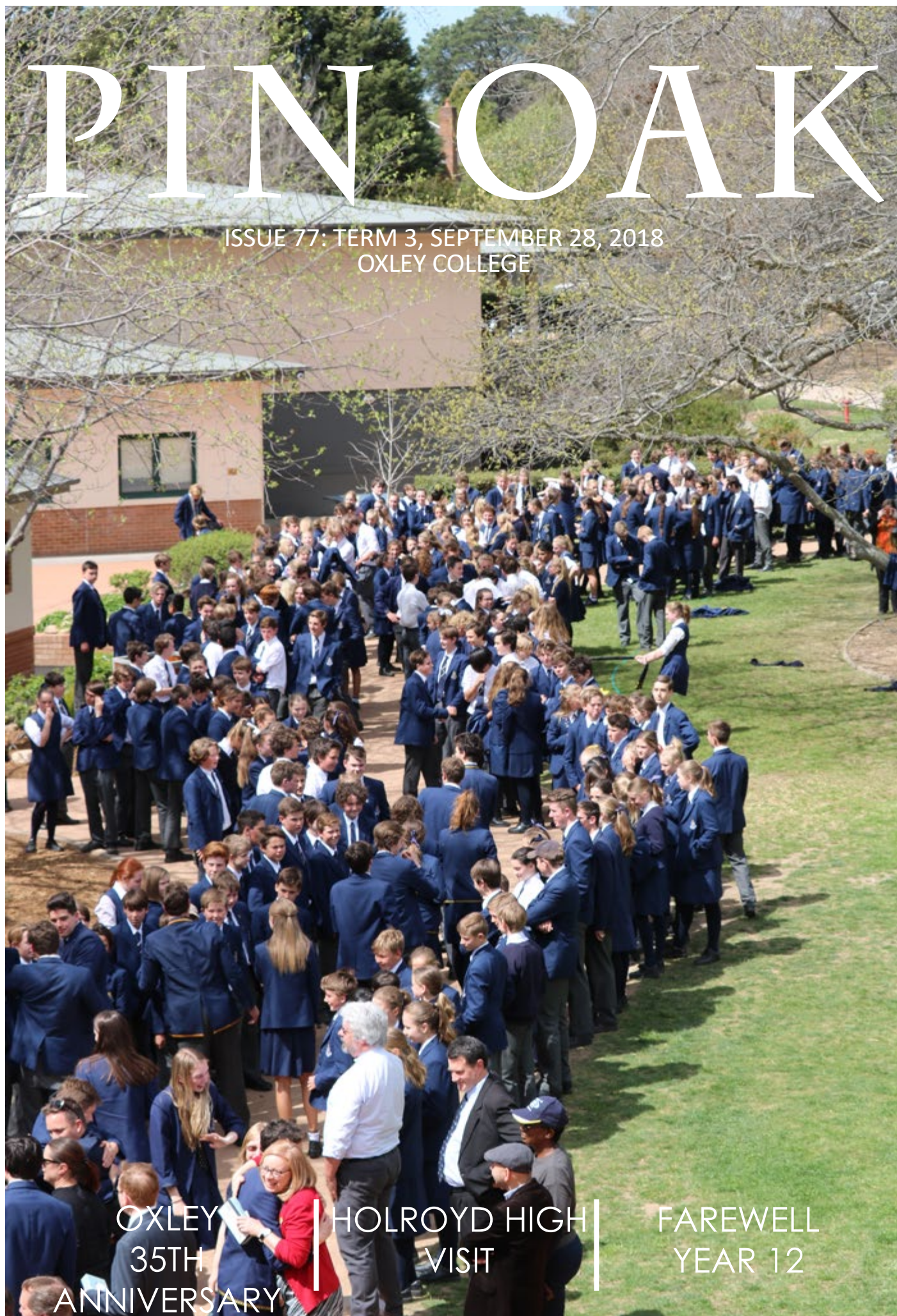


PINOAK

ISSUE 77: TERM 3, SEPTEMBER 28, 2018
OXLEY COLLEGE



OXLEY
35TH
ANNIVERSARY

HOLROYD HIGH
VISIT

FAREWELL
YEAR 12

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Thank you to Juliette Swain and Cameron Grice for many years service to the Pin Oak design team. We are going to miss you!!!

Made In 1983



HEADMASTER'S REPORT



Year 12

It is time again to say good bye to another excellent Year 12 group. They are a tight knit and inclusive set of young men and women. New students who joined them in Years 11 and 12 were adopted as if they had always been here. Earlier in the year I remember proudly putting out all of the new tables in rows for the Pavilion area, knowing how good they would look and thinking how the kids would prefer them. However the Year 12s came to me in a delegation and said that they wanted the old table formation back. They wanted all of the tables in a single long line so that everyone could sit together without anyone having to feel excluded. Nothing else mattered. So the Head and Deputy Boy and Girls and I spent a house period moving everything back. The result is not as functional or aesthetic but it speaks volumes about their community, which is what matters.

I taught all this group Cornerstone back in Year 10 and I remember the many rousing discussions that we had about politics, gender, and the meaning of life. These students and I sat together one double period on November 8th and watched the key hours as the unexpected unfolded in the USA. Several months later it was great to be able to take a handful of students to Botswana, where we put on Monty Python skits for the whole school and taught everyone a dance we called the 'Southern Highlands fling'. (If you don't already know it, it is the 'heel and toe, heel and toe, slide, slide, slide, slide' dance which we suggested was a core part of Burradoo culture).

