

PIN OAK

ISSUE 78: TERM 4, NOVEMBER 2, 2018
OXLEY COLLEGE

K-6

OTHER
LEARNING
EXPERIENCES

SCREEN
TIME TIPS

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Collecting students after sport

A friendly reminder to all parents to please collect senior school students promptly on their return to school on Saturday after sport. Unfortunately, some of our coaches had to wait for almost an hour on Saturday for students in their team to be collected.

Students are requested (and are reminded on the bus) to contact their parents with an estimated time the bus will be arriving back at school. It would be appreciated if parents could be at school to collect their child when the bus arrives.

Thank you for your understanding.

By Nick Wansey

Special Assembly



Lachlan Mineeff (Year 10) and his racing cars at today's assembly. With a guest appearance from Michael Parker!

Lachlan is supporting Reframe the new mental health service for youth funded by the Federal Government by placing a logo on his car. A great initiative. Full report page 20.

HEADMASTER'S REPORT

Dear Parents,

I am excited to be able to announce some new positions for the beginning of next year.

Art: Mark Hetherington. Mark replaces Mrs Jacqui Pugh who has received an exciting promotion – going to Head of the Middle School at Fintona Girls in Melbourne. Mark is Curator of the Adelaide Perry Gallery and visual arts teacher at PLC Sydney. He has held the latter role since 2005. Before this he taught at Monte St Angelo College. He has a young family.

English: Adam Lee. Adam is replacing Mr Alex Hayman who is relocating to Perth to be closer to family members. Adam currently teaches English at MLC Burwood. Before this he taught at Ravenswood, Riverview and The Kings School. He has a Masters of Teaching. Before his career change he was the Head Tennis Coach at Kings for nine years. Preceding his time in Australia (he is British) he was a high level ski instructor and a chef. He too has a young family.

Maths: Suzanne Pence. Suzanne is replacing Mrs Suzanne Dalton who is returning to the USA with her husband. Suzanne comes from St Pius X College where she has taught since 2014. Before her career change she was a high level funds manager. This included two years as the Director of Capital Markets at Hastings Fund Management. She has also worked at Perpetual and JP Morgan. She already has children at Oxley, two of whom started this year.

PDHPE: Jodie Wolstonecroft. This position is as a result of the increasing size of the school. Jodie is currently Head of Campus and PDHPE teacher at the Met School in Goulburn. She was also the AFL Community Development Officer for the Sydney Swans. She is a local resident having attended Chevalier College.

Head of Music and the Arts: Andrew Young. Andrew is currently Head of Performing Arts at St Luke's Grammar School. Before this, he was Head of Music at Monte St Angelo College in North Sydney. He has also been a senior marker for music performance for many years. He has a residence in Bowral and knows the Southern Highlands community well.

Whilst we are excited that Mr Andrew Young is joining us, it is also bittersweet, as it comes due to the stepping away from this role of Mr Robert Hughes. Mr Hughes was diagnosed with a brain tumour two and a half years ago. He fought it valiantly and it is now in remission. However, the toll it has taken means that Mr Hughes does not feel that he can return to the role of Head of Music and the Arts (which has been taken by Mrs Jacqui Pugh since the diagnosis). He also will be staying on a reduced teaching load of one or two classes. Of course he will remain a fixture at Oxley in the years to come, directing co-curricular groups and being centrally involved in our performance nights. I hope he also continues to play the Processional Music on the piano for the Senior Assembly each fortnight. His choices are always original and sometimes

unexpected. Last fortnight I walked up to the lecturn the the chorus of 'Road To Nowhere' by Talking Heads.

Touch Football.

Touch Football has become a new sport at Oxley and for the Independent Sporting Association. Many of our girls have jumped onto it enthusiastically, training each Tuesday and Thursday. We have four teams entered for the competition. They had their very first games on Saturday at a round-robin competition in Bathurst. There were some wins, losses and draws, but what I hear was consistent was the excitement and the energy on the fields. Certainly the feeling on the bus as they took off was positive and dynamic, particularly given that it was 5.30am and dark. The photo below was taken by me (and the flash didn't go off) but still shows the spirit on the bus for this inaugural trip in the history of Oxley College.



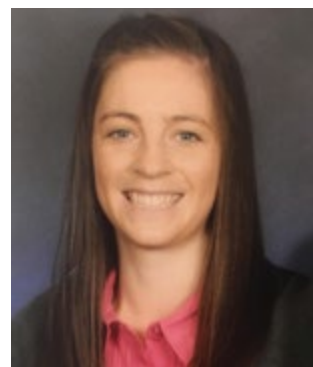
Mark Hetherington



Adam Lee



Suzanne Pence



Jodie Wolstonecroft



Andrew Young





In twelve years time, I'm going to be twenty-nine years old. Hopefully loving my twenties and anticipating the long stretch of about fifty six years ahead of me. But, in twelve years time (if we don't do everything in our power to limit the climate change catastrophe now), the effects of global warming will be irreversible. Let's think about that — in twelve years. We are all going to be able to vote, to be participating members of our society and some of us might even be politicians ourselves. But is all that coming twelve years too late? As young people, twelve years from now is our future. It's the time in which we are going to be living out the sunsets of our youth. The time in which our children will live. And in twelve years, Scott Morrison, the current prime minister of Australia, is going to be sixty two: potentially gearing up to retire; perhaps still in politics; but either way ScoMo won't have to worry about existing in a world ridden with extreme heat, drought, floods and poverty for the next half a century.

So, of course there is minimal climate action being made in Australia right now. Capitalism has bred this sense of chronic dissatisfaction, and left a society of sometimes self-interested hedonists. Even our politicians, even our representatives and even ourselves. Whether we like it or not, our government's priorities mainly revolve around economic stability, their own re-election, tax (from which they benefit greatly) and national security (which currently involves disobeying international agreements to keep asylum seekers locked away in detention centres). Keeping Australia white and letting the rich get richer...sounds pretty good to ScoMo apparently. But sadly, it makes perfect sense. We act with our own best interests and pleasures at heart, disregarding the direct consequences of our actions on others.

