

PINOAK

ISSUE 46: TERM 1, FEBRUARY 10, 2017
OXLEY COLLEGE



IGNITE YEAR 11

K-6
CELEBRATE
FIVE YEARS

YEAR 7
ORIENTATION
CAMP

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Harriet Janet Elizabeth Nixon - Proud Oxleyan

21 June 1995 - 29 December 2016

It is with immense gratitude we thank Michael Parker together with the Oxley College community most sincerely for allowing our family the absolute privilege to provide the Peter Craig Centre to celebrate our darling cherished daughter and sister, Harriet's life on Friday 6 January.

In excess of 1200 people gathered from all corners of Australia to honour Harriet and remember her for the profound contribution she made to her life, her family, friends, the Southern Highlands community, former school communities, ANU community, Federal Parliament community, and Batyr community her chosen charity to smash the stigma surrounding youth mental health.

The service was composed by remarkable people with the loving support of family and friends and particularly the broader Oxley College community. All of which was orchestrated so selflessly during the school holiday. In particular we would like to acknowledge Rev Christopher Welsh who was the Head of Oxley College and interviewed Harriet in 2006, together with Charlie Scudamore, Vice Principal of Geelong Grammar School and uncle, Father Plunkett, for conducting such a dignified and loving service; Dennis Mudd OAM for presenting the superb reflection and insight into Harriet's 21 years of a life lived; the generosity of spirit and unfailing support from Kim McNaught, Natalie Lane and Emma Calver for their impeccable organisation; Mandy Lawson and a beautiful team who ensured that the flowers had such a significant presence, so elegant and countryfied, a memory which will stay with us always; the Uliana family and dearest Cat Uliana for her friendship to Alicia; students who willingly organised the hall; Mark Cupitt and his team who ensured the school looked immaculate and Kim McNaught, Tristan Bevan, Robert Hughes and Natalie Lane for providing the professional voices during the hymns.

As a former student of Oxley College and proud member of Mawson House (Year 10, 2011) we were indeed honoured to return to the school where we have fond memories where both Harriet and her younger sister Alicia were provided an exceptional education. Harriet represented the school proudly both academically, and in co-curricular activities such as Hockey, Music, Duke of Edinburgh, Cross Country and Community Service. Harriet also worked at the College in 2014 providing support in the sporting arena while saving for her Gap year.

Harriet's sudden and tragic passing has left us totally heartbroken however somehow she has strengthened this community, fostered friendships and reunited those touched by her endearing qualities across many communities. We were very honoured to have Rev Chris Welsh, Grant Williamson and Michael Parker, Heads of Oxley College, united in their grief and support for our family and this community.

Harriet will be remembered for her unwavering love and support to her family and friends, her unique qualities, radiant smile, generosity of spirit, resilience, mindful insight, strong values, inspiration and integrity...most of all her beautiful soul.

Thank you Oxley College.

Ralph, Fiona and Alicia Nixon

HEADMASTER'S REPORT

VALUES, GRATITUDE AND MINDFULNESS

Welcome back. It has been great to see all of the young men and women at Oxley getting back into classes, their sports teams and their friendship groups. It has been terrific too to see so many new Year 7s, Year 5s, Kindergartens and other new Oxleyans. All of us have even valiantly battled on with the heat (can it really be 41 degrees tomorrow) and our insalubrious portable classrooms are suddenly the most popular rooms in the school because they actually have air conditioning. The canteen has been selling out of zooper doopers too, although Catherine Fraser tells me that they now have a motherload in the freezer.

Values (such as Gratitude)

This year at Oxley we plan to concentrate a little more on presenting the Oxley Values to the students. If I ask groups of parents (and even myself) 'would you rather your child was smart or good', then after some uncomfortable wriggling, the parents usually say 'both... but if I can only have one I will take good'. This means that the words in our values statements such as 'kindness', 'courage' and 'loyalty' are not just metaphysical fluff but central pillars of our education.

Our five central values at Oxley are justice, humanity, wisdom, fortitude and mindfulness. Each of these values is then broken up into about half a dozen virtues and dispositions. In order to get these, Oxley did not go to Google and print out a list of fifty values. Instead the College adopted the very deeply thought out and worked through framework from Martin Seligman and Christopher Peterson in their book *Character Strengths and Virtues*. It is an incredibly deep work (I read much of it...slowly...over the Christmas break) that synthesises so much wisdom from Christian and other traditions, as well as from ethical philosophy through the ages. <http://www.viacharacter.org/www/About-Institute/>

I intend to talk regularly about these values on assembly. On the first day I spoke about gratitude, as did the student leaders. As it was the first day, we looked at what would happen if your son or daughter was randomly inserted on the planet as a teenager - what type of school would they probably go to. We thought that the chances of landing in an 'Oxley type' of school - liberal, safe and reasonably resourced - was about one in ten. We then looked at all the other options, then rolled a dice with individual students on the stage to see what sort of school they would end up with. As we kept rolling the dice one student ended up at Oxley, once. We used this as starting point for feeling gratitude, and then, (after I talked for probably far too long), we individually, reflected on three things to be grateful for that morning.