This group have many achievements in the sporting and the artistic realms. They have represented the State and the country in rugby and football. They have cheered on the side of the pool as their form mates struggled through fifty metres butterfly at the swimming carnival. They have produced the most inspiring art and design projects. Two thirds of the dramatists have been nominated in Drama for Onstage (eight out of 12), which puts each of them in the top few percent of the state! Their music is great. Some of them are blitzing the academics and (almost) all of them are trying hard.

They have much to celebrate and much to miss. We will miss them too.

35 years old

Last week we celebrated our 35th Birthday, (a little like the way the Queen celebrates her birthday- on a week we were not actually born). There were quite a few highlights.

The 'Made in 1983' dinner was an outstanding evening of fun, costumes, great food and wine, and music that reminded us that we really were the decade that style forgot. People got into the spirit of it and the atmosphere

was amazing. Between the raffles and the silent auction we were also able to raise \$6,000 for our partner schools in Botswana, Nepal and Fiji. Huge thanks to Bec Biddle and her amazing team.

Very important was the return of each of our past Heads, and the arrival of the New Head of College too. David Wright (1983 – 1994) Chris Welsh (1995- 2007), Grant Williamson (2007 -2014) me, (2014 to 2018) and Jenny Ethell (2019- 205x) were all able to stand side by side and be in the one place together – there are not many schools that can boast of being able to do that. We had our photo taken for posterity. Unfortunately I was the only one in costume so there is going to have to be some very heavy Adobe Photoshop work, or some adroit deleting.

There were several events for the past Heads too. On Thursday night there was a book launch of David Wright's book *The End of Schooling* at Centennial Vineyards. He also spoke there for an hour about his life in education. It was a deep connection to the character of the man who set Oxley, with all of its values and spirit, on its path. On Friday, David Wright, Chris Welsh and Grant Williamson all gave a Headmaster's address on assembly. I felt it was incredibly memorable and moving to have such a variety of styles but such a unanimity of vision and purpose all on the stage together. It absolutely underscored the long arc of what makes Oxley special in an unwavering way from decade to decade. It is indeed a special school with both feet planted in the community of the Southern Highlands and its face turned towards the world.

Vale

And so, in this special week it is very sad that I need to let you know about the passing of another founding Board member of Oxley College. Mr Bill Carpenter passed away earlier this week. Bill was a key part of securing Oxley's foundation and he was a part of the original purchase of the land. He then stayed on the Board for almost fifteen years – from 1982 to 1986. He remained active in Oxley affairs in all of the years afterwards, and indeed was at our Speech night only last year. Bill always struck me as a generous, good spirited and vigorous man and he was a good source of perspective about Oxley. I regularly bumped into him in the second aisle of Harris Farm on Sunday morning and was able to catch up. As a community we send out condolences to his wife Prue, his children including Al, and his grandchildren, including Claudia in Year 3. Family and friends are invited to attend a service to celebrate Bill's life, at a memorial service at The King's School Chapel, Pennant Hills Road, North Parramatta on Tuesday 9 October 2018 commencing at 2.00pm.

Farewells

We also need to farewell from the College two much respected members of the staff.

Ian Maitland was the Head of Maths here many years ago. After a number of interim decades being the Head of Maths in several Sydney schools he returned to us recently to teach Extension Two. He was highly expert, kind and full of enthusiasm for both Maths and his class. They have made it very clear that they will miss him, as will the rest of us.

Mrs Catherine Fraser is the culinary brain behind all that we produce in the canteen. Her cooking and menu preparation are wonderful – nutritious and good tasting. Her soups are varied and excellent, and her Buddha Bowls could grace the tables of the most gourmet café. She is a thoughtful, dignified member of staff who leaves big shoes and saucepans to fill.



BOTSWANA COMES TO OXLEY

Have you enjoyed your trip to Australia? If so, what have been the most enjoyable parts?

Tebogo: Yes, the most exciting part was interacting with the staff and students of Oxley. The assembly, the hall, the discipline and the engagement of young people and student leaders was perfect.

Senatla: I have enjoyed my stay here, being teachers we have loved seeing how the library is used, especially by students and how it is promoting the culture of reading within students.

What has been the largest culture shock/contrast between Botswana and Australia?

Tebogo: Academically, we were impressed by the independent learning among students and the use of technology. It really shocked us but we have to accept that this is normal as in Botswana we are behind but with time we will get there. Culturally, the people are really welcoming, but we did find Australian people are a bit quiet.

Senatla: I have loved the peace of Australia, we could walk around Sydney at night without fear of being mugged or anything. I did find Australians love to speak loudly and laugh a lot.

Are there any aspects of Australian life that you believe we should be more grateful for?

Tebogo: I think Australia is embracing a multicultural society which I'd definitely say is a positive. You respect everyone for being a human being. I admire the lifestyle in the Southern Highlands, people are committed to their family, just as they are in Botswana. The love for sport, sport facilities and good health, should be maintained and appreciated.

Senatla: People of Australia are welcoming and loving. Whenever we are walking around I notice we are the only two Africans in Bowral yet people don't look at us like 'Oh where are they from', everyone is loving.

Have you learned anything that you believe is important in life since your trip over here?

Tebogo: Our trip was to Oxley was to learn about the operations, how the school executes its plans, how the management works. We have learnt about the importance of education and discussion, the school values that greatly. That is definitely a major take-away.

Senatla: We very much appreciated the trip because it has given us the chance to stay with families in Australia, giving us an idea of family set up in Australia and how families work. I have learnt more about the importance of family.

