

# PINOAK

ISSUE 85: TERM 1, MARCH 22, 2019  
OXLEY COLLEGE

KINDY 2031

SHAPE 2018

MOUNTAIN  
BIKING

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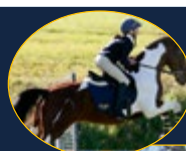
## Equestrian Report

From Friday 8 March – Tuesday 12 March, a strong team of equestrians travelled to the Sydney International Equestrian Centre to compete in the 2019 ENSW State Interschool Championships where riders from Oxley competed in Dressage, Show Jumping, Combined Training, Eventing and Show Horse.



Over the course of five days, the Oxley team showed great professionalism, strength and competitiveness, bringing home solid results including Anneliese Wansey winning the 1.20m Show Jump Class, Isabella Price coming 2nd in the overall Medium Dressage Championship, followed closely by Hunter Taylor in 4th place and Will David bringing home 3rd in the Advanced Championship. Additionally, many of our riders were found on the podium representing our school in each discipline. This was a great competition for Oxley and we wish all of our riders who have qualified and will be competing at the National Interschool Championship the best of luck.

By The Oxley Equestrian Team 2019



## OXLEY EQUESTRIAN DAY RAFFLE 7 APRIL 2019



Fantastic Prizes: Gift Vouchers, Horse Tack, Stock Feeds, Wine and much more!

All funds raised go to Oxley College sister schools in Botswana, Nepal and Fiji to help purchase much needed equipment.

Tickets can be purchased from team members, at the event or by emailing [sue@maculosa.com](mailto:sue@maculosa.com)

3 FOR \$5 – 7 FOR \$10 – 20 FOR \$20

# HEAD OF COLLEGE'S REPORT

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As I reflect on the past ten days I am reminded of the strength of the human spirit and how we have more in common than our differences. I know we were all shaken to the core and in my case ashamed that another Australian could act with such hatred in Christchurch. However, as I have been reminded many times over the past week, we have also seen the best of humanity standing together against division and standing together in love, respect and care for each other. This horrific incident reminds us of the importance of a liberal education and subjects like Cornerstone and Big History where we are teaching our young people to gain understanding and respect for different cultures, religions and opinions.

Much closer to home I would like to thank everyone who helped in some way last Wednesday when our young student was involved in the accident at our front gates. I am pleased he is home and making a good recovery and will be returning to the College next week. His parents wanted to also express thanks for the care and support that the community has shown them during this time.

As you can appreciate the College has reviewed and strengthened what we can do about the safety of our children. Executive members have been very active around the College to explore all of our options. I have also met with the Wingecarribee Council to discuss how we can work together to make the area safer for our students.

I have to say with many of us coming from big cities and moving to the highlands it is interesting how impatient we become when things take a few minutes extra. Peak hour at Oxley is actually only 11 minutes for the Junior School and for the Senior School!

Some of the short term actions we are taking include:

- Promoting the use of the buses for all students, rather than parent pick up and drop off.
- Better signage and road marking at College entries and exits.
- Year 12 students to reverse park into their area. Please be patient and give these young drivers room. (Many come early and stay late for classes).
- A zebra crossing manned by a staff member for students to cross the main driveway safely.
- Staff on duty at the bus bay, parent pick up zones

and cross walk will be wearing high visibility vests to ensure they can safely direct students, traffic and parents.

- Review of safety of turning circle at Junior School and install short term safety measures.
- Stronger parent communication around traffic requirements for parents.

Longer term actions include:

- Work with Wingecarribee Council and the community to plan longer term improvements to our traffic and parking.

- Traffic calming to be installed in College Roads.
- Improve safety of drop off and pick up zones.

I would like to reinforce some of our expectations of parents with regard to traffic protocols.

- Use pick up and drop off zones only to collect children. Railway road is not safe for parking and we have asked children not to cross this road.
- Don't drive! Children can travel on buses to and from school or if you live close by walk to school.
- Arrive late to pick up - to ensure your child is waiting for you and this also avoids the rush. Do not arrive early and park where you shouldn't be.
- Make your child wait. They are being supervised and where required will be taken to drop off and pick up zones.
- If you have a child in both Junior and Senior School ask your younger child to wait until the older child is ready to be collected. They are supervised.
- Be careful and drive slowly. It is a 10 km zone on College property.
- Obey the 40 km School zone.
- Be patient and respectful.



# CARDINAL GEORGE PELL



Following the guilty verdict in December 2018, the once highly regarded name, "Cardinal George Pell" now stands to represent the critical point in which the once strong faith in the operation of Australia's Catholic church began to be critically shaken to its core. The scandal and subsequent criminal charges alleged against Cardinal George Pell represents a series of crucial and horrific moments that have resulted in the fundamental questioning of faith, security, and trust within the Australian Catholic community; raising questions regarding the need for change within the institution that is the Australian Catholic Church.

On Wednesday 13 March, 2019, Cardinal George Pell, previously the treasurer of the Vatican, a long time companion of Pope Francis, and one of the highest-ranking individual officials in the Catholic Church, was found guilty of multiple allegations of child sexual abuse. Pell was sentenced to a maximum term of six years in gaol, with a non-parole period of three years and eight months, after a jury found him guilty of performing acts of sexual abuse on two 13-year-old choirboys in Melbourne's St Patrick's Cathedral in 1996.

