

# PINOAK

ISSUE 57: TERM 3, AUGUST 25, 2017  
OXLEY COLLEGE



HSC VISUAL ART  
EXHIBITION

ATHLETICS  
RESULTS

BOOK WEEK  
K-6

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2008 Outback Staff with Helmut Schaefer in centre



### THE SERVICE OF MANY

While the Oxley Outback experience is ultimately for the students and created by the students in terms of spirit and learning through service to one another, its continuation would not have been possible without the huge number of, teachers, parents and community members who have volunteered each year. Since 1988, over 80 people have given up 15 days to provide this unique experience to Oxley students. The multiple trips of many of these people are testament to the value placed on the experiences provided by Outback.

The initial driving force behind the Outback Trip came from Helmut Schaefer along with consultation and collaboration with accompanying staff in the early years. One very significant influence in this regard was Rosamund Christie who completed the first nine trips. Helmut and Rosamund embedded the key learning aspects of service and country into the structure and routine of each day; without these two things, any personal growth possible from such a journey is limited.

In the later years of Outback, and a number of Headmasters later, it was natural that this tradition would undergo some examination to ensure its ongoing relevance. Grant Williamson, Headmaster from 2008-2014, provides this reflection:

*Helmut Schaefer provided me with an extensive briefing in 2008 on the history and evolution of Outback at Oxley College. The evolution fascinated me as this was significantly intertwined with the personality of the driving force behind the trip, Helmut Schaefer. Helmut's passion and clarity of what he wanted the students to experience provided me with a sense of comfort that, not only was it a well organised major excursion, but it had purpose and a valued place in the life of the students at Oxley College.*

*His leadership transitioned to Stuart Forlonge in 2009 with Stuart exhibiting exceptional sensitivity to his friend and mentor, Helmut, as deteriorating health meant he could no longer assume this role.*

*I was fortunate enough to take part in Outback 2012 as these were the students who joined Oxley College in 2008 as Year 7s, the year I arrived. Experiencing the day-to-day activities, the relationships and interactions during the trip provided me with a deeper understanding of the briefing Helmut provided me in 2008. It also provided me the opportunity to experience the value of Outback. An icon of Oxley College that has benefited hundreds of students.*

*I have many wonderful memories of my years at Oxley College, Outback 2012 is a significantly positive and happy memory.*

Stuart Forlonge completed a total of 15 trips as the well-known Papa Smurf before his retirement in 2014, then jumping on board for one last hurrah the following year when Tristan Bevan very adeptly and enthusiastically organised and led Year 11 to the heart of our country. Tristan has been the leader of Outback since then and will be taking the 2017 cohort on their own senior rite of passage into Year 12.

# HEADMASTER'S REPORT

## Winter Sport Finals

Firstly, it was great to see the Oxley K-6 Athletics team win the Second Division of the HICES Athletics competition. We also won the percentage trophy. This is a terrific achievement against a very impressive lineup of schools. Seven of our students have been chosen to represent HICES in the NSWCIS Athletics Championships, three of them in more than one event. Those representing us in two or more events are: Sophie Dunn – Senior Girls High Jump, Senior Girls Long Jump, Leah Halstead – 11 years Girls Long Jump, 11 years Girls Discus and Chloe Cassim – 12 years Girls 100m, Senior Girls Long Jump

The Junior Hockey teams did particularly well. We entered two teams in the Southern Highlands Hockey Association U11 Competition, both coached by Katrina Sparke. Of the seventeen teams who competed, we placed first and second and so met up for the final! The final was a hard fought affair, but Oxley came away victorious. Congratulations go to the Blue Team.

Last week was also the 7 - 12 ISA Winter Sport finals. Our strength in Hockey showed through as we won the Open Bs game on the weekend. Along with mainstays such as Riley Kennedy-Moore and Ciara Longworth rising stars such as Sarah Pride and Georgia Combes ensure that we have a bright future ahead of us. Eva Mackevicius played goalie for the final and successfully saved the shots that the Barker College forwards fired at her.

We also had the Netball finals at Homebush with our Intermediate A team, unfortunately defeated by Blue Mountains Grammar School, 42-31. The girls had been undefeated all season and were unfortunate to stumble at the final hurdle. The team was coached by Allison Marcolin who has donated her time to improve the netball programme over many years.

At the same time, the Rugby 13s final (coached by Sam Sparke - a powerful parent coaching duo) was being played at the other end of Sydney in Castle Hill - against local rival Chevalier College of all teams. Chev got away from us in the first half scoring a few easy tries. However, we really picked up our game in the second half and scored considerably more than Chev. Toby O'Sullivan made some classy runs, and Dominic Uliana was endlessly tenacious, forcing the ball through tight Chev defence that would halt some small cars. Nonetheless, Chev still came away with the game 24-10 and should be congratulated on a very good win.

Of course we are proud of all our Sportsmen and women at Oxley. However, can I make a special mention of the rugby teams that have played their first year in Division 2 instead of Division 3. Our competition this year was much bigger, much better drilled, and much more experienced at playing at a high level. Nonetheless we got three of our five teams (the 13s, 14s and 16s) into the semi-finals. All of our teams, particularly the Firsts, played with strength, courage and loyalty to each other. They are to be congratulated on taking this big step up and doing so well.

