

# PIN OAK

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POET TREE



RUNNING



K-6

## Contents

- 3 Headmaster's Report
- 4 Big Issue
- 5 Films, Music, Books
- 6 K - 6 News
- 7 More K-6
- 8 Feature Article
- 10 Deputy Head Reports
- 11 In the Spotlight
- 12 MAD
- 13 On the Branch
- 14 Gallery
- 15 Calendar
- 16 Sport

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## MOSS VALE BUSKERS BATTLE

Recently in Moss Vale, Savannah Sandilands (Year 9) and Ben Canute (Year 9) charmed the crowd and did Oxley proud!

Ben bagged the "Big Up" Award for outstanding young talent which was a \$250 travel voucher from Moss Vale Cruise and Travel.

In a super talented line up of buskers our Oxley students really shone on the day.



# HEADMASTER'S REPORT



## Pippin

Everybody, myself included, has loved Pippin. The school is buzzing with stories of how great the lead singers have been, how polished the chorus are and how much energy pulses from the stage. For those of you who have seen it, you will already know. For those of you who have not yet, there is still a performance tonight.

It's a deceptively difficult musical to put on. When 1970s songwriters decide to write a feel good pre disco/gospel musical about the son of Charlemagne (8th century French Emperor) complete with dream sequences, casual massacres, postmodern nods, regicide and ill ducks, you know that the director is going to have to have a strong vision to get the material cohesively onto the stage. With Phil Cunich (Director) and Rob Hughes (Musical Director) at the helm this certainly happened.

The musical remained upbeat and stirring for so much of the time, whilst giving due weight to some of the serious issues about the responsibilities of kingship and the pitfalls of everyone 'finding their own way'. Patrick Newton was an excellent centre of gravity as Pippin. He held the show together with his outstanding singing in standout numbers such as 'Corner of the Sky'. He also conveyed the angst and optimism of a young man finding his place in the world with real conviction. Claire Allan in Year 8 as the Leading Player was a standout too. She has only three weeks to learn the part after illness forced William Lamrock-George from the stage. She knew the part inside out and back to front within days and indeed, was able to manage the stage for other cast members too. Her voice is superlative and her stage presence was undeniable. She had the option three years ago to tour China for months with a professional musical production and I can see why!

Ben Canute did a great job as King Charlemagne failing to understand or even notice his son. Mitchell Latham was convincing as Pippin's dim witted and vain half brother (for such a thoughtful young man usually). Meribel Greenop was an excellent scheming stepmother in the best tradition. Mia Healy made the second act her own in her turn as the love interest with a foot fetish – and Tom Rapp wonderfully milked all of the pathos he could from his dying duck. Miss Natalie Lane, a staff



member, brought the house down in her portrayal of Pippin's wizened grandmother with a penchant for belting out sultry show tunes with a chorus of young men.

However, these actors were only a small minority of the people who made the show. Much of the night belonged to all the players on stage who sang and danced with such energy, talent and gusto night after night. Their rendition of show stopping numbers such as 'Magic To Do' was really uplifting. They gave the whole hall a buzz. Complementing the actors of course were all of the wonderful musicians in the band and the army of people backstage doing lights, sets, costumes, choreography and so on. Although we didn't see them up in lights, the success of the show was due so much to their professionalism.

All in all the energy, atmosphere and positive feel (with an undercurrent) of the show made for a great night. It is something of which each and every person can be proud.

## Basketball and Swimming

Congratulations are due to many sportspeople who have competed in finals in the last few weeks. However, particular accolades should go to the Senior Boys basketball team who won their final in a convincing display of skill and style against Oakhill College. They owned the court from the first few moments, and it was rare for the opposition's score to be as close as half of Oxley's. It was a great game to watch. The Senior Boys swimming also won their division at Homebush last week, edging out a competitive ISA field. Watching our relay team dominate each lap in the same pool that had held the Sydney Olympics was a highlight of last week for me.



## A DOOR STEP TO A BETTER FUTURE

About three years ago we made friends with a father and his daughter who have come to Australia. Their names are Vinitha and Kumar. Over the past few years we have been part of their life through the ups and downs. I don't want to speak too much about their story as I know that they are perfectly capable of speaking for themselves. But Kumar and Vinitha are Tamils from Sri Lanka and after the civil war, Kumar was persecuted and tortured. He and his wife decided that it would be better for Kumar and Vinitha to seek asylum in Australia, arriving by boat. It was really hard to listen to Vinitha tell her story; the things that she went through to come here are so incredibly difficult. It's been four years since she has seen her mother. I can't begin to imagine what this must be like for her.

Refugees coming to Australia by boat, a complex topic if ever I saw one, and one we've struggled with for about fifteen years. The numbers of boats that have come to Australia in the last 18 months, however, has dropped dramatically, with the Australian government coming down hard on what it describes as 'illegal maritime arrivals'. This is in spite of the fact that seeking asylum is not and has never been illegal, no matter how people arrive.

Let them stay!

