During the last week the Oxley community have been reflecting on the huge loss of Angelique Burton-Ho one year ago yesterday. As we remember Angel here are some thoughts from our students and staff.

We love you so, so, so much. Your bright and bubbly personality could light up any room. You were funny, but never mean. You thought of the positives, instead of the negatives and we will always remember you as our best friend.

I miss everything about you. I miss your smile. I miss your laugh, I miss you.

...I didn't really know what to say, you were so happy funny and bright, words alone couldn't describe how precious you were to all of us...

Your gorgeous smile and beautiful soul will live with me forever. You taught us all how to be better people. We miss you and will always remember you.

A happy soul with a kind heart.

You are missed so greatly. Armanda, you are the most brave and special mum. Angel was so lucky.

Angel, you are the first real-life angel ever.

Thank you for always being a kind and beautiful person to everyone.

A kind hearted soul who was an angel to all of us. x

I miss you, I miss your smile, I miss your zebra loving ways, I miss your funny jokes, your caring grace and loving hands.

We miss you loads, all of us...

Young, intelligent, beautiful, and most of all, kind.

Peace is yours, you angel...

Everytime I talked to you, every single time, you put a smile on my face and everybody else's around you...

We will be thinking of you this Thursday.

Thank you for being such a wonderful friend, I will never forget you.

I wish I was like you in many ways, I wish I was as strong hearted and fierce in the face of doubt...

Even though you are not physically here, I still feel your presence everyday...I miss you more than words can describe...
Changes to the Board of Governors

I should like to inform you of recent changes to the Board of Governors of Oxley College.

Mrs Julie Naughton and Mr Eugene Joubert have stepped down from the Board of Governors after several years of valuable service. Both have increased professional work commitments located outside the Southern Highlands.

Mrs Naughton served as a Governor for nine years and was the College Treasurer for a period and a former Chair and member of the Audit and Risk Committee. She also served on the Building Committee. Mr Joubert served for eight years and was the Chair of the Strategy Committee. He provided valuable advice and assistance to the Headmaster and Executive with the formulation of the College Strategic Plan.

Their contribution to the Board of Governors was significant and will be missed greatly.

The Board of Governors has appointed Ms Christine Windeyer and Ms Anni Baillieu to the Board with immediate effect. A local resident, Ms Windeyer is a Principal of Spectrum Asset Management. She has over thirty years’ experience in finance, with leading domestic and international banks and holds a Bachelor of Science from The University of Sydney and a Postgraduate Diploma in Financial Management from The University of New England. She represented the National Australia Bank on the Australian Financial Management Association debt markets committee, served as a Director on the Board of Adult and Community Education and was a member of the World Junior Athletics Championships Organising Committee.

Ms Baillieu had six years with British Airways in Sydney and for the past 26 years, has been the Managing Director of local business, Moss Vale Cruise and Travel. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Anthropology from The Australian National University. A former parent of Oxley College, Ms Baillieu is an active contributor to the Southern Highlands community.

It is a pleasure to welcome Ms Windeyer and Ms Baillieu to the Board of Governors of Oxley College.

By Frank Conroy AM, Chairman of Board of Governors

House Drama

The House Drama night on Monday night was a fantastic celebration of so much that is good about Oxley. There were six plays of twenty minutes performed before at least half of the College.

Each one of the plays was written either by a talented individual (congratulations, Ben Canute, Tom Hill and Ella Moran) or a consortium of Year 11s, or sometimes both. Each play had a cast of dozens and dozens. Each one was directed by some committed Year 11s as part of their leadership of the House. Each one of them was topical, funny, and slick. There were 165 students involved either on the stage or behind the scenes, which is an amazing number and speaks to our community’s willingness to just give it a go.

We had fractured fairy tales - either Tinderella which was all about the world of social media, or Hansel and Gretel, in which the children got the parents lost so that they could have a party at their house. We had high concept pieces about being put on trial by your subconscious or planning an out of school revolution. We had a takeoff of Oxley, in which I laboured to write a speech for Prizegiving and flapped my arms around even more than usual (thank you Lachlan Billington Phillips). And there was a piece that defied categorisation - a metafictive retake on the Lion King that became noir detective, then Godfather pastiche, then surrealist slaughterhouse.

The final winner was Mawson. It was slickly produced, well rehearsed and very funny. However, every person in every play should have been proud of their efforts. It was an excellent night.