## Year 12 Showcases

It has been a terrific week and a half of Year 12 showing us their flair, artistry and skill in the various showcases. Last night was the music concert and I was really impressed with the accomplishment of the playing. Three of the five candidates are piano students - an instrument with particularly high standards at the HSC - and they all wowed us. Angus Webb played *Danse Macarabe* by Sant Saens with verve (after having given the piano away for years), Eliza Drysdale brought the house down with a magnificently OTT version of *Bohemian Rhapsody* (I was waiting for a chandelier to descend from the ceiling Liberace style) and Celena Yang gave virtuosic performances of Prokofiev, Rachmaninoff and Mendelssohn. Andrew Dowe played his saxophone with his usual skilled and smooth verve - 'Tears in Heaven' being a particular highlight. Sophie Capel was a star of the stage with her brilliant renditions of songs such as 'Dancing on My Own' and 'Mack The Knife'. The latter was played with the whole Stage Band and would have held its head high in a jazz bar in Melbourne or New York.

Last week there was also the HSC Visual Art Show, with John Olsen as guest of honour, no less. The portraiture work that so many of the students did was highly skilled and often stunningly realised. There was also the Drama Showcase for twenty two students last Monday. There were so many standouts that if I began to list them, we would need a new insert in Pin Oak this week. However, the sensitivity of the students in their monologues and the innovation and creativity in their group pieces were really features to behold. I wish them all the best for their performances in front of HSC Examiners next week.

## Young Change Agents

There is a group of Southern Highland citizens who have got together to create an organisation called 'herd'- Highlands Entrepreneurs Regional Development. As part of their focus on entrepreneurship and business development in the Highlands, they have started up a schools programme called 'Young Change Agents'. It is for students aged 13-18 from all over the Highlands to be run over three days next holidays. It is being funded by the State Government through Jai Rowell, MP and so is free to selected applicants.

The idea is that each group of students come together, brainstorm an innovation/idea and then spend three days developing it in the way that a professional 'startup' company might. The facilitators of the programme teach the tools and techniques that are applied in real start-up incubators. They then 'pitch' their developed plan to a panel on the third day.

Dates: 26 - 28 September 2017

Where: Kazcare Bowral

If you would like to know more about the programme you can watch a three minute video at: <https://vimeo.com/174608268> or look at their brochures at <http://www.youngchangeagents.com/>.

If you would like to register your son or daughter for the programme go to [herd.org.au/yca](http://herd.org.au/yca). Although the teams are not based on school groups, it would be good to see an enthusiastic Oxley contingent there.

# Education in Finland

## Something to look up to?

*"Everyone's a genius, but if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing it's stupid." ~ Albert Einstein.*

In a century, nothing has changed with the Australian education system. Amid debates surrounding budget cuts and the rising costs of schools and degrees, there is still one debate receiving so little attention: the slow decline in most educational standards in Australia. We are becoming unaware of just how bad the situation is getting. Children are our future. Every child has different gifts, needs and dreams yet we continue to teach them all the same way. This "one size fits all" is one of the biggest downfalls of the Australian education system.

Let's take a look at Finland's education system; a prime example of what an education system should look like in the 21st century.

*"Finland has a history of producing the highest global test scores in the Western world, as well as a trophy case full of other recent No. 1 global rankings, including most literate nation."*

William Doyle SMH

One of the main objectives of the Finnish education system is to offer all citizens equal opportunities to receive education and access higher levels of education. Most children don't receive formal academic training until their seven. Non-selective basic education encompasses nine years and caters for those aged between seven and 16 years. After compulsory basic education school-leavers opt for general or vocational upper secondary education. Both forms of education usually take three years, and give eligibility for higher education, which is provided by universities.

Seems pretty similar to our own education system right? Well, it's about to get a whole lot better.

Finnish children have shorter school hours and the lightest homework load of any industrialised nation. Fresh air, nature and regular physical activity are the engines of learning and imagination, and are intertwined into everyday lessons. There are no gifted programmes, almost no private schools, and they most definitely do

not waste time or money on mass standardised testing. Instead children are assessed every day in the classroom, through observation, check-ins and quizzes, by the best learning devices: teachers. And most importantly the emotional climate of a classroom is warm and safe like a family.

*"In Finland teachers are the most trusted and admired professionals next to doctors, in part because they are required to have a master's degree in education with specialisation in research and classroom practice."* William Doyle SMH

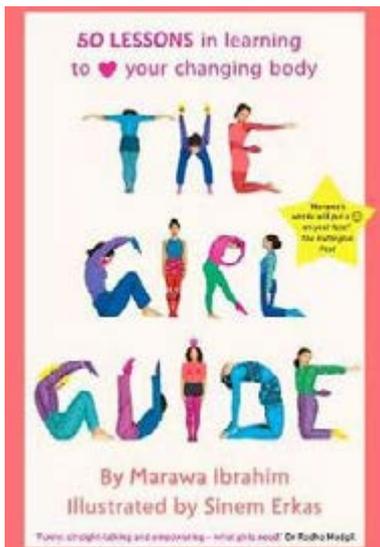
Educators are the ultimate authorities on education, not politicians or technology vendors.

It is fair to say that by focusing on the bigger picture for all, Finland has succeeded wonderfully in stimulating the individual potential of every child. However, schooling in Finland has not always been this way. In the past few decades, Finland has built its outstanding, efficient and fair education system from scratch, and the concept guiding almost every educational improvement has brought justice.

Although we can look up to Finland's perfected model of an education system, it is no good wishing for ours to be even half as good. A change like this takes hard work and time. We're talking about an entire cultural change, not just a debate! Although I may not live to see the day where this happens, I do hope it takes place sooner rather than later. I do long for the day where fish are no longer forced to climb trees.

Jade Gillis (Year 10)

# TAKE INSPIRATION



## BOOKS



### The Girl Guide

The book "The Girl Guide" by Marawa Ibrahim is an informative, funny and practical book which is packed with advice on how to survive and get through puberty. From everything about periods to coping with embarrassing moments to healthy eating, this book has it all!

