



THE Ruyton

REPORTER

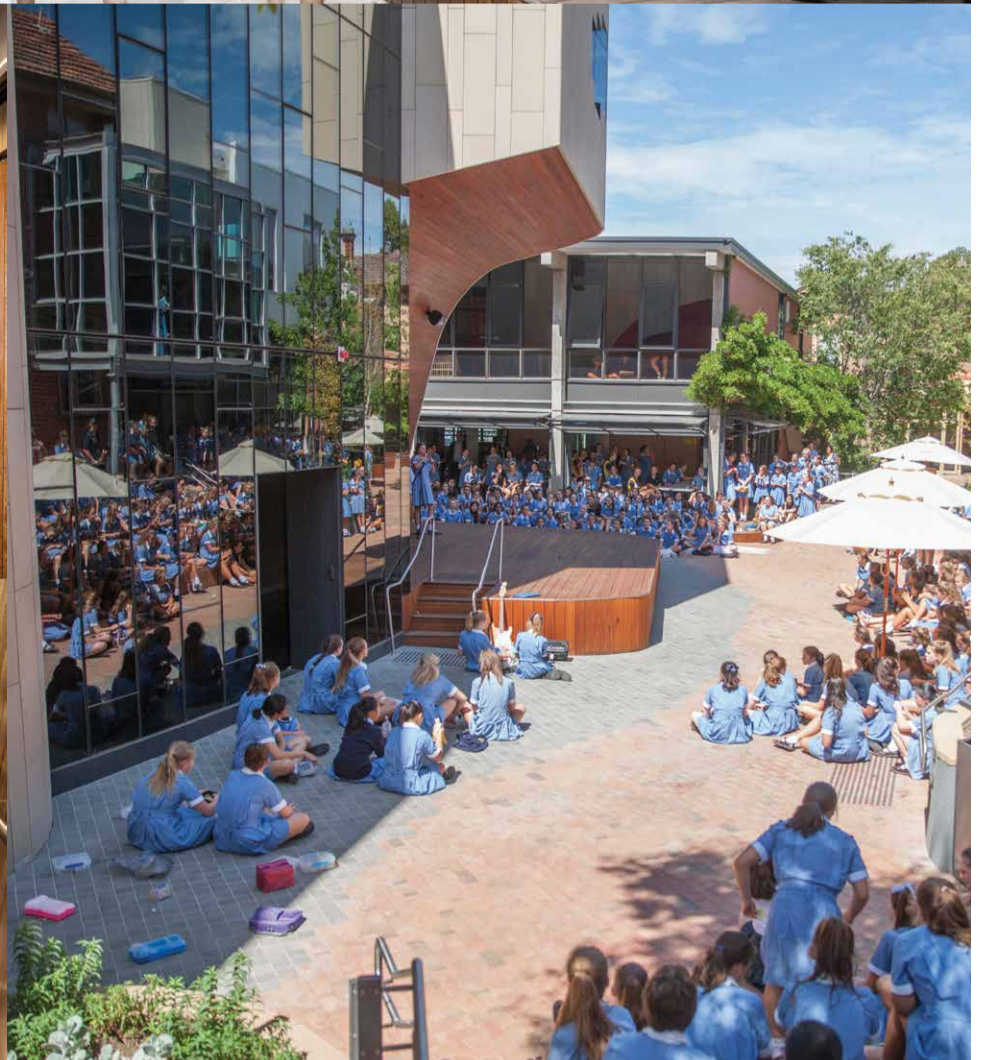
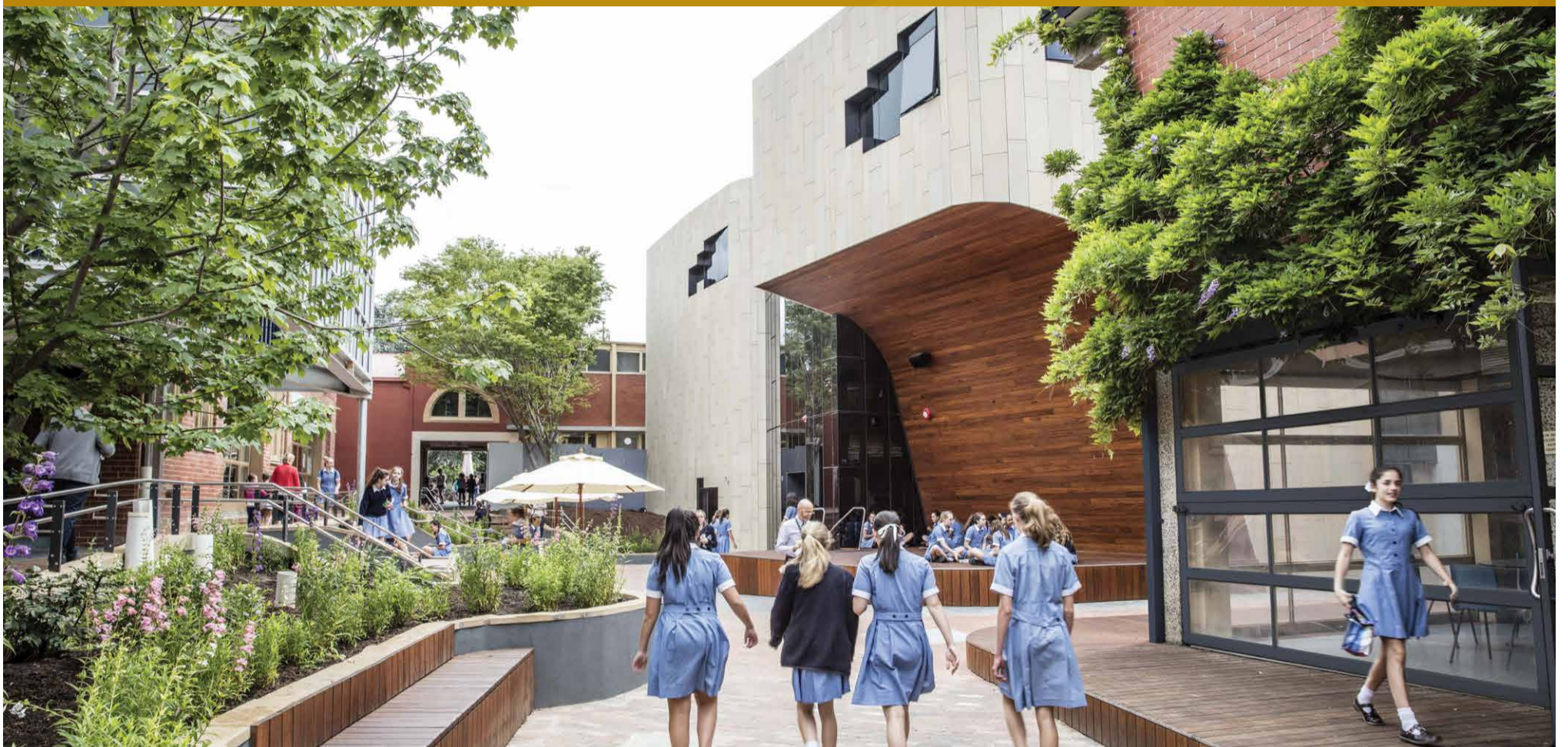
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NEW MARGARET MCRAE CENTRE
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UNIQUE PLACE OF LEARNING –
YEAR 4 PROGRAMME

NEW LIBRARY WEBPAGE

AUTUMN 2016



From the Study



Global Connections

'A gender-equal society would be one where the word gender doesn't exist: where everyone can be themselves.' Ms Gloria Steinem

On March 8 we recognised International Women's Day, a day to celebrate the achievements and contributions women have made and continue to make economically, socially, culturally and politically. On the day TED talks released *Teach Girls Bravery, Not Perfection*. It is a talk with a strong message for us all, a reminder to cultivate a culture of excellence, of personal best, not a search for perfection for the women of tomorrow.

Earlier in the year I attended the inaugural Global Forum for Girls' Education, one of over 920 delegates from 23 nations. Dr Tara Christie Kinsey, Principal at The Hewitt School, and Rachel Simmons, author, educator and co-founder of the Girls' Leadership Institute presented a session on *The Myth of Effortless Perfection*. First coined in Duke University's landmark study by the Women's Initiative in 2003, the concept of 'effortless perfection' has given a name to the constant pressure felt by young women to be 'smart, accomplished, fit, beautiful and popular,' all without 'visible effort.' The price of such a lofty goal can have far-reaching consequences. The truth is that effortless perfection just isn't real.

There are a number of issues that create the core of girl struggles today. The complicated nature of self-esteem, along with internalising behaviours, can lead to stress, depression and anxiety. We understand the need for girls to experience failure but we fail to recognise at times that girls, particularly high-achieving girls, are debilitated by failure and therefore are less likely to take risks in their learning. We need to actively teach girls the benefits of failure and clearly articulate the nature of feedback, while being sensitive to their possible interpretation.

Maniacal over-preparation, otherwise referred to as performing with a capital P, is not uncommon in high-achieving girls. Young women never talk about what they want to do, but rather the things they have to do. With this in mind it is imperative that we focus on restoring their agency to say no and give them time and permission to contemplate what matters and why.

As parents, leaders and educators we have a responsibility to support our girls to feel worthy, so that they have the courage to feel imperfect. They need to see us sweat, see us fail, and see us recover: see us fall down seven times and get up eight. We need to be real for them so they can truly be themselves.

At Ruyton our focus on continually reviewing our wellbeing programmes, increasing our opportunities for mindfulness, and providing opportunities for mentoring and coaching, are all important as we grow our girls. We need to champion them, introduce them to opportunities, and lift them up to help them to achieve what's really possible for them. We also need to support them to learn from times of failure and lack of self-belief. We all need to focus on supporting our girls to be brave and true to themselves.

'Understanding the difference between healthy striving and perfectionism is critical to laying down the shield and picking up your life. Research shows that perfectionism hampers success. In fact, it's often the path to depression, anxiety, addiction, and life paralysis.' Dr Brené Brown, *The Gifts of Imperfection: Let Go of Who You Think You're Supposed to Be and Embrace Who You Are*.

The changing landscape of learning

Hiscock Court is once again alive with the sounds of Ruyton girls. Their chatter, excitement and impromptu performances on the new stage are all part of our every day life. The rejuvenated Courtyard Café has quickly become a meeting place for

students, staff and parents, as well as a social gathering place, with its comfortable and inviting spaces. The new Margaret McRae Centre rises majestically above Hiscock court, its flexible learning spaces being enjoyed by students and staff, as we discover how best we can use these new facilities to ensure we engage our girls in powerful learning experiences. The Year 11 and 12 girls are also enjoying the redeveloped Senior Study Centre.