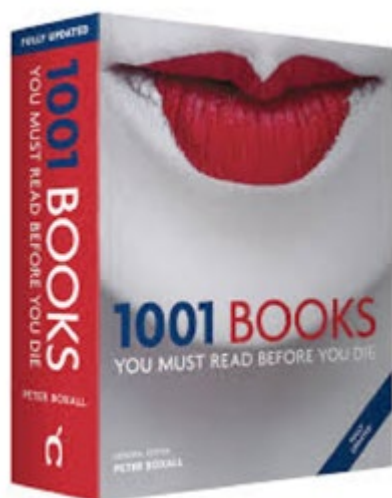
If you could select one word or sentence to symbolise Australia, what would that be?

Peaceful, fantastic. Australia is a wonderful place to be.

By Eva Mackievicus and Brad Worthington
(Year 11)



TAKE INSPIRATION



BOOKS

1001 options for reading in the holidays.

Research conducted in the library over the last few years has shown that one of the biggest dilemmas for both the avid and indifferent reader is book selection. Many people will not choose a book to read when they are not confident about selecting a book they will enjoy.

Dr Peter Boxall, a professor of English at the University of Sussex, is an excellent guide who knows his stuff and has edited these recommendations of the finest stories in literature from the first Latin novel to contemporary works. With 1001 book recommendations and critiques by an impressive list of esteemed contributors, this book contains an excellent collection of suggestions, many that are familiar and many that will surprise. You'll find *All the Pretty Horses*, *The Hobbit and Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy* as well as intriguing titles you may never have heard of; the archetypal Gothic novel *The mysteries of Udolpho*, the 16th Century *Gargantua and Pantagruel* and the WW1 book, *Forest of the Hanged*.

Even if you don't agree with all the choices made by the Dr Boxall, this is a book that will help you choose a book, and you could do far worse than set yourself the goal of reading every book listed until you..., well ..., until you die.

By Elizabeth Antoniak



MUSIC

Eminem: Kamikaze

Eminem's most recent album has come out as a surprise project, the announcement for only one song the day before, not even teasing an album; and a pleasant surprise it was. After a somewhat disappointing project last year with *Revival*, Eminem has recovered (no pun intended) in the eyes of many of his fans, and a swift recovery it was, the album opens with a track utilising Eminem's signature choppy flow, and rife with disses and call outs often for little more than a single tweet. The album features are impressive, with Royce Da 5'9", Joyner Lucas, and even Jessie Reyez, a new R & B singer, offering strong verses or hooks. The Humble flow in "greatest" offering a fantastic, albeit short reference. Even the skits filled a gap noticeably left by *Revival* and offered amusing interludes. The album as a whole seems to stray from the more pop-centric style Eminem tried with *Revival*, and even *Marshal Mathers LP 2*, going back to a style reminiscent of Eminem's earlier projects, while also being progressive. The album has also generated a beef between R Kelly and Eminem, the best beef since Drake and Pusha's earlier this year. Overall this album is a solid offering for an artist who has been slightly disappointing of late, full of disses, throwbacks and Eminem's renowned wordplay.

By Sam Crowley (Year 11)



FILM

Sierra Burgess is a Loser

In Netflix's growing library of originals - Does "Sierra Burgess is a Loser" measure up?

When a boy named Jameie accidentally starts texting the character of misfit Sierra (believing her number belongs to the school's queen bee Veronica). Rather than telling the truth by revealing her true identity to Jamie – Sierra is entangled in a web of lies.

By the sounds of this synopsis "Sierra Burgess is a Loser" seems like the plaster mould of a bland slumber party movie, that tries a little bit too hard to please everyone. Unfortunately, this is quite true.

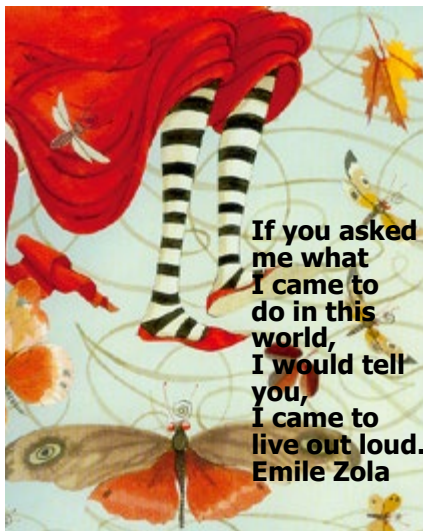
Not even the star-studded cast (Shannon Purser from "Stranger Things", Noah Centineo from "All the Boys I've ever Loved Before") could redeem the lacklustre plot. The biggest issue is that the film's complication is entirely the protagonist Sierra's fault and it makes it difficult to sympathise with her character and the script forgives her long before the audience.

The biggest merit of "Sierra Burgess is a Loser" is the easy to digest nature of the film - There's no plot twists or complex character arcs hence making it very easy to watch.

By Pearl Bendle (Year 9)

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Head of Junior School: Justine Lind



During the last two weeks we have shared in an historic time at the College. It is a rare opportunity to have all Heads of a school together and it was a great privilege to witness.

Thursday evening with Dr Wright in conversation with Michael Parker was a fantastic event and the gathered audience reflected the full span of Oxley community members since the school's inception. Dr Wright, along with Rev Chris Welch and Grant Williamson then addressed the whole school on Friday, including a more intimate audience with K-2 for a bit of story-telling and Q&A.

As a passionate educator, I was inspired to hear all three leaders talk of the character of the College with great fondness and pride. What was truly extraordinary was the clarity and distinctiveness of the original vision of Dr Wright and the founding members of the Board of Governors, rarer still is the strength and constancy of this vision across the arc of the school's existence. I talk often to staff about the weighty and restrictive traditional cultures of many "sandstone" independent schools. Oxley, to my mind, is a unique proposition; it is agile and future focussed to ensure relevance, it is secure in the power of evidence to inform best practice and enlightened in the pursuit of ethical understanding. This all requires a courage to grapple with complexity and tolerate ambiguity which makes its endurance all the more remarkable.

