen from more than a thousand creative ideas sent in by children from all around Australia and earned her a $1,000 prize. With world-changing inventions like the Braille system, trampolines and icy poles all invented by children, there is good reason to celebrate imaginative minds like Xinjie’s.

Impressive All-Round Achievement

Hana Chorley is having a stellar year in the pool and on the stage. The Year 9 student was named overall winner of the Northern District Times Young Sporting Spirit Award after bouncing back from an injury that forced her to transfer from elite gymnastics to elite diving. She was named Diving NSW Sydney Metropolitan 1m Springboard Champion (14-15 age group) and secured a bronze medal on the 3m springboard, qualifying for the Nationals in 2018 in both events. Hana also came second in the NSW Junior Rostrum Public Speaking State finals, with a speech drawn from personal experience that tackled the important issue of teenage mental health. She was the top medal winner in her age group at the Speech and Drama sections of the Sydney Eisteddfod and came second in Junior Poetry Reading at the Association of Heads of Independent Girls’ Schools Speech Festival. ‘I am a very shy person but this has proved to me that I can do anything if I put my mind to it,’ she says.
Sydney Fringe Festival Performance

Year 7 student Sophia Barnard performed in the Sydney Fringe Festival production of *Sunday in the Park with George* in September. It was her first experience working with an all-adult cast and she gained lots of tips, including how to calm her nerves. *Sunday in the Park with George* is a Pulitzer Prize winning Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine musical, based on a famous George Seurat painting. The Sydney production won rave reviews in the *Sydney Arts Guide*.

Human Library

Junior School students celebrated Book Week by borrowing humans along with books at the Learning Resources Centre’s Human Library in August. Ravenswood staff and parents volunteered to be ‘loaned out’ to the girls to read a story aloud over lunch. The playground filled with engagement and laughter as readers and listeners chose a sunny spot and settled in for some energetic storytelling.

Spartan Race

A hardy group of Junior School students and staff tested their endurance in May, pushing themselves to their limits in the Spartan Race. They competed in events like The Super and The Beast, overcoming obstacles like mud, walls, rope and barbed wire. The young Ravenswood participants won hearts and minds with their resilience, persistence and grit. ‘Spartan takes you out of your comfort zone and makes you realise what you are really capable of. It’s a great feeling to cross the finish line, knowing you rose to the challenge,’ said PDHPE teacher Terry Humphreys, who led the Ravo crew.
Student Showcase

Prefects’ Retreat

Ravenswood rejuvenated its approach to Student Leadership this year, making changes to the Prefect nomination and election process and Prefect Portfolios. At the Prefects’ Retreat at Elanora Heights in October, Principal Mrs Anne Johnstone, Deputy Head Kim Bence and other key staff, guided the girls through development workshops and team building exercises. ‘It was the perfect opportunity for us to develop our goals and vision for 2018. We got to know each other better and formulated our new PRIDE initiative, which we hope to integrate into the school community throughout the year,’ said Captains Lucy Woodcock, Lucy Kellaway and Tess Webster.

Fiddler on the Roof

In the first Ravenswood School for Girls – Knox Grammar School co-production, students brought to life the story of Jewish peasants in pre-revolutionary Russia, who are striving to retain their small town traditions. Reb the milkman, his wife Golde, their five daughters and the rest of the colourful characters from the village of Anatevka, were well-rendered by the young cast in a strong production, filled with an infectious love for life. The production was co-produced by Knox Grammar School Head of Drama, Michael Griffiths, Ravenswood Director of Music and Performing Arts, Heather Aird and Ravenswood Music Coordinator, Michael Varecka. Rich with musical hits, Fiddler on the Roof left the audience tapping their toes and singing its infectious tunes all the way home.
AFL NSW Independent Girls’ Schools Championships

Girls’ AFL is the game of the moment, as north shore independent girls’ schools band together to encourage female participation in the male dominated sport.

