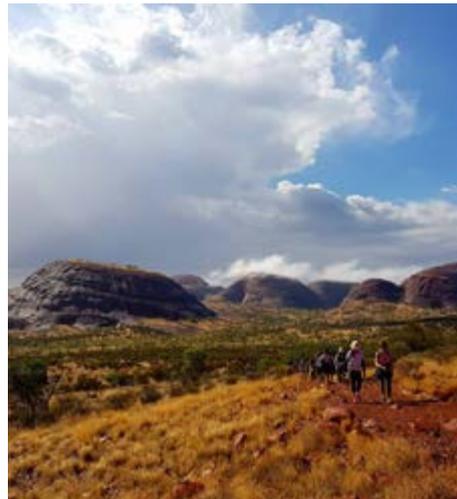


MAGAZINE LIFTOUT

OLE WEEK

WEEK 3, TERM 4, 2017



OUTBACK
NEPAL
FIJI
BOTSWANA
MOUNTAIN BIKING
SURF CAMP
TASTE OF SYDNEY
YEAR 7 CAMP
YEAR 8 CAMP
WISEMAN TO
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MOUNTAIN BIKING

MTB Adventure was a new camp for 2017, which saw seventeen Year 9 and 10 students and three teachers head off to Canberra. From their bunk accommodation in Majura Pines, they explored the beautifully crafted mountain bike trails that weave through the pine forests right out the back door. They also tackled the fun, flowing trails of Sparrow Hill, learned new technical skills riding the rocky trails at Bruce Ridge, before taking on the world class mountain bike park at Mount Stromlo. All students were challenged at an appropriate level and all improved their bike handling skills. Many returned home feeling like "mountain bikers", rather than just people who sometimes ride bikes, saying "I can't wait till next year!"



SURF-GIRLS

Girls Surf Safari had the best week ever exploring the Durras environment. It is resplendent with kangaroos, parrots and rainbow lorikeets along with beautiful scenery combining surf and a waterway into the lakes.

We learnt how to sit, stand and roll on the surfboard in the forgiving river before adventuring out to the real waves. Many girls managed to stand on their boards and ride into the beach. We also did yoga each morning and watercolour painting and crafts in the afternoon. The fun did not stop there as we had a "Master Chef" competition each night. We cooked and presented our food based on a theme - eg "Arabian nights" and nightly prizes were awarded along with a Grand Finale where the winning rooms received a prize for each girl. All other contestants also received a prize. It was so much fun and everyone joined into the spirit of the week. These best week ever!!



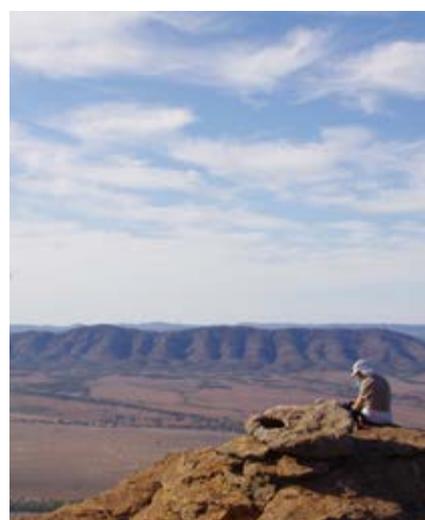
YEAR 8



The outback experience has been heavily expressed through video presentations and the great speeches of Kiara and Ben, however I will like to pass on my own opinion of how valuable this journey was. The majority of the trip was indeed consumed by the bumpy and dusty bus rides, which provided endless amounts of views, of the landscapes and the beautiful nature that are recognised through the heart of Australian culture.

I believe every individual had their own thoughts and perhaps questions about the vast emptiness of the Australian land. However, I personally observed a unique transition between my home community environment, which involves bad local drivers, busy days of schooling and the connectedness of my local community. As I observed a slow movement away from my local community I recognised a sense of loneliness and simplicity which can be easy for the human eye to observe as 'not important' or 'useless' however the serene of the outback immediately seduced my eyes and drew my attention towards the rawness and purity of the outback. I will like to thank all the staff members that were involved and I highly thank everyone who made the journey so special.

