

PIN OAK

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HSC ART



K-6



BUILDING

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YEAR 12 MAJOR WORKS EXHIBITION



HEADMASTER'S REPORT



On Tuesday this week the journalist Sarah Ferguson came and spent the morning at Oxley. She gave an impassioned speech at assembly, spoke to the Pin Oak crew, had morning tea with the staff and judged a 'soapbox' competition. She inspired many of the students about journalism and looking for the truth out there. We were lucky to have her.

Sarah has spent a life in journalism after coming to Australia via Nigeria (where she was born) and the UK. She won the Gold Walkely award in 2011 for her story on Four Corners about the live animal export trade to Indonesia, 'A Bloody Business'. She hosted the 7:30 report for an energising few months in 2014 going 'toe to toe' with many of the nation's most senior politicians. She also masterminded, produced and fronted 'The Killing Season', an amazing documentary last year in which almost all of the Labor luminaries from 2007-2013 spoke candidly about the toppling of both Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard. How she got both former Prime Ministers and most of the cabinet to speak about those years was little short of astonishing.

The speech she gave to the assembly was passionate and galvanising. She didn't just speak about journalism, but spoke too about the importance of living an examined, truth seeking life. She said that she would have liked to get the complacent, satisfied students to sit on the left side of the room, and the committed, restless, truth seekers in life to sit on the right side of the room. Then she would have liked to get some of the students to shift over from the left to the right. She spoke about the importance of not accepting at face value anyone's truth - neither the authority figure's version nor the people seeking the opposite. She said that the truth was so often found somewhere in the middle and had to be searched for relentlessly.

She used the example of the immigration debate and the people smugglers. She had the credibility to do this as she had spent weeks undercover with people smugglers including buying tickets onto a leaky boat. The Australian politician's version of the truth that we got nightly was an easy, airbrushed version of what was happening. Yet the refugee advocates who wanted Sarah to take to their cause were not a font of the truth either. The people smugglers she worked with, she said, were not 'Oskar Schindlers' but people pursuing a business model for profit. She found a complicated,



unpretty and multifaceted version of the truth by investigating herself, fully believing no-one and digging deeper.

To a generation fifty years ago her speech would have been refreshing for its anti-authoritarian stance on powerful figures and its acceptance of multiple perspectives. This is still the case. However, it was also refreshing for the opposite reason. In our children's shallow, post-post modern world of multiple (yet no) truths, vanity arcana and uninformed vlogs carrying the same weight as reasoned argument, someone saying 'search hard for the truth' was a refreshing dose of liberal commitment to reason. There is a better truth out there, she said, and it can be uncovered through hard, dangerous work. I am so glad that the students heard a passionate advocate for a life lived fiercely and well through commitment to uncovering truth.

Sarah then went on to judge a 'soapbox' competition in which six students got two minutes each to stand on a (literal) box on the stage and speak/rant about something that mattered to them. The five students - Lillian Dalton, Tom Hill, Jack Kennedy, Layla Ross and Archie Waters - all did a brilliant job at bringing new and fresh perspectives to the students. Three of the six of them spoke about Donald Trump, which shows us how much people are concerned about him.

Sarah Ferguson thought they were all terrific and refused to award a winner, instead offering them all mentorships with her. She also gave particular compliments to the audience - in fact she did this first. She said it would be easy for an audience to sit back, slightly cynically, and let the speakers struggle. But our audience did the opposite. She said that our positive backing of the speakers was obvious and spoke volumes about our culture of support for each other.

We were lucky to have Sarah down. I am so pleased she was able to make a lot of time in her incredibly busy schedule (she had been presenting Four Corners the night before she arrived) to speak to the school and to many individual students. And all she asked for in return was a bowl of soup for lunch at the Milk Factory. She was impressed enough with Oxley to say she was willing to come back next term too. I am already planning the Cornerstone lessons that she will teach....

BIG ISSUE



RELIGION, A POWERFUL TOOL?

Religion has a huge impact on the way the world works. It influences many different country's decisions on the world stage as well as domestically. It influences how your child is brought up and educated as well as influencing whether a country should go to war or not. The main principals of religion are to do what your chosen god (or gods) would do and to live a holy life under his/her/ their rules. However, once you go past the outward meaning of religion, you find that there is a lot more to it. The religious principles and ethics can not only help you in gaining entry into heaven/Nirvana/Valhalla, but can also help in your daily lives, to live a healthy, compassionate morally good life, without being sucked in to the whole nitty gritty of praying and meditating or sacrificing (if you're that way inclined).

Now, before I continue; I know many people like to pray, meditate or sacrifice. You may already know about all these principles, but, if you're like me and were raised in a fairly agnostic environment, this article may be helpful in being able to live a better, less ignorant life. Ok on with the article.