A new Ravenswood Years 7-10 team won its division in the inaugural AFL NSW Independent Girls’ Schools Championships in October.

The win topped a stunning day of match victories from girls who in most cases, had never played AFL before.

Snowsports Success

Ravenswood enjoyed its best year for Snow Sports yet in 2017, with 14 girls competing at the National Snowsports Championships in challenging conditions at Mt Buller. A record 20 students took part in the NSW Snowsports Championships in Perisher and 45 participated in the Sydney Region Championships at Thredbo, where Ravenswood took out the title of Overall Female Secondary Snowsports Champion School, on top of winning both Primary and Secondary Female Snowboard Champion School awards. Meanwhile, Year 6 student Zara Perry participated in a talent development program with Ski & Snowboard Australia and the Australian Paralympic Committee, working with some of the best coaches in the country.

K-12 Music Showcase

The K-12 Music Showcase at the Town Hall in September featured an eclectic program including everything from traditional Malay folk songs to Queen, The Beatles and the James Bond Theme. Among the audience favourites were a synchronised clapping performance of Can You Feel the Rhythm?, and the Symphony Orchestra’s show-stopping finale, What’s Up at the Symphony?
Staff News

EduChange Week

PDHPE teacher and Year 9 Coordinator, Kate Barbat made three separate presentations at EduChange Week in Melbourne in September. They focused on her children’s book Who Am I? Can You See? Can You See?, which she wrote to enhance self-belief in young people; her initiative Look Up Lunchtime; and the relationship between wellbeing and screen time. Included in her presentations were suggestions for teachers to integrate self-concept into the classroom to encourage young children to think about and practise the power of positive language and self-talk. Left: Kate Barbat

Master of Educational Leadership

Year 3 teacher Nicole Boult recently completed her Master of Educational Leadership through Macquarie University. Nicole, who started with Ravenswood at the beginning of 2017, says her post graduate degree has given her insights and perspectives that enhance her teaching practice on a daily basis. She hopes to complete an Experienced Teacher Action Research Pathway through the Association of Independent Schools next year, looking at the use of video in peer to peer observations in teacher practice. Below left: Nicole Boult

Advance Space Camp Academy

TAS teacher Danielle Cavill was one of ten educators selected by EDUTours to attend the Advance Space Camp Academy in Alabama to explore ways to teach and inspire a passion for STEM learning. The extraordinary trip saw her experience a sixth of her body weight as if she were walking on the moon, spin in a centrifuge, a huge spinning machine that simulates the high gravity on Neptune or Jupiter and fly an F18 simulator. She also experienced neutral buoyancy while scuba diving and tested her engineering skills by constructing a heat shield, creating a Mars Rover and building and launching rockets. Bottom left: Danielle Cavill

The Ravenswood Institute

TAS teachers Danielle Cavill and Natalie Ford and History teacher Heather Carr, have been awarded the Ravenswood Institute Professional Fellowship for 2017/18. Danielle and Natalie will travel to Japan to explore innovative STEM learning environments. Heather Carr will engage with academics at the University of NSW, Canberra (ADFA), the Australian War Memorial, the National Archives of Australia and the National Library of Australia, to develop pedagogical approaches for Mandatory History courses and identify best practice in online learning resources.
Exploring the Future of Learning at MIT

ICT Integrator Matt Scadding, learnt from the best at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in July, studying Innovation: Beyond the Buzzword. The course centred on disruptive innovation and design thinking and sought to answer the question ‘can you really define innovation?’

‘I left MIT feeling awash with new ideas, amazed at the levels of creativity and innovation happening and hopeful of a future populated with ethical machines that share our vision of a sustainable, open, and democratic society,’ Matt said. ‘To disrupt learning and improve education for all, we need to make some big changes, take a few risks and keep powerful ideas and learning at the centre.’