Something you could do at the dinner table is ask your kids, and yourself, three things to be grateful for that day. It often works. We do this because gratitude is part of the glue of reciprocity in the social contract that holds us all together. It makes you feel better too. Asking a question about gratitude is also a good alternative to the usual 'How was school today?' 'Okay'.

Mindfulness

Mindfulness has been one of the five Oxley values for many years. We thought we would act on it more explicitly this year and so we had an external expert, Edwina Parsons, teaching mindfulness to many of the students. She also trained all of the staff during the staff presentations. We plan to roll this out regularly in our school week. Hopefully your sons and daughters have already come home and talked about it.

Mindfulness can be as simple as focusing on the present moment (your breath, your body, your surroundings) instead of thinking about the past or reflecting on the future. It calms your brain and makes you more centred and effective.

It is very easy to start. Many of the students did a square meditation (see picture below) in which you imagine drawing a square and breathing (I find I get out of breath so I imagine drawing a rectangle).



Many teachers will also be using the app 'smiling mind' which is free and easy to download. It is a no-nonsense, Australian, calm way of having students do mindfulness. There is an adults section too.

Hopefully by working on the practice and value of mindfulness (and its subsets, forgiveness, humility, self discipline and patience) we will help contribute to the well being and character of each Oxleyan.



BIG ISSUE: Change the Date...

Australia Day 2017

Sausage in hand, brightly coloured zinc smeared across your nose, waves hitting the shore accompanied by the sound of delighted boogie-boarders getting washed up on the sand, an Australian flag tattooed on your arm and Triple J blasting from your portable speaker. Did you spend your Australia Day like this? Harmless, right? But have you every really considered why we choose to celebrate Australia Day on January 26 in particular? For many Australians, celebrating Australia on January 26 actually causes grief and sadness. Why? And why are people calling for the date to be changed?

January 26 actually marks the arrival of the First Fleet of British Ships at Port Jackson in New South Wales. Many people have deemed it "invasion day" and in reality, that's pretty much what it is. Before European people arrived, northern Sydney was home to thousands of aboriginal people. The day the First Fleet arrived marks the day that began a long struggle by indigenous people to be taken seriously as the owners of this land, for rights and equality - a struggle that continues today. The indigenous population dropped from about 1 million to 100 thousand in the first century after the British arrival, meaning that from any reasonable point of view, Australia's colonisation was an invasion. Consider this quote from Governor Macquarie, who within 20 years of settling the new colony regarded himself as being 'at war' with indigenous people. "Such Natives as happen to be killed on such occasions, if grown up men, are to be hanged up on trees in conspicuous situations, to strike the Survivors with the greater terror."(1816) For indigenous people, January 26 is the day their way of life was changed forever.

Why do we insist on celebrating Australia Day on this date? Many say that what has happened in the past should stay in the past, and changing the date

of Australia Day won't change past events. Some people simply think that it's just people looking for something to whinge about and that it's just too much hassle to change the date. But actually we haven't always celebrated Australia on the 26th of January - it's been celebrated on a number of different days throughout history. If we've changed the date before, we could do it again.

Personally, I find it hard to see the merit of celebrating Australia day on the 26th of January. The Australia Day website claims that "On Australia Day we come together as a nation to celebrate what's great about Australia and being Australian." If this is the case, there are many other dates that would be more appropriate than the day that marks the start of such violence for our first people. Federation Day, the day Australia said sorry to the stolen generation, the day indigenous people were allowed constitutional rights? If Australia claims to be such a multicultural population, how about the 11th of April- the day when the White Australia policy was abolished? The 8th of may, May 8 - "Ma....te", was even suggested in a video in the lead up to Australia day. It ended with the hard hitting and witty line "Sure, it might be a bit cold in May, but it's not as cold as ignoring genocide".

Let's hope that by next Australia day, something's changed. Let's hope that we have found a date that includes everyone and shows off the best in Australia. After all, isn't that what celebrating Australia is all about?