As young people, the future is looking pretty grim for us right now: from the housing and job crisis to climate change itself. So why don't we

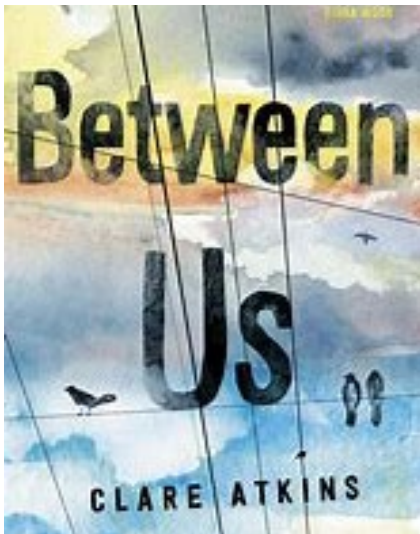
get a say in our own future? If this society that we're currently existing in is breeding those who act with their own self-interest first, then where are the interests of young people and teenagers being represented in politics? We're being left out of conversations that will define our future and it's becoming detrimental. We want climate action. We want the rights of marginalised people protected. We don't want asylum seekers self-immolating in detention centres on Manus and Nauru. But no one's listening and it's making us feel helpless, leading to complacency and laziness. And, fair enough! These are overwhelming issues that a single person can't carry the weight of, nor solve all by themselves. But teenagers are more informed than ever in 2018. We voluntarily discuss and debate politics amongst friends, have opinions on what's going on in our world and simply aren't just going to be seen and not heard anymore.

So here's a thing, a group of students from within NSW are organising a Student Walk Out for Climate Action calling for students across Australia to go on strike from 12.00 -2.00pm on Friday 30 November, to call for real climate action to protect our own future. We have exams scheduled on this day and Oxley students are planning a different call for action with a en masse letter writing session (date and time to be confirmed). The combined Oxley student call for real climate action will be delivered by mail to Parliament House. Numbers mean a lot to governments. This is our chance to have a voice in issues about our future and not be on the wrong side of history.

Here's their website: www.schoolstrike4climate.com

By Izzy Moore (Year 12, 2019)

TAKE INSPIRATION



BOOK

Between Us by Clare Atkins

Between Us is an eye-opening and raw novel written by Clare Atkins.

I believe the book is aimed at teens and adults, looking for a read both informative yet entertaining at the same time. I found Between Us a novel that flowed well, meaning it wasn't a hard read.

The book highlights the tough and heart wrenching lives of asylum seekers that come to Australia. Ana is an Iranian Asylum seeker who has been living at the detention centre and has only recently been able to go to the local school. At the school, Ana meets and becomes quite close with a boy named Jono. Jono's father works at the detention centre and informs Jono of the risk he is putting himself at by being friends with Ana. Jono's father raises questions which potentially evolve into mistrust and suspicion; 'Who is she really? What is her story? Is she a genuine refugee or a queue jumper?'

The uniqueness of this novel comes from a 'no shame' policy, meaning it concludes with such a real and raw ending; definitely not your classic fairy-tale ending. The book uncovers the truth of this very pressing and important issue here in Australia. Between Us spreads a message aiming to address and empower others to create solutions to this ever-growing global problem.

By Peggy Holmwood (Year 8)



MUSIC

Lil Halima- 'Love Songs for Bad Lovers'

If you want to nonchalantly tell your ex they crushed your soul, 'Love Songs for Bad Lovers' is the perfect ep to derive inspiration from. 19 year old Norwegian vocalist 'Lil Halima' delivers her seeming bitter feelings of love over a woozy pop-ish RnB production with a gentle delicacy not at all reflected lyrically. Silky smooth and breathy multi-layered vocals are accompanied by a minimalist production of dense bass rhythms and very few acoustic chordal instruments - you'd be lucky to catch some high-range staccato piano in the very back corners of a few choruses.

Recent single "Jasmine" explores the jealousy of being "always seconds after Jasmine" in a cool-toned, laid-back melody written over three repeated watery chords and skittering RnB drum machines. Consistently stripped-back, the entire ep is perfect for easy study listening yet is melodically and sonically interesting and varied enough to lay in bed or drive to without ever getting bored.

By Maya Chance (Year 12, 2019)



SOAP OPERA

Did they think of that in 15 minutes?

Soap operas began in the 1930s and at the time they were overdramatised radio sagas often focusing on domestic life. The term soap opera actually comes from the cleaning products being advertised in the breaks of the show while opera refers to "the most elevated of dramatic forms." On the 31st of January 1949, the first daytime television soap opera debuted on a major network entitled "These Are My Children".

Since then there have been a variety of successful soap operas Guiding Light, As the World Turns and All My Children to name a few. However, what is truly curious about soap operas is the lack of quality and the sheer amount of quantity.

If you were to play a magical DVD that had all 15,700 episodes of Guiding Light from start to finish it would take a whopping 591 days to watch it. That's over a year!

You're probably wondering "How do they do all that?" Well, Soap Opera's are produced in a very different way than normal television. Most scripted television shows film one season of 12-25 episodes per year; this ensures that the writers, actors and crew have enough time to perfect their craft. However, a typical soap opera films around five episodes a week giving little to no time to think of interesting or unique concepts; This also leads to the somewhat hilariously bad acting featured on the shows.

So yes; Perhaps 13,000th episode of your favourite soap opera really was thought of in 15 minutes.

By Pearl Bendle (Year 9)

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Head of Junior School: Justine Lind

Term 4 is an exciting time in any school due to many factors. The significant end of year ceremonies and celebrations, the tight time frame of a shorter term with multiple tasks to complete, the ever-present notion of endings and beginning as students and teachers contemplate farewells and moving on to the next step in their journey, as well as the obvious anticipation of languid holiday days just around the corner. At Oxley that excitement is magnified by the fantastic launch to the term that OLE! Week provides.