One of the things that struck a chord with us was David Wright's notion of the purpose of schooling. He asserts that our primary task is to inspire children to understand and live by the broadest sense of the values of what it means to be human and to confidently live in a way that is "fully alive". At our final assembly this week, I shared with the students the notion of "living out loud"; of trusting their unique constellation of attributes and living in a way that feels true to themselves.

Weekly Awards

Learning Journey

KL: Sophie Hutchison
Yr 1S: Lexi Mendes da Costa

Yr 1W: Victoria Feetham

Yr 2: Claire McBride

Yr 3: Emma Barnett

Yr 4: Aislinn Kenny

Yr 5C: Leio Reader

Yr 5H: Jack Rendell

Yr 6A: Yolande Gair

Yr 6L: Tamalyn Boese

Oxley Values

KL: Violet Mineeff

Yr 1S: Teddy Blom

Yr 1W: Robert Clothier

Yr 2: Anna Clark

Yr 3: Dakota Winn

Yr 4: Bryce Rodger

Yr 5C: Alec Simpson

Yr 5H: Jameson Greene

Yr 6A: Hunter Ritchie

Yr 6L: Dominic Verity

ICAS Spelling Distinctions:

Louisa Hogan-Baldo

Matthew Morschel

Siena Todorcevski

William Brady

Dylan Davis



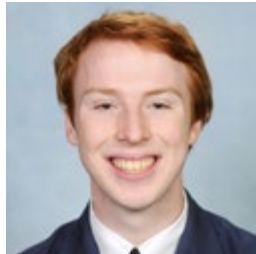
In a rare biblical reference we considered the consequences of concealing our uniqueness. Matthew 5:15 tells us, "Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house." We are reminded that each individual's talents and wisdom should be shared for the benefit of inspiring others and encouraging them to do the same for the benefit of all. How grateful we are that David Wright, the founding Board of Governors, and all who have followed after, have chosen to let their light shine to illuminate the place we all know and love as Oxley College.



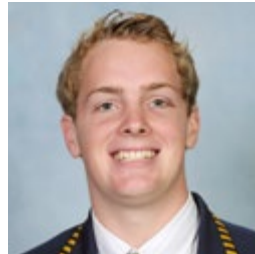
FAREWELL CLASS OF 2018



Romain Antich



Daniel Antoniak



Harrison Baillieu



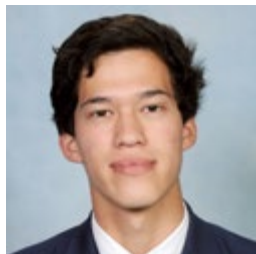
Tara Bevan



Lachlan Billington-Phillips



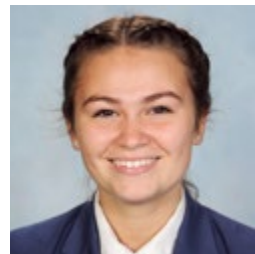
Sascha Binder



William Brittain



Brydie Clark



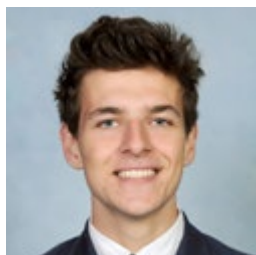
Jordan Colby



Georgia Combes



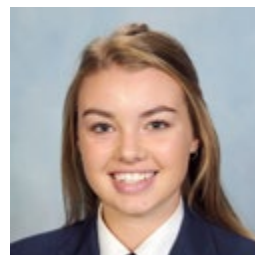
William Cunich
"I get buckets."



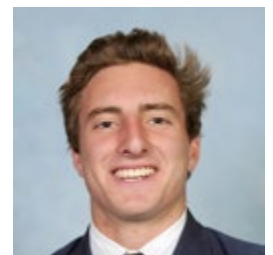
Zack Cunich
"Tomorrow and tomorrow,
and it's due today."



Kathryn Dalton
"Yes."



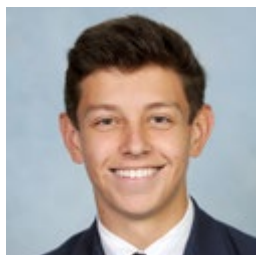
Olivia Davies
"You can only Liv once."



