

MAGAZINE LIFTOUT

OLE WEEK

WEEK 3, TERM 4, 2016



OUTBACK



FIJI



ABSEILING



MURRAY TO THE MOUNTAINS

Seventeen students in cycle mode,
 To Victoria, with 'Rock and Road'
 Bowser Lodge for accommodation,
 Riding rail trails 'tween old country stations
 First morn negotiating a flooded track,
 On his bike Zac soon got the knack
 'cept Gabe who fell with quite a clatter,
 In the town of Wangaratta
 Jock was next to come unstuck,
 On a corner of slippery muck
 Rock anthems played through a bluetooth speaker,
 Sam, our trusty music keeper
 At Oxley we all posed for snaps,
 Then onto Milawa to eat our wraps
 Aiden, he could eat for three,
 Was it he who blocked the lavat'ry?!
 Andy, then he had a crash,
 Sufferin' nasty gravel rash!
 Later leaving bikes aside,
 By bus to Glenrowan we took a ride
 In a ghoulish museum full of screams and bangs,
 We learned 'bout the end of the Kelly gang
 While watching the hanging of poor old Ned,
 A sandbag nearly landed on Ben Wawn's head!
 Back to ping pong, pool, and a barbeque,
 Meeting over 'Milos' for next day's preview
 Of a punishing climb up the 'Highway to Hell,'
 Yarns of pain and hardship to later retell
 Yet Ben Hutch was the only casualty,
 A collision causing damage to his knee
 Beechworth awaited atop the hill,
 Ice cream 'n' sour lollies we took our fill
 Then the joy of freewheeling back to base,
 Our flying Finn setting up the pace
 Taking it steady had been Tim Gorman,
 But at the finish he came home stormin'!
 Cheeseburgers were on the table set,
 Before an episode of the 'Bachelorette'
 Poor Izzy, home her man was sent,
 For love was not Sam's main intent
 Charlie was the games room king,
 D'Arcy a master of the card flick thing
 Next day Layla fell from off her bunk,
 To land with quite a hefty clunk!
 We set off from Myrtleford at quite a canter,
 Pumped, and full of cheeky banter
 It was the perfect Spring time day,
 To enjoy berry desserts served on a tray
 On up the valley toward snow-capped hills,
 There were no further biking spills
 'Til Jas forced an old man off the path,
 He wasn't slow to show his wrath!
 Lunch in Bright was very chilled,
 But the return was more adventure filled
 Over handle bars Ravi was vaulted,
 From snakes and magpies, the team it bolted!
 Now the cycling was complete,
 Pizzas and a movie was a final treat
 In the course of our three days,
 We had ridden two hundred k's!
 Speaking then with great aplomb,
 A thank you message from our Tom
 To the Boll-dog who had planned the trip,
 And Ms Stanton for her cycling tips..... By Tim Dibdin



SURF-GIRLS

Twenty four girls from Years 9 and 10 travelled to Gerringong for a week of surfing, art and relaxation. Whilst the other years were lugging around 20kg hiking packs and toughing it out in the bush, our group enjoyed a week by the beach in comfortable cabins. After being dumped by many waves, we were all standing up on our boards by the time our bus arrived on the last day. As well as surfing, we enjoyed some basket weaving, watercolor painting and indigo dying. We were given mindful (and a little painful) yoga classes everyday. I got to know a lot of people better than I had before and I am sure many other of the girls did too. Surf Camp was an experience to remember. By Savannah Sandilands (Year 9)



SURF-BOYS

Over the course of five days, thirteen boys from Years 9 and 10 stayed at Delicate Nobby campsite with Mr Cunich, Mr Hicks and two Lands Edge leaders, Kev and Brendan. After a seven hour bus trip to Crescent Head the boys were keen to get straight into the water and adapt to the daily routine of a morning surf followed by lunch then a trip into town to stock up on food, finally concluding with a three hour afternoon sesh. Surfing on OLE was a once in a life time trip with a great bunch of guys. It wouldn't have been possible without Mr Hicks and Mr Cunich and we all greatly appreciate your input into the trip, making it an even more enjoyable experience. By Will Quirico (Year 10)

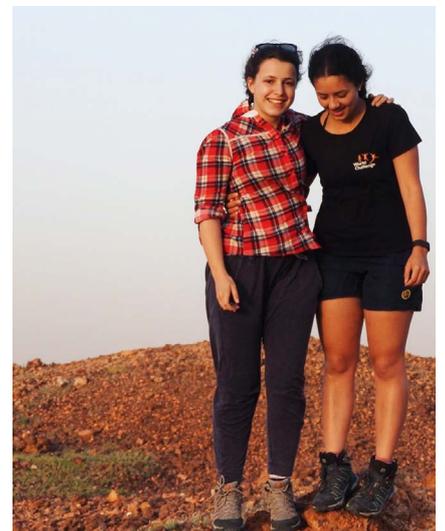


OUTBACK

Truly an experience of a lifetime.

