

PIN OAK



*EVIE AND THE
BIRDMAN*

—
HAVI FRANCIS
Goes to Italy

—
BIG ISSUE
Gone Bananas

—
EXPLORE
Blue Mountains with
Year 3/4

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Pin Oak Team

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Charlotte Florida, Daisy MacDonald, Peter
Kearney

Designers

Soph Moore, Lara Fischer, Aiofe Barrett-
Lennard

Head of Marketing and PR
Emma Calver

Staff Editor
Beattie Lanser

Oxley College
Railway Road, Burradoo, NSW, 2576.
Ph: 4861 1366
office@oxley.nsw.edu.au

Photography: AJ Moran, Michael Pugh



HAVI GOES TO ITALY

Ella Jackson (Year 11) interviews
Havi Francis (Year 11) about her
time on exchange in Italy in 2019.



PO: You've lived in Italy before, what was it like returning there?

Havi: Going back to Italy was amazing, it was fantastic to make new memories and revisit old ones. Returning to the city that I had lived in was weird, but I was living with an Italian family who I am close with, so I felt more like a local than a tourist. It felt like I lived there again!"

PO: Why travel; what did you learn about yourself on this trip?

Havi: "Travelling to Lucca was a great experience! It taught me a lot about myself and gave me a greater appreciation of how hard it can be to be self-sufficient. I think I'm better equipped now for a more independent life after high school.

On the trip, I learnt a lot of independence, especially in airports. Sometimes being alone did get scary, but overall it was fun to be by myself, and I enjoyed the stress and responsibility.

Solo travel is something more teenagers should do. I found that to have a successful trip, I had to be socially mature, confident, trust myself, exercise self-control, and stay alert. These things made the trip easier."

PO: Why exchange; what did you learn from going to a foreign school?

Havi: I attended a linguistic school in Lucca, which meant that the curriculum was based around language. I learnt to speak basic German and French, and improved my Italian skills, as all lessons were taught in Italian. It was interesting to hear the Italian students learn English.

Italy is very different to Australia in its social customs. Everyone kisses each other as a greeting, so friendships are more intimate. In Lucca, students only go to school for half a day, so we went to school on Saturdays. It was exciting to experience a different style of schooling and see how different timetabling works.

The English teacher would ask me to speak to the class in English, so they could hear how words are pronounced by a native speaker. It was funny seeing my peers react to how I was saying words and comparing them to how they were spelt, which gave me more understanding into how complex English is.

PO: How would you summarise the trip?

Havi: Spending that much time away from my family taught me a lot of resilience. Despite staying with an Italian family who I was close to, at the start of the trip it was hard being in an environment I wasn't used to. Still, I became accustomed to Italian habits and developed different routines as I became more comfortable.

During the trip, the most important thing I learnt was how to be independent and self-sufficient, and how to become more adaptable to change. Both of those things will have a positive impact on my life now that I'm home.

HEAD OF COLLEGE'S REPORT



Evie and the Birdman

What a joy it has been to witness the growth and development of the group of students involved in the musical production 'Evie and the Birdman'. Having popped into watch sections of rehearsals over the past few weeks, the growth and cohesiveness of the performers has been outstanding. Claire Allan, Tom Rapp, Mya Bertolini and Lachlan Jowett have embraced their roles as Evie, Lester, Yahwhohow and Lester's father and brought their characters alive in a high energy performance. They are well supported by the ensemble from Year 8-12 who take on multiple roles in this contemporary musical.

I am incredibly proud of our students' courage, talent and passion for performance and also extremely grateful for the expertise and dedication of our staff especially Mr Phil Cunich - Director, Mr Dominic Lindsay - Musical Director and Mrs Kate Cunich - Producer. This is a great example of the thriving Performing and Creative Arts programme we have at Oxley College and one I am sure many will enjoy!

Sport

As you will read in this edition of the Pin Oak many of our students have done extremely well in their chosen sports in both school, local and national competitions. It was very impressive to see the number of our students and staff represented at the Berrima District Sport Awards. Chilli Sparke was a much deserved winner of the Junior Sports person of the year and is to be congratulated and applauded for her talent, dedication and sportsmanship she demonstrates in each sport played.

Congratulations to all of our ISA and local teams who have competed during the summer season with many teams represented in finals over the past few weeks. This weekend we have the Junior A team playing in Softball Finals and the 14A boys and Junior A girls Basketball teams playing in their respective Grand Finals in Sydney. Best wishes go to all the players and coaches of these teams as they play in these Finals.

"Our Oxley Environment group continue to ensure Oxley is being environmentally responsible and have brought many initiatives over the past four years."

Sustainability and the Environmental group

In a very exciting first for Oxley, parents will notice when they purchase a new Oxley PE Polo shirt from the Oxley Shop that they are now made out of a fully sustainable material, Bamboo. Oxley College has been working closely with Valour Sport to introduce this new product into our Sports Uniform. The material has all the qualities we are looking for in a sports uniform and is breathable, moisture-wicking and also tough to withstand the rigours of wear and tear. On top of this the material is also sustainable. Having worn bamboo for a while now it is also soft to touch and comfortable to wear on the skin and doesn't smell like some synthetic sports apparel.

Our Oxley Environment group continue to ensure Oxley is being environmentally responsible and have brought in many new initiatives over the past four years including recycling bins for paper and plastics. The group has recycled over 14,000 containers over 18 months in the return and earn scheme earning more than \$1,411. They have also recycled more than 189kg of printer cartridges since 2018 through Planet Ark. Having carried out a waste audit in 2019 they are continuously looking at ways we can reduce our

waste.

