

PINOAK

ISSUE 47: TERM 1, FEBRUARY 24, 2017
OXLEY COLLEGE



CRICKET: STAFF
VS OXLEY FIRTS

K-6
SWIMMING
CARNIVAL

ARE WE
BECOMING LESS
HUMAN ?

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Pin Oak Team

Student Editorial Team

Ella Moran, Isabella Knowles, Jemima Taylor, Izzy Moore,
Tully Mahr, Tom Hill, Oliver Regan, Charlie Beedle,
Savannah Sandilands, Imogen Hatcher, Jade Gilles, Hugh
Corbett, Liam OConnell, Eva Mackevicius

Student Photographer
Olivia Donovan

Head Designer
Holly Jefford
Designers

Juliette Swain, Grace Patterson, Lachlan BP,
Bree Feary, Cameron Grice and Tom Whyte

Head of Marketing and PR
Emma Calver

Staff Editor
Beattie Lanser

Oxley College
Railway Road, Burradoo, NSW, 2576.
Ph: 4861 1366

office@oxley.nsw.edu.au
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SPEED DATING WITH YEAR 7S AND YEAR 12S



F.A.M. - Friendly and Approachable Movement

When thinking of new initiatives to try out with our new Year 7s this year, I couldn't help but get flashbacks of those unforgettable feelings of starting out a new school – once socially at the top of the pile, now at the bottom. I remembered being assaulted with new names, faces, and 'helpful tips to give me the upper hand in high school' left and right. One thing which I particularly remember was the barrier between us new Year 7s and the Year 12s. They were so old... tall... intimidating – altogether, unapproachable.

The Friendly and Approachable Movement is a new initiative to break down these barriers between the oldest and the youngest students. The way we did this? Speed dating. At lunchtimes on Monday 14 to Wednesday 16 February, Year 7s and Year 12s were crammed in a room together, with two minutes allocated per person in a 'speed dating' type scenario. The goal is to make connections and friendships that will last, to clear up any questions the Year 7s might have about school life and for us Year 12s to make the adjustment for the Year 7s to their new school a wee bit easier. The three days were altogether a success, with us Year 12s now hopefully seeming more human and more approachable.

"I love them." – Celena Yang (Year 12)

"I had heaps of fun, Mitch is my favourite!" – Harry Black (Year 7)

"They said high school wasn't as hard as I thought it would be." – Rosie Phelan (Year 7)

By Mitch Latham (Year 12)



CREATIVE WRITING....a teaser

Last words

"Stacey get up! You're going to be late for the school bus!"

I opened my eyes, the voice of my mum jarring me awake. My sleep addled brain finally realising that I had to get up and get ready for six hours of hell. Ahhhh why do I have to go to school! I dragged myself out of bed and rushed to get dressed. I had 10 minutes. I ran out of my bedroom and grabbed my school bag on the way. She is going to be so mad at me if I miss the bus again.

She stood at the door, waiting for me to kiss her goodbye.

"Bye mum! Love you!" I called out as I ran out the front door.

Little did I know that would be the last I saw of her.

By Bridget Drewett (Year 10)

HEADMASTER'S REPORT

I would like to introduce to you some of the new coaches who have come on board to Oxley in the last few months. We think they are quite impressive and hope you do too!

In addition:

- Mr Christophe Gauchat has been selected to coach the ISA 2nds Rugby team and Mr Alex Hayman has been selected to coach the ISA 2nds Basketball Team. Mr Simon Woffenden has been selected as assistant coach for ISA Softball, Mrs Kim McNaught selected as the Rep Convenor for ISA Hockey and Ms Meghan Stanton has been selected as U16s ISA Girls Hockey manager.
- I have become the Vice President of the ISA Association.
- We are introducing Fencing as a Sport at Oxley. This will begin on Friday evenings. We already have 30 people enrolled.
- The Gym has expanded to take Year 5 and 6 students this year (as well as staff).

Alex Prophet-Football Co-ordinator

Alex grew up in Sydney and played professional football in the UK for seventeen years, most of it with Blackpool and Wigan Athletic. He returned to Australia at the age of thirty three and quickly began coaching here. He coached the Sydney United and Wollongong Wolves Firsts teams with great success. Indeed, his Sydney Uniting team won the competition twice under his stewardship. He has also worked at the Liverpool FC Academy in the UK. He will be coaching our Firsts and working with our other coaches.

Margaret Hamley-Netball and Cross Country

Margaret began as an Australian representative Athlete and she competed for many years at an elite level. Since then she has been a teacher, youth worker, development officer, lecturer and coach. She has spent the last thirteen years at PLC Pymble where she was the Sports Director for much of that time. She ran the Athletics and Cross Country Programme at PLC which has had 350 people involved. In 2015 and 2017 Pymble was chosen to represent Australia at the ISF World Championships. Margaret will be centrally involved in our Netball, Athletics and Cross Country programmes.

Gillian Quarmby-Netball

Gillian studied Exercise Science at the Australian Catholic University and she has a passion for Netball and Fitness. In 2009 she started her own business - Quick Feet Netball. She has spent time at the Australian Institute of Fitness where she earned the award of Institute Champion.