Jemima Taylor (Year 10)

TAKE INSPIRATION



BOOKS



The Art of Being Normal

Lisa Williamson's exploration of the formation of an unlikely friendship between two characters is moving. *The Art of Being Normal*, focuses on just that, but more so the way in which 'normal' does not exist. The uniquely different characters are drawn to each other by their common thread, which is not at first apparent. The relationship that is formed between the pair sheds light on the beauty of friendship. The novel defies typical young adult fiction, by depicting the way in which our flaws can become our strengths through a change in mindset. The authors creation of two sincere voices portrays the story authentically. The simplistic nature of the story only emphasises the raw truth Williamson is addressing. For those who enjoy an effortless read, which leaves the reader faithful in humanity, *The Art of Being Normal* is the story for you.

Ella Moran (Year 12)



MUSIC



Split - Camp Cope and Cayetana

Philly band Cayetana and Melbourne based Camp Cope have teamed up from opposite sides of the globe for an epic split album/EP. With two tracks from each band, it's a short and sweet mix of the two band's styles. *Keep Growing*, the killer opening track from Camp Cope hits us with some oh-so-relatable lyrics all about the nonsensical western societal standards imposed on all of us. The second track, *Mesa*, brings the wonderful Cayetana to center stage. It's still the indie rock they're so fantastic at producing but with a sweet, soft touch to it that really makes it something special. Camp Cope's second and final song on the album, *Footscray station* is truly spectacular. In classic Camp Cope form, it's filled with strong vocals, straightforward and raw lyrics and the passionate, unprocessed sound they've become known for. Cayetana closes up beautifully with the gentle, hazy trails, packed with distant vocals and faded, messy drumming to finish up the collaboration. There couldn't have been any better pairing to work together on music, it's near perfect in every way.

Imogen Hatcher (Year 8)



BERTIE BLACKMAN

After releasing her sixth full-length record in 2014, Bertie Blackman has been on a hiatus, taking time to develop her sound and figure out what the next step is for her. Buried in the depths of Kangaroo Valley, I had a chat to the Sydney musician about the forever-changing music industry, her musical beginnings and current inspirations.

On her musical childhood: "Both my parents are painters so they would always have music playing. My grandmother is also heavily into contemporary classical music. When I was really little, she had this really amazing collection of gongs. She used to set me up in her garden and I used to play the gongs as like a, three or four year old with like chopsticks. So, it's always been very present and really prominent especially around creativity, as well".

On her early inspirations: "When I first started playing guitar I was pretty into Joni Mitchell and Jeff Buckley. But I was really lucky because I'm self-taught and lots of friends of the family played guitar or certain other instruments, so they would just come around to the house and go 'these are these chords'. That's sort of how I ended up learning to play that instrument."

Oh her collaboration with Urthboy: "I met Tim doing this tribute tour for Triple J for Nick Cave a few years ago. I've known him around the traps over the years but obviously the hip-hop scene's a bit different from the indie-pop scene. It doesn't really cross-pollinate unless there's collabs going on. He's one of my favourite people. I really adore him, he has so much to say, so much depth and the layers of story and musicality in his work".

Izzy Moore (Year 10)

Head of K-6: Justine Lind

The year has begun a buzz with zestful energy, partly through the influence of youth and holiday restoration as well as the impetus provided by new people; students, families and staff who come with fresh eyes and an appreciation of all that Oxley is. We are delighted to welcome new and continuing families and look forward to spending some time together for all who can join us at the Welcome Drinks this evening.

We celebrate the contribution to our community that new people bring while understanding that with growth and change come some additional considerations and requirements. Our aim is to serve the needs of our current students while planning for the anticipated future needs of the College. We continue to seek our community's patience during the transition to this exciting new chapter in Oxley's history. As we communicated at the end of 2016, our additional enrolments has meant it has been necessary to accommodate some of the siblings wishing to join us at the same time as students in our intake years of Kindergarten, Year 3 and Year 5. This has resulted in an increase to class sizes to 23 in Years 1 and 2 and 27 in Years 3 to 6 in 2017.

We appreciate that our play facilities are an area in need of consideration. Our initial approach has been to open up additional access to the oval for any students who wish to run or play games before school. Additional staff duties will provide opportunities for this from 8.30 to 8.50 am each morning. On wet mornings we will be able to use the PCC when available. On other days it is in use for team training sessions.

Our more substantive initiative is the redevelopment of the K-6 Playground to provide rich experiences and opportunities for quiet reflection, creative play and adventure. The College has big dreams for this area and has engaged the service of Catherine Lewis, a local Landscape Architect who is designing an inspiring integration of natural and built elements to enhance our outdoor learning environment so that it truly is a place of wonder. A state of the art treehouse is being planned as the centrepiece of this space. Due to the generosity of the College Board significant funds have been allocated for this project so that we may get started very soon. Significant consultation, design and planning occurred last year and we are now in the costing and final stages of the planning process. We have included images provided as part of the design brief to enable you to appreciate the concept we envisage and hope to have actual designs ready for publication soon.