Campbell De Montemas
"I rate that!" - Me



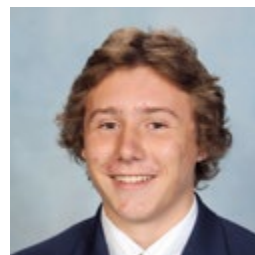
Jess Deakin



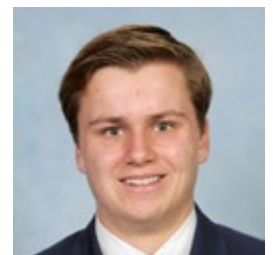
D'Arcy Deitz



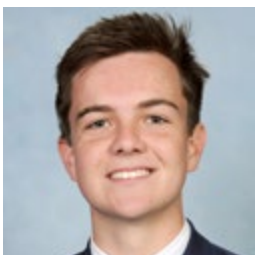
Olivia Donovan



Connor Falshaw



Angus Feetham



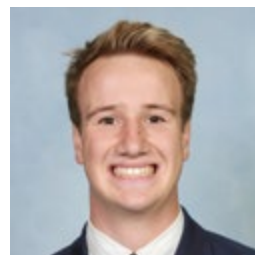
Lachlan Fox



Sita Goodsir-Cullen



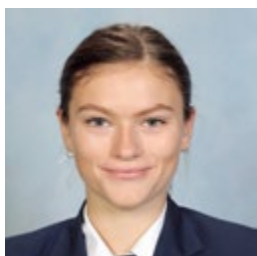
Meribel Greenop



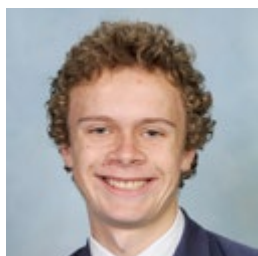
Cameron Grice



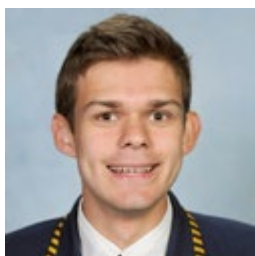
Georgia Griffin



Romy Healey



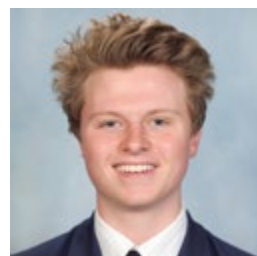
Charles Hill



Benjamin Hutchings



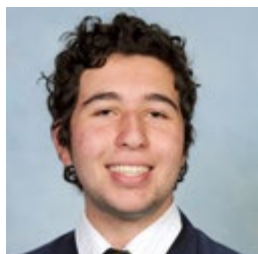
Caitlyn Jowett



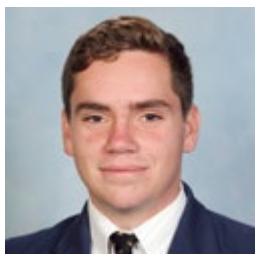
Thomas Jupp



Freya Kenay



Gabe Kolovos



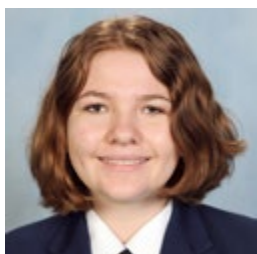
Max Loiterton



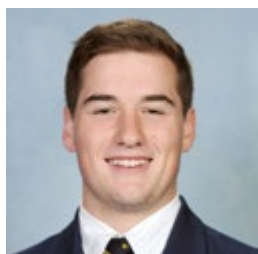
Abbey Marnoch



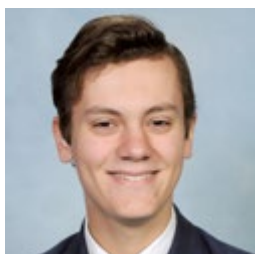
Bodhi Matthews



Ygraine McLaughlin



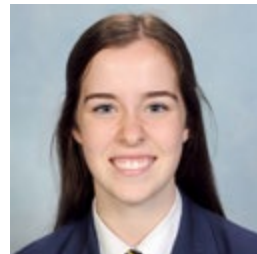
Oscar Moran



Conor O'Meagher



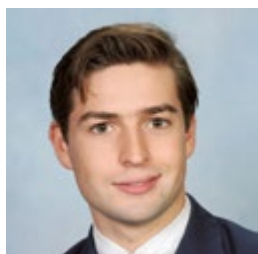
Grace Patterson



Michaela Pugh



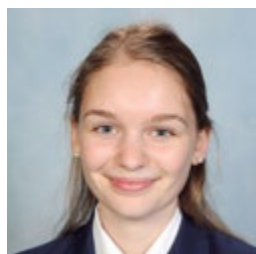
William Quirico



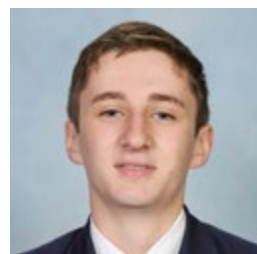
James Rapp



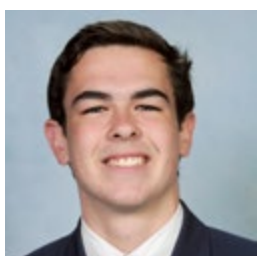
Kiara Rochaix



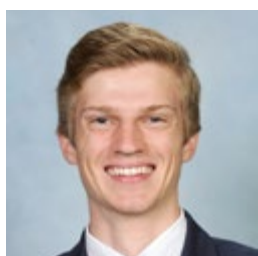
Emilie-Kate Santo



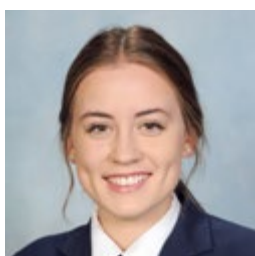
Charlie Seaton



Samuel Sherborne



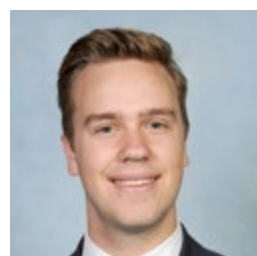
Jacob Sullivan



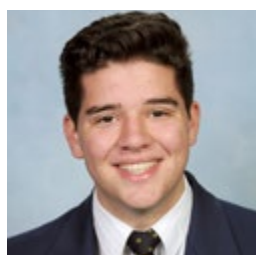
Juliette Swain



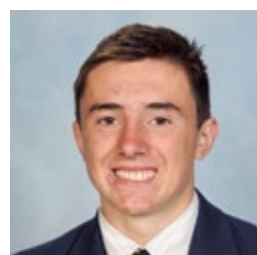
Cordelia Tansey



Thomas Tregenza



Ben Wawn



Tom Whyte



GALLERY



DEPUTY HEAD REPORT

Deputy Head Pastoral: Mark Case

The end of Term 3 marks the departure of the Year 9 Service Learning trips and the Year 11 Outback expedition. These opportunities enable students to put our College values in to practice as well as to develop these character values. The work with our partner schools in Botswana, Fiji and Nepal exemplify the values of Justice and Humanity, through service and care for others. Indeed, the many fundraising events organised this year by the Oxley community, along with the profits from the 'Off The Shelf' café, have raised \$5166 for each of our partner schools and will make a meaningful contribution to the lives of young people in these communities.