The Junior School community returned to School this year to find work was truly underway on the Junior School redevelopment. The final design will mean significant improvements for the Junior School. (Please refer to page seven for more details.) It has been necessary to completely gut the original Junior School building and strip back the internals of the Carolyn Anderson building, as the two buildings will be joined together in the reconfigured floorplan. The decorative tiles on the undercroft wall of the CA building, commemorating donations from many people across our community have been carefully preserved, while outdoor seating, also donated by members of the community, will be replaced to complement the new external design. All donors to the CA Building will be recognised on the donors' board for the redevelopment of the Junior School. We look forward to meeting with Junior School parents during Term 2 to provide further details about the new Junior School, including both inside and outside spaces, and how families can join with us in this project.

Student Leadership

Each year our Year 12 Leaders identify their leadership focus and share it with the School community in the Leadership Ceremony where they *naïl their colours to the mast*. These colours and beliefs unite our Year 12s as a year level community with a shared purpose, not only for the year but for the future that stretches beyond: a future which we hope sees them remain connected, upright and faithful. Our 2016 Leaders chose gold as their colour, the warmth and brightness described as the colour of compassion in the Hindu culture, representing generosity and giving. As a year level they will lead with *compassion and inclusivity*. In the Ceremony they emphasised the importance of kindness to others and the need to help each other in difficult times. Their value of diversity across the community was sincere and they are determined to make even stronger connections across year levels to ensure that kindness, enthusiasm and unity are their legacy.

Recognising Excellence

At our first Senior School Assembly for the year we acknowledged the outstanding achievements of a number of girls. Kathleen Hanson was awarded Boroondara Young Citizen of the Year 2016 for her extensive support of others in the community. Sarah Cheang, Roshica Ponnampalam and Laura Powell were all recognised as Monash Scholars, acknowledging their academic excellence in Year 10 2015. Rose Adams was awarded the Catherine Woods Scholarship, in recognition of her achievement of academic excellence in Year 11 2015. Katie Yang was presented with the Dux 2015 prize (perfect score of 99.95) for her outstanding effort and achievement. In her unassuming manner, Katie shared with the girls some of her study tips and personal experiences of VCE, emphasising the need for us all to find our real motivation, set big goals and be courageous. I am sure that every girl walked away from Assembly with words of wisdom to guide them. Rose Adams and Jane Karopoulos, Co-Captains of the School, delivered an inspiring speech, encouraging each girl to find her 'why' and to make this year an extraordinary year. Congratulations, also, to the 2016 Drama Captain, Alice Prior, who was selected to perform at Top Class in the Season of Excellence Concerts.

As a School community we congratulate our 2015 Year 12 students on their VCE results, with 46% of students attaining an ATAR score greater than 90. Katie Yang, Sophie Kleiman, Eliza Li, Kaiwan Tang and Grace Yuan all achieved ATAR scores over 99 and study scores of 50 were achieved in 2015 by Sophie Kleiman in both English and Literature and Eliza Li in Biology. We congratulate all of our 2015 Year 12 students, with so many of them achieving their personal best. All of our girls received a first round tertiary offer and over 60% received their first preference. These results reflect the talent and hard work of our girls but also the quality teaching, counselling processes, extraordinary support from families and the focus on development of our girls as independent young women. We wish our 2015 leaders every success for the future.

Ms Linda Douglas, Principal

ABOVE: From left: Head of Junior School, Mrs Nicole Ginnane; The Principal, Ms Linda Douglas; Deputy Principal, Head of Senior School, Mrs Glenis Gumley; Assistant Principal, Director of Learning, Mrs Cathryn Furey.

Middle left: The Principal, Ms Linda Douglas with The Dux 2015, Katie Yang.

Middle right: Rose A and Jane K, School Captains with The Principal, Ms Linda Douglas.

Right: Nailing colours to the mast.

ON OUR COVER: The Margaret McRae Centre.

Community Matters

Building a new Future

I was delighted to officiate at the opening of the Margaret McRae Centre on Monday 22 February 2016 with Mr Peter Kanat, President of the Ruyton Foundation. School Co-Captains, Rose Adams and Jane Karopoulos, facilitated this event in great style. Ms Sonja Horbelt, Co-ordinator of Contemporary Music Studies, wrote and arranged a musical item specifically for the opening, entitled *Building*. The item was performed by the Percussion Ensemble and the Stage Band, supported by two Old Ruytonians, Freya Solomon from 2014 on first trumpet and Chantal Mitvalsky, who left Ruyton in 2000, on vocals. This Centre, like the building that previously occupied this site, is named in honour of former Headmistress Miss Margaret McRae, who led the Ruyton community with distinction from 1962 to 1985, having joined the staff in 1957 as a Social Studies and History Teacher. She was respected for her forward-thinking leadership and her focus on innovation in education, often encouraging staff to adopt new practices in the classroom as well as encouraging Ruyton girls to aim high. It is her innovative approach and belief in striving for personal best that we will continue to celebrate and recognise in this building for years to come. It is her legacy to Ruyton, carried on by those who have followed her.

The impressive new Margaret McRae Centre is the result of a successful collaboration between an extensive team of people including our girls, the staff, the architects and builders, and our donors. Through a consultation process we have ensured that the design specifically meets the needs of girls and provides flexible learning spaces that enable a variety of learning and teaching approaches. With purpose-built facilities to cater for Year 7 and Year 8, Science, Individual Learning, Performing Arts studios, as well as a large Events and Performance space, the building design has delivered so much for our community.

There are many people to thank in a project this large: I thank Mr Tim Hogg, who chaired the Project Control Group, a sub group of the Board, for his wisdom and guidance.



Thanks, too, go to our former Business Manager, Mr Peter Sharples, and to our current Business Manager, Mrs Leanne Smith, for their overall management of the project. We are particularly grateful to the architects, Woods Bagot, to McCorkell, the builders, for their expertise and to Ochre Landscape, who assisted us with the soft landscaping, always such an important aspect of Ruyton. As a result of this expert collaboration we have completed the project within budget at a cost of \$15,000,000.

Thank you to the Ruyton Foundation for their support and particular thanks to each donor who has partnered with us to make this possible. We also thank Ms Linda Douglas, our current and 13th Principal. Like Miss McRae, we recognise Linda as forward-thinking with a clear focus on providing powerful learning opportunities for our girls to achieve their personal best through quality teaching, innovative thinking and flexible learning environments. With this in mind it is no surprise that, as I announced at Speech Night 2015, the Board was unanimous in its decision to extend Linda's contract. We look forward to many more successful years ahead under Linda's inspiring leadership.

Ms Kathryn Watt, President of the Board

Building

- We are here*
- To make a difference*
- Here*
- To live the Now*
- Find the way*
- To move forward*
- The way*
- To where and how*
- It's the time*
- To be empowered*
- It's the moment*
- To discover all there is*
- Building a new future*
- We are here to lead the way/Now*

VALE A Champion of Girls' Education

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Mr John Bate, OAM, (8.11.1926-11.2.2016) at the beginning of this year. He was a former Chair of the Ruyton Board, a philanthropist and a champion of girls' education. John was a past parent, a member of the Board (1966-1991) and Chair (1978-1991), a Foundation Member and a special friend to Ruyton. Collaborating with four Principals, he was a true guardian of the spirit of Ruyton. He provided wise counsel and was ever generous with his time, talents and resources. In 1992 the John Bate Physical Education Centre was opened, and named in his honour.

As the Ruyton Reporter Winter Edition 1992 said, 'Designed to complement the architecture of historic Henty House, the new Centre caters for the needs of a diverse and challenging curriculum, which teaches every girl the value of physical fitness. Team sports such as Netball, Volleyball, Basketball and Tennis; plus dances, gymnastics and aerobic sessions are among the various activities which will be accommodated in the new complex.' John and Elizabeth (Lizzie) had four children, Wendy ('75), Jack, Robyn ('80) and Peter. We extend our deepest condolences to the Bate family. John's presence, enthusiasm and community spirit will be greatly missed but we are proud to uphold his legacy.



VALE Wendy Hewitt

The Ruyton community notes the death of Wendy Hewitt ('58). Wendy served as President of the ORA and on the School Board. An honorary life member of the ORA, Wendy's active support and significant contribution to the School was outstanding. The Ruyton community extends its sympathies to Neil, Caroline ('89), Sarah ('92), Andrew and their families.

STEM at Work



Storypark

Storypark is an online community portal for updating parents on student learning. Creating partnerships with families in order to communicate their children's learning is an important aspect within our Centre. Last year, Mrs Helen Wild and Ms Kathryn Bertram, together with Mr Julian Mutton, the Digital Learning Mentor of Early Learning and the Junior School, undertook research to engage more effectively with families and to collaborate with them about their children's learning. The online portal, Storypark, was chosen to be trialled. We have been pleased with how our community has engaged with this initiative and parents are also sharing, through comments and photos, the learning the children are achieving outside of Ruyton's Early Learning. As the trial has progressed parents have increasingly commented on their child's activities, both within and outside the Early Learning environment. There is still the opportunity to document and highlight the essence of the programme in traditional ways, but Storypark offers an instant link to parents and grandparents alike, which they can access. This is another example of digital devices and technology being integrated seamlessly into our programmes to enhance a student's learning experience and parents' insights into this. Storypark has been so successful as a tool for collaboration and communication, we are exploring ways in which it can be extended to the other Early Learning groups at Ruyton.

Here is an example of how Storypark works.

The Henny Penny Hatching Programme has arrived!



At lunchtime today the girls were very excited to see the chickens and eggs arrive. 'Oh they are soo cute' said Alexandra. The three chicks were placed in the brooding box in the curious garden with some food, water and a light for heat. The 12 eggs were placed in an incubator and we now watch and wait to see them hatch over the coming days.

Comments:

Mr Steven Yatomi-Clarke (Parent)

on August 25 2015

'Welcome to the world, little chicks!

They are so cute!

Are they keeping warm?

What are they eating?'

Mrs Helen Wild (Girls' Pre Prep teacher)

on August 25 2015

'Thanks for these great questions Steven.

I asked the girls for their answers.'

'They are in a hot cage,' said Chloe F.

'They are eating seeds,' said Natalie.

'They are in an incubator,' said Georgia,

'just like they were under their mummy hen's bottom,' said Eloise.

'They are very cute now, though they were wet when they came out,' said Emerson.

Ms Teresa Wojcik, Acting Director of Early Learning



Seriously, Science?

