



Ravenswood

Dear Alumni

As we near the end of 2018 and look forward to a wonderful festive season, we are delighted to share with you some of this year's highlights.

Our new name and visual identity

Over summer 2017-18, we undertook a comprehensive survey of our alumni whereby 77% of respondents agreed to contemporising how we are known. Accepted at our AGM in March, we moved towards a more inclusive name to reflect the diversity of our community, and so we are now known as *Ravenswood Alumni*.

To support this change, we are developing a new visual identity which will be shared with you in early 2019 and will embody the love we have for our School and the legacy we share with current and future generations of alumni. We are excited by our new name, look and feel and the anticipation of sharing this with you.

A new governance framework

With the name change to Ravenswood Alumni, it is a fitting time to move forward with our resolution to adopt a structure that supports a closer relationship with Ravenswood. The Committee and a number of key stakeholders are considering the appropriate legal and accounting structure to move from the Ravenswood Old Girls' Union (ROGU) to Ravenswood Alumni.

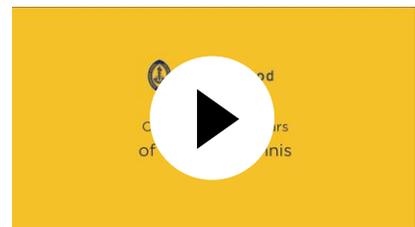


Revealing the Old Girls' Courtyard

In February, former ROGU President Mrs Anne Nielsen (Hunger, 1972) stood with our Principal Mrs Anne Johnstone, Mark Steinert (Chair, Ravenswood Foundation), and Charlie Albone (celebrity landscape designer and twice winner at London's Chelsea Flower Show), to launch the spectacular Ravenswood Old Girls' Courtyard. The Welcome to 2018 Cocktail Party provided the perfect opportunity for 400+ parents to enjoy an evening in this new, award-winning outdoor space.

100 Years of Tildesley

Celebrating 100 years of Tildesley Tennis at Ravenswood in March, alumni who were members of the Tildesley Tennis team before 1975 or finalists from 1975-2017 were invited to a special morning tea at Pennant Hills Park. A number of our alumni were celebrated in a short film.



Generations Breakfast

A highlight was our Generations Breakfast (formerly known as the Mother/Daughter Breakfast) in May, in the beautiful light-filled Centenary Centre. In addressing guests, I spoke of the special bond



between Ravo girls and their alumni grandmothers and mums, and the overwhelming sense of belonging we have to our School. This year, we have 101 daughters of alumni studying at Ravenswood, including 19 girls of alumni grandmothers.

Shining a light on career pathways

Also in May, was the ever-growing *Careersearch* evening for girls in Years 10-12. Fifty-two alumni attended, representing women in the workforce between early-career and senior management. Each revealed the possibilities of careers in myriad sectors and in organisations including not-for-profit, ASX-listed, family businesses, and start-ups. From engineering and IT to journalism, from art and fashion design to law, and from robotics to medicine, and many others in between, the conversations shone a light on vocational pathways, volunteering, and professions for our girls.



Our alumni artists

At the Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize, there were four alumni finalists. Patron of the Art Prize is well-known artist and alumni Jennifer Turpin (1975), who was joined by Ms Kathryn Hendy-Ekers (1984) in judging the artworks. Katrina Collins (1975) (winner of the 2017 Emerging Artist Prize) gave an enthralling Artist Talk at the Alumni Afternoon Tea, sharing childhood artefacts that inspired her love of colour and grid form, including Derwent pencils, tubes of brightly coloured paints, Crayola crayons, and Cuisenaire Rods. The audience smiled as they reminisced about their early days of learning art at Ravenswood! The magnificent and sometimes surprising creativity of some of our alumni and other entrants is profiled in a short video.



Welcoming our newest alumni

During the Year 12 Final Assembly, we welcomed representative alumni mothers to hand the 'Panama Pin', a symbol of membership of Ravenswood Alumni, to the Year 12 girls. From 2019, all alumni mothers with girls in Year 12 will be invited to hand a membership pin to their own daughter and then to other Year 12 girls. This recognises and celebrates our touching generational connection at this very special assembly.



Year 10 and our powerful women

On 21 November, the current Year 10 girls attended a brunch and heard from an outstanding and entrepreneurial panel entitled *Powerful Women*. It comprised Pip Edwards (1997), Founder of PE Nation, Sarah Wheeler (2004), Mining Engineer, Charlotte Mortlock (2008), Sky News reporter and news anchor, Kate Pike (2008), Cardiac Clinical Nurse Consultant, and Sally Kunkler-Warren (2008) who is moving to New York in 2019 as Division



Manager for Sunshades Eyewear. As part of the Year 10 *4 the Future* readiness program, this was another meaningful opportunity for alumni to inspire and connect with current students by sharing real-world commercial insights.

Welcoming back our Golden Girls

Just prior to the Golden Girls' Lunch held on 29 November, we hosted a 70-Year Reunion Morning Tea with the Principal. Following that Reunion, the Golden Girls' Lunch welcomed 125 ladies who shared stories over a memorabilia display by our Archivist Robbie Robertson (Pyle, 1974). Our Year 4 girls did an admirable job as MCs on the day, as did our girls providing table service, who are studying hospitality as part of Year 11 Technological and Applied Studies. Our Golden Girls always help to raise funds for alumni through a number of raffle prizes donated by the Committee and once again, we are very grateful for their support.



