

PINOAK

ISSUE 98: TERM 4, DECEMBER 6, 2019
OXLEY COLLEGE



YEAR 10
AUSTRALIAN
BUSINESS WEEK

FAREWELLS

PINOAK
MARKETS

HEAD OF COLLEGE'S REPORT

Contents

3	Head of College's Report
4	Big Issue
5	Take Inspiration
6	Junior School News
7	More Junior School
8	Feature Article
10	Deputy Head Reports
11	On the Branch
12	Old Oxleyan
13	What's happening...in the World
14	Gallery
15	Calendar
16	Newsflash

Pin Oak Team

Student Editorial Team

Lily Magill, Ava Lambie, Peggy Holmwood, Liam Verity,
Lily Hogan, Pearl Bendle, Meg Gordon, Evie Crowley,
India O'Brien, Tika Conway, Clancy Aboud, Hugh
Corbett,

Designers

Ally Brain, Soph Moore, Lara Fischer

Head of Marketing and PR

Emma Calver

Staff Editor

Beattie Lanser

Cover Photo: AJ Moran

Oxley College

Railway Road, Burradoo, NSW, 2576.

Ph: 4861 1366

office@oxley.nsw.edu.au



It is hard to believe that we are at the end of the Year. By the time you read this article we will have celebrated the many achievements by our students at Speech Night. I cannot believe how quickly the year has gone and how much I have enjoyed being a part of the Oxley community.

As I reflect on my first year I have been so impressed with the Oxley spirit which is the 'indefinable' way our students embrace every opportunity at the College; whether that be in the classroom, on the sporting field, in service to others or on stage as we saw on Monday night in the very funny and clever House Drama. We are incredibly fortunate to have passionate and professional staff and great kids who make the whole dynamic at Oxley College very special and one that should never be taken for granted.

This year we have seen;

- Exceptional academic growth and results by our students. This was most notable at the start of the year when the Sydney Morning Herald wrote about Oxley College as one of the top five schools in NSW for sustained Academic Improvement.

- Our senior students embraced the new initiative of Supper Club and made excellent use of the study centre at weekends to prepare well for their HSC Examinations. This has already been rewarded in part by the highest number of nominations for the HSC Showcases - ARTEXPRESS, On-STAGE, SHAPE and ENCORE.

- We have had students represent themselves and the College at the highest levels in Sporting Competitions as well as winning pennants in the ISA in Cricket, Hockey, Softball and Netball. ISA Touch Football has been introduced and has been exceptionally well received by our girls with teams increasing in 2019. Our Junior School U11 Football team won the Michael Sant Cup- an impressive feat. On the Equestrian front Will David and Annaliese Wansey were both leaders and performed exceptionally well as part of the NSW Inter-school's Equestrian team. The Snowsports team did us proud with many successes in the Interschool competitions this winter.

- The student involvement in Music is growing with increased student numbers and performance opportunities. Our Pipe Band has grown and reached new levels to perform at the Edinburgh Tattoo in Sydney. At the Pin Oak Twilight Markets, we saw the depth of musical talent at Oxley with a huge array of performances.

- Our Drama continues to shine with students performing The Crucible and Kids Summer Night's Dream and receiving awards earlier in the year at Canberra Area Theatre Awards.

- We have had staff who have achieved higher degrees, presented at National and International conferences on the teaching and learning work we are doing at Oxley.

- We have managed to complete all of our projects including Bray Fields, the Junior School Staff room and of course our long awaited playground which is both beautiful, aspirational and fun for our Junior School students. Actually I think it is loved by some of our older students too!

HEAD OF COLLEGE'S REPORT Continued



I reflect on the year with great pride in how much has been accomplished. It truly is a team effort and there is just too much to name it all. I have been impressed with the strength and richness of the academic programme, the growth and talent in our performing arts, the engagement and skill in sport and the care and compassion that is shown daily for each other by students and staff.

With the end of the year arriving we must say goodbye to some staff members who are leaving Oxley to take up new opportunities or begin a new stage of life's journey. Each person has made a special mark on the Oxley Community and I thank them all for their service to our students. We say goodbye to Ms Mandy Bransgrove, Ms Emma Storry, Vanessa Robinson and Dr Greg Oehm who are all stepping away to gain balance and look at new opportunities.

Mrs Justine Lind will move to the Wenona School as Head of Junior School after five years of transformative leadership making our Junior School the thriving hub of learning we find today. Her watchwords of Wisdom, Wonder and Welcome will live on and we wish her well as she takes up the challenge of her new role.

Mr Robert Hughes will retire after 13 years of outstanding service and will take time to enjoy travelling with his wife Robin. Mr Hughes has made an enormous contribution to the artistic life at Oxley as Head of Music and a Music teacher. He is a devoted and talented musician and has given wholeheartedly to our students and community.

Mr Nick Wansey is leaving Oxley College after 15 years of dedicated service to Sport and PE. He has been the Coordinator of Sport and has seen many Oxley teams run out onto the field. His service to the ISA was recognised earlier this month when he received the annual ISA Service Award for a staff member who has given generously to the Interschool Sporting Association over a sustained period. Mr Wansey has taken a position for 2020 at St Kevin's College in Melbourne and we wish him well for his new adventure.

Mr Simon Woffenden is retiring after 17 years of exceptional service as a Mathematics Teacher and former Head of Mawson House. Mr Woffenden has played a significant role in the lives of many students as a teacher and pastoral carer. He shows his deep care for young people in all he does and is a great colleague and support to many staff members. We are all very fortunate to have had 'Woff' in our lives and we wish him well as he begins his next stage of life's journey.

