

Official Opening of the Performing Arts Centre

On 4th September 2009, Danebank welcomed Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia. The Governor General attended a special celebration where she officially opened the school's Performing Arts Centre.

We were privileged to welcome Her Excellency whose grace and dignity made our opening a special occasion for all in attendance.

Her Excellency spoke of the importance of women's education and the pioneers, heroines and role models in the field of women's education from past generations. She included Danebank's Founding Headmistress, Miss Edith Roseby Ball MBE, because of Miss Ball's "compassion, insight and understanding of the essence of education in thinking and doing." The Governor General exhorted today's students to "lead, follow and serve with confidence", to "tune out damaging forces and tune in to upholding what is good." She supported the importance of performing arts in providing personal enrichment and a means for "girls to express themselves".

She told the girls that they could "do anything you set your minds to, using empathy, creativity and flexibility... Intelligence and achievement are precious", she said. Danebank students celebrated by presenting *A Taste of Things to Come* in the new centre. We were proud of the girls whose performances were of a very high standard. Around 200 students performed in choirs, band and instrumental items, dance and drama. Her Excellency was reported as being "visibly moved" by the beauty of the singing. This was a most memorable occasion for all the Danebank community.



Her Excellency was greeted by Miss Rosalyn Bird, Principal. She was then escorted through a Guard of Honour to the Performing Arts Centre



Dr Michael Anderson gave the occasional address



Reverend Ian Cox gave the dedication and Miss Bird spoke about *Women of Vision and Creativity*



Her Excellency was presented with a special gift, a portrait of herself that was painted by Lauren D, Year 6