Along with the Year 11 Outback experience, the Service Learning trips are also an opportunity to foster the College values of Wisdom and Knowledge (cognitive strengths) and Fortitude and Mindfulness (emotional strengths). The experience of different cultures and environments develops perspective, curiosity and open-mindedness; whilst the challenge of being away from home and in a very different part of the world helps in the development of resilience, courage, self-discipline and patience. The Year 9 overseas trips exemplify Service Learning: meaningful community service alongside an enriching learning experience.



NEPAL

Last year I had the pleasure of taking a group of Year 9 students to Nepal. They were wonderful ambassadors for our college. One student, Bryce Wellman was taken by the amount of work the elderly were doing to feed their cattle. We all observed locals carting large amounts of grass on their back which took most of the day to collect. Bryce returned from Nepal and wanted to make a difference and organised a couple of BBQ's and

raised over \$300. He then approached the local shops and purchased a Whipper Snipper which he presented to the college to take back to Nepal. (Stay tuned for more photos.) What a kind and thoughtful gesture which shows the real spirit of what these trips are all about. Yesterday he handed an envelope with left over Nepalese notes and coins and hoped we would take this over and also help someone in need. Oxley values of kindness, compassion and humility come to mind.

By Peter Ayling



Oxley Drought Relief Trip 2018

When: OCT 24 - 26

Where: Murrurundi, NSW

What can you do? Donate non - perishables before OCT 24. Place items in the bins located in your House areas.

Items such as:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| ➤ Deodorants | ➤ Breakfast spreads |
| ➤ Moisturisers & soaps | ➤ Pasta & sauces |
| ➤ Chocolates | ➤ Detergent |
| ➤ Toothpaste | ➤ Tea and Coffee |
| ➤ Dog Food | ➤ Foil/Cling wrap |



REFEREES



Referees and umpires play a vital role in the management and enjoyment of all sports. They must be fair and balanced, often having to withstand some opposition from the sideline, and keep their cool at the most important moments of a sporting fixture. We are very lucky at Oxley to have both qualified and volunteer referees that covered four of the College's ISA Winter sports in 2018. They provided guidance in both the Junior and Senior School competitions. We also have referees who have developed their skills and been willing to contribute to local sporting competitions as well as representative games at State and National levels. Angus Feetham is one of these referees who has been a crucial part of the Country and State Rugby trials over the last few years for Rugby. Dylan Whitelaw has also pursued his career and was asked to be the touch judge in the Grand Final between Bowral Blacks and Avondale. This was of course the fixture that provided the Bowral Blacks Club with their First Grade Premiership since 1999. The College would like to acknowledge and thank all referees that provide an indispensable service to our local community and encourage all those that are interested in to contact Ms McNaught in the Sports Department.

DROUGHT



The Oxley Drought Relief Trip

On Wednesday 24 - Friday 26 October, Oxley College will be running a drought relief trip to the town of Murrurundi – in the state's north-west. Twelve students, selected from Years 9 and 10, along with three Oxley teachers will depart Oxley on Wednesday 24 October and return on Friday 26 October. The trip has two main purposes:

Firstly, we will be helping farmers on their properties with a variety of tasks including painting, rubbish removal, fixing fences, and general tasks.

The second aspect of this trip is the one where every student can be involved. In addition to helping on farms, we will also be creating care packages for struggling families. Between now and our departure date, every student is encouraged to bring in non-perishable items so that we can collate these into care packages for residents of this town. Donations (anything non-perishable), can be left with Heads of Houses or Junior Student Services until Tuesday 23 October.

MONSTER FOOD DRIVE

Rural Australians for Refugees, Southern Highlands needs YOUR food donations!

Why?
We wish to help the Asylum Seekers Centre in Sydney, which currently supports up to 3000 vulnerable people.
Due to recent government policy changes, the need for support with food and other basic necessities is rising rapidly.
Around 1500 people now access food support from the Centre. 350 free hot meals are provided by volunteers each week and around 500 food parcels are given out.
As more and more people come to rely on the Centre, the need for food assistance is increasing.

When?
Monday 29 October
Friday 2 November

Where?
We have collection points in:
• Moss Vale
• Buradoc
• Bowral
• Mittagong

Please see over, for details, and a list of grocery needs.

The food store shelves need filling!

Thank You!

Generosity feeds families

SKIING



Recently at the Australian Interschool Snowsports in Division 6 Alpine (Giant Slalom) the Oxley College team placed 8th out of 13 teams.

Two boys stood out particularly, with Oscar Johnson placed 33rd and Rory Shelden placed 35th out of 61 boys competing.

In Division 6 Skier X, Oxley College team placed 9th out of 11 teams.

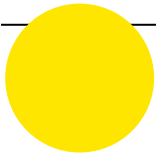
Unfortunately we had a day of racing in the rain which made conditions very slow. Our small but determined alpine skiers displayed such dedication, determination and perseverance within such a highly competitive sport, it makes me so proud to be a part of it. We may not have the numbers on the mountain (some schools have four or five teams in a single division) but the Oxley school team spirit is there in full force.

