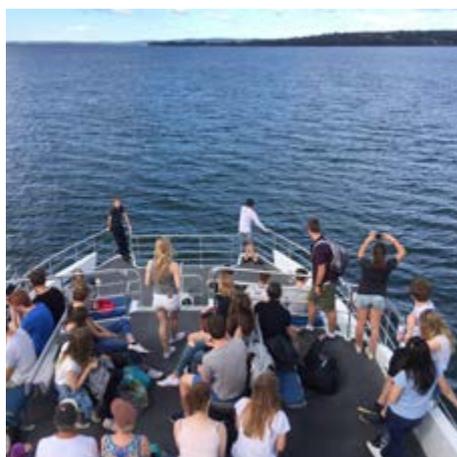


PIN OAK

ISSUE 33: TERM 2, May 6, 2016



ANZAC DAY



DUTCH VISITS



K-6

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MINDFULNESS

INDOOR PLANTS

Indoor plants have been around since the time of the Ancient Greeks and Romans. Throughout the ages indoor plants have come in and out of fashion. Today a lot of people fill their rooms with greenery. From peace lilies, to cacti, to the currently most popular succulents.

Indoor plants are not just easy to look after and aesthetically pleasing, they also have a number of health benefits.

1) HELP US BREATHE. As plants take in Carbon dioxide (what we breathe out) they release oxygen (what we breathe in) during the process of photosynthesis. This helps our breathing process.

2) HELP WORKING HABITS AND CONCENTRATION. Just looking at plants, increases our attention span. Research has shown how looking at natural objects reduces stress by making you feel less tired. Increasing our attention to things in our rooms can help us to become more mindful on a day-to-day basis. Consider how people think about rainforests to relax. This is a similar effect to having indoor plants.

3) KEEP US HEALTHY. When plants absorb water through their roots, the water evaporates through their leaves in a process known as transpiration. When this happens indoors, it increases the humidity. This helps particularly during the drier, colder months when it is more likely for people to get dry skin, colds, sore throats and coughs.

Plants have a therapeutic nature. They have a positive effect on all of us and help our mental health and wellbeing. So green up your room today.

By Savannah Sandilands (Year 9)





Guests drinking non alcoholic beverages.

SAFE PARTYING CHECKLIST

For many parents of teenagers, the most frightening question they can hear from their children is 'Mum/Dad can I have a party?' Luckily, as a parent of slightly younger children, the worst I have had to deal with personally was a child who was stung by a wasp on the inflatable jumping castle in our backyard. However, there is a lot of advice out there that I have read and been involved with over the decades, and I have distilled some of it below.

Despite the best attempts of parents who do all the right things, parties can still go wrong. However, happily, many events or gatherings are event free. If we don't collectively offer venues for our children to gather sometimes, then they are more likely to congregate in a park or a state forest.

We do think it is important to keep giving guidance where we can to our students about alcohol, drugs, parties and so on. We have Michael Carr-Gregg coming to speak to parents on Thursday 18 August. We discuss these issues in Mind Matters and elsewhere. Peter Ayling and others are always happy to talk with parents who are organising a gathering, or find themselves on the wrong end of an event gone bad. As parents we have to keep in mind that we have legal responsibilities for partygoers on our property. I hope that the suggestions below are of some use.

BEFORE THE EVENT/GATHERING

a) Be careful with the invitations. Put the party details on a form that is least likely to go viral. An old fashioned printed invitation is the best, with a request not to create an 'events' page on Facebook. Nothing is secure

of course - many party details will end up on social media anyway - but if you are prudent with your details, you are less likely to end up with an Allianz Stadium size crowd

b) A smaller invite list is better than a larger one. Your child is not so popular that they have 200 close friends. Also include a start and finish time.

c) Avoid 'plus ones'.

d) Consider making the upstairs /bedroom area of the house off limits to the party. Alternatively, demarcate which areas ARE accessible to the party.

e) Gatecrash-proof the house as much as you can. Have a clear and single point of entrance. This can be harder with larger properties, but have some sort of surveillance of other potential entry points.

f) For larger gatherings, consider hiring some professional security for the entrance and to be a presence. This can be handled delicately, so they look like the slightly burly uncle instead of a SWAT squad. This delicate handling also means that the mood of the party is not too heavy and controlled. The 'outsourcing' to a professional will take some of the angst out of it for you. Alternatively use some friends or relatives who you can rely on to both be strong and also not escalate or personalise conflict. Twenty one year old big brothers very rarely fit the bill.

g) Have a lot of food. BBQs are good and it allows slightly burly uncles to stay near the centre of the action.

Continued over page...