Science is an important aspect of the children's learning and is a vital component of the Pre Prep programme. From their early years children view their world as a place of wonder and one to explore. Connecting with science allows the children to use their curiosity to extend their ideas, test out their theories, solve problems and transfer their learning from one situation to another. In Early Learning the children are actively involved with science through cooking experiences, experiments, visual arts and outdoor learning. For instance, cooking with young children is an enjoyable way for them to learn fundamental science concepts, such as what occurs when matter is changed through mixing, heating and cooling. Making a batch of pancakes to celebrate Shrove Tuesday allowed the children to predict what would happen when they mixed ingredients, and then helped cook them to produce a tasty treat. Science is seriously great fun!



Au Revoir

Mme Françoise Foster taught French to the children in Early Learning for 13 years, coming in for two hours every week. She introduced the French language to the children, who responded well to her engaging teaching style. We shall miss her and wish her well for her next adventures.

Mother Duck

Miss Kay Perkins retired at the end of 2015 after a 15-year journey at Ruyton. Kay began working at 'Little Ruyton' in the Girls' Pre Prep programme, which was part of Little Ruyton House on Wellington Street. During her time at both 'Little Ruyton' and now Ruyton Early Learning, Kay assisted in our four-year old programmes, as well as being a lead-teacher during holiday programmes. For many years Kay also contributed her knowledge of children's gross motor and brain development by running the GMP or Gross Motor Programme, which was a part of the Early Learning specialist programmes for over ten years. Her colleagues saw Kay as an experienced teacher full of wisdom who always had a calm and reassuring approach with the children in her care. Her love of the outdoors and the natural world has always been evident in her work with the children. During holiday programmes it was a common occurrence to see the children exploring the School grounds for extended amounts of time with her. She was like a mother duck with her ducklings, as the children followed Kay around the School on foot and on their tricycles! They would come back to the playroom brimming with excitement over the many natural treasures they had found along the way: autumn leaves, seed pods and flowers, to name but a few! On behalf of everyone at Ruyton and in particular, Ruyton Early Learning, we wish Kay all the best for her retirement and thank her for her enormous contribution to the School.

Ms Karina Buttler, (Director of Early Learning – Maternity Leave 2016.)



Many Ways to Learn

Emoticon

Understanding and improving our emotional wellbeing has been the subject of increased attention over recent years, as we learn more about the relationship between our physical bodies, hearts and minds, and spiritual health in determining our overall welfare. The release of the popular film *Inside Out* highlighted the reality that we all experience a range of emotions and that feeling challenging emotions is part of our growth. It is how we develop our capacity to cope with and manage our emotions that is critical. The film was the inspiration for *Emoticon*, our Prep to Year 2 Production for 2015. The play took the complex ideas of *Inside Out* and sought to simplify them for the Prep, Year 1 and 2 girls.

Feeling a bit emotional? Need to get in touch with these emotions? That is exactly what our excitable audience experienced in the Royce Theatre in November. The Year 2 girls were exceptional in their roles of emotional little monsters! Representing four different groups, we saw the Angries, Sads, Happys and Smugs argue that their emotion should be the dominant one to represent their

planet. It all came down to a special party night where 'The One' (played by our very own Head of Junior School, Mrs Nicole Ginnane) spoke with great authority and explained to the gathering that we should feel all emotions equally. The little Monsters agreed and thankfully harmony was restored to their planet.

The Year 1 monsters were fabulous in their choreographed routine to *Big Girls Don't Cry* and, of course, the Prep classes were magnificent performing the *Monster Mash* to a rapturous crowd. Perhaps the highlight of everyone's evening was the vocal stylings of the gentlemen in the Junior School as Monster back up singers in one of the many entertaining songs, *Mad!* Our thanks to Mr Mutton and Mr Baker for their amazing contribution.

A lot of fun was had by all. Well done to all involved in *Emoticon* - what a way to round out the year!

Mrs Georgie Parker, Junior School Drama



Chinese Singing Competition – a first for Ruyton



In the Junior School we continue to provide our girls with a strong foundation to build their competencies in the Chinese language, along with an understanding of

Chinese culture. Following the introduction of Chinese at Year 3 in 2014, 2015 was the inaugural year of the Year 4 Chinese programme. All topics studied were closely related to the girls' personal world. For instance, girls learnt to introduce themselves and were able to talk about their hobbies and favourite food. Girls also had opportunities to participate in Chinese calligraphy, painting, cooking, dancing and singing. There was much singing in Chinese last year! During Chinese Week in Term 4, which coincided with the Chinese celebration of their National Day, we initiated and hosted the first-ever Chinese Singing Competition for Year 3 and Year 4 students. Students from Trinity Grammar School, Carey Grammar School, Auburn South Primary and St Peter's Primary in Berwick joined the girls to sing in Chinese. Mr Gang Chi, the Education Consul from the Chinese Embassy opened the competition. He highlighted the enthusiasm Ruyton displays, both for learning and teaching Chinese, and how we have enjoyed a successful collaboration together. The competition was sponsored by the Embassy, the Confucius Institute of Melbourne University and the Chinese Teachers' Association in Melbourne.

'If you talk to a man in the language he understands, it goes to his head. But if you talk to him in his own language, it goes to his heart.'
Nelson Mandela

Mrs Danyang McAuliffe, Dean of Language Other Than English (LOTE)



Time of the Girl Child



Our School - a connected village

The strong connection between all members of the community is a key strength of Ruyton. It is a privilege to work in close collaboration with students, parents and staff to maximise the learning for every girl, enabling them to reach their potential.

The central focus of the concept for the redevelopment of the Junior School was the creation of large shared space; a flexible space that the Junior School community can use in a variety of ways to support learning, teaching, collaboration and connection. Our goal was to create a heart for the Junior School, a place where students, staff and parents can gather for both formal and informal occasions. This space is based on the principles of a piazza in Italian culture, the town centre. A vibrant and lively place, it will be used by classes and year levels for a variety of learning experiences and community events.

We applied this same thinking, in terms of building community, to the design of year level learning spaces. As a consequence, the classes in each year level have been located in close proximity. Each class will have its own separate learning space within a larger year level studio. Designed as a connected learning village, the new design will provide shared spaces for large and small groups to collaborate, while also accommodating independent learning experiences. Most importantly, the different spaces will support learners to utilise their own creativity and imagination, empowering student voice, choice and agency.

Research shows that learning environments can elicit positive emotional responses that may lead not only to enhanced learning but also to a powerful, emotional attachment to that space. Physical spaces can provide a place where students love learning, a place they seek out when they wish to learn, and a place they remember fondly when they reflect on their learning experiences.

According to Graetz (2006) there are key elements that should be considered when designing learning environments. The first is coherence, or the ease with which a setting can be organised cognitively. The second is complexity, or the perceived capacity of the space to spark curiosity and stimulate thinking. The third element is mystery, which refers to the expectation of learners that entering the space will lead to increased learning. Enchantment is the final element and this recognises the capacity of environments to carry us away, heighten senses and leave the learner spellbound.

We believe the flexibility of the new design will continue to strengthen our community and foster a strong sense of belonging for each of our girls. It will provide a place where girls learn with great curiosity and enjoyment; a place where the joy of learning is clearly evident.

Mrs Nicole Ginnane, Head of Junior School

Inaugural Debate

The fourth annual International Day of the Girl Child was celebrated on 11 October 2015. To celebrate this event, Ruyton students were offered a range of opportunities to share their ideas and views about how special it is to be a girl. It was agreed to host an afternoon of debates against Trinity Grammar School boys. The topics of 'Society expects different things from boys and girls' and 'Co-educational schools are the best for education' were designed to engage students in subjects concerning young people. Selected students in Year 5 and Year 6 collaborated during their lunchtimes and conducted additional research at home in preparation for their debates. In a short amount of time they developed clear arguments and impressive public speaking skills, under the excellent mentorship of the 2016 School Debating Captain, Claire Smart. On the day they presented compelling arguments and spoke with passion and confidence.

This is an extract from a piece written by Amber Barry Year 6 (2015) and Juliette McLean Year 5 (2015). For the first topic, *Although Ruyton made many good arguments, Trinity, in the negative, won the first debate. One of their winning arguments was that laws are the*

same for both males and females and, therefore, society ultimately treats both genders equally. For the second topic Ruyton debated the negative and Trinity the affirmative. Ruyton's arguments were much more convincing this time round and won the second debate. One of our winning arguments was that boys' and girls' brains develop at different rates and therefore it is important to be educated in a single-sex environment where different learning styles can best be catered for. The girls are to be commended for their outstanding commitment and we thank them for their contributions to our celebration of the International Day of the Girl Child.

Members of the Years 5 and 6 Ruyton Debating Team 2015 were:

Jacalyn Kelly, Juliette McLean, Tara Minehane, Minduli Weeraman, Amber Barry, Asha Jassal, Ruby Jovanovski, Lily Willmott, Gabi Brown/Chairperson and Georgia Woollard/Chairperson.

Ms Nalini Welsh, Year 5-6 Year Level Co-ordinator and Year 6 teacher



A Unique Place of Learning

Making a meaningful difference – the Year 4 Programme

When you first walk down the winding path leading to South House, you enter a unique place of learning. You are immediately struck by its thriving garden, including garden beds planted with vegetables in season, the herb garden that borders the multi-purpose verandah and the indigenous garden surrounding the pond. All of this provides a wealth of learning experiences for the Year 4 girls. It is out here that the girls roll up their sleeves and get their hands dirty, as they work co-operatively to plant seedlings and nurture these to the edible stage. The 'ewws' and 'shrieks' as someone comes upon a snail or a spider soon dissipate, as a meaningful connection and appreciation of what the garden gives us is realised. Our garden produce inevitably ends up in the South House kitchen or as part of delicious pizzas cooked to perfection using our recently-completed wood-fired pizza oven. The Year 4 Mathematics and Literacy programmes are enriched by the many learning opportunities to make practical connections with our cooking and gardening explorations. This is all before you have even entered South House.

Once inside South House you quickly realise it is different to any other learning environment. It is a house, and the 'home' belonging to the Year 4 girls and their teachers. The girls are encouraged to live and learn collaboratively. Central to the Year 4 programme, in this unique environment, is the concept of community. Girls are encouraged to step beyond their own world to consider the needs and perspectives of others both within South House and out in the broader community. Working together in the spirit of giving to make a meaningful difference underpins the Year 4 learning and teaching programme. This comes about through inquiry, project-based learning and collaborative, philosophical discussions utilising rich literature as a basis. The girls are encouraged to become mindful and in tune with their thoughts, feelings and actions and how these affect them as learners and in social situations. The challenge is to become less reactive and increasingly reflective and self-aware.