She currently plays A-Grade at Ku-Ring-Gai Netball Association and she represented NSW

and Australia for many years.

In 2017, Gillian will coach at a representative level for Ku-Ring-Gai, St George and Southern Highlands Netball.

Anne Robilliard-Basketball

Anne has played and coached Basketball at a high level for many years. She attended the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) in Canberra for three years and she played in the WNBL for AIS, Canberra, the Sydney Swifts and Brisbane.

A junior Basketball prodigy, Anne represented Australia for many years at Junior and Senior level.

Her coaching experience includes schools, local representative teams and Anne spent a number of years coaching the Gold Coast representative team.

Nick Godsell-Basketball

Nick has been coaching for over twenty years in the CAS, GPS and IGSSA competitions and was President of the Macquarie University Basketball Club before this. He has coached Barker College (CAS seconds 2011-15), Loreto Normanhurst (IGSSA 2000-02, 2007-15), Macquarie University Womens Team (Eastern Conference 2001), The Kings School (GPS 2001-2003), Riverview St. Ignatius (GPS 2003-10) and Tara School for Girls (2003-06). Since coming to the Southern Highlands in 2015 Nick was appointed head coach of the Moss Vale Basketball Association U18s Boys Rep in which he won the Southern Junior League of NSW.

Nick Bizjak-Basketball

Nick has lived and worked in the Southern Highlands for his whole life. He played for Moss Vale in his senior league. As a representative of the Illawarra, he played for New South Wales at the Junior Australian tournament for four years, which included a championship. He also played in Spain for two months. He has been coaching for five years at Moss Vale and coached a new team at the junior Australian championships.

All in all, Mr Nick Wansey and Ms Kim Mc Naught are promoting sport at Oxley with a real sense of vigour and purpose. We always look forward to seeing our students on Saturday take on either Chev, a school from Sydney, or a team from as far as Bathurst or the Central Coast. With our combined participation rate at 93% we can really strive to both be excellent, and to promote, equitably, a healthy lifestyle for everyone.



BIG ISSUE



Are we becoming less human in our exercise to improve humanity?

In 1915, just over one hundred years ago, the average life expectancy for men was 47 years, the tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel tower and heroin was sold at drug stores, as pharmacists believed it was the “perfect guardian of health”. Oh, how the world has changed! As technology continues to advance in order to provide our society with the ideal way of life, we are posed with a number of critical questions. Juan Enríquez who is one of the world’s leading authorities on the economic and political impacts of life sciences, recognises that we’ve already begun evolving plants, animals and bacteria – are humans next?

Human evolution has previously been considered a natural process, occurring over a long period of time. But this new phase of “evolution” is driven intentionally by humanity. The deliberate advancing of human evolution has potential advantages and disadvantages. But ultimately poses the question, is this practice ethically acceptable? History indicates that when the Earth is placed under severe and unpreventable environmental pressures the mass periodic extinction of human beings is possible, if not likely. With the knowledge of this, it seems imperative that we diversify our species to survive in a range of harsh environments. Whilst both the temperature and atmosphere on Mars are not compatible with human survival today, in the foreseeable future, deliberate human evolution could allow human beings to live in extremely hot environments just like this one. This advancement would inevitably increase our ability to travel into the stratosphere and explore life on other planets.

But the possibilities of evolution span even further. George Church, an American geneticist, molecular

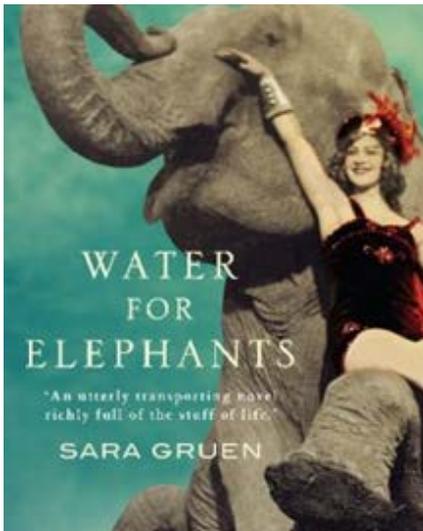
engineer, and chemist, proposed the concept of programmable cells, in which an entire human genome can be inserted into a cell. By doing so, we would have the ability to change individual human genetics. The changing of human gene codes could prevent hereditary diseases, such as haemophilia or hemochromatosis. This process would not only change lives, it would also globally impact our medical system. But, is it really ethical to unnaturally alter an individual’s genetic coding?

More superficially, this phase of evolution would allow for the creation of the “perfect human”. By changing the human gene code, prospective parents would have the option as to whether their child was male or female, fair or dark skinned, tall or short. Though this may initially seem ideal the eventual consequences are abundant. Specifically, it’s likely that the human race would design a “perfect human”, this human would have particular features designed for optimal survival. However, if this “perfect human” can be merely created by the changing of a gene code, the diverse human race that we know today, would be destroyed. Survival would become a matter of conformity.