The Environmental group which includes students from Year 7-12 were also instrumental in encouraging the College to invest in Solar Panels at the College and this year they are keen to make the solar savings and energy use by the College more visible to our students and staff.



In addition, they are currently exploring the rehabilitation of the Wingecarribee River bordering the Bray Fields and partnering with Greening Australia to help achieve this goal.

As a College we take our responsibility to the environment seriously and as such try to minimise the amount of single use plastics we are using in the College. We are also making sure our Masterplan, which is under development, will include sustainable principles and practices. It is

encouraging to know that our students are keen to play an important role in caring for our environment.

JUNIOR GALLERY





Weekly Awards

Learning Journey

K: Harrison Peebles
Yr 1: Emily Wright
Yr 2C: Oliver Coram
Yr 3B: Samsara Pout
Yr 3L: Ivy Bacon
Yr 4: Charlotte Gordon
Yr 5B: Dakota Winn
Yr 5N: Bronte Morgan
Yr 6A: Noah Byrne
Yr 6W: Harry Kean

Oxley Values

K: Frankie Ventura
Yr 1: Stella Bacon
Yr 2C: Anna-Sophia Psarakis
Yr 3B: Anna Sutherland
Yr 3L: Jemima Anson
Yr 4: Fraser Wisken, Thomas Adamson
Yr 5B: Estelle Beckett
Yr 5N: Louisa Hogan Baldo
Yr 6W: Oliver Bryant, Toby Wood

Students of the Week

Learning Journey

K: Naomi Robertson
Yr 1: Cameron Bailey
Yr 2C: Sophia Bagnall
Yr 3B: Remy McIntosh
Yr 3L: Rhodes Feller
Yr 4: Brayden Anstee
Yr 5B: Matthew Morschel
Yr 5N: Alexander Psarakis
Yr 6A: Isaac Halcrow
Yr 6W: Aislinn Kenny

Oxley Values

K: Lucy McIntosh
Yr 1: Zoe Choo
Yr 2C: William Palmer
Yr 3B: Charlotte Stirling
Yr 3L: Will Matar
Yr 4: Will Kennedy
Yr 5B: Cartier Dobler
Yr 5N: Heidi Malouf
Yr 6A: Imogen Gair
Yr 6W: Thomas Bladen



JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

It is amazing to think we are now halfway through the term, with exciting end of term events already fast approaching.

As well as Learning Journey Open Classrooms next week, and Grandparents' Day at the end of term, I am very excited about a new initiative beginning this week, 'Buddies and Books'.

This is a collaboration between Librarians and class teachers, and which pairs students in Years 4-6 with younger students, to share a picture book each Friday fortnight. The whole Junior School will meet in the afternoon to share a book with an appointed buddy, sitting under the trees, and on the grass when the weather is fine, to nurture and model a love of reading as well as to build relationships between older and younger students. The older students will have the opportunity to practise and model reading a book aloud to their buddy and will create some age-appropriate questions to go with their chosen picture book. A reading journal will be kept throughout the year and as the year progresses, the younger children will begin to share their own books too. Picture books chosen this term will be linked to the Personal Development and Health (PDH) focus, 'Overcoming obstacles'.

To launch 'Buddies and Books' in Assembly this week, I shared a book linked to the PDH theme, entitled 'What to do with a problem?' written by Kobi Yamada and illustrated by Mae Bessom. In the book, a young child feels overwhelmed by a problem. The problem is small at first, but because the problem is ignored, the problem just gets bigger, until eventually the child realises they must face the problem.

'So even though I didn't want to, even though I was really afraid, I got ready and I tackled my problem!'

In the end, the child sees the problem is actually an opportunity. An opportunity to learn and to grow. To be brave. To do something.

I asked the children to spend a moment to think of a problem that might be worrying them. Are they worrying about it because they don't know what to do with it? I asked them to think about one small thing they could do today to help themselves or someone they knew with that problem. Sometimes we might feel very small in the face of a problem. But when we talk to someone, or take action even in a small way, we might be doing something to fix the problem. Dealing with a problem might just mean giving something another go, even when we failed the first time. Sometimes it will mean speaking up, or quietly doing something to help. If the problem is that we don't feel very good at something, it might mean trying again and again until finally we learn how. And sometimes, there will be problems that we can't work out on our own, and that we can only solve together.

Often it is the way we think about a problem that can make it seem more frightening and bigger than it needs to be.

Kobi Yamada challenges us to see that, 'Every problem has an opportunity for something good. You just have to look for it.'

By Katherine Halcrow, Head of Junior School





DEPUTY HEAD OF PASTORAL



The Office of the Children's Guardian: Legislative changes from 1 March 2020

The safety and protection of children must always be the first priority of any school. We are fortunate in NSW to have some of the most extensive and stringent child protection legislation in the world; there are only a small number of states in North America which have similarly robust laws in this area.

On Sunday 1 March 2020, the NSW Children's Guardian Act (2019) came in to force. This Act consolidates and increases the powers of the Office of the Children's Guardian as well as the procedures established by previous legislation, across a range of child-related sectors to maintain child-safe environments. The expansion of the powers of the Office of the Children's Guardian is in part a result of recommendations made by the Royal Commission in to Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

For the education sector, one of the main changes of the legislation is to bring the Reportable Conduct Scheme under the authority of the Office of the Children's Guardian, which was previously managed by the NSW Ombudsman. The Reportable Conduct Scheme, established by the Ombudsman Act (1974), is an allegations-based scheme that monitors how institutions investigate and report on certain conduct towards children and young people. As a College, we have always come under this scheme and work closely with the Association of Independent Schools to ensure our compliance.