HEADMASTER'S REPORT CONTINUED

h) Inform the police that you will be having a party. This will help if the party gets out of control and you need their assistance.

i) Inform the neighbours. Give them details about the expected size of the crowd and the finishing time. Give them an opportunity to evacuate in advance.

j) Offer to talk to parents of guests about the arrangements. Offer your phone number so parents can ring you to check. (This also closes the loophole of everyone claiming they are at someone else's house when they have actually gone to the Belanglo State Forest.)

k) Telegraph that it is a no alcohol event at your house (for harm minimisation purposes at least). This keeps you out of trouble at all but 18th birthday party events where you may wish to relax this. If your child wishes to argue the toss, offer to go halves in the mortgage. Unless s/he takes you up on it, it's your call.

l) Accept your lot as 'the strictest parent in year'. That's what all the other kids are telling their parents too, so technically it's a tie.

As a side note- if your child is going to someone's else's party, you could

- Ring the hosts in advance to check.
- Check that your child has a mobile phone so they can ring you.
- Check they have identification on them in case of an emergency.
- Give them a boring middle-aged lecture about what you expect from them.
- Check they have money for a taxi.
- Stay under the limit in case you need to do a sudden extraction.
- Say 'no' if you don't like the sound of the party.

HOSTS AT THE PARTY

a) Get in touch with your inner fascist. S/he will be needed when turning away gatecrashers, phoning parents to come and collect a troublemaker early etc.

b) However, your inner fascist is always ice cool and doesn't lose his/her temper. This may be hard if you find your house literally being invaded, but it is vital.

c) Assume you will be at work for most of the night. Set your expectations to management, not 'enjoyment'. And don't hideout in a bedroom or 'parents retreat'. Be a steady presence in the vicinity, even if it is a strategic spot in the kitchen.

d) Similarly, your aim is not to be the coolest Dad/Mum on the block, but the one who can facilitate a party where everyone has fun without things getting out of control.

e) Don't drink alcohol yourself at a party at which the guests cannot.

f) Be on the lookout for guests who may have become very intoxicated or worse despite your best endeavours. This could be at the beginning of the night if an invitee has pre-loaded. If you find them, treat it as a medical issue, not a moral one. However, err on the side of overreacting. Call parents or even an ambulance. Don't let kids 'sleep it off'.

g) If you feel that you are in physical danger from argumentative gatecrashers, call the police.

h) Try to play some role in how people leave. Try to encourage taxis, particularly maxi-taxis. Have a say about how many people are getting into a car (and doublecheck that the driver has not drunk). Check that parents are coming. Try to minimise people walking home, unless they live very close indeed.

i) Um... have fun.

INVITATION

Oxley College with Dr Michael Carr-Gregg

Keeping Our Adolescents Safe

Coping with Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs

What parents need to know about contemporary adolescent drug use and their role in reducing the harms from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Michael will share the latest research and statistics on teenage drug use.

Thursday 18 August 2016
7:00pm
Hoskins Hall, Oxley College

RSVP 10 August 2016 (for seating requirements)
email Kellie.Henderson@oxley.nsw.edu.au
phone 4861 1366

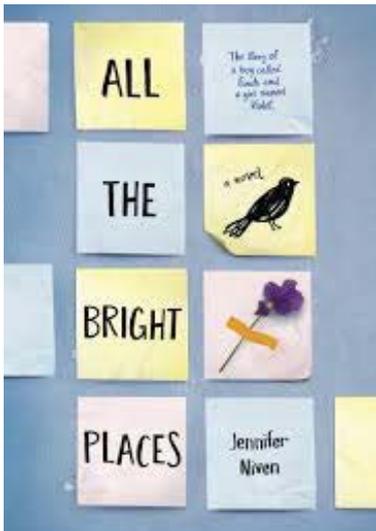


Dr Carr-Gregg is one of Australia's highest profile psychologists. He works in private practice as a nationally registered child and adolescent psychologist and is passionate about delivering national and international evidence based psychology workshops and seminars that make a difference to the health and wellbeing of young people. His training and approach incorporates cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), mindfulness skills and interventions drawn from positive psychology research. He is a founding member of the National Centre Against Bullying and Chairs their Digital Literacy Committee. From October 2010 - 2013 he was appointed the official advisor to the Queensland government on cybersafety.

Dr Carr-Gregg is a member of the Australian Psychological Society Committee (Melbourne Branch), a Director of the an ambassador for the federal Government's National Drugs Campaign, a columnist for a number of publications including New Idea, Girlfriend Magazine and the Australian Boarding Staff publication Lightsout. He is the resident parenting expert on Channel 7's Sunrise as well as Psychologist for the top rating Morning Show with Neil Mitchell on Radio 3AW.

Dr Carr-Gregg is an author of 9 books including the best selling "Princess Bitchface Syndrome" and is currently working on his 10th. His books have been published in Italy, Indonesia, China, Brazil, the UK and Japan. He specialises in the area of parenting adolescents and adolescent mental health. He also served on the advisory committee for the Federal Government's Boys' Education Lighthouse School Programme, the Youth psychology advisory group for Victorian Roads Minister Tim Pallas, and as an Advisor to the Queensland Schools Alliance Against Violence.