Its information is completely honest and from the authors own experiences and it has her personal tips, tricks, and stories. To top it off, this book has beautiful visuals and images which showcase different objects, symbols and body parts as paper origami and collages.

I would recommend anyone to read this book as it not only informs you about all the things to do with puberty, but it does so in a way that it sounds like it's coming from a 'funny, frank and totally un-embarrassing older woman with heaps of knowledge and experience'.

By Bridgett Drewett (Year 10)



## MUSIC

### TOP ALBUMS

#### Pin Oak Albums of the moment

Low Blows - Meg Mac

On a Clear Night – Missy Higgins

Life is Fine – Paul Kelly

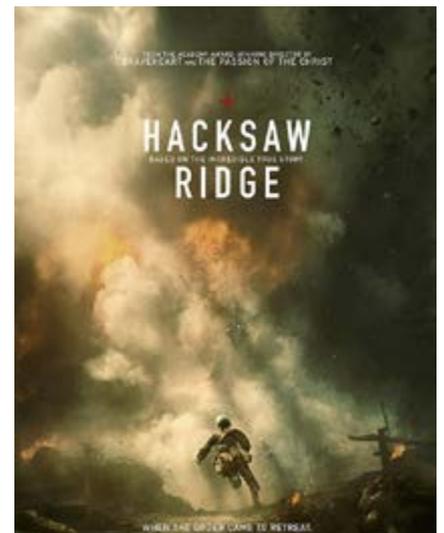
Don't Let the Kids Win- Julia Jaclan

Melodrama - Lorde

Go Farther in Lightness - Gang of Youths

Damn - Kendrick Lamar

Hopeless Fountain Kingdom - Halsey



## FILM



Based on the true World War II story of Private First Class Desmond T. Doss, Mel Gibson's 'Hacksaw Ridge' has to be one of the greatest World War II films ever made. Private Doss, refused to pick up a gun in the Battle of Okinawa and won the Medal of Honour for his incredible bravery and the 75 lives he saved. The story starts with his upbringing and how this shaped his views, his trials and tribulations after enlisting in the US Army and trying to become a medic and finishes with the massacre that was Hacksaw Ridge.

Doss played by Andrew Garfield is young and dorky and the intertwined love story with Nurse Dorothy is ridiculously cute. As the movie progresses he develops into an overwhelmingly inspiring and stoic soldier, rising through the ranks as the unlikely hero. Parts of it are incredibly graphic however and the battle scenes, packed with gore, could possibly be quite disturbing for the faint hearted. While a little intense at times, (then again what can you expect from a war movie), Hacksaw Ridge is a beautifully done film, highlighting what really pays when the horrors of war are faced.

By Eva Mackevicius (Year 10)

## Head of K-6: Justine Lind

I have long held the view that great schools offer a wide range of opportunities for their students and I know I have written in the Pin Oak before about the importance of a culture of participation first and foremost but also of forums and competitions that stretch those children for whom a particular pursuit is their passion and talent. I think it is especially vital for primary aged children to see life as an opportunity to try as many things as possible.

In the year to date we have been able to offer experiences in swimming, athletics and cross country; drama and music performances; academic competitions with chess just around the corner; and sporting teams in the local basketball, water-polo, soccer, hockey, netball and rugby competitions; snow-sports, fencing and, to a lesser extent, equestrian. Our co-curricular clubs and holiday camps offer a plethora of pursuits as well. The recent addition of Code Camp has been received with much enthusiasm and several return attendees to subsequent offerings.

In K-6 the menu of endeavours has steadily increased each year as has the development and improvement in each pursuit. Suffice to say that this is shaping up as a vintage year in terms of participation and achievement.

In no particular order;

□ During the Northern Region Interschools Snowsports Championships at Perisher Blue our teams had a very successful week in the July holidays. We placed 14th/42 in Primary Co-Educational Schools Competition. Across K-12, six teams placed in the top 5 to represent Oxley College at the State Snowsports Championships and 4 individuals placed in the top 10 to compete at the State Championships in 4 different disciplines. Congratulations to our Division 6 Male Alpine Team who placed 5th – Oscar Johnson, Oliver Johnson, Rory Shedden, Brayden Anstee and Oscar Johnson who placed 10th in Division 6 Male Alpine individual field.

□ We had 18 individual and House records broken in the recent Inter-house Athletics Carnival with congratulations to Nicola Gardner, Amelia May, Duke Richardson, Amelia Legge, William Gilbert, Samuel Bernstein, Samuel Bernstein, Samuel Bernstein, Chilli Sparke, Billy Cameron, Billy Cameron, Sophie Dunn, Sophie Dunn, Chloe Cassim, Leah Halstead, Chisholm and Walton.

□ We have progressed from Division 2 to Division 1 in HICES Cross Country and Athletics after placing first in Division 2. Congratulations to Sam Harwood who placed first in the 8/9 years boys and Amelia May and Nicola Gardner who placed second in their respective age groups.

□ Earlier this term we hosted our inaugural K-6 rugby match against Blue Mountains Grammar. Students from Year 4 to 6 who have been part of a rugby skills development squad were thrilled to pit their skills against a team of similar experience and they more than held their own. Keep an eye out for the future of this team.

□ Last weekend our two Under 11 Hockey Teams Blue and Gold, competed in the grand final from a field of 17 teams in the local competition. This not only shows we are fielding more competitive teams year on year but can demonstrate pretty strong "bench strength" with two (almost) equally strong teams in one division.

