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THE Ruyton REPORTER

SPRING 2016



From the Study

The Most Important Thing

Yusra Mardini's house was destroyed in the Syrian civil war causing her to flee Syria with her sister in August 2015. They reached Turkey, where they arranged to be smuggled into Greece with 18 other migrants, on a small dinghy meant for no more than six or seven people. The dinghy began to take on water in the Aegean Sea, so Mardini and her sister, along with two other people who were able to swim, got into the water and pushed the boat for over three hours until it reached Lesbos. We can only imagine the courage, grit and sheer determination this small group of people mustered to survive. Twelve months later Mardini and nine other athletes walked into a stadium to thunderous applause, to compete under the Olympic Flag as the Refugee Olympic Team. Not your usual Olympic preparation.

In the context of a worldwide refugee crisis the Refugee Olympic Team represented the right of every human to hope and to dream. We can only imagine what it is like to train while living in a war-torn country or to flee all you know in search of safety. I only wish I had been in that stadium to witness not only the emotion, but also to truly feel the Olympic spirit. This spirit is best expressed through the Olympic creed, *'The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well.'*

In the developed world today many people are living a fast-moving, pressured and, at times, highly-competitive life. There is often a focus on climbing the ladder, breaking the glass ceiling, being the best and making the most money. Our expectations of ourselves and others are not always realistic. Perhaps we have lost sight of the struggle that is life and the importance of hope.

Kim Brennan's (Crow '03) Olympic performance reduced many, including Kim herself, to tears. Australia as a nation has excelled at placing enormous pressure on the shoulders of our high achievers. For so many in the Ruyton community who had the privilege of knowing Kim during her youth, it was the journey of everything Ruyton girls represent: the well-rounded individual, grit and determination, a struggle to overcome setbacks, strong values of integrity, compassion, fairness and courage. Kim won the hearts of many through her victory, but it was her strong stance on the value of team and nation in uniting people to see hope; highlighting the possibility of ascending from an intolerable social divide; displaying courage beyond words, demonstrating the importance of patience, integrity and humility and making a difference in the lives of others, that struck a chord with so many. The girls were excited and honoured to welcome Kim in a surprise visit to the School at the end of Term 3.

In a country where the tall poppy syndrome is both endemic and defeating, it is a problem we need to face. Ruyton girls will always know they have a community that is on their side; that supports them with a wholehearted sense of pride to be the best versions of themselves; a community that invests strongly in their future and believes in their ability to make ripples or life changing waves; a community that acknowledges sincere effort and endeavour. Our sense of pride in all of our girls is as strong as our belief in their ability to dig deep, do their best and make a real difference. This is our constant; our touchstone.

At Ruyton we believe in girls.



Believing in Our Girls

In my conversations with Year 3 and 4 girls last term I was particularly interested in what was important to them about their School, both now and into the future. It was heartening to see how they are deeply connected to their learning and enjoy the opportunity to have input into the planning process. It is no surprise to find how much they value particular areas of the School and associate them so strongly with positive learning experiences and treasured memories. The Moreton Bay Fig, Early Learning, South House, Royce and the Fairy Garden all evoked strong memories and connections. There is a new-found love for using the oval, but, interestingly, they expressed a desire to use it only on some days of the week in the future, as otherwise they might not value it enough. As always, the wisdom of the young causes us to reflect and plan for the future accordingly. I am not sure that I can fulfil their dream of a waterslide that circles the School and finishes in the pool, but we all agreed that it is good to have dreams.

While we watch the Junior School buildings and surrounds take shape in preparation for 2017, our girls across the School have continued to engage in so many different ways to achieve their best, both individually and collectively. We have enjoyed a rich season of performing arts, with highlights including the Ruyton Trinity play *Frankenstein*, Year 6 performing *Shrek the Musical Jr*, the Ruyton Trinity Musical *Into the Woods*, the Performing Arts House Festival (PAHF), Jazz night at Dizzy's and the ultimate finale to Term 3, the Music Gala Concert. This evening showcase of student performance was truly an occasion to remember, as our girls performed in the Melbourne Recital Centre for the first time. Performing Arts is the soul of Ruyton in so many ways; bringing us together to celebrate talent, collaboration and endeavour with joy and admiration.

Our Senior girls have once again represented us with distinction in Girls Schools Victoria (GSV) carnivals this year, finishing second in Swimming, first in Cross Country and second in Track and Field. After a strong season of rowing in Term 1 the Ruyton Senior 1st Crew (Australian Champions) ventured to the Henley Royal Regatta at Henley on Thames (England) for the first time in the School's history. They became not only the first Ruyton crew to be a 'selected crew' for the Diamond Jubilee Challenge Cup, but also they were the first ever Australian schoolgirl crew to do so.

muse...

You are invited to the official opening of the

**Ruyton Girls' School
Pre-Prep to VCE
Art & Design Exhibition 2016**

**Thursday 3 November
6pm**

**Special guest: Dawn Tan
Illustrator, artist and teacher**

**MMC Event Space
Enter via Gate 5**

Exhibition Hours:

Thursday 3 November 5pm - 7pm
Friday 4 November 3pm - 5pm
Saturday 5 November 12pm - 4pm

Light refreshments will be served from
Foregate Centre and Wine and Paddock

2016

12 Selbourne Road Kew 3101
Tel: 98192422

MUSE

I hope many of you will be able to join us at Muse, the Ruyton Student Art Show, from Thursday 3 November to Saturday 5 November. The Exhibition is a celebration of student art work from across the School and will take place in the lower level of the Margaret McRae Centre, a beautiful area to celebrate the artistic talents of our girls.

Ms Linda Douglas, Principal

ABOVE: Ms Linda Douglas with Junior School girls.

ON OUR COVER: Mrs Kim Brennan (Crow '03) with Year 2 girls who addressed questions to her at Assembly.

Community Matters

A New Era for the Ruyton Board

The end of 2016 ushers in a new era for the Ruyton Board. President Ms Kathryn Watt has announced she will be stepping down from the Board at the end of the year in order to pursue a new career direction. Kathryn has served on the Board since 2009 and as President since 2012. The School is indebted to Kathryn for her astute leadership, in particular her involvement in the development and implementation of the School 10-year Masterplan, approved in 2013, the Strategic Plan in 2011 and 2016, and the recruitment of Principal, Ms Linda Douglas, in 2010.

Kathryn's legacy includes the depth and breadth of the Ruyton Board. She brought best practice governance principles to Ruyton, including refining the skills matrix to clearly identify skills gaps at the Board table and she opened up the Board application process to the entire School community and beyond, to ensure greater diversity and inclusiveness.

'We are privileged at Ruyton to have such a connected and supportive community,' said Kathryn. *'We have been overwhelmed by the generosity and expertise of those who have offered to serve on the Board.'*

Kathryn has contributed enormously to the School and established a strong culture of governance that will stand the School in good stead in the future. Her familiar and smiling face will still be seen around the School, as she will continue as a member of the Ruyton Foundation, supporting and further developing philanthropy at Ruyton.

NEW BOARD ROLES

Mr Peter Kanat will take on the role of President of the Board from 1 January 2017. Peter, husband of Old Ruytonian, Robyn Kanat (Bate '80) and father of two Old Ruytonians, Zoe ('11) and Sarah ('14) has had a long history of supporting Ruyton. Peter has been on the Board and also has been the President of the Ruyton Foundation since 2007, where he has spearheaded the School's fundraising efforts. Board member Ms Kylie Taylor will take on the role of Deputy President from 1 January 2017, to fill the role previously carried out by Peter. Kylie has been a Board member since January 2013, and currently has a daughter in the Junior School.

WELCOME TO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

In 2016 Ruyton welcomed four new directors to the Board:

Ms Fiona Griffiths ('87) brings her expertise as a commercial lawyer and her experience with the Melbourne Theatre Company Foundation Board and Auburn Primary as School Council President. She currently has a daughter in the Junior School. Fiona has been appointed to Chair the Ruyton Foundation, replacing Peter.

Ms Melanie Higgins (Blomquist '92) is passionate about the need to prepare future workers to be adaptable, technologically capable and astute learners able to acquire new skills and navigate multiple career paths. She has over 17 years of experience in senior consulting roles for blue chip financial services clients and sales, strategy and operations. Melanie has daughters enrolled to attend Ruyton in future years.

Mr Bruce Bayley has over 18 years' experience in the education sector and is an entrepreneurial business strategist with experience across a range of sectors, including technology, health, staffing services, consumer goods and financial services. He has two daughters in the Senior School.

Mr Cameron Price will be known to some members of the community already as the Vice-President of the Henty Rowing Club, in which his daughter is involved. After 25 years as a corporate lawyer at a leading law firm, Cameron is currently General Counsel at the Future Fund (Australia's sovereign wealth fund), where he advises on legal, governance and governmental matters. Cameron is Chairman of the Board's new Governance Committee.

We are delighted to welcome these new appointments to the Board. The expertise and passion they bring to their roles is invaluable to the School and, as a community, we are grateful for their generosity in giving their time and energy.

FAREWELL TO DEPARTING BOARD MEMBERS

In 2016 two members of the Board completed their term of office. Mrs Fleur Coldwell (Summons '90) served for over nine years and Ms Freya Marsden ('89), served for four years. Both are Old Ruytonians with strong connections to the School, who have invested their time and professional skills to benefit Ruyton.

No one embodies the culture and values of Ruyton better than past students. We are fortunate to have had Fleur and Freya bringing their unique perspective to the Board. We are sincerely grateful to both of them and look forward to having them always be part of our School community.

During the year, education specialist Ms Margery Evans stepped down from the Board to take up a new professional role in Paris. We thank Margery for her contribution to the School community.

APPRECIATION TO ALL OUR BOARD

Mr Bruce Meehan, Chair of Finance and Audit Committee, Mr Tim Hogg, Chair of Property and Building Committee, and Mr John Gillam all continue in their Board roles into 2017 and we express our appreciation to all our ongoing Board members.



Ms Fiona Griffiths Ms Melanie Higgins Mr Bruce Bayley Mr Cameron Price



Teachers Across Borders – the Ruyton Luncheon

Mrs Susie Lachal, former Ruyton teacher, past parent, and member of the Ruyton community, was the guest speaker at the Ruyton Luncheon this year. Susie spoke about her work with Teachers Across Borders Australia (TAB), an organisation she has been involved with since its formation ten years ago. It was through the influence of Mr John Bate, a very special individual who made a significant contribution to the growth of Ruyton, that Susie sought a project where she could use her skills and talents, and indulge her passion for teaching to gift to others. Working with Australian teachers to teach educators in Cambodia has become both her passion and her gift. Susie talks about gifting rather than charity or philanthropy, as she believes it reduces the expectation that you will receive anything in return. What you do receive from gifting to others is personal growth, the worth of which is often immeasurable. For more information please visit <https://www.givenow.com.au/teachersacrossborders>

The Parents of Ruyton (POR) are pleased to announce a donation of \$1500 was made to this charity, Teachers Across Borders, from funds raised at the luncheon.