Books

★★★★★

All The Bright Places

Jennifer Niven

Every forty seconds someone in the world dies by suicide. Every forty seconds, someone is left behind to deal with the loss.

On the very first page of this novel we meet Theo and Violet - both standing on the same bell tower considering jumping off and committing suicide. It's an abrupt and eye opening way to begin a book. Violet's sister has just died in a car accident and Theo's parents have split up; they go on to help each other through the ups and downs of life.

Their story is one that should be told more often and explores themes of love, grief and mental illness. "All The Bright Places" is an interesting insight into the lives of so many people, giving us the untold story of those who survive suicide and those who have to watch their loved ones deal with it.

The whole idea of suicide is taken seriously but is told in an alternative and quirky voice, and for the most part it is an uplifting book about falling in love. In saying this you should still have a box of tissues at the ready when reading it!

By Jemima Taylor (Year 9)



Music

★★★★★

Camp Cope – Camp Cope Album Review

In music, complete vulnerability is a hard thing to show. Some of the greats can do it but more often than not they choose to cover up their truth with corny lyrics worthy of *The Titanic* soundtrack.

On Camp Cope's debut album, vulnerability is all you get from start to finish. From not hiding behind her clear, 'true-blue' Australian accent to discussing mental illness, lead singer Georgia Maq has unlocked her heart on this album and let us in to have a look. With every track comes a new thread of musical charm backed with infectious instrumentation. On lead single "Lost (Season One)" Maq's clever word play is so captivating it almost feels like she's a long lost friend sitting down to tell you and encounter of her life.

Without a doubt Camp Cope's sound is un-parallel to any other. They let their influences in but not enough to make their style un-authentic.

They are the perfect combination of angsty, raw, passionate girl-band charm and unapologetic poetic genius.

By Izzy Moore (Year 9)



Films

★★★★

Eddie The Eagle

Inspired by the real-life story of Michael "Eddie" Edwards (the star of the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary), the timeless and heart warming 2016 film 'Eddie the Eagle' is born.

The feel-good film takes a lighthearted approach to the life of an underdog and guarantees that everyone will come away with a lighter spirit and grin on their face. The story follows the early years through to young adulthood of Eddie Edwards (Taron Egerton), the disreputable and tenacious British underdog ski jumper, who never stopped believing in himself, even when others were less inclined to. With the support of a non-traditional yet compelling coach (Hugh Jackman), Eddie grabs the challenge with both hands and after some initial setbacks eventually charms the world at the 1988 Winter Olympics.

Bob Hoose from Plugged in reported, "Like Eddie himself, Eddie the Eagle probably won't be winning any awards ... but it certainly works hard to get to its goal of properly introducing us to an earthbound man who wished to fly."

By Isabella Davies (Year 11)

K- 6 NEWS

A storm can begin with the flap of a wing. The tiniest mite packs the mightiest sting.

Head of K-6: Justine Lind

Are the students in K-6 a little bit naughty?

Sometimes when we talk to young children, our messages don't seem to get through because we use too many words, however, at other times too many words are better than too few and especially those that are overly simplistic. We need to be careful that our choice of words doesn't shape our thinking when our thinking should inform the words we choose. It is dangerous to give children the sense that life is generally black and white; language lets us explore the grey.

Some students in Years 5 and 6 this term are studying a novel called *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. In it, the main character, Jonas is chastised for using the word 'starving' to describe mild hunger. Later he questions his own feelings of nervousness or fear to realise that he is more accurately 'apprehensive'. The novel is much richer than a mere cautionary tale on expression but it's a valid concept none the less.

In K-6 we are careful with our use of language to distinguish actions from character; a child may act selfishly but not be selfish, may respond in a way that is disrespectful without being a disrespectful child. Similarly, we check ourselves in the use of the term bullying. Normal social conflict or impulsive behaviour between students is not bullying, it is the process of learning to interact and be interdependent and is by far the majority of problematic interactions that occur. Bullying on the other hand, is targeted or intentional mistreatment of another, is one-sided and is ongoing and thankfully very rare in our community.

Currently our students are preparing their musical item for the upcoming Foundation Day showcase under the expert guidance of Mr Dom Lindsay. The spirit of this event is one of celebration, almost like a birthday party for the College. The students are having tremendous fun learning the words to 'Naughty' from the musical, *Matilda*. We love it because it is a clever piece of music and lyrics, it is cheerful and yes, just a little bit naughty.....that is, on the surface. Deeper consideration reveals a sentiment that is very well aligned with the values of an Oxley education.

The sentiment of the song inspires resilience, a growth mindset and a strong sense of self-determination. The clincher speaks to our firm belief in the innate capacity of each child and of the essential trust we must demonstrate in them every day.

*Even if you're little you can do a lot, you
Mustn't let a little thing like 'little' stop you.*

Learning, and indeed success in life is dependent on personal responsibility and active engagement in the world around you and the opportunities it holds.