Pin Oak Twilight Market

Despite the winds and storm that tried to wreak havoc on this event it was a major success. The artisan stalls, music, good food and refreshments all came together to create a fantastic Oxley event. The atmosphere was just delightful and highlighted the strength of our wonderful community. We had a whole range of stalls from local artisans and the P&F as well as a stall to raise funds for the drought affected Murrurundi community. One of the stalls which was very impressive was the 'scrunchy' stall which was operated and run by the Malouf children to raise funds for 'Emily Express'. A most heart-warming show of how our community cares for others.

I would like to thank and acknowledge the P&F Committee and in particular Prue Wade and her family for her incredible coordination and organisation of this event. A wonderful Oxley event. While we are still finalising the figures raised, the P&F continue to be strong supporters of the College Wish List. We are very grateful for all they have provided this year. This includes our Scoreboard, the umbrellas near Off The Shelf, D&T equipment and contribution to our Junior School playground. In 2020 we see Ms Megan Moore as President, Ms Bec Biddle and Ms Eva Loiterton as Vice Presidents, Sandra Talman as Treasurer and Lynda Smith continues in the role as Secretary. I thank all members of the committee both past and future for their support of the College. I would like to pay special tribute to Trevor Fair for the outstanding service he has generously given as Treasurer to the P&F. Trevor has served as Treasurer twice for a total of six years, and we are very grateful for his expertise and generosity.

House Drama

On Monday night we were all entertained by the House Drama performances. I have to say what I loved most about the night was that we had Year 7-12 students all working together to amplify and support each other's talents in the drama performances. It was the Oxley and House spirit personified! Congratulations must go to Durack, Monash and Florey for taking out the top three places. As always, there were so many of our community who came to support and none of it would have been possible without the leadership of our Year 12 students and the immense generosity of the Heads of House who gave up many afternoons and weekends to support the students in their rehearsals.



FIRES ON THE FRONT LINE

I'm sure you're familiar of the devastating bushfires our country is currently facing. It has been recorded that the fires have burnt through over one million hectares of our land.

Around 600 houses have been destroyed in New South Wales, alongside the loss of six lives.

Though, on the other hand, you may not be as aware of the stories and lives behind the volunteers, those whom are working to keep us safe. The NSW Rural Fire Service is the largest volunteer fire service on our planet, with over 2,000 brigades across the state made up of over 72,000 volunteers. Through this article, I aim highlight and bring attention to the voice of RFS volunteers opposed to that of a 7.30 news reporter. This is to gain a more genuine and authentic understanding of Australia's current bushfire crisis alongside the importance of such an organisation. The following includes an interview I conducted with my Dad, Mark, whom has been an RFS volunteer in the Mittagong Brigade for six years now and takes on the rank of an Advanced Firefighter and Safety Officer.

Firstly, what persuaded you to sign up to the RFS, why did you want to become a volunteer?

I always wanted to help out the community and after the Hall Road fires that devastated the Wingecarribee and Wollondilly shires in 2013, I felt that I was young and fit enough to join.

Drawing from the fires you have attended, what experience has tested you the most as a firefighter?

The comradery of working with a team dedicated to a purpose, the appreciation of people in need when the chips are down. I guess we're up against natural disasters of epic nature where the finite resources undoubtedly make it very challenging in meeting the ultimate expectation of saving houses and lives in extreme situations.

What do you think Australia's government should do to better tackle the extreme nature of these fires?

As a firefighter on the ground, I am aware that the past six years since the Hall Road fire occurred that there would be another large event at some stage. I think that the government tries its best in unknown and unimaginable events but they are becoming more aware that these events are larger and more unpredictable than ever. I hope the government takes note of the past two months in investing in the latest and greatest equipment to help us battle these blazes.

Are there any general misconceptions that you believe should be set straight in regards to RFS volunteers?

That your everyday firefighter who attends rural house fires, bushfires, grassfires and car accidents are volunteers who don't get paid anything for their service. We raise our own funding for our day to day brigade operations through community events. Also, there is a very diverse age range of volunteers, from 12 years old as cadets to those in their 80s and 90s who have a lifetime of experience. Not all of the RFS volunteers are out fighting fires themselves, there are multiple roles within the organisation such as command, communication, logistics, catering, support and aviation, just to name a few whom all support the firefighters on the ground.

Mark hopes 2020 ... does not realise the potential fire threat that could considerably worsen over the coming summer period. I encourage everyone to be prepared and create your bushfire survival plan.