Born in the town of Ballarat, Victoria in 1941, George Pell grew up in Australia and began studying to become a priest as a young adult. In 1966, Pell was ordained by Cardinal Grégoire-Pierre Agagianian and officially became a priest. In 1973, Pell lived in St Alipius, a Parish house in Ballarat, with the company of Gerald Ridsdale, who is now known as one of Australia's most notorious sexual predators, and abused children for 30 years onwards from the 1960s. From this point onwards, Pell's priesthood was on a steady incline; in 2001, appointed Archbishop of Sydney, the highest position available within the Australian Catholic Church and in 2003, Pope John Paul II appointed Pell as one of 31 new cardinals. While serving as the Archbishop of Melbourne, Pell created the "Melbourne Response", a scheme that was to be introduced to address complaints and allegations regarding sexual, physical and emotional

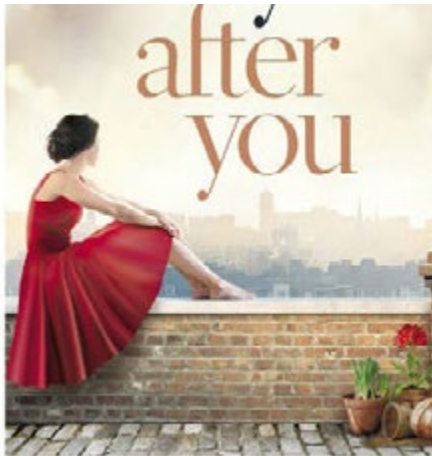
abuse, particularly by priests and other individuals within the Catholic church. Ironically enough, this scheme was created after the sexual abuse performed by Pell.

Although the concept of a priest performing such horrendous acts may stun and disgust many, the correlation between child sexual abuse and priests is not a recent discovery, particularly within the Roman Catholic Church. The systemic problem of child abuse scandals within the Catholic church began to publicly arise in the late 1980s. One of the earliest cases of abuse made public was in Louisiana, America; Gilbert Gauthe, former Roman Catholic priest, admitted to the sexual abuse of over 35 boys, and was sentenced to 20 years in prison. Since then, abundant numbers of child abuse cases have surfaced globally, including widespread cases of abuse across the Roman Catholic Church in Australia.

After a suppression order was released allowing Australian media to report on the events regarding Cardinal Pell, the issue of sexual abuse within religious institutions was thrown into the limelight. The immoral acts performed by Cardinal George Pell were the result of an unequivocal abuse of power and authority and represented how Pell manipulated his high regard and authority within society to commit horrendous acts against children. We can only hope that the events surrounding Cardinal George Pell act as a form of precedent for the prevention of child abuse and other crimes occurring in the future. Despite whether or not the sexual abuse of children develops due to the misuse of power and authority, the protection of children is one of indisputable importance, regardless of the social control held by the individual imposing the abuse.

By Mya Bertolini (Year 11)

# TAKE INSPIRATION



## BOOK

### After You

The captivating novel 'After you' by JoJo Moyes, is the sequel to the heartbreaking novel 'Me Before You'. After Will's death, Louisa buys herself an apartment with the money Will had given her to start a new beginning. Feeling misplaced in her new life, Louisa continues her life working at a bar in the London airport. She watches the people go to new destinations whilst she is stuck in the one place trapped with her own thoughts, longing for everything to change.

Then one night, it does. When a stranger unexpectedly appears on her doorstep, more trouble is put on Louisa's hands. The problem is, Louisa can't leave the stranger, she has to invite them in. She once made a promise with Will, to live and not to settle in her surroundings. So to keep that promise she invites the stranger in.

Louisa also feels unsteady falling in love again, until she finally realises she can be enough to fulfil someone's heart. She has so many complications to be solved, and when she is offered a new job position in New York, Louisa has to start making decisions, but when there are multiple to choose from, which ones do you choose?

This is a wonderful novel that truly mesmerizes the reader! Whilst there are tragedies, there are romances and complications to be solved, I certainly recommend this novel to anyone who enjoys romance, humour and tragedies. You can find this book in the adults section and you won't need a bookmark because it's almost impossible to put down! So if you have already read 'Me Before You' start reading 'After You' because I am practically convinced you'll enjoy it!

Meg Gordon (Year 8)



## BOOK VS FILM

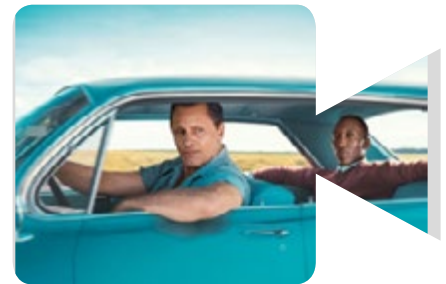
### Ready Player One

The new book Ready Player One, by Ernest Cline, is a book full of its fair share of videogames adventure and '80s pop culture references. It is set in 2044 and features a boy named Wade Watts, who plays the lead role in the story. The creator of the OASIS, a huge revolutionary game from this time, has recently died and set a quest for every player to compete in. "Find the three keys and win the fortune of a lifetime" says Halliday, the billionaire behind the OASIS.

The book vs the movie is a very close game. When I, stupidly, watched the movie first, I was engrossed and loving it, dreading the end, but the book was by far better, as usual. Within the first few chapters I could already tell the differences. The main character is described wildly different in the book than the movie and I believe that the character traits in the book are more fitting to how Wade is described. Then again, the movie is a movie and not everything can be portrayed with CGI (Computer Generated Imagery) on that budget. For example, Star Wars VII: The Last Jedi had a budget of a much larger magnitude.

When it comes down to rating the book and movie I would give a fat 9/10. I think that when reading the book, it gives a much better experience and has the original details as books usually do.