There is a wonderful energy in the College as students and teachers anticipate and participate in the personal, social, creative and physical challenges that OLE! provides. For some these challenges are a cause for reluctance or even anxiety but the pull of time with friends, supportive teachers and the opportunity for new experiences and personal growth makes it somehow palatable and even enjoyable – others simply hold out for OLE! all year! The 2018 experience was no exception and provided much cause for community connection and celebration.

Behind the scenes, we are also preparing for Orientation Day as we plan to extend our notion of Oxley as 'a place of welcome' to the newest members of our community. Each year I vary my welcome address slightly but the recurring themes are of our strength as a community. I talk of Oxley as a powerful learning organisation, which I have written about before. We are so proud of the way in which we live our vision and mission and share the merits of our educational initiatives with parents who want to engage with what we do and why we do it and who often contribute to that endeavour. I love receiving emails or information from parents who've encountered research, resources or roadmaps for future initiatives that align with our culture and programmes.

While we are about learning, obviously, we are also about people; about nurturing our community to grow and learn and flourish. This flourishing occurs through a secure sense of self and a robustness to go further despite potential or real challenges and set-backs. This focus on the child informs all we do. We are conscious that the reality is not always as simple as the aim, as the children we value so highly have many needs which are also diverse; serving one does not always serve all and we are conscious of this complexity as we strive for the greater good.

What is simpler though, is the joy that was seen on and off campus during OLE! Week. In this edition of Pin Oak, you will be able to enjoy many images and reflections of the children's experiences. We continue to review these offerings as part of a continuum of increasingly challenging but age appropriate experiences from Kindergarten to the Year 11 Outback Trip.

Weekly Awards:

Learning Journey

KL: Hugh Pratten
Yr 1S: Lachlan Stanners
Yr 1W: Ivy Bacon
Yr 2: Sophia Denington
Yr 3: Ivy Halstead
Yr 4: Tiffany Matar
Yr 5C: Sasha Pratten
Yr 5H: Thomas Clark
Yr 6A: Rusty Waters
Yr 6L: Will Brady

Oxley Values

KL: Zara Finlayson, Clem Simpson, Violet Mineeff
Yr 1S: Evelyn Hammond
Yr 1W: William Matar
Yr 2: Ollie Johnson
Yr 3: Imogen Diver
Yr 4: Tom Bladen
Yr 5C: Riley Fergusson
Yr 5H: Siena Todorovski
Yr 6A: Ilana Sheeziel
Yr 6L: Taylor Anstee



Learning Journey

KL: Hugh Pratten
Yr 1S: Ava Kroll
Yr 1W: Eli Winn
Yr 2: Brayden Anstee
Yr 3: Cartier Dobler
Yr 4: Toby Wood
Yr 5C: Ava Ritchie
Yr 5H: Christian Denington
Yr 6A: Duke Richardson
Yr 6L: Emily Rodger

Oxley Values

KL: Matilda McCarthy
Yr 1S: Hamish Aston
Yr 1W: Oscar Choo
Yr 2: Charlotte Gordon
Yr 3: Matilda Pope
Yr 4: Mimi Legge
Yr 5C: Oscar Sanchez
Yr 5H: Juliette Johnson
Yr 6A: Madison Brett
Yr 6L: Georgia Pride



I hope you enjoy the opportunity to appreciate where your own child's journey will take them as they move out of the Junior School well prepared for the next level of experience.

I particularly wanted to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of so many of our parents who made the experiences on campus across the week so illustrative of our aim to also be 'a place of wonder'. Without the generous and inspiring contributions of donated goods that were assembled to become "The Village", and the enthusiastic human power that helped realise the students' dreams and plans for the installation, our endeavours would be much poorer. Similarly, the many volunteers who joined in on the various excursions added so much to the excitement and success of each activity. OLE! has become a truly community event and we hope that whatever your level of literal or vicarious involvement you all have enjoyed it as much as we have (yes it is hard work and for many involves time away from their own families but the teachers enjoy it almost as much as the kids!)



OXLEY OTHER LEARNING EXPERIENCES

OLE! Week is a wonderful opportunity for Kindergarten to Year 11 Oxley students to immerse themselves in activities that will extend and enrich their lives beyond the classroom, with a strong focus on outdoor, service and cultural activities. It culminates in the Year 11 Outback trip to the centre of Australia which is now in its 31st year. Over the past few years, OLE! has also expanded to include Social Service trips to Nepal, Botswana and Fiji. The OLE! journey is unique to Oxley and we hope you enjoy these reports reflecting the huge variety of experiences offered to our students.





MOUNTAIN BIKING

Canberra put on perfect weather for the MTB Adventure! Ms Stanton, Mr Bollom and Mr Bevan took 17 Year 9 and 10 students riding on the iconic trails of Majura Pines, Bruce Ridge, Sparrow Hill and Mount Stromlo Mountain Bike Park with Ride Technics instructor, Rowan Beggs-French. Most students had never ridden mountain bikes on singletrack before. They found out what this sport is all about and improved their skills enormously during the week - cornering, trackstanding, jumping, pumping, berming and bunny hopping with delight!



SURF-GIRLS

Twenty five girls from Year 9 and 10 set out on Monday morning to travel to North Durras for Surf-Safari Camp. Our bus trip down was excitement-filled as a collaborative playlist was blasting full volume. Our busy week was full of mid-morning yoga classes led by Kylie, where we learnt the meaning of 'Ebb and Flow' and centring our focus. These peaceful sessions were followed by a couple hours of catching whitewash and green waves, whilst whale watching and actively avoiding blue bottles. Progressively our surfing abilities grew stronger as we learnt how to paddle, stand and even demonstrate some of our newly learnt yoga skills. After drying off we enjoyed leach-filled bushwalks, sandcastle building, games of 'Camouflage', 'Uno' and cramming into a cabin to watch the latest episode of "The Bachelorette". Each night we enjoyed the excitements of our very own "Masterchef" challenges, cooking competitions between the cabins, each night with a theme (i.e Americana, Arabian Nights) where we'd present a meal to our judges with entertainment to accompany it. At the end of the week we snipped off strips of Lomandra to weave bracelets, a reminder of the amazing week we had all just experienced. We'd like to thank our instructors from Land's Edge, Ms Dobner and Micklem who enjoyed the week with us and everyone who made it possible.