Teaching and learning in South House inspires creativity, critical thinking, risk-taking and decision-making, while seamlessly integrating digital learning. The Year 4 girls are challenged to attain personal learning goals and personal excellence in all areas of the curriculum.

As teachers, it is immensely rewarding to watch hearts and minds expanding and growing as the Year 4 girls begin to make real links between abstract ideas in their learning and then connect these with real people, real situations and real issues. It is gratifying to witness our girls making a meaningful difference in their world.

Ms Tanya Cockwill and Ms Cate Hallpike, Year 4 Classroom Teachers



From the girls ...

Jessica P ... 'Learning in South House is fun because we feel free. We love tending to our garden and watching it grow. I have loved discovering our neighbours in the pond, the Pobblebonk Frogs. We learn in the same room and collaborate. I love it when we break up into groups for our learning.'

Jasmine D ... 'In South House we are learning to understand and share our feelings. We use the emotional thermometer, and explore Mindfulness. We are learning how to be in the flow.'

Adelaide N ... 'South House is different because we have a garden, kitchen and a pizza oven. I love getting my hands dirty in the garden and I also love using the vegetables we grow to cook with in the kitchen. I love South House.'

Lotus D-H ... 'South House is different because we change seats every day and there is more collaboration and sharing. There are no walls between the two classes, so we are together as one. We are very grateful for our beautiful garden. I love South House.'

Aspen T ... 'Learning in South House is quite different. We have a lot more independence. We use the garden in our learning. We even use it for Maths!'

Noraan E ... 'In South House we learn a lot together. Everyone gets a say and we piggy back on each other's ideas. We have a garden and we get our hands dirty. South House is a home. We have an upstairs, a kitchen, a vegie and flower garden and a big tree in our backyard.'

Nishka K ... 'We work in a cosy house, where we sometimes work independently and quietly. This helps us to be more in the flow of our learning and it improves our listening skills.'

Books Light up our World

I Love Books Because ...

It is 70 years since Book Week was first celebrated and last year the theme was *Books Light up our World*.

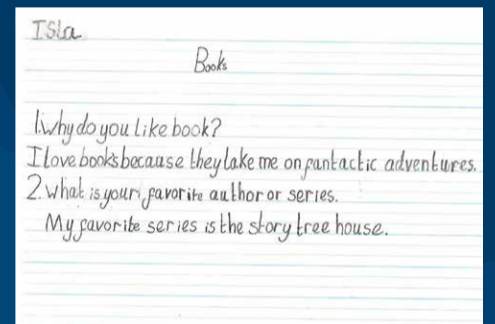
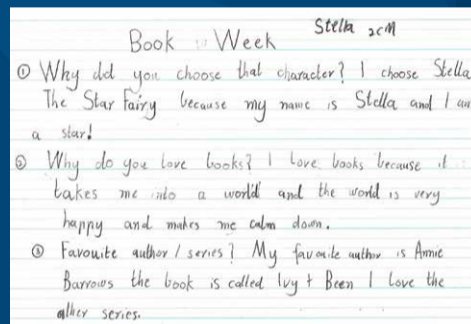
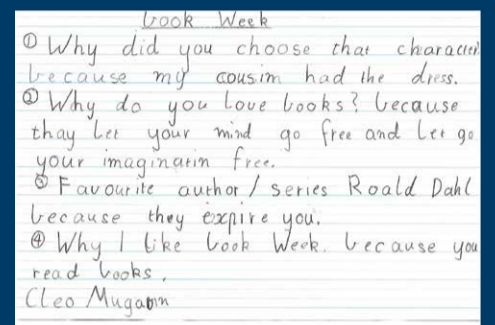
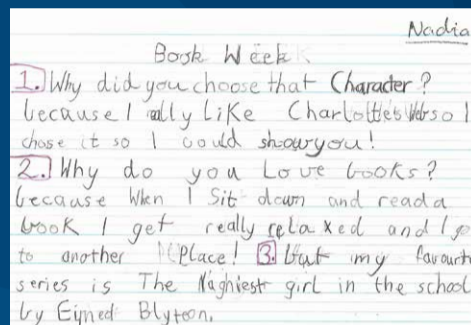
At Assembly Junior School girls 'lit up' with characters from the world of literature. The class groups were monitored by a group of 'escaped' characters (teachers) from Martin Handford's *Where's Wally?*

The younger girls enjoyed voting for their book preferences and all classes had fun creating installations in the Library, representing *A House of her Own* by Jenny Hughes, *Scary Night* by Lesley Gibbes and *My Two Blankets* by Irena Kobald. For full details of Book of the Year Award Winners 2015 please go to <http://cbca.org.au/winners-2015.htm>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Children's Book Week 2016 - Saturday 20 August- Friday 26 August.
Theme - Australia: Story Country.

Mrs Jennifer Fairley, Early Learning and Junior School Library teacher



New Library webpage

The Ruyton Library has always been a vital part of our School community. In order for this to continue, we needed a single access point for our expanding digital collections. As the School year began we launched the new Library website, serving as an intuitive access point for all of our online resources.

As digital citizens our students need to access, analyse and build new understanding from a range of sources, in a range of formats. We are fortunate here at Ruyton to have not only our comprehensive print collections but also to have developed an extensive digital collection.

The new Library webpage is a wonderful time-saving device for the busy student, as well as functioning as the perfect gateway to reliable and authoritative information. Our subscription eBooks and databases are high quality and targeted to meet our students' curriculum and recreational needs. These resources are superior to information freely available on the Internet.

The Ruyton Library website brings together all of our resources, providing the School community with improved and direct access to:

- The Library catalogue and all of our resources, both print and electronic
- Our comprehensive collections of eBooks, eJournals, video streaming, online newspapers and databases
- Reading lists
- Curriculum materials
- Services, such as reserving books and renewing borrowing
- The Lit Club blog and our Senior School Instagram feed
- General information and news.

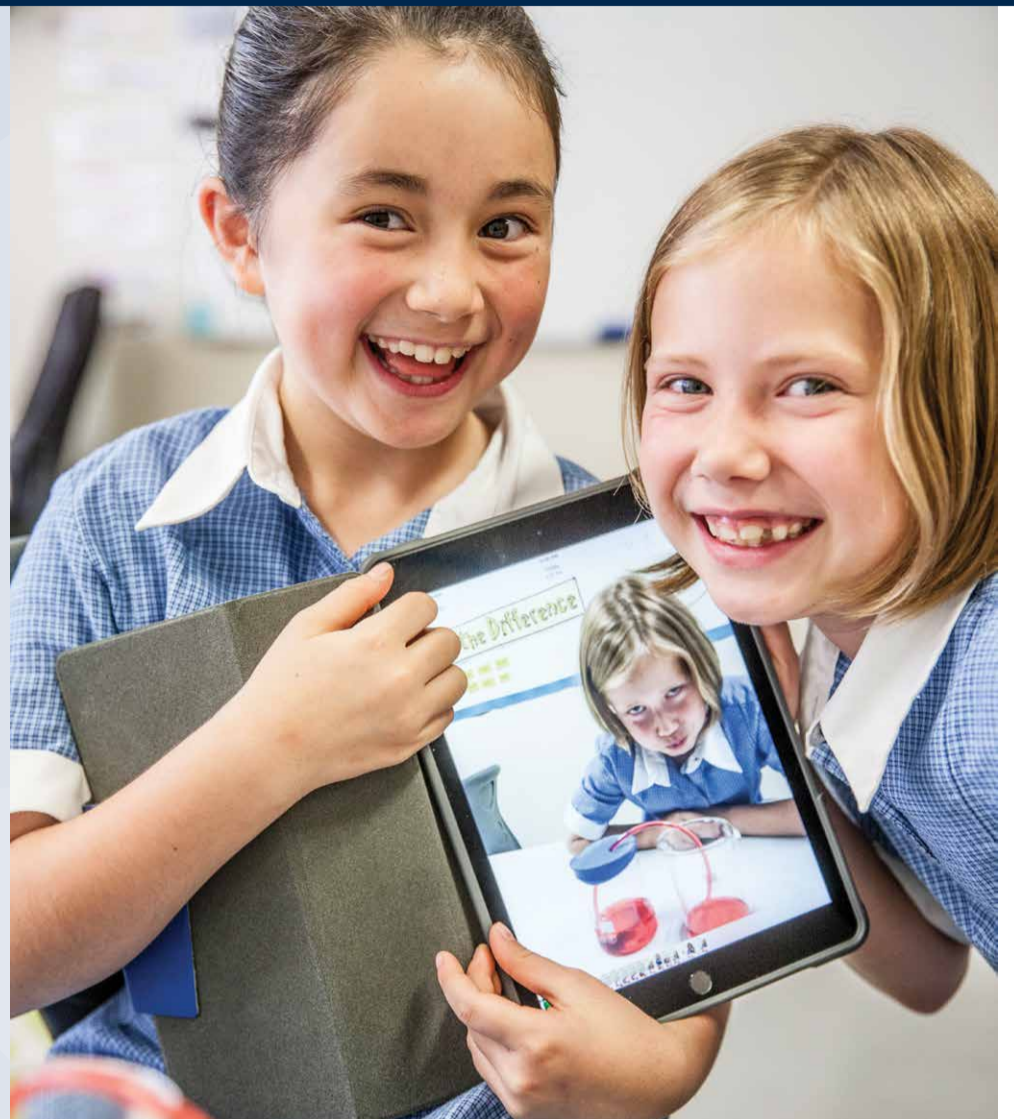
This gateway to our rich online resources helps us to meet the research needs of our School community, anytime, anywhere.

Mrs Julie Purcell, Director of Library Resource Centre



From our Girls' Perspective

At Ruyton our teachers foster a love of learning, valuing questions and curiosity. Girls are encouraged to connect, explore, discover and create, adopting a growth mindset in order to respond to challenge with resilience and persistence. As independent learners, Ruyton students are inspired to reach their full intellectual, physical, emotional and social potential in a safe and supportive environment. Learning is our core business and the purpose behind all that we do at Ruyton. There is no doubt that our girls and teachers embrace every opportunity to learn with passion and commitment!



Juliet B Year 5



What do you like most about learning?

I love writing because I like to express my ideas in different ways. I write narratives and poetry.

What achievements in your learning are you most proud of?

I am proud of my achievements in Maths. I'm really proud of being able to do all of my times

tables and long division, and to use big numbers for subtraction and multiplication. I have also developed in my reading. I can now read big chapter books and I get a lot more into books than I did before. I love getting transported into books.

Who has been a role model for you?

A person who is a role model to me is my sister, Mimi. She always works hard and is always kind, caring and helpful. Also, I'd say all of my classroom teachers who support me and help me learn.