William Nash-Smith (Year 8)



## FILM

### Green Book

Green Book, an early 2019 film with numerous award nominations, including Academy Award for Best Actor, BAFTA Award for Best Film, and Golden Globe Award for Best Director, is a drama/comedy about the 1962 Deep South tour of Dr Don Shirley, a world-class African-American pianist famed for his classical expertise and incredible skill. In need of a driver and protection, Shirley recruits Tony "Lip" Vallelonga, a working-class Italian-American nightclub bouncer with an attitude from a rough neighbourhood in the Bronx. The two could not possibly be more different, and this starts to show from their frequent arguments and Shirley's condescending criticisms of Tony's behaviour, particularly is "diction habits". Yet, as they journey farther south into the heart of the Mississippi Delta, confronting abhorrent acts of racism and hatred during the height of black and white segregation with courage and compassion, they begin to not only develop a strong bond of friendship that will last for many decades to come, but they also begin to discover their own true identities in the process. Based on a true story, this heart-warming tale of love triumphing over hate will certainly bring tears by the conclusion of the movie. It is the best film I have seen in a long time, and I would strongly recommend to anyone aged 14 or over. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did!

Hugh Corbett (Year 9)

# JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

## Head of Junior School: Justine Lind

With a mind to avoid any suggestion of hubris, our moral purpose in education is a joyful investment in the future. Today's children will co-create the future society to which they belong. We aim to develop exceptional future citizens; change agents and thought leaders and feel sure that our future is in good hands. As Franklin D. Roosevelt said,

*We cannot always build a future for our youth but we can build our youth for the future.*

This year's student leaders have started the year well and we are seeing evidence of their collective voice and agency to enhance our community. Last Monday, we took the whole Year 6 cohort to the Halogen National Young Leaders Day in Darling Harbour. The very next day I received this unsolicited letter from one such remarkable young lady and with her permission, we include it in this edition of Pin Oak so that you can see the calibre of her values and reflections on an inspiring day for all.

Dear Mrs Lind,

Thank you so much for organising National Young Leaders Day for Year 6. We all took away so much from the experience. It reminded us how lucky we are. We saw pictures and videos of less fortunate people in other countries struggling. They have to walk three kilometres to get food and water and walk long distances to get to school. Yet these people don't give up. They keep going. They are extremely grateful for what they have and live with and they are smiling and laughing. We were touched to learn about a man from the Cotton On Foundation who visited a country which the Cotton On Foundation is helping. He met a little boy and visited the school he went to. The children were on the ground learning with holes in the roof and it was raining, bucketing down. They were sitting in mud barefoot. He was then taken down to the little boy's home which was a small hut, yet the boy was so proud when showing him around. The man then asked to meet his parents. The boy said that he had never meet his father and his mum had died from a disease. At 11 years old (our age) he was taking care of himself and his two younger siblings who were five and six years old.

Tamsin Janu never liked being the centre of attention, so she followed a path of writing books. She travelled around Africa in her gap year and met lots of families and learned what they do and how they live. Many of them have no electricity, no showers, baths or running water and very basic houses. She taught us to follow our own path but to also listen to the advice of others. One of her main pieces of advice went something along the lines of 'if you don't throw yourself in the deep end then you'll never try new things and you'll never know what else there is.'

We were fortunate to listen to Cate Campbell who is an Olympic swimmer and Holly Ferling who is an Australian cricketer. They left a few important lessons, including one from Holly Ferling which was "setbacks are life asking you how much you want it." Holly talked about Year 6 and how we are currently the big fish in a small pond and next year in Year 7 we are a small fish in a big pond. She told us to 'embrace the scary but exciting' and told us that there's always more exciting things ahead so don't give up.

Cate Campbell left a great message as well when she told us to 'turn obstacles into opportunity.' She encouraged us to find something we like and are good at and to not stop trying. She wanted to be better than her sister, so she trained hard and is now 1st in the world and her sister Bronte is 2nd in the world. She also reminded us that you do need to make sacrifices to achieve goals and you may have to give up your dream. However, the most important thing is not to resent what you need to give up in trying to achieve your goals.

National Young Leaders Day was a great opportunity for everyone and we all learned so much.

Yours sincerely,

Arkie Francis (Year 6)

### Students of the Week

#### Learning Journey

K: Harry Berry

Yr 1: Hugh Pratten

Yr 2C: Robbie Clothier

Yr 2S: Teddy Blom

Yr 3: Thomas Adamson

Yr 5C: Georgie Marks

Yr 5H: Oliver Bryant

Yr 6W: Lily Smith

#### Oxley Values

K: Clementine Stirling

Yr 1: Clem Simpson

Yr 2C: Andy Clothier

Yr 2S: Oscar Choo

Yr 3: Scarlett Miller

Yr 5C: Max Maclachlan

Yr 5H: Camille Vild

Yr6A: Madison Walters

Yr 6W: Zane Todorovski



### Students of the Week

#### Learning Journey

K: Rose Hurst

Yr 1: Tessa Hunter

Yr 2C: Pollyanna Landrigan

Yr 2S: Rhodes Feller

Yr 3: Molly Harwood

Yr 4: Ivy Halstead,

Bronte Morgan

Yr 5C: Willa Soster

Yr 5H: Fred Hamblin

Yr 6A: Dylan Brennan-Collins,

Charlotte Kent

Yr 6W: Hannah Thomson

#### Oxley Values

K: Alexander Clarke

Yr 1: Jacob Reeves

Yr 2C: Will Matar

Yr 2S: Lexi Mendes da Costa,

William Carioti



Yr 3: Brayden Anstee

Yr 4: Matthew Morschel, Cartier Dobler

Yr 5C: George Hutchings

Yr 5H: Sabine Garton

Yr 6A: Anouk Walker-Levy, Leio Reader Yr 6W: Eve Murray



# JUNIOR SCHOOL



# SYRINGE

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Hold it together, just... smile. The only thoughts that reached my head since I stepped into this office. Clenching my sweating palms as I try and concentrate at the pair of lips in front of me. I can't lose this job, I CAN'T lose it. The one sentence my panic attack was feeding off of. Suddenly I hear my name,

"Lisa are you interested",

The voice stopped my deep dark thoughts,

"pardon",

The only words my brain could pull together.