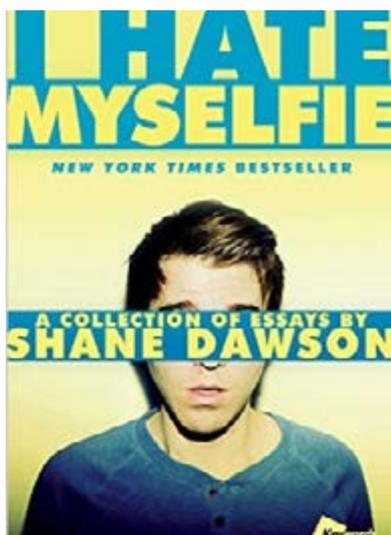
Islam. It has become sort of a bogey word nowadays with all the attacks and pointless violence. However, Islam is the world's second largest and fastest growing religion. There are over 1 billion followers of Allah worldwide. Most of them live in South East Asia, with the most Muslim populated countries being India, Bangladesh and Indonesia. Islam has many principles that help with daily life as all Muslims are expected to live according to Islamic Law, or Sharia ("God's Way"). Muslims aren't allowed to steal, lie, commit adultery (cheat), gamble, eat pork, or drink alcohol. This code of life can be very helpful to the everyday Joe. Not lying, stealing or cheating makes you a morally good person. Also, not drinking alcohol will help your health greatly as drinking excessively can have adverse affects on your health. It can lead to alcohol poisoning, liver malfunctioning and an overall gain in weight. Islam also teaches other things, like respecting your parents, helping those less fortunate than yourself and finally "having kindness, honesty and hard work". Overall, Islam can have a very favourable affect on your life. It teaches you not only to be healthier but also to live a morally good life.

Christianity is surprisingly very similar in teachings to the Islamic faith. Christianity teaches us to be humble, honest and to live a moral life (do not slander, don't be greedy, don't commit deceit, don't be covetous and don't be arrogant). However in addition to Islam, Christians also want to be generous with time and money, not be hypocritical and don't be self-righteous ie. don't think you are perfect as no one is perfect but God. Christians also believe in not holding a grudge, as revenge is pointless. "If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also" (NIV, Matthew 5:39-40). It's ironic how living a Christian life can be so similar to living an Islamic life, considering the animosity between the two religions in the past.

Buddhism has often been described as more than just a religion, it has been said it is more like a way of life. Buddhism teaches us to live a moral life (sensing the pattern here?) It also teaches us to be mindful and aware of your actions in this world and to develop wisdom and understanding throughout your life. The Buddha taught that wealth does not guarantee happiness, as everyone suffers in life whether they are rich or poor. Buddhism is really helpful in day-to-day life as it teaches us to not expect everyone to conform to your expectations. It teaches us to develop wisdom through compassion. This religion is one of the most helpful in everyday life and that is one of the main reasons why it is becoming more and more popular in western cultures, as it helps deal with the problems in our modern day, materialistic society.

Religion is a powerful tool. It has been for many centuries. However religion has faded in many people's eyes as the human race goes with leaps and bounds into the future. Religion can be a positive influence in your everyday life. Adopting religious principles can be a great way to better your life and assist in personal development.

By Charlie Beedle (Year 11)



Books

★★★★★

I HATE MYSELFIE: A COLLECTION OF ESSAYS BY SHANE DAWSON

From this Fantastic Author, Writer, Director, Producer and Internet blogger comes one of Shane Dawson's latest sensations, "I Hate Myselfie". Although the title seems a bit misleading this funny and innovative book will have you in stitches on every page. Dawson explains the struggle of living as a 400lb teenager growing up in Long Beach, California. Growing up in these conditions with two older brothers and their single mother comes with blood, sweat, and a LOT of tears. In this book you'll find Shane really goes into detail about the way social media has shaped our generation, hence the title "I Hate Myselfie". YouTube has been a big part of Shane's life as he started out making sketch videos to upload online and now has gone on to write, direct, and star in his very own feature film. In this book Dawson really wanted to connect and explore the nature of his fans, so in every chapter there is a piece of artwork hand drawn by people all around the world, Shane Dawson explains: "As you'll see the results are sometimes amazing, sometimes hilarious and always unflattering, considering I have a VERY hard face to draw". Funny, sad, and a real page-turner "I Hate Myselfie".