For more information of the NSW RFS and bushfire survival plan, visit: <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au>

By Peggy Holmwood (Year 9)

TAKE INSPIRATION



FILM

FROZEN 2

Can you believe that almost six years ago Disney released a movie that would soon have some of the catchiest songs out there? It was only when the release date was revealed that fans across the world would soon start to get excited again. It is said that the story behind Frozen 2 follows the adventure and journey Elsa and Anna face as they try to uncover their missing parents. This information about the plot suggests thoughts and questions about what we thought was established in the first movie. Perhaps they weren't lost at sea in a tragic accident and managed to survive. Let's rewind to the beginning of the first movie, when Elsa accidentally struts Anna with her ice powers. Immediately, their parents Agnarr and Iduna come rushing in. Agnarr explains that he 'knows where to go' by using a map as a guide to find a group of trolls that he thinks will help her. The trolls explain Elsa's magic and erase it completely from Anna's memory. The King and Queen later attempt to do their best to control Elsa's powers and isolate her from the rest of the world. Not long after Iduna and Agnarr leave for a business trip, however unfortunately dying in sea as the movie conveys. In the trailer for the upcoming movie, it does show that the sisters will be confronting some sort of challenge that possibly could be linked to their parents. Elsa and Anna could be on a quest to find them, or maybe just to work out what actually to them. The background and culture that the movies were set in may also be reflected in both parents. But we will only know what really happens to Agnarr and Iduna when we go watch it! By Daisy Macdonald (Year 7)



MUSIC

★★★★

BLUE LIPS

Blue Lips is a song by Regina Spektor that is climactic and creates an atmosphere for the opportunity to reflect on the topic of the song; religion, our planet and our origin as a civilisation, posing questions and statements on religion, such as what has been done for religion. In the chorus Spektor sings "Blue Lips, Blue Veins, Blue the colour of our planet from far, far away" which for me, implies that Spektor is asking is this all there is? Spektor is creative with the use of chord progressions and uses alternative lyrics that creates opportunities for her to ask in her song questions of religion and questions that religious people could ask. The climax of the song sees it becoming more emotional and aggressive towards the middle before returning to its passive state as a song. Overall this is a very emotive and creative song that I find very emersive.

By Evie Crowley (Year 7)

T-GUITARS

I recently finished a project I had started on many months ago with my Dad; the task of building an electric guitar. Once I had adjusted the intonation of the damned Floyd Rose and tuned the guitar to concert pitch, I sat down - with much anticipation - and plugged it in. And boy, what a sound! From that moment onward, I knew that it would be my axe, my 'workhorse'.

My first thought of making a guitar occurred to me around a year ago, when it struck me that I could make my own instrument to my own specifications with custom pickups, hardware, woodwork etc. I henceforth became determined to turn this idea into fruition, and my Dad agreed to assist me.

At the conclusion of the first term this year, we had brainstormed how the guitar would look, what features it would have and what materials we would need. Now, and here comes the crux of my point, we had the significant problem of not knowing where we should start. That's where T-Guitars came in.

T-Guitars is a boutique guitar manufacturer at the end of Kirkham Rd, Bowral, run by Andy Thomson, the 'CEO' of T-Guitars and general guru of the guitaring world. Let me just say that Andy is a fantastic bloke and he and his wife Ellie have done their utmost to make their business as successful as possible. For this reason, he was only more than happy to help us get the right gear, source a template, plane the wood block and everything else in between. I had a strong feeling that, as long as we trusted this guy, nothing could go wrong.

Unfortunately, with my Dad's passing and everything that followed, the guitar project had to be shelved for a while. But, early in Term 4, I went back to Andy and he kindly offered to help me finish what we started.

Simply out of the kindness of his heart, Andy enabled the project to be completed and I now have a wonderful keepsake as a memory of the final project my dad and I attempted together. I will always treasure it.

Although still learning himself as a newcomer to the industry, Andy has taught me many things about the guitar hand-making process, and I am eternally thankful to him for that. If you ever have any inspiration for making your own musical instrument, I am certain that T-Guitars would be delighted to lend a hand.

#turnitupto11

By Hugh Corbett (Year 9)

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Head of Junior School: Justine Lind

It is with very mixed emotions that I prepare to sign off from Junior School News contributions to Pin Oak. At our Annual Awards Assembly on Wednesday I was able to express my gratitude to the entire Oxley community which I include here for those who were unable to join us.

Today I would like to speak to the whole College community and of course my main message cannot be anything other than thanks – and there is a big list.

My first thank you is for yesterday – to the College Founders, those pioneers who first imagined a place that would be as special and unique as it is. Oxley is like no other school I know because it is about people first, and about the magic that happens when everyone seeks answers to life's most important questions of how to live and learn together in a way that inspires not just each other but the world. It exists like a magnet, drawing families and students and teachers to its force so that all the energies combine to keep the dream alive.

Next, I need to think about today and thank The Board of Governors and Mr Parker, Mrs Ethell and all the members of the Executive for enabling me to be a part of this magical and precious place. It is a great privilege to have been entrusted to lead the Junior School and to have been so supported by each individual member of these groups who are collectively and individually so committed to seeing the Junior School thrive within the strong sense of being a K-12 school.

Today is also about the wider community. Our parents and Parents & Friends association set the benchmark for the vital partnership that operates in effective schools. Thank you to the parents of all families for your trust in us as a College, for your interest and engagement in our initiatives and in your child's learning and living at Oxley. The notion of friend-raising before fundraising is a wonderful illustration of the character and strength of this community and your involvement shows your children that they are important and that their world at school is equally so.

Today is especially about the staff. No amount of vision or passion or expertise by one person can supplant the grand and small acts of everyone who works every day to serve the shared purpose of an organisation. At Oxley and in the Junior School the teachers, teaching assistants, and support staff both in the offices and around the grounds are the people who create the climate and the weather on any given day. The staff at Oxley are, without exception, the most compassionate, conscientious and creative people I have ever had the pleasure to work alongside. It is a team approach and it is so inspiring to me, to see the enchanting interactions that happen in classrooms, and offices and the playground so often. We have a shared purpose, not only to serve but, to inspire the students in a manner that echoes the notion – "nothing without joy". The staff at Oxley have joy in them and they share it so generously in all they do. I am deeply indebted to each and every one of them.