The scope of elements included in the concepts will require a phased approach to realise the full vision but we wanted to share our intentions with you now. We would be interested to hear from any parents who would be willing to contribute additional funds for this specific project or may have access to resources that could be used to minimise the outlay on goods and services so that we may optimise the impact for our students in the shortest period of time.

Weekly Awards:

Students of the Week

KK: Lachlan Stanners
KL: Jemima Anson
Yr 1: Grace Kean
Yr 2: Aiden D'iorio
Yr 3: Allegra Mineeff
Yr 4: Lily Scott
Yr 5C: Cameron Wood
Yr 5H: Benjamin Davis
Yr 6: Cameron Houghton



Oxley Values

KK: Ava Kroll
KL: Samsara Pout
Yr 1: Cecilia Vild
Yr 2: Leila Palmer
Yr 3: Estelle Fragar,
Yr 4: Hugo Findlay
Yr 5C: Evie Crowley
Yr 5H: Alannah Mansour
Yr 6: Sophie Dunn



K - 6 students and K - 6 founding students, celebrate K - 6 's 5th Birthday!

Our community safety is of great importance to us and to this end we seek your co-operation with regards to our traffic plan. Additional staff, along with our student leaders, are now on hand in our turning circle each morning to welcome children being driven to school and to minimise the need for parents to get out of their cars to assist young students with their school bags. We appreciate the volume of traffic accessing this facility but seek your patience. We also ask again that as many of you as possible encourage your children to catch the bus. To assist parents with infants in prams or with small toddlers we ask you to park on the driveway side of the turning circle to allow the few spaces in the original K-6 carpark for families with the greatest need of proximity to our playground.

In Term 2 we are planning to hold our first Open Day for parents and family members. Many parents comment that they wish they were still eligible to come to school at Oxley – this is your chance. We are proud of the learning environments in each classroom, the engaging and dynamic learning experiences occurring each day and we are keen to share them with you – it will be a window into the daily life of your child and the magical goings on at Oxley College.

K- 6 PLAYGROUND IDEAS



FEATURE

My Scariest Night...

SAVANNAH, 15 YEARS OLD FROM GLENQUARY

MY SCARIEST NIGHT:

I was asleep. I woke to the sound of a car. Maybe someone had come down the driveway. Maybe someone would come into my safe home to take my loving parents and siblings away from me, I was scared. I walked up to my parent's room seeking reassurance. It ended up being a car on the road – just a noise in the night. I went back to my warm bed in the quiet safety of a Glenquarry night and fell back asleep.

SARINA, 19 YEARS OLD FROM SYRIA

The scariest day of my life was running for my life in Aleppo, Syria. I survived an airstrike, and when the bus driver driving the bus that we finally found to take me and my sisters home was shot in the head in front of my eyes. This has scarred me more than I ever thought it would. I didn't get hurt and I am grateful I am alive. I was so sure I was going to die.

The nights were scary too: the sounds of gunshot were my music to sleep.

MARYM, 15 YEARS OLD FROM IRAQ

The scariest night of my life happened when we had been living in Jordan for one year after my parents, my 11-year-old sister and I drove away from Iraq. I was 12. They told us we were going for a holiday.

After one year, I wanted to know when we were going back to our own beautiful big home, but my parents didn't really answer me.

Then one night, I heard them arguing. I heard my mother say "You know you would be dead by now. You know we would all be dead by now if we had stayed in Iraq."

What is your scariest night?

On Saturday 4 March, a group from the 'Treehouse performers' is coming to the Southern highlands to perform their "Suitcase Stories." The play explores stories of refugee children who have come to Australia to seek a safer life.

It would be fabulous if you get your family and friends involved and go see the production. I went last year and I can assure it is eye opening and powerful as well as warm and funny. This is a unique opportunity to gain a profound insight into experiences that we are lucky enough to be safe from.

Come along.

All ticket proceeds will go directly to Treehouse Theatre to support their continuing work with refugee students.

Savannah Sandilands (Year 10)



Suitcase Stories 2017

REAL LIFE STORIES OF THE REFUGEE EXPERIENCE

**MITTAGONG PLAYHOUSE,
114-116 MAIN STREET, MITTAGONG**

Saturday 4th March: 2pm & 7pm
Tickets: \$30 Adult / \$20 Concession / \$15 Students

BOOKINGS

www.trybooking.com/254157



With thanks to



TREEHOUSE THEATRE.ORG.AU/EVENTS

For further information: 02 4861 1588

TREEHOUSE
THEATRE

DEPUTY HEAD REPORTS

Deputy Head Learning: Kate Cunich

The start of a new school year is one of my favourite times at Oxley. To see returning students greet each other, full of stories about the holidays is a joy. To see new students welcomed and surrounded by those eager to show them about, is even better.