By Clancy Aboud and Mya Bertolini



YEAR 8



Country Road, take me home...

Outback is a long standing Oxley tradition for a good reason. The logistics of it - the long bus rides, random camp sites and last minute changes - are not the right way to capture the experience of Outback. It's not what we did in the two weeks but how we did it that resonates. It's not about watching the sunset over remarkable landforms in Coober Pedy's outskirts, it's the silence that we viewed it in, the overwhelming feeling that we could all take flight with the next gust of slowly-cooling breeze into a sky that's turned the exact colours of the Aboriginal flag.

As humans, we adapt to our circumstances and environment as a means of survival. This is exactly what you have to do on outback. You're forced to become a different person - one who is probably homesick, hungry, sleep-deprived and done with the complexities of others but still perseveres through it all. In every tiny country town our liquid-chalk-windowed fleet of dusty buses stopped, we turned heads. Whether it was because of Ms Lanser's and Mrs Cupitt's radiant smiles or the mullets, fluorescent tradie tops, or our tendency to raid every corner store of their Twistie supplies, we will never know.

You surrender to the power of now on outback. Here you are, in a less than ideal state of comfortability, but you have no choice. It's that sense of slight discomfort that makes the Australian outback and all its wonders even more spectacular. It's the fact that sometimes you have to sit on the bus and look at the arid desert that makes you think about how shocking the drought is, how important climate action is and how much unoccupied room we actually have in Australia. It's the long 6.00am walks that allow you to appreciate the beauty of nature and comfortable silence. It's learning about the rural lifestyle, indigenous history and surviving without technology that make us see how lucky and privileged we actually are.

Our beloved parent chaperones included Stuart Newton ('Stewy'), Adam Grice ('Davo'), Andrew Wade ('Wadey'), Sharyn Moule (Shazza), Ian Feary and Doug Taylor (rugby champion). These parental figures were a great reminder of home and provided an opportunity to talk about the future.

Outback is a pressure cooker. We are challenged in every possible form- whether it's boiling hot and we're on a four - hour hike in the middle of the day with only a muesli bar and Ms Schaefer's encouraging words to get us through; or the cooks are understocked to cater for 67 students and Dene needs to improvise to provide for everyone (always serving up something amazing); Mr Spies has woken you up at 3.30am instead of 4.30am; or you've simply had an (exceptionally) bizarre day and just want the familiarity of home. We got hungry. We got tired. All these challenges helped us to come out the other end, as ex-Oxley volunteers Susie and Sam ensured we would, emotionally stronger and unified as a resilient team who'll crush the next whirlwind of a year together. And remember - hat, water bottle, jumper.

By Maya Chance and Isabella Moore (Year 11)





TASTE OF SYDNEY

Our group caught the Monday morning train bound for Central Station and a Taste of Sydney. We were staying at the Sydney Central Youth Hostel which provided us with a very convenient base for our exploration of cultural, geographic and gastronomic aspects of Sydney. A highlight for many was our visit to Punchbowl where we were introduced to a wide variety of Lebanese foods, culminating in a delicious lunch at the Al Yasmin restaurant. After this we walked to the magnificent new mosque which is being built at Punchbowl. The mosque is a modern design and is constructed primarily of concrete with elements of timber and steel and, even though it is not quite finished, we were all in awe of its beauty and elegance. It was great fun to visit Spice Alley, where we were able to explore and then select our meal, Brasserie Bread where we had the opportunity to make cinnamon scrolls and pizzas which were then baked and given to us to eat for lunch. We were exposed to the somewhat confronting and mysterious world of modern art during our visit to the White Rabbit Gallery, and caught a ferry all the way to Parramatta before making our way to Harris Park where we chose an Indian restaurant at which we ate dinner. All in all a great trip!



YEARS 3 & 4

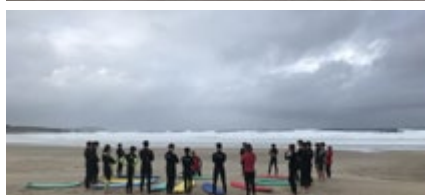
Rock Climbing, trampolining, surfing, rock pooling and kayaking! OLE! 2018 was all about getting a little more adventurous, a little braver and trying new physical pursuits for Oxley Years 3 & 4. A day split between the Hang Dog Indoor Rock Climbing Centre and Hang Time Trampoline Centre saw students dangling high off ropes, leaping, and tumbling in the air. Squeals of delight, roars of triumph, and howls of laughter rang around both centres and students returned back to school with many stories of fears conquered and new skills acquired. Buoyed with confidence, both classes headed down the south coast on day one of camp to surf the waves of Seven Mile Beach. Knocked down, they got up again and plenty of persistence and courage ensured that all felt a sense of achievement as they exited the water. Day two saw Year 4 head to the Minnamurra River for a fabulous kayaking session while Year 3 explored the rock pools of Kiama. Another sensational OLE week for Stage 2.



K - 2

Students in K-2 remained onsite for OLE! Week and engaged in one of their biggest projects ever! The theme of the week was Upcycling, using the skill set of Teamwork. Earlier in the week, with support from students in Years 3 and 4, the youngest members of the Oxley Community planned a design for a play space, which they have named 'The Village'. With the support of some very handy Mums and Dads later in the week, our very industrious students set about with hammers and nails transforming many old pallets, spools and junk materials into a range of spaces for creative play that will be available for them for the remainder of the year. In the words of one enthusiastic student, 'it was an epically fantastic week!'





SURF-BOYS

Big waves. Close shaves. Mad days. Surf OLE.

Constantly battling 10-12ft swells throughout the week, 21 Years 9 and 10 boys left for a nine hour bus trip to Crescent Head, for what was going to be a fun, tiring experience. On the first afternoon, with only a few of us having done any surfing before, we faced the largest swell of the week. We got smashed. As the week progressed, the waves decreased, to still large 8-10ft swells. More and more people managed to get "out the back"; managing to have the energy to paddle past the dashing white-wash, which pushed you back two metres after gaining one. The feeling of nearly drowning as you try to jump "over" a wave before it crashes over your head and dragging you along with your surfboard was one many frequently experienced. Mr Hicks perfectly summed the situation up when describing it as 'more like wrestling than surfing'. We watched an inspiring movie with Mr Hick's projector and a sheet. Our South African exchange student, Ben, saw his first kangaroo and described it as an oversized rabbit. A big thanks to Mr Cunich, Mr Hicks, Brendan, Danny and Jane.