What co-curricular activities are you involved in?

I play in Paganini Strings and I love being in this group. The teachers are great at being able to fit in all of the different levels and they are so kind, caring and supportive.

Georgina T Year 5

What do you like most about learning?

When I am learning, I enjoy writing and its scope for creativity. I enjoy being creative because when I am, I can share my opinion and write what ever I want.

Who has been a role model for you?

My role models are William Barak and Anne Fraser Bon, who tried to solve the state Aboriginal rights situation. When I am older I want to become a lawyer or a radio school teacher for remote communities so that I can help as well. That is why I am working hard and putting in effort at School.

What achievements are you most proud of?

I am very proud of coming fifth in the hurdles at our state competition. I went through the House Athletics, then SYDSA, regionals, division and then state.

What co-curricular activities are you involved in and which do you enjoy the most?

I play the piano with Mrs Lane, I play basketball after School on Thursdays and I am in the Navy Swimming Squad. I am also in the before School Marimbafied Ensemble and I think I enjoy Marimbafied the most.



Jemima J Year 10

What do you like most about your subject?

I enjoy Geography because it is extremely diverse. It helps me gain an understanding of the physical, human and environmental world. I enjoy learning about the different countries of the world and how they relate to each other. I am able to gain an understanding and appreciation of the world, which is useful when travelling.

What achievement in this subject are you most proud of?

I am most proud of my field work on ethical trade, as well as my report on the exporting of overseas coffee.

Who has been a role model for you and what is it about them that you found inspirational?

Malala Yousafzai has been a role model for me as she appreciates the importance of women's education and is not scared to voice her opinion.

What co-curricular activities are you involved?

I participate in GSV which is a great way to represent the School and be involved in a selection of sports.



Alannah V Year 9

What do you like most about your subject?

What I like most about French is the excitement of learning and discovering new things about another culture and language. I love being able to read something in another language and actually understand what it says. I always try my best to learn more and improve my spoken French. The thought of being able to communicate with people who live miles away motivates me to keep learning more. I really enjoy French and have done so since I was very young. Thinking about the doors it will open in the future excites me!



What achievement in this subject are you most proud of?

My biggest achievement in this subject is being the recipient of the First Prize for Year 9 division in the Alliance Française poetry competition last year. When I received the invitation for the awards night, I was so surprised and excited. On the night it was fantastic to see and hear the other students' poems and how they interpreted them. Knowing I had the support of my family there and my French teacher, I felt very confident and excited to receive the award!

Who has been a role model for you?

Madame Mancev is a role model for me because her passion for sharing another language shows in her teaching. This inspires me to try my hardest and to further my language skills. Madame Mancev always creates amazing and fun class activities. She encourages you to do your best and helps you in any way possible, pointing out specific techniques to aid you in your learning in the future.

What co-curricular activities are you involved in and which do you enjoy the most?

I am involved in Choirs of Ruyton, Show Choir, Singing and Piano lessons, a Ruyton netball team and dancing. I enjoy dancing the most, as I have been involved in it since I was young. I am very determined and passionate to learn new techniques and dances. The thing I love most is the rush of performing on stage and seeing all of the people there supporting you!

Roshica P Year 11

What do you like most about your particular subject?

What I love about maths is that no matter what problem is put in front of you, if you follow a set method you can always depend on finding an answer. In contrast to this, the fact that the meaning of literature often relies on your own interpretation of it also leads me to enjoy English.

What achievement in this subject are you most proud of?

In maths, I am most proud of the fact that I haven't given up on it yet! I am aware that this might sound slightly mundane, as far as an achievement goes, but as I've become older, maths has definitely become a lot more of a challenge to me. It is because of this that the moments where I'm filled with the most satisfaction is when I realise that the hard work and time I have invested in the subject is what has caused me slowly to grasp the concepts presented to me in class.

What is a particular highlight in your learning?

My favourite part of studying maths has been applying the skills I have learnt in completing short answer questions. These show how what we are learning relates to everyday situations.

Who has been a role model for you?

A role model for me has been JK Rowling, the author of the Harry Potter series. I find it inspirational that, even though her manuscript was rejected by not one or two but by 12 publishers, she continued to do what she loved and ended up being one of the most successful authors of all time. I think she represents the epitome of the phrase, 'never give up'.



What co-curricular activities are you involved in and which do you enjoy the most?

In addition to participating in GSV weekly sport, I am heavily involved in the Ruyton music programme, through being a part of three choirs and two ensembles. Out of these activities, I enjoy Choirs of Ruyton the most. It's truly amazing to be a part of such a large group and to hear the type of music we create, with just one lunchtime rehearsal a week.

Jessica R Year 12

What do you like most about your subjects?

My favourite subjects so far this year are Classics and English. Classics is a subject not studied very much nowadays but it is an awesome combination of Greek and Roman literature, as well as history. English allows me to express my creativity.

What achievement in your subjects are you most proud of?

I am most proud of my public speech in English, as it allowed me to research a current and important issue in society that I'm very passionate about. I spoke about gun laws in America. This issue is extremely pervasive in society and most of us will have seen the many tragic gun deaths in the media. These devastating images motivated me to speak on this issue and hopefully left others with something to think about.

What is a particular highlight in your learning?

I love the arts and literary side of subjects, in particular the creative aspect of them. Despite this, I also appreciate having a balance in my subjects, and enjoy subjects such as Maths and Chemistry.

Who has been a role model for you?

Everyone at Ruyton has acted as a role model for me in some kind of way - from the teachers to other girls. Everyone is willing to give a helping hand and this evidently creates a strong sense of community at Ruyton.

What co-curricular activities are you involved in?

I'm currently involved in Henty Orchestra, which is a great way to meet other girls from different year levels who share a similar interest in music. I also enjoy participating in GSV sports, which is always a lot of fun after school!



Ruyton Standing Out

At Ruyton we aim to nurture girls to achieve educational excellence and personal fulfilment. In the last eight years Ruyton has maintained an average median score of 90.3 in its VCE results at Year 12. Equally important, we aim to encourage girls to grow into confident and resourceful young women, compassionate and aware of the value of service. By reading the comments of the girls below and hearing about some of their exploits, we can say, with confidence, that our girls rise to the challenge.

Personal Reflections of 2015 Year 12 girls

'I have loved being involved in music, drama, debating, sustainability, Duke of Edinburgh, community service, sport classes ... I wanted to try a bit of everything and Ruyton has taught me to be a citizen of the world, and that, although I may not excel in every area, at least I have the strength to give it a go.' **Nicole McAuliffe**

'My favourite memories all involve people, the students and teachers who have helped make my time here so great! Whenever I was at School, I knew there would be someone to share a smile, a laugh and make my School days fun.' **Jemma Billingham**

'I remember being welcomed with open arms at Year 7 Orientation Day and it hasn't changed since then! I have been offered so many opportunities as a part of the Ruyton community, such as Exchange and the Duke of Edinburgh programme, and I am extremely grateful for all the memories and friends I now have.'

Margarita Ainsworth

'My favourite Ruyton memories are all to do with rowing: the amazing community that has been built over the years; the strong culture; the rowers who emerge from the programme, and, most importantly, the bonds I have formed with so many amazing girls across all year levels - these are things I will cherish for my entire life!'

Laura McLaughlan



'One of my favourite times at Ruyton was the feeling I would get sitting in Assembly, scanning the faces of so many Ruyton girls. I felt I belonged to something special because I knew these girls and had a selection of fond memories of serious, funny or crazy moments we'd shared. In that sense my favourite Ruyton memory is of knowing I was surrounded by a wonderful group of people.' **Laura Marshall**

'The Year 10 Central Australia camp created many memorable times as I was able to get closer to the girls in the year level.' **Seme Park**

'I have always pinned Year 9 Ski Camp as being one of my favourite [memories.] In beginners group, most of us, including myself, had never skied before. On the first day, cross country skiing, we were all falling down the hills like dominoes! I remember it being one of the funniest days from camp.' **Chae Raymond**

'My fondest memory is the thrilling experience of racing in the 4x400m relay on GSV finals night in 2014. My team mates Sarah Billings, Jess Mourney, Natalie Rule, and I managed to win the event as well as achieve a new GSV record!' **Audrey Campkin-Smith**



Boroondara Young Citizen of the Year

Kathleen Hanson, a current Year 12 student and Sustainability Captain, was awarded Boroondara Young Citizen of the Year for 2016. At School she has displayed compassion for those who may face particular challenges. In the community Kathleen has volunteered in many capacities: a committed environmentalist, she has trekked through Kakadu and participated in the National Tree Planting Day; she has provided in-home care for the elderly, worked at the Xavier Maytime Fair and as a Salvation Army Charity Shop Assistant. An accomplished sports woman herself, Kathleen has been a Winter Sculling Series Volunteer, has contributed to the Community Development Department of the Melbourne Football Club Kids Clinic to promote the involvement of children in sport and was a Runner Promoting Women in Sport in the Women's Football League. Kathleen has also raised funds for numerous charities. We congratulate her for being recognised with this award. Kathleen embodies the true spirit of community service.

Mr Paul Upperton, Year 9 Co-ordinator and Leadership Co-ordinator



Kooyong Student Prize

Congratulations to Sesharna Bala and Annie Gleisner, recipients of the Kooyong Student Prize. This award recognises the academic and co-curricular achievements of students. Each year, the Prize is awarded to two students nominated by their Principal for a remarkable combination of academic excellence, leadership and community engagement. It was presented by Federal Member for Kooyong and Minister for Resources, Energy and Northern Australia, the Honorable Josh Frydenberg MP, on Wednesday 9 December 2015 before an audience of family and friends. Sesharna and Annie each received a medal and certificate to mark their achievements.

Crossing New Horizons



The New Horizons programme focuses on a progression of experiences outside the classroom, which encourages personal growth to help embrace the challenges of our dynamic modern society. Adventure and challenge allow the individual to develop a greater understanding of their strength and character: the importance of being a positive, active member of a community with a practical understanding of the natural world. The Junior School camps give the girls the opportunity to develop a sense of belonging and there is a focus on connecting with the natural world. Year 3 girls catch Puffing Billy to Wombat Corner in Emerald - a fantastic way to start a camp! Year 4 girls travel to a camp at Anglesea, where there is emphasis on team building and developing confidence. At Sovereign Hill Year 5 girls explore the natural world through hands on activities and study the history of the Australian gold rush, while wearing period dress. Year 6 girls tour Canberra, consolidating knowledge acquired in the classroom and helping it to come alive. In Senior School, from Year 7 camp through to the opportunity to display leadership in Year 11 and Year 12, each experience is designed to allow the girls to consolidate their skills and knowledge.