All clichés aside, the forever anticipated Year 11 Outback trip is something you will only do once. For those who haven't heard of it, Outback is a two week trip offered to all Year 11 students, to travel through the heart of our country, the Outback, and essentially bond as a year group. Among the numerous places we visited, some of them included the interestingly named towns like Nyngan, other-worldly places like Coober Pedy and the pinnacle big rock - Uluru, and as students, we were really given a view of places very different to our comfortable Southern Highlands. Early mornings became a given and we soon learnt to stop counting down the hours on our daily bus journeys, and instead wanted them to last longer while we enjoyed the company of others we would hardly spend time with on a regular day. Stand out moments on the trip include the breath-taking views over The Breakaways in Coober Pedy, staring out into the valley on top of our hike at Flinders Ranges, watching the setting sun change the colour of our iconic Uluru, and being present in a mini-bus while it was engulfed in the edge of a cyclone and torrential rain. Something about the endless roads and the glorious red dust brings out a different side to people. Laughing along with new friends and creating strong bonds to pull us through into the HSC, the Outback trip is a time in everyone's lives that will stay with us. An immense gratitude held by all students goes towards the tireless planning and sacrifice given by all staff on the trip. Thank you to everyone involved.

By Maddie Dawkins (Year 12, 2017)





TASTE OF SYDNEY

On Monday 10 October at 8:49am the train to Sydney departed for what was to be Rights of Passage Two: Food Included. We checked into the Sydney Central YHA, and then endured the seemingly endless amounts of Bradley jokes as we caught a ferry to Bradley's Head, walked to Chowder Bay and then departed to have fish and chips in the evening. The following day we went to the Lakemba Mosque where we had an informative session teaching us about Muslim culture, we also explored the various Middle-Eastern restaurants in the area. On Wednesday we went to a bakery and made warm, tasty bread, after which we ventured to two Asian art galleries. We went to Centre Point Tower on Thursday, had a tour, and ate from the seemingly endless amount of food provided for us, once we had eaten we then returned to the YHA for our last night together. The next morning we all woke up at around 4:00am, and caught a train to our last location of the trip, Flemington Markets, where we examined vegetables, fruit and flowers. We finally caught a train back to the cold, unforgiving streets of Bowral and returned back to our warm beds where we all got some much needed sleep.

By Georgia Hutton and Sam Crowley (Year 9)



FIJI

On Friday 7 October, 20 excited students and teachers started off on their 2016 Fiji tour. After a four-hour plane trip, we all landed in the hot and humid city of Nadi. From there we made our way by bus and boat to Robinson Crusoe Island to relax and have fun, allowing us to really bond with each other and practice our English teaching skills. After three days at the island, it was time to travel to Tavua, a town near Korovou Village, where we taught a Kindergarten class. On that day, we went to the village to meet the kids and to participate in an official ceremony involving kava drinking and sharing songs with each other. I can confidently say that going to the village was one of everyone's favourite parts of the trip, as it allowed us to really experience their culture. The trips there always involved singing, reading, origami or painting. We all went out to a local high school and played a lot of fun sport games with the students. Although the majority of the group unfortunately got a stomach bug, the whole trip was truly wonderful and enriching.

To anyone in the younger years, I strongly recommend signing up for this tour. You won't regret it!

By Grace Newton (Year 9)

Photos courtesy of Liv Donovan (Year 10)





K-2

During OLE Week, the students from Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 negotiated projects to extend their skills of imagination and collaboration. Some created artworks for the Pin Oak Fair to demonstrate Oxley College as a place of welcome. Others discovered their passions in engineering, whilst another group created elements for a Curiosi-tree, which you will soon find in the K-6 playground. All students attended an excursion to Symbio Wildlife Park on Wednesday and shared a BBQ dinner at the Year 2 sleep-out on Thursday evening. By the end of the week, the tuckered-out youngest members of Oxley College left with excitement for the term ahead.

"I designed binoculars to represent my dream about discovering a new animal – Emma, Year 1

I designed a cat in the hat because I dream of being an author and I want to write the next book in the series – Alexander, Year 1

I designed an eye to represent exploring, investigating and learning about things – Mimi, Year 2



YEAR 3 & 4

Stage 2 had the best of both worlds with three days for school based activities and then a night away with Lands Edge at Gerringong which for our Year 3s was their first school camp experience. During the days on campus much energy was spent in preparation for the Hoopla Stall at the upcoming Pin Oak Fair. Student groups designed, constructed and decorated the hoop pegs, others created huge banners that will sign post all the exciting activities that will be run in the K-6 Courtyard or what will become Sideshow Alley.

Once off to their sea side camp much fun was had. Surf school on the first day was a great adventure and camp ground games, kayaking and the overnight bunking in the dormitories was all part of the fun.