By Josh Mazurkiewicz and Max Lambie

FILM CREW

An innovation in OLE! week this year was the film project. A small number of Year 9 students were offered the opportunity to build on some of the technical AVR skills that they had already developed during Rites of Passage earlier in the year. This time they were tasked with creating a documentary video of some of the other OLE! week activities. This brief presented logistical, as well as technical, challenges, because filming activities at the Year 3/4 camp, the Year 5/6 camp, the Year 7 camp and the Year 8 camp meant driving to a range of destinations each day. Once there, the students scoped out the location, took establishing shots, interviewed the campers and picked up ticks. The final day was spent removing ticks, compiling and editing the accumulated footage, and producing a coherent final product. Everyone involved agreed that this was an absorbing and engaging experience.



YEAR 5 & 6

Camp was awesome. Our Year 5 and 6 students had a wonderful time at YMCA Camp Yarramundi. Year 5 students developed their teamwork and leadership skills. Year 6's rites of passage experiences were a part of concluding their time in the Junior School while also preparing for their transition to the Senior School.

'We all got to know each other's unique characteristics and personalities, we made new friends and now more of us are looking forward to spending the rest of high school together.'

"I started camp with my class but I left with my friends."

"Fears and Challenges make life interesting. Without them, we might as well all be coloured grey."

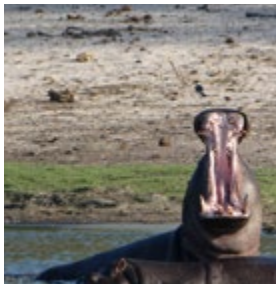
'Staying in cabins was challenging as we were with different people that we didn't always socialise with, but we all had a great time.'

"My favourite part about camp was the raft building because I learned to build a raft and after we did it, we were allowed to swim in the river. I also learned more about the Aboriginals from an elder and got over my fear of heights."





BOTSWANA



It was a long haul to Africa and after 30 hours of travel, including many hours exploring Johannesburg Airport (!), we finally arrived at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe - temperature, 37°C. We were greeted by our truck driver Loban and cook Monye and groups of persuasive street hawkers selling wooden and stone animals, or redundant Zimbabwe dollars! We were soon expert hagglers! The Falls were breathtaking even in the dry season and the dinner at the 'Boma', with drumming and dancing was great fun!

Other highlights were...

...a 'Game Drive' into Botswana's Chobe National Park where we gasped at the incredible sight of hundreds of elephant, buffalo and hippo spread across the flood plain. We also saw zebra, warthog, kudu, Nile crocodiles and countless species of wading birds, fish eagles and vultures. An evening river cruise saw us close and personal to the animals and admiring one of many glorious African sunsets.

...meeting Old Oxleyan Dr Tempe Adams Research Coordinator for 'Elephants without Borders'. Tempe explained how the organisation has developed wildlife corridors through towns and helps farmers and elephants to coexist. We were employed to make deterrents to keep elephants away from crops, including 'chilli bombs' made from elephant poo, olive oil and chilli seeds!

...in the Nata bird sanctuary, where we found ourselves among wildebeest and zebra and watched flocks of flamingos grazing for shrimp in the salt pans.

...at Gweta, where we ate a traditional meal of ground maize, mopani worms, beans and tripe, then sampled sorghum beer. We also met a colony of meerkats as they dug for scorpions. They happily sat in our laps or perched on our heads!

...in the World-heritage listed Okavango Delta on board Mokoros (canoes), where our 'polers' glided us gently through the reeds and water lilies, a wonderfully tranquil experience. Later we watched the hippos play against the backdrop of a magnificent sunset before enjoying a fire-lit show, the 17 strong poler team treating us to traditional songs and comical dances. In response we performed an interesting upbeat version of the school song!

...at Maun where we visited two schools, Metibe primary and Sedie junior Schools.

At Matibe we were greeted by 1200 smiling, singing students. The teaching was an incredible experience, with the children willing and enthusiastic to learn everything we had prepared. Our departure was a heart-warming experience which everyone will remember, hundreds of students madly chasing after our truck!

...trail riding on horseback among ostrich, giraffe, zebra and antelope with our enthusiastic instructors Dany and Liz, playing football and netball against the locals and enjoying volleyball and relaxing by the pool at Setatunga campsite.

Sadly the trip had to come to an end and it was our last day in Botswana. Before we boarded, we met Dr Tim Liversedge and his wife June to watch a film about this world-renowned naturalist and cinematographer who was instrumental in introducing tourism to the country. It was a fitting way to end our memorable stay in Botswana.

Luca Ritchie, Mia Gillis & Olivia Pride (Year 9)



YEAR 7

Year 7 had an amazing time on OLE week canoeing down the beautiful rivers of Kangaroo Valley. The camp involved five days of cooking from scratch using woks and saucepans, canoeing large distances to different camp sites each day, hiking up steep tracks, pitching our own tents, using drop toilets and undertaking the frightening abseiling off a 20 metre rock. For most people, abseiling was a terrifying activity, especially for those who were anxious of heights. It took great courage to achieve this activity, but it was an excellent opportunity to challenge ourselves out of our comfort zones and to feel a sense of self-achievement. The camp also enabled us to interact with other students and develop co-operation skills. Overall, camp was very enjoyable and a most memorable experience for all of us. It is definitely an adventure we will never forget.

By Meg Gordon (Year 7)





NEPAL

It is easy to say we will never forget our trip to Nepal. We will miss the constant 'Namaste', the views, their amazing food and the delightful 'hello, good morning!' before you begin the day. It has taught us so much, and most importantly this trip has changed us all for the better. We want to thank the fantastic Oxley College staff and Nepali crew that accompanied us and made this trip possible. It is easy to say that without their dedication this Nepal trip would not have been the success it was. Thank you to all the students that went on this trip, I cannot think of a better group.