Finally, my thanks go to the heroes of tomorrow. Tomorrow is that place "somewhere over the rainbow" that holds space for our dreams and hopes that the ideal is possible, that magic and love and joy can be the order of the day. In schools we are all about tomorrows that we travel towards, through the children of today who have the potential, to be extraordinary and do the extraordinary, to make a better world. The students of Oxley are all heroes in my mind. Each of you make the extraordinary happen every day, in your small acts of love for each other. As you grow taller, you can see further, like those giants' shoulders we like to stand on. You can see pieces of our world that aren't as joyful as Oxley and you can start to take larger and braver steps to make more of our world brighter. Thank you all for embracing every opportunity to share and laugh and learn and grow together because your bravery inspires others to be braver and then you really can "fill the world with love" and all of our "dreams really do come true".

It has been my deep pleasure and privilege to spend just a little bit of time in this magical place "over the rainbow" from Sydney and I will always hold a special place in my heart for all of you who make Oxley the extraordinary place that it is. I will follow its future with keen interest and pride. Thank you all.

Weekly Awards:

Students of the Week

Learning Journey

K: Rose Hurst, Amelia Gordon

Yr 1: Zara Finlayson, William Palmer

Yr 2C: Will Kean Yr 2S: Lachlan Stanners

Yr 3: Cecilia Vild

Yr 4: Emma Barnett

Yr 5C: Noah Byrne Yr 5H: Hamish Tully

Yr 6A: Charlotte Kent Yr 6W: Luca Colloridi

Oxley Values

K: Xavier Halstead

Yr 1: Chase Holmes

Yr 2C: Will Matar Yr 2S: Lexi Mendes da Costa

Yr 3: Anna Clark

Yr 4: Bronte Morgan

Yr 5C: Charlotte Iori Yr 5H: Poppy O'Sullivan

Yr 6A: Elke a Campo Yr 6W: Thomas Clark



ICAS Distinctions

Coco Sewell

Will Coram

Eddie Hunt

Ollie Johnson

Orson Francis

Will Kennedy

Louisa Hogan Baldo

Matthew Morschel

Emily Byrne

Frederick Hamblin

Luca Colloridi

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS



WE ARE GOING TO MISS YOU!

Mr Simon Woffenden

When did you start at Oxley College?

I started in Term 2 in 2003 under the supervision of Howard Leslie who was Head of Mathematics.

What were your first responsibilities?

My first sports team at Oxley was a Netball team which was interesting because I had never played Netball. After one season I managed to wangle a transfer to Softball, which was much better, as I knew what I was doing. Coaching was a great opportunity to get to know the students outside the classroom and help them develop their skills while having fun. The highlight of my softball coaching career was when a few of the boys who were still upright after a Friday night party at St John's College at Sydney University decided to do a nude run across the diamond during a Junior game against St Andrews. I think this caused me more consternation than the players and we didn't play there ever again.

Initially I taught Maths and Science (because I was originally a geologist!) but after a few years I was such a success as a Maths teacher that I shed my Science responsibilities. (I was no good at dissections!)

Some favourite moments?

It has been such an enormous privilege and pleasure to work at Oxley and I feel I have been so fortunate to have been given the opportunity to be part of the College community. Working and making friends with other staff members who have been friendly, supportive, and interesting has been a wonderful experience. A couple of highlights have been the OLE week trips with Mrs Hanrahan (Taste of Sydney) where we explored the city of Sydney and its diverse cultures and tastes, and the Drought trip with Mr Spies in 2018. Of course the students are the centre of everything we do at the College and they make coming to work a delight. What a fabulous and diverse group of young people they are, the drummers in particular are magnificent, but even the goobers are great company and I shall miss them all.

I am sure I will miss the regular contacts with my colleagues and students but I look forward to staying in touch. Thank you for having me.

Mr Rob Hughes

When did you start at Oxley College?

I started at Oxley in 2006.

What were your first responsibilities?

I was the Head of Music, a Tutor for Monash House and I resurrected the choir, which had six girls in it!

How has your job changed over the years?

Our amazing ensembles have grown! OxVox has been re-born a few times. The job has changed to become more focused on paperwork and compliance.

Some favourite moments?

There are so many highlights during my time at Oxley. I have been on Outback a few times, been involved in many musicals, cabaret, a Music Tour to China in 2007. The introduction of digital music production in learning at Oxley was also a highlight for me.



Mrs Justine Lind

Head of Junior School at Oxley

What have you enjoyed most about Oxley?

Everybody always says it's about the community, and it is, but more than that it's about our shared mindset at Oxley about being curious about the world and open to exploring ideas from multiple perspectives that ultimately makes us all wiser and more compassionate so that feeds into what's great about our community.

Why do you think the mindset is the way it is?

I think it's because Oxley was established by parents who wanted a fantastic education for their children and so from the very beginning it was part of Oxley's spirit to question and pioneer by pushing the edges of ideas and thinking and so, even if we aren't radical in what we do we're open to those big ideas and that makes us more curious, so it's a self-perpetuating idea. The amazing staff work hard to inspire all students with a sense of wonder and awe and the students appreciate how lucky we all are to learn together in this way.

What do you think that you will miss most about Oxley?

Definitely the view of Oxley Hill, definitely the beautiful clear sky and green lawns and then I think I'll miss the sense of fun; I hope I won't be without it, but I'll miss the respect that kids and teachers have for each other that feels very equal.