By Archie Waters (Year 8)



Music

★★★★

Let me be clear

Gang of Youths new EP has put all other EP's to shame. The opening track, the good fight brings back the heartbreaking track Knuckles White Dry - it's angry, upset and mournful and serves as a beautiful opener to the six song collection. Native tongue is a song with a phenomenal chorus that begs to be sung along to. Strange diseases continues to show the band's love for strings in an all new way, adding choral singing with loud drums in what is one of the best intros this genre has seen for a long time. A sudden light employs a different sound altogether - it is messy, atmospheric and fluid. The last two tracks are quieter, focusing on the soft deep vocals and introducing more acoustic, raw sounds and swelling to gentle yet powerful choruses. Let me be clear is a wonderful EP worthy of any praise it receives.

By Imogen Hatcher (Year 8)



Films

★★★

Suicide Squad

For a movie that had such a huge build up, it did not deliver the bang I expected. There were explosions and fight scenes and clichéd slow-motion scenes and gun tosses. Yet nothing really happened. The plot was horrendous. It was unbelievable and included many plot gaps. The characters were portrayed amazingly by really talented actors, and it was a shame they weren't doing something better. The Suicide Squad members have amazing storylines in their own right, as do many of the other cartoon characters used in the movie. Although the movie reduced them, and basically ruined it. The soundtrack for the movie was great. Even if you don't watch the movie you should definitely listen to the sound track. Overall the characters were awesome and crazy, but the plot was terrible. If you like the characters, and don't mind a clichéd plot, then I would definitely recommend it. But if you need some believability and suspense, then don't bother.

By Kaarina Allen (Year 12)

Head of K-6: Justine Lind **See**

In K-6 last week, Science came to life! Curiosity and creativity begins in wonder and the wonders of the scientific world were enacted by willing groups of Year 9 and 10 students and the teachers of the Science Faculty for all K-6 classes when they visited Lab 4.

Many experiences of scientific experiments echo the sound of that Eureka moment when the phenomena react to the conditions and the human mind perceives something it has not done so before. For many this experience is so strong that the will to relive it again and again drives long term pursuits in the field. Our students had a glimpse of the life and work of those tenacious and oftentimes, patient scientists who have gone before us.

The student guides provided few facts or answers but instead framed provocative or procedural questions. The students responded in the reflection routine of See, Think, Wonder to document their evolving appreciation. Students in our younger years, reflected in class discussion upon their return and a snap shot of older responses is included below.

I saw a scientific experiment called Oobleck run by some high school boys when we visited the science lab during National Science week. It consisted of cornflour and water. When you picked it up, it was almost like holding very crumbly cheese, but when you were holding it and kept your hand still it just oozed through, like milk.

I think it is a liquid-solid. Not completely solid-i-Fide but not a liquid either. I think it was the best experiment because it showed really cool reverse reaction. Also because it was fun and messy but easy to wash off. You can make it at home too! I did as soon as I got home that day. Tyra Beckett, Year 5

I saw.... A Milo tin that looked like a bomb.

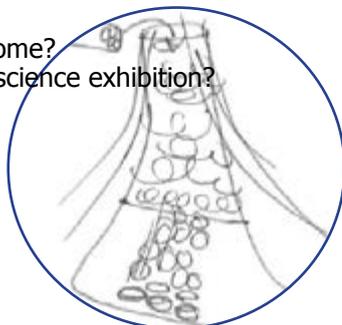
I thought ... its' air pushing against the lid to make it pop.

I wondered ... what else could it be used for?
Oliver Deakin, Year 4

I wondered why the more pressure you put on the oobleck the harder it felt and looked and the more lightly you touched it the more runny it felt. I wondered if you made ice-cream the same way you made the oobleck maybe it would be never melting. If you just added some more ingredients it would be yummy edible and if you sometimes pressed hard it would harden. Sarah Shields, Year 5

I wondered.....

How could you create one at home?
Why were optical illusions in a science exhibition?
Did he make it himself?
Did the school make it for him?
Jacqueline Worthington, Year 5



Wonder

Weekly Awards:

Students of the Week

K: Ella Wallace
Yr 1: Louisa Hogan-Baldo
Yr 2: Georgie Marks
Yr 3: Jack Rendell
Yr 4: Elizabeth Hamilton
Yr 5: Sarah Shields
Yr 6: Jack Hatcher



Respect Oxley

K: Adelaide Lawler
Yr 1: Kallan Rendell
Yr 2: Zahra Lim
Yr 3: Maximo Ramos
Yr 4: Arabella Hunter
Yr 5: Matthew Smith
Yr 6: Luci McManus



Students of the Week

K: Grace Kean
Yr 1: Cartier Dobler
Yr 2: Allegra Mineeff
Yr 3: Alec Simpson
Yr 4: Jack Snell
Yr 5: George Dummer
Yr 6: Rosie Phelan

Respect Self

K: Bronte Morgan
Yr 1: Tippi Wernbacher
Yr 2: Aislinn Kenny
Yr 3: Sydney Anear
Yr 4: Asher Biddlecombe,
Yr 5: Paloma Ramos
Yr 6: Claudia Brady



Think



Book Week 2016 – Australia: Story Country!