Above: Matt Scadding

Boosting Mental Health and Wellbeing in Schools

Principal Mrs Anne Johnstone and Deputy Principal, Kim Bence shared Ravenswood’s experience in Driving change through Visible Wellbeing at the Boosting Mental Health and Wellbeing in Schools conference in Melbourne in October. Their presentation was titled Strengthening Whole-School Approaches and looked at using Appreciative Inquiry to make and sustain organisational change in a school context. They also explained how to identify change champions and professional partnerships to improve mental health and transform wellbeing to a visible phenomenon. Mrs Johnstone lent her expertise to a panel on Building Relationships and Opening a Dialogue to Engage Parents and Mrs Bence served as conference Chair. Below: Mrs Anne Johnstone (right) Kim Bence (left)

Psychology in Teacher Practice

Ravenswood Kindergarten teacher, Tracey Hurley, has graduated with Upper Second Class Honours in her Bachelor of Science Psychology from The Open University in the United Kingdom. The course modules of particular relevance to Tracey’s teaching practice included child development, cognitive psychology, understanding the autism spectrum and counselling. ‘It was fascinating to explore the theories behind certain behaviours,’ Tracey says. Left: Tracey Hurley
Writers at Ravenswood

The Girl in the Garden

TAS Assistant, Elizabeth McGeorge has published her first novel, *The Girl in the Garden*, informed by her childhood experiences travelling around rural Australia. Set in a country town on the east coast, the book explores the challenges, choices and revelations of multiple generations and the consequences for a group of women living in the town. ‘I would describe my process as a tapestry of ideas – borrowing from reality while building up fictional scenarios,’ Elizabeth says. The book was completed over ten years, fitted in around work and child rearing. ‘The process taught me about individual power – if you really want to do something, you can!’ It is available online via Angus and Robertson Bookworld.

Victoria the Queen

*Victoria the Queen* made *The New York Times*, *Esquire* and *Chicago Public Library Best Books of the Year* lists when it was released in 2016. The book was written by journalist and author, Julia Baird (Class of 1985), who says she wanted to rescue Victoria from history because ‘we’ve had few women elected by popular vote to lead, it’s very instructive and interesting to look at the women who inherited [power].’

Baird began writing the historical work while she was Deputy Editor of *Newsweek* and now writes for the *Sydney Morning Herald* and is a presenter on ABC Television’s *The Drum*. The book includes an acknowledgement of her Ravenswood teacher Cate Vacchini, who ‘taught me that history is more than dates and po-faced portraits but trenches and pamphlets, propaganda and literature, blackouts and silk stockings as well. And that human hands wrought brutal destruction and exquisite beauty at exactly the same time. I would wish a teacher like her for all children.’ *Victoria the Queen* was shortlisted for the Walkley Book Awards and is published by Harper Collins.
The Third Kiss

Katharina Colmer from the Ravenswood Learning Resources Centre is an award-winning author, working in the young adult space. She released her first novel, a paranormal fantasy called The Third Kiss in the United States in August. It features toe curling chemistry, lots of edge-of-your-seat martial arts, and a Siamese fighting fish called Mr Miyagi. It is available online via Amazon.

Ways to Come Home

“What is the difference, I wonder, between people who grow deep roots into the soil, and the ones who ride the wind with outstretched wings?”

When Kate Mathieson (Class of 1997) wakes fretfully in the middle of the night and evaluates her life – beautifully decorated home, exhausting nine to five career, inner emptiness – she begins a journey of self-discovery across Africa, uncovering some personal truths that resonate with us all.

Ways to Come Home was published in September this year and shortlisted for the 2017 Finch Memoir Prize. It is published by Simon & Schuster Australia and available online.

