

PINOAK

ISSUE 62: TERM 4, NOVEMBER 24, 2017
OXLEY COLLEGE

YEAR 12
FORMAL

REMEMBRANCE
DAY

HSC
NOMINATIONS

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ORIENTATION DAYS



HEADMASTER'S REPORT

Eve on the Green

Eve on the Green looks like it is going to be a really standout event. The P&F have sold 1,400 tickets and indeed they have had to put up a (virtual) 'sold out' sign on the site. The musicians at Oxley have been rehearsing hard, John Waters has been getting his Lennon playlist together, Leo Sayer has felt like dancing all week and Geoff Jansz has been preparing his foodstall to make the evening a gourmet as well as a musical event. Indeed, I found out recently that Leo Sayer was the top selling artist of 1977 in the world, so there will be plenty of retro-vibes with which to educate our children.

A few points from the committee - the parking will be on the second oval and in the streets around the College. If you are going to bring chairs, could you set them up at the back of the oval so that the view of people sitting on picnic rugs is clear? We are also asking that people purchase their food and drinks from the stalls at the show itself and not bring their own dinner. All of the money raised is going to the BDCU children's charity and to our partner schools in Botswana, Nepal and Fiji - so it is all for a good cause.

I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Pin-Oak Fair and our partner schools

Although it was last year, it took us a little while to determine and disburse the surplus from the Pin Oak Fair. The day ended up making a little more than \$25,000. Of that, we were able to donate over \$8,000 to 'Get Around It', the mental health charity begun by Year 10 student Dylan Whitelaw, and another \$3,500 each to our partner schools. A substantial amount was used to buy sorely needed 'readers' for these schools in Nepal, Botswana and Fiji (you might remember these type of books from when you went through school - the thin, purpose written stories that you learnt to read from). These books also came with many lessons plans and activities. It was great that in October our students took these books over to the Junior Schools and also used them to teach the Grade 2 students.

Oxley is also, separately, bringing out the Headmistress and Deputy of Sedie Middle School in Botswana to spend time with us early next year. We are excited to have them with us, and I hope that they get to meet many of the parents of the students who had been to Botswana. Indeed, they are supposed to be here now, but the visa requirements at the Australian end are so tortuous that we have had to employ a separate admin person for a week to make them work. I

now understand another reason why we see so few Botswanan tourists!

Our HSC successes in Art, D+T and Drama.

Each year, the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) celebrates the very best of Year 12 student work from around the state with showcases in Art, Design and Technology, Drama and Music. Traditionally Oxley College students have always flourished in these subjects, and this year is no exception.

Amelia Carlisle, Jasmine Croker and Olivia James have all been nominated for the D+T exhibition 'Shape'. This represents almost a quarter of the class. Maddie Kalde, Oscar Pugh and Mitchell Latham have all been nominated for ArtExpress - again this represents more than a fifth of the class.

Our Drama has been particularly strong. Eight of the twenty two students have been nominated via their group performances, and one group has been selected to perform. This puts them well within the top one percent of the state. The first group is called Willy Watkins and included Andrew Dowe, Charlie Dummer, Maddie Kalde, Cedric Hely and Harry Mahr. It is about the coming of age of a young man. The second group included Ella Moran, Sophie Capel, Mitchell Latham, Ryan Muir and Tom Hill (this is the one performing) and is called IKEA and is about a family's ill fated trip to IKEA to buy a table. Indeed, I think that Freedom Furniture, or Nick Scali (or any other furniture shop really) should pick up this skit to explain to customers why they might want to avoid IKEA and shop at their establishments instead. It is very witty, well-choreographed, pointed and polished.



MINDFULNESS

The other day I was speaking to a friend, Tom, who is working with seaweed farmers on a small island south of Timor called Roti. He is trying to help them receive compensation for an oil spill that, for a time, ruined their community's main industry. From working with the locals, he has become fascinated by how differently their minds work. Recently, he spent a week helping a lady called Mama Victoria harvest seaweed by tying seaweed to a rope.

This is a picture of her post-harvest. That seaweed is her body weight and she's carried it a kilometre through water.

Tom said that tying seaweed on the rope is not labour intensive though; you just sit there for four hours a day, essentially doing your shoelaces over and over.

One afternoon at sunset, when they'd been in complete silence for a couple of hours, except for the sound of waves crashing a few hundred metres away, Tom finally asked, "Mama Victoria, what do you think about each day while you're doing this?"

She replied, "Think? What do you mean, think?"

He said, "I mean are you thinking about your children? Are you thinking about all the other things you'd prefer to be doing?"

"Think?" She repeated. "I'm not thinking about anything."

He couldn't understand this. "Aren't you thinking about the beauty of the sunset? Aren't you worried about getting your money back? Aren't you day-dreaming about some thing or other that happened in the past?"