Our sincere thanks go to Susie for sharing her experiences and wisdom with us. Particular thanks, as well, go to Mrs Paula Issa, Mrs Rebecca Schultz and Mrs Sarah Van Gerrevink, the 2016 Ruyton Luncheon Committee, for their hard work and organisation. We should also like to acknowledge the skills of Mr Ian Robson, Master of Ceremony; the Flute Ensemble, Florrie McKay, Roshica Ponnampalam, Anna Rabinowicz and Mrs Jacinta Power, who performed on the day; and Vocalists Annie Gleisner and Alice Pryor, with accompanist Mr Shaun Jones. We are also grateful for the generosity of the Ruyton community and local businesses who supported the Ruyton Luncheon 2016.



Olympic Fever



Being the Best You Can Be

Excitement over the Olympics was at fever pitch in August at Ruyton! All the Junior School girls participated in our own Mini Olympics. The girls were randomly assigned participating countries and encouraged to wear the colours of that country on the day. Most of the staff were dressed in Green and Gold, to represent Australia, of course!

In this year of the Olympics in Rio it is also timely to reflect on old Ruytonians who not only competed in previous Olympics, but also were involved in an administrative capacity. (See **Sue White** ('64) in Former Students' News.)

We are very proud of the efforts of **Kim Brennan** (Crow '03) who won a gold medal in the Women's Single Sculls at the 2016 Olympics in Rio, where she led all the way in the final race. Kim was also chosen to be the flag bearer at the closing ceremony. She also competed at the 2012 London Olympics (winning a silver and bronze medal) and the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Throughout her Olympic campaign Kim has always displayed integrity. Her remarks post-race about giving back should serve as a mantra to every Olympic athlete, as well as to every Ruyton girl. We celebrate the achievements of other Ruyton Olympians. **Claire Mitchell-Taverner** ('88) won a gold medal in hockey at the Sydney 2000 Olympics. Claire has used her own experience as a successful athlete to support others to achieve a balanced approach to the pursuit of their own goals. **Kym Georgina ('Gina') Peele** (Douglas '90) is an Australian rower who competed at two Olympic Games: Atlanta 1996 and Sydney in 2000. Her father, David Douglas, was also an Olympic rower who won the silver medal in the men's eight at Mexico City in 1968. **Marilyn Young** (Wilson '60) won silver at the Rome Olympics in 1960, swimming in the Women's 4 x 100m Medley Relay with Janice Andrew, Dawn Fraser and Rosemary Lassig. Finally, **Linda Douglas**, our own Principal, competed in rhythmic gymnastics at the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 1984.

Currently, we know of four parents at Ruyton who are former Olympians (do you know of any more?) **Alison Inverarity** (mother of Helena in Year 8) is a former Australian Olympic who competed in the high jump. Alison represented Australia at Barcelona 1992, Atlanta 1996 and Sydney in 2000. Her husband (and father of Helena) **Scott Ferrier**, represented Australia in the Men's decathlon at Atlanta and Sydney. **Richard Macquire**

(father of Olivia Year 8) is an Australian slalom canoeist who competed at the 1984 Olympics in Atlanta. **Michael McKay** (father of Remy, Year 7) was one of the Oarsome Foursome men's rowing coxless crew and is a four-time Olympic medalist.

Recently, **Linda Douglas** reflected on her own involvement at the 1984 Olympics, and reminds us that being the best you can be must always be the aim, as so few can be the very best. Here is an extract of what was in a recent *Wednesday Weekly*, written by our Principal.

Last Friday the Year 12 Captains ran a thoughtful and compassionate Assembly, which touched the hearts of everyone in the Senior School. They focused on R U OK Day, explaining the origins, the reasoning, and the way we can use this philosophy to support one another in a society where we feel compelled to say we are okay – even when we are not. Over the weekend I reflected on the Assembly and turned to Dr Brené Brown's work on Vulnerability for further thought. I realised that, so often I focus on providing a strong role model for girls and young women, but perhaps I don't share with them my own vulnerabilities. And that this could be helping to perpetuate what I most fear for this next generation of women: the notion of perfection as normality.

So I shared with the Senior School girls one of my most vulnerable times in life. Beyond my immediate family, I have never let anyone watch the short video of me performing at the Olympics. In my mind it has not been good enough. I know I tried my hardest and did the best I could, but I always felt I let other people down. I let my

disappointment and the words of others overshadow my achievement. After many years I have finally come to terms with my Olympic journey and shared it with the girls who inspire me. I have remembered why I find it so important to acknowledge people for their endeavour. Mainly because I always wonder if that would have helped me to understand the Olympic experience better, at a time when I was so far away from the natural support of my family.

Having committed to the struggle for excellence, I have learned so much from it, and not much of that learning has been about winning. I like to think most of it has been about how to live my life well. If there is one thing I want for every Ruyton girl, it is to know that when she has given her absolute best, there is no more required of her. That being the best she can be must always be the aim, as so few can be the very best. To give her best is something to be truly proud of.

We congratulate all members in our community who are or have been involved at an elite level in sport. They have truly achieved their personal best and are good examples for us all to follow.

We love to share news of the exploits of Old Ruytonians in whatever field they may be engaged. Please send all news to The Editor, Mrs Elizabeth Beattie, at community@ruyton.vic.edu.au or direct at beattie@ruyton.vic.edu.au



How We Learn

Appreciating Nature

There are many benefits for children when connecting with nature. Being surrounded by nature and natural items provides endless learning opportunities. With the guidance of an adult, children are able to make discoveries about animate and inanimate objects. Having real life items allows the children to delve more deeply with their investigations. At Ruyton Early Learning we strive to develop an appreciation of nature.

While we have always nurtured a child's relationship with nature, since the arrival of Ms Jodie Mitchell, Co-Ed Pre Prep teacher, this year there has been a particular focus on nature in our programmes. Jodie attended an international study tour in England and Scotland where she visited nature kindergartens, exploring the environments and experiences provided for their children as they transitioned to programmes focused on nature. The tour included Boldon Nursery School, which has been on a five-year journey to provide a more nature-based curriculum and Auchlone Nature Kindergarten a centre that backs on to a forest,

where the children spend much of their day exploring and engaging with nature. They build cubby houses and cook lunch over a campfire. Jodie believes that children should be given opportunities to play with the natural world as often as possible. Her appreciation for nature has certainly inspired our children and educators.

When planning the outdoor programme, we seek to include as many elements as possible where there is interaction with the natural environment. Experiences such as gardening and the use of sand, soil and water are everyday essentials. Traditional indoor activities, such as listening to stories, or participating in art and dramatic play activities, acquire a fresh dimension when conducted outside. In the autumn the children in the Co-Ed Pre Prep group had Relaxation Time in the outdoor play area. As they rested their bodies they listened to the numerous outdoor sounds, such as the wind blowing the autumn leaves from the trees and the call of birds overhead. They saw their world through a different lens as they looked up towards the sky filled with clouds, which transformed into moving shapes.

On any given day in our classrooms natural resources are provided in the programme.

Natural materials are intentionally selected to invite children's interest. Treasures such as sticks, shells, pods or river pebbles are arranged in play areas for children to investigate and manipulate. Children may use the items in open-ended ways with no set outcome. They can create patterns and build constructions as they interact with the materials. Outdoor elements, such as water and sand, can be brought in for pleasurable sensory experiences. A real sense of satisfaction is often observed when children engage with the hands-on exploration of nature.

Learning through nature assists children to increase their understanding of the world. It provides infinite learning possibilities. There is a sense of peace when taking time to 'be' in nature. Appreciating nature is an important aspect of learning for young children.

Ms Teresa Wojcik, Acting Director of Early Learning



Cultural Competence

Throughout the year in Early Learning we have been investigating ways of embedding cultural competency into our curriculum. Cultural competency ensures our children have opportunities to deepen their understanding of how community, culture and family impacts the lives of those around us. To respect and to be open to different cultural perspectives promotes a sense of harmony. Learning about and valuing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture is central to recognising our Australian identity. We acknowledge Country, skills from the past and the achievements of our First Australians. We observe Indigenous events such as National Aborigines and Islanders' Day Observance and National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day. We use resources that have messages of reconciliation and goodwill.



Peace is ...

During National Reconciliation Week, the children in Girls' Pre Prep, looked at the idea of Peace. Peace is a concept that not only relates to culture on a global scale, but also connects at a personal level with each child, as they learn the social skills of getting along with others at home, at school and in the community. After reading books on peace, the children brainstormed their ideas. A community drawing sheet was provided on the light box where the children could draw their ideas about peace.

Some of the ideas of peace by the children:

Peace is ...
a hand sign, and being quiet
lending a hand
reading a book
giving a cuddle
holding a hand
a smile
holding a hand, looking at them and smiling
a wave
sharing a meal
sharing toys
playing together
giving a wave
celebrations
quiet
smiling faces
sharing bedrooms
talking different languages.

Learning about Country ...

A weekly discussion and Acknowledgement of Country is part of the Co-Ed Pre Prep programme. The children sit in a circle and quietly reflect on the gratitude shared as a community for our people, land and animals:

We at Ruyton Pre Prep

Would like to say thank you

To the Kulin Nation

We promise to

Look after the Land

Our animals and people

We acknowledge that this Land

Is, was and always will be

Wurundjeri Land

Cultural competency provides an opportunity to strengthen our ability and willingness to explore the cultural identities in our community. The children have deepened their understanding of a variety of cultures and have increased their empathy for people who may be different from themselves. These are important milestones along the way to reconciliation and harmony.

New Leadership Teams

To reflect new foci in our curriculum, this year we have created two new Year 6 leadership teams, the Mindfulness Leadership Team and the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Leadership Team, in order to provide relevant experience for our girls.



Mindfulness

Being part of the brand-new Mindfulness Leadership Team for 2016 has been a great experience. We were able to try new things that no one had tried before. At the start of the semester we brain-stormed and experimented with many different initiatives we believed would be beneficial to the Junior School. Some ideas included conducting a Mindfulness Assembly, five-minute classroom sessions, creating mindfulness strategy cards for parents, a mindfulness colouring-in session and spreading awareness about mindfulness in the Wednesday Weekly.