By Jade Neath, Rosie Thompson and James Feetham



FIJI

Arriving at the Bowral Train Station was just the beginning of the amazing adventure that was in store for our compact group of eight students and two teachers. Our first stop was the beautiful Yasawa Islands! A three hour Ferry trip took us to the gorgeous Naqalia Lodge we would be staying at, where we were greeted by a bright and happy crowd of the native Fijian residents singing us a welcome song! We immediately felt very at home, and spent the next three days in the Fijian style bures – simple but beautiful and getting a taste of Fijian culture. We snorkeled in the crystal clear waters and even had a trip out to the reef swimming with the friendly reef sharks. We attended a village church service and heard their magnificent choir singing and chatted to the local fishermen who caught our dinner. After our short but sweet stay on the island, we set off for the second leg of our trip to a town called Tavua on the north coast of Viti Levu, far from the tourist destinations. We spent the majority of our trip in Tavua. Each day we headed off to a small village Korovo that was buzzing with excited local children looking forward to our annual visit. As we arrived at the Navauvau Kindergarten, we were greeted by 14 adorable preschool children and their teacher Miss Ana, and we spent the majority of the morning playing games and getting to know them. We spent much time on the covered deck which was built using the funds donated in 2017. This area is used every day as a cool spot for the children to eat and use for activities. Our trip coincided with Fiji Day, a National Holiday. On this day, we worked at the school, mainly in the garden – where we weeded, and transported stones from the creek to make garden edging. We also were useful in hanging shelves and coat racks and other maintenance jobs that needed to be done. We enjoyed a delicious feast prepared by the local village consisting of a Fijian Lovo (an underground oven), including fish, pork and vegetables. It was an amazing experience and the children of the village enjoyed dancing, singing and playing games with us for the remainder of the day.... It was a real festive atmosphere. Our time at the school was very rewarding with many activities organized and taught by us including Australian stories, geography lessons, science experiments, reading and teaching them to tell the time. The excitement in the village never waned for the four days we were there, the Fijian children were so eager to show us around. They showed us their houses, where their friends lived, and a group of them even showed the keen runners the track around the village! On our last day we said our sad goodbyes and promised to text and call our newfound friends. Our entire group thoroughly enjoyed the trip and it was a great experience that none of us will ever forget. We will look back on this trip as the experience of a lifetime. A huge thank you to Akisi Philipson who kept us fed with an amazing selection of food throughout our stay and her energy, vision and love for the Kindergarten is unbelievable. Also to our parents and the school for providing us with this wonderful opportunity.

DEPUTY HEAD REPORTS

Learning: Catherine Dobner

Mathematic Association of NSW Conference

The annual Mathematics Association of NSW (MANSW) Conference was held from Friday 14 September to Sunday 16 September. Hundreds of conference participants were treated to keynote talks from Eddie Woo, as well as Dan Meyer, one of the world's leading experts advocating change in the way Mathematics should be taught. The theme of the conference was New Horizons, with many workshops and talks directed to the revolution currently happening in Mathematics education, brought on by a new syllabus and a push for new pedagogy, which encourages collaboration, openness and creativity. Oxley teachers, Meaghan Stanton and Simon Baird presented to a packed room of NSW Maths teachers with people standing in the back of the room - about 70 people. In their presentation they demonstrated a sample of the Rich Tasks that we do every fortnight. The participants were enthusiastic and enjoyed tackling the tasks as learners themselves, with Meaghan and Simon providing valuable tips on how these sorts of lessons can provide challenge and valuable learning experiences for students with a range of abilities. The keynote presenter at the conference, Dan Meyer, congratulated Meaghan and Simon, as their lessons not only followed best practice according to the latest research, but were also very well received by all who attended. It is exciting to know that many teachers will now have begun to use these lessons in their own schools, and that Oxley College teachers are highly valued for their expertise with these new teaching practices.



Deputy Head Pastoral: Mark Case

The new student leadership team for 2019 was announced at a special Leadership Assembly on Friday 26 October. In their first assembly address in their new roles, Lachlan Moore (Head Boy) and Jemima Taylor (Head Girl) spoke compellingly about their personal experiences at Oxley, what makes them proud members of the College community and about some of their hopes for the year ahead.

On Friday afternoon, the student leadership team attended a workshop at Links House with motivational speaker and author Anthony Bonnici. Much of Anthony's work is with major corporations and company executives, however his workshop is equally applicable to senior students. He addressed the three main obstacles that leaders may face in being successful in their roles: limiting beliefs, self-sabotage and fear. As well as looking at bigger picture questions around the nature of leadership, the workshop also involved the team exploring real-life dilemmas that Year 12 student leaders might face, with an exploration of practical responses and solutions.

Anthony will be returning to Oxley in 2019 when he will be working with the whole Year 12 cohort.

Student Leaders for 2019

Head Boy: Lachlan Moore

Head Girl: Jemima Taylor

Deputy Head Boy: Chris Court

Deputy Head Girl: Jade Gillis

Prefects: Bethany Grice, Skye Holmwood, Sienna Knowles, Tully Mahr

House Captains:

Dobell - Brad Worthington, Riley Kennedy-Moore

Durack - Caelan Barker, Savannah Sandilands

Florey - Finn Ottaviano, Sophia Dummer

Mawson - Ronan Greene, Eva Mackevicius

Monash - Cooper Barker, Lucie Drysdale

Oodgeroo - Zack Wansey, Bronte Smith



YEAR 12 HSC DRAMA

Year 12 Drama Practical Report – 2018

Early in September 14 Year 12 students sat the practical component of their HSC Drama examination. All students performed exceptionally well and 10 of them were nominated for selection for the HSC showcase 'Onstage' which will be performed in February 2019 at the Seymour Theatre in Sydney. Two students; Lachlan Billington-Phillips and Jacob Sullivan were nominated for both their Group and Individual performances; an outstanding achievement.