Technology is accelerating forward at an unprecedented rate. But to prevent the human race becoming a robotic race, at some point (soon) we have to put our foot down. Is modifying, customising and refurbishing our world, in particular, the human beings within it, really ethical?

Ella Moran (Year 12)

TAKE INSPIRATION



BOOKS



Water for Elephants

When veterinary student Jacob Jankowski suddenly becomes orphaned, he is thrown into a world of misfits and freaks at the 'Benzini Bros Most Spectacular Show on Earth'. Sara Gruen's 'Water for Elephants' is a touching novel 'richly full of the stuff of life' and is most certainly guaranteed to win over your heart. Set in America during the Great Depression in the early 1930's 'Water for Elephants' transports you right into the buzzing energy and spirit of a circus, whilst raising confronting issues regarding animal abuse and a crazy schizophrenic. The love story that evolves around the two main characters is a dangerously beautiful one that will most definitely compel you to read on. Because after all it is not often you can find a book that makes you laugh, cry, hate and love a character so passionately, you can't possibly put the book down until all is revealed. So, for those who love an utterly compelling and eccentric page turner, 'Water for Elephants' should definitely be the next book in line for you.

Jade Gillis (Year 10)



MOVIE



Revolutionary Road

If the re-union of Titanic actors Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet didn't already fill you with unimaginable levels of excitement then the movie itself surely makes you love them even more. The story revolves around Frank and April Wheeler, (DiCaprio and Winslet) living in 1950's suburban America. They aren't satisfied with the "hopeless, emptiness" of their life. As they try to escape this never-ending cycle, their relationship deteriorates, with disastrous consequences. Note: this film contains lots of adult scenes such as violence and bad language, so it may not be suitable for younger children.

Charlie Beedle (Year 12)



MUSIC

Middle Kids - Middle Kids EP



You wouldn't be wrong calling Sydney trio, Middle Kids one of the tightest three-pieces to exist in Australia at the moment. Hannah, Tim and Harry's dynamic as a band is electrifying and lends a helping hand in giving their debut EP the unified and polished sound that it has. As the six-track kicks off with the peppy, Your Love, the band instantly immerse you in their addictive and uplifting pop/rock spirit. The song plays around with folk tropes (as the band's sound often does) and is carried by twinkling rhythm guitar, cymbal-heavy, bold drums and slippery, glistening vocal harmonies.

The latest single, Never Start brings Hannah's voice to the front more than ever, highlighting it's capabilities and emotional leverage while the syncopated, infectious swing on Fire In Your Eyes breaks up the track list, bringing the enthusiastic character of the EP down. Doing It Right closes up the record in the greatest way possible. The song is a stripped-back and contemplative effort to showcase Middle Kids' versatility. The introspective lyrics are pushed to the front and are delivered beautifully as Hannah's voice holds so much strength and power.

The EP undoubtedly has a naivety and an innocence to it but instead of letting that work to the detriment of the output, they transform that purity and excitement into energetic and quick-witted pop songs.

By Izzy Moore (Year 10)

Head of K-6: Justine Lind

The academic year is in full swing and there has been much to celebrate in K-6. We started the year with birthday cake, we sing Happy Birthday to our friends big and small almost every morning at lines and this week we celebrated our courageous and talented swimmers.

On Monday we celebrated much as a community; House spirit and the encouragement of peers, athletic talent and sheer determination. We congratulate each and every student who participated, cheered and helped out on the day but there were also a couple of standout achievements. Walton House won four out of four relay events in an incredible show of depth of talent. Sasha Privalova-Pratt stepped up to swim in the junior boys' relay team for her house Flynn. As the fifth fastest Flynn girl she missed out on swimming in the girl's team but when the boys' team was short she stepped in; no fuss, no protest and gave it all she had! Will Bladen swam his first ever 50 metre race in the freestyle, then his second in the breaststroke and third ever for the backstroke. He demonstrated courage and perseverance and his peers supported him all the way. At assembly today, we celebrated all our age champions and House teams. Our most able swimmers will now prepare for SHIPS and HICES and we'll celebrate their achievements as their season continues. (Full carnival results in the next issue of Pin Oak).

The Swimming carnival saw the first event for our new House Leaders who along with our Captains and Vice Captains have already enhanced our community in K-6. Their work at morning lines, the turning circle and in assemblies has been a welcome expansion of the roles. Their work with their buddies along with the whole Year 6 cohort has ensured a wonderful start to the year for our youngest Oxleyans. We congratulate our 2017 leaders listed with their photo on this page.

We also celebrate our fantastic staff at Oxley and acknowledge the contribution of Mr Gareth Loveday and Mr Jonathan Hunt who have been appointed as K-6 Co-ordinators for K-2 and 3-6 respectively. They will assist in the day to day running of K-6 and support class teachers in the Pastoral Care of our students. To allow them to attend to this important aspect of their role, Ms Vanessa Robinson will work in Year 2 and 5C on Tuesdays and Fridays for a total of three lessons each.