"I really think this project will be good for your job, Lisa. Are you interested?"

My body freezes as I quickly realise this meeting wasn't my next defeat at doing well at life,

"y... YES"

Without asking myself a single pessimistic question,

"great you'll start now, I think this is a really good step for you"

"thank you sir".

I curtsied in a sort of non-formal way and ran off. Running back to my desk to punch the letters into my phone to explain the news to John. As I'm daydreaming about my future success I run into a figure.

"Sorry... I ... I'm sorry"

The man looks up.

"Lisa... I found you."

"JOHN what are you doing here, I was just thinking about you?"

"I need to go I need to get out right now".

My smile suddenly turns into a worried look as I read the symptoms on John's face.

"John... have you been drinking... you can't be here."

"I need to go right now, I'm not coming back, come with me. Let's run away... again."

"John we already have I can't keep doing this. I finally just got a good feeling in months... months. John I got the project."

"That won't matter I'm going. Come with me or you'll never see me again". John's bloodshot eyes glare into the teary eyes that were once full of innocence.

"Ok let me grab my bag".

Two minutes into my 'new start' and I'm already regretting my decision, a common habit that appears in my head. I guess I was just too confused as to why John wanted to leave everything we built together behind to even think about my boss, and when he finds his employee has fled the job. The uncomfortable silence that was lurking between me and John was getting to me. When we pulled up to a red light just at the edge of the city, my eager mouth cried out...

"What are we doing, what did you do John, I finally got a positive job for our future and I leave it behind. We can fix it, I can fix it".

*"We can fix  
it. I can fix  
it..."*





There was a moment of silence, John's face was neutral yet he was grinding his teeth like he was holding something back from me. John turned and looked at the defeat in my eyes.

"I did something, nothing will fix it, Lisa don't worry just keep quiet".

As the dry, long time drifts by, silence had settled in the car and I was now used to it. As my mind plunges back to earth, a thought visits my mind, I don't know where we are going. I DON'T KNOW WHERE WE ARE... I turned to John as he takes another sip from his flask

"where are we going".

"Nevada... I know a guy, he'll put us up for a few weeks, we got lucky".

"LUCKY, John, we can't keep running away every time something doesn't go our way, one day I won't be able to find a job or a house or a..."

As I was revealing my emotions to John he slammed his fist on the dashboard. He pulled over into a grass ditch on the side of the secluded road.

.....I wasn't thinking, John isn't sober I shouldn't have ticked him off. John grabbed my neck and stared at me with his droopy eyes.

"everything I've done is because of you, don't forget it was you who got us here, your dirty little secret was the reason we ran away in the first place."

John was choking me slowly. As my arms were scrambling around to stop him. I grabbed a hold of an old beer bottle at my feet and smashed it across his head. I climbed into the backseats as John was clenching his hair. There was nothing in the back seat that could defend me. I yanked open the door handle but it was locked, John heard me and looked back, I saw the blood and sweat dripping down his face and clenched on the back seat, panicking. John pulled my wrist to bring me closer to him, I began to start screaming, John shouted at me:

"There's no one to save you now, you've got no one just from the start."

John grabbed a glass shard as he was ready to stab me, I screamed once more and then closed my eyes and started to pray, I opened my distressed eyes only to see behind John, peeking out of the glove box was a box, I recognised it as the box John took with him everywhere when he was drugged up. John had finished deciding where to stab first and pulled his hand back to start, I slapped him, weakly but just enough for him to pull back for a second, I grabbed the box and pulled out a syringe, as John looked up I stabbed him with the syringe on the neck and inserted the substance he drifted to sleep and as I finally caught my breath I checked his pulse, nothing....now this time I was running away from a lot more, alone.

*A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE creative writing piece by India O'Brien (Year 9).*

# DEPUTY HEAD REPORTS

## Deputy Head Pastoral: Mark Case

A week has now passed since the murder of 50 people in a mosque in Christchurch. How do we talk to our children about such a horrific event? How do we respond to their questions? How much information or detail should we give them? And how do we respond to perhaps the toughest question of all – why did this happen? Whilst our answers to these questions depends upon a child's age and their stage of development, remaining ignorant of the event is often not possible, even if it is desirable. There is plenty of 'expert' advice to parents available on the internet about how to talk to young people about such tragedies, but essentially the message from child psychologists is quite consistent: give them the information that they ask for, be careful about what they see and hear from news media, acknowledge any feelings of sadness or grief, and perhaps most importantly, assure them that they are safe.

In the Senior School, academic classrooms and Tutor Group meetings have been places of much discussion and reflection. Cornerstone, especially, has provided an ideal vehicle for this. Our discussions have ranged across a number of issues and have involved asking some uncomfortable questions: What role has political and media discourse around Islam played? What is the history of Islamophobia in Australia? Does the internet broaden or create echo chambers that narrow people's minds? What responsibility do social media platforms have in censoring extremist material?

A great deal of learning in school involves students simplifying that which is complex, whether equations in Mathematics or chemical processes in Science. In Cornerstone, we do the opposite – we intentionally 'complicate' our thinking, because human beings and their societies are complex. I often tell students to be wary of oversimplified responses when it comes to questions of meaning and purpose. Indeed, a common feature of all forms of fundamentalism is the offering of simple answers to difficult questions. As part of a liberal education, Cornerstone provides students with a valuable space in the curriculum to critically explore the human condition in depth. In my Year 10 Cornerstone class in the past two weeks, prior to the events of Friday, we explored a Muslim response to our question for the term "What is a Good Life?". Students learned about some of the core tenets of Islam, but also, for their academic prep, they watched part of a documentary entitled "Reel Bad Arabs – How Hollywood Vilifies a People" (it is freely available on YouTube) and considered the impact of mainstream film on attitudes towards Arabs and towards Muslims in 'western' countries.