Primary Girls in Print

Several Junior School girls achieved publication during Term 3. Anna Amoils (Year 6) was shortlisted in the Junior section of the Whitlam What Matters writing competition for her work on Music Matters to Me. Laura Parker (Year 5) received a Highly Commended certificate in the Multicultural division of the Dorothea Mackellar Poetry competition for her poem Away … Heaven Allow which was published on their website and three students had their poetry published in the August edition of Oz Kids in Print: Jiaqi Yu (Year 6) for her poem The edge of the world; Maya Skyring (Year 6) for her poem entitled Cancer; and Catherine Swemmer (Year 5) for her poems The Scenes of Toil, Enslavement and Urging.
One of Ravenswood’s first and most passionate writers was York House Prefect, Noelle Taylor (Class of 1930). She spent her spare time writing clever comedy sketches for her friends to perform and on leaving school, continued to write for university productions and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

Noelle’s Sixth Form play The New Headmistress was reviewed in the 1930 Ravenswood Magazine:

‘Gurgles of glee and exclamation issued from the Green Room and when the curtain rose on the first scene, it was difficult to recognise in the eight young ladies of Miss Mulberry’s Academy the usual cheerful members of the Sixth. With skirts to their ankles and hair brushed back from their faces, they looked typically mid-Victorian. They were in the charge of Miss Muffin (played by Noelle Taylor), the dear, fidgety Mistress who was ably carrying on the work of the school until the arrival of Miss Bingle, the new Headmistress who was to take Miss Mulberry’s place. One can easily imagine the horror when the new Headmistress arrived, wearing her dress to her knees and her face thickly covered with powder. Belinda … immediately fainted and Deborah took a fit of hysterics. Miss Muffin heroically bore up under the strain and later learnt that she had been entertaining an imposter … in the midst of it all the real Miss Bingle arrived and for a moment the audience was spellbound wondering just how Miss Muffin could escape the fate that seemed to await her.’
Emily Lawrence (Class of 2016) had her English Extension 2 Major Work *Beneath the Battlefield* published in the NESA Showcase publication, *WordeXpress* in August. Her poetry Anthology gave voice to the female experience during World War 1 through 10 female characters, including *Eve*, which is reproduced below:

**Eve**

You see me while walking down the street,
resting against buildings, lamp posts,
cherry-lipped and bright eyed,
Playing soldiers.
Staring out at you from behind the poster page,
slapped up on every building, around every corner,
lying ambush, to serve my country.
I am your incentive,
your reason to toil through the mud,
to guide you victorious through the battles,
to warn you of the dangers,
of cowardliness,
of shying from the fight.
You see us:
young, sacred, precious, all damsel in distress.

Don't I make you imagine
your own sweetheart in my place?
I will die, child in arms
under bombs and foaming Hun.
Ripped clothing, glowing pale skin,
that look of terror upon my face –
every crease enlarged tenfold.
My children long stains of blood at my feet.
There is only one way to help me.
So come boys,
See my terror, grief and pain.
The guilt boils within your stomach,
it pulls on heartstrings.
It drags you to the dotted line.
Enlist. Enlist.
The message etched on my painted face,
the whisper behind my pointed teeth.
We Want You.
Without a doubt one of the most influential figures in the Australian fashion industry, ‘A home-grown Victoria Beckham,’ the ‘girl to watch’ – praise flows fast for designer and entrepreneur Pip Edwards. The Ravenswood Old Girl from the Class of 1997 is the co-founder of P.E Nation, a ‘street-meets-sports-wear’ label, which sold out within hours of its March 2016 launch.

Described as having a ‘chilled-out Australian vibe’, the clothes feature a predominantly black and white palette, with splashes of primary colours. Sales skyrocketed when reality television stars Khloe Kardashian and Kylie Jenner wore them on Instagram, leading Selfridges in London to stock the brand.

Pip’s career has taken many turns since she studied Commerce/Law at university, and was hired by accounting firm Price Waterhouse Coopers. She has worked for some of the country’s best-known fashion brands including Sass & Bide, General Pants and Ksubi. What drives her most is seeing women wearing her clothes and knowing she is serving a need: ‘P.E Nation appeals to everyone from 13-year-old girls to my mother. At the end of the day, we just want all women to feel good and look good.’