Did anything surprise you, or catch you off guard when you first arrived at Oxley?

Absolutely! I had no idea someone would expect me to dress up in a chicken costume and go on the dunking machine.

Is there anything you would change from your time at Oxley?

I'd probably stay a little bit longer and keep enjoying the magic – but now I think the only thing I would like to be different is to be able to have a crystal ball, so I can see what Oxley will become, but not having that crystal ball will mean that I will follow it with interest forever.



Mr Nick Wansey

When did you first start working at Oxley, and what attracted you to the school?

I started working at Oxley College as a sports coach in 2000. I was successful applicant for a PDHPE position at Oxley College in 2003. It was a dream job for me.

What have your responsibilities over the years been?

Apart from being a PDHPE teacher, I have been a Tutor, Acting Head of Mawson House, Head Teacher PDHPE, Director of Sport and more recently Sports Co-ordinator. I have also been involved with various roles and committees within the Independent Sporting Association (ISA).



What memories will stay with you of your time at Oxley?

It's the friendly people you meet. I have made many friends in my time here – including parents, staff and students. I really enjoy running into past students and hearing what they have been doing and they always say how much Oxley has shaped their lives. It is a very special place.

What message would you leave to students/staff that you have learned whilst at Oxley?

Take time to stand back and observe what is going on around you every day. Enjoy the sound of your friends laughing, talking, playing. Appreciate what you have.....



DEPUTY HEAD REPORTS

Deputy Head Learning: Catherine Dobner

In the final weeks of this term Year 12 have completed their first assessment tasks for the HSC, Years 7 to 10 have received feedback on their Yearly Examinations and Year 10 had a great time doing Australian Business Week.

The ABW programme has been operating in schools around Australia for approximately thirty years and involves more than 15,000 students each year. This year, students worked in teams on the theme of 'hospitality' and successfully ran a hotel. The week culminated in a dinner at Gibraltar Hotel where students celebrated the week's endeavours and heard from guest speaker Greg Wall about his experiences in business. ABW enabled our students to learn many skills which will be invaluable to them as they embark on their senior studies.

As the year comes to a close there are so many preparations underway for the following year. New students attended Orientation Day where they had a fabulous experience of Oxley College and parents received lots of information about the College. Teachers are teaching their final classes for 2019, reflecting on the year that has passed and planning new programmes for 2020. Families have also received information about how to get the necessary textbooks for each subject that is to be studied in 2020. With the close of Learning Fields, our online textbook provider for the past couple of years, we are using a new provider called Box of Books. To ensure you receive textbooks in time for the start of school in 2020 please order by Friday 13 December 2019.

Deputy Head Pastoral: Mark Case

Timetable 2020

We have made some minor changes to the school day for 2020. We are alerting you to these changes now to assist with future planning. There are several reasons for these changes and, as a K-12 school, there are numerous factors to consider. With the exception of Assembly days, the length and amount of academic time, roll call and Tutor Group remain unchanged.

The first change is associated with the school bus timetables. The drop off times for some of the buses has meant that some of our students are frequently late for roll call in the mornings, or have little time to get to roll call and organised for the day. Similarly, the pick-up time for some buses at the end of the day do not give some students adequate time to move from class to the bus stop. The multiple stakeholders across the many schools in our area and the complexity of the schedules makes it difficult for one school to request changes to the timetables. We have therefore made the decision to move roll call from 8.40am to 8.45am. An additional benefit of this change is that the timetabling of before-school HSC classes is made easier. Ending the school day earlier by five minutes (from 3.30pm to 3.25pm) makes it easier for classes to finish in an orderly fashion, allowing for those students catching the first buses to pack away and get to the bus stop in a timely fashion.

A second key change has been the reduction of lunch from 45 minutes to 35 minutes. This brings the Senior School in to line with many other similar schools. 35 minutes still allows students to have plenty of time for students to eat lunch and

engage in other games and activities and gives us the flexibility to shift the start and end times in the school day with no impact on academic time.

Assembly Days

Senior School Assembly will continue to occur fortnightly on a Friday, but from 2020 we will have a different timetable on assembly days. By reducing roll call to five minutes, removing Tutor Group and shortening three periods by five minutes, we are able to schedule an additional academic class on assembly days, so that there are now 60 academic periods in the fortnightly cycle. We made the decision to retain roll call each day as we believe it is important that students meet with their Tutor daily and we are maintaining an appropriate amount of pastoral time each week.

There may be a period of adjustment for students and staff to operate to a different timetable on assembly days, but experience indicates that it is very possible to do this.

SENIOR SCHOOL TIMES		SENIOR SCHOOL ASSEMBLY DAYS	
Roll Call	8.45-8.55 (10)	Roll Call	8.45-8.50 (5)
Period 1	8.55 – 9.45 (50)	Period 1	8.50-9.35 (45)
Period 2	9.45-10.35 (50)	Period 2	9.35-10.20 (45)
Recess	10.35-11.00 (25)	Assembly	10.20-11.05 (45)
Period 3	11.05-11.55 (50)	Recess	11.05-11.30 (25)
Period 4	11.55-12.45 (50)	Period 3	11.35-12.25 (50)
Lunch	12.45-1.20 (35)	Period 4	12.25-1.15 (50)
Tutor Group*	1.25-1.45 (20)	Lunch	1.15-1.50 (35)
Period 5	1.45-2.35 (50)	Period 5	1.50-2.40 (50)
Period 6	2.35-3.25 (50)	Period 6	2.40-3.25 (45)