This Wednesday was a fantastic celebration of the joy of stories and books! You can't help but be excited when you are surrounded by furry animals, historical figures, magical creatures and characters from the imaginary world of modern Australia! Our congratulations go to all our students who participated. Our thanks go to all the families who helped in the creation of costumes and provided our audience on the day and Mr Parker for his reading of Luke's Way of Looking. We also acknowledge the vision and organisation of our wonderful librarian, Mrs Antoniak and her team, Mrs Rees and Mrs Everingham for planning the day for us all.

K- 6 GALLERY





Access All Ages

I've been to the Newtown Social Club once. Going there for the first time was a strange experience for me because even though I see it so often from the outside, I've never actually had the privilege of going in. That one time I went there was for a Japanese Wallpaper gig. He was doing an "under 18" show before his "18+" one later that night. As I walked up the rusty, wooden staircase into the dimly-lit venue, the subtle hum and tireless chatter was different to your run-of-the-mill, regular gig. The coming together of the next generation of music lovers, musicians and industry workers was beyond exciting for everyone and in turn, created this electricity in the air. You could see the bliss pouring out of the "under 18" gig-goer's faces, everyone was over-the-moon to be experiencing this novelty together.

"You could see the bliss pouring out of the "under 18" gig-goer's faces"

The gig was great but what really stood out to me even more than the bright, peart sounds of Japanese Wallpaper was the crowd. Everyone was quietly grateful for each other's presence and everyone took great care of one another in the mosh. I can only imagine that the majority of the people who attended that show are like me, spending a large portion of their time going onto ticket websites only to see the huge, red "over 18's only" stamp. The Japanese Wallpaper gig made me realise that maybe it doesn't have to be that way (in Sydney's inner-west at least). It made me analyse the reasons why these gigs have to all be "over 18" and inspired me to stand up and try to make a change.

Live music is one of the most incredible things I've ever had the joy of experiencing. For the most part

religion, sexuality, skin colour, gender all goes out the window when you're in a raging mosh pit of grins and sweaty armpits. I've never felt more free and like myself than when I've been surrounded by odorous bodies, watching an artist I admire. Unfortunately, more often than not I miss out on this liberating and soul-rejuvenating experience purely because of my age, and I'm not the only one.

New studies from Victoria's Deakin University are showing that live music leads to a "happier and more satisfying life". When "under 18" people are "finding themselves", going through troubles with friends, figuring out what they want to do in the future and sometimes dealing with a great deal of unhappiness because of it, a "happier and more satisfying life" sounds ideal. That should be reason enough for venues to open their doors to citizens born after 1998 but that's only a portion of why it's crucial.

There is no doubt that putting on more all-ages gigs would benefit the industry. Letting the next generation of music journalists, artists, promoters, managers etc. see and experience the inspiration and bliss that comes along with live music would help the music industry flourish greatly in the years to come. As well as this, it would expose a younger audience to something un-debatably incredible and perspective-altering.

There is also a gap in the industry for venues booking more "under 18" bands. Having a mini-showcase of local "under 18" talent every now and then would provide experience for up-and-coming bands/artists and also encourage them to turn their hobbies and talents into a career in the years to come. If you're worried about the quality or quantity of the music coming from these teenagers, don't fear. I encourage you to check out the [Triple J Unearthed](#) High finalists and contenders this year.



Whenever I've brought up my opinion in conversation with others, more often than not they will inform me of all the restrictions that venues face. It's true - venues, (especially in Sydney's inner-west) at the moment are under intense pressure, primarily because of the lockout laws. In addition to that, the bar at '18+' gigs brings in a lot of money for the venue and obviously when you're serving an 'under 18' crowd that income disappears. Venues may want to open their gigs to a wider audience but experience licensing issues. However, like many things, there are ways to overcome these problems. No bar money? Sell non-alcoholic beverages or put on a second-hand record fair. Licencing issues? Close down the bar and put the "under 18" gig on during the day. Worried about money loss? Consider the gig may sell out because of the large amount of young gig-attenders that would be over-joyed to finally see their favourite band live. Venues are struggling, but there is no proof that creating more opportunities for 'under 18's'

"Venues are struggling, but there is no proof that creating more opportunities for 'under 18's' to enjoy music would make them struggle anymore."

to enjoy music would make them struggle anymore. Venues (like the Newtown Social Club) have made all ages events happen in the past, so why is putting them on more often a burden?