We started small and introduced a colouring-in session for the Preps at lunchtime in the library. We were worried that none of the Preps would come, but it was the exact opposite. So many girls showed up that we didn't have enough chairs for everyone! As a result of this, we were inspired to dream even bigger! We decided we wanted to include the whole Junior School in some way. At the next Assembly we explained what mindfulness was and talked about the benefits of being 'in the moment'. My team even conducted a quick exercise with all the girls, teachers and parents. We followed up with a series of Just a Minute (JAM) classroom sessions, whereby we carried out a short mindfulness exercise with all the girls. We also submitted an article for the Wednesday Weekly and recommended some useful websites for Ruyton families.

It has been an honour to be part of this team and to have had the opportunity to work with Dr Evie Bowtell to spread awareness about the positive effects and benefits of practising mindfulness daily. Furthermore, to be chosen to be part of the very first Mindfulness Team has been very rewarding. We've learnt a lot about mindfulness this year and have recognised that it helps to reduce stress, increase our self-awareness and provides us with a way to handle our thoughts and feelings. As Year 6 leaders, we have benefitted from using mindfulness in our everyday lives and we know that we will definitely use these strategies as we move on to the Senior School.

Finally, we're grateful to have had this opportunity to work with the younger girls and, hopefully, we have played a significant part in inspiring them to be more mindful and present.

Tara Minehane (on behalf of the Year 6 Mindfulness Leadership Team for Semester 1 2016)

Co-Captain: Tara Minehane
Co-Captain: Alannah Chau
Team Member: Priscilla Yang



STEM

'Science is not a boy's game, it's not a girl's game. It's everyone's game. It's about where we are and where we're going.' Nichelle Nichols, former NASA Ambassador and actress

Historically, women have been under-represented in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Now, more than ever, there is a greater need to attract and encourage girls to participate in these fields. In light of this, a new STEM Leadership Team was announced for Year 6 this year. It was created to show the Junior School girls that they can be involved in STEM too. We wanted to correct any negative perceptions out there about these fields being areas dominated by boys. By developing their interests at an early age, the hope is that more girls will be drawn to STEM and pursue these subjects in Senior School.

Every week, during Leadership sessions, we met with Mr Julian Mutton, Digital Learning Mentor and Deputy Head of the Junior School. Under his mentorship, we discussed a range of activities we could organise with the different year levels. There were just so many possibilities and so little time!

In Semester 1 we used our iPads to create codes to control cute little robots called Dash and Dot. We were privileged to spend time in the Prep Classrooms promoting STEM with the younger girls. We enjoyed playing Dash and Dot with the girls and helping them to think of different ways to make the robots move. They were able to learn about coding and robotics in a fun and exciting way!

Our team also presented a new segment called Tech Time in Assembly, whereby we researched and shared useful tips for using the iPad with the Junior School. We found interesting educational Apps the girls could download and use at home, without the need for wireless access.

It has been an honour to be part of this new Year 6 Leadership Team and to have the opportunity to share our skills and knowledge with the younger girls. As a group, we have been inspired, fascinated and intrigued to learn more and teach others what we have learnt in our sessions with Mr Mutton. We have found endless possibilities to incorporate technology, science and maths into our daily lives, whether it is sharing with our family and friends all the interesting and innovative things we have discovered from our STEM meetings, or taking home the robots to play with!

We wish to thank Mr Mutton and the Year 6 Classroom teachers for their support and guidance this year. We hope that the Year 6 girls next year will express interest in being part of this amazing Leadership team. Our hope, also, is that Ruyton girls will genuinely be interested in pursuing these career paths in the future.

'Every girl deserves to take part in creating technology that will change the world and change who runs it.' Malala Yousafzai, co-winner of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize.

Scarlet Gregory, Charlotte Muir, Jessie Toh
Co-Captains of the 2016 STEM Leadership Team



Extra Extra ... Read All About It



Three Pelicans 3

Ruyton Girls' School Year 3 Newspaper

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Year 3 students are thrilled to launch the inaugural Three Pelicans 3 newspaper! The title is inspired by the original fountain in the Junior School playground, which features three pelicans. Through this venture, students are learning the art of preparing and conducting interviews, building their research skills, writing and editing articles and producing the publication. A school newspaper, such as this, is the perfect medium to foster responsible expression, ethical reporting, collaboration of ideas and effective communication skills. The reporting teams change for each edition and students need to think carefully about how they will source their information, then report on their findings. Over the year, our Year 3 journalists-in-training will produce several editions of this publication, reporting on as many exciting and interesting events and topics as possible. We can't wait to share our next edition with the Ruyton community!

THREE PELICANS 3, FIRST EDITION (24 JUNE, 2016)

Progress Report: Our New Junior School!

Reporters: Maggie Wu, Riya Mandrawa, Alessandra Klasev, Leija Michael, Sophie Willmott and Holly Thomas

We have explored the building of the new Ruyton Junior School. In the following paragraph we will inform you of what we have learned this term. In the middle of 2015 the School Board met with Ms Ginnane and Ms Douglas and decided to take the opportunity to partially demolish the old buildings and create a new and exciting 21st Century Ruyton Junior School. Construction began in February this year and is expected to be completed, using bricks and steel, over the summer school holidays. Students and teachers will move in at the beginning of the 2017 school year. Ms Douglas explained to us that the weather over Term 2 has impacted on the expected completion date.

We can watch the building going up from the Derham House playground, or from Wellington Street outside the gates. We can't wait to move in!

FUN FACT: UP TO 30 PEOPLE ARE WORKING ON THE SITE OF OUR NEW BUILDING EVERY DAY!

Star Sisters

The Year 2 Star Sister Programme is a great opportunity for the Year 2 students to grow and develop their leadership skills from an early age. In Term 1 our focus is to build the Year 2 student's self-esteem and work on their leadership skills. They identify what type of leader they want to be and set goals for themselves, which we reflect upon each term. In Term 2, we have a formal ceremony to induct the Year 2 leaders. As the leaders of the Prep-Year 2 community, our Year 2 students take on various responsibilities. These include running and initiating our Prep-Year 2 Assemblies and mentoring the Prep students. The Preps and Year 2s regularly get together, where the Year 2 students are responsible for teaching and guiding the younger students in an activity, which allows them to form a special bond. The Prep-Year 2 Assemblies are run fortnightly and have a strong focus on the Ruyton Values. Students across Year 2 take it in turns to lead these Assemblies and work closely with all teachers in lower primary. The Star Sister philosophy is to give all Year 2 students the opportunity to lead and develop a sense of achievement.

Miss Brigitte Hook and Mrs Cait Mullins, Year 2 teachers

What do we do as Star Sisters?

Charlotte L 'We teach the Preps and show them how to do things and share things with them.'

Harriet C 'In Assembly we got to show our respect for the environment. We made an iMovie and we got to meet different teachers at lunchtime, like Mrs Graham, Ms Bond and Ms Oldfield. It was great fun.'

Zara F 'In Prep to 2 Assembly we are given a theme by the teacher and then we have to make the Assembly. There are always four girls - I had Ava, Isabella and Audrey and our theme was care. We did mindfulness activities, and showed care and showed how to colour the letter C for Care. We read stories too.'

Valentia D 'I loved making snowflakes because we got to teach the Preps how to make them and how to cut shapes out.'

Sophie K 'You help out in the playground. If a Prep gets hurt, you look out for them.'

Elizabeth H 'In Assembly we do mindfulness at the beginning and read a book. We ask questions about the book to see if the Preps and Year 1s understand. Our value was Honesty.'

Lucy T 'In Assembly we read a book called Twinkle and it was about Bouncing Back and at the end part we got to dance.'

Why do you like being a Star Sister?

Ruby B 'I am proud of doing something and I use Honesty and I respect the Year 1s.'

Tegan T 'My favourite part is helping my buddy with learning what to do and they try and try again so hard to get it right.'

Sarah O'S 'I am so proud when I feel I have achieved something new with the Preps. I also get to know them all.'



After the Fire

Sustainable Energy at Work

On Thursday 2 June the Year 5 girls departed for Camp Narmbool - a sheep farm. Our teachers thought it would be a great idea to give us exposure to experts in sustainable energy, which would assist us in our unit on 'Energy'. As we meandered through the city and then the countryside, we could appreciate the striking contrast of these different environments. There was great excitement on the bus as we turned the corner and saw the sign saying Camp Narmbool. We were given an introductory tour of the camp and received gaiters, protective gear covering our ankles to avoid the dangers from animals found in the grassland, and insect bites.

We learnt about solar energy and wind power. We were intrigued by the interesting facts and information we heard and we realised we would have to make a few modifications to our 'Eco Island' projects back at School. At Narmbool there were dams so that the sheep could survive. During the first day of camp, we were split into several groups to test the dam water to observe if it was clean enough for the animals, but such that only tolerant insects were able to survive. The people at Narmbool were very familiar with sustainability, so we were reminded several times that we had to put our food scraps into the correct bins.

Some of the best moments on camp were: climbing the beautiful escarpment, meeting the charming barn owl, testing the dam water and playing aboriginal games with all of my friends. We especially enjoyed spending quality time with many people from other classes. It was a great opportunity to interact with them and get to know them better. Camp Narmbool was a very beneficial and enjoyable learning experience.

Juliet Lipchin, 5CG



After the Narmbool Fire

Fire seen on the hills
The water was almost gone
People called for help

Tulsi McCallum 5JM

The Dam

Muddy and sticky
It turned from deep to shallow
Ruined by the fire

Daria Eimany 5JM

The Escarpment

Jagged, mossy, cold
An amazing misty view
High rocks in Narmbool

Jocelyn Chan 5JM

Owl

A bird of beauty
Flies majestically above.
The owl sees us all.

Georgia Walmsley 5HT



Once Alive

Burnt and charred,
You stand alone.
Once alive;
Now dead.

Grass surrounds you,
Blooming with life.
But you don't grow.

Flames surrounded you,
You couldn't escape.
Your roots stuck,
In the ground.

Like creeping tigers,
The fires stretched towards you.
Not holding back,
Not stopping.

Enlarging,
Thriving,
Spreading.

Expanding,
Flaming,
Undefeatable.

Now you stand alone;
Once alive;
Now dead.

Louisa Tymms 5HT

Shrek the Musical JR



How a Dream Comes True ...