Whilst it is so important to have a space for a subject such as Cornerstone in the curriculum, what we are seeking to achieve in our classes should, in fact, be the goal of all those of us involved in the education of young people. The following letter was written to a school principal from a Holocaust survivor and has been republished many times. It is as relevant in Australia in 2019 as it was in the years following 1945.

Dear Teacher, I am a survivor of a concentration camp. My eyes saw what no person should witness: gas chambers built by learned engineers. Children poisoned by educated physicians. Infants killed by trained nurses. Women and babies shot by high school and college graduates.

So, I am suspicious of education.

My request is this: Help your children become human. Your efforts must never produce learned monsters, skilled psychopaths or educated Eichmanns. Reading, writing, and arithmetic are important only if they serve to make our children more human.

## Deputy Head Learning Kate Cunich

**2019 World Visible Learning Conference,  
Edinburgh Scotland**

Last week I had the privilege of speaking at the 2019 World Visible Learning conference, as one of only three Australians invited to present at the international event. It was a significant invitation as it marked three years since the publication of the book, *Visible Learning in Action: International Case Studies* in 2016. Oxley College was featured in a chapter then, telling the story of our intention to continuously improve in order to maximise the learning of our students.

Thus it was a real celebration to share our story with a global audience of over 500, three years on, particularly in light of our 2018 HSC results and recognition by the Sydney Morning Herald as one of five "dramatically effective schools".

The conference began with a piper welcoming what was publicised as an opportunity to hear from "the 50 most sought-after educational speakers from across the globe." I was fortunate to stand in the speakers' room alongside Professor Michael Fullan, Professor Hattie, Professor Vivianne Robinson, Dr Shirley Clarke – the "giants" of educational research and evidence-based practice. Most worthwhile though was to hear how our story from down-under still continues to inspire, resonate with and guide many schools in their first steps and beyond to build success in learning. Oxley is known as a place where the best of educational theory is translated into practice that makes sense (and works) for teachers and students. We should continue to be proud of our wonderful place of learning – many are envious!

## Celebrating Science

We have recently become aware of some significant achievements by our Oxley students:

Last year 56 997 students sat VALID 8 Science Testing. Mackenzie Kane (Year 9) achieved the highest score in the state for the 2018 VALID 8 test. He was the only student to achieve this score.

Nicholas Anderson (Year 9) achieved the fifth highest score in the state along with 30 other students, placing him in the top 50 students in the state.

Skye Holmwood (Year 12) was selected to attend the 2019 National Youth Science Forum in January at the University of Queensland. As a result of her selection, performance and ability, Skye has now been selected to attend the International Youth Science Forum in Singapore in July, 2019. This is a significant achievement in a very competitive field.

## The Sustainable Development Goals –

### Project Everest

On Friday 15 March, Jack Bennett from 'Project Everest Ventures', visited Oxley College to speak to the Year 10 Geography students about his experiences while working in developing countries such as Kiribati, Uganda, Timor L'este and Cambodia.

Jack introduced his presentation by speaking about the costs and benefits of providing government and charitable aid, then explained how organisations such as Project Everest use an alternative approach by following a business model with positive social, economic and environmental outcomes, aimed at addressing the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. He used examples such as 'Zipline', which in partnership with the Rwandan government, uses drone technology developed by Boeing, Space X and Google, to transport vital medical supplies to remote communities in this central African country.

Jack also described his recent visit to Malawi, where he was involved in a project supplying solar battery powered lights to rural areas, financed by a micro-credit scheme. The objectives are to reduce energy costs while promoting education and health in a country crippled by poverty.

Finally, Jack warned of the dangers of 'volunteerism', and encouraged the students to 'do their research' before committing to an overseas assistance project, if this was to be part of their future plans, following overseas experiences in Botswana, Fiji and Nepal last year. Throughout the talk, the students were given opportunities to ask questions and comment on the examples featured in the presentation.

Many thanks to Jack for giving up his time to visit the school. Will David presented him with an Oxley 'Keep Cup' as a reminder of his visit. For those who are interested in knowing more about Project Everest Ventures, go to <https://www.projecteverest.ventures/> By Tim Dibdin



### Earth Hour & Solar Buddy

On Saturday 30 March, the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens with support from Wingecarribee Shire Council is hosting an event to mark Earth Hour, a worldwide environmental movement held annually whereby individuals, businesses and communities are encouraged to turn off non-essential electric lights for one hour. This year the event will highlight the importance of renewable energy, which is very appropriate given our own recent success with renewable energy. As a result of the installation of solar panels last year, our February 2019 electricity bill was \$5335 cheaper than our bill for February 2018! While this is great news for Oxley, the reality is that one in five people on the planet still lack access to electricity.

In Year 10 Geography, students have been assembling solar lights kits provided by Australian NGO Solar Buddy ([www.solarbuddy.org](http://www.solarbuddy.org)). Students will be able to use these lights at Earth Hour to help make a giant solar powered footprint. After the event, the lights will be sent to children in developing countries who are living in energy poverty.