Weekly Awards:

Students of the Week

K: Scarlett Miller
Yr 1: Zali Walters
Yr 2: Zahra Lim
Yr 3: Georgia Rapp
Yr 4: Madeleine Grill
Yr 5: Tyra Beckett
Yr 6: Arabella Osborne

Respect Others

K: Samsara Pout
Yr 1: Louisa Hogan-Baldo
Yr 2: Allegra Mineeff
Yr 3: Sydney Anear
Yr 4: Emma Scott
Yr 5: Dominic Cooper
Yr 6: Jack Hatcher



Students of the Week

K: Annabel Wickenden
Yr 1: Kallan Rendell
Yr 2: Jaxon Nonnenmacher
Yr 3: Chloe Legge
Yr 4: Jack Snell
Yr 5: Maya Cleary
Yr 6: Finley Miller

Respect Oxley

K: Claire Diver
Yr 1: Elke Hunter
Yr 2: Aislinn Kenny
Yr 3: Alec Simpson
Yr 4: Ashton Mineeff
Yr 5: Leah Halstead
Yr 6: Lily Schweitzer

This is why our aim is to empower the students to be their own best advocates, to determine the route of their own journey and to navigate obstacles on that journey in a way that galvanises them for future, more significant challenges. Obviously this needs to be done in an incremental way, with liberal support and guidance but ultimately with a deep faith that each child will prevail.

*But nobody else is gonna put it right for me.
Nobody but me is gonna change my story.*

In K-6 we are ripe for challenge and a lot of fun and friendship along the way! We look forward to singing for you on Foundation Night and we challenge you to leave the event without the song playing in your mind.



A.N.Z.A.C DAY

Engquest Dome



K - 6 Book Donations

Towards the end of last term, K - 6 families generously donated some of their favourite books to an indigenous community in the Northern Territory. There is a special connection with this school as Annette Syrros a former Oxley teacher now works at Willowra School. Here is a photo of Annette and her students receiving their new books.

<https://web.ntschoools.net/w/willowraschool/Pages/default.aspx>





The Big City of Dreams

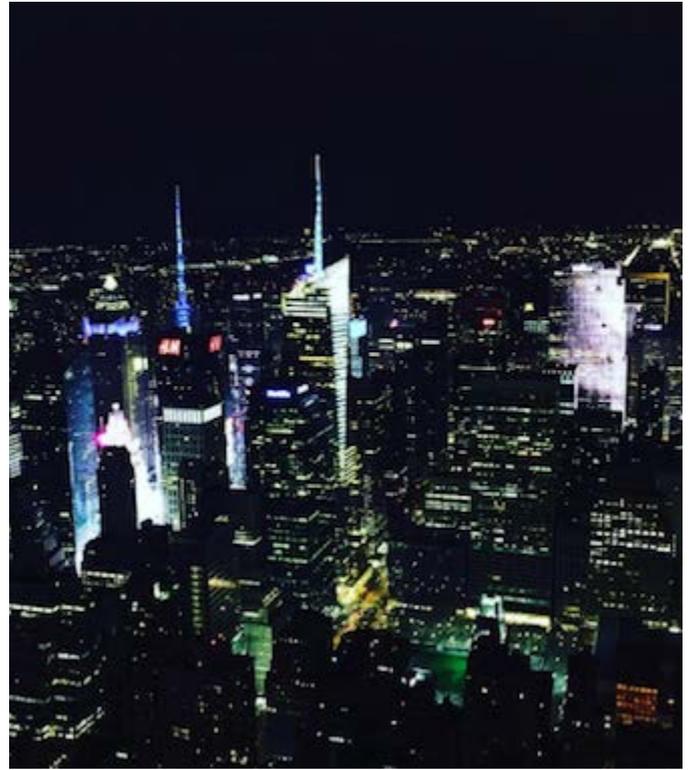
By Ella Moran (Year 11)

“The concrete jungle where dreams are made of, there’s nothin’ you can’t do”

Let me set the scene for you. The air is cold, not like eating an icy pole in summer, like the rush you get from accidentally turning the hot tap off before the cold in the shower. A bitter, strong yet familiar, smell floods the air around you. Yellow taxis flying by you and the sound of construction workers drilling holes into grey pavement, yelling at each other. “Watch where you’re walking” somebody on a bike calls from behind you. As you pass Scotty’s diner the scent of cheesy omelettes and “fresh” out of a bottle orange juice creeps over your senses. I am struck by the street being hugely congested; men in suits racing across the road; car horns sounding continuously and smog flooding out of the drains from the subway. Big glass doors open into Grand Central and people are running to catch their train, a pre-prepared meal or their runaway child. Line 6: 7th Avenue, 45th Street. Don’t worry about swiping your metro card on the way out. Up the stairs, to your left and along 45th until you reach the green olive, it’s just on your right.