At the end of Term 2, the Year 6 girls put on the production of *Shrek the Musical JR* and anyone who was fortunate to attend the show could not have failed to have been impressed with the high standards of the performance and the enthusiasm of the girls. During the rehearsal period the girls worked with Mr David Rogers-Smith from Hal Leonard who fine-tuned elements of the performance by critiquing scenes and modelling how the scene could be improved. His approach was warm and nurturing, whilst also being honest and constructive. It was a great opportunity for the girls to work with a professional. In addition, the girls worked with a professional documentary film maker, Mr Peter Lamont (father of Aurelia in Year 6), who recorded the performances and captured elements of the process, along with cast member interviews, to create a rich record of this year's production for the Year 6 girls. Below are extracts from some of these interviews.

LUCY GRAY 'I was nervous at the start but I gained more and more confidence as the weeks went by... [Performing] was one of the best feelings of my life. I was so proud at what I had achieved. I wanted to do it over and over again. Working as a group was amazing and I loved every second, even through the challenging times. It was hard at first to work with my trio and find a time when we could all do it, but it improved as the first performance came closer. It was hard to listen to each other but we got better. At first we couldn't hit the correct notes but as they say 'practice makes perfect'. And that is what we did. We gave up lunchtimes to practise and figure out the right notes and we got there in the end. We realised that we had to make mistakes before we got it right ...'

AURELIA LAMONT '... I'm not always confident working in groups, I felt that this experience really changed how I deal with that. It was great to see so many teachers on board and helping and the way different elements were planned out. Some people that were in a particular scene would go with Mrs Parker and others, such as Lara (for 'This is how a dream comes true'), would go with Miss Summers - everyone else would be working on the rest of the production ...'

TALIA GIANNARELLI 'I loved being a part of the production - it was a lot of work, but lots of fun. It was amazing seeing it all fall into place in the last week. The girls were really great and everyone was supporting each other. The costumes and make up were the best! ... It was fun missing class time - but not too much, because the rehearsals were very intense and a lot of work too! We still had to do lots of class work! It was a great production - the musical was the best drama production I have ever done at Ruyton. It was fun and challenging with music and singing, and acting was fabulous! Mrs Parker and Mrs Barker were awesome!'

LARA TRICARICO 'I loved being the role of Fiona and how everyone was so co-operative on set. I learnt a lot from the experience because I had to sing a solo, my confidence grew and I LOVED wearing a microphone. They were sooooo cool! ... When we couldn't get something right, we all took a deep breath and worked as a team to get it. Practising my lines with Shrek was hard because, if one of you didn't know your lines properly, you would let your partner down. So I made sure I learned my lines so I was prepared. But as a whole we were all co-operative and helpful to each other when needed.'



From our Girls' Perspective

Ruyton is known for its connected and generous community. There are many ways in which our girls engage in social justice. Whether it is in community service, sustainability, learning about human rights or performing in a production to support indigenous education, our girls have demonstrated compassion and the ability to make a difference.



Community Service

Community Service has been a corner-stone of what we do at Ruyton, reflecting the values and compassion we strive to emulate. Senior School Community Service Co-ordinator, Mrs Nicole Barrah, supports the work of the Community Service committee, ably run by Year 12 Captain **Grace Zimmerman**.

The concept of giving back to the community not only helps those in need, but also provides volunteers with a sense of awareness and gratitude for their own privileges in life. The programmes put in place by Ruyton promote and support community service initiatives, in order to contribute positively to the area in which we live. The creation of a Community Service Committee within the School, comprised of four girls from each year level, supports girls who are passionate about and interested in, this area, allowing them to organise events and initiatives to support and contribute to worthy causes. Initiatives this year have included the Salvation Army's Red Shield Appeal, where girls were encouraged to collect donations for the Salvation Army by a local door-knock on a Sunday morning. Girls across the School willingly gave of their time to ensure that this appeal was a success. Another important event was the Community Service Day in Term 1. We chose to support Refugees, Survivors and Ex-Detainees (RISE). This is an organisation focused on supporting refugees in the Melbourne community. Girls from each year level donated food items, as well as raising money to be donated to the cause. We managed to raise over \$2500, and accumulated plenty of food boxes to donate to RISE. RISE is the first and only refugee and asylum seeker welfare and advocacy organisation in Australia entirely governed by refugees, asylum seekers, and ex-detainees. By taking such steps not only are we promoting the plight of those less-fortunate, but also we can serve our community in a meaningful way. In Term 3 over 100 girls participated in the Girls' Night In, watching *High Street Musical*. Over \$1400 was raised, with all proceeds going towards UN Women's Market for Change programme, which seeks to enhance the capabilities of women in developing countries.



Sustainability

Sustainability at Ruyton is well-established and thriving. Senior School Sustainability Co-ordinator, Ms Jacinta Greer, works closely with Sustainability Captain, Kathleen Hanson, and the team to work together to help the School make a real difference to the environment. Year 12 student, **Rachel Baillie**, talks about her experience as a member of this team.



As this is my last year at Ruyton I decided it was time to try something new. Kathleen Hanson, the Sustainability Captain, invited me to join the Sustainability committee, and being part of the team has opened my eyes to some of the environmental problems plaguing both our community and the wider world. The Students for Sustainability team allows girls of all ages to work together and be part of several unique programmes. One such example of our beyond School activities was our involvement in Clean Up Australia Day. A group of girls, one Trinity boy and Ms Greer met at Studley Park Boathouse for Clean Up Australia Day. We walked around Yarra Boulevard and Dights Falls collecting any paper scraps, bottles and miscellaneous rubbish we stumbled upon. Kathleen provided great leadership and conversation, as we tallied up a points system of who collected the most rubbish. Despite the heat and long walk, the trip was very fulfilling. Another important event, in partnership with the Friends of Back Creek in Camberwell, is National Tree Planting Day. This is a rewarding opportunity as the team returns to the site annually, and can see the impact that has been made by previous plantings.

The Sustainability Team has also made a great impact at Ruyton by getting the School involved in environmental projects such as World Environment Day; we sold quirky tote bags to send out a sustainability message about not using plastic bags; we encouraged the use of reusable water bottles to promote the message of not using disposable bottles, which pollute our environment; we distribute recycling bins to each classroom, place posters around the School reminding people to turn off the lights, collect used batteries so they do not end up in landfill and establish worm farms. Sustainability in the Senior School brings together girls from Year 7 to Year 12, as we work together to help out our planet. United, we can all make a difference.





High Resolves – Discovering the Leader Within

'Being lucky enough to live in a city such as Melbourne, and study at a wonderful school such as Ruyton, the level of resources, support and education that we receive is often taken for granted. Thus, it was decided that the cause we would dedicate ourselves to [over the course of the project] would be access to education for those in underprivileged communities.' Angelyn Neoh.

During Term 2, 15 Year 9 students were given the opportunity to take part in the newly-introduced High Resolves Leadership Programme. The aim of this programme was for participants to learn to organise initiatives that advocate, educate and donate to a cause of choice. The group settled on *'better access to education'* as its focus – a decision fuelled in equal measure by their awareness of the difference education is making in their own lives, as well as the desire to extend similar opportunities to others. Under the guidance of High Resolves presenter, Ms Alexandra Hilvert, a series of intensive planning sessions followed at intervals throughout Terms 1 and 2, with mentors from Deloitte and NAB offering helpful advice to the girls on how to bring their awareness and fund-raising goals to fruition, despite very tight deadlines.

At Senior School Assembly the Year 9 student leaders brought to the School's attention the reality that not everyone in the world has the same access to education. The animation shown in Assembly demonstrated how to put across a powerful message in simple, accessible terms. (<https://www.facebook.com/ruytongirlsschool/home> *Raise your hand for Education May 26*)

A week of action was launched and community members were encouraged to sign a petition in support of giving remote Australian children access to affordable and equitable education. In addition, money was raised for an international organisation, the Malala Fund, whose focus is that *'education is the right of every girl.'* Other initiatives included selling wristbands and a school-wide drive to collect donated books for the Aboriginal Literacy Foundation.

'High Resolves has taught me so much about giving back. It really is important for many young people to recognise that they have the ability to make a change if they successfully plan, educate and take action.' Olivia Schaefer.

The High Resolves Leaders' Project exceeded all expectations, in terms of consciousness-raising, the donations generated and the latent leadership it tapped within our dedicated and capable girls. It is our hope that the seeds of life-long volunteerism, leadership and altruism have been planted and that the fruits of this will be evident in the wider community for years to come.

Angelyn Neoh, Year 9



How Technology helps us understand Human Rights

The core components of the Year 7 and 8 LEAP programme are Innovation, Diversity, Equality, Active Citizenship and Sustainability. During Term 2 the girls looked at Human Rights and invited a number of guests to speak, representing different organisations who work to protect the rights of the most vulnerable. These were Jasmin from Mercy Ships, Jim from Many Rooms Homeless Services, Terry from Mission Educate and Simon from the Australian Federal Police. The Human Rights Forum was an opportunity for the girls to think critically about these issues and for them to engage with other students around the world. For the first time at Ruyton, we live-streamed our forum to schools throughout Asia and Australia, with schools joining us from China, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Queensland and Tasmania. The other schools were able to hear from our amazing guests, while participating via online questioning and collaboration tools. Our girls thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to hear from various people working in Human Rights, as well as experiencing perspectives of peers from different cultures and backgrounds.

Mr Brett Moller, Director of Digital Learning

Our LEAP topic regarding human rights began with an insightful and inspirational Human Rights Forum. This forum was not only for the guest speakers to talk about their experiences, but it was also for us, the students, who were able to participate in a variety of ways. We had opportunities to host guests, ask questions of the panel, and even work backstage, filming the event to be live-streamed to schools around Australia and Asia. A website was provided especially for the event, with everyone able to interact with the panel, ask questions, leave opinions, and air potential solutions to these human rights issues.

The topics covered were confronting but gave everyone in the room new perspectives and stimulated feelings of empathy, gratitude and determination. The issues included: the importance of education for children all around the world; the value of having access to medical services; the impact of safety and security; and the privilege of having a home. After listening to these engaging speakers I felt as though I had the ability to help all those less fortunate people around the world, and I know many others felt equally passionate about helping. We understood the difference between privileges and rights and the true meaning of being human. The forum was definitely an eye-opening experience that will never be forgotten.

Susan Fang, Year 8



From our Girls' Perspective

Junior School Community Service Team

What Social Justice Project have you been involved in?

The Junior School Community Service Team has participated in many events this semester. Some of these include attending the International Women's Day Breakfast, as well as organising and running a very successful Community Service Day, with the money going to UN Women.

Tell us about any research and investigations that you have undertaken.