It is a requirement of the NSW Working With Children (Care and Protection) Act (2012) for adults in NSW who work with children and young people under the age of 18 to have a current Working With Children Check (WWCC) number. It is incumbent upon the College to ensure that this is the case for all staff, volunteers, coaches, music tutors and any other adults who are engaged in working with students. The process of granting or denying a WWCC number and ensuring organisations comply with the legislation, is also the responsibility of the Office of the Children's Guardian.

The WWCC requirement extends to child-related workers who are self-employed or who work in organisations involving children.

When a parent employs the services of a person for private tuition, coaching or training, they are advised to request the WWCC number of that person and then verify their WWCC on the website of the Office of the Children's Guardian. This can be done at: <https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-organisations/information-for-parents/parents-check-the-check>

For more information about the work of the Office of the Children's Guardian, the Reportable Conduct Scheme, the Working With Children Check and other changes following the implementation of the NSW Children's Guardian Act (2019), visit <https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/>

Parents onsite

Oxley is an open and welcoming place and we wish for it to always remain so. At the same time, we have protocols to maintain our duty of care to all of our students as well as the security of the College. When coming in to school for a pre-arranged meeting, we request that parents come to Reception or to Junior/Senior School Student Services. When collecting students at the end of the school day, please can parents wait in the designated pick up areas and not go to House areas or classrooms in the Senior School to collect children or belongings.

By Mark Case, Deputy Head Pastoral

OLD OXLEYAN

NICK WASILIEV Class of 2011

Oxley is such a great place. It's very weird to say that, but nearly a decade after I departed down the farewell tunnel and passed under that beautiful old tree, I can honestly say that it really is. At the time when you leave, you often cannot wait to head out into the world, say goodbye to the comfort of the Highlands and focus on committing yourself to discovering who you are. But in truth, looking back makes you realise how lucky you were to have an education in such a safe place, filled with many happy memories. This is your starting place. This is where you begin. And it was a good place.

My early memories at Oxley are that it was a time of utter confusion. I was never a socially confident kid, and the first three years were filled with constant genuine fear of being viewed by others as "that weird" kid. It was puberty, and it was confusing. Every conversation, every moment, was filled with that fear, hanging over every action. The only place I would find solace would be in reading atlases and writing stories (instead of doing homework). I was a nerd, I'll happily admit it now.

Year 10, however, was a big turning point. After I got pretty average academic results in the trial exams, I decided to try and prove something to myself with my academic studies. In that year, I found something in myself that has persisted to this day: a hunger to try things.

Just trying. This became a fundamental part of the basis for me as a person. That started in Year 10, at Oxley College, and is something I'm externally grateful for. Trying things allows for failure, for success, for lots of things. The act is a positive action, no matter the outcome.

From that, my last three years at Oxley became a lot more fun. I was still that awkward kid, but more and more I began to think less about what other people thought of me. I was very lucky that I had teachers who were incredibly supportive: from Mr Craig as our 1st XI cricket coach and calling us a bunch of peanuts every week, to Mr Copland in Science and Mr Dibdin in Geography, to the rugby tours of New Zealand and cricket tours to Argentina and Barbados (including meeting Garfield Sobers).

Outback was amazing. Spending a few hours staring at the Breakaways is something I can shut my eyes and return to, always. I could have been there, in the moment forever. Outback is a whole bunch of life experiences crammed into two weeks, from the highs of watching sunrise over the Olgas, to the pain and agony of catching laryngitis in Oodnadatta. One of my favourite memories is that of being introduced to the Cazneaux Tree, named as The Spirit of Endurance. It's a symbol I still love, and being told story by the great, late Mr Schaefer, is something I hold fond memories of.

Year 12 I threw myself into everything. Trying to direct a House play, trying instruments, being a more functional human being, and trying to inspire the younger Dobellians. It's a weird year, because when you leave you think you've 'made it' to the real world, only to discover you are absolutely



nothing really, all you are now is the master of your own fate. It's the best (and for a brief time, worst) thing ever.

I took a gap year in 2012, and for a decent chunk of it I realised I was still that terrified guy, directed by fear and wondering when exactly I was going to find out who I was. Then, one morning in Austria, while on a TopDeck trip and nursing a hangover, I jumped off the edge of a cliff and began a paragliding trip. In that moment, everything clicked. Nothing else mattered, it was just you, in the moment. It's a moment that changed my life.

From then, something interesting happened. I returned to Australia, I completed a double degree at Macquarie University, became a published short story writer, worked with indigenous peoples in Borneo, became a rugby journalist and got to interview some of the most highly regarded people in the game, became a music journalist and got to interview the likes of Grinspoon, The New Power Generation and more, and then at the end of last year, published my first ever novel.

Not only that, but socially things changed. I increasingly began to embrace who I was. I am a goofball, I am a nerd, I am loud and I love it! In that moment, people view you differently. Weirdly enough, I've become closer with some people after Oxley than when we were there together.

That moment in Austria, looking back, was the first moment I met me: the person who I want to be. Once I had that sense of self, that desire to try anything that Oxley had given me fuelled everything I wanted to do and continue to want to do. Once you know your goal, your drive, who you are, you work towards and above all, not worry about how it comes to pass.

If my 15-year-old self was here, I know I would be speaking to a guy that was unsure of anything and everything around him. All I'd be saying would be, get ready for a wild ride! I don't even know where we're going yet, and I like that.



BIGGEST EXPLOSION IN THE UNIVERSE

...Since the Big Bang.