In Year 8 there are two expeditions, one in Term 1 to build on the Year 7 camp experience and one in Term 4, to develop specific outdoors skills in preparation for the Year 9 camp. Entitled the Summit Programme, this is an important personal development initiative, culminating in a major expedition at the end of Year 9 for all girls. By Year 10 the girls are able to select from a range of experiences, specifically an expedition to Central

Australia, a rafting trip and an exchange to a school overseas (locations now include schools in the UK, France, Canada, the USA, New Zealand and China). By Year 11 and 12 the girls work together to create positive, inclusive communities and foster leadership.

The Snowy River rafting trip – a true adventure

A group of Year 10 girls, a bunch of river guides, Mr Saunder and Ms Gratch shared an adventure on the Snowy River in Term 4. The trip started in New South Wales and finished in East Gippsland. A total distance of 123 kilometres of the river was rafted, a little over 100 major rapids negotiated (in fine rafting style) all taking a total of 10 days.

The rapids provided the high-end adventure of the trip. Many of the bigger ones had names, such as George's Mistake and the Washing Machine! Over the first few days on the river we all learnt how the water moves as it is forced down between the rocks and drops. We also learnt what to do with our paddles and raft to avoid swims and flips. Most of this came down to teamwork: picking the right 'line' down is a skill, and one that was developed by all.

The trip also offered other opportunities. The section of river rafted is remote, with little access. It is wilderness. There was no phone coverage, no Wi-Fi, no regular plumbing, no electricity. In many ways life on the river was a lot simpler: it was good to disconnect from the

modern digital world for a while and enjoy the 'here and now' of the trip.

Everything for 22 people to live and travel on the river needed to be organised and carried on the rafts. Food, tents, tarps, cooking gear, personal gear, repair kits, dry bags, wetsuits, Personal Flotation Devices, helmets ... there was no room for excess luggage! This is a unique way to live and offers many challenges. It only works when everyone pitches in.

The highlight of this trip for me was the way in which the girls embraced all the challenges and were able to enjoy and appreciate the experience. For 10 days we saw no other people. We were independent and able to rely on each other. It was a real and memorable adventure.

Mr Darren Saunder, Director of Outdoor Education



An Extraordinary Experience

The Snowy River Rafting Trip was an unforgettable experience, from learning how to work as a team, to setting up tents and tarps to sleep under, and mastering the skills of rafting under the direction of five amazing raft guides and an incredible teacher. With a group of only 17 girls, we got to know each other really well and became firm friends. This camp was an amazing adventure. Despite being hard work, we were well-rewarded, with amazing views and scenery, incredible wildlife and afternoons off, where we had lots of time to relax and reflect on our exciting time on the river each day. This camp taught me a lot about responsibility. Nothing got done unless we did it ourselves. We made every meal, set up the campsite and packed and unpacked all of the gear onto and off the rafts each morning and afternoon. This camp surpassed all my expectations. It was a special experience I had the privilege of sharing with an amazing group of people, with whom I became close. The Snowy River Rafting Trip is not like an ordinary school camp: it is an extraordinary one! An experience not to be missed.

Nikita De Bortoli, Year 10 2015



Nurturing curiosity and creativity



Student reflections on the new Margaret McRae Centre

The orientation of the new rooms means you can use them in multiple ways and allows for a more inclusive environment.

The labs are full of great instruments we are able to use in class.

The glass whiteboards and the TV screens are really cool.

There are more opportunities to learn together – it's good for learning in groups.

I think the building is good because there are lots of classrooms and open learning areas.

The layout of the tables and multiple screens/whiteboards in the labs makes it feel like the whole class is working together and it is easier to see the boards. It makes me stay more focused in class and I can become more confident in participating.

The round tables encourage discussion.

The teachers don't have a big desk, which means they can walk around and help us better.

There is a more learning-orientated vibe in the new science labs and this makes me feel more organised and focused.



Space Camp

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) are crucial fields when it comes to driving innovation. Three-quarters of the fastest growing occupations require significant mathematics or science preparation. At Ruyton we are constantly researching and implementing initiatives to provide our students with the skills and knowledge that will allow them confidently to enter these occupations. One such initiative was the opportunity for students to attend the Space Camp STEM Tour in the September holidays, 2015. The five-night programme at the Advanced Space Academy at the US Space and Rocket Centre in Huntsville, Alabama enabled students to participate in hands-on drills and also to learn about the mental and physical demands for astronauts, engineers and technologists.



Missions provided the students with the opportunity to improve teamwork, leadership and decision making skills. Specialist workshops included Space Suit Theory and Design, Space Physiology, Scuba Space Walk Training, Aeronautic Design, Jet Aircraft Simulations, Orbital Mechanics, Jet Propulsion, Wilderness Survival and Living in Space. The group then travelled to Washington DC to explore the Smithsonian Natural History Museum and other significant sites. The final destination of the Tour was Orlando, Florida. The Kennedy Space Centre allowed students to see the relevance of the skills and knowledge they had acquired during the Advanced Space Academy Programme and also how they had been utilised in the American Space Programme. Lunch with an Astronaut provided a fascinating insight into the career of a true Space Scientist. The girls returned to Australia equipped with a new appreciation of the importance and application of STEM in so many areas of life, both now and into the future.

Mrs Susan Fryer, Dean of Science

Attending Space Camp 2015 was a wonderful opportunity to learn about the science involved in sending people into space. The Advanced Space Academy had a range of special activities for us to learn about the Physics, Biology and Chemistry involved in all aspects of space flight. Scuba diving was a great way to understand the microgravity that astronauts experience in space. Rides, such as the Space Shot and Gravitron, gave us an idea of the forces with which astronauts are confronted when being launched into space. By using the 1/6 Gravity Chair attached to springs on the roof, we were able to simulate movement on the moon. We learnt that a side-jumping motion was more effective for getting from point A to point B.

The Multi-Axis Trainer was a small chair rotating on three axes, to demonstrate the pitch, roll and yaw of the space craft when it is in space. These three axes rotated in random directions, switching paths simultaneously at rapid speeds. We expected to feel sick during this experience, but, in fact, once in the chair, the centre of gravity was at the stomach.

Simulators were part of our required training at Space Camp. These were usually part of our missions, as we took on roles as members of Mission Control, or were assigned to the crew on board The Orbiter or The International Space Station (ISS.) We each had specific roles, as in true space flight. Members of Mission Control had the responsibility to ensure that the astronauts in the Orbiter and ISS were able to take off and land safely and follow required procedures accurately. Extra vehicular activities were carried out whilst we were fully dressed in space suits, conducting repairs to the spacecraft. We had a number of practice missions leading up to our final mission, which served as our 'exam' to graduate from Space Camp. In the final three-hour mission numerous challenges and unexpected events occurred and we were required to solve the problems to ensure the survival of all and return safely to Earth. This was very challenging but it provided us with an appreciation of what can actually occur during space travel. It certainly improved our problem-solving skills.

We also made fuel cells, designed protective suits and ablative heat shields, designed and built rockets and experienced many other challenges. One of most exciting experiences at Space Camp was looking through a telescope on a clear night to view Saturn and its rings.

I am so thankful as a Ruyton Student to have had the opportunity to travel to the other side of the world with students and teachers and to be submerged in the rich culture of technology and science behind the scenes at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Centre.

Meg Richards, Year 11 (2015)



'I am Woman, Hear Me Roar'

Vocal Concert

It's not just the acting talent of our girls which is impressive, but also the diversity of their singing abilities. Both took away our breath at the vocal concert at the end of Term 3 last year. 2015 Vocal Captains, Emma Bannister and Sophia Currie, together with 2015 Music Captain Jennifer Tarry-Smith, provided wonderful leadership and participation at the concert. It was pleasing to see how issues pertinent in today's world were covered in an amazing array of numbers in the concert, ably reflected in the title, 'I am Woman, Hear Me Roar'. Once again, the Music Department assisted the girls and especial thanks are due to members of Friends of Ruyton Performing Arts (FORPA) for their support.



Farewell to George

In saying goodbye to Georgina Canty, we are in a unique position. So often our colleagues become friends – the very best of friends – our family away from home. And when we say farewell to them as they leave Ruyton, we try to imagine what School will be like without them, how different things will be the following year when they are no longer around.



But in this case we already know. We already know the void left without Georgina here, since she has been on maternity leave. Even though we've had 18 months to get used to the idea, it's still a very sad goodbye.

In her 12 years at Ruyton, Georgina has performed many roles, most notably Dean of English, where she led the development of the curriculum, working closely with many staff and leading her Department with expertise and efficiency. Being a lover of books, this role suited George to a tee, as it gave her free licence to read and read. Georgina was also the Co-ordinator for the Senior School Gifted and Talented programme for several years – a role she relished and the girls benefitted from greatly.

Beyond that, Georgina played an integral role accompanying Ruyton's best skiers to Mount Buller each year for the Interschools' Snow Sports Competition. A talented skier herself, George relished this assignment and the opportunity to be a part of this programme. In her time at Ruyton, Georgina has also had stints as Community Awareness Co-ordinator, Ruyton Student Council Co-ordinator and was a Lascelles House teacher.

All of us who have had the pleasure of working with Georgina love her for her humour, her no-nonsense attitude and her capacity to chart a course in concert with her peers. But, as strong as our ties are, we cannot compete with the love Georgina has for her new role, her greatest role yet – that of being a mother. We wish her the very best of luck as she transfers her wonderful skills as an educator to the challenging, yet ultimately rewarding, adventures of parenthood.

Miss Michelle Raatjes, Year 11 Co-ordinator
and Mr Walter Zavattiero, Year 12 Co-ordinator

We don't Hate Alison Ashley

Last year saw the inauguration of the Year 7 and 8 production. Co-ordinator of Drama (2015), Ms Michele McNamara, together with the Performing Arts Department, helped the girls stage their first full production, performing *Hating Alison Ashley*. Over 90 girls participated in the production, pursuing their interest in stagecraft, acting, singing, dancing, costumes and advertising. Talented performances on stage, combined with opportunities for humour and a fantastic 1980's soundtrack, provided a great recipe for success. It was a fine example of the community coming together, as teachers, members of Friends of Ruyton Performing Arts (FORPA) and other parents supported the girls behind the scenes or by being members of the audience. In addition, the Year 10 VCE Drama students' production of *Women of the Town* was an outstanding success. Each girl's sensitive portrayal of an Australian female criminal from the 1920s provided a very moving depiction of prejudice and hardship for young women during this time in history. The performers and Ms McNamara are to be congratulated.