In closing, we have one more celebration to acknowledge. This week Emma Calver enrolled our 200th student in K-6. We celebrated Greta Perin's arrival in assembly today. Growth in and of itself is exciting but the celebration here is the evidence of my long held belief that the real success of a school is seen through the children. When learning is so engaging and inspiring that our students can't help but share their enthusiasm with others we can be sure that something wondrous is happening. Our Year 5 classes are continuing to fill through word of mouth and student endorsement. They have recognised that learning is different at Oxley and that is why they're telling their friends to come join the adventure.

Weekly Awards:

Learning Journey

KK: Evie Hammond
 KL: Anna Sutherland
 Yr 1: Brayden Anstee
 Yr 2: Miranda Hunter
 Yr 3: Tiffany Matar
 Yr 4: Christian Denington
 Yr 5C: Phoebe Pratten
 Yr 5H: Dominic Verity
 Yr 6: Elena Parker



Oxley Values

KK: Lexi Mendes da Costa
 KL: Bliss Brisa
 Yr 1: Zoe Nonnenmacher
 Yr 2: Brigitte Pietsch-Liddell
 Yr 3: Flynn O'Brien
 Yr 4: Sophie Spring
 Yr 5C: William Brady
 Yr 5H: Sophia Hamblin
 Yr 6: Jacqueline Worthington



2017 K - 6 Captains and House Captains: Sophie Dunn, Leah Halstead, Angus McGlynn, James Witcombe, Chloe Cassim, Tyra Beckett, Benedict Regan, Amelia Carpenter, Monte Francis and Billy Cameron

Learning Journey

KK: Hadley Morgan
 KL: William Kean
 Yr 1: Eddie Hunt
 Yr 2: Ivy Halstead
 Yr 3: Sam Harwood
 Yr 4: Lily Smith
 Yr 5C: Oscar Byrne
 Yr 5H: Yolande Gair
 Yr 6: Chloe Cassim



Oxley Values

KK: Ava Gomes
 KL: William Matar
 Yr 1: Molly Harwood
 Yr 2: Tippi Wernbacher
 Yr 3: Sabine Garton
 Yr 4: Sasha Privalova-Pratt
 Yr 5C: Rusty Waters
 Yr 5H: Lora Ross
 Yr 6: Monte Francis





NEW WORLDS

Is the Southern Highlands the only world you know? Have you met our latest exchange student and overseas student? Well these two girls have just arrived from Europe and here are their impressions.

PAULINA NIENKE (Year 10)

Paulina Nienke is a 16 year old girl who has travelled from Germany to Australia on an exchange. She has been here a little over two months and is returning back to Germany in about three weeks.



What are some similarities between Oxley and your school in Germany?

Hmm, I don't know. I can't really think about any similarities at the moment. My school back in Germany is just so different to Oxley.

What are some differences between Oxley and your school in Germany?

Well, for starters my school in Germany is just one big building. It doesn't have any of these 'small little houses everywhere'. We have one big building and also have a swimming pool. The people are also much more friendly. At Oxley everybody knows each other and are friends with the people in different years. It is not like this in Germany. I know the people in my year but that is it. Also, unlike Oxley, we are not working with computers in Germany. We do everything with books.

What are your favourite things about Australia?

I think the animals, I really like the animals. There are so many different animals. You have kangaroos and koalas and snakes and spiders. I saw a poisonous snake yesterday and I thought 'I would never see a poisonous snake in Germany'. It's just totally different.

What are some Australian Stereotypes that you've heard that are wrong?

Definitely surfer boys and girls. I was expecting everyone to have tanned skin, blonde hair when I came but that is certainly not the case.

Do you think you will come back to Australia again?

I hope so. I really hope so because I like it here. I have made some new friends however I am missing Germany. I miss my family and friends but it's just for three months and I'm leaving in three weeks so I need to make the most of it while I can. Hopefully I will be back soon.

EMILY AMRIS (Year 10)

Emily came here from Denmark at the beginning of the year. She is here indefinitely and has had to leave part of her family back in Denmark.

What are some similarities between Oxley and your school in Denmark?

Probably the vision or the view teachers have on the way you should teach students and the actual classes are quite similar with the things we learn and the way we are taught them.

What are some differences between Oxley and your school in Denmark?

There are a lot of differences! Just the way the school is built is very different, here there is more open space and you walk from each classroom. In Denmark you're in the same classroom all the time, with the same group of people. There aren't any extension or streamed classes either, you're all on the same level and you're with the same group of people all the time. We don't have Houses or Tutor groups either, and here everyone knows everyone else. I feel like the Year 10s and the Year 12s know each other really well. In Denmark you only really know your year.

A really, really big difference is the way that kids are brought up here. I feel, no offence, that here your parents are a bit more protective. In Denmark you're a little more independent, you begin to do things for yourself early on. I think you mature faster, which isn't necessarily a good thing, but it's definitely a big difference.

The other difference is the way the actual schooling system works; in Australia high school is in Year 7 to 12, but in Denmark high school starts in Year 11 and ends in Year 13. Year 10 is optional and is normally only for people who are too young, behind or don't know which high school to go to.

What are your favourite things about Australia?