To be fair, some festivals/venues have the right idea. Yours & Owl's Festival that happens in Wollongong every year is putting on a mini "under 18" festival with huge acts such as Hermitude, Nicole Millar, Hockey Dad and Bec Sandridge playing. So as you can see, it's not a hard task and venues would probably be surprised with the amount of bands/artists willing to participate in an "under 18" day festival. It's time more venues got inspired by Yours & Owl's and starting copying these great ideas.

The live music scene seems to be becoming increasingly more inclusive and diverse with women and LGBTQIA+ folks representing on stage and in the crowds. So why would we not drag an "under 18" audience into this bubble of inclusiveness? Live music should not be ageist.

By Isabella Moore (Year 9)

LEARNING AND PASTORAL REPORTS

Pastoral: Peter Ayling

Last week just under 300 people from the Southern Highlands community gathered in the PCC at Oxley to hear Dr Michael Carr-Gregg talk about Keeping our Adolescents Safe/Parenting. We have received extremely positive feedback from this excellent and highly informative presentation. Here are some comments from parents:

"This should have been compulsory for all parents."

"We are very lucky to be part of a school who considers the total well being of their students and parents for that matter! Myself and a number of the parents I was sitting with, said we could have sat and listened to Michael for hours with his relevance of topic, ability to associate with his audience and of course his sense of humour. I feel that a lot of parents would be sad they missed this event when they hear how valuable the information was".

"As a parent, I found the talk confronting in its content at times, but so reassuring in the message that, fundamentally, we are doing the best thing by our kids. It was also nice to know that there are a lot of parents who are just as concerned and, as with all aspects of parenting, we present a united front. Even if the kids tell us they're the 'only one's whose parents won't allow them to go/drink/stay the night/etc', actually ... we're not! Making kids feel valued and heard is so important, it's easy to say it but often hard to do. The other point that I love hearing is that it's not about being their friend, but actually being the adult and making the tough calls – I still hear about the parties they weren't allowed to attend, but that's life and thankfully, my kids seem to be coming out ok"!

Link to Michael Carr-Gregg audio/powerpoint:

<https://www.oxley.nsw.edu.au/news-events/latest-news/>



Learning: Kate Cunich



This past week we have had the opportunity to see learning at Oxley through the eyes of others. On Tuesday we hosted a visitor from Queensland, representing a group of schools who came to see how we had implemented Visible Learning at Oxley College prior to starting their own journey. She sat in classrooms, talked to students and met with Jacqui Pugh, one of our Visible Learning Leaders. During her time with us, Ms Wendy Tisbury remarked on the ability of our students to articulate their learning, to display their knowledge and to explain in depth the concept undertaken. Most of all, Wendy was impressed with our beautiful school, with classrooms full of thriving learners, privileged to be taught by inspired and passionate teachers.

Similarly, on Thursday, we opened our classrooms to interested families on our Open Day. The response was also so encouraging: parents reported seeing engaged students, varieties of learning experiences and happy kids who were proud to show off Oxley. We are indeed fortunate.

It is also HSC season, so we have already hosted our Visula Arts Exhibition and Music Night. We are so proud of our students who despite many challenges along the way, always rise to the occasion and present exemplary work. Design and Technology projects have also been handed in and the HSC Drama Practical examination is on Monday. Extension 2 Major works have been sent to BOSTES. Visual Arts works, music comps and Drama's critical essays are also all in their final stages. Congratulations to all involved and in particular to the Year 12 teachers involved: Ms Forbes (VA), Ms Lanser (DT), Mr Cunich (Drama), Mrs Carter, Ms Cox (English Extension 2), Ms Sinden (Music 1) and Mrs Bunyan (Music 2 and Extension).

2016 NAPLAN results have arrived and have been posted to family this week. Year 12 will also receive their final report in the next few days.



HEALTHY EATING

Ancient grains are a group of grains considered to have not changed by selective breeding for many millennia. These differ from the common grains we are familiar with such as corn, rice and wheat which have been selectively bred for thousands of years, and which for many people pose digestion difficulties.

The ancient grains (spelt, Khorasan, millet, teff etc.) and those we call pseudocereals such as quinoa, amaranth, buckwheat and chia, which are in fact seeds, have some amazing health benefits and are suitable for people who have gluten and wheat intolerances.

Quinoa, one of the more popular ancients, also provides an extra bonus in that it is a complete protein as well a carbohydrate. This amazing ingredient can be used in sweet and savoury dishes and snacks, and is an excellent low GI brain food that is both tasty, filling and nutritious. Check out this quick and easy Blueberry Quinoa Breakfast Bar recipe, or scan the QR code in the image. A great way to start the day or for a recess snack.