Astronomers have pinpointed the biggest explosion since the Big Bang to a cluster of galaxies 390 million light-years away. According to experts, the blast was so large that it carved out a crater in the cluster plasma, the super-hot gas surrounding the black hole, that could hold 15 Milky Ways.

How did an explosion like this ever come to be? Well it is suggested it came from a super-massive black hole at the centre of Ophiuchus galaxy cluster, which essentially exploded from the sheer size and pressure of matter inside it.

Professor Melanie Johnston-Hollitt, from the Curtin University node of the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research, said the event was extraordinarily energetic. "This is the most energetic outburst we have seen since the Big Bang," she told the PA news agency. She also stated that the outburst itself is between 240 and 400 million years old, despite its first signs only being detected in 2016.

According to Professor Johnston-Hollitt, scientists initially rejected the idea that a hole of this scale was caused by an explosion because it would have been too big. She explained: "People were sceptical because the size of

outburst. But it really is that. The Universe is a weird place."

Astronomers used NASA's Chandra X-Ray Observatory to make the discovery, along with a European space observatory and ground telescopes. These two space telescopes, in addition to radio data from Australian and Indian space telescopes confirmed that the cavity was indeed part of an explosion.

**"The outburst
itself is between
240 and 400
million years old"**

"The radio data fit inside the X-rays like a hand in a glove," co-author Maxim Markevitch of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland, said in a statement. "This is the clincher that tells us an eruption of unprecedented size occurred here."

By Hugh Corbett (Year 11)

MRS HALCROW

Peter Kearney in Year 6 sat down with our new Head of Junior School to find out more about her and why she's excited to be at Oxley College in 2020.

Were you nervous before coming to Oxley, If so what were you nervous about?

When I started here I was both excited and nervous, but mostly excited because coming here matters to me. I knew that Oxley has a good reputation, which is where I come from. It is known for having really great staff and children. I feel very privileged to be here. Taking on a role like this I'm conscious of carrying on the great work that's already been done and continuing to develop the school as a thriving, learning community. Mostly I feel excited about the opportunities for both staff and children.

What were the first few things that you did at Oxley?

The most important thing for me to do is to build relationships, and building relationships can take time. I'm very passionate about providing for all student needs including gifted education, which is a big priority, however preserving the school values is also a priority to me and I would like to nurture these values. I love all learning but my big passions are literacy, history and the arts. I think I would like to build on the culture of the school values using learning as a way to do this.

Where did you work before this?

I did a range of things such as Curriculum and Pastoral leaders in a lot of schools. I was also a Literacy and Languages officer for a while and I've been heavily involved in Drama, Debating and Public Speaking. I love collaborating with researchers to help educate children. I have three children, two attending Oxley, and one at university. My husband runs a not for profit organisation.

Why did you choose Oxley?

I chose Oxley because of its fantastic values. I think they would be my personal choice of values.

Thank you for interviewing me. I am so thankful for the brilliant staff and the welcoming community. I feel very privileged.



Aiofe Barrett-Lennard (Year 10), Rosie Barnett (Year 11) and Alex Martinek (Year 9) are all part of Roma Strings that is playing in the 9th concert on Sunday 29 March. See details below and photo to left. A concert not to be missed.

**bowral
autumn
music
festival.**

www.bamf.org.au

Claire Edwardes
Aura Go
Taryn Fiebig
Acacia Quartet
Ensemble Offspring
David Reccia Chynoweth
Bel a cappella
Highlands Music Collective
Alexandra Donaldson
The Roma Strings

**27-29 March
2020**

St Jude's Music Association presents
a sumptuous feast of magnificent music

INSPIRATION



BOOK

The Women in Black

The first time I picked up 'The Women in Black', I was reluctant to read. Although I love reading, I am not a huge fan of historical fiction. The thought of spending my time on a book set in the late 1950's of Australia was not appealing, but upon opening this novel, I was surprised.

'The Women in Black' centres around the employees of the Ladies' Cocktail section at F.G Goode's department store, and the book takes turns in portraying snippets of the character's storylines. The main of which is Lisa Miles, a fairly bright 17-year-old who just received a Christmas job at the store, in the hope of being able to earn a little money before she leaves for university.

This seemingly simple plot explores the personal lives of the women working at F.G Goode's and discusses many topics that translate into modern day society. It also displays feminist issues unique to the time period, such as a women's dependence on a man, and the perception surrounding their right to further education.

From the multifaceted narrative, to the eloquent way it was written, Madeline St. John formulated an intriguing novel that will forever be a classic in Australian literature. Make sure to pick up this book if you're ever stuck on what to read next!

By Ruby Zupp (Year 11)



SAVING WATER

Small World, Big Problem

I know a lot of people throw the word climate change around, but climate change is a big deal and we have all felt the impacts of this in recent months. With the drought, bushfires and then to put the icing on the cake... the flash flooding. Many families around Australia have had to face the impacts that these disasters cause and continue to live in and around these conditions.

On Wednesday 12 February, the Wingecarribee Shire Council declared a climate emergency, with eight out of nine councillors voting to fully recognise the impacts that climate change has on our local area. But what does a climate emergency mean? It means that they admit that climate change exists and government policies to date are not enough. This is an important step as the declaration has been knocked back on several other occasions. Our small council is now putting pressure on the Australian government to act upon this global crisis and are also committing to creating a shire wide climate plan.

It sometimes feels like I am too small to make a difference, but maybe now that Wingecarribee Council is doing their bit, I can commit to changing my habits in small ways that would make a difference. So, this week I am going to commit to having the recommended shower time of four minutes. The average Australian takes two seven minute showers (63 litres a shower) a day. If the 600 students at Oxley have four minute showers we could save 32,400 litres of water A DAY. So maybe we can make a difference.