There was a sudden surge of media coverage around the refugee issue recently after the government planned to return 267 asylum seekers to off shore detention. These people were previously on Manus or Nauru and with their families were brought to Australia for medical treatment for issues including complications of pregnancy, serious mental health problems, sexual abuse and terminal illnesses. Among these 267 people are 37 babies and 50 children.

Refugee activists believe that sending the group back to Nauru, which played a role in their suffering, is cruel. So what's the big problem with Nauru and Manus?

According to the Guardian Newspaper: "Australia's two offshore detention centres have been the site of consistent reports of violence against asylum seekers, including the sexual assault of children, and the rape of men and women in detention, as well as other abuses such as detainees being given out-of-date food and expired medication.

Two men have died in offshore detention: one beaten

to death in a riot and another after his removal to hospital with an infected leg wound was delayed.

Paediatricians have reported children as young as seven attempting suicide and one father on Nauru reported his two-year-old boy played with cockroaches in detention "because he has no other toys".

These are powerful images. They make us ask the question: why would our Government send people back to a place like this, and why would they keep the Centre open at all?

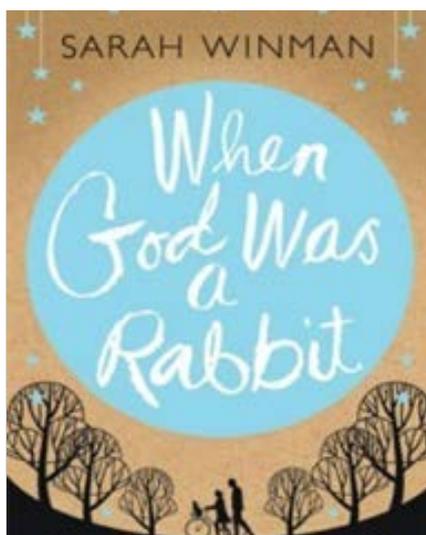
The Government's response is that if they are seen to allow these refugees to stay in Australia then it will give people smugglers the impression that they are no longer being hardline with their policies and it will encourage them to risk lives by sending asylum seekers to Australia by boat. The Government estimates 1200 people drowned coming to Australia by boat between 2007-2013 under Labor Government policies.

While this concern might be relevant it comes down to how many lives we can genuinely save. If people are living in detention centres but are thinking about how they can harm themselves, then we're really not doing a very good job. We can work with refugees in safer and more economical ways than sending them to despair in a detention centre.

We spend more than five times the amount of money on maintaining our detention centres than the UNHCR has to deal with the refugee problem for all of South East Asia. This is an absolutely terrible statistic! If the Australian Government worked with the Indonesian Government through the UNHCR to resettle asylum seekers directly from Indonesia to Australia, this would stop people from getting on boats and risking their lives. Our priority should not only be stopping boats, but contributing our fair share to the global refugee crisis by genuinely settling people here in Australia, where they can contribute to our culture and economy. Offshore detention is no long term solution.

This is an important issue to me because our friends Vinitha and Kumar could so easily have been in this position. Instead they've been able to give back to Australia, are hardworking and love this place, and Vinitha considers herself Australian. What a waste it would have been to send them to a place which could only ever have served as the doorstep to something better.

By Jemima Taylor (Year 9)



## Books

★★★★★

### When God Was a Rabbit

"Nothing stays forgotten for long, Elly. Sometimes we simply have to remind the world that we're special and that we're still here." When God Was A Rabbit tells the story of an eccentric young girl named Elly. It follows her through the ups and downs of her path from childhood to adulthood, capturing her experience of both the ordinary and shockingly extraordinary events of growing up. This book has a lot to say about human relationships, especially among family and friends. It is incredibly honest and provokes a range of emotions, one moment sad, the next pure joy, just like life itself. It urges the reader to question, "Why do good things happen to bad people?" At the same time, it generates a sense of hope: even though bad things do occur, there are ways to keep living and find gratification even when faith in life seems lost.

By Isabella Knowles (Year 11)



## Music

### Ms Lanser's Top Weekend Songs

#### Party: Christine Anu

There is nothing like this song to get you in the mood for the weekend.

#### Sun : Caribou

This pretty much drops a good beat and the word 'Sun' for the entirety of this dance track. This will get you running, studying or dancing.

#### Light Up: Janne Schra

A beautiful female voice tells you to "let a little air in and... light up" from the depths of Sweden this track will get you wanting to go out and do something or just make you feel good about yourself and your life.

#### Smooth Sailin': Leon Bridges

This is old school soul/blues/groove. You will want to sway and shimmy your way to the kitchen for a dance off with your mum, then going to eat a burger at Bernie's Diner.