Foundation

Collaboration, Generosity and Creativity

The new Margaret McRae Centre stands as testimony to the power of collaboration, generosity and creativity. The successful completion of our most recent Capital Campaign saw the opening of this Centre on Monday 22 February 2016 and this was due entirely to the significant generosity of the wonderful community we enjoy here, Inside Ruyton. The Foundation believes that our girls' opportunities should be unconstrained by inadequate facilities and buildings, traditional learning avenues or inaccessibility. It is because our Ruyton community has embraced this belief that we have raised the most we have ever achieved in a Capital Campaign to date.

Historically, the largest amount previously raised by the Foundation for capital works was \$500,000 for the swimming pool. I am delighted to announce that, for this project, we have received an amazing \$953,000 in donations and pledges. Our donors come from across our community: past students and current and past board members, parents, and staff. The Honour Board, located just inside the front doors, acknowledges all of our donors who have partnered with us to continue the tradition of supporting Ruyton girls to do their best. The School has chosen to name nine learning areas in recognition of significant donations, with three of the rooms scheduled to be named at a later date in collaboration with the families involved. Six of the room names are already installed: the Woolrich Family Laboratory, the Penne Furmage Room, the Rebecca Starkins Room, the Verrocchi Family Room, the Kanat Family Room and the Bate Family Room.

Our community has accompanied us on every step of the way on this exciting journey, from the campaign launch in March 2013 at the Ruyton Fair, a wonderful community-building and fundraising event, to where we are today. I would like to acknowledge all our donors, who have each made personally meaningful gifts. I thank the Parents of Ruyton (the POR) who generously contributed funds raised at two Balls and two Luncheons towards providing this facility for our girls. We are most grateful to the Old Ruytonians' Association (the ORA) for their contribution and we know they are looking forward to hosting many Reunions and other events in the Margaret McRae Centre. It is through the combined generosity of our community, individual donors, families and groups that we have been able to help achieve this wonderful result. We sincerely thank you all.

And I have to let you know that it is never too late to contribute! We are still very happy to receive further donations to the Margaret McRae Centre Capital Campaign and have opportunities available for the School to acknowledge significant donations with room names. If you would like to make a donation of any size, please contact Ms Tonya Peters, Director of Development at peterst@ruyton.vic.edu.au or on 9290 9318.

Mr Peter Kanat, President of the Ruyton Foundation



We are grateful to the following donors for their generosity:

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 Mr P & Mrs I Zapparos
 The Zervos Family
 The Zhang Family
 The Zhao Family
 Anonymous x 18



Old Ruytonians' Association

From the ORA President

Dear Ruyton Community,

I am delighted to present the President's Report in this Autumn Edition of the Ruyton Reporter. The activities and events organised by the Old Ruytonians' Association (ORA) mentioned in my report illustrate the work being undertaken by the ORA to facilitate the renewal of friendships and build a stronger network of Old Ruytonians.

WOMEN OF RUYTON 2015 FEATURING BELINDA HAWKINS

In October the ORA welcomed award-winning journalist and producer of the ABC's *Australian Story*, Belinda Hawkins ('76) for the annual Women of Ruyton speaker event. Belinda recounted a number of fond memories from her days at Ruyton and provided the captive audience with an insight into her venerable career, which has seen Belinda meet and interview some of Australia's key personalities. After reflecting on the challenges she has faced throughout her career, including being a female in a male-dominated industry and the arduous task of balancing a family with a budding career, Belinda advocated that women should strive for their dreams and that maybe, just maybe, women really can have it all.



GIRLS' NIGHT OUT FUNDRAISER

In November the ORA held our inaugural Girls' Night Out Fundraiser to support the Cancer Council in their effort to beat women's cancers. The event was a wonderful opportunity for Old Girls and the wider Ruyton Community to come together for a fun evening of drinks and banter in support of the Cancer Council. The event raised over \$600 and I would like to extend thanks to the Beehive Hotel for their generous hospitality.

ORA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

In February the ORA launched the ORA Professional Development Programme, an initiative about which I am passionate. I believe it is of paramount importance that women have female role models and mentors or coaches from whom they can access honest feedback and support.

The Professional Development Programme provides members with the opportunity to network among other Old Ruytonians and aims to support Old Girls in their personal and professional development. Facilitated by external consultants Kerry Velleman and Jo Scott of Kru Consulting, the launch event offered guidance and tools to foster peer-to-peer coaching and the opportunity to establish 'critical friend' coaching or mentoring relationships. By assisting our members to establish such relationships, it enables Old Girls to build networks and more effectively navigate challenges they may face, either personally or professionally.

The next Professional Development event will again be facilitated by Kru Consulting and will be held in Term 2.

ORA RUNNING CLUB

In February the ORA Running Club recommenced. Each week, on a Sunday morning, Old Girls meet at the Tan for a guided one-hour training session. Whether you're a keen runner, a beginner or looking to make a comeback to running, join us on a Sunday morning for some fitness and fun!



NGV GALLERY TOUR

On Friday 22 April the ORA invites members to the National Gallery of Victoria to tour the major international exhibition featuring two of the most significant artists of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries: Andy Warhol and Ai Weiwei. We will be meeting for a drink beforehand and then touring the gallery as a group. Book today <http://trybooking.com/JYZZ>

SOUND OF MUSIC BACKSTAGE TOUR

On Sunday 15 May the ORA invites members and their family and friends to the matinee performance of the world's best-loved musical, *The Sound of Music*. The performance will be followed by an exclusive ORA only behind-the-scenes tour and an opportunity to meet the cast members.

For regular updates about the ORA please follow our Facebook page www.facebook.com/oldruytoniansassociation/

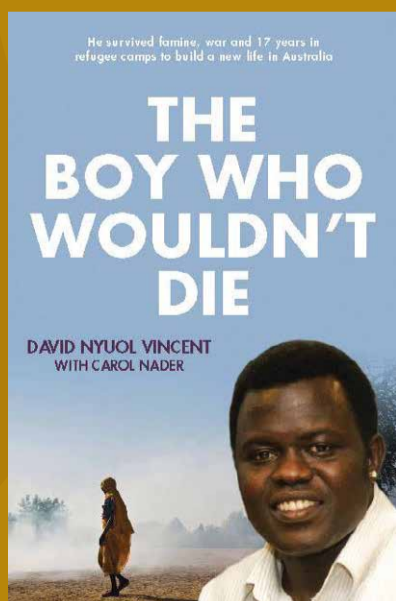
If you have any queries relating to the ORA or would like to register for any of our events please contact Natasha Anderson at ora@ruyton.vic.edu.au

Ms Sarah Blyth ('07), President of the Old Ruytonians' Association

STOP PRESS

The Boy Who Refused to Die

As we go to print, the ORA has secured David Vincent to speak at an ORA Meet the Author Event in July this year. David Nyuol Vincent is a dual South-Sudanese and Australian citizen. He is a registered UNHCR Refugee Advocate and the former People of Australia Ambassador. David, an experienced facilitator and trainer specialising in peace mobilisation and conflict resolutions across South Sudan and Australia, has received several awards, including the Victorian State Government's Multicultural Commission for Excellence in Community Development. He co-founded and leads a NGO Peace Palette and I Am a Peace Soldier Campaign. He was selected as one of the most influential, inspirational, provocative, and creative people in Melbourne by the Age Newspaper. David is author of the book, *The Boy Who Wouldn't Die*, published in 2012. Contact Natasha Anderson on ora@ruyton.vic.edu.au or 9290 9345 for more details.



Notice Of AGM

Dear ORA Members,

The Old Ruytonians' Association gives notice of the 2016 Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the Old Ruytonians' Association (ORA). All members are invited to attend the meeting.

Date: Monday 9 May 2016
Time: 6:00pm
Place: Reception Room
Ruyton Girls' School
12 Selbourne Road, Kew, Vic 3101

AGENDA

1. President's Welcome
2. Attendees Present
3. Apologies
4. Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting
5. Treasurer's Report
6. President's Report
7. Changes to the Constitution
8. Election of Committee
9. General Business

THE CURRENT COMMITTEE CONSISTS:

President: Sarah Blyth ('07)
Treasurer: Andrea Fyfe ('89)
Secretary: Madeleine Reilly ('10)
Committee Members:
Caroline Jarrett ('05)
Natalie Pullan ('05)

Any further nominations for the Committee are due by Monday 2 May 2016.

Contact Natasha Anderson on ora@ruyton.vic.edu.au or on 9290 9345 for a nomination form.

News of Former Students & Staff

News

Georgina Austin (Sutton '97) spent 13 insightful years at Ruyton, with a passion for art and photography, always encouraged by wonderful teachers. She was thrilled to be accepted into the Bachelor of Design (Graphic Design) at RMIT.

Georgina graduated in 2001 and worked at Country Road as their Apparel Graphics and Textile Designer. Having gained valuable experience, she felt confident enough to start her own knitwear brand, Cable Melbourne, and released a small capsule at the 2007 Australian Fashion Week. She wanted the brand's style ethos to centre on modern, timeless pieces, which transcend seasons and provide women and children with unique, elegant wardrobe options through the knitted form.



Her innate understanding of the unique qualities of wool seems to be part of her DNA. Georgina's great, great grandfather was the founder of a wool buying company, and a leader purchasing Australian superfine merino for fashion houses around the world, the starting point of four generations of wool buyers. With quality and durability central to the brand's uniqueness, she is committed to keeping as much production as possible in Australia, supporting the local Australian merino wool industries.

Georgina remembers her time at School as one of progressive thinking and empowerment. Ruyton gave all the girls the conviction to believe women could do anything and be whoever they wanted to be, something that has equipped her to become an independent woman, with strength and confidence to run her own business, be a mother, a wife and able to juggle everything else life has thrown at her.

www.cablemelbourne.com

Rebecca Starkins ('09) made a splash in the news in January for her personalised tote range, Little Makes Big, when Pippa Middleton, sister of the Duchess of Cambridge, was spotted carrying one of her bags. Little Makes Big is an online business selling leather and canvas monogrammed totes and Rebecca sent one to Pippa. The celebrity influence works as a marketing strategy for the brand, which Rebecca started at 16. Little Makes Big employed women from Destiny Rescue Sewing Production House, giving them an opportunity to support themselves. Rebecca is studying commerce, entrepreneurship and innovation. *'We use social media as a platform and also try to secure coverage, or a tick of approval, from some influencers who complement our brand.'*



Congratulations to **Alice Kennedy** ('11) for being named as a finalist in the Virgin Australia Melbourne Fashion Festival National Graduate Showcase, presented by Target and supported by *Fashion Journal*, for her collection, Leila. The VAMFF programme is seen as a launching pad for young designers and the judges handpicked the 12 finalists from design institutions across the country. The winner receives a \$25,000 grant and the opportunity to design a one-off Target capsule collection, available in selected stores.