By Claudia Brady (Year 10)



PODCAST

So, You've Been Publicly Shamed

In Jon Ronson's 2015 Book 'So You've Been Publicly Shamed', socially relevant issues; specifically, 'cancel-culture', a social media epidemic that aims to cleanse the web of personal opinion through bullying and boycotting celebrities or influences, some justified, some are but situations blown out of proportion, and in classic internet fashion, dramatised.

Ronson takes a new stance on the pop-culture issue through satire and classic British charm.

Written in Ronson's investigative journalism style, the podcast explores "a great renaissance of public shaming". Some of Ronson's interviewees include two guys who made ambiguous comments during a tech-conference talk and were outed on Twitter by a woman sitting in front of them. One was fired from his job, the woman who tweeted their conversation was also fired. Shaming, this book argues, is bad not just for the shamed but the shamer as well.

Ex-English spy David Shayler reckons it is racist not to take his theory that the 2005 London bombings were committed by MI5 seriously, Ronson replies: "Oh, f..k off." Yet when an interviewee is so offensive that arguing would be futile, Ronson is complacent and friendly, nice. Often, Ronson's tone and language are mocking, but his interviewee is too self-important to notice.

Structurally, Ronson starts with a mystery, introduces a social question, and takes us on his journey from confusion to enlightenment. Ronson is a true wizard of the faux-naive style and charms the reader by admitting ignoble motive.

The book explores primarily Ronson's inquisitorial progress through the topic. 'So You've Been Publicly Shamed' is an extreme ride through the mind of a nervous, jittery journalist. The reader or listener simply can sit back and listen to the trip through Ronson's psyche. The story is not intended for the consumer, but rather to fulfil Ronson's endeavours and questions he seeks to answer.

By Ella Jackson (Year 11)



GONE BANANAS

Not every day does 000 get a call about three baboons strolling down the streets of Sydney's RPA Hospital. But last Tuesday at 5.30pm that's exactly what the Police got. But you may be wondering how and why exactly baboons are walking down the streets on Sydney. Well so does everyone else! Did they escape from Taronga Zoo perhaps...? No, in fact, they escaped from the RPA Hospital itself. Now, you are probably thinking why there are baboons in the RPA Hospital That's the big question that everyone wants to know.

Turns out the RPA has some secrets that we don't know about. The RPA has been running this animal medical research. The male baboon was escorted with two other female baboons to keep him calm on the way to his vasectomy. The reason for this is to allow him to continue to live his life in 'peace and harmony' with his own family and they couldn't have him continuing constantly to breed with the other baboons otherwise it would cause genetic problems.

The RPA has been using primates for medical experiments since 2016. The Humane Research Australia says the facility is "secretive". According to the HRA experimenting on animals at RPA is more common than we think. In 2017 there were 272 primates used for research in Australia alone. Of those 272, 165 of those were found in NSW.

The baboons are bred just for animal research and are kept hostage at the national health and medical research council baboon colony in Wallacia (Sydney's West). A researcher at the facility says "the animals are used for Important Biomedical research."

The research done goes towards Kidney Diseases, Gestational Diabetes and Pregnancy research. In May, a news article reported that experiments were done on pregnant baboons in a lab to find a cure and new treatment for pre-eclampsia which affects 10% of human

pregnancies.

But how did this monkey business happen?

The primates were housed in a 'low security' building and no one really knew that they were there. When transporting them there was a technical lock failure either on the truck or crate that the baboons were inside. Once found by the Police and Taronga Zoo staff the baboons were tranquillised and returned to the RPA where the vasectomy was postponed.

What does the public have to say about this?

"Primates escaping was a major concern which could raise biosecurity issues."

"If an animal the size of a baboon can escape, how many mice have escaped, how many other animals have escaped?"

Animal activist and former GP Kevin Coleman told the APP.

"Baboons were medical experimentation survivors who were attempting to flee further painful procedures forced upon their bodies."

"These are the hidden faces behind animal experimentation in this country."

NSW Animal Justice Party MP, Emma

Hurst

To read more about the HRA follow this link:

<http://www.humanerresearch.org.au/interview/baboons-lose-in-their-bid-for-freedom>

By Lily Magill (Year 11)

"Experimenting on animals at RPA is more common than we think"

