

PIN OAK



*FAREWELL
CLASS OF 2020!*

COVID 19
Year 12 Reflect

GOLD DOE
Josh Bramley

ART
Gallery

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HEAD OF COLLEGE'S REPORT

2020 has been like no other year and on many occasions, we have had to be creative and re-imagine events and traditions. Out of these uncertain times, while there have been some disappointments there has also been unexpected and positive experiences. We have farewelled our Year 12 students this week with all of the traditions that we could hold onto as well as creating some new ones including having parents at our final Year 12 assembly (livestreamed). The P&F also enveloped our Year 12s to ensure that their finish of schooling was special - the students were both surprised and grateful for the generosity and love shown.

One of the most joyous moments this week was bringing the whole College together for a photo to celebrate and mark 2020 in the photo on page 13 of Pin Oak. We wanted to mark 2020 and how our students and staff have remained 'Brave, Strong and True' in this unprecedented year. Thank you to Renate Cheaib for this wonderful initiative.

I have been so impressed with these Year 12 students and how they adjusted to the uncertain times and challenges faced this year and how they focussed on being grateful for what they had, rather than be disappointed by what they missed. Every Year 12 has shown strength, optimism and resilience and in many ways, they are better prepared to leave the College than any year that has gone before them. They are Brave, Strong and True and we are so proud of each and every one of them!

The final Year 12 assembly was held in the heart of the College outside on Elvo lawn and this created a very special atmosphere for the Senior School to gather safely to farewell our 65 Year 12 students. So beautiful and poignant was the assembly that this may well become a new tradition! During this assembly we heard special messages about each Year 12 student and what their future aspirations were. So diverse and very exciting. Two Year 7 students, Xanthe McDonald and Harrison Kirsch spoke about the influence, welcome and support Year 12s provided them when they joined the Oxley family. Following the assembly, the Year 12s passed through the tunnel created by all of the students and staff from Kindergarten - Year 12. Such a beautiful tradition that really epitomises the sense of community and being a truly inclusive and K-12 College.

Last year I travelled on Outback with this group of students and it was a fantastic way to get to know them. I have been so impressed with how they have grown and matured and come together as a year group and have really stepped up this year in all they have done and achieved. The spirit amongst them is palpable and from the tears shed at the end of the tunnel you can see the connection and passion they have for each other and the College.

We have some serious talent amongst our Year 12 students in all sorts of pursuits whether that be in the Creative and Performing Arts, Sport, Academics or in service to the community. This talent is showing through with the nominations we have gained so far in the practical and performance areas of the HSC. Just following the formal assembly, we received notice, that three of our HSC Music 1 students were selected for the HSC Music Showcase, Encore. Congratulations go to Mya Bertolini, Michael Dowe and Alexander Kolovos. A special thank you and congratulations must go to Mr Young and his music staff for their support of these students. Last week we received notification that we had two of our Drama students nominated for their individual performances for inclusion in OnSTAGE. Congratulations go to Claire Allan performing her piece Pearl Avalon and Archie Waters performing Is Rosencrantz really dead? We are grateful and appreciative to Phil Cunich and Liane Bull for their expertise and dedication in preparing all of our Drama students so well.

HEAD OF COLLEGE'S REPORT *continued*



On Monday afternoon we also celebrated the Year 12 Visual Art and Year 12 Design and Technology students with their exhibitions. Due to Covid restrictions, we could only have small groups of parents on campus to view their outstanding works.

I was so impressed with their talent, creativity and dedication they had obviously put into their work. The students portfolios and products have all been assessed and marks submitted by the teachers and we are now waiting on NESA to hear about any nominations for the Visual Art and Design and Technology showcases shortly.

We will certainly celebrate these once we hear. I would like to thank and congratulate Beattie Lanser and Vanessa Forbes for the leadership and support they have provided the students with their studies. You can view our videos of the exhibitions here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHB7JpdZCNzCzmus8X5kDvQ/videos>

The Year 12 students have the Oxley spirit - they are warm, welcoming and are an eclectic mix of beautiful and individual humans. I encourage them all to think big, go bravely and believe in themselves as they step away from the routines and support of the College. Most of all I encourage them to be kind! Kind to themselves, kind to others and to 'Shine as a light' in the world.

Amongst the advice they received at the assembly I included the wisdom of some of our youngest students. While I was unable to include all of them at the assembly, I now share these with you.

Kindergarten's advice for our Year 12 students as they leave school:

Finn: Always make sure when you buy your groceries that you buy healthy food so that you can get strong. Maybe you could just buy a few treats.

Em: Make sure when you move out of home you know how to use the television controller so you can watch what you want to watch.

April: Make sure you take all your clothes and everything you own out of your mum and dad's house when you move out.

Eliza: Don't ever forget your phone if you put it down somewhere because if there is a fire you won't be able to text the fire brigade.

Frankie: Don't forget your wallet when you go out because if you go to a shop, you won't be able to buy anything.

Lucy: When you have your own house, don't forget to clean it when it gets dirty because no one will like to come and visit if it is not clean.

Naomi: Don't forget to clean your car. Otherwise it will smell bad.

Charlotte: If you get in your car at night-time and your mum and dad are not there, watch out for animals.

Lachlan: Make sure when you move out of home you still visit your mum and dad because they will be missing you.

Thomas: If you want to live in a big house with stairs and you don't want to build it yourself, just get someone else to build it for you that has more energy than you.