Jacqui Pitt ('03) has been named as a 2016 Zelman Cowen John Monash Scholar. Jacqui has a Bachelor of Arts (Honours), with First Class Honours, and a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) from the University of Melbourne. She is currently the senior legal adviser in the Family Violence Reform Unit of the Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet. She will undertake a Master of Laws in the United States of America with the goal of becoming an expert and innovator in the field of legal responses to family violence. In 2014 Jacqui was named one of 50 'rising stars' of the Australian legal profession by *Australasian Lawyer* magazine and was a finalist for the Law Institute of Victoria's 'Rising Star of the Year' award. While studying, Jacqui was the National Head of Fundraising for the Oaktree Foundation, where she led campaigns to raise over \$500,000 to reduce extreme poverty. Outside her profession Jacqui loves every aspect of the theatre. She was the founding President of a not-for-profit theatre company for the legal industry and has produced several critically-acclaimed comedy shows. She is also a classically trained singer. Mr Walter Zavattiero was one of Jacqui's teachers. *'I remember Jacqui as an exceptionally gifted student in my Year 12 English class who, quite simply, loved delving into the themes and ideas of each and every text. Both her empathy for the underdog and her capacity to appreciate the nuances of any issue were always apparent and it is no surprise that she has dedicated herself so wholeheartedly to protecting the rights of the vulnerable in her professional life as a lawyer. That we can continue to celebrate her success is a wonderful thing. Go Pitti!'*



Greta Gurry graduated from Ruyton in 2010. Greta began tertiary studies at Monash University in 2011, studying a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery. After completing three years of this degree Greta deferred to undertake further studies in a research capacity by completing a Bachelor of Medical Science (Hons) in 2014. Greta's research was performed through the Infectious Diseases Department at Monash Medical Centre and explored the relationship between HIV and latent infections in an immigrant population. This is important research, given Australia's growing immigrant population and the increasing availability of preventative medicine. Greta has had research published in medical journals, including the *Medical Journal of Australia (MJA)* in March 2015 and *AIDS* in September 2015.



Greta has also been fortunate to spend time volunteering in an Indigenous community in Arnhem Land, as well as in rural Kenya. These experiences have inspired Greta to work with marginalised communities in the future. She has now completed her fourth year of medicine and is due to graduate at the end of 2016. She will also be undertaking a Masters of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, while also hoping to continue to undertake research in the area of infectious diseases and preventative medicine.

Greta has fond memories of attending Ruyton from Year 5 and her time here instilled in her a sense of community and belonging. She was taught the value of balancing her time between academic commitments and extra-curricula pursuits. Through this teaching, along with fostering a love of learning and interest in discovering new ideas, Ruyton provided Greta with an excellent foundation for her studies, future career and whatever else the future may hold.

Births

In May 2015 **Nicky de Kever** ('92) gave birth to Miles de Kever, a brother to Finlay, aged two. Nicky has lived in Perth for the past 10 years, where she has been involved in environmental geology with her partner, Shannon Mackenzie.



Congratulations to **Andrea Fiorenza** ('98) and partner Aaron, who welcomed baby Archer Jack Smith in December 2015.



Brianna Hosken Griggs ('97) and husband Edward (Trinity '99) are thrilled to announce the safe arrival of Sylvie, a sister for Harley, four and Isla, two. Brianna is living in New Zealand where Edward, an architect with DKO, is working on rebuilding the city centre of Christchurch after the devastating earthquake.

Sascha Thiel (Dickenson '98) and Nigel are thrilled to announce the arrival of their third child, Harrison William, on 12 October 2015. A little brother for Ella, aged four years and James, who is three.



Weddings

Congratulations to **Phoebe Grimwade** ('09) on her marriage to Lachlan Eric Cohen at Littlejohn Chapel, Scotch College in November, 2015. The wedding party included Emily Carroll, also Ruyton 2009.



Congratulations to **Phoebe Tallent** ('03) on her marriage to Nicholas Demiris in December last year. In attendance were, left to right: **Jessica Allen** ('03), **Amalia Grange** and **Stephanie Pawsey** (Tallent, '00)



Three Generations of Old Ruytonians

Penne and Phoebe Ebbage and Penne's mother, Phoebe's grandmother, Margaret Myers (Campbell '49)



The Ruyton spirit lives on – passed from mother to daughter



Old Ruytonians whose daughters were in the class of 2015 are:

Left to right:

Ruth Neilson ('81) and Emma Bannister, Georgie Evans and Rosie Evans (Johns '82), Penne Ebbage (Myers '75) and Phoebe Ebbage, Tess Macallan and Sally Macallan (Beach '79), Penny Watson ('82) and Emily Watson, Elena Ancarola and Julia Goodsall ('84)
Absent: Sharon Hoffman ('86) and Alex Hoffman-Hayes

Vale

It is with great sadness that the Ruyton community notes the passing of the following Old Ruytonians:



Constance Mary (Peggy) Macpherson ('28) passed away at the age of 105 late last year. She was a children's nurse and a believer in anthroposophy, a spiritual philosophy, which she pioneered in Australia. After her formal education at Ruyton she trained as a nurse at the Old Melbourne Hospital

and nursed for the rest of her working life, specialising in nursing children. Peggy's interest in anthroposophy confirmed what she intuitively sensed in caring for children – that they needed to be nursed for their immediate physical needs but also in a way that recognised their spiritual reality. Combining her interest in health and nursing with her commitment to anthroposophy, she was instrumental in bringing the anthroposophical Weleda medical treatments to Australia. Peggy was also strongly influenced by her love of the natural world and native animals, possibly founded on her experiences growing up on the family farm in New South Wales.

Sonia McDermott (Woinarski '56) passed away in July 2015. She enjoyed her schooling at Ruyton and became involved in the Old Ruytonians' Association, becoming President in 1978. She was a keen sportswoman and very much a people's person. She displayed immense generosity, cared deeply for others and always had an inspirationally positive attitude to life.



Sally (Sara Anne) Rowe (Snowball '56) was born in 1938 and was a boarder at Ruyton, as were her two brothers at Trinity. Later she was a weekly boarder and then became a day girl. Sally was the niece of Kitty Snowball who was a member of staff at Ruyton and a friend of Miss Daniell. Sally had a mischievous streak and got into trouble with the teachers over the years, but she was popular, and had a wide circle of friends. These friends, some who had known her since kindergarten, remember her sense of adventure and fun. She went on to the Melbourne School of Nursing and maintained a great interest in history. After a long battle with cancer Sally died in October 2015. She leaves her husband, Tony and daughters Lucy and Emily.

Eva Fogel (Marlo-Monten '56) and **Janet Walker** (Brock '56)

Judith Walcott (Tracy '54) passed away on 11 June 2015.

Reunions



Reunion in Canberra, Saturday 5 March 2016

Left to right: Ann Clay (Heazlewood '66), Betty Xiong ('13), Lynn Webb ('59), Naomi Loutit (Webster '57), Gail Ford (Fairfoul '57), Carol Kee (Gay '62), Cynthia James (Rodwell '39), Joanna Williams ('06), Fiona West ('88), Claire Seton ('11), Paula Chadderton ('88), Kashi Mogensen ('13), Peggy Bunting (MacGruer '36), Janet Davey ('13), Heather Henderson (Menzies '46), Jess Wat ('13), Sarah Blyth (President ORA '07) and Mary Blink (McLean '63)



Inset: Linda Douglas (Principal) with Kim Crow ('03)



Reunion of the 2011 alumni, Friday 26 February 2016



L to R: Olivia Harvey, Anna Maddison, Rhian Davies, Kirsty Ha, Melissa Chhor



L to R: Tenille Rollnik, Jacqui Evans, Georgina Kelly, Mia Antonopoulos, Amy Moore, Bianca Strugnell



L to R: Claire Robertson, Michelle Ye, Eliza Green, Caley Jowers, Sophie Perry



L to R: Ally Pearce, Kirsten Callander, Emily Clifford, Georgina Kelly, Lauren Clements



Reunion of the Golden Girls, Saturday 15 October 2015

Back Row, Left to Right: Mary Le Get, Janet Webster, Janet Andrews, Sylvia Gerraty, Robyn Osborne-Smith, Margaret Norton, Jean Taylor, Alison Leslie, Lenora Clarke, Pamela Taylor, Joan Balfour, Jillian Noy, Barbara Butler, Lynette Hotchin, Penelope Rawlins, Adria Woinarski, Norma Leslie, Joan Martin, Wendy Heath, Judith Cooke, Jane Teasdale, Patricia Findlay, Anne Woodward, Marion Nancarrow, Mary Dixon

Front Row, Left to Right: Margaret Holmes, Fee Evert, Helen England, Lynette Gates, Lorraine Kirwin, Tarbara Thomson, Betty Huston, Vera Bowen, Margaret Andrewartha, Anne Mickelson, Isabel Wilkey, Shirley Shepherd, Barbara Matthews

For further information regarding reunions and upcoming alumni events, please contact Ruyton's Co-ordinator of Community, Mrs Marilyn Rouhard, at the Development Office on (03) 9290 9335.



Reunion of the 2014 alumni, Thursday 3 December 2015

Reunion Dates for 2016 are as follows:

ALUMNI	CELEBRATING	REUNION DATE
2015	1 year	Thursday 1 December
2006	10 years	Friday 20 May
1996	20 years	Friday 7 October
1986	30 years	Saturday 21 May
1976	40 years	Friday 15 April
1966	50 years	Saturday 8 October
The Golden Girls	50 +	Saturday 15 October
New South Wales Reunion in Sydney		Saturday 6 August
UK and Europe Reunion in London		Saturday 1 October
Tasmania Reunion in Hobart		Saturday 24 November



Reunion of the 1965 alumni, Saturday 10 October 2015

Front Row, L to R: Holly Fletcher, Marian Kendall, Margaret Dewar, Lucille Stace, Margaret Falconer, Christine McCullough

Second Row, L to R: Louise Pennington, Micky Ashton, Marie Watt, Unice Ekberg

Third Row, L to R: Julie Foletta, Jenny Gunson, Janet Hirst, Deryn Sayers

Back Row, L to R: Margo Heeley, Diana McKie, Brenda Fielding, Trish Harper, Judith Amos

Keep in Touch

Update your details online.

Old Ruytonians can now update their contact details online at www.ruyton.vic.edu.au and click on the Contact tab.

Keep in touch with former School friends, reconnect with old friends and receive information about what is going on in the Ruyton community.



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