<https://oxley.instructure.com/courses/570/pages/blueberry-quinoa-breakfast-bars>

By Victoria Hansen



MINDFULNESS

During winter, we can tend to stay inside for a bit too long. Sleeping in and Netflix binges are just the beginning. This is all totally normal but as winter progresses, just generally feeling bored and unwell are signs of a lack of negative ions. Ions are particles with a charge. Negative ions have an extra electron attached. These are particularly produced through water molecules. They are found all through fresh water, oceans, rivers and waterfalls. This explains how refreshing it is to have a shower or swim when you are feeling tired or sick.

The air around these natural environments has thousands more of these negative ions than in your air-conditioned or heated room at home. A lack of water molecules in the air in winter can explain dry skin or headaches. So as the weather starts to warm up, get outside! Jump into the water, breath in the fresh air. An easy way to achieve an instant lift in mood and improvement in well being!

By Savannah Sandilands (Year 9)

GATEWAY 8

Your time... starts... now!!!

Last Tuesday, 15 students from Years 9 and 10 headed down to Macarthur Anglican School to participate in the 2016 Gateway 8 challenge. Gateway 8 is an inter-school competition where teams of eight students work together under tight time constraints to complete a range of Mathematics, Science, Music, English, Language and Visual Arts tasks. The topic for this year's Gateway 8 competition was time. Our hearts beat fiercely as we raced against time to complete and figure out solutions to the problems that confronted us. At the end of the day we came away with a first in English as well as a first in Maths. Everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable day!

By Lucie Drysdale (Year 9)

HSC MUSIC NIGHT

A combination of months and months of preparation and raw talent struck a chord with the audience at the HSC Music Night. Those present were privileged to hear some extraordinary performances across the fields. Mia Healey's mesmerising vocals were a stand out...this girl is going places! Alex Bunyan proved why he already has a professional music career in the works with his moving collection of cello pieces. Will Lamrock-George blew the roof off the Orchestra Room. We found our rhythm and blues with Jack Scandrett. A huge shoutout to the stage band who almost faded into the background of his glory. Patrick Newton is clearly a man of many talents. Its is miraculous how he juggles his instruments...singing, clarinet and guitar. Of course, all of this would not have been possible without Mr Hughes, Miss Sinden and accompanists. Hopefully there are some Band Sixes coming their way! They deserve it.

By Cate Patterson (Year 12)

OLD OXLEYAN INTERVIEW

DR TEMPE ADAMS CLASS OF 06



Now that you're off in the big wide world, what have you made of yourself since finishing school at Oxley?

Made of myself. Hmm, tricky question. Hopefully I am still "making" myself. I am currently living in Botswana, and working for a locally based non-government organisation, called "Elephants Without Borders" (EWB) as an Elephant Biologist. I run a programme within our NGO, exploring ways in which humans and elephants can coexist in urban and agricultural communities, in order to reduce human-elephant conflict within the region.

But, let's back track a little.....when I finished at Oxley in 2006, I had a "Gap year", where I worked my behind off for six months in Australia: working in Bundanoon Bike Shop café, working at a riding stables, mowing lawns, gardening for the neighbours, in effort to desperately save money so that for the second half of the year I could go on a round the world trip. That's one solid piece of advice I will give to anyone willing to listen, go on a gap year! The things you learn are countless, it's all about stepping out of your comfort zone and experiencing different places and cultures. I did the trip by myself, but met up with friends in different places along the way. In that trip I ended up in Kenya, volunteering for a conservation group on the coast in a tiny beach side town called Ukunda. After Kenya, I flew home reluctantly to Sydney, to start my undergraduate degree in Environmental Science at the University of New South Wales. Throughout my time at UNSW, I would escape each summer and go and travel to different wild places. I tried to get away every six months, some of my trips were to Argentina, Fiji, Alaska, and of course back to Africa. I was constantly disappearing to go on another adventure. But probably the most significant piece of the puzzle was an internship I was accepted for in my second year of undergrad with my absolute idol, a man called Dr Iain Douglas-Hamilton. He was one of the first scientists to conduct any research on African elephants. I was always reading his books, science papers, watched all the documentaries. I got the internship by simply writing him an email, asking if I could get some field experience with him and his research team called "Save the Elephants", in Samburu northern Kenya, and two months later he said 'yes, when can you come'?

What is your biggest achievement since high school?

I recently was awarded my PhD and a University Medal, for the research I was conducting in northern Botswana with Elephants Without Borders and the University of New South Wales (UNSW). That feels like a real achievement, as it took four years of my life, but honestly it still doesn't feel all that real. It is lovely that I have made a job out of my degree.