"What don't you understand?" She said, a little agitated. "The seaweed is on the rope. I'm just doing it. I don't need to think."

This was one exchange of many that compelled Tom to consider that his mind is wired differently to the Rotinese locals.

He began to observe his mind after that conversation with Mama Victoria, and he noticed that while he was tying seaweed each day, his mind was trying very hard to distract him with other thoughts.

You might relate to this, so often in our day-to-day lives, when we should be focusing on the job at hand, we're thinking about something else.

Let's imagine that in the past week you've been doing some practice paragraphs at home for English. It may take you twenty minutes to draft a topic sentence, because as you're revising your notes on Shakespeare's use of the soliloquy, you're day-dreaming about hitting the winning home-run on the weekend, or you're scheming when and how you're going to ask your parents if you can stay over at that party after exams are finished, or you're simply worried that you don't know enough about Shakespeare or essay writing. You can't even get one topic sentence down, after all.

Thoughts travel through your mind without you realising. You don't think you're distracted. You're doing your study like you should be. Your phone is turned off. You're done with Insta and Messenger for the night. Why can't you just write one paragraph? Or even a sentence?

Imagine that your mind is like the sky, and clouds are like your thoughts.

Unless we're completely absorbed in an activity, like playing the guitar, or reading an excellent book, there will usually be at least one thought trying to distract you from what you're doing: one cloud passing through the clear blue sky of your mind. This is the way we're made and I'd argue that it's almost

impossible to change—we are not wired like Mama Victoria.

It gets worse though. You've started that topic sentence but you pause halfway and you can't finish it, because other thoughts are starting to build. Without realising, you've created little stories. You've hit that home run but now you're in the outfield and a terrifying sky-ball is coming your way; you ask your parents about the party and they say no, which is deeply unfair because all of your friends are staying over and you'll never be considered remotely cool again; and you hate the beginning of your topic sentence, it sounds like every other boring topic sentence you've ever heard, and you're going to have nothing decent to say in the exam, you don't understand evidence and analysis, and you're going to get well below the year average, and you'll never be in top set, and you may as well give up on studying and do something else because what's the point of studying Shakespeare anyway. You hate him.

If we're not aware of the stream of distracting thoughts running through our minds, they can build until they storm.

But there are things we can do to manage the constant chatter in our heads; one of those things is practicing meditation. Meditation helps two-fold. It softens your anxiety about important things like studying, then it helps you focus while you're doing that thing, which means you'll probably do it better. Your sentences may be clearer and more to the point and you may work through more maths problems in an hour than usual.

Meditation works for exams too. Have you ever suffered from pre-exam panic? Or struggled to slow down your swirling mind when it should be analysing an historical source? Or realised mid-essay that you've been staring into space for a solid five minutes, when you should have been furiously writing? Ten minutes of meditation in the morning of your exam, and directly before it, if possible, is bound to help with that. It also helps with the pressures of sport—Lebron James and many other stars have spoken publicly about meditating. And of course meditation helps with class, where the most important work of listening and participating is done.

Meditation won't necessarily cure your anxieties about how well you do in your exams or in your game on the weekend, but it should help.

This is because when you meditate you focus on something simple, like your breathing. When you realise that you've drifted into thought, those clouds entering your sky, you let them pass across the sky until they're out of sight. You try not to create little stories out of them, which we so often mindlessly do. If you practice this enough—allowing your thoughts to settle and your body to be still—then you're more likely to notice in your day-to-day when your mind is becoming cloudy, or when it's about to storm.

Buddhify is an excellent app that you can try. It has meditations for many different situations: waking up or going to sleep, being at home or walking through town.

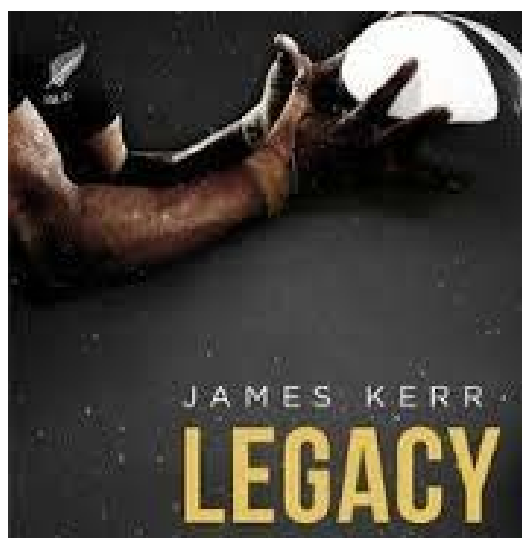
Smiling Mind is also great. It uses Australian accents and has meditations for all age groups. It also has a blog with useful tips, like taking care of your mind during exam time.