2017 has started with a sense of energy and enthusiasm for both staff and students. Teachers met prior to the start of term for three days of professional learning, focused on our mission statement that addresses preparing our students for a future that is not known.

As a staff we are modelling collaboration, curiosity and creativity as we work together on refining learning experiences that are rich and engaging for our students.

Our senior students have returned with zest and the Year 12 Study Centre is already filled each morning with students taking advantage of this calm space to focus on their studies and academic preparation. Mrs Carter, Academic Master has begun the first round of Academic Check-ins, helping each student set goals and providing them with an Academic Atlas to assist their journey this term.

Students in Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 should now be settling into a pattern of regular revision and preparation. Each will have received their homework timetables and we encourage parents to have regular conversations about the learning that has occurred each day.

Finally, next week is an opportunity for parents to gather in Orchestra Room for our start of year Informations Sessions. The times are as follows:

Year 7	Wednesday 15 February 4.00pm
Year 8	Tuesday 14 February 4.00pm
Year 9	Thursday 16 February 4.00pm
Year 10	Tuesday 14 February 5.00pm
Year 11	Thursday 16 February 4.00pm

Deputy Head Pastoral: Peter Ayling

Welcome to 2017

I continue to be amazed at the wonderful students who are enrolled in our school. Last week we took 88 Year 7 students on camp where the focus was on connection and what it is to be an Oxley student. Our Year 12 leaders also attended and provided valuable information, support and guidance. We are fortunate to have outstanding leaders and with the help of our Heads of House the camp achieved the desired outcome

to bring the year group closer together and meet new people.

Below is an article from Paul Dillion which may assist with transition to Year 7.

Transition from primary to secondary school:

- **keep talking to your child and show an interest** - they may not want to tell you everything that is happening but keep asking the questions. High school is so different from primary school - they now have multiple teachers, they may be getting to school a different way and they're meeting many new people - show an interest in all of it. But know when to stop - don't be a nag! If they don't want to tell you more, don't push it!

- **be involved** - ask any high school teacher and they will tell you that they rarely see a parent unless something goes wrong. Try to make a time to see their Year Co-ordinator to introduce yourself and see how things are progressing, particularly if you have any concerns

- **meet their new friends** - if they start talking about new friends, encourage your child to invite them to your home so you can meet them. This shouldn't be a 'vetting period' but rather a simple but effective way of staying connected and being more aware of what is happening in your child's life.

- **meet their new friends' parents** - meet the friends, then meet their parents. You can tell so much about a child by having a brief chat to their Mum or Dad. If they seem to have similar values as you, grab them and hold them tight - they're going to be useful in the future.

- **don't be afraid to express your concern** if you're worried about who they're hanging out with - if you don't feel comfortable with their friends, let them know. This has to be handled extremely carefully and respectfully but, if it doesn't feel right, it most probably isn't and you need to let your son or daughter know how you feel.

And most importantly, if you don't do this already, start working on it today - **find a special activity for you and your child to do at least once a week.**

We know that the quality of the parent-child relationship is so important in building resilience. Having an activity that involves a time when it's just you and your child 'connecting', particularly just before they enter their teens can be so helpful in maintaining a strong and positive relationship.

Further information from Paul Dillion can be found from the link below.

<http://doingdrugs-darta.blogspot.com.au/2017/01/transition-from-primary-to-secondary.html>

The staff at Oxley College are here to help so please speak with your Tutor should you require any support, help or guidance.



Learning Field Online Textbooks

See them in Canvas

<https://oxley.instructure.com/login/ldap>

Students use their school username and password.

View the online library:

<https://manager.learningfield.com.au>

Username: Student email

Password: Oxley123!

Visit for a demonstration:

Highlighting, notes, audio, downloading onto a device.

In the library on Wednesday 22 February in the afternoon at 3.30pm.

RSVP library@oxley.nsw.edu.au



RUMOUR HAS IT

Surprising rumours about surprising people

Hello Mr Parker, rumour has it that you have a collection of over 700 music CDs?

Yes. And before that 800 tapes (which helps give away my age).

Over how many years were you purchasing CDs?

About fifteen years. I bought my first CD before I had a CD player (I used someone else's player to copy it onto a tape) in 1987. I slowed down hugely when I had about 150 CDs stolen, including many of my favourite ones. Although I replaced a lot of them, it still felt like the 'guts' of my collection wasn't there. Now with Spotify, it hardly matters.