Many Year 10 students have already indicated their interest in this event but other members of the Oxley community who may like to be involved can visit Council's website at [www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/earthhour](http://www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/earthhour) to register their interest. Earth Hour celebrations will begin at 5.15pm at the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens. In addition to a world record attempt for the largest display of solar lanterns, the evening will feature live music, a children's lantern making workshop, the University of Wollongong's futuristic sustainable home, displays from local renewable energy providers and a discussion led by guest speaker Greg Mullins, Councillor for the Climate Council and former NSW Fire & Rescue Commissioner. I look forward to seeing many of you there. By Ruth Shedden





# SPORT NEWS

## 2018/19 ISA Oxley 1st cricket season

The 2018/19 season saw the firsts cricket boys excel as a unit to deliver a convincing win in the ISA competition. Playing twelve games we were undefeated. Overall this was a team effort inspired by some incredible individual performances. These include: Connor Taylor Helme scoring 103, Ben Canute bombing a 100 and 97 and Jock Heinrich demonstrating consistent bowling getting him a 5/36. We couldn't have delivered such results without the effort that the whole team put in both at training and in every game throughout the season.

On long days such as the 13-hour round trip to the Central Coast, the team were all in great spirits and the banter never stopped. Even young blood such as Hal and Saxon provided good chat along the way. The spirit in the team was fuelled by the first game of the season seeing a solid score of 3/293 against Chevalier College. From this game onwards, the boys continued to alpha every bowling attack they came up against and consistently put large totals on the board. Our last game of the regular season saw the batters struggle on a dismal pitch. The Oxley bowling attack saw the low batting total of 72 as a challenge. Oxley won the match against Blue Mountains Grammar getting them all out for 39.

None of this would have been possible without the support of the people on the sidelines who donated significant hours to the team. Thanks to Bryce Wellman for all his effort and time in the back end of the season to produce some absolute roads for the boys to play on. A huge thanks must go to our coach Mr Staples who sacrificed 12 Saturdays and even more weekday afternoons away from his young family. He faced the hard job of trying to look after 12 'little rats' and successfully coached us all through a winning season, keeping a calm and determined attitude and always focusing on the enjoyment of the game.

Finally thank you to all the dedicated supporters who kept the boy's energy up; family, friends, teachers and Mr and Mrs Ethell. Motivational signs were much appreciated and the efforts made by families - supplying us with consistently the best spreads in the competition - and making us proud. I would personally like to thank all the boys for being so dedicated and for making it a genuinely fun season to remember.

By Nick Gardner (Year 12)

### A Grand-Final win for the Junior A Softball Team!

The thought of waking up at 5.45am, pulling on a pair of scratchy knickerbockers and heading off to play two matches of softball in the heat doesn't exactly appeal to everyone, but for the Oxley Junior A Softball team, that morning was just the beginning of a what would be the most gruelling Saturday yet.

Soon after arriving at Blacktown International Sportspark, we shook away the nerves, pulled on our mits and the semi-finals was underway! Playing against St Pauls Grammar proved to be a very rocky start to the morning, with our team only just securing the win with a score of 12:11 after a long, hard fight. Everyone was unbelievably relieved, especially the parents sitting behind the fence who were probably more anxious than we were!

We celebrated, fuelled up on sugar supplied by our lovely coach, Kate and began to run through tactics for the game ahead. Central Coast Grammar was our biggest rival throughout the season, and now we were head-to-head in the Grand Finals. As we were playing in the dark, not being allowed to see the score, everyone put in a

monumental effort and we played as hard as we could. The hard work paid off, and eventually the umpire called time and revealed the score of 11:4, our way!

A terrific outcome for a plucky bunch of softballers who never failed to put in any less than 110% and enjoyed every minute. The friendships and memories made between our team won't just last a season, but for many seasons to come. Thank you to Jasmine Irving, Jen and Mrs McNaught, and of course our coach, Kate McNaught for supporting and cheering us through our games, we couldn't have done it without you! This season has been one to remember.

By Maddie Sargeant (Year 10)

### Swimming

This year's swimming season has been a very exciting and successful one for both the primary and secondary schools. At the Senior SHSS Twilight Carnival, Oxley had an impressive turnout and likewise many successes, with a number of students coming either runners up or champion in their age group. Again at ISA, Oxley had a fantastic turnout and celebrated many wins across all age groups. At the end of the day, Oxley brought home two shields – the Division 2 Intermediate Girls shield, and the Division 2 Senior Boys shield – which were certainly well-deserved, given the incredible enthusiasm and effort put in by all students on the day. In May this year Xanthe MacDonald (Junior School), Cameron Wood, Tamalyn Boese and Jade Gillis (Senior School) will go on to compete at the NSW CIS swimming carnival at Sydney Olympic Park.

A big congratulations to all the students involved in swimming this year, and a huge thank you to Mr Wansey, Mrs McNaught and all the teachers who have given up their time to organise the various carnivals. By Jade Gillis (Year 12)

### Swimming butterfly is really hard (and other things I've taken from the Oxley swimming carnival)

I found myself lined up to swim the 200 metre IM at this year's swimming carnival. I'd never swum butterfly before and the last time I'd gotten in the pool was at the swimming carnival last year. I am by no means a "swimmer"; but the swimming carnival will still be one of my favourite memories at Oxley. I think it's the colour of the day. The water seems to make the red/yellow/orange/purple/blue/green stand out even more. The splashing and kicking during the swim-through, school bags filled with grass, wet towels drying off in the sun. Relaxed, yet simultaneously charged with the intensity of the races. Butterfly is a lot harder than it looks, and 200 metres is a very long way. I can't say I'd ever put myself through that again, but looking up in my last lap of freestyle (I couldn't BREATHE and had to resort to doggy paddle), and seeing people cheering me on (even the competitors from my race who had finished before me) I was reminded about how much I'll miss this supportive environment and what's so special about a school like ours.