Inspiring keynote at the 2018 Presentation Ceremony

Dr Julia Baird (1987), journalist and writer, delivered an inspiring keynote address at the Presentation Ceremony and held the attention of parents and girls from Years 7-12 with her stories such as interviewing the actress Uma Thurman, meeting President Donald Trump as she covered the US Presidential Election, living in the USA working for Newsweek and writing for the New York Times, hosting *The Drum* on ABC TV, sitting with elders in Arnhem Land, researching and writing the epic biography, *Victoria: The Queen: An Intimate Biography of the Woman Who Ruled an Empire*, and helping to support young women to feel empowered, strong, and capable.

Julia also shared many humorous moments whilst reflecting upon her time at Ravenswood, coming from the New York school system without a uniform, to the disciplines of Year 7 with Ms Phyllis Evans as Headmistress, the 'banana arms' of our yellow winter shirt, and regulation underpants! She recalled her teachers by name, some of whom she is in contact with, such as Mrs Robbie Robertson and Mrs Cate Vacchini, who attended her recent book launch.

Our new President

We have been truly inspired by our alumni this year and their incredible achievements. Having stepped down as President, with my recent appointment to the role of Director of Enrolments and Development at Ravenswood, I introduce you with great enthusiasm to Lisa Boyce (Clancy, 1990), who was appointed President at our November Committee Meeting.

Lisa is an experienced business woman, with a long career in banking and finance, is a fellow Year 7 mum (to Madison Boyce), daughter to Pamela Clancy (Burnet, 1964), and very proud to have



been appointed to lead Ravenswood Alumni. Please join me in welcoming her to this important and valued role. I shall continue to support the hard work of our Committee, encourage our alumni to enrol their daughters and granddaughters, and may on occasion seek your support to help our wonderful School continue to prosper. If you have any suggestions or questions related to enrolments or development, please don't hesitate to contact me at sberesford@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au



Warmest wishes and Merry Christmas!

Thank you to our Vice President Jenny Wells (Page, 1979), for her support this year, and to each Committee Member for such commitment. On behalf of our Patron Mrs Anne Johnstone, Lisa Boyce, and the Committee, I welcome our newest alumni who have just completed their Higher School Certificate or International Baccalaureate Diploma, and wish you all a very happy Christmas and festive New Year.

Semper ad meliora

Sarah Beresford (1984)
Immediate Past President
Ravenswood Alumni

For any inquiries, please contact our Manager Alumni, Kim Williams at alumni@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au

Ravenswood Alumni

2019 Diary Dates

All alumni are welcome to attend the events listed here.

If you have any questions about the upcoming events, would like to attend, or participate by volunteering, please email alumni@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au.

We welcome new Ravenswood Committee Members. To join the Committee or simply learn more, please email alumni@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au.

If you have new contact details, please call 02 9498 9995 or complete the form at <https://www.ravenswood.nsw.edu.au/community/alumni/change-of-address>.

Ravenswood Alumni Committee Meetings

All alumni are welcome to attend Committee Meetings in the Mabel Fidler Boardroom, via Main Reception, Gate 1, Henry Street

- Term 1: AGM and Committee Meeting on Monday 25 February at 7.00pm
- Term 2: Committee Meeting on Monday 6 May at 7.30pm
- Term 3: Committee Meeting on Monday 29 July at 7.30pm
- Term 4: Committee Meeting on Monday 21 October at 7.30pm

Events

- **2017 Leavers' Champagne First Reunion** on Thursday 21 March at 5.00pm in the Centenary Centre
- **Careersearch** on Thursday 28 March from 6.00pm-8.00pm in the Centenary Centre and Assembly Hall
- **Ravenswood Generations Breakfast** on Tuesday 9 April at 7.15am in the Centenary Centre
- **ANZAC Day Service** on Tuesday 7 May at 11.30am, commencing with morning tea in the Learning Resources Centre followed by the ANZAC Day Service in the Gymnasium at 12.10pm for alumni associated with our Defence Forces. Please email alumni@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au if you would like to attend
- **Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize Opening Night** on Friday 31 May at 6.00pm in the Centenary Centre. Tickets to the Opening and Cocktail Party will be available online from April 2019. Alternatively, general entry with free admission to view the exhibition will be from Saturday 1 June to Sunday 9 June from 10.00am-4.00pm (closes 2pm on 9 June)
- **Year 12 Final Assembly** in September (day to be advised) at 9.00am in the Gymnasium followed by Morning Tea for all 2019 Year 12 Alumni Mothers
- **Golden Girls' Lunch** on Thursday 28 November at 11.30am in the Centenary Centre for alumni who left Ravenswood in any Year Group, 50 years or more ago
- **Carols on the Lawn** on Saturday 30 November at 5.30pm on the Peace Lawn
- **2019 Presentation Ceremony** (Speech Day) on Wednesday 4 December from 10.00am–1.00pm at Sydney Town Hall



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alumni@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au