I wish you all the best with your study and your exams, and I hope that it's a manageable experience for you.

Alex Hayman

Editor's note: This speech was given by our English Teacher, Alex Hayman, at a recent 7 - 12 Assembly.

TAKE INSPIRATION



BOOKS

★★★★★

Legacy: What the All Blacks can teach us about the business of life

A rugby match is a short, intense lifetime lived across two 40 minute halves, from the hopeful birth of the game to the crushing or triumphant end. Each game involves the sort of challenges many of us encounter over much greater lengths of time, often many years; self-doubt, arrogance, unrealistic expectations, opposition, injury, high stakes outcomes, trust, ego, intimidation and responsibility for others. A rugby team is a group of warriors facing a battle that is more than just physical, it is also a challenge of character.

Knowing this, James Kerr, a specialist in leadership and high performance spent five weeks with the most successful rugby union team in history, the All Blacks, in order to discover their strategies for success.

There are fifteen chapters each with a focus on one key lesson in leadership. Kerr describes these lessons as 'The First XV' and illustrates each one with historic examples and anecdotes. The beauty of James Kerr's writing is that it paints a vivid picture of pivotal moments and their importance to the success of the whole team. Readers share these strategic insights as if they were peering over the shoulders of the team in real time.

He rangi ta Matashaiti,
he rangi ta Matawhanui

The person with a narrow vision sees a narrow horizon

the person with a wide vision sees a wide horizon.
PLAY WITH PURPOSE Ask 'Why?'

We have a copy of Legacy in the library for every member of the Oxley College rugby first XV to read as they prepare for the next rugby season however the book has value beyond sport. There are insights here for all of us who seek to meet the challenges of life as a warrior. By Elizabeth Antoniak



MUSIC

★★★★★

Camp Cope- The opener

The first taste of Camp Cope's second album, the new single 'The Opener' is a loud and proud callout of music industry sexism. Their second album is due to be released in 2018 and after their revolutionary 2016 self-titled release, it's expected to be sensational. If their first single from the album is anything to go off, then it certainly will be. Though sonically, many of their songs are similar across their discography, there is something incredible about lead singer Georgia Maq's delivery that makes every track worthwhile.

Lyricaly, this song is a powerhouse, Georgia belts out "now tell the dead man that you're the one dying" in such a way that lets you know exactly what she means. Though this song sounds and feels much like many of their other tracks, they manage to not make their sound feel recycled or reshaped, but instead something new, not just with every track, but with every listen.

By Imogen Hatcher (Year 9)



FILM

The Fault In Our Stars

Based on John Green's best-selling novel this movie is about a 16-year-old girl called Hazel (played by Shailene Woodley). Hazel has been diagnosed with cancer since she was 13. Due to this she carries around a bag which holds oxygen for her lungs which don't always work.

Her mother thinks she has depression and sends her to a cancer support group to find some friends. Hazel hates this but does it anyway to keep her mum happy until she runs into a boy with the name of Augustus Waters, and falls head over heels in love with him. He also had cancer which ended his basketball career after the loss of his leg.

Augustus uses his wish from make a wish foundation what he likes to call his 'genies'. He takes Hazel to Amsterdam to visit her all-time favourite author.

On their journey, they experience amazing sites and get to learn more about each other.

Their cancer will never keep them apart for their love is stronger and is what keeps them going.

Although this movie creates quite a few lumps in your throat (HAVE TISSUES HANDY) this movie is one of a kind. One that I would recommend to anyone who doesn't love a laugh, and doesn't mind shedding a few tears.

Starring Shailene Woodley as Hazel and Ansel Elgort as Augustus. This movie and book was the number 1 New York best seller at the time.

Okay...

Okay...

By Lily Magill (Year 8)

Head of K-6: Justine Lind



As the 2017 academic year draws to a close I thought it might be nice for our Year 6 Captains to have a chance to say goodbye to everyone in K-6, even though they will not be lost to us as they move on to Senior School. What better way to reflect on the year that was than through our student voices.

Dear Oxley College K-6,

As 2017 comes to a close, I look back on all the memories I have made as School Captain in the primary school. The first thing I had to do as a School Captain was speak in front of 7-12. This was petrifying because I had to make the speech up on the spot and make it sound like I had rehearsed it many times.

With being School Captain, I found that so many of the younger kids were asking me many questions about whatever their troubles were that day. Some of the questions were like, "I couldn't find my sport shorts so I am wearing my hockey skirt. Is that ok? And I don't have a hat, can I still play without it?" These questions sometimes did not make much sense but they still made me laugh that they come to me with their problems.

From students to teachers everyone at Oxley has had some sort of effect on my time as School Captain. Everyone at Oxley, I will remember for a long time even if I did not know them that well.