I think recently though one of my proudest moments was the participation and involvement in the "Great Elephant Census" (GEC). The GEC is the largest aerial survey ever embarked upon for the continent of Africa. EWB was the NGO, that coordinated, developed and organised the whole endeavour, with the Paul G. Allen Foundation. Basically it is an aerial survey count to determine how many savannah elephants

we have left on the continent of Africa. It's a fundamental piece of information to ensure the future conservation of this iconic species. I very luckily was a part of the aerial survey team for Kenya, Botswana and Angola. It was truly extraordinary being a part of such a huge initiative coordinating many governments, NGOs and scientists from all over the continent, to work on this one question - how many elephants do we have left?

Were these things that during high school you expected you would end up doing?

Definitely not. I never saw myself as someone that would go into academia. I still don't really consider myself an academic. But I do love applied sciences, I love problem solving and working with people from all walks of life and most importantly I love being outdoors and my job gives me that. My favourite subjects at school were art, ancient history and geography, but I think a large part of that were my teachers. When I made my university preferences the list was all over the place including degrees in photography, ancient history, art and sciences and I ended up being accepted into Environmental Science. I remember reading that a potential career outcome would be a national park ranger, and that sounded pretty good to me. But when I finished at Oxley, I only really had travel on my mind, and the rest fell into place. I am all for taking opportunities, and not being the one saying "oh I'm jealous" but being the one saying "yep that happened".

How did Oxley prepare you for your future?

I honestly loved my time at Oxley, we had a great year of students, where everyone was genuinely good friends. You were able to get involved with everything and anything. I played softball, was in the Equestrian team and cross country team, was in every school play, I even got involved with Landcare. The diversity that Oxley offers and the encouragement for you to explore your interests is unique. The teachers were more like friends, where you could honestly discuss topics as young adults rather than children which I believe is vital to learning. The outback trip - what a piece of genius from Mr Schaeffer and Mr Craig. "What school do you know that would be willing take a bunch of 17-year olds on, effectively a road trip to discover Australia", wise words from Mr Furlong. It was an amazing opportunity to explore, learn, bond, and will go down as one of my best school experiences. All the teachers always encouraged us to ask questions, no question was silly.

What would you say to your fifteen year old self?

Hmm tricky, that it's all going to be ok, and you don't need to have a clear plan, things have a way of working themselves out. I would also like to say read more, novels, popular magazines, everything and anything. And finally don't be scared of what people think of you, just do you.

Postscript: Oxley students hope to meet up with Old Oxleyan, Dr Adams when they travel to Botswana in April, 2017.



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Our classes are now online and ready to book for September/October. We have classes for kids of all ages from three years to 18 years old!

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P&F NEWS



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TICKETS

\$1 EACH / 10 FOR \$5

*You may never have this opportunity again!
Don't let it pass you by!*

The MORE teachers = the MORE winners!

*Tickets on sale Friday lunchtimes, Canteen Area
Raffle drawn Final Assembly for Term 3.*

We would like to thank the following for their kind and generous donations for the P&F Trivia Night:

- Southern Highlands Organics
- The Bowral Bookshop
- Veraison Wines and Sam Biddle
- Bendon Lingerie
- Duncan Hill Real Estate
- Endota Spa
- Jenny Duncan
- Dave Wansey/Gubbins Home Hardware
- Dirty Janes
- Bow Family
- Greenop Family
- Prue Wade/Hello World
- Ottaviano Family
- Gibraltar Hotel and Uliana Family
- Andrew Wade
- High Street Dental
- Margaret Ulrich
- Milton Park Hordern's restaurant
- Primary Espresso
- Gelicious
- AJ Moran Photography
- Patricia Copes
- Babilonia
- Pete's Shed
- Creative Kids
- The Moose Hub
- Cookshop Plus

AUGUST + SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
|  | Mon Yr 10 Student/Parent/Teacher Interviews 29 | Mon K-6 Student Led Conferences Yr 8 Student/Parent/Teacher Interviews 05 | Mon 12 |
| | Tue 30 | Tue ISA Athletics INC: K-6 + Yr 7 SHYAC Alice in Wonderland K-6 Student Led Conferences 06 | Tue EXC: Yr1 and Yr2 Powerhouse Museum Sydney 13 |
| | Wed Yr 9 Student/Parent/Teacher Interviews 31 | Wed SNOWSPORTS: Australian C'ship at Perisher EXC: K Calmsley Hill Farm K-6 Student Led Conferences Yr7 Student/Parent/Teacher Interviews 07 | Wed SPORT: NSW CIS Athletics Carnival (Primary) 14 |
| | Thu Yr7 and 8 Music Showcase (Orchestra room) 01 | Thu SNOWSPORTS: Australian C'ships at Perisher 08 | Thu HSC: Design and Technology Exhibition 15 |
| Fri SNOWSPORTS: NSW State Championships in Thredbo 26 | Fri K-6 Father's Day Breakfast Yr2-6 HICES Athletics Carnival Exc: Yr8 Geography Sydney - A Global City 02 | Fri SNOWSPORTS: Australian C'ships at Perisher 09 | Fri 16 |
| Sat ISA Invitational Athletics Carnival SNOWSPORTS: NSW State Championships in Thredbo 27 | Sat Knox/SACS Invitational Athletics Day 03 | Sat SNOWSPORTS: Australian C'ships at Perisher HSC French Extension Monologue 10 | Sat EXC: Tulip Time - Pipe Band Yr5-11 17 |
| Sun SNOWSPORTS: NSW State Championships in Thredbo 28 | Sun Father's Day 04 | Sun SNOWSPORTS: Australian C'ships at Perisher 11 | Sun 18 |