## Weekly Awards:

### Students of the Week Learning Journey

KK: Oscar Johnson  
 KL: Pollyanna Landrigan  
 Yr 1: Ollie Johnson  
 Yr 2: Estelle Beckett  
 Yr3: Tiffany Matar  
 Yr 4: Georgia Rapp  
 Yr 5C: Lily Bingham  
 Yr 5H: Dylan Davis  
 Yr 6: Angus McGlynn

### Oxley Values

KK: Ava Kroll  
 KL: Victoria Feetham  
 Yr 1: Rory Shedden  
 Yr 2: Javier Poole  
 Yr 3: Imogen Gair  
 Yr 4: Ben Shields  
 Yr 5C: Oscar Plummer  
 Yr 5H: Maddy Garton  
 Yr 6: Leah Halstead



### Students of the Week Learning Journey

KK: Asher Lawler  
 KL: Samsara Pout  
 Yr 1: Claire Diver  
 Yr 2: Cartier Dobler  
 Yr 3: Noah Byrne  
 Yr 4: Sophie Spring  
 Yr 5C: Greta Perin, Harry Cameron, Oscar Byrne  
 Yr 5H: Harry Hiscocks, Madeleine Garton, Sophie Hamblin  
 Yr 6: Lisa Privalova-Pratt, Sarah Shields, Sophie Dunn

### Oxley Values

KK: Andrew Clothier  
 KL: Will Kean  
 Yr 1: Bronte Morgan  
 Yr 2: Zali Walters  
 Yr 3: Imogen Hiscocks  
 Yr 4: Madison Walters, Harley Evans, Fraser Rasheed  
 Yr 5C: Harry Cameron  
 Yr 5H: Lora Ross  
 Yr 6: Eleonora Berzins



□ We are similarly proud to field two K-6 Netball teams in the semi finals next weekend.

□ And...hot off the press yesterday for our students currently competing in the Cross Country Skiing Teams and Individual Division 5 Girls Relay - Eva Duffy, Nicola Gardner and Chilli Sparke have won Bronze Medal and Qualified for Nationals and in Division 4 Girls Individual event Chilli Sparke won Gold and Qualified for Nationals in this event also.

We continue to participate in more cerebral pursuits sending teams to the annual da Vinci Decathlon and Gateway 8 Challenge days and see several students opt to stretch themselves in the annual ICAS competitions each year. We will look forward to celebrating these students at a Friday Assembly when the results come in.

At Oxley we want to celebrate thinking, daring and dreaming – it is a vibrant community of diverse interests and talents and as each child pursues challenges that let their own light shine, they model and encourage the lights of others to shine brightly as well to create a glow large enough for us all to bask in.



# *Does Islam liberate or oppress women?*

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Could the Hijab or Burka be a sign of liberation? What does the Quran actually say about women? And is it possible that we are the people oppressing Islamic women? (cue Pauline Hanson fainting.)

Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world and in recent times has become increasingly the subject of rigorous debate. The word Islam literally means 'submission to the will of god' and consists of two main branches: Sunni and Shi's. It is the second largest religion in the world, with an estimated 1 billion followers.

A survey conducted by "Trust Law" suggests that three out of the five most dangerous countries in the world for women are Islamic. The bottom 10 places on the "Global Gender Gap" index are predominately Islamic countries. In Afghanistan 87% of women report having experienced physical, sexual or psychological violence or forced marriage, according to a report by Oxfam. Every seven seconds one girl under 15 years of age is forced to marry, reports The Australian newspaper.

These statistics cause us to ask what Islam says about women, and whether this religion has anything to do with the increasingly poor treatment of women in these countries.

I conducted a nine question survey asking people about their perception of women in Islam and received 50 responses from people living in my community. Nobody who completed my survey practiced any form of Islam and 64% of people said that they would not consider converting to Islam at any stage in their life.

The majority of people surveyed felt that Muslim men were treated as though they were superior to women. When asked why they thought this was the case, responses were fairly equally spread out: 60% of people claiming that;

"Most religions have traditionally favoured men over women; not all people who practice Islam have the same views."

Or that "Inequality between the genders is a social and cultural problem not a religious one".

88% of people surveyed said that someone could be both a Muslim and a feminist.

According to the 2011 census, 2.2% of Australians identify as Muslims. Susan Carland chose to convert to Sunni Islam at 19, choosing to cover her head as "an act of worship". Now at 37 she says wearing a hijab and practicing Islam fits easily with her idea of feminism. In a recent interview with reporter from The Sydney Morning Herald, Susan Wyndham, she spoke about her Islamic beliefs and why she chose to convert. Over the years she has spoken up about terrorism and Muslim women, and as a young Australian has gained the attention of the public. She published "Fighting Hislam", a book where she interviews female theologians and activists both in Australia and overseas about how they oppose sexism in the Muslim community.

"But I see a lot of wisdom in the Islamic value of modesty in terms of behaviour and dress. These are very much decisions people have to make for themselves and neither can be enforced" she says when questioned about the values in the Islamic religion.

She paints a very different view of Islam to the way the media presents it, saying that Muslim women aren't the passive victims everyone thinks they are and that there is so much ignorance on the subject.

There are very few articles published and written by women who are practicing Islam and live in other counties around the world. This is partly due to the nature of Islam, and due to cultural restraints around modesty. Pina Sandar, PhD student from Durham University England, recently wrote an article entitled "Muslim feminists reclaim the hijab to fight the patriarchy".

The article depicted the importance of social media in the push for feminism in Islam. Social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram give women access to connect with people in similar situations, and allows them to speak their mind without persecution or social pressure. Noorulan Shahid began the trending hashtag "#lifeofamusilmfeminist to help explain what it was like to be both a feminist and a Muslim.