At Oxley, there will be many memories that I will take with me as I journey on to high school. There are so many memories, some good, some bad that it would take so long to say them all, but the memory that I definitely take with me forever is how caring and welcoming the Oxley community is. As my few final weeks come to a close, I am very grateful that I could be the School Captain of 2017 in the primary school, and I wish my fellow students all the best in later years.

Sophie Dunn, K-6 School Captain 2017

Dear Oxley College K-6,

I am very grateful to have been nominated for the boy School Captain for 2017, my experience this year has lead me to meet many new people and have many new opportunities that I will treasure for life.

People who have enriched my experience at Oxley are Mrs Ismay, because I really learnt the most with her during my time in Year 5 and this year. Also, the buddies that we had this year really helped with learning responsibility and to care and help younger people to get started at school really taught me how hard I can be to my mum. My friends who really helped me when I was sad and going through tough times, really helped me to know that there would be people who could help me.

Thank you for everything and everyone who has helped me along the way at Oxley and I will miss you all a lot next year. I am leaving and heading to The Scots College in Sydney. It is not that I am over Oxley or that I think I am better than any of you. I have a long family history at that school and I feel that I will have an even greater chance of fulfilling the things that I want to do at Scots. Again I would like to thank everyone for everything that you have done for me, I will take away many important lessons from my time here.

Community is one of the biggest things about Oxley. They make sure that everyone feels like they are being cared for no matter what they are good at and what they are still getting better at.

From Billy Cameron, K-6 School Captain 2017

Dear Oxley College K-6,

I remember at the start of the year, the newer students would need help knowing where things were, and I was happy to help. I noticed as a leader that children can be so kind when they want to be.

I have observed as a leader that children take great pride in our school. They march on ANZAC day all together, and sing the school song loud and clear at Speech Night. I have seen people display welcome, wonder and wisdom at all times.

I would like to thank my teachers, this year and in previous years, for being so encouraging. I would like to thank my peers for supporting me throughout this years. Thank you to my amazing friends and family, for being so kind and helping me be the best leader I could be.

My advice to future leaders is that you can be leader without a title. You do not have to be a Captain to be a leader.

Sadly, I now have to say farewell to my many amazing years of primary school, but my advice is that you should enjoy your years of primary school while it lasts.

Tyra Beckett, K-6 School Vice Captain 2017

Dear Oxley College K-6,

When I went to school in Singapore, it was a massive school with 3000 students in K-12. I only knew a few people from my year group. Then I went to a tiny school in Italy which had 30 kids in K-4. Here I knew everyone by name. The problem was I couldn't avoid anyone. If I could have chosen any school to lead I would have chosen Oxley. I like Oxley because it is just the right size, small enough for me to know everyone and to be tight-knit but big enough for me to choose friends.

Some amazing things have happened at Oxley like meeting new people as Vice Captain and being a Kindergarten buddy. Oxley has made all these things possible for me and lot of other people. Running assemblies has built my independence and self-confidence when public speaking and in general. I'm always going to remember the welcome that I got when coming into K-6. Oxley really is a place of welcome, wonder and wisdom.

The teachers at Oxley have helped me find my talents and weaknesses. Then used my talents to improve my weaknesses. I am very grateful to have such amazing teachers and be at an amazing school.

I've been provided with a lot of wonderful opportunities by this great school. Like the gym, the playground equipment, the mud pit and sand pit and special days like Science Week. Oxley is the best school I could ask for.

Monte Francis, K-6 School Vice Captain 2017

Weekly Awards:

Students of the Week Learning Journey

KK: Asher Lawler

KL: Bliss Brisa

Yr 1: Adelaide Lawler

Yr 2: Cartier Dobler

Yr 3: Archie Wallace

Yr 4: Maximo Ramos

Yr 5C: Oscar Byrne

Yr 5H: Luke Suttie

Yr 6: James Witcombe

Oxley Values

KK: Ivy Bacon

KL: Thomas Berry

Yr 1: Rory Shedden

Yr 2: Brigitte Pietsch-Liddell

Yr 3: Sabine Garton

Yr 4: Alec Simpson

Yr 5C: Georgia Pride

Yr 5H: Yolande Gair

Yr6: Jacqueline Worthington



SPIRITUALITY



A few weeks ago, I took a Mindmatters group where we were discussing values. One of the values on the sheet we were looking at was spirituality. More than one of the students laughed when they saw it and wondered out loud, 'why would anyone value spirituality?'

Indeed why would anyone bother? Well today I'm rather hoping you might!

I'm not sure many of you will remember back to Assembly on Friday 28 July. The first Assembly of Term 3. Mr Parker introduced our topic of Spirituality and since then we have had three different speakers talk about Buddhism, Christianity and Islam. My role this week is to remind you of some of those presentations, to share a bit of my story and to wrap up the series.