What genres of music are in your collection:

All sorts of things - if it was British and in the charts, there was a pretty good chance it was there. From the end of 70s 'progrock,' 80s new wave and electronica, 90s Britpop. There was quite a lot of Australian rock too. There was always also a big classical section. Almost no Rap or Urban. Even less Country and Western.

Can you notice a change in your music preference and style of music?

Yes, I have got older and more dull. In about 2004 I went from Nirvana to the Wiggles which was a shock to both me and my car CD player. As I have got older I find it harder to work with lyrics in the background, so I have been much more restricted.

What top three CDs do you think had an impact of your life or have given you the most enjoyment?

ABC: The Lexicon of Love

Marillion: Clutching at Straws (No-one has ever heard of them).

Midnight Oil: Blue Sky Mining

Can I sneak in a fourth: Peter Gabriel 1 (it doesn't have a title)

And can I also sneak in a fifth: Kate Bush: The Hounds of Love.

Now that music is so readily available from the likes of Spotify and itunes, what is to become of your CD collection? Eg. perhaps as a feature you could line the walls of an Oxley Music Room or hang the 700+ CDs from the Pinoak?

I downloaded all my CDs in about 2005 and then stuck them in the ceiling cavity of my house, so I hadn't seen them for over a decade. I actually forgot about them until we sold the house. Even though I rescued them about three months ago, they are sitting in 'Woolies' recycling bags in our garage. I can't quite bear to throw them all away, even though we haven't had a CD player for years. I have used one or two of the less loved ones as drinks coasters.

Which band would be the most memorable that you have seen live?

U2 or Oasis. The first time I saw U2 I was lucky enough to be a few rows back in the aisle so when bouncers cleared out all of the people in the aisle I would just step back into my seat then back out to the aisle. So I got a totally uninterrupted view from about fifty feet away. In Oasis's case, I saw them with some British people who couldn't believe we were actually leaning up against the stage- Oasis were much bigger in Britain than Australia at the time. Of course it goes without saying that I only see symphonies and chamber orchestras now.

Which album would you chose for a road trip?

Little Mix or BTS (but only to keep my kids happy).

Um, Mr Parker, did you know that you have spent over \$20,000 in your youth on CDs?

Even worse, it cost \$25 per CD when I was at uni (that's in 1980s dollars, so about \$65 now), and you didn't even get to listen to it in advance - so it was a big risk. There were some absolute duds I forced myself to listen to front start to end half a dozen times, just to make sure they were absolute duds.

Savannah Sandilands (Year 10)

ALEX STANDEN CLASS OF 2006

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

Like a lot of people in my year group I decided to take a year to travel and work overseas, mostly in Europe. I had never been on an adventure as independent and freeing as this before and it was during this year that I decided art school was what I needed next. I was lucky enough to get into The National Art School in Darlinghurst, where I really began to understand myself. After four years of studying, with a major in ceramics, I was lucky enough to be picked up by a gallery in Sydney and was able to start making a career from my art practice straight away. I entered awards and art prizes that gave me the opportunity to show my work in different galleries and museums around Australia. I have worked for more established artists as an assistant which took me to Paris. I undertook Artists Residencies in Tel Aviv, Geneva and London, which opened my eyes to working with different materials and processes to create bodies of work and installations. I have also worked on and off for remote Aboriginal Art centres in Central Australia and the APY lands, for about five years now. Working with such great artists within the art centre environment has always been a very humbling and inspiring experience and I hope to continue going back to these communities for many years to come.

What is your biggest achievement since high school?

I have been very lucky in many ways that I can make art my full time job, showing work in Brisbane and Melbourne as well as Sydney. I am now back at uni undertaking a two year Research Masters at UNSW Art and design, on the ideas of artists within a curatorial field. I would have to say my proudest achievement is giving up a full time job to pursue a career solely through my art practice. This does come with a little bit of anxiety when I think about the sporadic nature of my income but that pushes me to make new work and develop exciting connections with people and spaces. The joy of being in my studio, surrounded by an artistic community totally over rides that conventional desire to have security in a 9-5 job and a regular salary.

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

I was never very certain of what I wanted to do when I entered the big scary world of responsibilities. It wasn't till the very end of Year 12 when I realised



I was skipping maths classes to hide away in the art cottage and draw. I was not a rebellious or naughty student, quite the opposite actually, so for me to skip classes was a big deal. Subsequently I failed maths and aced art, decision made.

How did Oxley prepare you for your future?

Oxley was quite a safe place to be while growing up and discovering what I wanted from life. The opportunity to learn from teachers who encouraged individual qualities in everyone was the most amazing thing to be part of. Students supported other students and I felt mostly nurtured and free to be myself. Oxley was all inclusive with so many cultural and artistic directions to go in. I watched as the school expanded and transformed to include so many other forms of education and design. It was never static, just as everyone who walks through the doors was moving in different directions, Oxley moved with them.