Harry Baillieu (Year 12, 2018)





TASTE OF SYDNEY

The tang of the lemon. The spice of fresh garlic. The brine of the salt. Who would have thought that whipped garlic, salt and olive oil could be so scrumptious? Lebanese dip, Toum was one of the many surprisingly addictive foods we ate and loved on Taste of Sydney.

Our mornings began with a short walk to Central Station, where we travelled to an assortment of places including Taronga Zoo, bread-making workshops and many more. The highlight of our trip was our evening trips into the city for dinner. This included eating fish and chips on the beach, cowering from hungry seagulls; Vietnamese goi in Cabramatta, peering questioningly at the seemingly undercooked chicken; cloud-like Nutella crepes and waffles at Parramatta Lanes Festival and taking advantage of Sydney's diverse Asian culture in Spice Alley. With each of these experiences we were familiarised with our closest city, enriched by experiencing the cultures that challenge our own and braving an assortment of weird and wonderful foods that we never would have tried otherwise.

By Maya Chance (Year 10)



YEARS 3 & 4

Years 3 and 4 headed down to the beautiful South Coast and spent the first of their two day camp surfing at Seven Mile Beach. For many it was their first experience and their resilience and tenacity impressed the instructors. Year 4 spent the second day kayaking on the Minnamurra River while Year 3 spent the day at Kiama. After exploring a rock platform and identifying many sea creatures they swam in the Kiama Rock Pool. Lunch was spent whale watching at the Blowhole before returning to school exhausted but elated.

2017 OLE camp was epic! On the OLE Camp I loved that I had my own independence and that I could be with my friends for 31 hours. What I love the most was definitely surfing. I loved getting out into the sea and trying my best to stand up on a wave and eventually I stood up.

I found it challenging to put on a wetsuit and dodging all the huge bindies but the most challenging thing was getting into the Kiama Rock Pool as it was freezing cold and felt like ice.

Camp has changed me because I am more responsible, confident to try new foods and it has made me more adventurous and brave. **By Molly Davis**

2017 OLE! Camp was awesome! On the OLE Camp I enjoyed having some freedom and felt grown up.

I was challenged by getting into the wet suit because the wet suit was really heavy. It was hard pulling the surfboard into the water without getting dunked and getting into the Kiama rock pool because it was deep and icy cold.

Camp has changed me because now I am not scared of new places that I have never been to before. Now I don't feel scared when my parents are not around. I'm a lot braver. **By Georgie Marks**

2017 OLE! Camp was incredible. I loved surfing and getting smashed against the waves and getting dumped. I also loved exploring the rock pools and being with my friends for many hours.

I was challenged by dragging the surfboard back out into the waves, getting into the freezing deep rock pool and getting into a wetsuit.

Camp has changed me because now I am more independent. I had to make my own breakfast and pack all my belongings. Camp has made me more adventurous. **By Flynn O'Brien**

2017 OLE! Camp was a mind blowing experience! On the camp I loved learning to surf, learning about new sea creatures and being free.

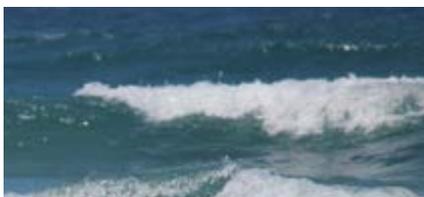
I found it challenging to be away from my Mum and Dad, to dodge the bindies, getting the surf board into the water and getting into a tight wetsuit. Selecting the right waves was also a challenge. I definitely avoided the big ones.

Camp has changed me because now I am more independent, confident, adventurous and organised. **By Aislinn Kenny**





K-2



SURF-BOYS

It was a fresh early morning beginning to the week. 14 fellas cram onto a bus excited for a week of getting noodled, pitted, smacked on the lip and hitting the deck, waapow shhhhhhhhhh. After a long seven hours we rocked up at Crescent Head and hit the swell for the first time. After a rad sesh we hit the hay keen for more surfing in the morning.