Building works

On a more pedestrian note, literally, there will be some changes to the pathways around Oxley in the coming weeks. We have been conditioned by the Council not to allow any building trucks to come down Osborne Road to deliver materials to the site of the new building on the side of Osborne Road. As a result the vehicles have to come down Yean Street or Holly Road, up Railway Road, past the Peter Craig Centre (the gym) and onto Elvo lawn.

If we simply let the trucks do this, it could present a risk to children who are walking or playing. As a result we are building a temporary fence between K-6 and the pathway. There will also be screening and fencing on the Elvo lawn itself. In addition there will not be deliveries using the pathway between 8.00am-9.00am, 3.00pm-4.00pm, at recess or at lunchtime.
BIG ISSUE

Olympics as a podium for the people

Seventy-six years ago Kip Keino was born into a humbled family in Kipsamo, Nandi region of Kenya. Kip was raised by his aunt, after his parents sadly passed away when he was a young boy. When Kip was at primary school he ran four miles to school in the morning, home for lunch, back for afternoon school and home at the end of the day. He did this every day until he left school. Once Kip had finished school, he joined the Kenya police force, yet he couldn’t bear to go without running, so he took up competitive athletics on the side of his day job. Kip went on to compete in the 1964 summer Olympics, followed by the 1968 Olympics in Mexico. In 1968, where he won gold in the 1500m running race. Just four years later at the 1972 Munich Olympic games Kip placed first in the 3000m race. Soon after, Kip retired, returned home and married a Kenyan woman. Since, Kip has opened a primary school and a secondary school in his home town. He also runs a charity for orphans, aimed at teaching children to run.

Kip Keino was the first ever recipient of the Olympic laurel, a distinction created by the International Olympic Committee to honor an outstanding individual for their achievements in education, culture, development and peace through sport. It’s safe to say, that the Olympic Games symbolise far more than quality sport, as Kip Keino profoundly stated, "We come into this world with nothing... and depart this world with nothing... it’s what we contribute to the community that is our legacy.”

By Ella Moran (Year 11)

Olympics as a facade for the elite

As the Olympics approach, any city will begin to invest in infrastructure, public services and recreational utilities. The government attempts to ramp up a city’s appeal to travellers, spectators and athletes. The government aims to make the Olympics more enjoyable to visitors and ultimately increase revenue and stimulate the local economy through tourism - this is understandable. The argument is that as the Olympics is hosted in your city, your local services that you get to use later is upgraded. Good news right? This is not the case for the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics. Rio has an interesting, diverse culture and broad socioeconomic spectrum. Very broad socioeconomic spectrum. The city is basically divided in two. The section familiar to tourists is called the ‘South Zone’. It is where the wealthy, the officials, the elite live in well planned, structured suburbs. These people are called ‘People of the Asphalt’. It is where all the hotels, tourist attractions, world cup stadiums, Olympic centres are built and maintained. The ‘North Zone’ is not often visited by tourists. It where the slums are located and the low-income live in favelas - section of cities not maintained or governed by any council or authority. They are built without any permission by the people of Rio. These people are called ‘People of the Hill’. And these areas of the north are ridden with crime, poverty, malnourishment and disease.

The Rio government - beginning its construction of ‘essential’ infrastructure for the current Olympics, began by building sound proof barriers along the highways. Perhaps to shield the residents from the increased Olympic traffic - perhaps to shield the visitors from the ‘unsightly’ poor favelas nestled in the north. The government cut bus lines and public transport from the north to the south. Barra, a new southern province in which the majority of the Olympic grounds have been built, displaced hundreds of settlements scattered throughout the area - some of which had even managed to gain legal status in the previous decades. Real estate developers are ‘transforming the area’ and, as Vox.com reported - property developers suggested it is a ‘cosmopolitan awakening’ - ‘a new Rio’, ‘a city for the elite, of good taste’, and would provide ‘noble housing, not housing for the poor’. This has been facilitated as a result of the Olympics. By bringing in excessive tourism, the local government has an excuse to push out the poor, prevent their being in the nicer areas of Rio and essentially completely neglect their existence and well being.

The Olympics is a catalyst for change, but not necessarily a catalyst for community.

By Tom Hill (Year 11)
Books

**Eleanor and Park**

“She never looked nice. She looked like art, and art wasn’t supposed to look nice, it was supposed to make you feel something”. Eleanor and Park, written by Rainbow Rowell, the author of “Fangirl”, has subverted from the idea of both love interests being stunningly good looking and that “true love” has no kinks. Eleanor lives in a low socio-economic community; her father has abandoned her and her family, and he has been replaced with a violent alcoholic as her new-step father. Park lives just around the corner, his parents are strict but loving, and he, unlike Eleanor, has a permanent place to call home. Even though Eleanor is practically starving herself, she still gets labeled the fat girl; Park was born in Australia, yet he is still labeled a foreigner. Dealing with the issues of racism, bullying and domestic violence, Rowell has also managed to create a beautiful romance in this novel. A must read for lovers of the “Fault in our Stars”, or for simply anyone who is in need of a good book.

