

Play it again, Zac



Oxley College student Zac Moran with arts head teacher and mentor Rob Hughes. Photo Ainsleigh Sheridan

By Ainsleigh Sheridan

BRAVO, Zac Moran, and Encore!

The Board of Studies overseeing Higher School Certificate exams has shortlisted the Year 12 Oxley College student for a showcase of musical excellence.

To be shortlisted for Encore "was my goal from the start," Zac said. "Even though I knew there was a high chance I wouldn't get it because a lot of people don't."

Oxley College arts department head teacher Rob Hughes said Zac's nomination as a "top talent" from this year's HSC cohort was "a great thing" and "well-deserved".

"We celebrate the nomination because by the time the Board of Studies has worked through [the shortlist for] a two-hour concert, you're lucky if you end up on stage," he said.

Encore strives to equally mix instruments, genres and exposure for students from public/private and metro/country schools, "so that's why we celebrate the nomination: it just means he did very well".

Zac impressed his HSC examiners with a performance repertoire of four solo pieces on guitar, all in a style called finger-picking, and all arranged by Australian artists.

He took guidance from Mr Hughes in selecting the pieces, who said his approach was to "encourage students to push themselves to the limit, but certainly not to breaking point".

"What the examiners look for in a performance is technical excellence, so the candidates really have to push themselves to demonstrate that in a small window of time," Mr Hughes said.

"What you don't want is a repertoire that is way too difficult that you never fully realise, nor present something that is too safe, because the examiners won't see your capability."

"Zac has performed a lot in his time and it has always been well received because he is accomplished. So that

has been my challenge, to try to get more out of those performances."

"Music has always been a release for me," Zac said. "To have it this year count towards my HSC marks has been exciting and enjoyable; and Encore was a driver, an incentive."

"I'll always play the guitar and music, I know, will always be a part of my life. Whether it is something I will pursue professionally, I am not quite sure yet."

Zac will soon be quite sure whether he's made the stage for Encore.

>> See a snippet of Zac's rehearsal for an Oxley concert earlier this year online at southernhighlandnews.com.au

Chance to be culturally aware

By Josh Bartlett

THE Highlands Aboriginal culture will be celebrated in Glenquarry this week.

Glenquarry Public School will host an Aboriginal Culture Day on Friday.

More than 250 students from the region's small schools network will attend the event.

Special guests will include local Indigenous leaders Aunty Val, Peter Swain, and Wendy Lotter.

Students will learn about native plants, take part in traditional Indigenous games, undertaking art workshops and hear Dreamtime stories.

School principal Jad Southwell said Friday's event was open for students from Kindergarten to Year 6.

Mr Southwell said the Aboriginal Culture Day had been made possible with support from Wingecarribee Shire Council.

"It's been a good collaborative effort and the day aims to raise awareness of the Aboriginal culture," he said.

"It's a chance for students to appreciate and respect the culture as they get older."

"These days are also important to ensure the interactions of students between other schools."

The Aboriginal Culture Day will start at 10am on Friday at Glenquarry Public School.

>> For more information, call the school on 4887 1205.



Wendy Lotter will be a special guest at the Culture Day.

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BOWRAL CO-OP

SPECIAL NOTICE TO MEMBERS VOTING FOR BOARD APPOINTMENTS

An election is underway for two positions on the board of directors of your co-operative.

Voting for your directors is being conducted by way of postal ballot. The election is being conducted in accordance with the existing rules in relation to board rotation.

Co-operative members will have received their ballot papers via mail, or will do so in the coming days. We strongly encourage you to participate in the vote by returning the completed ballot papers in the envelopes provided.

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DETERMINING THE FUTURE LEADERSHIP
OF YOUR CO-OPERATIVE.**

The result of the voting will be announced at the Co-op's Annual General Meeting to be held at the Co-op on Saturday 21st November at 11am, which will be followed by a BBQ. We invite all members to attend.

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