At the first talk Mr Parker indicated that within the strategic mission and plan for Oxley College is the following

As educators we will:

Engage students as often as possible about values, ethics and the biggest spiritual questions in life. This will be non-denominational, informed by the Christian tradition and will also draw from wisdom wherever it is found.

As your educators we expect you to:

Seek to develop a well-founded ethical, moral and spiritual world view which will sustain you throughout your life.

These are lofty goals. It very hard to shape a person's sense of meaning and purpose and help someone develop their spirituality or faith. But through a range of discussions in many of your subjects, but especially in Global Perspectives, Cornerstone, through Service Learning, OLE! Week activities, Mindmatters and tutor group the school is hoping to help you to begin to develop answers or even just some ways to approach and consider those big and difficult questions in life.

Questions like:

- Is there life after death?
- Is there a God?
- What is my purpose?
- Is there meaning in what happens?
- Why are some people so poor and what can I do about it?

- How do I determine my values and morals?
- Why is there pain and suffering in the world?

Now the good news is that I don't think Oxley College plans to tell you how to think, or what your answers are to these sort of questions. In fact, I think it is fair to say that many adults continue to wrestle with such questions and our answers may well change from time to time. What we do hope to do is to lift your vision beyond your day to day thinking and introduce you to questions that form part of a bigger picture.

Our speaker after Mr Parker introduced the theme was Prah Mana. I remember that amongst all of us there was a joy in listening to his gentle wisdom, his humour and his message of Buddhism. You will remember that he had Tom Hill tie him up in chains.

Prah Mana then talked about how each link in the chain represented something that he craved...New shoes, a new phone, a girlfriend and so on....the chain showed how these cravings tied him up and stopped him from reaching his potential. Through that (and I hope the Studies of Religion students noticed this) he was explaining the basis of Buddhism. At the heart of Buddhism are the four noble truths:

- Life is full of suffering
- Suffering comes from our desires/wanting
- Suffering stops when we stop desiring/wanting
- The way to stop desires is to follow the noble eightfold path

In other words, when we manage to stop the cravings for more stuff, we can achieve nirvana or enlightenment.

Our second speaker was Matt Jacobs, the Youth Worker from St Jude's Anglican Church in Bowral. He used the following quote by Nietzsche

"And those who were seen dancing were thought to be insane by those who could not hear the music" to explain that in following the teachings of Jesus Christians dance to different beat. He also talked about how often Christians were 'dad dancers', they look a bit stupid and often got it wrong, but the focus should be on the music, the person of Jesus Christ and the claims that he makes. For Christians, the key was in being forgiven and set free to live life trying to imitate the values of Jesus.

The third speaker was Mr Arabaci who shared about Islam, a religion that is based on submission to Allah. You might recall how he had to make a decision for himself to pursue the Islamic religion when he was a teenager, when he had to 'grow up' and 'own' his faith and not just take on his families beliefs. He spoke about Islamic practices

– the five pillars as being the key things that Muslims do. They were:

- The Declaration of Faith
- Prayers five times a day
- Giving to Charity
- The fast during the month of Ramadan
- And the Hajj or pilgrimage to Mecca once in a lifetime.

For a Muslim, doing these activities demonstrated their faith in action. He also explained their six key beliefs:

- Belief in One God
- Belief in Angels
- Belief in the Prophets
- Belief in the Holy book
- Belief in a day of Judgement
- Belief in Fate or Predestination

And so what about my story. Why do I value spirituality?

Many of you will know that I am a Christian, in fact I am an ordained minister in the Uniting Church. Like Matt Jacobs who spoke to us, I look to Jesus, and his teachings to help me get my bearings in life. I find that helps me think about how I can live my life better and how I can flourish in life. I grew up in family that was very involved in our local church. In fact, it was more through church that I found most of my friends and did much of my socialising as a teenager. Importantly, it was also through youth group and church that I was able to develop and practise gifts that I had in leadership, in public speaking. It was in that faith community that adults recognised me, praised me, encouraged me and cared for me. And as such, it was pretty easy for me to feel at home in church and to have a sense of belonging.

Studies are showing us that young people who are part of a faith community are more likely to have a sense of purpose and less likely to have mental health issues. For me, this was definitely the case, the sense of belonging and recognition from adult mentors helped me enormously in my teenage years.

But Like Mr Arabaci, I had to choose to 'own' my faith and not just follow my family beliefs. My belief in Jesus and my involvement in church continues and is an important part of my life and who I am. My sense of spirituality, where I get my values from and where I find

meaning and purpose all stem from these beliefs.