#### We Went Wild: Lord Huron

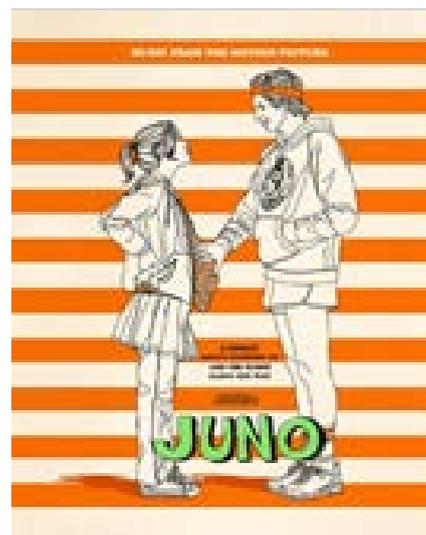
It's the weekend, so lets go wild, Lord Huron takes you on a gentle journey of love and adventure with some sweet vocal harmonies and a toe tapping beat.

#### Gold on the leaves: Luluc

These two are originally from Victoria, and now live in New York. Despite a growing ego, their songs are beautiful. Folky and soft this one is a dream about the gum trees they miss in Australia.

#### Song from the sixteenth Floor: Paul Kelly

Paul has to be on my list of weekend tunes, this song is just sweet and catchy. Turn up your player loud, open your window and sing your heart.



## Films

★★★★★

### Juno

Reading the synopsis of Juno, you get the impression of a fairly typical film centred on teen angst, but what you get is far more than that. Instead of being cursed with yet another film about coming of age, complete with moralizing melodrama we are gifted with the story of Juno Macguff (Ellen Page). She is an average 16 year old, rarely wearing anything other than sweatshirts and jeans, communicating solely via cheeseburger phone and moving entire living rooms onto the lawns of friends frequently. She comes off as out of the ordinary, and relates a little bit to all of us. Add in more quirky characters, amazing cinematography and a spectacular soundtrack and you surely get one of the best indie films of our generation.

By Imogen Hatcher (Year 8)

## Head of K-6: Justine Lind

How do we grow a compassionate society?

You can't be part of the Oxley community too long without realising that there is a great deal of care for each other lived out every day. We are surrounded by examples of kindness and yes, love. Students of all ages greet each other and play together joyfully in reciprocal appreciation. In K-6 we remember that our College homestead, ELVO is at the heart of our history and our day to day life at the school in 2016. ELVO is also the name of our Acknowledgement Register where students and teachers record random and intentional acts of kindness from one student to another. Compassion is easy to recognise and to accept but it is not always easy to give.

Theories of human development talk of the egocentric child who is unable to perceive the world through another's eyes and yet the same child can demonstrate incredible love and kindness at times. Children have an innate capacity to care for others and yet they can be unintentionally hurtful too.

In K-6 we are embracing these complex dilemmas. In Stepping Stones in Years 3 and 4, we are talking about Utopian societies and asking, "How can we create a perfect world?" "How do we learn vital life lessons without effort or pain?" We don't know the answer yet...but we do know it's far from simple!

Growing up and getting along are rarely simple either. At Oxley, when there are social disagreements we like to take a learning mindset. We like to problem solve, to reflect and negotiate and plan a way forward, just as we would when we encounter learning obstacles. There may be trial and error and the inevitable mis-step from time to time and so then, the need for forgiveness. At other times, there is a need for accountability and sometimes even culpability and consequence.

Compassion is hardest to give to those who seemingly deserve it the least. Sharing with the generous, including the popular, teaming up with the sporty and standing up with those who are strong are easy paths to take. Extending the hand of friendship to the friendless is the act of kindness, of leading, of teaching that grows kindness in others and that ultimately grows a compassionate society.

In Daniel Goleman's seminal book on Emotional Intelligence he argues that "habits of emotional management repeated ....during childhood will help mould this circuitry [of the brain]. (1996, p.226) He maintains that "emotional intelligence includes self-awareness and impulse control, persistence, zeal and motivation, empathy and social deftness" and that "these are the qualities that mark people who excel; whose relationships flourish, who are stars in the workplace."

Next week, our students will wear their emotional intelligence with pride. They will welcome their Grandparents, Godparents and Grandfriends into our school. They will be the hosts who care for their guests, attend to their needs and at times, for a few small hours of their day, be asked to put the

needs of someone else above their own. The day is a wonderful celebration of community and compassion but it is also an intentional step towards nurturing the compassionate adults our students all have the potential to become. If you have not yet RSVP'd for the day, please contact Miss Hope at the K-6 Reception, first thing on Monday morning.