By Jem Taylor (Year 12)



# WHAT'S HAPPENING? IN THE WORLD...

## ROBERTSON SHOW

This year, the annual Robertson show was a blast. There was so much to do and experience and luckily the weather held up just in time. Like every year, various competitions take place including horse riding, cattle showing, dog shows and many more activities that are great fun to watch with your family and friends. As well as that throughout the show there is a range of rides you can go on for all ages and maybe win some prizes too! There are also food or drinks, such as a nice, cold ice-cream or a salty bunch of hot chips. And it gets better! Later in the evening there is an incredible demolition derby and to finish the night off is an amazing show of fireworks! You can never expect the amount of fun you are going to have when you go to the Robertson show... hope to see you next year! By Daisy Macdonald (Year 7)



## FLUORIDE CONSPIRACY

Fluoride is essentially integrated into our daily lives, it's in our water supply, our toothpaste etc... It is believed to have effective properties to protect and preserve dental health but despite dentist's recommendation, there is speculation to whether fluoride is actually beneficial. For example, fluoridation was not a relatively new concept when it was used by Americans in 1945; in fact, this process was used long before in German concentration-camps as it was believed to stimulate docile and obedient behaviour due to its high toxicity. This is not the only fluoride conjecture that has caused suspicion, but over the years there has been significant research into the side-effects of fluoride and has depicted that countries and areas who fluoridate their water have higher exposure and risk to weakened bones, cancer and impaired brain development. So, with this supporting evidence for its negative impacts, what is the valid purpose of using fluoride? Is it a form of mind control to slowly weaken the human species?

By Emilie-Rose Westlake-O'Dwyer (Year 9)



## WHY MEAT IS SO BAD FOR US

The human race eats too much meat. We eat too much meat because we like it, because we think that it is good for us, because we believe that it is providing the protein we need. Meat isn't good for us. Meat gives us a much higher chance of getting cancer and also gives a higher risk of developing other problems, such as: Type 2 diabetes, heart problems and strokes. A Harvard study was conducted, and it found that one serving of red meat per day during adolescence was linked with a 22% higher risk of developing premenopausal breast cancer. Not only that but the industrial scale production of meat was where Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, commonly referred to as mad cow disease, came about, resulting in the creation of Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease, which is the human version of mad cow disease. People who eat meat also have a higher chance of being obese, and the U.S. department of agriculture also reports that 70% of food poisoning is caused by contaminated animal flesh. So that the cattle industry can keep up with our consumption of meat they inject artificial hormones into the cows so that they can grow cows faster, and many scientists are concerned that eating the cows with those hormones still present could cause health issues. A study of over 70 000 people, presented that vegetarians have a 12% less likely chance of dying during a six year follow-up period. By Evie Crowley (Year 7)






# GALLERY





# MARCH/APRIL CALENDAR

 <p><b>OXLEY SHOP SCHOOL HOLIDAY OPENING DATES</b> Week 1: Monday 15/4, Tuesday 16/4, Wednesday 17/4, Thursday 18/4 Week 2: Tuesday 23/4 and Wednesday 24/4 Regular hours 8.30am -4.00pm.</p>	<b>Mon 25</b> Yr 12 Half Yearly Exams Yr7 Food Tech, Farm Moonacres	<b>Mon 01</b> Yr5/6 Canberra EXC. Yr10 Morrisby Feedback Session	<b>Mon 08</b> HICES Debating Round 3 Wollondilly Yr 11 Student Parent Teacher Night
	<b>Tue 26</b> SHIPS Cross country Junior Inter-House Music Vocal	<b>Tue 02</b> Yr5/6 Canberra EXC.	<b>Tue 09</b>
	<b>Wed 27</b> P&F Meeting, Library, 5.30pm	<b>Wed 03</b> Yr5/6 Canberra EXC. HSC Music Night Term 1	<b>Wed 10</b> Student Leaders Ration Challenge Music Night
	<b>Thu 28</b> Open Rehearsal Acacia Quartet Street Judes Bowral	<b>Thu 04</b> HICES Netball Gala Day Yr5/6 Yr 9 Batyr Yr 9 Batyr	<b>Thu 11</b> JS Grandparents' Day END OF TERM 1
<b>Fri 22</b> Year 6 Parents Ladies Drinks & Dinner	<b>Fri 29</b> Yr7 Landscapes & Landforms, Mt Keira SS AIS Canberra Sports Tour	<b>Fri 05</b> INC. Yr7/10 AUS. Geo. Comp. Yr 11 Batyr Yr 12 Batyr	<b>Fri 12</b> Drama - Broadway tour Tour - Drama Melbourne Staff PL Day
<b>Sat 23</b> Yr 9 DoE Bronze Prac	<b>Sat 30</b> SS AIS Canberra Sports Tour Yr9 DoE Bronze Prac. Kyaking Surf Skills Day Yr 6,7,8 Yr10 Earth Harbour, SH Botanic	<b>Sat 06</b> Rugby Trial Games Oxley	<b>Sat 13</b>
<b>Sun 24</b> Yr 9 DoE Bronze Prac	<b>Sun 31</b> Y9 DoE Bronze Prac SS AIS Canberra Sports Tour	<b>Sun 07</b> Oxley Equestrian Day, Bong Bong Racecourse	<b>Sun 14</b>

## P & F NEWS

The 2019 P & F meeting dates are as follows:

Wednesday 27 March 2019

Wednesday 12 June 2019

Wednesday 23 October 2019

Meetings are from 5.30pm - 6.30pm.

AGM – Wednesday 27 November 2019

We welcome any parents who wish to come along and hear about our plans for 2019, or volunteer on any of our event committees.

This year we are looking for some parent co-ordinators for various events, as well as some positions on the P&F, that will become vacant in 2020.

We usually hold our meetings in the library, and just ask that if you are thinking of coming along, that you RSVP to [office@oxley.nsw.edu.au](mailto:office@oxley.nsw.edu.au), so we can set up the meeting based on numbers.