She recently told the Feminist Times: "Navigating between Muslims telling you that you don't need feminism and mainstream feminism rejecting you, when this happens, there is nowhere you can position yourself comfortably." This hashtag now has thousands of attached tweets from women all over the world. Some of them claim that Islam is free of sexism, and that the issue is in the way it has been interpreted

"Let me be clear, Islam is FREE from sexism. Muslims aren't though. Reform the people not the religion.  
#lifeofamuslimfeminist

— Lioness ءارپ مرح (@HumairaMayet)"

A common theme in these tweets is being caught between the westernised world saying that Muslim women are oppressed and should stand up for themselves more, and the Islamic culture saying that feminism is bad and is too "westernised".

"Feared & dismissed for being a Muslim in the West. Feared & dismissed for being a feminist in the East.  
#lifeofamuslimfeminist"

— Salma Yaqoob (@SalmaYaqoob)

These tweets paint an interesting picture of what it is like to be feminist and a Muslim - many of these perspectives come from the idea that sexism within Islam comes from those who practice it - not within the religion itself. These women show us that it is possible to be both a feminist and a Muslim.

There is debate around what the Quran actually says about women, and there have been many different interpretations that continue to evolve to suit changing times and shifting gender roles.

Women in the Quran are viewed in a submissive light according to 4:34, the thirty-fourth verse of "The Women," (one of the most controversial chapters) "Sahih International: Men are in charge of women by [right of] what Allah has given one over the other and what they spend [for maintenance] from their wealth."

However, there are actually thousands of women's names in the Quran, most notably Aisha the wife of Muhammad, whose life explores ideas of what constitutes a "traditional" Muslim woman. Aisha is widely respected by many, and actually proposed to her own husband - "I like you because of our relationship, your high reputation among your people, your trustworthiness, your good character and truthfulness."

"Who so does that which is right, and believes, whether male or female, him or her will We quicken to happy life."  
[Noble Quran 16:97]

The Quran also commonly uses inclusive language, emphasising both men and women in its teachings. This is demonstrated in verse 33:35 where the phrase for "men and women" is repeated 10 times illustrating that it doesn't matter if you're a man or a woman as long as you follow the Islamic religion.

Women in Islam are not oppressed by the Quran itself, but by interpretations and the culture surrounding it. Oppression within Islam comes in many forms, and by claiming that women within Islam are universally oppressed we are only continuing to oppress them. The courage and beauty of the religion also needs to be recognised. That said, although many women are in fact liberated there is still a long way to go. Education is the solution to this issue.

Ultimately, gender discrimination comes down to the country that you live in, the culture, stability and the economical prosperity of the country more than the religion practiced. Christian countries, particularly countries throughout the Pacific, also experience gender inequality similar, if not worse to that of the Middle East. Many of these countries use passages from the bible to condone violence against women, in a similar way to the exploitation of the Quran. This proves that women's equality is not simply a religious problem, but should be approached as more of a cultural one.

In many cases the western world (yes, that's you and I) are the issue. The media either reports biased views on Islam, or doesn't report on women within Islam at all. In this way Muslim women are silenced, and the community only receives stories where they are oppressed or submissive, further alienating them. Laws, such as France's law against Burkinis, or Pauline Hanson's "ban the burka" are another form of oppression against women. The western world view needs to stop seeing Islamic women as oppressed victims, instead educating ourselves about the diversity within the religion and allowing Muslim voices to be heard.

Jemima Taylor (Year 10)

# DEPUTY HEAD REPORTS

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## Deputy Head Pastoral: Peter Ayling

### **Year 7 – 10 Workshops for boys and girls next Tuesday 29 August**

#### **GIRLS - Forever Friends Workshop run by Enlighten <http://www.enlighteneducation.com/>**

Open any teen magazine and you will see that much of the information the media bombards teenage girls with is negative and contradictory; no wonder they report feeling stressed and inadequate! Our workshops will recognise the diverse interests of your girls and present them with content that is non – commercial, age appropriate and (most importantly) empowering.

Research tells us that friends are more important to teenagers than their parents or teachers. How do we make friends? Who should we make friends with? How should friendships be maintained? How do we decide if a friendship is helping or harming us? This workshop addresses these issues and equips the girls with the necessary skills to make safe, important decisions about their friendships.

#### **BOYS - Mythbusters Workshop run by Goodfellas <http://goodfellased.com/>**

Myth Busters workshop “debunks” the most common, and damaging myths about boys in a really engaging, funny, positive way and builds up skills that allow boys to move beyond stereotypes. Myths debunked include:

There’s nothing I can do about violence against women- Real men have six-packs- Real men don’t cry- Boys punch on, then move on- All gamers are geeks- Men are from Mars, women are from Venus - Boys hate learning -How to speak to girls and other issues.

#### **Mental Health**

This week, on Tuesday afternoon, Year 10 and Year 11 students heard from guest speakers from Batyr discussing depression, anxiety and mental illness. Batyr is a for purpose organisation that aims to engage, educate and empower young people to have positive conversations about mental health. Batyr’s programmes are designed to be both informative and fun. Young, relatable speakers and facilitators engage the students with their stories of hope, resilience and courage. The programme educates students on the support networks and services available to them (including Oxley’s services), and empowers them to reach out for help when needed. The students also learn about how they can take care of themselves or a friend through Batyr’s Five Tips: Look Out, Get Talking, Listen Up, Reach Out & Take Charge. The stigma surrounding mental health is a major barrier stopping young people from accessing support. This shows how important it is to educate young people on a broad range of support services to encourage them to reach out if they need to. Batyr’s unique programmes put students in direct contact with other young people - trained Batyr speakers - who have successfully managed

their own experience with mental ill health. This breaks down the stigma and bridges the gap between young people and the wide array of services available to them both inside and outside of school. (Student review on page 16).