When we attended the Young Leaders' Day Conference in Term 1, Ms Kate Austin gave an inspiring speech about her life story and how she has helped people in need. Ms Austin recognised that homeless people didn't have access to hygiene products. She also noticed that hotels have lots of mini soaps, toothbrushes, shampoos and conditioners that go to waste. 'Pinch-a-poo' was created, where people collect hygiene products from hotels and donate them to 'Pinch-a-poo' who then give them to people who are living on the streets.

What have you learned from your research?

We admire Ms Austin because, when she spoke at Young Leaders' Day and we heard her story, it made us think about how we can turn something little into something big. She saw a problem and, instead of walking away from it, she thought deeply and decided to do something to help.

Semester 1 Captains: Phoebe Brown, Ashley Honey, Claudia Perrignon, Year 6



Coral, Coal and Climate Change

In the *Ruyton Reporter* Autumn Edition (page 12) we brought you news of Kathleen Hanson, current Year 12 student and Sustainability Captain, being awarded Boroondara Young Citizen of the Year. Kathleen is still busy, this time speaking alongside three politicians (from the Green, Labor and Liberal parties) at a forum called Coral, Coal and Climate Change at the Box Hill Town Hall. Kathleen spoke eloquently about the environment future generations will inherit and about the importance of making a difference today. She reminded the politicians that we are the custodians of the future, and that 'politicians must do their bit'.

The full video is available here

<https://www.facebook.com/10001874324819/videos/146840205721789/>

and Kathleen's presentation starts at approximately the 14-minute mark. As one observer said: *'The power of one young woman [Kathleen] to speak directly and unencumbered about what really matters [is wonderful.] There needs to be more of these young voices.'*



Children of the Black Skirt

In Semester 1 the Ruyton/Trinity Unit 3 Theatre Studies Class worked together to put on a production of Angela Betzien's *Children of the Black Skirt*. The play takes place in a mythical and timeless Australian orphanage, thus allowing it to make historical connections with colonial Australia, penal transportation, the depression, the stolen generations and post-war immigration. By touching on defining moments in Australia's history as a nation, our class aimed to question the foundations of our Australian identity and whether or not the issues presented in the play have been resolved, or are still occurring in today's society. The particular focus throughout the play on the treatment of Indigenous children in Australia inspired our class to transform the production into an initiative, with all proceeds from the production

going to the Melbourne Indigenous Transition School (MITS). MITS was established by the Tudor family (Richard Tudor, Former Head Master of Trinity Grammar School), supporting the transition of Indigenous students from their home communities to Melbourne schools, and creating pathways to greater opportunities. The process of creating a theatre production and also connecting to our wider community was an incredible learning experience for all, making us reflect on whether or not Australia has evolved in our treatment of our nation's First Peoples since the eras presented in *Children of the Black Skirt*. Through this production, awareness and fundraising process, we realised how lucky we are to have the opportunities presented to us at Ruyton, and the importance of service and compassion towards others in our wider community.

Rose Adams, Year 12

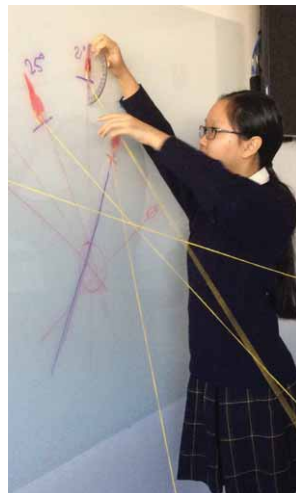
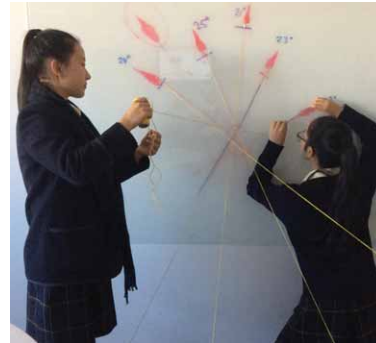


Hands on Workshops

Scientist in Schools Workshop

In Semester 1 the students in Year 9/10 Psychology had the opportunity to work with a Forensic Scientist through the Scientist in Schools programme. The programme works to bring scientists into the classroom and make real world connections with the students' learning. One of the scientist we are in partnership with is Stephanie Oliver. Stephanie has a Bachelor of Science in physics from the University of Melbourne and has recently graduated with a Bachelor of Forensic Science (crime scene examination). In the session the girls explored a crime scene scenario and learnt about the use of blood spatter analysis within criminology. After working through the scenario the girls were involved in a hands on activity to examine blood spatter patterns and determine blood spatter trajectory.

Ms Jacinta Greer, Psychology and Science teacher



A Blood Splatter!

Throughout the length of Semester 1, Ms Greer's Year 9/10 Psychology class was captivated by the vast diversity and complexity of the fields that reside within Psychology, as we explored the study of behaviour and the mind. The field that most intrigued us was Forensic Psychology, which involves applying psychological concepts to a court of law. Due to popular crime television shows, such as *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*, an exaggerated portrayal of forensic science has influenced many false public preconceptions, known as the CSI Effect. The Scientist in Schools Programme allowed the class to relate theories taught in the classroom to real world connections. Partnering with Forensic Scientist Stephanie Oliver, we were exposed to the genuine work of crime scene analysis, through scenarios and blood spatter evaluation within criminology. With her experience and expertise Stephanie was able to provide insight and greatly assisted us in outlining the necessary pathways into a career in Forensic Psychology. Only so much can be learnt through our eyes and ears, so the Year 9/10 girls participated in a hands-on activity, which involved examining blood spatter patterns and used specific calculations to determine an impact trajectory. The opportunity the Scientist in Schools programme provides for students to experience realistic field practice, creates a more thorough comprehension of the researched field of psychology, significantly assisting in later studies and examinations.

Hayley Do, Year 9

Principal's Interview by Year 12

The VCE 3/4 Business Management classes were delighted to welcome Ms Linda Douglas as a special guest earlier in the year. The students were investigating Area of Study 2: Internal Environment of Large Scale Organisations and discussed the key management roles of Planning, Organising, Leading and Controlling. Business Management becomes more realistic when students make connections between theory and practice. The opportunity to hear from Ms Douglas in her capacity as Principal provided the students with a compelling insight into the demands of leading an independent school. A central theme of Ms Douglas' talk was the notion of responsibility. Whilst Ruyton has a Board, which sets the direction for the School, the Principal is the person presenting as the public face of the School.

'... to be able to listen to the thoughts of a leader and manager from our own environment at Ruyton provided the students with a valuable and unique perspective. The students and I were very grateful that Ms Douglas was so generous with her time ... especially since we can appreciate how valuable it is.'

Mr Chris Moloney, VCE Business Management teacher



What does our Principal do?

Having Ms Douglas attend our Business Management class benefitted us, as we were able to hear from an actual leader about her role and the responsibilities required in this position. Ms Douglas was very willing to engage with the class and Mr Moloney, answering all our questions frankly, on topics relating to business management, as well as outlining her past sporting achievements.

As a class we would like to thank Ms Douglas for taking time out of her busy schedule to discuss her role openly with us and, as a result, enable us to further our knowledge about management styles and management roles.

Ellie Koulis, Year 12

To Strive Above and Beyond



Ruyton Remains Undefeated in all State Cross Country Competitions since May 2003

Ruyton has fashioned a Cross Country programme which unashamedly underplays the individual and overplays the team performance. Ruyton has created its competitive advantage by making running accessible, regardless of ability, and making it identifiable by engendering a team ethos from the Junior School onwards. Once there is an affinity with a sport, and a genuine camaraderie amongst a group, the makings of a team become apparent. Then, the shared experience of rugged early-morning training sessions at Xavier and competing on punishing cross country courses create an even tighter fabric. Every new entrant becomes aware of the routine and the need to play for the team. When each girl dons the celebrated uniform, the spirits lift dramatically. The warm up before competition is closer and more intimate. As the girls walk to the line for the race they walk as a family. These girls compete for each other and for something that they really believe in: 'this team'.

In early May, the Ruyton Cross Country team negotiated the mud and undulation on a technical Jells Park course with great precision, to win the State Cross Country Relays. In late May, the team showed a steely determination to outlast Wesley College at the State Road Relays at Albert Park. In June Ruyton won the Overall State Cross Country Championship at Bundoora by a record margin. By winning five of the six age groups, Ruyton cemented its position as the most successful team in State Cross Country Championship history.

The sixteenth running of the GSV Cross Country Championship at Bundoora was due to be a close fought contest between Ruyton, Loreto, Melbourne and St Catherine's. In the week leading up to the Championship, Ruyton remained firm favourites, until a farm accident, a netball injury and a hockey incident changed the composition of the Ruyton team. As Ruyton prepared for the first race, it was evident that only ten girls remained from the starting line-up of 30 from last year's premiership team.

The Junior Team (Year 7 and 8) understood that they needed to set up a substantial lead over Loreto if Ruyton were to prevail on the day. The Junior Team won the age group by 50 points and set up a massive 110 point lead over Loreto. The day was now in the hands of Ruyton's Intermediate and Senior age groups. Buoyed by the inspirational performances of both the Junior 'A' and 'B' races, the Intermediate age group not only held the lead, but also added to it, by narrowly winning the age group by seven points.

The feeling amongst the Senior girls was one of sorority and reflection, as many of them would be competing for Ruyton for the last time. Senior teams are very dependent on the quality of their leaders. Ruyton's 2016 Cross Country Captains, Paris Powell, Meredith Rule and Laura Powell, are respected, accessible and hold a commanding presence. As they led the team to the start line, the team walked as one. Teams with genuine unity and purpose are rarely beaten. The Senior team surpassed all expectations, to give Ruyton a clean sweep of victories on the day. As the Captains held the GSV Trophy aloft, there was a knowingness in the group: a knowledge that this team, when it summons itself as a unit, has the ability to achieve victory.

Mr Stephen Ellinghaus, Director of Athletics



A Season of Firsts

After a best-ever season in 2015, the girls who row at Ruyton were always going to have to dig deep to rise to the challenge for 2016. Our 2015 Senior 1sts crew had won the 'triple crown' for the first time in the School's 24-year rowing history. We won the New South Wales (NSW) State Championship, the Head of the Schoolgirls (HOSG) Regatta and the Australian Championship.

However, this amazing result did not create fear, uncertainty or the thought of 'how are we ever going to do that again?'. In fact, it did the opposite. It created a motivated team who sought to strive above and beyond, to believe in what they were doing, and to set in stone a winning culture.

What was to follow in 2016 was an unprecedented season of firsts, not just for Ruyton, but also for schoolgirl rowing in Australia.