SENIOR GALLERY



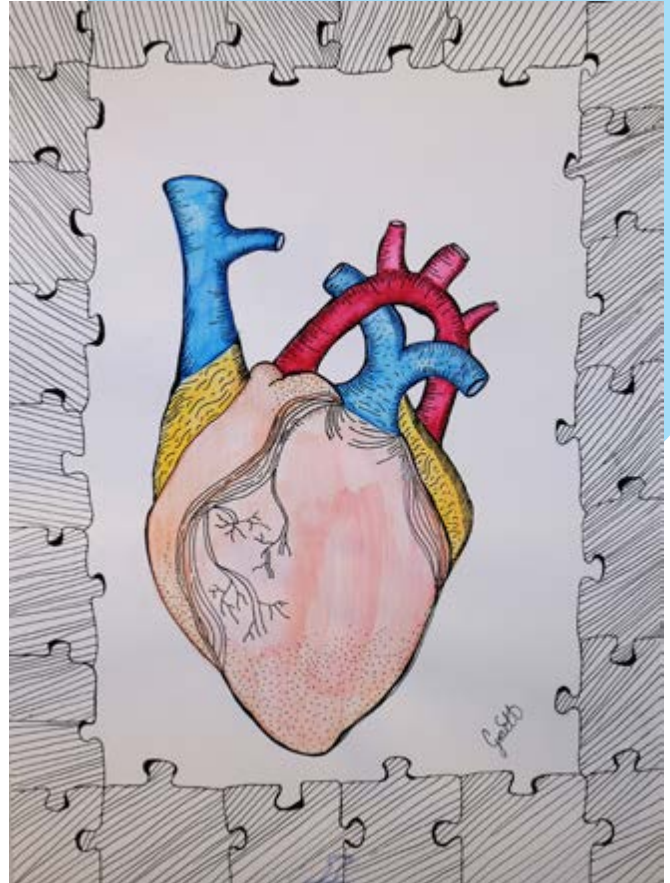
VIRTUAL GALLERY

Artist statement

My artwork is an exposé expressing that the heart itself is one massive puzzle, each piece symbolising a critical moment in one's life that caused a substantial amount of pain but eventually made you the person you are today. For this piece, I used water coloured pencils and a felt tip pen to illuminate fine details engraved into the heart and into the puzzle pieces.

Grace Hardy (Year 9)

Artists! Showcase your works of art in our brand new Pin Oak Visual Arts Gallery Page. Any medium or subject matter can be submitted. We are keen to share your works with our community. Please see Mr Hetherington if you would like to be considered. We will publish a new work each issue (non-art students may also apply - all welcome- any year group). We look forward to your exciting works coming to life in print.



NEWS YOU NEED TO KNOW

#METOO

Thus far 2020 has been a difficult year for many across the world, from the Australian bushfires to the deadly Coronavirus, it is fair to say that 2020 will need to be a year full of teamwork. The motto for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics expresses exactly that, the Japanese, *Kandō de, watashi tachi wa hitotsu ni naru*, which in English translates to, United by Emotion, is a perfect rundown of what everyone should be living by, in order to persevere through these already tough times. This theme of Unity appears amongst various other aspects of the games. For example, the mascot is called Miraitowa, and was designed to be a symbol of everlasting hope for people all over the world. The word 'Miraitowa' derives from the Japanese words 'mirai' meaning future and 'towa' meaning eternity. Aside from the theme of eternal hope and unity present throughout the games, major historical events will also take place. For the second time ever in history, there will be an Olympic refugee team that will compete for the 'IOC Refugee Olympic Team', the reason for this being to promote Olympic spirit. Finally, for the first time in history, a female athlete will carry the Olympic flame first. Who's the lucky lady? It's Anna Korakaki, a gold and bronze medallist in Rio 2016 for the 25m pistol and 10m air pistol events. Hopefully the motto 'United by Emotion' will have an immense influence on one's mentality in the upcoming months, whatever the future may hold.

By Lucy Pike (Year 12)

T-140 DAYS

Harvey Weinstein, former Hollywood producer, has finally been brought to justice on counts of sexual assault and rape. Weinstein's criminal behaviour was first brought to the attention of the public in 2017 when the New York Times released an investigative report detailing multiple accusations of sexual misconduct that spanned three decades against Weinstein. In addition to this, it was highlighted that victims who tried to seek help were forced to keep quiet with non-disclosure agreements. This bombshell catalysed the #MeToo movement. Although Weinstein has now been convicted of a criminal sex act in the first degree and of rape in the third degree, he was also acquitted of the most serious accusations against him; two counts of predatory sexual assault which could have seen him face a life sentence. Regardless of the fact that Weinstein insisted "But I'm innocent" as the verdict was read out, he has been taken to jail until the Wednesday 11 March when he will find out his sentence, which could have him facing anywhere between five to 29 years in prison. While this case has seen an immense fall from grace of one of the most powerful men in Hollywood, Judge James Burke has warned that this does not mark the end of the #MeToo movement, as attorney Michelle Simpson Tuegal stated that "The #MeToo era has thankfully started to unmask these systems of abuse of power, and now women can [continue to] be heard and believed."

By Lucy Cavanough Quince (Year 11)

CREATIVE WRITING

LAID TO REST

The winds howled, blowing a gale. A silvery cloud drifted over the mountains that surrounded the young hunter, its edges glowing with a ruddy light cast from the harvest moon cradled between two peaks. Mist began snaking its way over his now-obsured feet, swirling insubstantial tendrils over the shadows to the entrance of the forest, beckoning him on. The hunter had decided he would save some gold and cross the Pine Forest on foot. With a pack filled with exotic animal pelts, convoluted tree samplings and an assortment of wild berries of a new familiarity - all awaiting the markets - he began his journey into the untamed Pine Forest.

The first day of his venture was rather uneventful, the hunter kept up a brisk pace, using his practised eyes to remain wary and vigilant of any of the wildlife that could either pose a threat or be fetched for a high price at his market stand.

With only birds' eggs and nests proving to be the only prevalent items with interest amongst the forest, the hunter continued along the path of trampled needle-shaped leaves. When the moonlight casting him into a pale shadow was enough an indicator that it was time for sleep, he set up camp. The hunter spread out his bedroll beneath the upturned roots of a fallen tree and built a small fire; invading his stash of salted rabbit for his evening meal. Pondering upon what the new day would bring, the hunter laid rest.

Partway through the evening, the hunter was awoken by a soft sobbing in the distance. He strung his bow with a sure touch, assuming it to be a bandit trick, but remained crouching with a quiet assurance in the dusky moonlight, so that he may have the element of surprise on them. After a few minutes, the sobbing began moving itself away from the camp, until he could no longer hear it. For the rest of the night, the hunter slept with one eye open.