## Weekly Awards:

### Students of the Week

K: Eddie Hunt  
Yr 1: Leila Palmer  
Yr 2: Sienna Wimborne  
Yr 3: Chilli Sparke  
Yr 4: Evie Crowley  
Yr 5: Chloe Cassim  
Yr 6: Meg Callaghan



### Respect Others

K: Zoe Nonnenmacher  
Yr 1: Claudia Carpenter  
Yr 2: Molly Davis  
Yr 3: Abi Hunt  
Yr 4: Georgia Pride  
Yr 5: Billy Cameron  
Yr 6: Alister Hill



### Students of the Week

K: Sophia Denington  
Yr 1: Alexander Psarakis  
Yr 2: Charlotte Copus  
Yr 3: Jack Rendell  
Yr 4: Samuel Bernstein  
Yr 5: James Witcombe  
Yr 6: Sophie Biddlecombe



### Respect Oxley

K: Ella Wallace  
Yr 1: Ivy Halstead  
Yr 2: Noah Byrne  
Yr 3: Annabel Arnot  
Yr 4: Elizabeth Hamilton,  
Yr 5: Sophie Dunn  
Yr 6: Patrick Duffy





# Cross Country

## Champions



### Age Champions 2016 K-6 Cross Country Carnival

Age/Gender	Champion	Runner-Up
Girls 5/6	Claudia Carpenter	Matilda Pope
Boys 5/6	Will Kennedy	Rory Shedden
Girls 7	Mimi Legge	Emma Barnett
Boys 7	Bryce Rodger	Barnaby Jensen
Girls 8	Molly Davis	Charlotte-Claire Copus
Boys 8	William Gilbert	Jameson Green
Girls 9	Chilli Sparke	Lily Smith
Boys 9	Luca Colloridi	Samuel Bernstein
Girls 10	Gemma Lee	Emily Rodger
Boys 10	Jack Snell	Dylan Davis
Girls 11	Amelia Carpenter	Alexandra Kennedy
Boys 11	Benedict Regan	Monty Francis
Girls 12+	Poppy Jensen	Rosie Phelan
Boys 12 +	Sebastian Bamber	Hayden Lee

Champion House: 1st Chisholm – 535 points, 2nd Walton – 527 points, 3rd Flynn – 501 points

### Age Champions 2016 K – 6 Swimming Carnival

	Champion	Runner-Up
Junior Girls	Annabel Arnot	Sienna Soster
Junior Boys	Oliver Deakin	Harrison Cameron
11 Years Girls	Grace Hardy	Sophie Dunn
11 Years Boys	Jack Hatcher	Patrick Duffy
Senior Girls	Alice Gilbert	Poppy Jensen
Senior Boys	Victor van der Schalk	James Wilson

Champion House (including 25m Novelty Events)  
 1st Walton- 715 points, 2nd Flynn- 560 points  
 3rd Chisholm - 550 points



### **Power**

Rugby and mates,  
while you're running  
through those big white  
gates  
Gives you the power  
that you only get once  
an hour.  
Pass me the ball  
I'm close to the line,  
there's no one in sight  
I'm gonna score a try.  
The scores are tied,  
but im gonna kick a goal  
And then it goes through  
those posts.  
The team goes wild and  
the crowd goes hype.  
Rugby is one of the  
things that I like.

### **Ourselves**

Footsteps shake the  
living room floor  
Got a strange feeling,  
But I can't be sure  
Alone in this house as  
the clock strikes twelve  
Why are we always so  
scared whenever we're  
by ourselves?  
I've got a chill down my  
spine  
I'm not feeling so fine  
Running out of time  
So I am writing this  
rhyme  
Feeling pretty stressed  
Going to be possessed.

### **Football**

I've liked football ever  
since I was a foot tall  
I go down to the park,  
before it gets dark  
Follow the street route  
while we eat beetroot  
Time for holidays, no  
more essays  
No more school, just  
the pool  
We kick the ball with our  
mates, while tomorrow  
awaits  
We score a goal, while  
we smell that tasty  
casserole  
We beat the opponent,  
as we destroy their  
structures components  
Time for home, before  
we get the cold  
syndrome

# poetry week

**He painted a picture  
with the brush of emotions  
the picture of the self he'd  
never seen.**

Alexander.

**The air is blue at its edges,  
softer than before  
as 3am uneasy  
slowly fades away.**

Imogen.

**The sun's beams are hard  
the devil's heart  
beating heat  
over our trapped land.**

Charlie.

### **Underground**

Underground train station,  
Why'd I say yes  
Tiptoeing down the stairs  
Approaching the mess  
3 minutes in hell  
Just me, myself and i  
Shivers down my spine  
Fear in my eyes  
Giggles echo around me  
I hope it's just my friends  
I call out for them to stop  
It's coming around the bench  
The dread in my stomach  
Ill threaten to call the cops  
My 3 minutes are nearly up  
Its time for this to stop  
What a joke  
Fear tightens in my throat  
I turn around and see  
Something is behind me

### **Heart Beat**

Its 3 in the morning  
And I'm already yawning  
I'm down at the park  
And its still really dark  
My head is pondering  
And I'm left wondering  
I turn around  
Look at the ground  
There's this mental  
beast  
Getting deceased  
He is next to my feet  
I can hear his heartbeat  
Heartbeat  
Heartbeat  
He looks up at me  
Before reaching the end  
And says all ive ever  
wanted was to be your  
friend  
Heartbeat  
Heartbeat  
Heartbeat  
Heartbeat

### **Fly**

But strong one,  
You know you were  
born to fly  
All the tears you've cried  
You're a butterfly before  
it flies  
Butterfly  
Everybody's gonna see  
it soon.