* Scheduled House Meetings and Year Meetings occur fortnightly at this time

House Drama

The 2019 House Competition reached its climax this week with the much anticipated House Drama evening. A packed Hoskins Hall was treated to one of the strongest fields for House Drama that have been seen in recent years. We had zombies, ghosts of Christmas, mosquitoes, trees, a dingo, bananas, Skippy the kangaroo, Bundanoon Baby Boomers, MAMALS (Middle Aged Men in Lycra) and Willy Wonka. Congratulations to all students involved in what was a highly entertaining evening. Particular congratulations to the Year 12 students who were involved in writing, adapting, directing, producing, acting and stage managing in what has been a very busy term for them. Whilst there were strong performances across the Houses, Durack were the winners on the night, with their production, "Train Trouble".



SENIOR SCHOOL



OLD OXLEYAN INTERVIEW

KARI HOEL EXCHANGE STUDENT



What was the process that brought you to Australia, Bowral and Oxley?

I was an exchange student through Rotary. My options were USA/Canada or Australia/New Zealand, and I was very excited when a Rotary club in Australia wanted to host me. (However, my dream of learning how to surf was put to rest when I took one look at the map and saw that Bowral was an inland town).

I came to Oxley because the family I stayed with for the first three months (the Kettles) had kids that went to Oxley. (In Rotary, the exchange students stay with several families during a year, and I had four host families the year I spent in Bowral). The Kettles also lived very close to the school, so it was very convenient.

What impressions did you have on arrival? How different was it to your Norwegian school?

The beauty of the Oxley campus made a large impression. It was very idyllic compared to my Norwegian high school, which has a tiny outdoor area and is situated in a city center. Also, the fact that I could sit on a lawn without getting wet or muddy, was a novelty for someone from a country where the lawn is often soaked from rain. The image of all the students having lunch outdoors is a memory I cherish.

The school uniform and the rules of hair length, (no) jewelry, (no) makeup etc. were new to me, as there are no such rules at Norwegian schools. There was no problem getting used to these rules, but I was a bit surprised when I learnt about the extent of the school rules.

Did you enjoy your Oxley experience? Why?

I really enjoyed my year at Oxley. Students, parents and staff identified strongly with Oxley and took great pride in the school. It gave me a sense of belonging to a community, not just the school as a learning institution.

Part of the curriculum was different from what I was used to. In mathematics, for instance, we had trigonometry, which I had never learnt before. I did not do very well in that subject, and (luckily) my grades from Oxley did not count towards my HSC in Norway. That being said, my Oxley teachers expected me to do my best, and I was treated like any other student.

I went on the Year 11 Outback trip shortly after I arrived, and it was amazing in terms of both the nature and the social experience. It was a fun way to get acquainted with my classmates and teachers; seeing all the beautiful sights of the outback, spending long hours on the bus and doing practical things like setting up camp, packing the trailer and cooking.

What are your favourite memories? Any individuals?

The incredible nature, with stunning beaches, forests and mountains, and the wonderful red center. When I left Australia, there were about 20 Norwegian exchange students

on the plane. After we had been airborne for a while, the pilot said "I have been informed that we have quite a few exchange students on this plane. To give you a memory of the Australian outback, we will make a small change in our flight plan so you can see Uluru on your way home." That was the perfect end to a memorable year.

I also enjoyed the climate (no rain is obviously not great for the nature, but what a relief for a Norwegian!), and whenever I smell eucalyptus, my mind goes back to Australia.

I keep in touch with some of my Australian friends, and I have been back twice.

In what ways do you think that your time at Oxley benefitted you when you returned home?

I have no idea who I would be if I had not spent the year at Oxley! I felt I learnt so much I have benefitted from: Getting to know many great people, another culture, a different school system and curriculum, a foreign language. We learn English in school in Norway, but my English skills were not great. After a year at Oxley, I spoke and wrote English well, which has been helpful in my studies, jobs and private life.

What did you do after returning home?

I finished high school, travelled around Europe for some months with a girlfriend from Oxley, and then I started university. I have an undergraduate degree in political science from Columbia University in New York and a Master's degree in political science from the university of Trondheim, my hometown in Norway.

I have worked in different areas of public administration – first in the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research, now the Oslo Metropolitan University, and soon I will change jobs to the Meteorological Institute, where my I will work with performance management.

Would you encourage students to become exchange students in other countries?

Absolutely! Through being an exchange student, I discovered that "starting from scratch" in a new environment is a challenging, but very rewarding experience. I had lived in the same house all my life, always surrounded by friends when I moved from kindergarten to primary school to high school. When I came to Australia, nobody knew me, and it was my responsibility to get to know people. When I later moved to the US to study, I was confident that the transition would go well, thanks to my exchange student experience. Australia, Bowral and Oxley, forever hold a special place in my heart.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW...

TOP MEMES OF 2010S

The 2010s are coming to an end, so why not reminisce on the somewhat cringy mess of things we found enjoyment from in the past decade.

2010

2010 Was the year of unironic minion memes, Simon Cowell left American idol and Year 9 would have started school.

2011

2011 was really a year of cats; Business cat, chemistry cat and perhaps most notably Nyan Cat.

In 2011 "Friday" by Rebecca Black was released and blasted across speakers – and unfortunately in 2019 continues to be played in the Mawson house area on you guessed it; Fridays.