Day two the hunter awoke from what rotten sleep he could catch and started off into the forest at a quicker pace, intending to put distance between himself and whatever he had heard last night. His sheer swiftness and adrenaline was high enough that any limp doe, hidden patch of potent fungi or abundance of flying Pine moths - with their indistinguishable almost ephemeral wings and magical appearance - all went unnoticed. But, as the day went on, it began to rain heavy, so the hunter built himself a little shelter out of pine debris for

the evening, in hopes that he may remain dry and settled while he slept.

It took him longer to fall sleep, with thoughts of the previous night still fresh in his mind, but overwhelmed with fatigue, eventually it took hold of him.

This time, he awoke to sobbing that sounded like it was right outside of his shelter. Grabbing his bow once again - its leather grip sweaty in his calloused palms - the hunter crawled out of his shelter. Knelt beside a large log - one that was densely vegetated with an assortment of native mushrooms, their patterned heads all looking as if they had been permanently drizzled with blood - was the back of a ghostly woman, sobbing into her hands. Mustering what was left of his courage, he asked her what was wrong. No answer. He began to slowly approach her, on deft feet. But before he could reach her, she turned and screamed at him. The ghostly woman raised an axe and began to charge at the hunter; not a single blemish of mercy on her mask of pure rage. But she disappeared before she made contact.

The hunter took off into the night, with just his bow in hand. His pack of lavish oddities, now, a mere memory. He ran until the first light of dawn where he started down the road again, as nimble as he could move. The third day was balmy and steamy, but the hunter, rattled, sleepless and clammy, didn't even notice. He continued to accelerate, trying to get through the forest before nightfall.



As a curtain of darkness began to fall, a sunset - tranquil and gorgeous, with lavish reds and tones of yon orange - illuminated a cabin, just off the road. The hunter thought it would be a good place to hunker down for the night. After arriving at the cabin, he spent some time blocking the doors and windows, so that even the stars of the night sky, moon-washed and enigmatic, would shine beyond no cabin threshold. With the hot, malicious day now shrouded in darkness and shivers, the hunter had taken it upon himself to illuminate each and every one of the goat horned sconces, so that no corner of the cabin was left untouched by their warmth. The stack of logs propped together within the fireplace remained intact, for the hunter now looked upon the flames as a beacon of misfortune. But one thing remained certain on that night, nothing would get in.

Despite his preparations, the hunter could not sleep. He sat in what used to be the cabins bedroom staring at the barricaded door, shaking. Eventually his eyes grew so heavy from lack of slumber, that he fell asleep.

This time, he awoke to laughing on the other side of the barricaded door. It sounded like the woman from the night before, but he refused to believe it was her. The hunter burst through the barricaded door into the main room with unspent fury, to find the ghostly woman from the night before staring at the ground, laughing hysterically with axe in hand.

He began to relentlessly attack the ghostly woman, utilising his bows stave as an in-hand dagger, but felt his strikes were less effective. Scanning the room in a desperate panic, he scrambled towards one of the wall-mounted sconces, unhooking it and casting its wild sulphurous flames upon the ghostly woman. It drew a

scream from her, and she exploded, abrupt and brilliant, disappearing into limbo.

The ordeal was over, the ghost was gone.

The hunter slept well that night and the next day made excellent distance through the forest. As the sun began to set - suave and resplendent as it had the evening before - he came out on the other side of the forest and looked back, remembering the days before.

But as he turned and started walking away from the Pine Forest, he could swear he heard the sobbing again.

A tale by Breanna Billett, (Year 9)



CALENDAR

March

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				6 -Senior Production: Evie and the Birdman, 7.30pm	7 -ISA Summer finals -Senior Production: Evie and the Birdman, 7.30pm	8 -Oxley Family Day picnic CANCELLED
9 -EXC: Y11 DT Shape, powerhouse museum -HICES Swimming	10	11 -ISA Swimming carnival	12 -EXC: Y10 Music Strings masterclass -HICES debating round 2 -Senior Production: Evie and the Birdman, 7.30pm	13 -INC: Y8 Medieval Feast -EXC: Y4-8 G&T kids Lit Quiz -Senior Production: Evie and the Birdman 7.30pm	14 -DoE Bronze Hike	15 - EXC: Pompeii Study Day, Syd Uni -DoE Bronze Hike -EXC: Pipe Band The Scots College Highland Gathering
16 -Y7 Student/Parent/ Teacher Night -Junior school Parent/ Teacher interviews	17 -Junior school Parent/Teacher interviews	18 -EXC: SH Festival -JS & Sibling School photos -Junior School Parent/Teacher interviews	19	20 -JS X-Country Carnival -SS X-Country Carnival -EXC: Pipeband Moss Vale Show	21 -DoE Bronze Hike	22 -DoE Bronze Hike
23 Immunisation EXC: Y5 & 6 to Canberra Y12 Half Yearly Exams	24 Y12 Half Yearly Exams EXC: Y5 & Y6 to Canberra	25 Y12 Half Yearly Exams EXC: Y5 & Y6 to Canberra	26 EXC: Y7 Mt Keira CIS Swimming carnival Y12 Half Yearly Exams	28 Y12 Half Yearly Exams	29	30

P & F

While it's lovely to see such decent rain fall here in the Highlands it was disappointing to cancel our Oxley Family Day Picnic we had scheduled this Sunday. Though the rain may have eased by the weekend we didn't believe the soggy ground was very conducive to 'picnicking'.

There was a great attendance at our first P&F meeting for the year last Tuesday. There are several social events planned for this year and I will inform you of these when dates have been confirmed, (hint: you may want to brush up on your trivia knowledge!!).