“Lights so bright but they never blind me”

International phone calls are \$1.00 but make sure you don’t pay in 5c pieces as the phone box may swallow your money. Red, yellow, green, pastel pink and blue M&Ms fill the two storey building. Neon lights everywhere; from Broadway billboards to NYPD. The electricity bill would be astronomical. And apparently you should never pay \$10 for an I LOVE NY t-shirt from people at street stalls; especially when you can buy five for that price in Chinatown... rookie error! The streets are beyond crowded by 3:00pm; either people lining up for tickets to shows or photos with human-sized Hans Solo and Chewbacca. Two blocks to your left is 5th Avenue. Gap doesn’t close until 11:00pm; either does JC Penny or Macys. Pretzel’s aren’t what you might expect; unless stale bread with a crispy outside covered in giant chunks of salt is your idea of a good snack.



“There’s frost in Central Park, at five it’s almost dark”

Two blocks to your left and eleven blocks along it is Central Park vicinity. The buildings are older. Both the bright lights and strange sights diminish. There aren’t many yellow taxis here. If you’re moving then you’re either on a bike, foot or horse and carriage. And if not, then you’re sitting by the skating rink having a picnic or listening to a busker on the park chair next to you. Before long you will come across the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Huge glass windows look out onto the squirrels chasing each other and ladies walking their dogs in the park. The Museum of Natural History is across the other side of the Park. You will see more than the huge dinosaur skeleton as you enter; head downstairs and into the ocean life exhibit.

This is New York City.

(* *Empire State of Mind* lyrics by Alica Keys)

Top Eight Must Visits

1. In one of the most industrialised cities in the world is the 3.4km² of Central Park of blossom trees, giant lakes, baseball fields, ice-skating rinks spreading across 50 blocks.

2. The Empire State Building is one of the tallest points in NY; you really get a sense the actual enormity of the city.

3. Soho Village is groovy, gentrified and home to New York’s best juice shop.

4. 9/11 Memorial & Museum is possibly the most spellbinding place visited. The day that changed the lives of so many people was captured in the 9/11 Memorial for all those who lost their lives on the 11th of September 2001.

5. In Brooklyn the buildings are nowhere near as tall, the streets nowhere near as busy and the air fresher than in Manhattan.

6. Times Square is incredible. Nothing can capture the excitement and buzz of the city that never sleeps like Times Square can.

7. The Statue of Liberty.

*8. On Broadway I never imagined seeing anything as brilliantly performed as *The Colour Purple* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night time*.*

DEPUTY HEAD REPORTS

Deputy Head Learning: Kate Cunich

At Oxley, we continue to develop an academic programme that will stand amongst the very best. We are doing this by refining our curriculum and including an emphasis on those things that will make the most difference to the progress and achievement of our students. We are developing a distinctive curriculum, one that is not only compliant, but world class in terms of the opportunities to develop thinking skills, to discuss big ideas and to build the collaboration and communication skills necessary for the 21st century and beyond.

Over the next few issues of Pin Oak, we will feature some highlights of our secondary academic life that set us apart as a school that, as our mission says, will not be surpassed in NSW.

Say What You Mean (SWYM)

Our first focus is on our innovative SWYM programme, introduced for the first time this year to students in Years 7 – 10. It answers a need to explicitly improve student writing, not only for success at school, but at university and beyond. We are indeed fortunate to have Nick and Leah Carter to write this programme, including every lesson, for us. Student response has been strong and we know that our academic achievement will be better for the time spent in SWYM.

The act of hand-writing regularly in timed conditions must be ranked very low on most students' list of exciting past-times. Most teachers probably feel the same way, although they would never admit it. Nevertheless, a students' comfort with this act will play a significant part in their confidence and success at school.

Consequently, from Term 2 onwards, students in Years 7 to 10 will be taking part in regular, timetabled 'SWYM Meets'. These Meets give students the opportunity to show off – in a very visible way – the skills they are refining in their SWYM 'training,' or regular classes. It is not enough to rely on conventional assessment tasks, even when coupled with classroom exercises and an emerging culture in which boys and girls talk about the art of writing; SWYM Meets show us what the theory looks like in practice. In other words, SWYM Meets represent the 'Say' in 'Say What You Mean.'

A SWYM Meet involves students writing a 30-40 minute extended response in exam conditions, followed by a 10 minute peer feedback session. It is important that students read each other's writing with a constructively critical eye; this is one of the best ways to learn how to refine their own work. Whilst the peer feedback forms allow students to assign numerical values to elements of their partner's essay writing, these numbers are never turned into 'marks.' Reducing a young person's writing to a number will always be a reductive, if necessary, evil; these values will act only as 'conversation starters.' Students' responses are kept by the SWYM 'coach' in individual SWYM Meet portfolios. At the end of each term or unit, teachers will sit down with each student and use the contents of the portfolio to ask important

questions like "In what ways are your most recent attempts at writing better than your early attempts?" and "How have you used your peers' feedback to make your writing better?" This kind of reflection, done one-on-one with a teacher and the evidence in hand, is the best way to improve.