### **Love and Hate**

After a tough day of dealing  
with a jerk  
I got home  
And dog  
Went beserk  
But, it turned out  
He had eaten  
Me homework  
Monday morning  
And we were  
In the mall  
Trying to escape  
My friend and  
His narwal.  
Let me tell you  
A story about  
Something I love:  
Going to the graveyard  
And praying for grandma  
Up above.  
I love dogs, narwals and food  
too  
And if you're a bully  
You should just shoo.  
Now we'll tell you  
Something we hate  
Monday mornings  
Are things that aren't great  
And that is all  
We can tell you mate.

# DEPUTY HEAD REPORTS

## Deputy Head Learning: Kate Cunich

Quite a deal of research has been done on the contribution of the home environment on student achievement. Parents have major effects in terms of the encouragement and expectations that they transmit to their children. Despite variables, parental aspirations and expectations for children's educational achievement has the strongest relationship with achievement. (0.8). When parents hold high aspirations and expectations for their children, and the school works in partnership with parents to make their expectations appropriately high and challenging, these expectations can not only be realised but surpassed. We know that at Oxley we are very fortunate to have this partnership.

This week we have begun the first of our series of student-parent-teacher interviews for students K – 10. These sessions are designed as an opportunity to gain a brief understanding of where each student is at in terms of where they are going, how they are going and the where to next.

Teachers spend time prior to the interview collating evidence of learning and work samples to provide a visible display of current classroom practice. We are aware that parents enjoy seeing this work, but even more important is that this is not the only time parents and children discuss and see work samples. We are keen to embed a regular time each week where the school Diary, Canvas pages and planning study and revision become an opportunity for families to share the education that Oxley provides.

If you have not already done so, please prioritise a time this weekend, preferably Sunday afternoon or night, to sit and look at the week ahead in terms of school work, co-curricular commitments and family balance. We have been speaking with our senior students in regard to the need for self-discipline – it is not so much the hours (although the cumulative sum does have a direct impact) but the quality and efficiency of the time spent. Deliberate practice towards mastery takes time, and children need to develop the muscle of regular skills and match fitness.

Finally, we are delighted to see the interest of parents in gaining access to our Learning Management system, Canvas. If you require assistance with this or any other ICT challenges, we are providing a series of parent workshops. Please contact [Ben.Hicks@oxley.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Ben.Hicks@oxley.nsw.edu.au) to register your interest.



## Deputy Head Pastoral: Peter Ayling

### Bike Safety

It is pleasing to see so many bikes at the bike rack each day. It is essential our students continue to follow Roads and Traffic Laws which include all students wearing helmets to and from school. We have also observed students who fail to stop at intersections.

### Osborne Road

The vast majority of parents support College guidelines and procedures dropping off and picking up students in and around the College. We continue to see several cars dropping off and picking up along Osborne Road. As discussed with our local council Osborne Road is not to be used for drop off or pick. We thank you for your understanding.

### College Gym

The College gym continues to be as popular as ever. Every morning and afternoon we see a large number of students who use the site and work with our outstanding instructors. Mental Health is also about mental fitness and the advice, care and passion Harry and his team show towards our students is to be commended. Please see the flyer for a paid holiday programme for Years 8-13.



**A SCHOOL HOLIDAYS  
FUN-FITNESS PROGRAM  
for KIDZ**

ages 8-13 @ Oxley College  
aimed at getting kids active & setting healthy habits!

<b>APRIL</b> SCHOOL HOLIDAYS Monday 11 to Thursday 14 10am to 2pm	<b>JULY</b> SCHOOL HOLIDAYS Monday 4 to Thursday 7 10am to 2pm	<b>SEPT</b> SCHOOL HOLIDAYS Monday 26 to Thursday 29 10am to 2pm
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- 4 days every term School Holidays | 4 hours per day (dates above)
- 45 spots (maximum) available
- 3 qualified Personal Trainers (first aid & child protection cleared) will be present every day

COST AND TERMS: \$125 PER CHILD | ONLINE REGISTRATION & PAYMENT AVAILABLE  
[theshedfitness.com.au/activekidz](http://theshedfitness.com.au/activekidz)



## SOFTBALL TROPHY

As the summer sports season draws to an end it's time to say goodbye to the Year 12 students who made post-cross-country trainings enjoyable and put the softball glove away until next season. This year the Junior A and the 1sts softball teams had wonderful seasons on the diamond, with both teams fighting their way to the semi finals. The 1sts had just scraped into 3rd place and we were up against Chevalier 1sts. Earlier in the season the Chevalier 1sts team had beaten us twice, yet we had faith and played hard. After a long and closely fought game in 30° heat, punctuated by some outstanding individual efforts combined with super application from the entire team, we took away the win 12-14. Unfortunately, the juniors were faced with an even bigger challenge and couldn't quite manage to get ahead of the Chev junior As, just losing against them in the semi-finals 13 to 14. The 1sts went on to play Barker in the final later that morning, we put up a good fight, but found ourselves outclassed against a superior opposition...the score is irrelevant. Furthermore, we're very excited to hear that the outstanding performances throughout the season by both teams resulted in Oxley jointly winning the Champion Softball School shield of 2016 with Chevalier. I'd also like to congratulate each and every member of the 1st team for such a wonderful season; skill cannot do what team work can and softball won't be the same without our Year 12 girls next year; Cate, Heidi, Kaarina, Meg and Laura. On behalf of the entire team, a huge thank you goes out to Mr Woff for being such a dedicated and supportive coach!