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

Mrs Topp! Truly the best history teach that ever lived and a wonderful person to be around. It was a happy day when double Modern History was on the timetable.

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

Lying in the sun on the grass at lunch times or a study (aka free) period, without a care in the world. Life is full of ups and downs and school was a very nurturing environment to experience different stresses or emotions in a supported way. Being an adult means you are responsible for paying rent on time, servicing and registering your car, managing your time without a timetable and maybe even getting your heart broken. All of this is very exciting and fulfilling and should be embraced when you get there but enjoying the blissfulness of school days is highly recommended.

What would you say to your fifteen year old self?

Read more books. Don't give up the piano lessons. Learn a language. Don't doubt yourself or become someone else to blend in. Trust that nothing is forever and you have time to figure out where your strengths lie. You don't need really need to know trigonometry. Turning 27 does not make you old. Don't let your friend cut that fringe.

WHAT'S HAPPENING? IN THE WORLD...



NATIONAL

What will Trump demand for Australia's refugee resettlement?

President Donald Trump says he is unhappy with previous President Obama's deal to re-settle refugees from Manus and Nauru Detention Centres to America. Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull is waiting to hear what President Trump wants in return for settling these refugees. "It may take the form of a battalion in Iraq or freedom-of-navigation patrols in the South China Sea," said Mr Turnbull. Many claim that it would be extremely dangerous for Australia to do this and it would be compromising "key national security interests". It may also compromise the domestic economy because China is one of Australia's largest trade partners. Would it be too high a price to pay for a minor refugee



INTERNATIONAL

Canada Discovers Ebola Cure

Remember back in 2014, when the Ebola outbreak first began to hit West Africa? When there was no cure, no vaccination? Well thankfully, Canada has come to the rescue. The virus began in Guinea and then spread to Liberia and Sierra Leone, roughly 11,300 people died. The World Health Organisation led a study attempting to find the vaccine, which was initially developed by the Canadian government. Once developed, the vaccine was given to around 5,800 people who had contact with an Ebola patient. After ten days, no Ebola cases were detected. The vaccine was so effective, that the study had to be suspended so that they were able to immunise more people.



LOCAL

Is the Wingecarribee Shire really one of the most expensive places to live in the world?

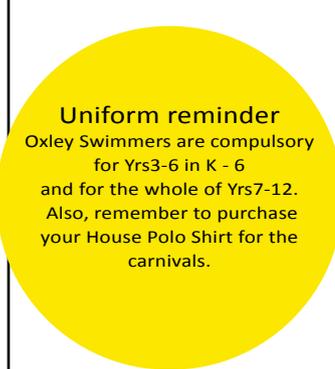
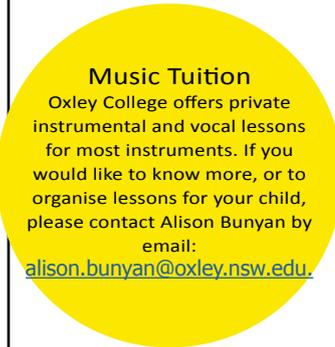
Well you might think so after the "Demographia's 13th Annual International Housing Affordability Survey" recently revealed that the Wingecarribee Shire ranks 7th on the least affordable housing market list (according to house price to income ratio). It comes in behind Vancouver, Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara and Auckland. Australia has four regions represented in the top 10 of the list, Sydney coming in second place, only beaten by Hong Kong. However, this doesn't necessarily mean that it is one of the most expensive places in the world to live, the survey actually compares the average income in an area with housing prices. This means that houses price are high in comparison to the average income.

Jemima Taylor (Year 10)

GALLERY



FEBRUARY & MARCH CALENDAR

	Mon 13 K - 6 Parent Information Session, 5.30pm	Mon 20 K - 6 Swimming Carnival - Bowral	Mon 27
	Tue 14 Yr 8 Information Session, 4.00pm Yr1 & Yr2 Parent Information Session K - 6, 5.30pm	Tue 21	Tue 28 EXC: Yr 12 DT Design Walk (Syd CBD)
	Wed 15 Yr 7 Parent Information Session, 4.00pm Yr3 & Yr4 Parent Information Session K - 6, 5.30pm	Wed 22 7 - 12 Swimming Part 1 (Twilight) - Bowral	Wed 01
	Thu 16 Yr 9 Parent Information Session, 4.00pm Yr 11 Parent Information Session, 5.00pm Yr 9 DofE Award Information, 5.00pm Yr5 & Yr6 Parent Information Session, 5.30pm	Thu 23 7 - 12 Swimming Carnival - Bowral	Thu 02 EXC: Y10 Geo Coastal Management - Warilla Yr7 Vaccinations 1 of 3 3 - 6 SHIPS Swimming - Bowral
Fri 10 Welcome Drinks 6:30pm ELVO	Fri 17 Open Morning and Q&A, 11.00am	Fri 24 7 - 12 SHSS Swimming Carnival - Frensham	Fri 03 EXC: Yr11 & 12 VA ArtExpress - Sydney
Sat 11	Sat 18 ISA Round 9 (Pink Stumps Day)	Sat 25 ISA Round 10	Sat 04 ISA Sport - Semi Finals
Sun 12	Sun 19	Sun 26	Sun 05