Pip’s connection with Ravenswood remains strong. When scouting for a location to shoot her latest collection this year, she chose the school’s tennis courts and gymnasium. She also agreed to come back as a judge of the 2017 Secondary School House Choral Festival.

Winning the competition as York Music Captain 20 years ago, remains a prized memory. ‘To coordinate girls across all the Year Groups, teach them their parts and weave in an orchestral piece was just incredible … I chose a Billy Joel medley – Uptown Girl transitioning into The Longest Time and then back into Uptown Girl. It was fun and had some awesome, tricky harmonies … and we ended up winning. Go York class of ‘97!’

What does she remember best about her school days? ‘How could I ever forget the school anthem Kindle the Flame? That is still ingrained in my head. I guess my most fond memories were created in the Music Department – from being involved in numerous choirs, chorals, internal and external musicals and of course becoming Music Captain – music was everything to me.’

Today, Pip’s life is exciting but hectic with not much room for downtime, as she juggles overseeing the business with being a mother to 10-year-old Justice Maximus.

Supporting fellow creative, talented, entrepreneurial women is one of her key goals and Pip is full of advice for those making their way up the ranks. ‘Do the work, learn about everything, put your heart and soul into everything you do, be a sponge, network, be genuinely interested, and just go for it. There are so many twists and turns and you never know where you will end up, so enjoy every moment, be in the moment but know to always want more. I definitely believe that the grass is greener where you water it!’

OPPOSITE PAGE
Pip Edwards (class of 1997)
Ravenswood Reunions

5 Year Reunion

Ravenswood Old Girls from the Class of 2012 met at the Beresford Hotel in Surry Hills on 26 August for their Five Year Reunion.

It was so good to catch up with everyone who seemed to all have a great time! Having the use of a small cocktail style area at the hotel meant the girls could walk around and see everyone easily which was great.

It was amazing to see how everyone had changed since school, yet it almost felt as if no time had passed at all as we all got along really well.

It was also great to hear all the different study and career paths people were pursuing. All in all, it was a great night!

Ashley More

2016 Leavers Afternoon Tea

Old Girls from the Class of 2016 were welcomed back to school by Principal, Mrs Anne Johnstone on 31 August, for afternoon tea and to catch up with teachers and friends from their cohort. It was wonderful to hear about the young women’s adventures and achievements since leaving Ravenswood. There were laughs and exclamations as they received their copies of 2016 Nuntius and flicked through the pages filled with memories of their final year.
30 Year Reunion
A fabulous night was had by all at the Class of 1987, 30 Year Reunion on 9 September at Swifts, Darling Point. The prior months of planning paid off well, with 88 girls ‘found’ and invited. Naturally a few couldn’t come (living overseas, ill or holidaying) but the food, atmosphere and of course the company, were all exceptional. There was much laughter, reminiscing and many sore throats from talking by the end of the event, which went well into the early morning hours. After such a fabulous evening, another 10 years felt too long to wait for our next reunion. Cathy Mckay

60 Year Reunion
Celebrating their 60 Year Reunion, 11 Ravenswood Old Girls from the Class of 1957 enjoyed a relaxed lunch in the school’s Centenary Centre on 6 September. Mrs Anne Johnstone, Principal, was delighted to meet these wonderful ladies as they shared stories of their school days. Photos and memorabilia, including a school case and a Ravenswood uniform on display at the lunch, triggered much reminiscing and laughter of days gone by. It was inspiring to see the Ravenswood spirit so heart-warmingly embraced. Thank you to Jan Taylor for organising the reunion.