Probably actually starting here at Oxley, I've been to Australia lots of times before, but this is an experience I've never really had before. I'm really learning a lot, starting school in another culture, meeting new people and finding new friends. It's nice to know some Australians who are my age!

Has it been hard leaving friends and family back in Denmark?

Definitely, especially because in my case I don't know when I'm going back, or if I'm even going back to my friends. At least I'm with some family here, although leaving my father has been very hard. We've got a farm in Denmark so we couldn't really leave it, so its been really hard not having him here. It's been really emotional for me, but we facetime a lot.

What are some Australian Stereotypes that you've heard that are wrong?

The biggest thing I thought about Australia is there were, like, farmers with the really Australian accents, out in the middle of nowhere in the droughts and everything.

By Lucie Drysdale, Eva Mackevicius and Jemima Taylor (Year 10)



LEARNING AND PASTORAL NEWS

Learning:

At Oxley we continue to build a distinctive curriculum for our students, a curriculum that is based on embedding those things that work best in education. Last week at Parent Information Sessions I had the opportunity to share our 2017 vision for learning in the classrooms of Oxley. It was encouraging to see so many parents interested in the exciting and engaging things planned for the year.

Self-Reporting Effort Grades

Another thing that we are working towards this year is using more student voice in our reporting processes. We know that there is an important relationship between effort and achievement and we are seeking to inspire our students to keep working consistently throughout their secondary years. We know that there will be dips and challenges along the way, but if a child can learn to organise their time, to exert self-discipline, to realise that effort most often equals reward, the road to the HSC is much easier.

For that reason, after looking at the research, we are introducing a system of self-reporting grades (in the top 10 of effect sizes) which will give our secondary students the opportunity to rank their own effort in each of their courses in a given term. We know that students are most often accurate in their self-assessment of their effort and achievement, and we are keen to use their judgement alongside their teachers, so that we can check that "all are on the same page". The conversations that will follow between teacher and student, tutor and student and most importantly parent and child will be key indicators of perceptions and reality. Our first Effort Report will be emailed to parents prior to the end of Term 1, and we will be keen to hear your feedback about this innovation.

Students will rate themselves on the following in order to build a picture of effort. By adding specific criteria to each, we hope that students will be able to self-monitor the things that can be improved upon to help them toward progress. Teachers will use identical criteria on the same day, thus capturing a specific snapshot. The broad Effort categories are:

Diligence - Self-discipline, self-reflection, independent motivation, persistence, conscientious application to classwork and homework

Engagement - Classroom focus, communication (verbal, body language), participation and contribution in groups and class

Behaviour - Classroom conduct and attitude, politeness and respect, consideration of the learning of others

There will be opportunity in Tutor groups and class for students to further understand these criteria prior to the reporting period.

By Kate Cunich, Deputy Head Learning



Pastoral:

What is Mindmatters?

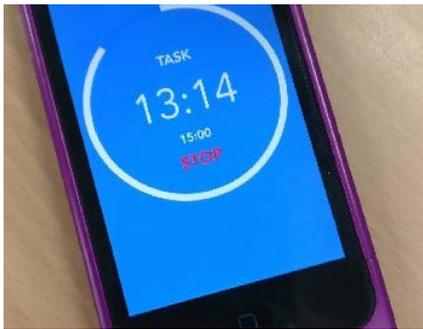
MindMatters is a mental health initiative for secondary schools that aims to improve the mental health and wellbeing of young people. We call it a 'framework', in that it provides structure, guidance and support while enabling schools to build their own mental health strategy to suit their unique circumstances. We run MindMatters sessions once a fortnight in Year Groups during Tutor Group. MindMatters provides school staff with lesson content based around what our students may need.

How does it work?

MindMatters is based on the principle that the best mental health strategy is one that prevents issues from arising in the first place. For this reason MindMatters helps schools promote positive mental health through the whole school community, and aims to prevent mental health difficulties in students by taking steps to improve relationships and resilience. Promotion, prevention and early intervention are central tenets of the MindMatters' approach.

<https://www.mindmatters.edu.au/about-mindmatters/what-is-mindmatters>

By Peter Ayling, Deputy Head Pastoral



LIBRARY

Trouble Focussi...

Not all of us have the focus necessary to carve text into the head of a pin (300 hours to carve the Lord's Prayer) yet there are moments when we need to focus deeply for many minutes on important tasks. This is particularly difficult when the internet and our mobile phones are full of so many "shiny things" that distract us. Yet the same device that is the cause of the distraction can be a tool to help.

Pomodoro Technique

The Pomodoro Technique is a strategy that involves committing to an intense focus for a block of time (usually 25 minutes) followed by a complete break.

There are now many focus/productivity tools, otherwise known as Pomodoro Apps; Focus Aid, Seconds, Focus Keeper, focus@will. Download an app onto a smart phone to trial the next time you need help to avoid procrastinating and keep focussed.



RUMOUR HAS IT

Surprising rumours about surprising people

Ms Lanser, rumour has it you recently began to raise pigs. Is this true? Yes. I bought a pig last year from a pig breeder in Bomaderry.