Have you ever jumped on a trampoline? I imagine most, if not everyone has. I remember buying my kids a trampoline when we moved to the highlands. Every morning, every afternoon they would play on it. Some of you know my children but for those who don't, Daniel my eldest was always very tall. Even in Junior primary school he was tall. Emma my daughter was only two years younger, but much smaller. When they played on the trampoline inevitably, Daniel would end up bouncing Emma higher and higher, until it got out of time and they both collapsed in shrieks of laughter. Trampolines are like that, they bring joy.

It was a bit sad last year when we tossed the old trampoline out. No one had used it for a while and it was in the way everytime I wanted to mow the lawn. The mat had a small tear and several springs were missing but it still worked. Before I set to work on dismantling it, I had a bit of a jump. I felt like a bit of an old fool.....but it was fun. I remembered how you could see over our hedge and how jumping was exhilarating and freeing and somehow that put a smile on your face.

Too often we think of spirituality or faith as something limiting. As a set of rules that stop us from doing something. I guess that is why my Mindmatters class reacted how they did.

For me faith in Jesus should be more like jumping on a trampoline. It should be joyful, fulfilling, and it should put a smile on your face. And it doesn't matter if couple of springs are missing, the trampoline still works. Faith is like that, if you have some doubts or questions or struggles then the whole things doesn't fall apart, God is still there. And I guess what I have worked out along the way, is that you don't need to have all the answers to have faith, indeed there are some days when I don't even know what the questions are. On those days I just need to jump!

And so I encourage you to bother to value spirituality. To lift your gaze beyond your everyday things and ponder some of these questions. I imagine if you are like me you will come up with different answers at different times, and I hope your answers will change the way you live as well as the way you think.

Mostly I hope that the questioning and the searching helps develop you as a person with a well-founded ethical, moral and spiritual world-view. And that it might sustain you in developing a life of faith. A life full of joy.

By Stuart Bollom

Editor's note: After a term of listening to a variety of speakers talk about Spirituality, Mr Bollom, presented this overview at a recent 7 - 12 Assembly.

DEPUTY HEAD REPORTS

Deputy Head Pastoral: Peter Ayling

Honour Our Fallen

Honour Our Fallen is a newly raised not-for-profit organisation (registration pending) formed to honour and preserve the memory of those deceased military personnel, buried in Australia, who served our Nation in all conflicts and theatres since the Boer War.

In partnership with local high schools, they plan to research and locate ex-Servicemen's graves in local cemeteries and thereafter, on each Anzac Day beginning in 2018, place an Australian flag on each gravesite. They will seek to involve veteran groups, historical associations, schools, and families of deceased veterans in their research and commemorative activities.

Honour Our Fallen's mission is to perpetuate the memory of all deceased veterans and to build pride in our community, particularly our youth, in the virtues of service to our Nation and respect for those who died protecting our freedom and way of life. This in turn should lead to greater recognition and respect for those presently serving in uniform.

Rick McCarthy OAM - Director Honour Our Fallen info@honourourfallen.com

What Remembrance Day means to me – Ben Hutchings (Year 12, 2018)

The eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month. We gather round the town centre, wreaths placed around the memorial, and stand in silence to commemorate those who have served in conflict to ensure safety for you and me.

Sounds familiar, but what if I told you this memory occurred 9000 km away. Different people, different country, different season. But the same message.

A message that resonates throughout the world on this day. A message of commemoration, grievance, honour and warning.

This proves that no matter where you are, Oxley college or Derbyshire, war is still remembered in the same way. So, as I stand with you today, as I stood in England, at this occasion some years ago, I ask you to join me in remembering.

Remembrance Day is not intended to glorify war over peace; or to assert a soldier's character above a civilian's; or one nation or religion or gender above another; or of one generation above any that has or will come later.

Remembrance Day honours the memory of all those men and women who have sacrificed themselves for their country, to make sure the world that they live in, that their children live in and that we live in, is safe and free from the oppression that is tragically seen all over the world.

On Remembrance Day, we often talk about the figure of the unknown soldier. We do not know this Australian's name and we never will. We do not know his rank or his battalion. We do not know when he was born, nor how he died. We do not know where in Australia he had made his home or what occupation he left to become a soldier. We do not know who loved him or whom he loved. His family is lost to us as he was lost to them. We will never know who this Australian was.

Yet he is among those whom we honour on this day. We know that he was one of the 416,000 Australians who volunteered for service in the First World War, one of the 60,000 Australians who died on foreign soil. One of the 100,000 Australians who have died in wars this century.

He is all of them. And he is one of us.

War is a brutal, awful campaign, distinguished often by political incompetence. Knowing that the war which was supposed to end all wars in fact sowed the seeds of a second - we might think this Unknown Soldier died in vain.

But that is why we gather as we do today, to declare that this is not true.

For out war comes a lesson which transcends the horror and tragedy of conflict.

A lesson about ordinary people – and the lesson is that they are not ordinary.