#### **U Turn The Wheel**

On Wednesday 16 August, the whole of Year 11 travelled to the Mittagong RSL to participate in the U-turn the Wheel programme. During the day students were enriched with information regarding road safety and prevention of accidents. Presented by the NSW Police Force and Paramedics, Highlands Drive Safe, Youth Solutions and the Brain Injury Department of NSW Health, students were able to understand the devastating effects of motor vehicle accidents, which occur not only for the driver but for the whole community. It was an extremely beneficial day that enlightened and educated students, all of which are part of the high risk demographic of motor vehicle accidents.

By Jess Deakin, Georgia Combes and Tara Bevan

(Year 11)

#### **Creek Bed Project**

What started off as an idea put forward to the SRC - to clean out the pond in front of the music rooms - developed into a fully fledged project involving a dozen students, \$300 worth of native plants, and five cubic metres of pebbles. Liam O’Connell from Year 7 really helped the SRC’s vision come to life with his presentation on the logistics of the project. He put forward the idea to have native plants that would compliment the ones already existing in the wetland area, and also organised the costs of rebuilding the area. With the help of the maintenance staff and a few keen students to undertake a working bee, Liam’s idea was put into place - we managed to brave the cold and finish the project in good time. Thanks to everyone who helped make this task possible!

By Jessica Wade and Sienna Knowles (Year 10)



# ATHLETICS + SNOWSPORTS

## 7-12 Results

### 12 Girls

1st Lily Hogan  
2nd Frankie Lobban

### 13 Girls

1st Camille Falshaw  
2nd Molly Knowles

### 14 Girls

1st Anneliese Wansey  
2nd Rose Barnett

### 15 Girls

1st Isabella Price  
2nd Georgie de Montemas

### 16 Girls

1st Eleni Connell  
2nd Sienna Knowles

### 17 Girls

1st Kiara Rochaix  
2nd Olivia Davies

### 18-19 Girls

1st Isabella Knowles  
2nd Rosemary Bowyer

### 2017 – Records

16 years Girls 100m: Eleni Connell Durack Old record of 12.70 New record 12.55  
17 years Boys 100m: Louis Connell Durack Old record of 11.50 New record 11.48  
14 years Boys High Jump: Sam Watson Oodgeroo Old record of 1.60m New record 1.61m  
18 years Boys High Jump: Max Mackevicius Mawson Old record of 1.77m New record 1.78m  
Senior Girls Relay Durack Old Record of 58.64 New record 57.75

### 2017 House Points

1st Florey 1454  
2nd Durack 1429  
3rd Dobell 1267

### 12 Boys

1st Christian Gallina  
2nd Yanni Psarakis

### 13 Boys

1st Jarrod Smith  
2nd Dominic Uliana

### 14 Boys

1st Jonathan Jansz  
2nd Ethan Henderson

### 15 Boys

1st Hugh Callaghan  
2nd Bryce Wellman

### 16 Boys

1st Finn Ottaviano  
2nd Saxon Macquarie

### 17 Boys

1st Louis Connell  
2nd Romain Antich

### 18-19 Boys

1st Cedric Hely  
2nd Ted Ottaviano

## K-6 Results

### 8-10 Boys

Runner up Samuel Bernstein  
Champion William Gilbert

### 11 Boys

Runner up Jack Snell  
Champion Hunter Ritchie

### 12-13 Boys

Runner up George Dummer  
Champion Billy Cameron

### House Points

1st place Walton 974  
2nd place Chisholm 952  
3rd place Flynn 835

### 2017 - Records

Junior Girls 800m  
11 years Girls 800m  
Junior Boys Long Jump  
8 Years Girls 100m  
9 Years Boys 100m  
10 Years Boys 100m  
Junior Boys High Jump  
Junior Boys 200m  
10 Years Girls 100m  
12/13 Boys 100m  
Senior Boys Long Jump  
Senior Girls Long Jump  
Senior Girls High Jump  
Senior Girls 200m  
11 Years Girls High Jump  
Junior Boys Relay  
Junior Girls Relay  
Senior Boys Relay

### 8-10 Girls

Runner up Sasha Pratten  
Champion Chilli Sparke

### 11 Girls

Runner up Sienna Soster  
Champion Leah Halstead

### 12-13 Girls

Runner up Sophie Dunn  
Champion Chloe Cassim

Nicola Gardner  
Amelia May  
Duke Richardson  
Amelia Legge  
William Gilbert  
Samuel Bernstein  
Samuel Bernstein  
Samuel Bernstein  
Chilli Sparke  
Billy Cameron  
Billy Cameron  
Sophie Dunn  
Sophie Dunn  
Chloe Cassim  
Leah Halstead  
Chisholm  
Walton  
Walton

## HOT OF THE PRESS

### Oxley College – 2nd in Co-ed Primary Schools Cross Country NSW State Snowsports Championships!!!

#### SNOWSPORTS SUCCESS - NSW STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Div 5 Girls XC Relay - Eva Duffy, Nicola Gardner and Chilli Sparke - Bronze Medal. Qualified for Nationals.

Div 4 Girls XC Individual - Chilli Sparke – Gold. Qualified for Nationals.

Div 3 Male XC Individual - Oliver Cain (8th) and Rex Sparke (14th). Qualified for Nationals.