The questions students respond to are not tied to any particular academic subject, and some require them to use the broader philosophical and critical skills they use in Cornerstone. Some of the questions might feel a little risky – our first SWYM Meet involved students writing about how restrictive essay writing itself can be.

By Nick Carter (Curriculum Leader, English)



Deputy Head Pastoral: Peter Ayling

ANZAC March

It is with a great sense of pride that I am able to reflect on the recent ANZAC March held in Bowral on Monday 25 April. At Oxley College there is a great tradition to support our service men and women and to pay our respect to those who have fought in conflicts throughout the years. We had close to 200 students attend the march and it is so rewarding to know that these students attend because they know it is the right thing to do and to give up a couple of hours of their holiday is a simple way to say thank you. A large number of students also attended the dawn service with many students helping to set up at 4.30am. It was also the first outing for our Pipe Band and congratulations to those students who played in the march. It is an amazing achievement and you should be proud representing the College and playing with such confidence. A huge thank you to Anthony Clarke and Rob Parker for putting together such a dedicated group of musicians. Look out the kilts and the rest of the uniform are on their way!

Parties, Alcohol and Drugs – Save the Date

Michael Carr-Gregg will present on the evening of Thursday 18 August at Hoskins Hall, Oxley College commencing at 7.00pm. "Coping with Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs" Michael will discuss what parents need to know about contemporary adolescent drug use and their role in reducing the harms from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Michael will share the latest research and statistics on teenage drug use. Please email Kellie.henderson@oxley.nsw.edu.au if you would like to attend.



BRONZE HIKE

While the rest of the school were enjoying their first day of school holidays, bronze Duke Of Edinburgh students were getting ready to go away on their hike to Kangaroo Valley. When we first arrived at school it was raining and freezing - we were all more than a little worried for the weekend to come. Fortunately, the weather cleared up - and for the most part stayed sunny for the next few days. Over the weekend we learnt so many valuable things and became closer to different people in our year group.

We learnt how to; cook over a Trangia, purify water, efficiently pack enough food to last us over the weekend, improvise when faced with blisters and bruised hips, draw up our route plans and how not to get lost... sort of. We learnt about coming to a consensus, negotiating with people and how not to lose one's temper with not much sleep and a very heavy pack weighing us down. We faced our fears of leeches, heights, Doug- the shovel, massive hills and toilet trenches.

Special thanks to Mrs Tregenza and Mrs Reese for coming, hiking a long side us and giving up your first weekend of school holidays to be with us on the first step of our Duke of Edinburgh journey.

By Jemima Taylor (Year 9)



DUKE OF ED HIKE - GOLD AND SILVER

Mustering at Ben Hur Yards on a foggy Autumn Saturday morning with our fearless leader, the dreadlocked Adam Slade we immediately began a steep descent through the Wanganderry Pass. Off the road at last, we wound our way down to the Wollondilly, excited by a major river crossing. The country opened up to fine vistas of the Nattai hills and after a quick refill at the river of bottles and bladders, we negotiated a dry bed of boulders, casuarina saplings and the persistent Farmer's Friend which left us covered in a plumage of black, skin-piercing spiky seeds. Scrambling away from the valley flats we finally made it onto a spur of firmer, more open ground and Will made the wise decision to call it a day and strike camp. After a well-deserved cup of tea, a hearty dinner and some fine views of the escarpment, we retired to our beckoning sleeping bags.

Morning saw us somewhat rejuvenated and ready to the next stage of our journey. The coolness of the morning was shortly replaced by a warm sun, frequent cursing and melancholy musings, as we were forced to negotiate swathes of prickly shrubs and knobbly ground rock. We soon veered off into the tangled, relentless mess of the bush with few landmarks to guide our progress. Our empty water bottles begged for replenishment but the Jooriland River had all but dried up. We navigated to a single, dark grey pool of stagnant water. We reluctantly broke through the dirty film of surface tension to fill our bladders. At least we would have something later to wet our parched throats. With surprising rapidity, we ascended the steep terrain of an adjacent spur. We sought flat ground and an opening in the canopy to perch our tents. We found not the smoothest platform for our camp, but it would suffice for a night. Day three began with a 5.30am rise to a glorious dawn sky. Hints of a long-neglected road way, led us back to some semblance of civilisation. There was a delighted whoop as the white outline of our support vehicle appeared through the trees, and with it came clean Mt Franklin water! A spring in the step saw us coast the first five kilometres. We had not anticipated the gradual, but incessant rise to our destination. Hot spots, blisters and sore ankles returned with a vengeance.

A yellow beacon - that was the sign for Yerranderie, now a privately owned ghost town, deep in the Blue Mountains wilderness. This had once been the largest silver mining centre in Australia, supporting over 2,000 people. A grassy camp site and a mob of curious kangaroos where our sole companions. Drop toilets and a dam for skimming stones were simple, yet welcome pleasures. We woke to a gloomy sky, then set off to conquer the volcanic peak from which Yerranderie takes its name. At the top we spent time in reflection, then dared to leap across a gaping chasm which rapidly fell away to the forest below. After a final de-brief we returned via the private village where we were treated to a short tour and history from Mark, the caretaker. Taking our tents down for one last time, it was soon all packs on the bus.