Boys Surf was such an awesome experience. Every wave we caught by the end of the trip was a guaranteed perfect 10. We became the masters of the swell. As the bus arrived back at school, we could no longer feel the sea breeze blowing through our sun-bleached hair and over our incredibly tanned bodies. While this was a shame, we will all remember our incredible surf safari.

We'd like to thank our camp leaders Kev and Brendan and our teachers Mr Cunich and Mr Hicks.

Nick Gardener (Year10)



FIJI

By the time we reached Sydney airport we were already exploding with excitement, and after a four-hour plane trip, we landed in the hot and humid city of Nadi. We were greeted with smiles and shell leis and from there we made our way by bus and boat to Robinson Crusoe Island. The island was a place to relax and have fun, allowing us to really bond with each other and practice our singing and English teaching skills. We swam every day, drank fresh coconuts, went turtle viewing, snorkelling, crab racing and watched a spectacular fire show on our final night. After three days on the island, it was time to leave the resort and see the real Fiji. That afternoon we arrived in Tavua, a small town near Korovou Village. Akisi, the chief's wife greeted us and even though we had never met each other all the kids were super excited to welcome us into their village, jumping up to see us on the bus and holding our hands through the windows. This was definitely one of the highlights of the trip. We taught a happy, hyperactive Kindergarten class, and then played skipping and Bullrush with the older kids. Our trips to the village were always filled with singing, music, and many games of Duck-Duck Goose. Going to Korovou village and walking around Tavua allowed us to really experience the Fijian culture. There were hardly any mobile phone or computers but they seemed really happy. We also caught a bus up a spectacular mountain and went out to a local high school where we played sport and joined in a class. The whole trip was wonderful, enriching and something we will never forget.

By Gracie Phelan (Year 9)



YEAR 5 & 6

Elizabeth Hamilton

My experience of the 'Cave Maze' was amazing. Although I felt scared and confused by the dark, I also enjoyed it at the same time. This is why the cave maze was my favourite, because it gave me a challenge.

Luke Suttie

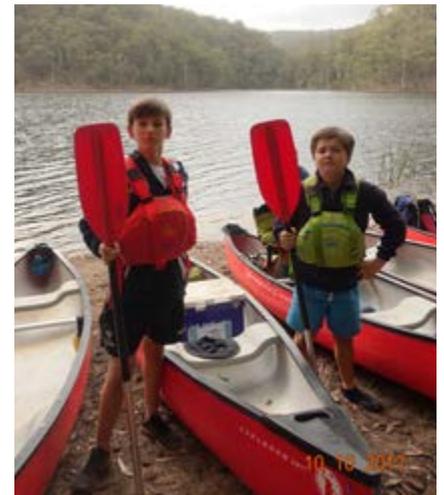
At the beginning of camp, I felt like I didn't want to do the cave maze and could only think of bad stuff. When I came to the cave maze, I said to myself 'I cannot do the cave maze.', but before I knew it I was going in with my friend in the easy one. When I came out of the other side, I felt so good! After six times in the easy one, I went into the extreme. It was so hard, but fun at the same time.

Isabella Leahy

Raft-building was an amazing team-work building activity, whilst having the time of our lives! The idea of creating and imagining a design for an effective raft was really thrilling. After a few attempts and fails, we eventually reached the end of the river. The feeling of achievement was overwhelming. Overall, this was my favourite activity at camp.

Grace Macquarie

For rock climbing everyone had to wear a harness and a helmet. There were three different walls that you could climb on. They all had different levels and experiences, which were easy, moderate and hard. The easy wall was straight and went straight up, then curved inwards so it was easier for the climber to get up. The moderate wall was just a wall that went straight up and never curved in or out. The hard wall was a wall that went straight and then curved outwards. If you fell, it didn't matter because the belay team were holding you up. Rock climbing helped me get over my fear of abseiling, which is amazing for me.