Div 3 Male Snowboard - Reece Masters, Toby O'Sullivan and Jack Gipson - 7th in NSW



# OLD OXLEYAN INTERVIEW

## NICK COUPE CLASS OF 1996



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

I finished Oxley in 1996, and although I wanted to become a doctor at the time, the reality sounded daunting, if not impossible. After pondering options for 12 months, I was accepted into a Medical Sciences degree at UTS, which I enjoyed and did well enough to gain a position on the Sydney University post-graduate medical course, which I completed in 2004.

I started work as a junior doctor in 2005, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I decided I wanted to become a physician (specialist), and after many exams and long hours, I emerged as a Medical Oncologist (cancer doctor), in 2012.

In 2013, I took the bold step of moving to the UK to understand more about clinical trials. Experimental cancer medicines became an area of interest, and to further my understanding, I applied for an Oxford University PhD and was fortunate enough to secure a Cancer Research UK fellowship to support me through this.

My PhD is specifically on blood vessel growth in melanoma, and I'm hoping to use the work to help patients one day.

I'm planning to stay in the UK for the foreseeable future, and hopefully forge a consultant career in Melanoma and clinical trials.

On a personal level, I am married, and have two children, aged eight and six. We have all had to adapt to life in the UK, but have been lucky enough to find our feet, and I think it's fair to say we're now reasonably settled.

### **What is your biggest achievement since high school?**

CRUK fellowship to study at Oxford University.

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

Absolutely not!

### **How did Oxley prepare you for your future?**

The small, close and co-ed environment taught me a lot of personal skills that continue to benefit me as a doctor. The sporting opportunities gave me confidence and although I didn't appreciate it at the time, as captain of the tennis team, the mandatory weekly sport reports (in front of the entire school assembly) taught me at an early age that public speaking was actually a survivable experience.

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

Support, and later friendship from David McGuinness (Economics and Geography teacher). He was an effective teacher, and could make dry subjects much more interesting and understandable. His use of humour to deliver a message is something I try to emulate, although I've not been nearly as successful. His later guidance on betting tips at Rosehill racecourse has been advice I've left well alone.

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

All the free time (although it didn't feel like it back then), and having a day that finished at 3.37pm!

### **What would you say to your fifteen year old self?**

Take the time to find out what you like, and what you want to do. It actually makes a difference.

Also, prepare your geography teacher for the fact that maybe, just maybe, he will be disappointed (yet again) with St George's grand final performance that year.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING? in the news



## NATIONAL



### VITAMIN B3

An Australian study has discovered that Vegemite can help decrease the chances of birth defects in pregnant women. This is because Vegemite has Vitamin B3 in it, which recently has shown that it can cure critical molecular deficiencies in pregnant women that cause miscarriages and birth defects. This breakthrough was 12 years in the making, and was possible only because of Sydney's Victor Chang Cardiac Research Centre, with the lead researcher Professor Sally Dunwoodie and her team.

Every year 7.9 million babies are born with a birth defect worldwide, while one in four Australian pregnant women suffer a miscarriage. About one in 20,000 babies are affected by birth defects and some of these babies die. There are about 310,000 babies born in Australia each year, and with this new discovery, the number of babies which have birth defects will decrease.

The executive director of the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, Professor Robert Graham says, "We believe that this breakthrough will be one of our country's greatest medical discoveries. It's extremely rare to discover the problem and provide a preventive solution at the same time. It's actually a double breakthrough."

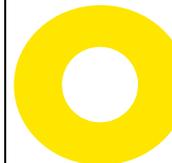
With this new information, Vitamin B3, which is in green vegetables, cereals and Vegemite, is going to be added to our breakfast cereals, meat and whole grain cereals.

This new 'diet', will help pregnant women decrease the chances of birth defects, and be able to produce a healthy baby.

Bridgett Drewett (Year 10)



## INTERNATIONAL



### UNHCR rep says: Governments That Pay People Smugglers Should Face Legal Action

Thomas Vargas, a UNHCR representative stationed in Indonesia, has warned that people smugglers remain active in the region. He also said that "legal action should be taken against governments that make payments to smugglers."

Allegedly, an Australian official offered six crew members of a people smuggling syndicate \$US30,000 (\$37,000 AUD) to turn a boat carrying 65 asylum seekers back to Indonesia in May 2015.

In an interview with the ABC, Vargas said any national official that has paid people smugglers should be brought to justice, either at home or in an international court.

"Any country that pays smugglers breaks the law, it is as simple as that," Mr Vargas said.

In that "cash-for-turnback" incident, the captain and boat crew were eventually found guilty and jailed on charges of people smuggling. Unusually, the Australian government did not deny the payment was made.



## LOCAL

### Berrima River Contaminated

Berrima River – recently labelled at the top of Australia's list for worst contamination from mine drainage. Although the Berrima Coal Mine was officially shut down in 2013, the impacts on the environment have not ceased. Dr Wright from Sydney University recently calculated that 2.5 mega litres of mine waste are still being deposited into the river each day, including zinc levels over 120 times the normal level, having drastic effects on the aquatic biodiversity. It is concerning to note that these alarming levels of pollution have only increased since the mine was closed three years ago. These findings were recently broadcasted on national television and it was disappointing to see our local area posed in such a negative light. Hopefully the research will serve as a wake-up call when considering our local environment and the impact of mining sites in the future.