How many pigs do you have and what breed are they? Tell me a bit about them: I have one pig and her name is Fennel and there are two other sows called Donald Trump and PorkChop and there was a boar called Big Red, but he is now in the freezer. (Male pigs have to be slaughtered when they are young or they don't taste nice, due to too much testosterone.) She lives in a pen at my neighbour's house. (You can't have a pig on its own, because they get sad, they are social creatures). Fennel is mostly Wessex Saddleback, but her dad was a Romanian Boar – the others all mixed too.

How long have you been raising these pigs? We got the pigs on Saturday 15 October 2016, and they were about six weeks old then. I have never had a pig before, but my neighbours are old hands at owning livestock.

Are these pigs pets or are they being raised for consumption?

These pigs are being raised to eat. Everyone says the first rule to having livestock is to never name them. But I think pork and fennel are delicious, so "Fennel" reminds me of that killer combo. They live in a beautiful pen, with views of rolling green Robertson Hills and get fresh food left over from a local greengrocer.

What gave you an interest in doing this? I have been a huge fan of Jamie Oliver and Hugh Fearnly-Whittinsal for years and River Cottage Australia, they are all passionate about good food and healthy, happy animals. I dreamed of having my own livestock, but living in Manly made that a little difficult. Now I am in Robertson the opportunity to be a part of the food process and have my own animal that I have looked after and has lived a good life is really appealing and achievable! I am not a vegetarian, but I already try and only eat ethical meat. This way, I know



the pig has had a good life and quick death. I want to be a responsible meat eater and I hear that food raised well tastes even more delicious. And I love bacon!

Did you know that pigs can get sunburnt? I did not know that. Lucky our pigs have lots of shade and a warm cozy house to live in.

Do you see this enterprise as being more than just the one off? I am not sure yet...

Will it be hard for you when you take these 'little piggies' to market? I have no idea how I will feel after we slaughter and butcher them in August. I think I will be sad, but I think the meat is going to be so delicious as they have been well looked after. I have also been talking a lot about eating them, to have that in the forefront of my mind when I go and feed them and hose them down in the heat and talk to them. And I want to use the whole animal – the head, tail, ears, trotters, all the offal and delicacies. So I think that will make me feel like I am really honouring the pig's life by eating all of her.

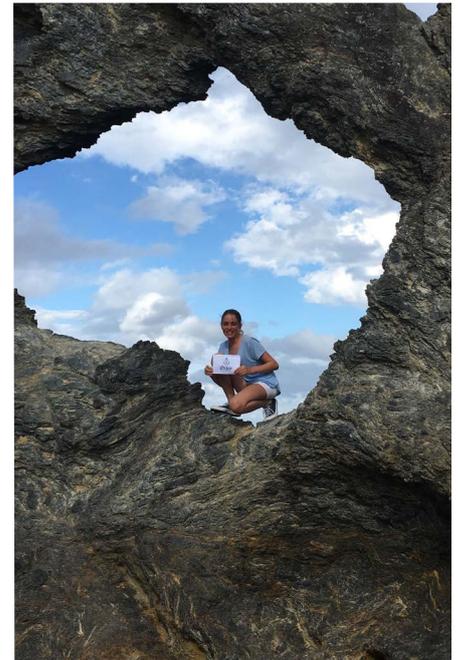
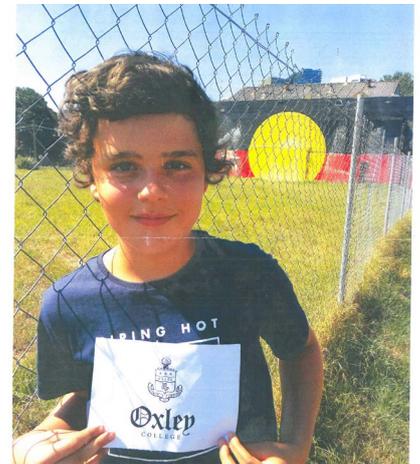
What does their diet consist of? A grain mix, fresh food from my garden and the local green grocer and grass from the paddock.

Pop quiz... Name three movies that feature pigs: Babe (of course), Charlotte's Web (I loved the book even more) and I think there was a pig in Spirited Away???

YEAR 7 PHOTO COMPETITION

Where will you visit/explore during your summer holidays? Year 7 were invited to submit a photo to Oxley to help us get to know them. Here is a small selection of some of the best.

Photos By: Lily Hogan, Olivia Bow, Charlie Perkins, Brianna Grice, Angus Magill, and Hugh Corbett



Silos in the Mallee

These holidays, Dad and I went for a trip to see the Painted Silos in the Mallee/Wimmera region (among many other attractions and towns). For those of you who don't have a clue what I'm talking about, these silos range between 30 and 40 metres high and are historic monuments to the locals of surrounding townships. There are three silos in total, each painted to represent different people in different cultural settings. For example, the silo at Sheep Hills symbolises the aboriginal heritage in the Mallee, the one in Brim depicts the struggle for farmers during the droughts and the burden of hungry livestock, while the one in Patchewollock is a 35 metre high portrait of local farmer; Nick Hulland. I was extremely lucky to be able to see all these amazing sites and learn about their cultural significance. If Dad didn't have his pilots' licence, I wouldn't be informing you about these icons. That's the best part of flying. Places which would take days by car to venture to are a mere few hours by plane. Hugh Corbett (Year 7)

WHAT'S HAPPENING? IN THE WORLD...