By Teya Johnson

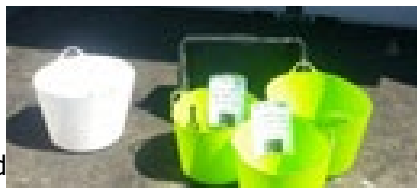
Collection Points

- Bowral:** Uniting Church
28 Bendooley St
Bowral
Weekdays, 10am – 3pm
- Buradoc:** Oxley College
1/29 Railway Pde
Buradoc
Main reception & Student Services
School days, 10am – 2:30pm
- Mittagong:** Mittagong Veterinary Hospital
109 Main St
Mittagong
Weekdays 8:30am – 6pm, Saturdays 9-12
- Moss Vale:** Southlands Care Op Shop
Moss Vale Shopping Village
Willow Drive, Moss Vale
Weekdays 10am – 3pm

WHAT'S HAPPENING? IN THE WORLD...



ENVIRONMENT

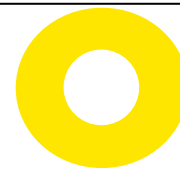


When Oxley began in 1983, world population was 4.7 billion. As we celebrated Oxley's 35th birthday on Saturday evening, world population stood at 7.6 billion. That's 2.9 billion more people using the earth's resources and why the Oxley Environment Group decided to ensure that the waste from our celebrations was managed appropriately.

When the rest of Year 11 were probably still in bed on Sunday morning or packing for the forthcoming Outback trip, Year 11 students Jessica Anderson and Skye Holmwood came to Oxley to help sort the waste that was generated from almost 200 staff and parents who danced the night away on Saturday. From the evening, we collected 313 containers; 158 plastic bottles and 155 beer bottles, generating us \$31.30 through the Return and Earn Scheme. In addition, over 100 wine bottles found a home in the recycling bins.

This consideration of waste is not new to Oxley. Earlier this year, the Oxley Environment Group determined that many of the bottles sold at the canteen are eligible for the 10c refund and as a result we have been recycling the containers since Term 2. In the 17 weeks that we have been collecting, we have earned \$304.10. This is money we can reinvest into other initiatives at Oxley so that in another 35 years when we celebrate Oxley's 70th birthday, we can still enjoy the beautiful environment that is Oxley College.

By Ruth Shedden



NATIONAL

Australian Strawberry Sabotage

As the news spreads, it has become known to the majority of Australians as the current Strawberry Sabotage; finding needles in multiple punnets of strawberries. Across the nation, it was reported that over 25 needles have been found in strawberries, a banana and apple too. Though it was uncertain to tell copycat incidents apart, this event has caused huge financial and reputational stress on the strawberry industry. With the produce being unwanted by consumers a number of strawberry farms have dumped tonnes of their strawberries, their livelihood. A quote from the daughter of one the effected strawberry farmers said "This is no doubt the worst thing to ever happen to my family" (Donnybrook Berries). This incident has not just effected the strawberry industry nationally but has effected trade globally. This is seen in the blocking of Australian imports to both the UK and Russia. Australia's neighbouring country New Zealand has also pulled Australian berries off their shelves.

So, lets...



By Peggy Holmwood (Year 9)



Tulip Time

Heralding the start of Spring, Corbett Gardens is a sea of colour as 75,000 tulip bulbs and 15,000 annuals have behaved themselves and all bloomed perfectly in time for the 58th annual Tulip Time Festival.

Yes, it is indeed Tulip Time again! Taking place in Bowral's Corbett Gardens for its 58th Consecutive festival. Tulip Time is one of Australia's most successful floral festivals, attracting tens of thousands of visitors annually; Ranging from Tourists to locals alike. Apart from the beauty of the sea of tulips guests are treated to Live entertainment, a street parade, market stalls; And of course- Mini Doughnuts!

Running from Tuesday 18 September to Monday 1 October; Be sure to check it out.

By Pearl Bendle (Year 9)



GALLERY



OCTOBER CALENDAR

IMPORTANT OLE INFORMATION PARENTS, PLEASE DO NOT ENTER OR PARK IN THE SECOND DRIVEWAY (WHICH IS THE STAFF CAR PARK) TO DROP OFF STUDENTS. THIS IS GOING TO BE A VERY BUSY AREA DURING DEPARTURES WITH NUMEROUS LARGE BUSES AND MANY STUDENTS AND STAFF NAVIGATING THE SPACE. PLEASE DROP STUDENTS OFF IN THE FIRST DRIVEWAY NEAR THE PC CENTRE. Please ensure you are at your Departure Location at least 20 minutes before your Departure Time.	Mon 1 Nepal Trip Depart	Mon 8	Mon 15 OLE Departures Year 7, 9.00am, Library steps Year 8, 9.00am, Library steps Taste of Syd, 9.15am, Bowral Station (opal card) Girls Surf, 9.00am, Maths courtyard Boys Surf, 7.00am, Maths Courtyard MTB Adventure, 8.30am, Maths courtyard
	Tue 2	Tue 9	Tue 16 Year 5 and 6 OLE Yarramundi, Springwood, 9.00am, Junior School Student Services
	Wed 3 Fiji Trip Depart	Wed 10	Wed 17
Holiday Shop Hours Tuesday to Thursday 9.00am to 3.00pm	Thu 4	Thu 11	Thu 18 Year 3 and 4 Coastal Diversity, Illawarra, 9.00am, Junior School Student Services
Fri 28 Term Ends Year 12 Dinner Botswana OLE Depart	Fri 5	Fri 12	Fri 19
Sat 29	Sat 6	Sat 13	Sat 20
Sun 30 Outback Year 11 Depart	Sun 7	Sun 14	Sun 21