Gracie Phelan (Year 8)

Music

**“Glorious Heights”**

“Glorious Heights” is the first studio album from Sydney-based singer-songwriter, Montaigne and obviously, playing it safe wasn’t an option. Combining orchestral pop sensibilities with 80’s dance synths and resplendent vocals, she creates a sound un-parallel to many others. Pulling from influences such as Björk, Arcade Fire and Kimbra she re-invents the “sound of pop” and exercises people’s expectations. From the unorthodox and eccentric, In The Dark to the ardent and earnest, Lie To Myself, Montaigne unveils the many layers of sonic beauty she can create on “Glorious Heights”.

“I’m alive, that’s my consolation prize”, belts Montaigne on standout track, Consolation Prize, her voice quivering with emotion. The sheerness and simplicity of some songs on the 13-track long album leave it, at times reminiscent of Sufjan Stevens and even fellow Sydney musicians, Gang Of Youths. After singing “only god knows I’m trying to reach glorious heights”, she sure has reached them on this premiere record.

Isabella Moore (Year 9)

Television

**Suits**

So you want to be a lawyer.. ‘Suits’ is the programme for you. Available on Netflix at 45 minutes an episode it is jam-packed with tricky legal issues which will give you a head start, perfect for a student commencing legal studies or contemplating a career in the law. And even if your not… you will be mesmerised by the two leading characters, the Harvard graduate (or not the Harvard graduate) Mike Ross and the suave and captivating senior partner, Harvey Spectre. Yes - it’s a great name!

In a snapshot, the story is set in the New York and most of the action takes place in the large corporate law firm Pearson Hardman where Harvey and Mike work. Between legal cases and problematic romances, not to mention office intrigue and gossip, Harvey and Mike establish a successful partnership and together resolve many legal cases. And in all of this they are assisted by Harvey’s hilarious Personal Assistant Donna, who is secretly in love with Harvey (like the rest of us).

Once you start watching, you’ll never stop... but don’t worry there are six seasons!

Lucie Drysdale (Year 9)
The creative spirit is alive and well at Oxley! The digging pit has re-opened and the landscape changes daily in response to many earnest collaborative and individual endeavours. I am constantly amazed by the pieces of equipment that are improvised to fashion just the right valley or lake or island. Similarly there is a highly industrious group in Year 1 at present who are constructing dwellings for themselves and elusive birds, dogs and goats that are yet to take up residency.

Inside the classroom walls, there are hives of creative minds at work. In K-2 the Visual Arts Programme is inspiring our youngest visionaries to shine. I love listening to their descriptions of the pieces or negotiating with Mrs Landrigan as to how these works should be displayed. All Drama classes are refining their skills for the upcoming House Poetry recital to find the perfect balance between declaiming and mumbling to suit their chosen piece. They are enjoying the invitation to overact and play with the “What not to do’s!”

Our newly formed Creative Writing group as part of the Co-curricular Programme has taken on the role of editorial team for a forthcoming K-6 Acorn lift out in the PinOak magazine each fortnight. They are hoping to include a range of factual, persuasive and creative pieces submitted by anyone in K-6. They are also keen to receive photographs taken by students as well. Elena Parker is particularly keen to include regular interviews and hear suggestions of possible people to interview to hear the voices of those who have opinions about life and learning at Oxley and beyond.

The most recent exercise in the Creative Writers group was to personify an ordinary object and express the “voice” of the object to describe its reaction to daily experiences. This week, to provide a creative version of an Athletics Carnival report, some students have stepped into the shoes of the equipment used on the day.

“Today was the one of my worse days yet! It was the Athletics Carnival and I was used all day. I wouldn’t say everyone can get over, getting smashed every time and I swear one of the kids got jammed in the gap. He clipped the pole and landed on my face. I’m almost as bruised as the pole my arch enemy every time he pokes people’s backs. I am a mat and I hate my life. Being the crash mat for high jump has got to be more fun!”