In spite of the challenges, all the Oxley participants showed true Oxley spirit in demonstrating patience and fortitude.

By Tim Dibdin

OLD OXLEYAN INTERVIEW



ROB STEWART CLASS OF 1987

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

As part of the first group of Oxleyans through the school (Year 12 1987) it is almost 30 years since I did the HSC.

Straight from school I attended Sydney University where, as at Oxley, I participated extensively in the theatre. I remain involved to this day and my next show will be "Newspaper of Claremont Street" in WA.

I left Sydney Uni with a science degree and began professional life working as a geophysicist exploring for gold in South Australia. A lot can be deciphered about the content of the earth from measuring electromagnetic fields from aircraft and in my early career this was my specialty. This took me to many wonderful and rarely visited parts of the world for work including a dozen or so countries in Africa, parts of South America and several of the republics that were once part of the Soviet Union. These Russian speaking countries have been of particular interest to me as when I was at school the Soviet Union was essentially a closed country. To find myself chartering icebreakers to explore the northern-most parts of Siberia was something I could not have conceived when at school.

PO: What is your biggest achievement since high school?

The most difficult thing I have completed was my PhD. This was not because it required superior intellect but rather because it required dogged persistence over several years on the same research topic. Many blind alleys had to be explored and often three months' work would feel wasted when I had to back up and start again.

Through my work I have managed to become a reasonably fluent Russian speaker and this achievement probably gives me the most pleasure these days. To be in Kyrgyzstan or Moscow and be able to converse freely in business meetings or on the street always gives me a smug sense of achievement.

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

No. While I always imagined I would end up at a university at some point I never considered I would spend so much time as a student. With all the undergraduate and postgraduate study, I have been 10 years enrolled at universities.

PO: Is there anybody from the Oxley community who inspired you throughout high school?

There were many. Most importantly I had a very good bunch of friends. There is a line in the film Stand by Me where a middle aged narrator is reflecting on his youth: "I never had any friends later on like the ones I had when I was twelve. Jesus, does anyone?" I could comfortably apply that to the great bunch with whom I went through High School. While the passing years have meant we have drifted apart and I rarely see any of them now, if ever I think of school it is invariably about them.

Amongst the teachers several were inspiring although the stand out for me was our Headmaster David Wright. He had a way of adding worldliness and perspective to any issues of the day and we were very fortunate have him.

PO: What would you say you miss most about being at school?

I can comfortably say I do not really miss school. I mostly had a good time and am grateful for the opportunities it gave me but it was just a launching pad. The main event comes after!

If pushed I would say the friendships, the possibilities. At school I was carefree and anything in life seemed possible. I think I am still optimistic though am aware that:

Of my three score year and 10

Nearly 50 will not come again

PO: What would you say to your fifteen year old self?

Buy Microsoft shares!

Try many things but be sure to take time to become very good at a few. Pleasure comes from excellence, not from smarts, and excellence takes time.

KSG APELDOORN



Twenty eight students from KSG Apeldoorn, a school in the Netherlands have been staying with twenty six Year 10 hosts for the past week. This is the 10th Anniversary of Oxley's partnership with KSG Apeldoorn so in commemoration, wristbands have been distributed throughout their stay. On Sunday, the billets and their hosts travelled to Jervis Bay for a dolphin watching boat ride followed by a trip to Nowra Zoo, where our Dutchies saw a range of Australian animals and even got to feed Kangaroos! As Wednesday was the final night with our new friends, we had

a family BBQ and participated in the annual Aussie VS Dutchie Hockey match, where Australia continues to hold its winning streak! Early Thursday morning we said our goodbyes at the train station and wished them the very best for their trip home. We're certain we will all stay very close friends in the future. Thank you to Mr Dibdin for organising this wonderful exchange and I'm sure we can all agree it was an unforgettable experience!
By Olivia Donovan and Olivia Davies (Year 10)

Pin Oak Fair - Saturday 12 November SAVE THE DATE



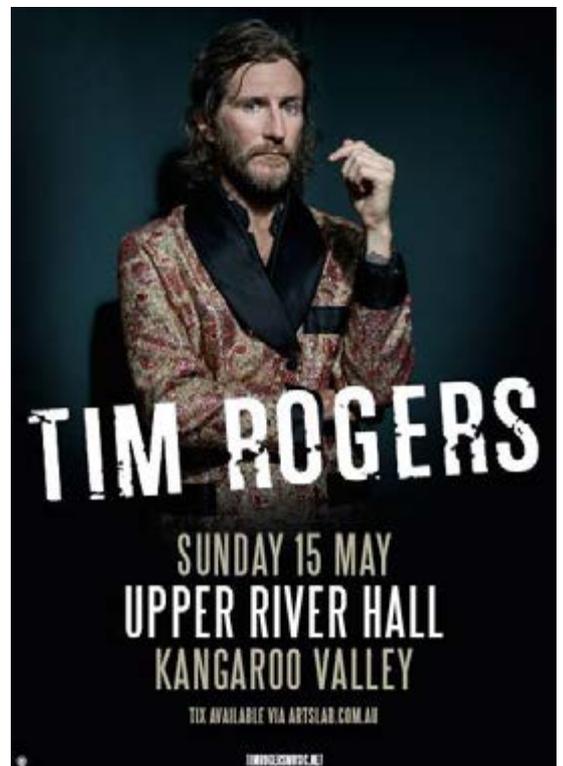
The Countdown is on!