"I liked surfing and kayaking and being able share bunks with my friends. It was all really fun!" William Brady, Year 4

"The best thing about OLE week was surfing because we had a lot of fun times. I already knew how to surf but everyone got the help they needed to get up." Eva Duffy, Year 3



YEAR 5 & 6

Of all the activities at Camp Yarramundi, initiatives was a favourite. This was where we had to get a noodle and whack the opponent blindfolded while your team directed you. I wandered off into the distance in an attempt to find a noodle while my opponent was busy whacking innocent people from their own team, thinking it was me. I heard a voice and thought it was the other team, and I backed away even further than before, but it was my team trying to get me back and closer to the noodle. Before I knew it I was on the ground, stretching out into open air, feeling for the noodle. I felt something, it felt like a well, noodle. I had gotten the pink, half broken, shrivelled up noodle. I clasped it and waved my arms around wildly, destroying everything in my way, including people. My opponent was close. I whammed her with the noodle, saving the game for my team.

By Brianna Grice (Year 6)





YEAR 8

For this year's OLE Week, Year 8 set off hiking in Murramarang National Park. The weather was wonderful and the experience was even better. We enjoyed hiking along the stunning coastline, surfing (or at least trying to!) in the sparkling waves, mountain biking through the rugged bush and making fires and eating bush tucker at an Aboriginal cultural session. We got to know the people in our year better, as well as learning resilience, perseverance, teamwork, and that de-hydrated milk isn't actually that bad. Thank you to everyone that helped make Year 8 OLE Week possible. It's an experience that we won't soon forget! By Gracie Phelan (Year 8)



YEAR 7

On the first week back Year 7 headed to Kangaroo Valley for a week!

We left the school and headed down to Kangaroo Valley where we encountered a severe weather warning that kept us stranded at a nice flat campsite with toilets – we weren't too sad! Here we waterproofed our bags, learnt how to set up a campsite complete with tents, hand wash stations and where we would cook – and we were ready!

On the second day we hit the river and from then on we canoed hard, abseiled bravely, cooked, cleaned, slept on a slope, made new friends, created great memories and finally learnt how to dig a hole for a toilet. We'd like to thank all the teachers who came with us and made sure we had such a great time. By Mia Sandilands (Year 7)





NEPAL

The moment we step out into an airport consisting of two conveyor belts, a LOT of people and numerous cartons of live chickens, we know that something has changed. This is Nepal, and our adventure has begun.

We wheel out our bags and immediately draw the eyes of most of the car park. The bus ride to the hotel is like driving through a whole other world - the streets are chaos with people selling things, talking in animated voices and just going about their everyday business.

Later, we shop and barter till we drop, in the streets surrounding our hotel. Definitely the most fun shopping experience I've ever had, only topped by the downpour of rain later that afternoon. We splash our way back to the hotel through streets come alive in the rain. The traffic and honking only seems to have intensified.

Forever imprinted in my brain is the bus trip from Kathmandu all the way out to Jibe Jhibe. The day was perfect, cloud-smearing sky stretched out over softly etched mountains that faded off into shades of blue in the distance. The bus wove its way down a narrow road beside the river, winding next to us like a snake. Head out the window, wind tossing my already messy hair in all directions, I waved at the people we passed, trying to make eye contact despite the moving bus, even chancing a "Nameste!". There would be a split second when they'd stare at me curiously, unsure of the 27 Australian teenagers on the bus singing loudly to Justin Beiber and arguing over music selections. Then as we were almost out of sight, a smile would break over their faces and they'd quickly lift a hand to wave back. Something about this has stayed with me. Although I didn't speak to the people and will never see them again, I can still picture the look of delight on their faces as we drove past. It's the simple moments like these that make up my memories of Nepal.

We were welcomed into the village with completely open arms, the children at the high school coming during their school holidays each day to see us! We played lots of games with them and realised just how much we underestimated their ability to speak English. What followed were many games of volley ball, hokie pokie and Nepalese dances, selfies and awkward singing of the Australian national anthem. We formed some really intense and beautiful friendships in those few days - it wasn't a long time and often it was hard to come up with conversation topics but there is a lot to be said for singing and laughing with someone, despite language and culture barriers.

Next came the hike. The first few days were directly uphill, through mist and jungles, and finally to the summit. We reached 3,200 feet all up, and once the mist cleared had a spectacular view to the Himalayas - a reward for all our hard work. We will forever be indebted to the sherpas who carried our things for us, each person carting two of our massive duffle bags plus their own. The hike would have been physically impossible without them. Coming down was a slippery slope (literally), with many a tumble taken. We crossed water falls, had lunch on the side of a mountain (in the rain) and were wonderfully entertained singing the same songs over and over again - our voices echoing through the jungle.

I can't possibly think of a better group of people to travel to Nepal with. I've had so many thought provoking chats with people - from crazy neighbours, to handling death to solving the world's issues one by one. Thanks to the teachers who came with us, you guys kept us in good spirits and gave us just the right amount of freedom. Nepal has inspired me to venture outside the Burradoo bubble and to explore the rest of the world. It will stay with me forever. By Jemima Taylor (Year 9)

Photos courtesy of Ashley Mackevicius