P & F NEWS

On behalf of the Oxley P&F, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our Oxley Families and Friends. Our wish is that everyone in the school, feels the strength of inclusion in our community. Any help or feedback is always welcomed and in return we promise it will be easy and rewarding. We want to have fun and meet some great people. We want you to always feel comfortable with our support, behind the scenes, if you experience times of hardship.

The P&F will use the fortnightly Pin Oak Newsletter, to give regular updates on school events, and request help where needed. If you have any time or expertise and would like to be involved, in any way this year, we would love to hear from you. We have had an overwhelming response for Year Rep roles for K-12, but still have some gaps in a few year groups. The roles are very straightforward and fully supported by the P&F and Oxley College. We just need parents who are happy to (socially) glue the year together via a couple of easy events and support parents in their year groups where needed. We have a volunteer canteen roster, which only asks for parents who are interested, to volunteer for a couple of hours per term. If you would like to get involved and be a Year Rep in 2017, please make contact as soon as possible.

Dates for the diary:-

Sunday 30 April 2017 Equestrian Day (Students and Parents/Staff Major Event)
 Bong Bong Race Course
 Friday 4 August 2017 Trivia Night
 TBC – November 2017 All School Major Event

The Oxley P&F look forward to catching up in 2017 and supporting our fantastic school community.
 Bec Biddle (P & F President) bec.biddle@yahoo.com.au or phone 0413 318 716



NEWSFLASH



YEAR 7 CAMP

Last Thursday, 88 very keen Year 7 students travelled off to Canyonleigh alongside the Year 12 leaders and Heads of House. We had a fantastic night away: raft building, taking part in initiative team games, daring to face the giant fan, swimming and making new friends.

As I'm sure many of the Year 7 students would agree, our time away went far too quickly. The Year 12 students loved getting to know Oxley's newest students so well...despite the lack of sleep.



CRICKET FIRSTS VS. TEACHERS

In 2016 there was an estimated 16,084 new cases of breast cancer diagnosed within Australia. The McGrath Foundation aims to promote awareness and provide support to families and individuals experiencing breast cancer. A major form of promotion for the McGrath foundation are Pink Stumps Days, where local and national cricket teams are encouraged to play in recognition of these families by wearing pink and donating towards this fantastic cause. This year the Oxley 1st XI cricket team will be playing Oxley college staff in a T20 cricket game of mass proportions to help in the promotion of breast cancer awareness. Both the teachers and the students would be thrilled to see as many people as possible lining the boundary to show their support for their favourite teachers or students as they partake in this fabulous event. (Original date cancelled due to wet weather. New date to be advised).

Any donations to the McGrath foundation can be made at <https://www.mcgrathfoundation.com.au/donate.aspx>



MATCH OF THE WEEK

Basketball: Oxley 13As vs St Andrew's Cathedral—W34-25

To have any chance of making the finals, Saturday's match was a must-win for Oxley's 13As. In Term 4 they lost several nail-biters by three points or less, but the first quarter of the game showed their intent to turn the season around. Jonny Jansz and Sam Watson thrived after a summer holiday full of Moss Vale representative basketball practice. The rest of team executed their roles with great intent: Will Clark and Asher Hagan chased every rebound, Cody Thorpe shot the ball with confidence, Will David inserted a much-needed defensive presence, and Harry Jensen (the 'impact player') sustained their momentum with his silky lay-ups on the fast-break. With such progress in team chemistry already, the group should be an exciting team to watch in the coming years.
Coach Alex Hayman



YEAR 11 IGNITE

Our group of Year 11 students went into "Ignite 11" not knowing what it would entail, but excited to see what would await. Much like us going into our HSC and Preliminary studies together. Ignite 11 is a camp in Canberra at ANU designed for students when entering their senior studies, aimed to inspire, motivate and encourage - and it did just that! After sitting in seminars concerning Asian and security studies, star gazing at Mount Stromlo, learning about how to make (and wear) a prosthetic leg, and touring the campus departments and grounds, many of us knew what we did, or didn't, want to do after school.
Grace Patterson (Year 11)