2012

Perhaps most notable about 2012 was it's immense musical prowess over other years; (In no way meaning to demean Rebecca Black's aforementioned "Friday" which shall always remain supreme in my books) I mean you can't compete with the likes of "Call me maybe" and "Gangnam Style" (Rebecca being an OBVIOUS exception).

2013

2013 was a good year for internet culture; with the rise of social media came an increased ease to reach virality- so yay! More things to write about.... Probably too much to write about.

To summarize;
Screaming goats
Flappy bird
The Harlem shake
What the fox says

And of course my favourite "I am a wolf."

2014

2014 lived in the shadow of it's older brother 2013; unfortunately never being able to fill the former's shoes; Kazoo kid, Alex from target, Luigi death stare and the ALS ice bucket challenge being a few things to have risen from obscurity.

2015

Two words;
John Cena.

Sorry I mean

"JooooOOOOOOHHHHHhhhhh
CenaaAAAAaa"

Dabbing was a regrettable trend, and the internet contemplated whether a dress was blue and black or white and gold (It's blue and gold??).



2016

2016's choice in viral humour really shows how far we have progressed as a species; I'll let a list do the talking for me.

Damm Daniel

Pen, Pineapple, apple, pen.

Bottle flipping

Harambe

Mannequin challenge

2017

2017 was a pretty lacklustre year re: memes. We have some gems such as "cash me outside"- That girl is like a thing now, we all thought she was crazy but now she's telling us to "cash me outside" from her palace made of money. And much to the dismay of everyone over 15 Fidget spinners were.... A thing?

2018

In 2018 Fortnite won the hearts of millions of 12-year-olds internationally, Ninja died of ligma, a kid yodelled in Walmart, T-series threatened Pewdiepie's spot of most subscribed to channel on youtube, eating detergent was a trend and the internet contemplated whether they heard "Yanny" or "Laurel" (I swear it says "Yamry" ??).

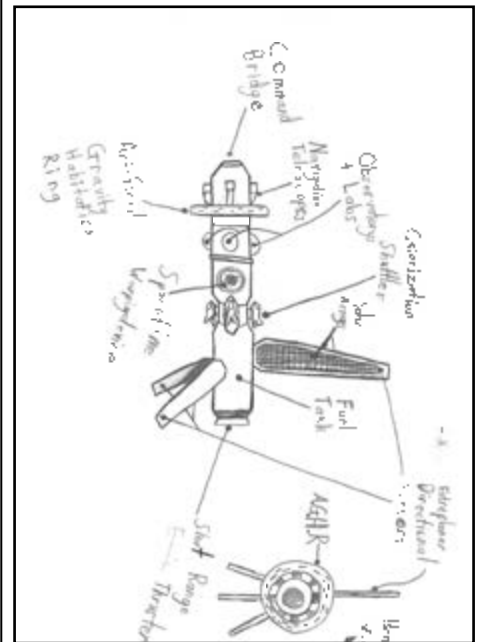
THEY DID SURGERY ON A GRAPE!

2019

2019 started strong with the World record egg, hoards of people began to remark "and I oop" (I just wrote "And I oop" on a piece of work that I will shortly be emailed to the staff at my school- self-loathing is real.). Thousands of people threatened to swarm Area 51 and "Okay boomer" and "Old town road" were.... A thing?

By Pearl Bendle (Year 10)

YEAR 7 TECHNOLOGY



Year 7 students in Technology were asked to create their own possible future methods of transport. This is Lawrence Nethersole's idea which he explains below.

Interstellar Jump Drive



It uses a similar theoretical drive as Star Trek's warp drive except it warps space/time in a different way. Instead of expanding space/time behind it and shrinking it in from of it, it folds space/time so that the two destinations come closer to each other for a short period of time. It would also use five separated directional sensors to navigate through explanar space which is a result of folding space/time. One possible issue is if you set it to infinity range with no sensors, it would collapse into a black hole.

GALLERY



DECEMBER

JANUARY

 <p>HOLIDAY HOURS OXLEY SHOP Appointments only: Tuesday 10 December 8.30am – 4.00pm Wednesday 11 December 8.30am – 4.00pm Please call Nicky Moran at the Oxley Shop on 4862 7724 or alternatively email nicky.moran@oxley.nsw.edu.au to book your appointment.</p>	Mon 09	Mon 16	Mon 27 AUSTRALIA DAY
	Tue 10	Tue 17 HSC Results	Tue 28
 <p>The Oxley Shop will also be open for drop ins from 8.30am – 4.00pm on: Thursday 12 December and Friday 13 December. During the New Year the Oxley Shop will be open from: Monday 13 January until Friday 17 January 2020 from 8.30am – 4.00pm. Monday 20 January until Friday 24 January 2020 from 8.30am – 4.00pm. Regular shop hours will resume from Tuesday 28 January: 8.30am – 4.00pm.</p>	Wed 11	Wed 18	Wed 29 Term 1 commences
	Thu 12	Thu 19	Thu 30 Year 7 Orientation Camp
Fri 06	Fri 13	Fri 20	Fri 31
Sat 07 Y10/11 SILVER & GOLD HIKE	Sat 14	Sat 21	Sat 01 ISA Sport Round 7
Sun 08 Y10/11 SILVER & GOLD HIKE	Sun 15	Sun 22	Sun 02