The full list of nominations were;

Group Performance 'Hear our Voice' – Sita Goodsir- Cullen, Olivia Davies, Meribel Greenop and Georgia Combes

Group Performance '?' – Campbell De Montemas, Freya Kenay, Jacob Sullivan, Cameron Grice, Connor O'Meagher and Lachlan Billington Phillips.

Individual Performance – Lachlan Billington Phillips – 'The Kiss'

Individual Performance Jacob Sullivan – 'The Postman'

This is an outstanding result for our Oxley students considering just under 10% of candidates across the state receive a nomination. This follows on from our recent success earlier this year when one of our groups 'IKEA' was selected to perform at Onstage in February (an honour that represents a performance in the top 1% of the state).
By Phil Cunich



LIBRARY



Screen Time

In September this year, the latest IOS update from Apple for iPhones and iPads brought features many people, particularly parents, had been waiting a long time for. IOS 12 added a Screen Time option to the Settings App providing users with a broad range of usage data and the capacity to set downtime restrictions and app limits. Apple has finally provided users with the tools they need for understanding and controlling their own screen time, enabling more conscious and deliberate use of digital technology. At around the same time as the release of this new feature for phones and tablets, Early Childhood Australia published recommendations for the use of digital technology by young children. Both organisations recognise the double edge sword of technology and its capacity to enrich or overwhelm the lives of users.

It would be easy to dismiss the "Statement on young children and digital technologies" report as relevant only to early childhood settings but the report contains expert, research based, guidance on using technology effectively; guidance that applies to all ages, including adults. There is an emphasis, for instance, on the need for balance between digital and non-digital experiences, screen-free sleeping areas, regular screen breaks, and building skills for assessing the quality of online information. The report discusses how digital technologies can be important tools for communication, health, play and building relationships with the caveat that effective use relies on developing self-regulation.

Most households (97%) these days with children under 15 have internet access and most have multiple devices to access it with. Many underestimate their online use and have sought tools for managing screen time ranging from timers on modems to time management software like Rescue Time. The breakthrough advantage of the new Screen Time settings for iPhones and iPads is that the settings are built in, informative, easy-to-use and easy to manage. Screen Time has a dashboard showing daily and weekly use and options for setting downtime and app limits. It is easy to view information about apps used, hourly phone pickups and number of notifications. Families with young children can manage these settings on devices used at home by setting up Family Sharing.

Screen Time is an enabler, a tool for addressing some key ideas from the Early Childhood Australia report; families modelling and moderating digital technology use in front of children, families creating shared understandings about digital technology use, families managing settings on devices to ensure they do not disrupt sleep and adequate breaks are taken. Many of our students, however, are not aware of the new Screen Time settings or Google Digital Wellbeing which offers similar features on Android devices. People who investigate their Screen Time data are shocked when presented with the hard facts about daily use of digital technology. This could provide a great opportunity for shared discussions about managing technology and the internet effectively for all members of a family. By Elizabeth Antoniak

DROUGHT RELIEF



It was clear that something needed to be done to help the small community of Murrurundi who have level six water restrictions which means that they are restricted to 140 L of water per person per day, including three minute showers and only two full loads of washing a week. Mr Spies, who had previously worked at the Scone Grammar School, and Oxley parent, Jane Dummer, organised a drought relief trip to take 12 students from Years 9 and 10 to take donations, help farmers and talk to the community through these difficult times. The donations from the students, parents and teachers of the College were overwhelming and appreciated. We then drove to the Murrurundi Public School to put on a barbeque for the community where we got to speak to the community and play games like bulrush with the primary school kids.

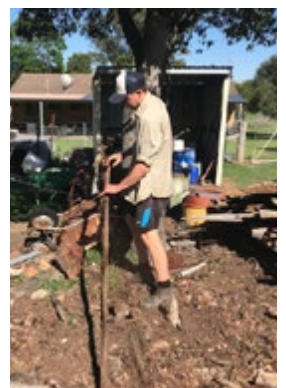
With a 6.00am wakeup call the next morning, we split into two groups and got dropped at two different farms. One of the farms was a 60-acre horse stud. Kodi, the owner of the stud, explained to us that because of the drought, she was losing \$500 a week and was having to feed her horses less because the feed was becoming too expensive. On her farm, we cleaned out stables and water troughs, picked up rocks, brushed her horses, fed foals and their mothers and cut branches off the bottom of trees which was saving her time and effort.

The second farm was a 3000-acre sheep farm where the owner Bob only had around 230 sheep because it was too expensive to own more. On this farm, he taught us how to shear a sheep which made us all appreciate how much time and effort goes into looking after them. We also had to separate a steer or heifer from a herd in the cattle yards so that they could get used to people and run wire through star pickets to help him build a fence. Even though it didn't feel like much, Bob explained to us that small things like this were saving him time and very much appreciated.

On the final day of the trip, we were taken to a shop run by an organisation called "Doing it for our farmers" which was a supermarket where all donations had gone and farmers could pick up what they needed for free with no questions. Between Mr Woffenden, Mrs Hanrahan, Jane, Sophia, Emily and myself, we spent around three hours sorting and counting all donations. We soon realised that this was much appreciated when a woman walked in and was so happy when she could get matching shampoo and conditioner. While we were doing this, everybody else got dropped off at another two different farms and did some more manual labour such as feeding cattle, cleaning out sheds and sorting out feed.

By the end of this trip, the entire group felt as though they had done something good for the community and can now appreciate how precious water actually is. We were all and forever will be extremely grateful to be granted the opportunity to go on this trip and would do it all again in a heartbeat.