50 Year Reunion
What a wonderful day we had at our 50 Year Reunion. Our leaving year, 1967, was the start of a new era as we were the first of the Wyndham Scheme (Higher School Certificate). This meant six years of senior schooling instead of five years (Leaving Certificate). Getting back to our reunion, I think we recognised most but thank goodness for name badges with big printing. From start to finish it was full of fun, lots of smiles, laughter and warmth. It was so intriguing to hear how our lives have unfolded and especially the number of artists in our midst. I think the year of 1967 is definitely a very special group. It was a great day and we look forward to more wonderful catch ups together in the future. Pam Rendall

40 Year Reunion
Ravenswood’s Class of ‘77 held their 40 year reunion on Saturday 28 October. Forty five alumni attended this event from as far afield as Melbourne, North Queensland and Tasmania. For some, this was their first reconnection with Ravenswood in 40 years. Half of the participants attended a school tour and marvelled at the advanced Science Laboratories and Learning Resources Centre, Dance and Performing Arts spaces, wonderful sporting and academic facilities and relaxing landscaped areas. The Assembly Hall was one of the few locations which looked familiar, prompting memories of sitting cross legged on the wooden floor in Year Groups facing the stage, singing hymns and the School Anthem. A delightful High Tea was held thereafter at Eryldene Historic House in Gordon. Many thanks to Bronwyn Hunter and assistants for organising this event.
Elise Delprado (2009) & Jordan Pink

Elise Delprado married Jordan Pink on a beautiful sunny Saturday on 3 December, 2016. The ceremony was held on Sydney Harbour at Sawmillers Reserve. The celebrations continued with a reception at Luna Park with family and friends, including a number of Ravenswood Old Girls. Elise’s bridesmaids included two Ravenswood Old Girls, her sister Claire Noorbergen (Delprado 2003) and Olivia Hedge (2009). After their honeymoon in the Maldives, Elise and Jordan are now living in Sydney.

Felicity Mulligan (2004) & James McAllan

Felicity Mulligan (2004) married James McAllan from Queensland at Chateau Tanunda Winery in the picturesque Barossa Valley, South Australia on 6 May 2017. There were several Ravenswood Old Girls at the wedding including Felicity’s bridesmaids, Stephanie Winning (Burgess, 2004) and Sarah Felden (2004), and wedding photographer Zoe Morley (2004). Felicity’s aunt, Jane Mulligan (1976) made the wedding cake and her niece, Rae, daughter of her sister Sally MacIntosh (Mulligan, 2002) was Felicity’s flower girl.
**Vale**

**Jillian Leslie Smith (1960-2017)**

Jillian Leslie Smith (Gillian Wright, 1977) passed away on 14 June 2017 after a battle with cancer. She attended Ravenswood from Year 3 in 1968 to Year 8 in 1973. Jillian was one of the youngest Boarders at the time, with the school having Boarders from Year 3 onward back then.

**Cynthia Mace (1937-2017)**

Ms Cynthia Mace (1954) formerly of Asquith, NSW, sadly passed away on 16 September 2017, just after her 80th birthday. Cynthia spent her working life of 30 years or more, as a secretary for Beard Watson’s, the well-respected interior décor store in George Street, Sydney. After they were taken over by Nock and Kirby she transferred to that company for the remainder of her working life. Cynthia was described by her life-long friend, Margaret Green (1954), as ‘a delightful soul’ who never said ‘a bad word about anyone in her life.’