Year 7



BOTSWANA

On Friday 22 September, 22 students and three teachers left Oxley College ready to travel overseas to Africa. After a long haul, we finally arrived at our campsite in Zimbabwe. The next morning, we woke up ready to see Victoria Falls. We crossed the border from Zimbabwe into Botswana and spent the next two days in Chobe National park in Kasane. In the days that followed we stayed at Nata Lodge and Planet Baobab where we visited a huge bird sanctuary, interacted with very friendly meerkats and saw the incredible Makgadikgadi Salt Pans. The next three days were spent in the middle of the Okavango Delta, riding in mokoros and singing around campfires. On the last night we were taken to the 'Hippo Pools', where we sat in mokoros, and watched the breathtaking sunset. Over the next four days we travelled to and from Mathiba Primary school and Sedia High School. At Mathiba, we taught extremely excited students English, presented them with school supplies and participated in a heart-breaking memorial service. At Sedia, we spent time with students our own age and experienced what it is like to be in their classes. The 7th of October was our day of departure and we embarked on our long journey home. Botswana provided us with so many extraordinary experiences and lasting memories that brought the group of students closer together.

By Mya Bertolini and Emily Bow
(Year 9)





NEPAL

"I think this trip is going to be one I will never forget. Meeting new people, pushing to see how far I can climb in one day, and finding out there is a new level of tiredness I have never felt is sure to shape the rest of my life for good." MD

"I met some great people, I had great experiences and had one of the best times I have ever had." MD

Nepal has to be one of the best trips I have ever done and I will never forget it... HH

I got so much out of this trip and have learnt so many new things this has been the trip of a lifetime It has shown me so much about the world as well as about myself ... it has definitely changed me for the better .. HH

This trip made me realise how privileged we are and how lucky we are to live in a free and wealthy country..... I will appreciate everything a lot more SB

this trip has changed how I think about how lucky I am living in Australia I believe this trip is a once in a lifetime experience.... it was the best trip I have ever been on ... BW

The trip changed me in terms of thinking it gives me an important message ... don't take things for granted, be grateful for the things you have ... AC

I will remember Kathmandu and how dense was the population I think the trip has made me a more mature person TR

I have finally gone to a place where I've wanted to go since I could remember I am grateful for this and I am very happy I did this trip TR



WISEMAN TO WINDSOR

Early on Monday October 9, a group of eager paddlers set out on a five day trip to canoe the iconic Hawkesbury River between Wisemans Ferry and Windsor, a distance of about 65 kilometres. At our starting point we sorted our group gear, made sure everything was properly waterproofed and received our safety instructions. We hopped excitedly into our canoes and paddled approximately nine kilometres upstream to our first campsite, dodging ferries, prawn trawlers and wake boarders, while becoming familiar with our boats and fellow crew members.

Wednesday was the longest paddling day, covering 18 kilometres of wide, meandering river. There were games of I-Spy, Vegetable, Mineral or Animal, plenty of good-natured banter, singing, fierce water battles between rival 'Korean' gangs and sightings of sea eagles, kingfishers, turtles, flocks of swallows, an echidna, and water dragons basking in the sunshine. Arriving at our destination, we enjoyed a refreshing dip in the campsite pool, a delicious BBQ, singing to a battered guitar and games of 'what would you rather do if.....?'

The final leg of the expedition was a tranquil journey to Windsor through the still morning air and water, the silence of the river suddenly interrupted by a large fish flipping unexpectedly into Mrs Tregenza's canoe! We arrived quite exhausted, feeling the effects of four days of upper body workout!

On behalf of our paddling group, we would like to thank our two Land's Edge group leaders Josh and Bruce, for generating so much fun and for keeping us safe throughout the week, and to Mr Dibdin and Mrs Tregenza for accompanying the group and giving up their time to be with us. We couldn't have asked for better group of leaders to get us through the week!

Jasmine Irving (Year 10)