By Charlotte Gray (Year 10)





GALLERY



NOVEMBER CALENDAR

	Mon 5 Year 9 and Year 10 Music Showcase	Mon 12	Mon 19 Senior School House Drama night
	Tue 6	Tue 13 Studio Concert, 4.00pm Year 12 Formal	Tue 20 P & F AGM and Thank you to the P & F Drinks, Library, 6.30pm
	Wed 7	Wed 14 Year 10 Film Festival, 6.30pm Bowral Empire Cinema	Wed 21 Second Kindergarten Orientation 2.00pm - 3.00pm
	Thu 8	Thu 15 Junior School Orientation Day for new families, 9.15am	Thu 22 School Immunisation Programme (Year 7)
Fri 2	Fri 9	Fri 16 Senior School Orientation Day for new families, 10.45am	Fri 23 Year 4 - 6 Swim Week Commences
Sat 3 ISA Round 2	Sat 10 ISA Round 3	Sat 17 ISA Round 4 Old Oxleyan 10 Year Reunion	Sat 24 ISA Round 5
Sun 4	Sun 11	Sun 18	Sun 25



Please join us for
"Thank You to the P & F" Drinks

This is the College's opportunity to thank everyone who has helped the Oxley Community over the past year.
 (Be it for one hour or many!)

You are warmly invited to join us on
Tuesday 20 November 2018
7.15pm
 (Following the P&F AGM at 6.30pm)

Venue: Outside the Library
 (Next to new class room block)

RSVP: Alex Stone at Oxley College Reception by Friday 16 November.
 Ph: 4861 1366 or email: office@oxley.nsw.edu.au

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.
The food store shelves need filling!

When?
 Monday 29 October
 Friday 2 November

Where?
 We have collection points in
 • Moss Vale
 • Bundano
 • Bowral
 • Mittagong
 Please see over, for details, and a list of grocery needs.




SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS ARTISANS COLLECTIVE

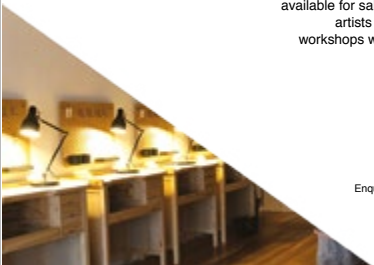

Bringing together talented artisans and artists from across the Southern Highlands.

Within our dedicated space in the heart of Robertson, you can see artisans and artists at work or browse our gallery space. Artworks are available for sale in the gallery and direct from the artists and artisans. We also host regular workshops where you can learn direct from our talented artisans and guest tutors.

Rental spaces are still available. Please enquire for more info.

Enquiries: Call Ric 0450 959 355 or visit our website www.theshac.com.au

74-76 Hoddle Street
 Robertson

NEWSFLASH

NEW LEADERS

"The only way to change an action, is to go back to the belief of thought that that action stems from." Last Friday, a group of Year 12 students attended a talk centred around neuroplasticity, motivation, how to think about changing your behaviour and things that might be holding you back. Author of "Brain blinkers" Anthony Bonnici presented his own research in an engaging and relatable way with a mix of personal examples in his own life. The sessions left us excited and motivated about the year to come, with new ideas about how to implement change on a small scale and a large scale. We are excited to share what we learnt with the rest of Oxley! By Jem Taylor (Year 12, 2019)

LACHLAN MINEEFF



Lachlan Mineeff has secured a top-five result in his rookie Australian Formula Ford Championship season, producing another consistent performance in the final round at Sydney Motorsport Park on the weekend.

The 15-year-old Year 10 student qualified seventh, and made steady progress in the three races with finishes of seventh, sixth and fifth to bank another valuable haul of points.

"We kept improving over the course of the weekend, and steadily moved forward," Mineeff said.

"Our race pace was decent and I had some good battles, especially with Zac Soutar in the final where we had a close drag race to the finish line."

The Oxley College racer ended up fifth in the final championship standings; he finished 18 of the 21 races inside the top 10, had a best race result of fourth (which he achieved on three occasions) and finished no lower than 11th in any race over the course of the season. Mineeff said that consistency was definitely one of his strengths throughout the year.

"Because it was my first season, it was important for me to get as much track time as possible, so one of our main objectives was to avoid getting caught up in incidents.

"We finished every single race, and there were very few races where we had any contact with other cars, so that was an important box to tick.

"We gradually improved during the season and our championship progression demonstrates the gains we made – at the start of the year, we were hovering around the lower end of the top 10, but by the end of the year we made it into the top five."

Mineeff paid credit to his team and supporters for the season result.

"Racing for the CHE Racing Team has been a great environment for me to learn and develop as a driver, so a big thank you must go to Cameron and Colin Hill, and Shaun Tidyman for their hard work throughout the year.

"We've also had a passionate group of sponsors who have contributed to our campaign this season, and their support has been greatly appreciated."

Lachlan and his team will be speaking at both the Junior and Senior School assemblies this week, in which his cars and transporters will be on display. An informal information session is also planned for 6.00pm in the PCC on Friday evening. Anyone interested in attending these are most welcome to attend.

SAM HARWOOD



What year are you in?

Year 4

What are the cricket teams that you play for?

I play for two teams, Bundanoon Cricket Club and The Highlands Rep team

How long have you been playing cricket for?

I started playing backyard cricket since I was three but I started properly playing at seven.

What type of bowling do you do?

I started pace, but once started in the Rep team I was taught how to leg spin and ever since then I have used Leg spin.

Do you prefer bowling or batting?

To be honest I like batting because you get to have a longer go. But I still enjoy bowling

Where do you like to field?

I like to field anywhere but if I had to choose it would be wicket keeping and first or second slip.

How often do you train for cricket?

I train most Fridays for Rep. And nearly every Tuesday for Bundy but I also like to play backyard cricket with my sister and my family for fun.

So, does cricket run in the family?

When my dad was little he played cricket and enjoyed it so much. My family also plays cricket together when we have spare time.

How long have you been playing in Highlands Rep for?

I've been playing Rep for the last couple of seasons, I didn't know many people, but I have made so many friends along the way and that is one of best parts. I also have the best coach – My dad.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

When I grow up I want to be a Cricketer. Hopefully I will be able to play for Australia one day.

What is it you love about cricket so much?

Everyone gets a fair go, no matter what you're doing you are always in the game. Playing cricket is enjoyable sport to play because you get to be with your friends and play a sport that you love.

This weekend's game Bundanoon won by three wickets and five overs to spare. Sam retired with 15 runs and got one wicket when bowling.