NATIONAL



Food Miles



Next time you go to the shops I want you to think. Where did this food come from? Your tinned tuna most likely comes from Thailand and dried candied ginger from China, and one thing that you are all buying right now is Kiwi fruit from Italy. But what are the affects you ask? Well the biggest one is air pollution. Let's take those Kiwi fruits for example, if a plane flying from Rome delivered Kiwi fruit to Canberra it would have to fly about 16,220km which would create around 3629kg of carbon dioxide. But even this figure doesn't include the transportation from the airport to the supermarket etc. The second but less obvious thing that happens when you buy food from faraway places like Thailand is that you put local farmers out of business. You may have heard last year about the milk pricing scandal involving Murry Goulburn and Fonterra. You may have also thought 'What can I do to help these poor farmers?' Well, the answer is simple buy local produce. Because when you buy local you help local farmers and the planet.

Liam O'Connell (Year 7)



INTERNATIONAL

Mistrust for our leaders worldwide

Very few things are as precarious as trust. It can take years to acquire and only moments to destroy it. So, why can't the public trust politicians? Well, many people say we can, and yet, a report from the Irish Times confirms that only 15% of people in the UK place their trust in politicians. It is also a similar situation in Ireland with only 21%. Experts say that this probably has something to do with BREXIT. But realistically, who can blame them? Time after time we've seen politicians argue and dispute with each other, the media, and whomever else they see as a threat to their careers (any ideas of whom I might be referring to?).

The media has great influence on people's opinions over politics as well. And they have full, free access to air news coverage on any event; local or global (unless you live in North Korea). This can very easily stir up tension between both groups, and when various news corporations exploit angry politicians, things begin to get ugly. It is mainly the two major parties that clash with the media, but smaller parties and independents have also been known to have a go at them.

This leaves us with a decision to make. Who do we trust? The media or the politicians? At some point, we all must come to a conclusion.

Hugh Corbett (Year 7)



LOCAL



On Tuesday 7 February 2017, the picturesque village of Robertson was mortally wounded with some very grave news. The Robertson Dam or 'Aquatic Centre' was destroyed. The tree that

held a swing had seen many children's childhoods. The tree that had been the place of blissful enjoyment and euphoria for the younger generation of 'Spuds' had fallen over and the swing had been destroyed. The impromptu storm that had ripped through the Highlands seemed to have concentrated its might on Robertson, in particular the Dam. The tree fought a long battle with the storm, however the fearsome winds and rain proved to be too strong for our tree and before long it had fallen. Crushing the hearts of every little child in Robertson. The Robertson Aquatic Centre is no longer with us, serving as both a hang out for the children and a general meeting place. Only the memories survive of the great Robertson Aquatic Centre. RIP.

Campbell de Montemas (Year 11)

GALLERY



FEBRUARY & MARCH CALENDAR

<p>Photos from Nepal</p> <p>We are delighted that the photographic book documenting the Nepal 2016 Social Service trip is complete and available to buy. Photographer Ashley Mackevicius has done a wonderful job of capturing the essence of the trip.</p>	Mon	27	Mon	06	Mon	13	INC: 7-12 Poetry Week EXC:Yr 3 & Yr 4 Stage 2 Belonging - Blue Mountains National Park	
	Tue	28	Tue	07	Tue	14	EXC:Yr 11 D&T Shape - Powerhouse	
<p>Nepal Book</p> <p>Expression of Interest</p> <p>The link http://www.blurb.com/b/7752717-volleyball-in-nepal takes you to a site where you can purchase copies of the book for US\$95.99. 20 - 49 book orders attract 20% discount and 50 plus orders attract a 25% discount. Could you please email ruth.shedden@oxley.nsw.edu.au asap to indicate your interest.</p>	Wed	01	Wed	08	Wed	15	EXC:Yr11 and 12 Art Express - Sydney EXC: Yr9 Music Organ Discovery - Bowral	
	Thu	02	Thu	09	Thu	16	PROD: Senior Production 1 of 3 Hoskins Hall	
Fri	24	Fri	03	Fri	10	Fri	17	7 - 12 SHSS Swimming Carnival - Frensham EXC: Yr 6 Leadership Day - Sydney INC:Yr 8 Medieval Feast - Oxley
Sat	25	Sat	04	Sat	11	Sat	18	ISA Round 10 SPORT:ISA Sport Semi-finals SPORT: ISA Sport Finals
Sun	26	Sun	05	Sun	12	Sun	19	DOE: Bronze Hike K Valley day 2 of 2

P & F NEWS

On behalf of the Oxley P&F, I would like to thank everyone who attended our Welcome Drinks on Friday 10 February 2017. We had a record turnout and it was a really relaxed way to start the year together with so many new and established parents and staff. Thank you also to those who wanted to attend, but couldn't make that date. We will definitely have other opportunities to catch up with you during 2017.