By Ella Moran (Year 11)



## SHAPE 2016

Year 12 Design and Technology students were fortunate to visit SHAPE at the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences in Sydney. This exhibition showcases the outstanding Major Design Projects of 2015 HSC students.

Some of the highlights include POOCH, an integrated unit that dispenses bags and decomposes dog waste. Another innovative design was the Automated Clothesline Cover. This ingenious project senses when it starts to rain and activates a cover to keep your washing dry.

Having the opportunity to see the exhibition, along with participating in seminars with past students and senior design professionals, was both stimulating and inspiring. It will undoubtedly aid us as we work on our own Major Design Projects.

By Cate Patterson (Year 12)



## Youth provide input on Australian Federalism: Education and State Powers

Jaime Pryor is one of 120 Year 11 and 12 students selected to participate in the 21st National Schools Constitutional Convention, being held at The Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House in Canberra from 16 - 18 March 2016.

The National Schools Constitutional Convention programme provides senior students with an opportunity to become better informed about how Australia's Constitution provides a democratic framework and encourages them to take an active interest in the operation of government. The topic of the 2016 Convention is 'Education in a Federation'.

Facilitated by Emeritus Professor John Warhurst AO, Professor of Political Science at the Australian National University, the students will consider a range of arguments relating to the current division of responsibilities, assess whether it is working or if it is time for a change. This will include input from a panel of experts, group discussions on the issues and the opportunity to persuade other delegates of particular approaches. Students will participate in a mock referendum to determine the outcome of their deliberations.

The Convention is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training as part of its ongoing commitment to civics and citizenship education.

In becoming a national delegate, Jaime was selected from around 4,000 students from government, independent and Catholic schools, most of whom took part in feeder conventions in their home state or territory.

"This is a fantastic opportunity to go to Canberra and debate current constitutional reform issues at the Australian Museum of Democracy at Old Parliament House." We look forward to Jaime's feedback on her return to Oxley.



## PIPPIN REVIEW

'Pippin' follows the story of a young mans journey to find the meaning of life. The Oxley College Prouduction featured Claire Allan as The Leading Player, Patrick Newton as Pippin, Ben Canute as Charlemagne and Mia Healey as Kathyrn.

A fantastic set alongside incredible costumes, created a vibrant and exciting atmosphere and ambience for the whole performance.

The production showcased the spectacular talent of the College Drama Ensemble with a very tight performance from 'The Players'. We were lucky enough to have many of the schools' music students to accompany the musical, alongside many professionals (the teachers).

By Ciara Longworth (Year 9), Grace Patterson (Year 10) and Bree Feary (Year 9).



## GO KARTING

Recently Lachlan Mineeff (Year 8) had a fantastic weekend Go Kart racing in Canberra. He moved up to a new division and won his first final from a group of ten competitors. He set a new track record earlier in the day then broke it again in the final!



## BATEMANS BAY BAG PIPING

This year's Australia Day March in Batemans Bay was Tom Tregenza's (Year 10) first parade since commencing bag pipe lessons barely 12 months ago.

Tom proved to be a very competent player and was accepted as a member of the Batemans Bay Soldier's Club Pipe Band, with an open invitation to play at future functions.

Tom looked the part, kitted out by the band in their distinctive Elliot tartan.



## MINDFULNESS AND MASTICATING\*

Recently I have been avoiding Mr Ayling in the school grounds. Usually I love a chat with Mr Ayling but over the last few weeks I have been carrying out an experiment. Traditionally chewing gum has a bad reputation. Teachers get annoyed with having it stuck to the underside of tables or picking up a random piece on their shoes in the playground; it also conveys an 'I have attitude' look which many find unattractive. Despite all of this I believe it's time to reevaluate the role of chewing gum in a teenager's life.

Research has proven that there is an upside to chewing gum. It enhances memory, helps manage weight and improves digestion and oral health. The main benefit though is the way chewing gum can help aid stress. Managing stress is a big challenge for today's teenager. Tests, assignments, due dates and just having too much on can really impact on the way we feel and our mental health. Chewing gum is a way to relieve tension and help relieve nervous energy. It also makes your body more alert and awakens your senses. So maybe it's time for educational facilities to have a look at the benefits of chewing gum? It is an inexpensive, sugar free way to improve wellbeing.