By Izzy Knowles (Year 12)

# GALLERY



# AUGUST & SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

 <p>LEARN TO CODE <b>BUILD YOUR OWN iPhone APP</b> THESE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS! #INFINITEPOSSIBILITIES</p> <p>arn to cod... have fun, be creative, enjoy g logic an... problem solving to build your very app at Code Camp!</p> <p>www.codecamp.com.au/oxleycollege</p> <p>2019 - 2020's Digital @School - @psns</p> <p>5350 For 3 Days</p> <p>Oxley College</p> <p>BYOD or hire</p>	<p>Mon <b>28</b></p> <p>NSW Interschool Snowsports State Championships, Perisher EXC: Year 6 G&amp;T Camp ALL WEEK</p>	<p>Mon <b>4</b></p> <p>EXC: Year 12 Ancient History Study Day K-6 Student Led Conferences Year 11 - 2018 Year 12 Information Session</p>	<p>Mon <b>11</b></p> <p>Year 11 End of Preliminary Examinations all week</p>	
	<p>Tue <b>29</b></p> <p>INC: Year 7 and 8 Boys Goodfellas Workshop INC: Year 7 and 8 Girls Essential Workshop</p>	<p>Tue <b>5</b></p> <p>ISA Athletics Carnival</p>	<p>Tue <b>12</b></p>	
	<p>Wed <b>30</b></p> <p>Years 3-6 Chess Tournament, Tudor House</p>	<p>Wed <b>6</b></p> <p>Australian Interschool Snowsports Championships, Mount Buller</p>	<p>Wed <b>13</b></p> <p>Years 3-6 NSW CIS Athletics</p>	
	<p>Thu <b>31</b></p> <p>INC: Year 12 Ancient History - Doctor Stellar Lazer Visit</p>	<p>Thu <b>7</b></p> <p>Studio Concert</p>	<p>Thu <b>14</b></p> <p>HSC Design and Technology Showcase</p>	
	<p>Fri <b>25</b></p>	<p>Fri <b>1</b></p> <p>K-6 Father's Day Breakfast, 8.00am</p>	<p>Fri <b>8</b></p>	<p>Fri <b>15</b></p> <p>Yera 2 Family Gathering</p>
	<p>Sat <b>26</b></p>	<p>Sat <b>2</b></p> <p>Invitational Athletics Carnival 2</p>	<p>Sat <b>9</b></p> <p>Duke of Edinburgh's Award: Bronze Hike - Day 1 of 2</p>	<p>Sat <b>16</b></p>
	<p>Sun <b>27</b></p>	<p>Sun <b>3</b></p>	<p>Sun <b>10</b></p> <p>Duke of Edinburgh's Award: Bronze Hike - Day 2 of 2 Kindergarten Family Picnic Year 8 Family Function</p>	<p>Sun <b>17</b></p> <p>Year 6 Family Get Together</p>

Spring into Coding – Years 2 - 7  
If you have any questions about the upcoming Spring Code Camp please contact Natalie Lane on [natalie.lane@oxley.nsw.edu.au](mailto:natalie.lane@oxley.nsw.edu.au)

## P & F NEWS

### AMART REWARDS FOR OUR SCHOOL

For several years now Oxley College has participated in the Amart Community Kickbacks Programme. Under this programme, the school earns 5% of your purchases at Amart Sports as in-store credit to spend on sporting goods. This programme has enabled our school to purchase prizes for the Pin Oak Fair and equipment to be used in the playground.

In order to make sure Oxley receives these credits, you need to join the Team Amart programme, select our school from the list of participating groups and swipe your loyalty card every time you make a purchase in store. Thanks for your support.



### SAVE THE DATE

**Eve On The Green** - due to Bong Bong Races being moved to Friday 24 November, we are now holding Eve On The Green on Saturday 25 November from 4.00pm-7.30pm More details to follow over coming weeks.

# NEWSFLASH



## YEAR 12 HSC ART & MUSIC



## BATYR

With the negative stigma surrounding mental health, education through schools is more important than it has ever been. On Tuesday afternoon, members of the organisation Batyr talked to Years 10 and 11 about mental illness, encouraging us to see not only the negative but the positive side. Words like hope, help, and strength started to emerge as we listened to the stories of Bella and Alex. Their stories were truly eye-opening, and showed the silence that often surrounds people suffering from mental illness. From all that we learned on Tuesday, one resounding message emerged: Talk to people. Seek the help you need. After winning an intense game of Epic or Fail, I received a very important pair of socks. This is part of Batyr's One Sock, One Goal programme aiming to create positive conversations about mental health and wellbeing. If you need help but don't know who to talk to, go to your friends. If you're uncomfortable, give Lifeline a call at 13 11 14 or go to [ehespace.org.au](http://ehespace.org.au). Check out Batyr at [batyr.com.au](http://batyr.com.au); addressing the elephant in the room. By Caitlin Jowett (Year 11)



## MATCH OF THE WEEK

The Oxley Under 13s Rugby played in the grand finals against Chevalier College on Saturday 21 August at Oak Hill College.

The game was hard-fought, with Chev gaining early momentum scoring the first try and controlling the first half of the game, the half-time score 17-0 Chev's way.

We had a talk at half time that got the boys to work harder than we had done all year. We soon managed to make it 5-17. Chev came back and scored another try but Oxley answered with a try also and the final score was 10-24 Chevalier's way. The Under 13 boys showed major improvement over the year with over half of the players in their first season of rugby. The team is set to continue to improve and we look forward to playing our old rival Chevalier in future years.

By Dominic Uliana (Year 7)



## ECOSIA

Ecosia is a newly developed start up based in Germany that allows you to turn your web browser into a tree planter. With every search, a new tree is planted; free of cost. Ecosia takes 80% of their profits from advertisements, and plant trees in regions of Africa that help more than just the environment. These trees provide local people who are struggling to find work, a form of income to feed and support their families. To prove that these claims are actually coming to fruition, Ecosia publish their business reports after every month highlighting where and when the trees were planted, and who by. For more information and to download Ecosia, [visit www.ecosia.org](http://www.ecosia.org).

By Lachlan Fox (Year 11)