Don't miss an opportunity to have your work exhibited on a wall next to SMH cartoonists and prominent Southern Highland Artists.

Artists or anyone who would like to place artworks in the Art Show "Emerge" please email pen.hayes@bigpond.com as soon as possible.

We are also appealing for sewers to help sew bunting! You don't need to be a Savile Row tailor! All help is really appreciated. Please email Jane at janecrowley@crowleyandgrouch.com.

The Pin Oak fair is a wonderful opportunity to become involved in the Oxley community. If you would like to become part of it please volunteer now via this link: <http://www.oxley.nsw.edu.au/news-events/pin-oak-fair-saturday-12-november-2016/>



GALLERY



MAY CALENDAR

	Mon EXC: Y10 GEO to Pyrmont Syd YEAR 11 EXAM WEEK 09	Mon 16	Mon 23
	Tue NAPLAN Year 3,5,7 & 9 10	Tue 17	Tue 24
	Wed NAPLAN Year 3, 5, 7, & 9 11	Wed HICES Debating 18	Wed 25
	Thu NAPLAN Year 3, 5,7 & 9 12	Thu Foundation Day 19	Thu HICES X Country Bong Bong Racecourse 26
Fri EXC:Da Vinci (Year 9-10) Illawarra Grammar School P&F K-6 Mother's Day stall P&F Year 4 parent Gathering 06	Fri 13	Fri ++ 20	Fri 27
Sat ISA Round 2 EXC:MUNA 07	Sat ISA Round 3 14	Sat ISA Round 4 P&F: Year 8 Parent function Red Tree Cafe 21	Sat ISA Round 5 28
Sun Mother's Day 08	Sun 15	Sun 22	Sun 29

Sport



EQUESTRIAN

This year the Oxley College Equestrian Day drew an impressive 125 competitors from 43 schools to compete on what was a highly successful day run by the Oxley community. On Sunday 3 April, competitors were up bright and early to prepare for the long day. A few even forgot to change their clocks and were at the venue an hour earlier than they planned!

From purple tails to perfect plaits, horse and rider competed in Hacking classes looking their best. The Dressage phase of the competition entailed horse and rider performing an intricate set of movements requiring control and skill. The Sporting phase was timed against the clock, demanding speed and agility to move and bend around posts and barrels. Show jumping included a range of heights for competitors to choose from, ranging from 45cm to 1.20m. Competitors displayed brave skill and accuracy over the technical course designed by Richard Burrells. Straight onto the Derby phase, the riders used their courage and ability to complete a course mixed of show jumps and solid cross-country jumps, including a water jump.

The day also brought tributes to Olivia Inglis, with riders, parents and helpers wearing bands in her memory.

All the competitors had an extremely fun and successful day representing their school in all the various disciplines. The great weather and fantastic food supplied by the Oxley canteen added to the buzzing atmosphere.

A huge thank you to Sally Quirico, Kim McNaught and Natalie Lane, and to all the amazing parents, helpers and judges for making such a fabulous day possible. Also, thank you to the Roche family for allowing Oxley to use Araluen once again.

Congratulations to all the riders competing and especially to Ben Quirico who finished the day with an amazing show jumping and derby round to be awarded Oxley Champion and Year 12 champion. Oxley was awarded the Runner Up school and displayed Oxley's talented equestrians with some great results being achieved. Fresham was the winning school on the day. We can't wait to see you all again next year for another fantastic Oxley Equestrian Day!

By Rosie Bowyer (Year 11)



CRICKET

Cricket Awards 2015-16

Best & Fairest:

Senior - Lachlan Billington-Phillips

Intermediate - Jock Heinrich

Junior - Connor Taylor-Helme

Players' Player:

U14 Blue - Nicholas Gardner

U14 Gold - D'Arcy Gotterson

U14 White - Blake Barnes

2nd XI - Lachlan Schreck

1st XI - Oscar Moran

MATCHES OF THE WEEK



Last weekend the Oxley 1st Hockey Team played their opening match of the season against the tenacious Central Coast team. This was the debut game for 6 of our girls, the team upheld tradition by not letting any goals in on home turf, finishing the match with a whopping 5 - 0 win.



Junior Girls Football Team
First win of the season, well done girls!