



DREAM NOW Campaign

Frequently Asked Questions

The Campaign

Q. Why is Ruyton launching the *Dream Now* campaign?

A. Since our foundation in 1878, Ruyton has continued to grow and thrive. We have a history of building programs where the community has helped fundraise and make our facilities what they are today. Current and past parents, staff, alumnae and other members of our community have previously supported our school to make these projects possible. We are now seeking help to make this important vision possible today.

A campaign research study was undertaken in 2019 to establish the need for this redevelopment and whether we should focus on the campaign now. A number of community members were interviewed, and the results of that study are available in a report on request.

Q. Why do we need a new Performing Arts Centre and Library?

A. With growth in student numbers and educational programs, we have outgrown our current facilities. Royce Theatre no longer has the capacity to accommodate our Senior School for Assembly – let alone the broader community for performing arts and cultural events. Our need to redevelop the Foundation building has provided an opportunity to update and upgrade our Library with 21st century technologies, modern resourcing and reimagined spaces for learning and teaching.

The redevelopment of these spaces is the final component of Ruyton's 10-year master plan. Designed to optimise opportunities for our students, this facility will strengthen Ruyton's commitment to deliver an outstanding all-round education and secure our school's future as a leading educator of girls.

Q. What is the urgency around this campaign?

A. Royce Theatre is at the heart of who we are at Ruyton and our current facility is inadequate in capacity and resources. The new theatre will seat 630 people and support performing arts, public speaking and assemblies with flexible spaces to support learning, rehearsal and performance. It will inspire, shape and change those who use it and be a place our community can come together as one.

The Library is a significant component of a Ruyton girl's academic journey. With an acknowledged need to redevelop the building our current library is located in; we have the opportunity to create a bespoke and innovative learning environment. Our new library will be flexible, open and modern, offering information that is digitally and resourcefully relevant for individual study and group collaboration.



Q. COVID-19 and the bushfires impacted significantly on many Ruyton families. Shouldn't we be raising funds for them?

A. The School will continue to actively support families in need, including those adversely impacted by COVID-19. Supporting vulnerable members of our community is an ongoing Foundation priority and will continue through the annual giving and general gifts program.

Q. With all the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, is it a good time to be building?

A. With strong governance and leadership from the Ruyton Board and Executive team, Ruyton has soundly navigated the COVID-19 pandemic. The girls have continued to receive a high standard of education and enrolment numbers are strong. Any major delays to this redevelopment will significantly impact the opportunities provided to our students moving forward.

Fundraising

Q. How much does Ruyton wish to raise for the entire project?

A. We are aiming to raise \$3 million in donations and pledges over five years in philanthropic support from our community. This is the largest ever fundraising campaign in Ruyton's history. The total projected cost is \$35 million, so the fundraising target is less than 10% of the total build cost. All donations to our campaign are tax deductible.

Q. Why the need to fundraise? Don't school fees cover the cost of facilities?

A. School fees go towards the running costs of a school – staffing, maintenance and educational programs. Giving to special fundraising campaigns like *Dream Now* ensure that school fees are wholly directed to the education and wellbeing of students. All the modern facilities built at Ruyton (Margaret McRae Centre, the Junior School, John Bates Physical Education Centre and Aquatic Centre) were partially funded through the support of the Ruyton community in fundraising campaigns.

Q. What is the timeframe for the entire project?

A. The construction phase of this project is targeted to begin mid 2022 and finish end of 2023, subject to the level of fundraising support received or pledged.

Q. What happens if there is a shortfall to the fundraising target, where will the funds come from?

A. The extent of the School's borrowings will be directly influenced by the amount raised in this fundraising campaign. Ruyton is in a strong position to see this campaign through, however it is relying on the community's support to make this dream happen now. If we don't reach our fundraising target we will still build, however it is money we would prefer to allocate towards daily educational and operational expenses.

Q. How can our school pay for a project of this size?

A. The Ruyton Board has carefully planned for this project for the past few years. The School has been fiscally responsible, and with planning, cash reserve and select borrowings we are in a position to be able to build. Part of the budget includes a \$3 million fundraising target over the next five years.



Q. What are pledges?

A. Pledges are gift commitments made over several years (typically two to five). A pledge allows benefactors to spread their gift over time and plan payments flexibly. Pledges enable the School to plan its cash flow with some confidence and not have to approach people every year. Pledges and single gifts to the *Dream Now* campaign are fully tax deductible.

Q. Will there be any opportunities for naming and donor recognition?

A. Given our commitment to inspiring our girls and with immense gratitude to our donors, the School will have a number of naming opportunities in adherence with ATO guidelines. For more information, please contact Sally de Guingand, Director of Community Engagement or Peter Nelson, Chair of the Ruyton Foundation.

Construction

Q. The building will be very disruptive and noisy. How will the School manage this?

A. We are working closely with our architects, project managers and builders to carefully plan the construction program to minimise disruption and impact on students and staff. The noisiest tasks will be undertaken in school breaks or during non-teaching times where possible.

We are currently planning to manage the decanting process into temporary teaching spaces. Student foot traffic will be carefully controlled. Detailed communications will be provided to current families closer to the commencement of building.

Q. How will you manage traffic flow at school drop-off and pick-up times?

A. We are consulting with project managers to manage the traffic flow. Detailed communications will be provided to families closer to the commencement of building.

Q. How will community events be celebrated during the construction period, without the existing Royce Theatre?

A. Through the pandemic, we have adapted to online assemblies. We will continue to use technology to support events while we build our new performing arts centre. On occasion of a larger community event, we may utilise local community facilities or those of neighbouring schools.