The unknown soldier is a symbol for the real heroes of war; not the generals and the politicians but the soldiers and nurses – those who taught us to endure hardship, to show courage, to believe in ourselves, and to stick together.

This day does not belong to empires and nations but to the people on whom they, in the last resort, always depend.



ON THE BRANCH

VISUAL ART, DRAMA and DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY HSC NOMINATIONS 2017





YEAR 8 GEOGRAPHY CHALLENGE

Last Thursday 26 October, twelve geographers from Oxley ventured to St Mary's Memorial Hall to take part in the WESSSTA Annual Geography challenge. This consists of 10 rounds like 'Name that Flag' or 'Describe that Famous Australian Landmark' and 'How many countries are in a deep financial crisis and urgently need help from some better and more economically developed first-world countries'. As we clambered into the minibus, Mr Dibdin joyfully handed out some Trivial Pursuit cards from the 1990's, eager for us to take some time to get into our geographical mindset. The days various rounds consisted of quite difficult geographical and general knowledge questions ranging from names of landforms, Aussie landmarks and country shapes. A true or false round consisted of an elimination style competition where winners could win a DVD or iTunes gift card.

Several students won 'spot' prizes in the true-false rounds and one Oxley team made the highest score in the final round which also secured an award. Congratulations to Jess Billett, Ollie Bragg, Alastair Cunningham, Will David, Tom Dunn, Eliza Holloway, Lachlan Jowett, Ava Lambie, Millie Rea, Alex Reichenfeld, Bella Smith, and Ruby Zupp.

Will David (Year 8)

"EMBRACE" FILM NIGHT IN HOSKINS HALL

F.B.I

FEMALE . BODY . IMAGE

It's time to EMBRACE your body!

Wednesday 29th November

4:00pm-6:00pm

Orchestra Room

Bring your Bean Bags, Pillows, Comfy Clothes, etc. The Orchestra room will be open in the morning to put your bags.

There will be popcorn and a lucky door prize!
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!

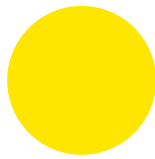
(This screening is for 7-12 Girls. There will be another screening for 5-6 with parents.)



MOVEMBER

Several MoBros (Mr Simpson, Mr Hicks, Mr Baird, Mr Dibdin and Mr Woffenden) have undertaken the Movember challenge to raise money for men's cancer and health issues. Here is the link in case you would like to donate: <https://mobro.co/oxleymobros118?mc=1> to this fantastic cause for fantastic moustache.

WHAT'S HAPPENING? IN THE WORLD...



NATIONAL

On the Monday 13 November, Australia saw a movement in which we have been waiting for, for a long time. The vote for same sex marriage was issued a few months ago and finally the results came back. Australia has voted... 'YES' to same sex marriage! 61% of people voted yes and 38.4% voted no. These results show the characters of each Australian, we still have some believers who are against this. However, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has called on all politicians, people who voted against this, to respect the will of the people. This is an extremely exciting step forward to a more equal society in Australia – I am proud to say I voted 'YES' for this amazing movement. Bring on the future.

Jordan Colby (Year 12 2018)



LOCAL

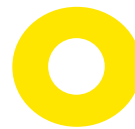
OXLEY HOUSE DEBATING COMPETITION

Nothing gets the blood pumping; the nerves tingling; and the minds ticking like House Debating. The chance to competitively argue with fellow pupils on relevant topics such as 'Should every term begin with an OLE Week,' or 'Should Oxley and Chev merge.' Who would pass up this unmissable opportunity?

Not only do participants get the chance to represent their house, but also become the pride of their tutor group. More experienced debaters had the chance to show off their 'argumentative guns', whilst those less experienced debaters such as myself gave it a go, and learnt a thing or two from the more seasoned debaters. It is really something special to witness a Year 7 debater destroy a horrified Year 11's points with statistics, fiery points and a little bit of sass. Only Inter-House Debating can offer that.

Congratulations to Durack for taking out this year's title, but also to all those who participated. Well done debaters!

Kiara Rochaix (Year 12 2018)



INTERNATIONAL

The Debate Around Encryption

The battle between FBI's needs and Apple encryption has been highlighted through recent events such as the terrorist attack of Tashfeen Malik and the mass shooting of Devin Kelly. Devin Kelly, the shooter at the Sutherland Springs Church, Texas, a man who shot and killed 26 people, including a 14-year-old girl, was found dead from a gunshot inside of his car approximately eight miles away from the church. With police and FBI unable to get into Devin Kelly's phone, Apple currently refuses to unlock/decrypt the phone, as they have no obligation to help law enforcement break into Kelly's phone.