P & F NEWS

Pin Oak Twilight Markets

We had a very successful Christmas market, despite the crazy, wild, windy weather. Thank you to all the volunteers, stallholders, Oxley musicians and students who helped make it such a successful event. Including extra fundraising, we have managed to raise over \$1000 for the Oxley Drought Relief programme. Other funds raised from the Markets will be announced in the next Pin Oak. Special thanks to Prue Wade, Skye Sandilands, Megan Moore and Andrew Young for their amazing event coordination. By Bec Biddle, P & F President

P & F AGM

A very special thanks to Bec Biddle who is stepping down as P & F President after her three year tenure. We are delighted that Bec is remaining on the Executive as Vice President, Senior School and she will work closely with our new P & F President, Megan Moore. We sincerely thank Bec for her brilliant leadership over the past years. She is inclusive, warm and always calm and under her stewardship the P & F has flourished. We also thank Megan very much for her work as Vice President, Senior School. It has been a wonderful team. We sadly farwelled Trevor Fair who has gallantly taken on the role as Treasurer twice over the last decades. We are extremely grateful for his commitment and steady hand in this role. He and his wife, Kate, have constantly given their time to the P & F over the many years they have been associated with the College. We also farewelled Vanessa Garton, Vice President, Junior School. Vanessa was an outstanding member of the Executive team. Quietly organising Grandparents' Day, Mother's Day High Teas, Year 6 celebration dinners to name a few. She will be greatly missed. We are delighted that Lynda Smith remains as the P & F Secretary - thank you Linda for your efficiency and hard work. In 2020, we welcome Eva Loiterton as Vice President, Junior School and Sandra Talman as Treasurer. Thank you to all the amazing Oxley parents who give so much to the College and this community.

NEWSFLASH

Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Ceremonies

Wednesday 20 November proved to be a special day of recognition for Oxley College. In the morning Jemima Taylor, outgoing school captain, became the fourth Oxley student to be awarded her Gold Duke of Edinburgh's International Award this year. Her ceremony took place in the beautiful Victorian church of St Stephen's in Macquarie Street, Sydney. Along with 74 students from across the State, Jemima received her Award from Her Excellency, Margaret Beazley AO QC, Governor of New South Wales. Margaret Beazley congratulated the awardees for their commitment to completing the programme, and for their wonderful service to the community. She also commented on the fact that although they cannot spell very well(!), the all-round ability, energy and talent of this generation of young people is amazing. Brought up in a technological society they have the opportunity to use 'machines' for the greater good of humanity, for "technology is power but not destiny". The presentation was followed by a vice-regal reception at

Government House for awardees and their families. It was a lovely occasion.

During the afternoon, a final celebration of the Diamond Anniversary of the Award programme in Australia, was also held at Government House. Eighteen Award Centre Leaders and other Senior Officers were presented to Her Excellency Margaret Beazley, in recognition of their contributions to the Award over 60 years. Among those recognised was Oxley College, with 30 years of involvement in the programme and consistently high numbers of participants.

By Tim Dibdin & Jenni Rees



YEAR 10 ABW

You may have seen students wandering around the school looking highly professional and in business clothes and wondering why. This past week Year 10 have been invested in the Australian Business Week (ABW). Our project for the week was to take over a hotel and run it to the best of our ability. Year 10 students were given roles such as Finance, Operations, Marketing and General Manager. When designing a hotel, the eight groups had to think about where they wanted to locate their hotels, what to name the hotels and the logos of the hotel. The Hotels created were: Iglooluminous, The Atlantis, The Pleasure Palace, The Iris Hotel, Akuna Hotels, The Crest, Bell Vista and Lán sè.

When designing the hotels, groups had to think about the facilities and services that would accommodate to their hotel and customers. To promote their business, the groups advertised their hotels by creating posters and placing them over the school and

making a social media page to spread awareness. Groups also made videos to present at the school assembly where the other Oxley students were able to vote for their favourite hotel.

The Year 10 dinner at Gibraltar Hotel was an amazing experience, everyone was all dressed up and photo-ready. We listened to a guest speaker called Greg Wall who gave us a very inspirational speech about high school and careers and how to be the best version of yourself.

Afterwards Ms Shedden announced awards to several groups. Congratulations to Akuna Hotels for winning overall.

A big thank you to Ms Shedden who helped run the programme and to all the teachers who gave talks to help with our production as well as all the teachers who helped supervise. This week was a success and one that we can take into the future.

By Lily Magill (Year 10)

SAY NO TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



On Friday 29 November at around 7.30pm at Bradman Oval, the Year 12 Dobell students accompanied by Clancy Aboud and Connor Taylor-Helme represented Oxley in the march against domestic violence also known as white ribbon day. Dobell Students were encouraged to wear a white shirt and march to show their stance against domestic violence in the Southern Highlands. Dobell House Captains Alex Webb and Emily Bow led the march carrying a Banner that stated, "Say No To Domestic Violence". The march showed our support towards those who are affected by family and domestic violence. It was a morning of fun raising awareness and speaking out as a community trying to portray how much of an issue Domestic Violence really is to the community. The definition of Domestic Violence is physical assault, sexual assault, verbal abuse, emotional abuse, social abuse and spiritual abuse. This means any violent or aggressive behaviour typically involving the violent abuse of a spouse/partner or family members. By Alex Webb (Year 12)

WILL DAVID



At Wallaby Hill International 3 Day Event last week, Will David, won the Gubbins Pulbrook Group CCN1 star Junior division. Of the 18 riders that qualified to start only eight finished. Well done Will!