**Jan Winterbotham (1934-2017)**

Jan Winterbotham (1951), mother and grandmother to Ravenswood Old Girls, sadly passed away on 16 July 2017. Commencing at Ravenswood in 1940, Jan had more than 75 years association with Ravenswood, as a student, parent and grandparent and keenly followed with much interest the activities of her daughters and granddaughters during their time at the school. Jan’s continued dedication, interest and support of Ravenswood was embraced in her role in the Fidler Fellowship. As the inaugural Fidler Fellow, Jan launched the Fidler Fellowship in August 2002, addressing guests with a moving speech reflecting on her happy school days and the friendships she had made over the years with many members of the Ravenswood community. Her close connection with Ravenswood was most evident in the Family Eulogy delivered at her funeral service at the Church of St John the Evangelist, Gordon on 24 July, which referred to the many happy experiences Jan enjoyed as a student, parent and grandparent at the school. Jan will be sadly missed by her family and the Ravenswood community. Ravenswood extends its sympathy to the Winterbotham family including Jan’s daughters Robin Cochrane (Winterbotham, 1983), Vicki Higgins (Winterbotham, 1977) and Sally Lane (Winterbotham, 1979) and granddaughters, Hannah Cochrane (2015), Nicola Cochrane (2009) and Emily Casey (Higgins, 2007).
The Ravenswood community enjoyed a vibrant year of energetic contribution to the school through a series of noteworthy projects. The first was the Ravenswood Australian Women’s Art Prize, the richest female art prize in the country, attracting 789 entries from across Australia. ‘The prize was established to raise the profile of this country’s great female artists and to assist in helping the next generation of artists reach their fullest potential,’ said Foundation Chair, Mark Steinert. ‘The initiative is also expected to provide great opportunities for Ravenswood students and to immerse young people generally in art.’

The 2017 Ravenswood Foundation Gala Ball was held at The Westin Sydney, attracting more than 350 guests to enjoy each other’s company, dance and celebrate the school. Fundraising activities included three major raffles and more than 90 auction items.

One of the Foundation’s major fundraisers, the 2017 Tuition Fee Raffle, was drawn on the night and won by Year 10 parent Julie Toma. The raffle contributed funds towards the redesign of the Old Girls’ Courtyard, another Foundation initiative. The Courtyard is receiving a makeover from celebrity gardener, Charlie Albone, the host of four television shows and two-time winner of the Chelsea Flower Show. His design is a fresh, contemporary yet classic take on an external school space and will beautify and rejuvenate this much loved part of the school. ‘My vision for the space is to create somewhere the girls can relax, learn and flourish. For me that is what gardening is all about,’ Charlie said.

The Ravenswood Parents Association oversaw a series of friend raising activities in 2017 including two trivia nights, the Mother’s Day and Father’s Day stalls, the annual Christmas lunch and the Marcus Chantry Golf Day. New initiatives included quarterly presentations to parents by members of the school’s Executive Team and the piloting of a recycled text book drive.

This year the Ravenswood Old Girls Union conducted a very successful Careersearch event in addition to a series of delightful functions for Old Girls celebrating their five, ten, thirty, forty, fifty and sixty Year reunions. The Ravenswood Australian Women’s Art Prize provided a wonderful opportunity for Old Girls to meet for afternoon tea and an insightful artists’ talk. The annual Golden Girls Lunch was an enjoyable occasion that featured much reminiscing about past Ravenswood school days.

‘We are extremely grateful to the Ravenswood Foundation, RPA and ROGU for their outstanding and broad ongoing contribution to school life and for enhancing the experience not only of our students but the wider community,’ said Principal, Mrs Anne Johnstone.
Upcoming Events

JANUARY – FEBRUARY

31 January – 22 February
2017 Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize Winners’ Exhibition

Thursday 1 February
Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize entries open

Friday 2 February
New Parents’ Dinner

Monday 5 February
Scholarship applications close

Friday 9 February
Welcome to 2018 Drinks

MARCH – APRIL

Monday 5 March
ROGU AGM

MAY – JUNE

Saturday 26 May
Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize Opening Night

Sunday 27 May – 3 June
Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize Exhibition of Finalists

2018 TERM DATES

Tuesday 30 January –
Friday 13 April
Term 1

Tuesday 1 May –
Friday 29 June
Term 2

Tuesday 24 July –
Friday 28 September
Term 3

Monday 15 October –
Thursday 6 December
Term 4

LEFT
Photos from the 2017 Gala Ball, the Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize Opening Night, the RPA Chantry Golf Day and the Fidler Fellows Lunch
LARGEST AUSTRALIAN FEMALE ART PRIZE

Ravenswood Australian Women’s Art Prize

For more information about how to enter, Opening Night and exhibition times, please visit ravenswood.nsw.edu.au/artprize or email us at artprize@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au

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