James Witcombe – Year 5

“What I anticipate will quickly become the most popular feature is kicked off here with Alice Gilbert’s contribution; The Boogie Stormtroopers from Britain’s Got Talent. Enjoy! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ax7tmaYObIQ

Contributions for our K-6 Acorn Lift-out in the Pin Oak Magazine can be made to members of the Editorial Team or via the entries box in the K-6 Reception. We look forward to many examples of each child’s creativity writ large in future editions.
To be honest, quite a bit of my 2016 has been spent pondering the intricate layers of Donald Trump. For, although he is someone who I often can’t stand, the way he works fascinates me. How is he in the running for President? What is with all his crazy policies? And who on earth would vote for him? Maybe you’ve felt the same way. I’ve also been thinking about the state of the world in general (do I have too much time on my hands?) Each week I seem to be hit in the face with some new catastrophe. My Facebook feed is full of solemn-faced reporters, grainy security footage, explosions and people with their heads bowed holding flowers.

2016, what is going on?

After spending many months pondering this dilemma I have come to a conclusion. According to famous psychologist Elisabeth Kubler Ross “There are only two emotions: love and fear. All positive emotions come from love, all negative emotions from fear. From love flows happiness, contentment, peace, and joy. From fear comes anger, hate, anxiety and guilt.” There we have it, the answer to my question. 2016 is a year of fear.

Both love and fear can push us to do things that are way out of our comfort zones. They can make us stand up and say what we think and voice our opinions. But as Kubler-Ross states, all the positive emotions come out of love. Love makes us help others, feel content in our own bodies, strive for peace and be brave. From fear comes things like anger towards other people, jealousy, insecurities, stress, worry and hatred. Fear causes people to act in desperate and drastic ways. I know that a lot of the stress I feel is based on the fear of embarrassment or of failing. A lot of what we’ve seen in 2016 does seem to have been based on fear, and perhaps we can’t really help it all that much - it’s in our nature.

Half a billion people voted for Pauline Hanson in this recent election. Many of us know little about her policies except that she plans to ban all halal meat, stop all Muslims from coming to Australia, stop building Mosques and demand a Royal Commission to determine if Islam is a religion or political ideology. A few years ago these policies would have been completely off the table, but with the rise of Isis and the number of terrorist attacks, people have become incredibly fearful of the Muslim religion. People are fearful that refugees will come to Australia, and that terrorists will come with them. Uncertainty is scary. Seeing people in so much pain is scary, all the time with the burning fear that ‘they could be us’ in the back of our minds. With fear comes anger, a need for revenge. When we see someone get hurt, our instinct has become to hurt those who are responsible in return. You don’t think rationally when you are angry - it’s hard to see things in perspective, especially when it’s so hard to pin down who we should be angry at.

Many have suggested that people vote for Donald Trump and Pauline Hanson because they are afraid of what is happening to their country and these leaders offer someone concrete to blame. In the same way, it’s been widely acknowledged that one of the key arguments for leaving the EU in the Brexit campaign was the fear of being invaded by refugees and terrorists from all over Europe. People voted to lose so many privileges all because they were afraid of what might happen if they stayed.
I could point out how all these facts are really wrong, and how terrorism has no religion. I could get angry at you, call you racist and cruel, say that you are heartless and idiotic. But does that do any good? Waleed Aly made this point in a recent segment on The Project.

“I kinda feel like we’re on a Gravitron and spinning around and around and no one is interested in getting off. We’re all in this cycle and as the year wears on we’re spinning faster and faster and we’re all pushed to the edges and it is harder and harder for us, like it takes superhuman strength, to meet in the middle. Eventually, someone is sick and this is what that looks like.”

Our views and opinions have become so strong now that none of us are willing to listen to the other. Both sides think they are right and we ‘spew’ at one another from the edges, never meeting in the middle. How can we progress and move on if we can’t come to some sort of agreement?

I think it can often be hard for those of us who would never vote for Donald Trump (or others closer to home) not to see people who might support him as completely stupid and racist. It’s hard for us not to judge them and get on our high horses thinking we are so much better than they are. We also need to acknowledge that people don’t just vote for Donald Trump because they are afraid - saying this is insulting to them. We have all grown up with different life experiences, surrounded by different values. The things we experience in life shape our views on the world. There are genuine fears and concerns that people have, and we can’t just ignore that by calling them stupid and cruel. They aren’t stupid at all and we should be looking deeper to understand why people feel the way they do.

For the rest of 2016, instead of wondering what on earth is going to become of us and feeling down and worried, instead of jumping to hatred and anger when I am faced with an opposing opinion, instead of writing off others opinions as ignorant - I am going to think about what might be motivating them to think the way they do and help them to overcome the fear they are faced with. Instead of an angry Instagram post or a rant about Donald Trump I’m going to focus on the actions of love in the world. Love is the only thing that will ever overcome fear and anger. The truth is, we are all afraid. But it’s the way we deal with it that defines us. The way we overcome it is with love.