As previously mentioned, 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. Our next big event, will be the Oxley Equestrian Day on Sunday 30 April 2017 at Bong Bong Racecourse. This committee will be meeting soon, to discuss what we can do to help make this a great event for the Oxley Community.

Save the date – we have a very exciting end of year Oxley Community event on Friday 24 November 2017. We will be releasing more details, once we have confirmed the planning around this concept.

Bec Biddle

bec.biddle@yahoo.com.au or phone 0413 318 716

OXLEY COLLEGE

Staff vs Students CRICKET MATCH

RESCHEDULED
NEW DATE ANNOUNCED

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR A
FUN EVENING OF CRICKET WHEN THE
OXLEY COLLEGE STAFF
PLAY THE
OXLEY COLLEGE 1ST XI

WEDNESDAY 1 MARCH 2017,
4.00PM - 8.00PM
BRADMAN OVAL, BOWRAL

FAMILIES BYO PICNIC
DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED FOR PLAYERS

DONATIONS WILL SUPPORT THE
MCCRATH FOUNDATION'S PINK STUMPS DAY

NEWSFLASH



DUKE OF EDINBURGH

BRONZE HIKE: During the weekend of Term 4, 2016, an adventurous cohort of mostly Year 9 students and a few Year 10s, departed Oxley for their qualifying hike. As the bus departed Oxley in the early hours of Saturday morning, we were all keen to get started. As we made our way to the Wingello State Forest we organised ourselves, planned our route, and set off, awaiting the journey ahead of us. As we battled 40 degree temperatures, and endless red, hilly tracks, we identified a clearing, which we labelled as our campsite. After many games of friendly rugby, and hunger forgotten, we settled in for the night, dreaming of our own warm beds at home. The next morning was an unnecessarily early rise, due to the tent of boys who were roaring and ready to go. We trekked 8km to our finishing point with many groups adding in full loops of the same track! On behalf of everyone who went, we would like to thank Mr Dibdin and Ms Rees, for their courageous work, organising the hikes, as well as keeping us all on track for our Bronze Award, and of course to the Land Edge leaders, Josh, Anneliese and Brendon for making this a reality. The Bronze Duke of Ed was a very fulfilling experience that we would recommend to everyone. It has been an incredible programme which we look forward to following through with our Silvers and Golds in the future. By Jasmine Irving & Jessica Wade (Year 10)

SPORTS STARS

Georgie Wade and Jasmin Wikramanayake (Year 12) have been selected to play in the ISA Softball team at the CIS Carnival to be held on Monday 27 February at Blacktown Olympic Softball Park. This is a fine effort from both girls and they have been excellent ambassadors for Oxley College throughout the selection process. Charlie Dummer (Year 12) has been selected to represent NSW Country and City Schools Cricket Association at the NSW Schoolboys Cricket Championships which will be held in Sydney in March. Congratulations on this great achievement.



MATCH OF THE WEEK

1sts Basketball – Saturday 18 February

The girls fought hard and triumphed with a win against St Andrew's Cathedral School, with a victorious score of 13:20. This places the girls back at the top of the ladder. Though, the game started out close, with a consistently even score throughout, by the second half the girls had managed to step it up against tough competition. We hope to continue with this winning streak, going into both the semi and grand finals in the next couple of weeks.

By Jasmine Croker (Year 12)

KIARA ROCHAIX

We hear that you're a goalie? That must be a fair bit of pressure! How did you get into goalkeeping?

Yeah, it is definitely a lot of pressure, I guess you just can't let it get to you and you focus on your own job. I got into goalkeeping about four years ago. I was always a forward for my Rep team, but for a tournament we didn't have a goalkeeper so I put my hand up. From that tournament I was selected in the NSW U13s team. Then the next year I decided to just play goalkeeper, and I love it.

Which teams did you play whilst you were overseas?

Overseas the U19 All School Australian Girls Football team played a number of teams from all over the UK. These included: England Independent Schools, Bristol City Academy, Welsh Colleges, Cardiff Metro University, Scotland Schools, Ireland and Northern Ireland national teams and Shropshire Schools.

Was your team particularly successful?

I think our team was very successful. We all gained a lot from the tournament. We won six and drew two. We were the first Australian girls team to go through this tournament undefeated, which was a huge honour. And we also gelled really well and quickly as a team, which can be difficult when you don't play with each other week in week out. I learnt so much from the older girls in the squad, and I thought it was a successful tour.

Where's the next step from here?

For the moment I keep training with my normal team, Macarthur Rams in the Women's Premier League 1. I just want to keep working hard and play to the best of my ability. I will also go through the school programme again, (ISA, CIS etc.) I hope to make my debut for the Macarthur Rams First grade in the coming weeks, and I just want to get myself out there. I will also play for Oxley again. I love playing for school, getting out on the field. I have come to realise that football is what I love, and I will do all I can to take it as far as I can.