Next time you are really worried about something or the pressures of life are getting to you, grab a piece of gum and just chew on it for a while. Trust me - you will feel a whole lot better.

By Savannah Sandilands (Year 9)

\* **masticate**

[mas-ti-keyt]

*verb*

definition: to chew (food).



Winner of Fortnightly Pin Oak Photography Competition  
 Photo by Rowan Maitland (Year 8): "My pet bearded dragon."  
 Comments: Awesome subject matter! The shadows, tone and detail of your pet are emphasised by taking this photo in black and white! Fantastic interpretation of the brief! Great shot! Congratulations!

The brief for this fortnight is ... 'Easter'. Easter is fast approaching! Show me in a photograph what Easter means to you and your family. Tell a story through your image. Send your entry to Liv Donovan by Tuesday 29 March (the day after the Easter long weekend) at [olivia.donovan@oxley.nsw.edu.au](mailto:olivia.donovan@oxley.nsw.edu.au) to enter. Good luck.

## LAST NIGHT PIPPIN!

**PIPPIN**

THURSDAY 10TH, FRIDAY 11TH, SATURDAY 12TH,  
 THURSDAY 17TH AND FRIDAY 18TH MARCH 2016

EVENINGS AT 7.30PM  
 HOSKINS HALL, OXLEY COLLEGE

\$10 CONCESSION AND \$15 ADULTS  
 TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR

BOOK BY **ROGER O. HIRSON** MUSIC & LYRICS BY **STEPHEN SCHWARTZ**

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH HAL LEONARD AUSTRALIA PTY LTD

## Oxley College Equestrian Day

Sunday 3 April 2016  
 'Araluen' Kardinia Lane  
 Hume Highway Berrima NSW  
 Open to all school aged riders Years 7-12

Dressage ♦ Show Jumping  
 Jumping Derby  
 Sporting ♦ Hack Rings

All Entries via Nominate  
[www.nominate.com.au](http://www.nominate.com.au)  
 Enquiries: Sally Quirico  
 Ph: 0429 685 774  
[sallyq@internode.on.net](mailto:sallyq@internode.on.net)

ENTRIES CLOSE 29 MARCH 2016

## EQUESTRIAN HELP NEEDED

Oxley College Equestrian Day: Sunday 3 April 2016

Every year the Oxley P & F organise a highly successful Equestrian Day at Araluen near Berrima. You don't have to be involved with horses to enjoy this fantastic community event. Programme details: <http://www.oxley.nsw.edu.au/news-events/upcoming-events/> and all enquires to Event Coordinator: Sally Quirico at [sallyq@internode.on.net](mailto:sallyq@internode.on.net)

Equestrian Canteen – Volunteers needed and all bakers called to action!

On the day, Oxley is renowned for its welcoming country canteen serving homemade cakes and slices as well as egg and bacon rolls etc. We are fortunate that the Oxley community really gets behind this event every year to make it a great success. The canteen coordinator, Kate Fair ([midwifesremedy@gmail.com](mailto:midwifesremedy@gmail.com)) and her team are looking for volunteers for the Equestrian Day Canteen as well as bakers to contribute on the day. We need eight people in the canteen at the following times:

- 7:00am – 10:00am
- 10:00am – 1:00pm
- 1:00pm – 4:00pm
- Clean up until 6:00pm

Please contact Kate if you are able to help. Come and be part of this wonderful day. All cakes and slices can be dropped at Oxley Student Services on Friday 1 April. We also encourage our students to volunteer on the day (we will need about 15 in total!) This volunteer work contributes to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award community service and also Year 11 Leadership. Please see Ms Lane if you are interested in volunteering.