For my final sentence I’m going to steal more of Waleed Aly’s message, because I think it is so incredibly powerful and think it needs to be shared around.

“But it’s how you deal with that fear. You don’t have to be calling for the incarceration of hundreds of thousands of innocent people to be acting destructively. You might just be angrily tweeting at someone who said something outrageous. But what I’m suggesting is, while it feels good to choose destruction, right now I think we need to try construction.”

Love is the most constructive thing I know.

Jemima Taylor (Year 9)
One way that we know our students are thriving in their learning at Oxley is by visiting lots of classrooms regularly. For Mr Parker and myself, there is no better thing to do in a day than to sit with as many students as we can, be it with a Kindergarten child, a Year 7 student or a senior student and talk to them about what they are doing in their particular class. At Oxley we do this in a number of ways, one of which is on our Walkthroughs or Learning Walks. On a particular day, we will walk through as many as 60 different classes, sitting with students and hearing their excitement as they explain the intention and success of their lesson. Why do to we do this? Because educational research tells us that the best learning occurs when students talk about it! The best thing is when children are given an explicit goal, when that goal is appropriately challenging and most of all when student and teacher both understand where they are going, how they are going and the where to next. These feedback questions may seem simplistic, but they are the key to connecting the disparate chunks of information from one day to the next to make deeper and connected understanding.

Our most recent Walkthrough data has helped us celebrate the great variety of learning experiences encountered by an Oxley student on a given day. We saw students discussing, debating, writing, questioning, synthesising, experimenting, planning, making, appreciating and doing in every classroom. Each teacher was displaying clear learning intentions, had models and exemplars of success and the classrooms were often arranged with teachers and students working shoulder to shoulder, engaging in the process of inquiry as well as that of direct instruction.

We also know how important it is that students have the opportunity to tell others about what they have learnt. We encourage those conversations to extend to home time. Some of the best questions for Mum and Dads to ask? “What was the answer to the hardest question you encountered? Why was that?” “Where and where did you discover something new today?” Increasingly we can see this as the most valuable homework — the opportunity to gather at some point in our busy lives and hear what each member of the family thinks in response to a difficult concept.

We continue to commend our Year 12 students as they finish their Trial HSC Examinations, receive feedback and prepare for the last part of the marathon. Our Year 11 students have been briefed on their year ahead and look forward to the End of Preliminary Examinations in four weeks’ time. Our Year 10 students are also in the process of interviews with Mrs Ritchie about initial thoughts on careers, courses and challenges. Thus the busy life of a school continues.

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**U Turn The Wheel.**

Youth Driver Awareness Programme

On Wednesday 10 August Year 11 attended a one day U Turn the Wheel (UTW) programme. This local Rotary programme has been running in the Southern Highlands since 1999 and has served as one means to promote road safety awareness and cover many relevant issues facing youth eligible to drive.

It is designed to reinforce the Road Safety curricula already being implemented in schools and provide an opportunity for Year 11 students to access additional road safety resources not normally easily available within the school. The UTW Programme is specifically designed to address the attitudes and awareness of driver related issues such as speed, fatigue, alcohol, drugs, and the wearing of seat belts, which are identified as major contributors to road casualties among our driving youth. The programme also addresses issues including ‘risk-taking’ behaviour and peer pressure with responsible decision making being addressed.

Isabella Knowles - I think it was really grounding and an eye opening experience and I think everyone will take what we have learnt today into consideration when we get into the car. It’s really important for us all to know the risks when driving for the sake of ourselves and those around us.

Jack Kennedy- U Turn The Wheel was truly an eye opening event. The information and knowledge presented to Year 11 today will help to keep us safe and may one day save the life of someone in this room.
MINDFULNESS

The moment all your renovations are finished feels great. It’s taken a while but the results look amazing. You are proud of what you have achieved.

Two weeks earlier...

The house is filled with a stressed vibe. You have no carpet, no heating (in the middle of winter) and the smell of paint seems to get into every single item of your clothing. It seems as though it will never end.

Renovations are pretty common. The following are a few tips as to how to stay sane during renovations.

1. Keep the rooms you are continuously using during renovations, warm and comfortable. Keep windows open during the day.

2. Try and do as much as possible outside. It is hard in winter but try and eat your meals and work outside.

3. Clean up as you go. Dust seems to get everywhere. Try to dust and vacuum as often as possible. Having a clean workspace makes it more comfortable.