These firsts included:

- embarking on a winning streak in Australia from February 2015 to March 2016, with no fewer than 11 different girls rotating through the Senior firsts crew to achieve these results
- back-to-back 'triple crowns' in 2015 and 2016
- Senior 2nds winning silver at the NSW State Championships, gold at HOSG Regatta and placing fourth at the Australian Championships – our best result to date

- our Year 10 1sts came second at HOSG
- our Year 10 2nds came first at HOSG
- our Year 9 2nds came second at HOSG
- our Senior 1sts broke the schoolgirl coxed quad scull record time in the heat at the Australian Championships by 5 seconds in a time of 7 minutes and 4 seconds
- our Senior 1sts achieved the fastest prognostic boat speed of any school crew in any class in the finals at the Australian Championships (as compiled by Sykes Racing)

Ruyton ventured to the Henley Royal Regatta at Henley on Thames (England) for the first time in the School's history, becoming not only the first Ruyton crew to be a 'selected crew' for the Diamond Jubilee Challenge Cup, but also the first ever Australian schoolgirl crew to do so! Congratulations to Elizabeth (Beth) Cooper, Helena Mileo, Jean Mitchell and Emily Montagu.

Beyond the sport itself, rowing teaches our girls many life skills: time management, a good work ethic, concentration, the joys of success and the harsh realities of disappointment.

Without the support of the Director of Sport, Mrs Louisa Burbury and the Principal, Ms Linda Douglas, none of this would be possible and on behalf of the girls I sincerely thank them both for providing these wonderful opportunities for our girls. We look forward to another great year of rowing in 2017, when we celebrate 25 years of rowing at Ruyton.

Mr Matt Wilson, Director of Rowing



Congratulations to Ruyton Girls' School Rhythmic Gymnasts

Ruyton Rhythmic Gymnastics took out the All Around Victorian Championship in Levels 7, 8 and 9 International and Senior International, with ten athletes in total selected in the State team. Year 8 student, Thu Luu, competed in the Victorian Championships and made a clean sweep, with four apparatus gold medals in Level 9 International and became the All Around Victorian Champion. Thu went on to represent Victoria at the Australian Gymnastics Championships and became the 2016 Level 9 Junior All Around National Champion. This was a huge achievement

for Thu, who then won another gold and two silver medals in the Apparatus Finals, helping the Victorian team to win the team silver medal. In addition, Thu has been selected in the Australian Team Future – a squad comprised of top athletes around the country who have been identified as able to win Australia medals at benchmark events in the future.

Year 9 student Angela Lin also competed in the Victorian Championships, winning one gold and two bronze apparatus medals and placed

third All Around in Level 7. Angela was also selected in the 2016 Victorian State team to compete at the Australian Championships. She won a bronze medal in Level 7 for her hoop routine and placed fifth out of 34 in the All Around.

Congratulations to all girls on their amazing achievements.

Ms Emma Tankovich, Head Coach Ruyton Rhythmic Gymnastics



Musical Notes



Biennial Music Concert

Gathered in the Elisabeth Murdoch Hall of the Melbourne Recital Centre, the newest building in the Melbourne Arts Precinct, an audience of parents, friends and family were treated to a memorable evening of music at the Biennial Music Concert. This incredible hall, with its astounding architecture and acoustics, formed a performing experience that will not soon be forgotten by our talented Ruyton musicians. From grand items, such as a combined orchestra and choir performing Luke Byrne's *Phoenix*, to smaller groups, such as the Chinese Ensemble and Stage Band, a vast array of talent was showcased. With approximately 300 girls on stage the evening held many magnificent moments, including a special performance from Ruyton past student Stephanie Stamopoulos ('11), who is currently working in England with the BBC Philharmonic. We also presented an arrangement of Seeker songs, to honour Judith Durham ('60). It was a privilege to be able to perform in such an amazing venue, and all our hard work paid off to produce an evening of exquisite music.

Annie Gleisner, Music Captain



Madrigal's Triumph at Boroondara Eisteddfod

Each year the Madrigals Choir have the opportunity to perform at the Boroondara Eisteddfod. It is always an exciting day, where we are able to showcase our hard work on stage and watch other talented school choirs perform. It is an event in which we value participating, as it helps support the arts in our local community. This year we sang a four-part arrangement of *Santorini*, composed by Andrew Piper and a unison piece, *Australian Lullaby*, which was written by Edith Harry. *Santorini* is a relaxed tune with a strong jazzy feel, which was, in fact, one of the songs we performed when we went to the Generations in Jazz Festival in Mount Gambier. In contrast, *Australian Lullaby* is in a more classical style and belongs to the Australian Art Song genre from the early 20th Century. Our aim was to show the adjudicator our ability to sing a range of styles. After finishing our pieces, we were all extremely pleased with what we were able to accomplish and glad that we were able to demonstrate our choral abilities to an audience. Well-respected adjudicator Jenny Mathers commented, 'You could have heard a pin drop' during our performance. It was incredible to have our efforts recognised by the adjudicator who awarded us first place. Preparing for this performance took weeks of intensive rehearsals each Tuesday after School from 3:30-5:00pm. We are all so thankful for the incredible amount of effort and work Mr Shaun Jones and Mrs Eva Glover contributed to these rehearsals. Being part of Senior Madrigals is a genuinely unique experience, which provides a team environment that students can thrive in musically. We are extremely grateful for the performing opportunities that come with singing in Senior Madrigals.

Vocal Leaders, Georgie Apos and Saffrey Brown, Year 12



Foundation

Giving to fulfil her dreams ...

Our Annual Giving is an opportunity within the Ruyton community to demonstrate our strong commitment to our girls and show how we value a Ruyton education. Every gift of every size makes a positive impact on our learning community, enabling girls to have the facilities, opportunities and engaging environments to help fulfil their personal potential.

This year \$51,785.55 was raised through Annual Giving and has been directed to: Ruyton Scholarships, the Collaborative Learning space in the Junior School, and the Collaborative Learning space for Years 9-10.

Members of our community choose to make gifts to support Ruyton in a variety of ways. We are most grateful to all donors who have given in the previous financial year to Scholarships and Collaborative Learning spaces in the Junior and Senior Schools through Annual Giving, fulfilling Margaret McRae Centre pledges, donations to Henty Rowing via the Australian Sports Foundation, Voluntary Building Fund contributions and Heritage Leaf Donations. In this way we invest in Ruyton girls for this generation and for generations to come.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the generosity of all members of the community: current and past families, past students, current and past staff, and our suppliers.



Mr A & Mrs M Abeysekera	Mr C & Mrs A Doufas	Mr F Lin & Ms T Rudometova	The Tan Family
The Adgemis Family	The Dougall Harold Family	The Lin Family	Mr P & Mrs P Taubman
The Allibon Family	Ms L Douglas & Mr T Guglielmo	The Lipchin Family	Mrs B Taylor
The Alysandratos Family	Driver Bus Lines	The Liu Family	The Tee-Wu Family
Mrs J Andrews nee Darby ('57)	The Dumbrell Family	The Lowe Family	The Timm Family
Mr J & Mrs M Andronis	Mr D & Mrs R Evans	The Luo Family	Dr H Toh & Dr T Horng
The Ansell Family	The Fallscheer Family	The Luu Family	The Tooby Family
The Aquino Family	The Fitzgibbon Family	The Magdich Family	The Toor Family
Arnhem Investment Management Pty Ltd	The Fox Family	The Magoutis Family	Ms S Tossoun & Mr N Calil
Ms A Badger	The Frith Family	The Maher Family	The Trahar Family
Ms D Baggiere	Mr M & Mrs S Fryer	The Malamas Family	The Tran Family
The Band Family	Mr R Gannon & Ms A Helps	The McCombe Pettigrew Family	The Traverso Family
The Bao Family	The Gillam Family	The McGrath Family	The Tripodi Family
The Bassed Family	The Greenwood Family	The McGregor Family	The Trivett Family
The Bate Family	The Griffith Family	Mr S McLeay & Ms W Schrader	The Trotta Family
The Bateman Family	The Griffiths Osmond Family	The McPhail Family	The Truong Family
The Bedelis Family	Mr A Grollo	The McRae Family	Mr E & Mrs D Tselios
The Bell Family	Mr D Hall & Ms S Sloan	The Meehan Family	The Tucker Family
Mrs A Bendix nee Capper ('42)	The Ham Family	The Meeuw Family	Mr G & Mrs D Tymms
The Billings Family	Mr B & Mrs K Harrison	The Melton Family	The van Gerrevink Family
Mr N & Mrs A Blackburne	The Hartin Family	The Menyen Family	The van Haandel Family
The Boyd Family	Mr D He & Mrs X Zhou	Mrs N Morton nee Miles ('49)	The Verocchi Family
Mr G & Mrs C Brown	Mrs H Henderson nee Mezies ('46)	The Moten Family	The Vincombe Family
Mr M & Mrs J Browning	The Hepworth Family	Dr A Moulden OAM ('76)	The Walmsley Family
Mrs B Burke (Hardie) ('70)	The Hickey Family	The Mullins Family	Mr J Wang & Mrs L Liu
The Caligiuri Family	The Hogg Family	The Murray Family	Ms J Wang
The Carbone Family	The Hopwood Family	The Neoh Family	Mr T & Mrs F Warner
The Chan Family	The Hu Family	The Ng Family	Mrs P Waters nee Menzies ('51)
The Chapman Family	The Huang Family	The O'Brien Family	Ms K Watt
The Cheah Family	Mr Hui Ming & Mrs Feng Li	The Odman Family	The Weeraman Family
The Chee Lin Family	Hunter Industrials	The Old Ruytonians' Association	Mrs N Wellington-Iser and Mr D Iser
Ms J Chen	The Issa Family	Mrs K and Mr A Panagopoulos	The Willis Family
Mr W & Mrs X Chen	Dr T Jacques ('74)	The Parents of Ruyton	The Wilmshurst Family
The Chen Family	Mrs S James nee Mason ('64)	The Park Family	The Wilson Family
The Chen Family	The Janes Family	Ms T Peters	Wolf Interactive
The Chen Family	The Jayaswal Cooper Family	Mr B & Mrs F Power	The Woolrich Family
The Clarke Family	The Jiang Family	The Preston Family	The Woolston Family
Mrs M Clarke nee Menzies ('57)	Mrs P Jin	Mr C & Dr M Price	The Wotherspoon Family
The Cleeve Family	The Kanat Family	The Price Malcolm Family	The Wu Family
Mrs F Coldwell nee Summons ('90)	The Kanterakis Family	Mr L Rabinowicz & Ms D Perelsztejn	Mrs J Wu
The Collins Family	Dr C & Mrs P Karopoulos	The Richards Family	Mr M Wu & Ms W Huang
CompliSpace Pty Ltd	Dr I Kaschner & Dr P Howe	The Rigg Family	Mrs R Xie
The Cran Family	The Keily Family	Mrs S Robertson nee Wines ('62)	Mr X Xu & Mrs W Wu
Mrs F Crosby	The Kelly Family	Mr T & Mrs N Rule	The Xu Family
The Currie Family	The Kelly Family	The Samouris Family	Mr J Yang & Ms Q Pan
Mr D & Mrs L Curry	The Kenyon Family	Mr A & Mrs S Sando	Mr Y Yang
The Curry Family	The Kerr Family	The Schonfeldt Family	The Yang Family
The Danks Family	Kilwinning Nominees Pty Ltd	The Schuller Family	The Ye Family
Mrs P Davidson nee Hutchinson ('66)	The Kimber Family	Mr D & Mrs R Schultz	The Ye Family
The Davison Family	Mrs H & Dr J King	The Schwartz Family	Ms F Yucel & Mr D Sylva
The De Bortoli Family	The Kleeman Family	The Siamos Family	Mr P & Mrs I Zapparas
The De Cruz Family	The Kleiman Family	Mr K Skoullous & Mrs M Moutsidis	The Zervos Family
Ms S Dean ('70)	The Kotsos Family	Mr E Smith & Ms C Fan	The Zhang Family
Mr D & Dr M Dellaportas	The Lee Family	Mrs L & Mr M Smith	The Zhao Family
The Denovan Family	The Leong Family	The Starkins Family	The Zimmerman Family
Mr S & Mrs C Dick	The Lew Family	The Sullivan Family	The Zhao Family
The Donschuk Family	The Li Family	The Sun Family	Anonymous x 89
	The Li Family	Mr B Sutherland & Ms S King	
	The Li Family	Mr R and Mrs S Sutherland	