ON THE BRANCH



# MARCH + APRIL CALENDAR

	<p><b>Mon</b>                  EXC: Y11 Ancient History to Nicholson Museum                  EXAMS: Y12 Half Yearly Examinations                  INC: Y12 Student Mindfulness                  Y7 Student/Parent/Teacher Interviews Orchestra Room</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>Mon</b>                  EASTER MONDAY</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>Mon</b>                  EXC: Y11 GEO Biophysical Interactions                  EXC: Y12 Studies of Religion, Auburn Mosque                  EXC: Y9 Romeo and Juliet Canberra                  INC: Y12 Student Mindfulness</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>04</b></p>
<p><b>CANTEEN NEWS</b>                  Online ordering is coming!! Over the next few weeks the canteen will be assessing various online ordering systems with a view to introducing this system in Term 2. Parents will be able to access the system 24/7 to order when convenient to them with no need for cash. We will keep you updated.</p>	<p><b>Tue</b>                  SPORT: CIS Y2-6 Swim Carnival                  EXAMS: Y12 Half Yearly Examinations</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>Tue</b>                  Parent BYODD Workshop, 6pm, Rm 11 &amp; 12                  Oxley Short Sharp Festival, 7pm, Hoskins Hall</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>Tue</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>05</b></p>
	<p><b>Wed</b>                  EXC: Y11 DT Powerhouse                  EXAMS: Y12 Half Yearly Examinations                  Y8 Student/Parent/Teacher Interviews Orchestra Room                  Parent BYODD Workshop, 6pm, Rm 11 and 12</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>Wed</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>Wed</b>                  Oxley Music Night Orchestra Room</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>06</b></p>
	<p><b>Thu</b>                  EXC: Y7 Geography Mt Keria fieldwork                  EXAM: Y12 Half Yearly Examinations                  K - 6 Grandparents' Day &amp; Easter Egg hunt</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>Thu</b>                  INC: Y7 Immunisation Programme</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>31</b></p>	<p><b>Thu</b>                  P&amp;F: K-6 Cake Stall                  TERM 1 ENDS</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>07</b></p>
<p><b>Fri</b>                  Pippin Last Night                  7:30pm Hoskins Hall</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>Fri</b>                  GOOD FRIDAY - Public Holiday</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>Fri</b>                  P&amp;F: Y9 Parent Dinner</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>01</b></p>	<p><b>Fri</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>08</b></p>
<p><b>Sat</b>                  ISA 7-12 Cross Country Carnival                  Chevalier College</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>Sat</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>Sat</b>                  RELAY FOR LIFE Eridge Park</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>02</b></p>	<p><b>Sat</b>                  DoE Gold Hike, Bronze/silver Practice Hike TBC</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>09</b></p>
<p><b>Sun</b>                  Y2 Family picnic, Burrawang Park 11am</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>Sun</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>Sun</b>                  SPORT: Oxley P &amp; F Equestrian Day, Araluen, 7.30am</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>03</b></p>	<p><b>Sun</b>                  DoE Gold Hike, Bronze/silver Practice Hike TBC</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>10</b></p>

Term 2 commences on Tuesday 26 April 2016.

# Sport



## 2016 SWIMMING

The 2016 Oxley Swimming season was different from previous years. With the help of Mr Wansey and Mrs McNaught, Oxley College had established an official training scheme with great success. Every Wednesday and Friday, 7-12 students had the opportunity to receive professional coaching, in order to gain placement in the two invitational carnivals which occurred prior to the House Oxley Swimming competition. The annual invitational carnivals include; the Drummoyne swimming complex in Sydney – which is a non-competitive carnival, and the 'Twilight' carnival held at Frensham and attended by Southern Highlands Schools. At this years 'Twilight' Carnival, Oxley emerged victorious with several age-champions and runner-up's. Additionally, Oxley won the boys division for the second year running. Both these competitions allow Oxley students to practice competitive swimming before the school carnival and ISA. On Wednesday 24 February, the first part of the House carnival occurred with a record number of students participating in the 100m freestyle, 200 IM and the 50m Butterfly. This unprecedented amount of commitment reflects the impact of the Colleges newly-established swimming programme. On Thursday 25 February Oxley held its annual House swimming carnival. All results were presented during a recent assembly. Congratulations to all those selected as a part of the ISA team. This year's Oxley swim team is the fastest we've had a number of years. We look forward to seeing what Oxley Swimming in the future will hold.

By Brandon Colby (Year 12)

\*\*\*7 - 12 Swimming and Cross Country results in next Pin Oak.



## SOFTBALL SUCCESS

We sit down with Cate Patterson, Captain of Softball at Oxley and member of the ISA Softball team to gain and understanding of her softball career and pro tips.

**PO: How long have you been playing softball?**

CP: I signed up when I was in Year 7, that makes it six years now. I remember having Mrs Pugh coach me in those early years.

**PO: What position(s) do you play? And how are they more physical or tactical?**

CP: My preferred position is shortstop, although I had a short yet memorable stint as catcher. I like this position because you're right in the action, you never miss a beat, and its both physical and tactical.

**PO: What is your most memorable match?**

CP: This has been my favourite season yet, which is fitting because it is my last and I've loved playing alongside my sister. I can't pin down a specific match as they are all exciting and eventful.

**PO: What have you brought back from the ISA Softball team to softball at Oxley?**

CP: I now know that softball shoes are an actual thing! And I was so impressed with the level of skill of my teammates.

**PO: What makes softball at Oxley special?**

CP: It comes down to one thing... The team comradery. I've made so many long lasting friendships and feel so privileged to play with such a great group of girls. We have a lot of fun and there's never a dull moment with Meg Thirlwall around! And I know first hand how committed the coaches are to making us the best players we can be, especially Mr Woff. I hope to see you all playing when I'm watching from the sidelines next season!

By Grace Patterson (Year 10)

## SPORTS STARS NEWS

Gabby Taylor Helme-

Medallion CIS Netball.

Member of CIS Netball team- winners of the All Schools Challenge.

NSW CIS Netball Team - Awarded Team of The Year.

Charlie Dummer -

NSW City Country Schools Cricket Team - competing at State Championships.

Jade Gillis -

Competing in the NSW All Schools Tri-athalon.

Nick Milner -

Competing in the NSW All Schools Tri-athalon.