Stay with it.

By Savannah Sandilands (Year 9)

IMPORTANCE OF BREAKFAST

You’ve no doubt heard this a million times – “Breakfast really is the most important meal of the day”. But many people still choose to ignore it, and generally, to their detriment.

Not only does breakfast give you energy to start a new day, but breakfast is linked to many health benefits, including memory retention and improved performance. Studies show that eating a healthy breakfast (as opposed to processed foods like cereals and bread high in refined carbohydrates) can help give you:

- A more nutritionally complete diet, higher in nutrients, vitamins and minerals,
- Improved concentration and performance in the classroom,
- More strength and endurance to engage in physical activity, and
- Lower cholesterol levels.

Eating breakfast is important for everyone, but is especially so for children and adolescents. According to research, children who eat breakfast perform better in the classroom and on the playground, with better concentration, problem-solving skills, and eye-hand coordination.

One of the quickest and easiest breakfasts is a smoothie. If you own a blender or Nutribullet, you might like to try one of these quick and nutritious smoothie recipes for brekky. Scan the QR code to go to the recipes.

By Victoria Hanson

LIBRARY NEWS

Book Week Parade

Australia: Story Country Wednesday 24 August 2016

The Book Week Parade is our chance to celebrate all the wonderful Australian authors and books that enrich our reading. Students in K-6 will parade in costume with any book written by an Australian author.

See our list of Australian books here: http://bit.ly/2aUmxbT

The only important thing in a book is the meaning that it has for you – W. Somerset Maugham

Scholastic Book Fair

Friday 19 August 2016 3.15pm - 4.30pm

Monday 22 August 2016 8.00am - 8.45am

Oxley K-6 students are encouraged to save their pocket money for the books, posters and stationery available at this event. All money raised will go towards new books for the library.

2016 NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge

Complete your reading list by Friday 19 August 2016 to be eligible for the PRC certificate and celebration barbeque. Log on and fill in your list here: http://bit.ly/1klfk7w
OLD OXLEYAN INTERVIEW

JANE GRAY
CLASS OF 87

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

Since I was in the first graduating class of Oxley, I recall in horror that this makes me your resident Geriatric (Which astounds me, as I still feel so young).

When I completed Oxley I did not have many options for university (see later comments!) I scraped into Wollongong uni to do Nursing (Which unlike today had a very lowATAR). In retrospection perhaps the embryonic Oxley was too much fun back in the day for any of us to achieve as we should have! However eight years later I graduated from Newcastle University as a Medical Doctor and have enjoyed the challenges of my profession using my skills in many parts of the world. Study has remained constant in my life and I am currently enjoying the University of Queensland’s Postgraduate study. One dear old Oxleyan Tennille Gluck (1995) tirelessly works as my PA to keep me presentable and on time. Another Trish Varvel (1988) does life with me as we attempt to remember all of our six sons various life commitments (and still stop and smell the roses!)

I currently work (along with my husband Dr Matthew Gray) in the practice my father (Dr John Schwarz OAM) established whilst I was at Oxley. We are pretty unique in that although based in Camden we do work in Africa through our foundation (AAF). We work with contacts made 40 years ago where I grew up in a mission hospital of the Drakensberg Mountains and I can still go by my tribal name in remote communities devastated by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The longevity of my family’s commitment to the poorest of the poor grants us enormous privilege of doing life with incredibly stoic communities. My sons now work in these tribes assisting in getting gardens planted to promote self sufficiency and assisting my husband and I to teach life skills and education to break the cycle of poverty in a region with 75% unemployment. As a family of six we currently go twice a year and it is hard work but makes us count our blessings and keeps us close. We are proud that our medical practice absorbs all the admin costs of running the foundation and 100% of raised funds get delivered to those in need. Our sons Jonah and Noah are in the process of organising a schoolies retreat which will expose more HSC survivors to our projects where they can give back and be shaken out of the selfish hedonism which study can evoke in some (not all) of us!

What is your biggest achievement since high school?

Currently juggling family, work as a GP, Coordinating our surgery extensions and our work in AAF, I acknowledge I am in a prestigious role (which has dwarfed my wildest dreams as an Oxley schoolgirl,) However my greatest achievement is in raising our four sons with Matthew. We strive to raise brave, courageous men in this rapidly changing global stage. Thus facilitating my five men to be equipped to contribute locally and internationally, in developed and undeveloped communities has brought me immense joy.