Thanks to a great suggestion at our P&F meeting we have now set up some clothing bins in the foyer of the library. These are ONLY for second-hand OLD STOCK Oxley sport uniforms. Shona O'Brien and Angie Sanchez, two of our parent reps, have kindly offered to sort these so they can be sent to our sister schools later this year.

Don't forget the Oxley Equestrian Day will be held on Sunday 3 May, the first Sunday of Term 2. An online auction will be held in conjunction with this event. If you wish to donate goods or services for this auction, please contact Veronica Kennedy-Good who is coordinating the auction at veronica@mindshareevents.com.au.

Kind regards,

Megan Moore, P & F President

OXLEY COLLEGE

EQUESTRIAN DAY



Sunday 3 May 2020
 'Wyeera' Bong Bong Racecourse, Bowral
 All entries via www.nominate.com.au
 Entries close Friday 24 April 2020
 Enquiries – Alex Wansey alexandrajohnston@bigpond.com
 Holly Kramer holly@kramernoad.com.au

Dressage | Show Jumping | Horsemanship | Show Horse




Open to all school age riders in Years K-12

NEWSFLASH

BERRIMA DISTRICT SPORT AWARDS

Friday night was the Annual Berrima District Sports Awards.

Oxley College was well represented with Junior Monthly Award winners Lachlan Mineeff, Joel Manton, Chilli Sparke, Anneliese Wansey, Rory Shedden and Senior Monthly Award winner Meaghan Stanton all presented with their trophies.

Oxley's Division 3 (Years 7 and 8) boys XC Ski team of Phoenix Sparke, Salvatore Perrotta and Matteo Perrotta, who won gold and silver medals at Australian Interschool Snowsports, were narrowly pipped for the 'School team of the year' by Moss Vale High girls hockey team.

The big news of the night was the announcement of Junior Sportsperson of the year, awarded to Chilli Sparke!



FINALS SPORT

Over the past weekend we had our ISA Semi-Finals, with many teams representing Oxley proudly! We are so happy to see so many teams in the Semis playing their best. The 1sts Cricket were versing St Pius, making a terrific 142 runs however unfortunately having St Pius chase it down. There were four boys Basketball teams playing against Oakhill and St Augustine's College. The 14As had a close game against Oakhill, winning by just three points. The 15As, 17As and 1sts all ended up losing, however all putting up a good fight. All the girls Basketball teams played their hearts out - Junior As played an amazing game against Central Coast, going up 32-10. The 2nds played against Barker, unfortunately losing 20-6 and 1sts pushes until the very end however also resulting in a loss against Blue Mountains Grammar.

Touch Football had both their Semis and Finals in the same weekend. Junior As went into the semis undefeated, they played Kinross Wolaroi in the Semis, defeating them 5-1. They headed into the Finals later that afternoon to play All Saints who they had only ever drawn with, unfortunately going down 7-4. The Junior Bs and 3rds both lost in the semis, however both up a very good fight. Softball did not have their Semi-Finals this weekend, however the Junior As won their game against St Andrew's 11-8 and are heading off into the Semis next week. The 1sts Softball also defeated St Andrew's 21-7, however will need to find out if they made Semis. This was a very big weekend of sport and all teams represented Oxley proudly, unfortunately many scores did not end in an Oxley win, however for those teams heading into Semis and Finals next weekend, play hard and leave it all out on the court/field.

Good luck! By Olivia Bow (Year 10)

SWIMMING



Oxley performed exceptionally well at the Frensham Invitational Swimming Carnival last Thursday night, with the girls division coming in close second and the boys division coming first overall. It was great to see the spirit of Oxley as everyone cheered on the participants during their relays and single events. In the girls division there were three Runner-ups - Annabel Arnot (13yrs), Ellanora O'Connor (15yrs), Lucy Cavanough-Quince (17yrs) - and two Champions - Isla Terry (12yrs) and Pip Kettlewell (18yrs).

For the boys events it was great to see numerous races with only Oxley swimmers, in this division there were five Runner-ups - Oliver Linde (13yrs), Max Murray (14yrs), Hamish Tregenza (16yrs), Max Davis-Rice (17yrs), Alex Webb (18yrs) - alongside three Champions - Harry Kirsch (13yrs), Victor van der Schalk (16yrs) and Nic Milner (17yrs). This is the 5th consecutive year Oxley has won in the boys division.

Bryce and I would like to congratulate everyone for their efforts and enthusiasm at the Invitational Carnivals, and especially at the Oxley twilight carnival with the amazing turn out of competitors. We would like to wish all swimmers the best of luck for the HICES and ISA Carnivals next week. By Lauren Howes (Year 12)



REVIEW: EVIE AND THE BIRDMAN



The opening night of this year's musical did not fail in bringing flare and feathers to the stage! With the spectacular costumes,

illuminating backdrop and passionate actors, the story of Evie and Birdman truly came to life. The cast and ensemble radiated energy to the audience through the multiple musical numbers and complex choreography. There are definitely a few 'laugh out loud' moments throughout the musical which really got the audience giggling too. The show is great for the whole family and goes for a little over two hours, with one intermission. I highly recommend going to see Evie and the Birdman, it's a great night out at the theatre! No need to be a musical fanatic, just come along and show your support for Oxley's amazingly talented students.

Tickets are available for purchase through www.trybooking.com/BITEC. The remaining dates are; Friday 6 March, Saturday 7 March, Thursday 12 March, Friday 13 March. It is important to note: There will be no cash sales on the night and there is limited seating.

Peggy Holmwood (Year 10)