In the case that we change location, we can email you beforehand.

The aim of the P&F is to ensure all families feel connected and part of the Oxley College School Community. Full list of P & F Executive and Reps at <https://www.oxley.nsw.edu.au/about/parents-friends/>

Bec Biddle P&F President

## SPORT COACHES

The Oxley College Sports Programme is broad and exciting and encourages each student to develop a full range of personal, inter-personal and team skills. Due to the increased number of sporting teams across K - 12, we are seeking enthusiastic coaches for our school teams for the 2019 Winter Season.

Coaches are sought for the following sports:

Netball

Rugby

Football

Athletics

Cross Country

For further information, or to email your expression of interest, please contact the Oxley Sport Department via Nick Wansey (Sports Coordinator) at [nicholas.wansey@oxley.nsw.edu.au](mailto:nicholas.wansey@oxley.nsw.edu.au) or Kim McNaught (Sports Administrator) at [kim.mcnaught@oxley.nsw.edu.au](mailto:kim.mcnaught@oxley.nsw.edu.au)

# NEWSFLASH

## SHAPE 2018



On Thursday last week the Year 11 Design Technology classes travelled by train to the Powerhouse Museum to get inspiration and guidance for the next two years of design at Oxley. The first of two speakers was a structural engineer that proved that even a mathematical based career can open options for creativity. This being her opportunity to design an artwork for sculpture by the sea. She also showed us how important teamwork is and how the intricate design of each individual section is vital to a successful outcome. The second speaker demonstrated a number of techniques and rules in order to make a successful design for our modern day world. The trip to Powerhouse Museum was both inspiring and insightful on what real life designers have to consider in their day to day life. We also enjoyed a range of exhibits such as the 2018 HSC Major Design Projects, Akira Isogowa, Eco Logic and Fantasy Worlds. By Nic Milner (Year 11)

## MOUNTAIN BIKING

Last Sunday the Oxley Mountain Bike team competed at The Willo, an event held in Wingello State Forest in memory of James Williamson, a world champion mountain biker from the Southern Highlands who died tragically in 2010 at the age of 26. Riders chose from four distances: 66km, 44km, 22km or 13km. Dry conditions made for fast racing, but plenty of dust in the eyes and lungs! The Willo is a huge event with more than 500 riders, attracting many of the top mountain bikers in Australia, such as Dan and Bec McConnell, who have represented Australia at the last three Olympic and Commonwealth games, and won the 66km Willo. Standout performances for Oxley College in the 44km race were Euan Barrett-Lennard (3rd U19 male) and Ms Meaghan Stanton (the female winner). In the 22km race, Oxley was well represented, with strong riding from Lucy Cavanough-Quince (2nd U17 female and 2nd female overall), Lachlan Blair (6th U17 male), Phoenix Sparke (11th U15 male) and Rex Sparke (12th U17 male). Duncan Greig, Hugo Dyer and Max Dyer also completed the 22km event, while Fred Hamblin (Yr 5) came 13th in U13 boys in the 13km race (lucky 13!). Congratulations to all! By Meaghan Stanton



## HICES MUSIC FESTIVAL

Attention Musicians in Years 5 to 8. The HICES Music Festival has just opened for applications. This is a four day music camp held in August at Stanwell Tops. There are lots of different music ensembles to choose from so if you like playing in a concert band, a string group, or a choir you are welcome to try out.

Also, Jazz musicians in Years 9 to 12 are invited to apply for the HICES JAZZ Academy, held at the same time and place

See any of the Music staff for further details and to find out how to apply. Student Applications Close Wednesday 3 April 2019.

## MOCK TRIAL

Wednesday 20 March, marked the beginning of another exciting season of mock trial for a keen group of Oxley legal enthusiasts. After preparing our case for several weeks – the Defence side of a break, enter and steal charge – we felt prepared to ‘battle it out’ against our friendly across-town rivals, Chev. We boarded our bus at 9.00 am, bursting with nerves, caffeine and excitement, and soon were in the midst of a complex trial involving an alleged theft of 50 PS4 games, a smashed window and vengeful former friends. Oxley’s witnesses withstood cross-examination competently, and our team (which consisted of several people trying out new roles for the first time – including a certain skilful solicitor and brilliant barrister) were thrilled to come away with an acquittal for our client, and victory overall in regards to the scoring of the trial. We have learnt a lot about where we excelled, and where we can improve, and extend a huge thank-you to Ms Cox who has dedicated so many early mornings and lunchtimes to sharing her expertise, insight and encouragement with us! We look forward to the challenges of upcoming future rounds. By Ava Lambie (Year 10)

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

On the Friday 8 March, International Women’s day, our school held an assembly where an old Oxley student, Karen McGrath, spoke. Past Oxley Head Girl Karen McGrath has always kept her dreams in sight. Even when they don’t quite come true, she’ll come up with a plan B. She has shown a great deal of resilience – she always dreamt of being a Hockeyroo but that dream was cut short after six surgeries on her ankles and knees which meant she had to make the tough decision to ‘retire’. That gave her the chance to take a year off from university at the University of Wollongong to travel the world throughout South East Asia and India volunteering for community-based organisations. She then later went on to work for an NGO called ‘Act for Peace’ and is the cofounder of an empathy-based fundraising programme called the Ration Challenge which raises awareness and funds for asylum seekers. Karen’s message for us was about individuality and how it takes some time to figure out who you are as a person – and that’s okay! She talked about how it’s great to get as many experiences as you can because they create who you are as a person. That might take more time for some than others. Karen was such an inspiring speaker and we were lucky to have her. By Brydie Taylor (Year 8) and Peggy Holmwood (Year 9)