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

NO! Family folklore includes the tale of a sombre meeting in the Headmaster’s office when David Wright informed me my results at Oxley were woefully inadequate to achieve entrance to tertiary education. He was correct! Oxley’s vibrant extracurricular programme was so much more appealing than academic achievement. However failure can be garnered into strengths if we avoid falling into that slimy pit of self pity, and so such early humiliation ensured I have worked very hard ever since to achieve goals! I hope this encourages other flailing Oxleyans. I recall pining to study journalism and do currently enjoy writing and anticipate writing a book about women raising sons (but I don’t feel old or wise enough to complete it!) Oxley was a launch pad which propelled me into a future so surreal I doubt my childhood self could have imagined it!

How did Oxley prepare you for your future?

As you would all appreciate increasingly educational institutions are looking further than Atars for entrance to competitive degrees. The founders of Oxley organically endorsed this. Thus to this day I give great thanks that my parents chose Oxley as they were wise in discerning David Wright and the Governing Board’s broad vision of education.

Oxley granted me an appreciation for aesthetics, which I may have remained naïve over had I gone into university direct from living in a Zulu mission hospital during the Apartheid regime. Oxley rounded my education in areas of art appreciation (be it the written word/visual/performance arts), which marries well into a busy professional life, which often provides escapism.

David Wright regularly encouraged spiritual growth and an analysis in our purpose for being.

His biblical worldview taught us doctrinal truths, which I still rely on daily. Furthermore the school song instilled in us to be brave and strong and true and this is a narrative I have aspired to know especially as a parent.

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

Distilled sagacity would surmise I could not miss being at school having just survived the HSC as a parent (the experience was frankly ghastly albeit successful as I now traverse being a parent of a Sydney University college student). However I miss the simplicity of life, the endless days under the Pin Oak with no pressing responsibility except the gratification of self.

What would you say to your fifteen-year-old self?

Concentrate on what was taught! (My poor teachers.) I now know it was actually Socrates who inspired Mr Wright’s renowned retort “I know everything when I know I know nothing...” So if Socrates said it, it must hold water. However this idea caused us much mind-bending angst back in the day. I suspect because we thought we knew everything! And if my 15 year old self was miraculously still concentrating I would suggest a redeemed life lived in humble gratitude tells a story much greater than our own contrived stories of earthly success. Naturally I would then endeavour to find a patch of wintery sunlight on Elvo's steps and discuss this doctrine at length with Mr Wright!
OK Students – THIS NOTE IS FOR YOU!
Over the next weeks we’ll be selling tickets in the Dunk A Teacher raffle. Buy tickets at $1 each or 10 for $5 for your chance to dunk the teachers at the Pin Oak Fair. The raffle will be drawn at the final Assembly of Term 3! Don’t miss out! This is your chance for some payback!!

Also, last few weeks for all those artistic types to submit your work for “Emerge”, the Pin Oak Fair’s very own art show. Hang alongside cartoonists from the SMH and some seriously talented local artists! Exhibition to be opened on Saturday morning by a finalist of the Archibald Prize! What’s more if your work sells you’ll earn some money! Download the application from www.pinoakfair.com.au

Interested in running a stand? Face painting? kids crazy races? Email janecrowley@crowleyandgrouch.com

Thanks for your support!

HSC Art Exhibition
2016 YEAR 12 VISUAL ARTS
Orchestra Room Oxley College
Railway Road Burradoo Ph 4861 1366
5.30 - 7.30 PM
THURSDAY 18th AUGUST

TRIVIA NIGHT

The recent P & F Trivia night "Think Pink" was a huge success. Sold out with 160 people attending it was great fun to battle for the prestigious winning prizes of book shop vouchers or the not so sort after prize of a personalised mirror for the losing team members “take a good hard look at yourself!”

It was a spirited and fast paced evening of trivia which wouldn’t have been nearly as successful without the hard work of dynamic duo Skye and Doug (quizz master extraordinaire) Sandilands.

A huge thank you to Skye and Doug and their team: Lindy and Charlie Dowe and Prue and Andrew Wade. Thank you also to auctioner, Paul Milner; Sam Biddle who supplied the wine and Shelly Davis-Rice, Ann-Marie Greenop and Sooz Heinrich who helped set up on the night. There was also a busy team of student helpers who appeared enthusiastically during the afternoon.