The high-level security in standard apple iPhones creates problems for law enforcement, as it is difficult for them to analyse the evidence to uncover motives or leads surrounding the action. This very encryption has been a large point of discussion and is the direct issue in decrypting the phone of Tashfeen Malik's, a man who killed 14 people in a terrorist attack. As of now, there is no clear conclusion to the debate over encryption, only time will tell whether Apple decides to fully co-operate with the FBI.

Cooper Barker (Year 10)

GALLERY



NOVEMBER + DECEMBER CALENDAR

 <p>Oxley College 2019 Scholarship Key dates Applications Close: Monday 12 February 2018 Exam Date: Saturday 17 February Interview Date: Saturday 17 March</p>	Mon 27 Y10 Australian Business Week	Mon 04 Y6 Celebration Evening	Mon 11 DofE Gold Hike Kosciuszko
	Tue 28	Tue 05	Tue 12
 <p>https://www.oxley.nsw.edu.au/enrolment/scholarships/</p>	Wed 29 Y6 Wet'n'Wild	Wed 06	Wed 13
	Thu 30	Thu 07 Speech Night, 6.30pm End of Term 4	Thu 14
Fri 24	Fri 01 Year 10 Australian Business Week Dinner - Gibraltar	Fri 08	Fri 15
Sat 25	Sat 02	Sat 09	Sat 16
Sun 26	Sun 03	Sun 10	Sun 17

P & F NEWS

We are very privileged to work with a very fine P & F at Oxley College. At the recent P & F AGM the following people were elected:

P & F Executive

President

Vice President 7 - 12

Vice President K - 6

Secretary

Treasurer

Bec Biddle

Megan Moore

Kate Gair

Lynda Smith

Trevor Fair

P & F Committee

Parent Rep Co-ordinator 7 - 12

Parent Rep Co-ordinator K - 6

Assistant Treasurer

Sooz Heinrich

Rachel Harmon

Justine McKinley

At the "Thank you to the P & F" drinks we acknowledged the hard work and commitment of outgoing Vice President, Kate Fair, who has worked tirelessly for the P & F committee for the past three years.

And also Meg Wilson and Cynthia Winter who in their roles as Assistant Treasurer and Parent Rep Co-ordinator respectively, helped with the smooth running of many events.

We are very lucky to have so many parents who are willing to get involved and initiate and support many special Oxley events.

The remarkable Eve on the Green team are a real testimony to the wonderful community spirit generated by our parents at Oxley. 15



NEWSFLASH



EQUESTRIAN SOPHIE ARTUP

At the inaugural Willinga Park CDI, Sophie Artup (Year 9) placed 3rd in the FEI Intermediate 1 and 6th in the FEI Intermediate Freestyle. These were Open classes, where all other competitors were adult professional riders.

Following this competition, Sophie was invited by Helen Lawson, President of Dressage NSW, to join the Dressage NSW Young Rider High Performance Squad.

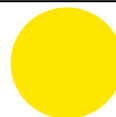


Teacher vs Students Cricket match.

On Wednesday 8 November, the teachers went up against the Oxley 1st XI cricket team in a close match at Bradman Oval. The teachers had beat the students last year, so the students were eager to come away with a win this year. The students batted first and the opening batters, Hamish Pinn and Connor Taylor-Helme had a tough time having to face the pace of Mr Hayman who opened the bowling for the teachers. After some consistent bowling from the teachers, many wickets fell and just over 200 runs were made, setting a reasonable total for the teachers to chase. Mr Spies and Mr Marnoch opened the batting for the teachers, giving them a strong foundation for their innings. Some big hitting from Mr Spies towards the end of the match was making the students quite nervous. But in the end, the game was very close with the teachers only falling 20 runs short of the total and the students were able to redeem themselves from last year's loss. D'Arcy Deitz (Year 12 2018)



CRICKET FIRSTS VS. TEACHERS



MATCH OF THE WEEK

Softball

On Saturday 18 November the 1sts Softball Girls fronted up at Oxley at 7.30am, ready to play the team which has been at the top of the table over the years, Barker College. With drizzly weather, and a damp diamond, pitching proved a tough task, although Jas Irving pitched very consistently and, with excellent support in the field from Grace Patterson, Brydie Clarke and Claire Allan in particular, we kept their batters under control. Home runs from Claire Allan and Georgie De Montemas, and great base running from all players allowed the Oxley girls to build imposing scores, leading to wins in both games. With the first half of our summer season almost over, the Oxley team is looking promising to make the semi's!

Grace Patterson (Year 12, 2018)



WANTED

On the recent Oxley College Year 9 trip to Botswana, Peter Craig met a most likeable young Batswanan, Dipuo Xheecho, who worked in IT support in one of the schools the Oxley students worked in. He has aspirations to get into professional photography. Does anyone have a DSLR camera and lenses that have been superseded by an upgrade in technology that they would be prepared to donate to a good cause. Please contact the College if you can help. Thank you.