Sport



With all the hustle and bustle of the Olympics coming to a close and the closing ceremonies complete, we Oxley students still have some questions. No, not about the medals (or lack thereof) but of the more seemingly trivial things. The Oxley community have spoken and now we can put these questions to bed.

Can Usain Bolt get any faster?

As they near the glorious white line we bite our nails at the anticipation of a new world record being set, but is Bolt's time of 9.58 seconds the maximum speed we as humans are capable of running? According to Stanford Professor of Biology, Mark Denny a natural human has the capacity of a minimum time of 9.48 seconds in the 100m dash. This leaves a 10 split second gap between Bolt's record and his maximum capacity as a human being. With Bolt now putting away the spikes could it perhaps be Canada's De Grasse whom reaches this godly feat.

Are the gold medals pure gold?

Up until the 1912 Olympics, held in Stockholm, the illustrious gold were in fact made of pure gold. Ironically, since then, these greatly sought after medallions are composed of 92.5% silver! But to live up to their title they must feature six grams of gold. This means that the price of each medal is drastically reduced from their original face value of \$22,000 USD from the pure gold to the current price of the Brazilian medals valued at approximately \$546.

How many sports are there in the Olympics?

The Rio Olympics featured 28 sporting events. This number has increased from the last games with the inclusion of rugby sevens and golf. Competing in those events are more than 11,000 Olympians the majority of which come from the USA.

Do pole vaulters bring their own poles?

Yes, yes they do. For these poor, underappreciated Olympians, getting to the Olympics themselves is half the trouble because of their, well, giant poles! They often have to fork out large airline fees or have to part with their beloved equipment weeks before the Olympics to allow time for them to be shipped to the events. So I guess you could say gold medallist Thiago Braz da Silva has a home pole advantage.

Now there are many questions we leave unanswered, why are gymnasts so small? Is there a correlation between ethnicity and sporting achievement and is there a reason why the Hockeyroos, former world champions failed to perform? But I'm sure we can hold on for another four years.

By Cat Uliana (Year 11)



WINTER SPORT FINAL REPORTS

Junior Bs

It was a nail biting Semi Final for the Junior Bs against Chevalier at Moorbank on Saturday. Sophie Moore scored the first goal of the match putting us in front and we held Chevalier out until late in the game when they evened the score. The rest of the match was great defence from both teams and neither of us was able to score again.

Most of us were beginners at the beginning of the season and we had come so far so it was a shame to end the season with a draw and to not go through to the Grand Final because of the season goal count but it was a great game and we were happy to have played our best game yet.

Mia Sandilands (Year 7)

Firsts Football Girls

On Saturday 20 August the Oxley First XI Girls Football team played their second ISA Finals in two years. The team were up against defending Division Two champions Blue Mountains Grammar School, whom they had previously lost 5-1 to. Without a few key players we went into the game with heavy hearts but determined minds. This proved to be a stellar advantage as within the first ten minutes Charlotte Thirlwall opened the scoring making it 1-0.

After keeping our defences high we managed to keep it to 1-1 by half time, but our fatigue got the better of us as the score slipped to 3-1 with ten minutes remaining. Hopes were rekindled when Alexia Cheaib managed to score off a Goalie fumble making it 3-2 but we were unable to muster any more goals. Blue Mountains were worthy winners of the title and we congratulate them for their sportsmanship and gusto.

Alexia Cheaib (Year 12)

Firsts Netball

Last Saturday the Oxley 1st's Netball team played in the Grand Final for the Division Two ISA Netball, against Barker. The team tried their very best against the opposition, however Barker managed to secure the win. The game was very close, the final result being 52-40 (Barker's way). Despite the loss, we had a great season and most definitely improved a great deal. We will really miss Gabby and Jamie next year!

Eliza Drysdale (Year 11)