Over $8,000 was raised on the night which enabled the P & F to reach their target goal to fund new Oxley K - 12 sports tents. This is outstanding and we hope to have the new blue and gold tents available at the Pin Oak Fair! Thank you to all the local businesses and members of the Oxley community who supported this excellent fundraiser. A full list of the generous donations will be in the issue of Pin Oak.
GALLERY
### AUGUST + SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

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<td>EXC: Year 7-11 Hices Music Festival Stanwell Tops</td>
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<td>EXC: Gateway 8 Yr 9 &amp; 10</td>
<td>K-6 Book Week Parade HSC Music Recital, Orchestra Room</td>
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<td>Open morning for Prospective Families, 10.30am</td>
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<td>EXC: Gateway 8 Yr 7 &amp; 8</td>
<td>EXC: MUNA National Finals Canberra</td>
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**FATHER'S DAY!!**
The stage is set for sport’s greatest superstars. From across 205 different countries, competitors will go head-to-head in one prestigious tournament, The Olympics. Having kicked off on Friday 5 August, many incredible athletes have been showcasing their extraordinary talents; giving us a taste of what’s to come. Here is a guide to just a few must-see events still to come in Rio:

**Rugby - Men’s Final**

The much anticipated event will make its first Olympic appearance on Friday 12 August. Expect a bruising encounter between rugby’s biggest nations.

**Gymnastics - Women’s All-Around Final**

Sport’s most majestic and beautiful event will be sure to leave you blown away.

**Tennis – Men’s Singles Final**

Can Andy Murray backup his Wimbledon success with a gold at the Olympics? Or will Rafael Nadal make his return from injury with a big win?

**Track/Field - Men’s 100m Final**

Witness Usain Bolt battle it out to retain his title as ‘World’s Fastest Man’.

**Diving - Women’s 10m Platform Final**

Tune in to see the acrobatic women twist, spin and turn in the biggest jumps of their lives from a terrifying 10 meters.

**Equestrian - Jumping Final**

An event in which man and horse ride as one, testing skills of great horsemanship.

**Field Hockey - Women’s Final**

Can the Australian Hockeyroos make it all the way to gold?

**Track/Field – Men & women 4x400m Final**

A grueling and ferocious event filled with controversy. Can the Australian runners stand tall amidst the action?

**Football - Men’s Final**

Watch the men display their dazzling tricks and fancy footwork in front of a crowd who follow the sport religiously.

By Ted Ottaviano (Year 11)

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**SHHA U13s Hockey**

1st Netball, Open C Netball and Junior C Netball

1sts Girls Football, Junior Girls Football

14s Boys Football

1st Hockey, Junior A Hockey and Junior B Hockey

**SEMI-FINALS - Oxley Teams**

SHHA U13s Hockey

1st Netball, Open C Netball and Junior C Netball

1sts Girls Football, Junior Girls Football

14s Boys Football

1st Hockey, Junior A Hockey and Junior B Hockey

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**RIO HIGHLIGHTS SO FAR...**

When the Olympic Opening Ceremony was telecast last Saturday morning the 2016 Olympic Games were under a cloud of incomplete construction, allegations of drug cheats and even a bout of gastro. Yet every four years Australia sends our very best athletes to compete for country pride and to give them the opportunity to show the world that hard work pays off. For those of you who have not been glued to your television, infected with Olympic fever, these are the highlights of the week that was...

Everything went swimmingly on Day one with Mack Horton and the Women’s 4x100m relay team, led by the Campbell sisters, bringing home gold. The Aussies started with a splash but their winning streak didn’t stop there, with a bronze medal for the Archery Trio.

Day Two, and Catherine Skinner surprised and delighted spectators in the women’s Trap Shooting. The second unexpected medal of the day went to Maddison Keeney and Anabelle Smith in the Synchronised Springboard Diving - fortunately they dived before the pool turned green! A Day Three highlight was without doubt watching the women’s Rugby Sevens make history and securing yet another gold for the Aussies - now that’s girl power!

The Aussie swimmers continue to deliver and have pocketed another two bronze medals. We are currently sitting forth on the medal tally but fingers crossed that the green and gold can reign supreme and the athletes at home can continue to belt out Advance Australia Fair with pride and admiration as our athletes take the dais.

By Cate Patterson (Year 12)

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**EQUESTRIAN UPDATE**

In the last edition of Pin Oak, the following students were inadvertently left off the list of the Oxley Equestrian Team members who competed in the NSW Interschools Equestrian Championships: Hunter Taylor, Amelia O’Sullivan, Jesse Noad, Will David, Mackenzie Johnson and Anneliese Wansey. We apologise for this omission. The three Oxley team members who have been selected for the National Interschools Competition are Hunter Taylor, Anneliese Wansey and Will Quirico. Congratulations to the fine Oxley Equestrian team.