P & F NEWS - Made in 1983

We had such a wonderful evening 80's style, for our 35 Year Anniversary Dinner – Made in 1983. Paul Milner as always, managed to keep us all laughing and entertained as MC. Our Silent Auction raised over \$6,000, which will immediately be sent to our three sister charity schools in Nepal, Botswana and Fiji. Thank you to all our guests for making such an effort with their outfits and getting into the full spirit of the evening. As always, we cannot do these events without an amazing team of helpers and supporters. Thank you to Megan Moore, Justine McKinlay, Emma Calver, Ruth Shedden and the P&F Executive and Committee members as well as Year Rep Coordinators, Sooz Heinrich and Rachel Harman. And to the parent volunteers in the junior and senior schools, who helped with decorations and setting up all day on Saturday (and packing up on Sunday). A special thank you to our chef Geoff Jansz, and our Silent Auction Donors and Prize Donors: Alka Water, Bowral Sweets & Treats, Bowral Golf Club, Cheeseboards by Cameron Howes, Cashmere Essentials Bowral, Winter Tree Hill Farm, Beyond the Garden Gate – Jacqui Cameron, Bougies De Luxe Candles, Caves Coastal Accommodation, Robert McRobbie – Urban Lair Photography, K9 Perfumes, Highlands Chauffeured Hire Cars, Ludo Bowral, Dirty Janes Bowral, Endota Spa, Rural Artisan Living, South Coast Retreat, The Bookshop Bowral, Peppers Sutton Forrester, SAM Southern Highlands (Ipad), Bird and Barrel Wines

By Bec Biddle, P&F President

Editor's Note: An enormous thank you to Bec Biddle for her vision and fine leadership.



NEWSFLASH



FENCING



Two weeks ago, three Oxley teams went to St Aloysius in Sydney to face a tough and gruelling, fiercely competitive day of fencing against some of Sydney's top fencing schools. Now, for those of you who might think that fencing is a refined, gentle sport, you have no idea! Think adrenalin, lightning reflexes and nerves of steel. Add in an opponent staring you down through his mask of mesh, wanting nothing more than to drive his blade onto your torso to score a point. Fencing is not for the faint-hearted, and Oxley proved their fencing mettle. The 15s and Seniors gained valuable experience and managed several hits against far more experienced teams. The 14s exceeded expectations by coming 2nd overall after 27 bouts, losing only to a highly drilled Sydney Boys' outfit. This was the first tournament that an Oxley fencing team has entered since Oxley's glory days, when in 2008, under our current coach Jeff Grey, Oxley were the National Schools' Fencing Champions, with one student, John Downes, eventually going on to the World Youth Olympics. So, if you think fencing is like the immortal words from the Princess Bride "My name is Inigo Montoya, you killed my father, prepare to die!"- then you're right. By Hal Canute (Year 8)

PIPING



I have to say that this old tutor is extremely proud of all of the Oxley Pipe Band Members who attended the Canberra Piping and Drumming Workshop. Each and every one acquitted themselves admirably and certainly made an extremely favourable impression on all the tutors who dealt with them throughout the time. The Great Richard Hawke, piping gold medallist assessed our group as "cracking young pipers and drummers and great kids." To be able to get tuition from the masters of the piping world is something to treasure. Australia is so far away from these folk. The piping and drumming instructors this weekend were described to us as the "Don Bradmans" of the game, a comment I feel is most appropriate indeed. Once again Oxley College received an accolade, this year through Saskia Hilkemeijer (Year 7) winning one of the Tenor Drumming awards. Congratulations Saskia, first year on the drum, well done indeed. I sincerely thank all the band members who participated and their folks for their support, I could not have asked for a finer group of young people to be with. A credit to the school certainly but most importantly a credit to yourselves, well done.

By Rob Parker

HOLROYD HIGH



On Wednesday 19 September, a handful of junior school and year 9 students and staff huddled on Elvo amid a feast of fairy bread, lamingtons and fresh fruit. We were waiting for some very special arrivals: a busload of Holroyd High School students, their families and teacher, who had journeyed down from Western Sydney earlier that day to visit Oxley College for morning tea and a walk along the Wingecarribee River.

Holroyd High is a unique small, secondary school renowned for their ability to accommodate and educate new arrivals to Australia, especially refugees. Their intensive ESL classes allow full integration into the astoundingly multicultural demographic of the school and, more widely, the Australian community.

As the coach pulled up, a stream of decidedly nervous-yet-excited high schoolers and their parents disembarked and were led to Elvo. There they were generously welcomed by the volunteering parent helpers, staff and students, who instantly were able to strike up conversation about favourite sports, pesky siblings and the best Australian foods (pavlova and vegemite, obviously!) It was remarkable to think that many of the Holroyd High students were recently arrived immigrants from overseas, many of whom spoke English as a second language, yet we were all able to find common and enthralling

topics of conversation!

After indulging on seemingly-endless plates of food and cups of tea, Mr Parker led the group along the river, as we continued our fascinating conversations with the students and their parents. The optimism of our guests was radiant despite the dismal wind chill, as they expressed how fortunate they felt to be in the lucky country of Australia. I talked to a mother-of-four, who was attending TAFE English classes, and avidly described her children's successes in integrating into Australia. After returning to Oxley, our visitors prepared for the next stop in their journey – Corbett Gardens. Even after only knowing some of the families for mere hours, I found it sad to say goodbye to all my new friends. With promises to keep in touch, they boarded the bus, amid hugs and endless 'thank yous'. A poignant memory I will recall is the words of one of the boys as he departed: "you have the perfect school." This was an unrivalled opportunity to meet some amazing, resilient people and connect with students our age (living in a completely different situation to us) in a warm and welcoming environment, and a huge thank you must be extended to everyone who put in tireless effort to organise the day.

By Ava Lambie (Year 9)