Old Ruytonians' Association

From the ORA President

Dear Ruyton Community,

I am delighted to present the President's Report in this Spring 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 old friendships and build a stronger network of Old Ruytonians.

NGV GALLERY TOUR

In April, a group of ORA members and their family and friends visited the Andy Warhol and Ai Weiwei exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria. Prior to the tour, attendees met for a drink before exploring the international exhibition together.

If you are interested in becoming involved in or assisting with the co-ordination of ORA events relating to the arts, please contact Natasha Anderson at ora@ruyton.vic.edu.au

THE SOUND OF MUSIC BACKSTAGE TOUR

In May a group of ORA members who came from all over Victoria attended a matinee performance of the world's best-loved musical, *The Sound of Music*. After spending the interval together for drinks and ice cream in a private room, attendees were treated to an exclusive ORA only behind-the-scenes tour with the performance. Cast members Jacqueline Dark (Mother Abbess) and David James (Max Detweiler) met the group and gave attendees an insight into the show behind-the-scenes.

MEET THE AUTHOR WITH DAVID NYUOL VINCENT

In July the ORA invited David Nyuol Vincent, author of *The Boy Who Wouldn't Die*, to present at our annual Meet the Author speaker series. David's book recounts his inspirational story as a Sudanese refugee and eventual immigration to Australia, where he obtained a humanitarian visa. As a child, David walked for three months across Sudan and the Sahara Desert into Ethiopia with his father in search of a better life after civil war broke out in his village, Wau. He was trained as a child-soldier and spent 17 years in refugee camps. Since settling in Melbourne in 2004 David has completed a Bachelor degree, has pursued his passion to support refugees via extensive community work, and is a UN Ambassador for the peace process in South Sudan.



He also works closely with Peace Palette, a non-governmental community organisation that advocates for a resilient, harmonious community free of conflict in South Sudan. Fifty percent of proceeds raised on the night were donated to Peace Palette.

ORA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

After launching the ORA Professional Development Programme in February earlier this year, the ORA held the second event in a series facilitated by external consulting firm Kru Consulting. The Programme provides members with the opportunity to network with other Old Ruytonians and aims to support Old Girls in their personal and professional development.

The second career-enhancing event held in August explored the importance of networking and provided attendees with opportunity to develop their networking skills. The practical and hands-on session provided participants with the tools to diagnose and evaluate

their own network and to create one which was more potent and valuable. The conversation held amongst the group was candid, meaningful and impactful. Participants highlighted the value of normalising experiences in a unique, safe and friendly environment, where everyone was connected through the joint experience of being an Old Ruytonian.

For regular updates about the ORA please follow our Facebook page www.facebook.com/oldruytoniansassociation/ and LinkedIn group <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/7056177/profile>

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



DAUGHTERS OF OLD RUYTONIANS 2016

Row 5: Cassie Grieves (Sarah Chew '88), Aimee Henderson (Tracy Sinner '91), Lucy Richardson (Sally Driscoll '90), Sarah Goucher (Cathryn Spratling '84), Bridie O'Callaghan (Kerry Godson '87), Samantha Bendall (Jacqui Patterson '85), Issy Fry (Stephanie Backhouse '88), Sophie MacIsaac (Katie McNeil '84), Victoria Magoutis (Kathy Alysandratos '88)
Row 4: Pippa Angliss (Millie McLeish '89), Alicia Jones (Susan Hagger '80), Eliza & Sophia Marsh (Serena Dougall '83), Saffrey & Phoebe Brown (Anna Long '88), Charli Kerr (Fiona Cowie '97), Amber Barry (Lisa Logan '91), Lucy Laird (Libby Law '90), Zoe Boussioutas (Claire Ferguson '85)
Row 3: Justine & Matilda Cook (Susie Jarman '80), Jessica & Eliza Lamb (Melissa Flanders '85), Emily Johnson (Caroline Candy '89), Hannah Wilson (Nikki McClure), Emily & Holly Murray (Fiona Mardling '86)
Row 2: Teresa & Isabel Caligiuri (Elisa Trotta '98), Matilda Ancarola (Julia Goodsall '84), Charlotte & Lucy Gillon (Georgina Candy '92), Phoebe Johnson (Caroline Candy '89), Mia Wilson (Nikki McClure '86), Konstantina Kafasis (Christina Dardalis '01), Amelia Osmond (Fiona Griffiths '87)
Row 1: Sarina Hughes (Emma Hughes '96), Olivia Michelini (Julia Goodsall '84), Mia Power (Fiona Sidwell '96), Millicent Gillon (Georgina Candy '92), Harriet Charlesworth (Bridget Langley '91), Olivia Thompson (Simone McClure '89), Alexia Kafasis (Christina Dardalis '01)

News of Former Students & Staff

News

Lauren Sibree ('14) is finding her feet in the dynamic and challenging world of music. In December last year Lauren recorded a series of vocal tracks for Sonja Horbelt, (Co-ordinator of Contemporary Music Studies at Ruyton), one of which featured on Sonja's debut album, *Follow*. The contemporary jazz soul album, launched in April, is now available on iTunes (*Follow*, Kennedy Snow). For Lauren, who is now studying classical voice at the Conservatorium of Music, the opportunity to be involved with a contemporary music project is an important diversifying excursion from her studies. At just 19 she feels humbled to be featured on a commercial album. Further, Lauren recognises Sonja, and also Bob Sedergeen (Ruyton music teacher and fellow artist on Sonja's album), as being instrumental in her decision to study music: *'To have the true and unconditional friendship of Sonja and Bob means more to me than any musical endeavour could. That said, with every day, no matter the highs and lows that respectively enliven and discourage me, I remember I am blessed to be studying what I love. I am so excited to navigate the coming years with two Ruyton staff members, and friends, by my side.'*



Premier's VCE Award

Ms Linda Douglas, Principal, was thrilled to be present when **Sophie Kleiman** ('15) received a Premier's VCE Award in recognition of her academic achievements in VCE Literature 2015. It is a significant honour to be recognised as a top achiever in the VCE. Individual Graded Assessment scores are used to determine the order of merit and identify the best students. Students must have a study score of 46 or above to be eligible for the award. We congratulate Sophie on her achievement and look forward to following her progress.



We were delighted when **Chantal Mitvalsky** ('01) was able to join us for the official opening of the Margaret McRae Centre (Ruyton Reporter Autumn 2016.) Chantal is a vocalist and composer and celebrated the launch of Skycha's debut album, *Owe Someone*, in April at the Shadow Electric. The band is a neo-soul electro-jazz ensemble. *'When composing for this record, I wanted to draw on all of the music that I love to listen to and create a sound that isn't easily identifiable by a clear-cut genre. I'm interested in exploring jazz and how that mixes with neo-soul music, r&b, and elements of electronics and hip hop that belongs to now but pays tribute to things past, present and future.'*

After finishing at Ruyton, **Patricia (Tricia) Serpell** (Terrill '76) went on to study Medicine at Melbourne University and then trained as a Plastic and Reconstructive surgeon, both in Victoria, Tasmania and the UK, completing her fellowship in 1992.



Tricia has been working in the South Eastern suburbs of Melbourne since then, becoming Head of the Plastic Surgery Unit at Frankston Hospital, Peninsula Health in 1995. She has developed the Plastics Unit from a small unit with two consultants to a large service with 11 consultants, three registrars, three residents and medical students.

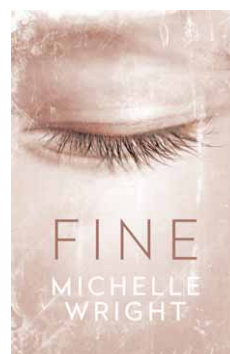
At Ruyton she was known for her love of craft, being top female student at the Royal Show and this has carried forward in her career, where she continues to love the artistic challenge of reconstructing various areas of the body after excising skin cancers or traumatic injuries. Plastic surgery is a challenging and demanding career, but is always interesting and very variable, treating a wide range of conditions including skin cancers, hand disorders, wounds and cosmetic procedures, such as breast reductions and abdominoplasties (tummy tucks). Along with this she has introduced CoolSculpting (freezing away those fatty bulges that we all hate) to her practice. Over her career she has been involved with multiple research projects and published in international journals. She also presents regularly at local and national meetings, especially on wound healing and dressings.

She is married to Jonathan Serpell, Professor of General Surgery at the Alfred and they have two sons, James and William, who are both studying at Monash University.

In April Tricia attended her 30-year reunion at the School. It was a fantastic evening, bringing back many past memories, whilst catching up with everyone's news.

In this year of the Olympics in Rio, it is also timely to reflect on old Ruytonians who not only competed in previous Olympics, but also were involved in an administrative capacity.

There are many Old Ruytonians who have links with the Olympic Games. **Sue White** ('64) worked at the Summer Olympic Games in Germany in 1972, which was the scene of the first recognised terrorist attack at such an event. Sue also worked at three Winter Olympic Games in Austria, France and the USA and ski-raced for Australia in the University FIS races around Europe. Sue graduated from Monash with a BA (Hons) in languages and worked in Europe as an interpreter and translator in Germany (Munich), France (Grenoble) and Italy (Perugia). Always a keen-skier, Sue also skied in three Warren Miller movies. Sue moved to the USA and lived in Aspen, Colorado and Sun Valley, Idaho, where she founded a private school, now the Junior School of the Community School, whose students, like Ruyton's, excel in University placements. While in the US Sue gained a MA (Psychology), a Certified Financial Planning Certificate, and founded a hedge fund. Sue is now retired and divides her time between Mooloolaba in Queensland and Sun Valley, Idaho.



Former Ruyton French teacher and Dean of LOTE (1998-2003) **Michelle Wright** has been devoting herself to another passion of hers – writing. Michelle is now a multi-award winning Victorian author. Her short stories and flash fiction have won awards, including the *Age* and Alan Marshall Short Story prizes. Michelle's writing has been published in many Australian and international anthologies and journals. Her short story collection, *Fine*, was shortlisted for the 2015 Victorian Premier's Award for an Unpublished Manuscript and was published in July this year by Allen and Unwin. Details of the collection can be found here: <https://www.allenandunwin.com/browse/books/fiction/literary-fiction/Fine-Michelle-Wright-9781760292454>

Her debut novel will be published by Allen and Unwin in 2017.

Shalini Ponnampalam ('14)

During my study of Medicine at Monash University I have been fortunate to spend time volunteering in Swaziland, sub-Saharan Africa, with the organisation Possible Dreams International. With 27.4% of the population infected by HIV, comprising the highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS worldwide, the already limited health resources in Swaziland are susceptible to being overwhelmed and stressed. When this is coupled with the current extreme drought, families are undoubtedly trapped within a vicious cycle of poverty.

Possible Dreams International is a Swazi-led organisation with a vision to empower families living in extreme poverty by equipping them with skills and opportunities to increase their autonomy.

As we visited families who live in the Lubombo mountains, it became apparent that individuals cannot escape poverty without assistance to address the fragility of their health ecosystems. Possible Dreams International achieves this by providing emergency relief and sustainable development solutions through Income Generation Projects (IGP), agricultural support and water access schemes. By facilitating the attainment of basic necessities within homesteads, we are reaching into the community, as we believe that health is more than practising medicine. To facilitate an empowered future for Swaziland, sustainable health outcomes must provide the scaffold for change.

The suffering present in Swaziland is riddled with startling inequalities and pervasive social injustice. In Australia we are the unconscious recipients of extraordinary privilege. Acknowledging this privilege can be the first step to improving the suffering of others. By raising our voices for justice and equity we can join the conversation of change.



My trip to Swaziland offered me the smallest glimpse of the tangible hope offered by development programmes which are holistic, grass-roots and offer long-term, sustainable solutions to the deeply complex issues of poverty and endemic disease. All donations to Possible Dreams International are greatly appreciated and will assist us in reaching the families of Swaziland. For more information, please visit <http://www.possibledreams.org>

Imago Mundi

We congratulate and celebrate with **Jo Roszkowski**, teacher of Design and Technology in the Senior School Art Department, on the inclusion of one of her pieces of artwork in an online collection curated by Luciano Benetton in Italy. The piece, *Geostrata*, is made of mixed media bitumen, plaster, paint and shellac. Jo says, *'The piece represents the geological substrata that bury our past and the secrets that can be exposed because of our urge to dig deep.'* Her creative inspiration comes from the natural elements and her surrounding environment. Jo is mainly concerned with the traces humanity leaves behind, and their impact on our planet.



Jo completed her Bachelor of Education (Visual Arts) in 1989 at Melbourne University Institute of Education. She has taught design, technology and art across a variety of mediums, and was the artist responsible for Ruyton's Heritage Tree, which is located in the Foundation Building. Other exhibitions where Jo's work has also been displayed include Brighton Artists' Society, and the Kingston Arts Centre. Most recently, Jo has been appointed as Bayside Artist in Residence, commencing in July 2016.

We congratulate Old Ruytonian **Anne Griffiths** ('60) who received a Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the General Division for service to nursing and to organ transplantation programmes. Anne worked at the Alfred Hospital for 52 years in a variety of areas, but is best known for her role as Transplant Co-ordinator.

We love to share news of the exploits of Old Ruytonians in whatever field they may be engaged. Please send all news to The Editor, Mrs Elizabeth Beattie, at community@ruyton.vic.edu.au or direct at beattie@ruyton.vic.edu.au

Weddings

Caroline Maslen (Jarrett '05) married Jono Maslen (Trinity '96) at their family farm, Barooga Station in January 2016. The bridal party included Old Ruytonians Natalie Pullan ('05) and Stephanie Pratt ('05). Congratulations and best wishes to the happy couple. Caroline is the immediate past President of the Old Ruytonians' Association.



Births

Caroline Carr (Burke '98) and Nick are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their son, Hamish William Hardie, born on 4 May. Old Ruytonian grandmothers, **Belinda Burke** (Hardie '70) and **Sue Carr** (Franklin '62) commented that they were not doing much of a job 'breeding' Ruyton girls – this is the sixth grandson for Belinda and the second grandson for Sue!

At Epworth Freemasons on 20 July, Year 6 teacher **Sarah Gowland** and husband Al welcomed twin boys, Jack Cooper and Harry John into the world. All are doing well.



Vale

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

Doreen Ashley-Brown ('31) lived a long and rewarding life, passing away at the age of 103 years in May this year. A proud ORA member, Doreen attended two Golden Girls' reunions after she turned 100 and unveiled the plaque at the opening of the ORA's Heritage Trail in November 2012. At her funeral service, which was held at Holy Trinity in Kew, mention was made of her generosity to the Church, and also to Scope (formerly the Spastic Society) in establishing a particular centre for severely disabled people.



(Dorothea) Anne Ogier (Hedley '62) passed away on Saturday 25 June 2016 after a short battle with cancer at the age of 70. Anne was a student at Ruyton from 1950 to 1962 and she maintained a strong friendship group from Ruyton, as well as from St Paul's Church in Canterbury. Anne leaves behind her husband and her three children, Juliette, Grant and Jacqueline, as well as stepchildren, Tania and Melissa, and grandchildren Jai, Lachlan, Rory, Leo and Hector. She will be missed.

Submitted by **Penny Taubman** (current parent)



Reunions



Reunion of the 1976 Alumni, Friday 15 April 2016

Front row: Judi Boothroyd, Judith Woolnough, Annie Moulden, Annie Denison, Debby Gould, Susan Kosa, Debbie Kroger

Middle row: Jane Fall, Sara Forsyth, Karen Salazar, Janette Buckley, Karin Evert, Sue Angell, Belinda Hawkins, Jane Delany, Alexandra Stewart

Back Row: Patricia Serpell, Janet Jacobsen, Jane Crawford, Gillian Radden, Jane Miller



Reunion of the 2006 Alumni, Friday 20 May 2016

Front row: Stephanie Antonopoulos, Hannah Harris, Rebecca Cohen, Jessica Di Rosso, Laura Black, Emily Young

Middle row: Bella Brown, Bella Prentice, Jacqueline Whelan, Rebecca McHenry, Charlotte Hughes, Catherine Burkhalter, Alice Lovick, Nat Scott, Sarah McLeod Bourke, Katrina Bishop

Back row: Skye Stansfield, Katie Fearnside, Sophie Crockett, Annalise Friend, Grace Connelly, Alexa Kuzyk, Alice Small, Charlotte Franich, Jemima Jarman, Tessa O'Halloran, Kate Wharton



Reunion of the 1986 Alumni, Saturday 21 May 2016

Seated: Sarah Gifford-Andrews, Katharine Manning, Sarah Hope, Pamela Sproule, Sally de Guingand, Lyndel Wischer, Fiona Mardling

Second Row: Nikki Wilson, Ingrid Harvey, Bridgit Longley, Abigail Place, Caroline Mackenzie, Kerran Fahroedin, Tara Wolbers, Anita Lal, Kate Holian

Third Row: Sarah Long, Katie McLeish, Anne Lewis, Tanya Harkness, Lois Rubin, Kathryn Miller

Fourth Row: Sharon Hoffman, Kathryn Miller, Leonie Griffiths, Denise Lovatt, Melissa Courtney, Priscilla Hunt

Back Row: Patricia Serpell, Janet Jacobsen, Jane Crawford, Gillian Radden, Jane Miller



Reunion of the New South Wales Alumni, Saturday 6 August 2016

Standing: L-R Wendy Farrell (King '75), Christine Dousset (King '70), Linda Douglas, May Pang ('12), Trish Bradley (Townsend '62), Yvonne Needham (Wilks '66), Judy Weir, (Stephens '61)

Seated: L-R Jane Branson (Lewis '82), June Richardson-Stepan (Stanner '59), Elizabeth Ramsden (Lowe '62), Theresa Jacques ('74)



In addition to the many successful Reunions which are organised by the School, many groups enjoy connecting in an informal manner. Such was the get-together of the 1957 alumni, when Old Ruytonian Marianne Van De Poll visited Melbourne from her home in the Netherlands last year and dropped into Ruyton for a catch up with some of her 1957 classmates.

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.

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

Staff Editor: Mrs Elizabeth Beattie, Development Co-ordinator, Communications

If you have any articles or updates you would like to be considered for publication please email community@ruyton.vic.edu.au or post to 12 Selbourne Road, Kew, Vic 3101. Please mark all correspondence for the attention of the Ruyton Reporter Editor - Mrs Elizabeth Beattie.

Forthcoming Reunions:

ALUMNI	CELEBRATING	REUNION DATE
2016		
Golden Girls Reunion		Saturday 15 October 2016
Tasmania Reunion		Saturday 26 November 2016
2015	1 year	Thursday 1 December 2016
2017		
2012	5 years	Friday 24 February
1977	40	Friday 21 April
2007	10	Friday 26 May
1987	30	Saturday 27 May
1997	20	Friday 13 October
1967	50	Saturday 14 October
The Golden Girls	50 +	Saturday 21 October
2016	1	Thursday 7 December
Brisbane		Date to be confirmed
New York		Date to be confirmed



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