Em: If you go to another country you need to know that you can't use your Australian money to buy things. But you probably won't go overseas because the planes won't let you because of Corona.

April: Marry someone before you buy a house so you can use your money together to buy the house.

Emily: When you leave school, you need to remember to keep visiting your mum and dad but organise it before you go to make sure they are at home.

Beth: Buy a kitchen so you can cook your own food and know how to cook what you like eating for breakfast, lunch, dinner and morning tea. Piper: Or...call you mum and ask them to cook for you.

Finn: Make sure you have manners, so you are always nice to people.

Harrison: Never give up because if you give up you stop learning.

Frankie: If you have to do something you really need to do but don't know if you can... you have to just keep trying and keep trying and it will finally work out in the end.

"The Year 12 students have the Oxley spirit, they are warm, welcoming and are an eclectic mix of beautiful and individual humans. I encourage them all to think big, go bravely and believe in themselves."



YEAR 12 GALLERY



DEPUTY HEAD OF LEARNING



Learning for Life

This week is always one of our favourites at Oxley – celebrating the journey of HSC students as they finish their studies, viewing exhibitions that are the result of hours and hours of hard grind. This year this process has been even more poignant. One of my favourite moments was to hear the words of two of our Year 7 students as they farewelled the current Year 12s. Out of Xanthe and Harrison's mouths came very many fundamental things that we learn and value at school.

While we sometimes talk a lot about marks, assessment, grades and rankings, really, they are just markers along the way as true learning occurs: it is not the content alone that is important, but what we do with it, how we construct understanding, how we learn to build and connect separate things to make a whole that makes sense to each of us.

Many will know of the influence that Sir Ken Robinson has had our way of looking at education. How he challenged us to look realistically at the secondary system in particular and how schooling systems were siloing young people into separate disciplines instead of teaching the whole child. Sadly, Sir Ken passed away earlier this year, but his focus on creativity and curiosity continues to inspire us each day at Oxley. We truly are striving to educate the whole child, and the farewells this week showed the extent that this is occurring. Our Year 12 students spoke openly and confidently about challenge, about grit, but most of all, about their care for each other, connection and belonging in this place...their future is bright!

As we approach our break, I am grateful for so many things about Oxley this term - our wonderful teachers who have had to dig very deep this year, yet continue to plan, engage and motivate students every day; our brave Year 12 students who have completed Trials and now commence the final sprint; Year 11 students who have sat their first formal examination with dedication and commitment and now begin their Year 12 journey, our Year 9 students who have also completed Yearly examinations at a very unusual time of the year! And of course, all the things that Year 10 and Year 8 and Year 7 have done too.....every child, every adult at Oxley has had such a demanding term, but we finish with a sense of accomplishment and joy. I hope all can have the chance to relax and refresh over the holidays.

Best wishes,

Kate Cunich, Deputy Head Learning



DEPUTY HEAD OF PASTORAL



Year 12 Farewell

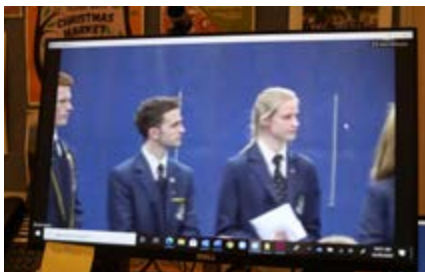
It has been an emotional week for Year 12 students and their families, as well as staff and other students who have known this young men and women over many years. Despite the disruption to some of our traditions due to COVID restrictions, we hope that Year 12 have enjoyed their last formal week of school; I have been impressed by their resilience, good humour and grace in challenging circumstances in these last few weeks. We have farewelled them in a series of events, including special House lunches, Tutor Group farewell parties, House farewell assemblies, inflatable fun on Wednesday afternoon in the PCC and the Year 12 Informal Assembly and Formal Assembly yesterday. The generosity of the P&F in their personalised gifts (and 'Oxley' cup cakes!) was a really wonderful touch and was hugely appreciated by the students. We look forward to honouring our Year 12s again in the graduation events that we are planning for 12 November.

Year 12 2021

Today we announced our new Student Leaders for the upcoming year in our Leadership Assembly. We employ a democratic process in selecting our Student Leadership Team. Ballots are conducted within each House, across the staff and across Years 11 and 12. However, rather than voting for a single candidate, staff and students indicate which students on the ballot excel in each of five categories of leadership: Contributor, Respected, Exemplar, Team Player and Interventionist.

Student Leadership 2020-2021

- Head Boy: James Feetham, Head Girl: Mia Gillis
- Deputy Head Boy: James Blissett, Deputy Head Girl: Ava Lambie
- Prefects: Will David, Ingrid Heinrich, Jade Neath, Thomas Rapp
- House Captains:
- DOBELL
 - Jarrold Smith
 - Luca Ritchie
- DURACK
 - Oliver Bragg
 - Mia Sandilands
- FLOREY
 - Arlo Berry
 - Sophie Moore
- MAWSON
 - Jack Crowley
 - Grace Ayling
- MONASH
 - Cameron Regan
 - Ruby Zupp
- ODGEROO
 - Toby O'Sullivan
 - Jesse Noad



JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

There is so much for us to be grateful for as we conclude the term, and I am particularly grateful to our Junior School staff and students for their persistence and resilience displayed throughout a term that has been both rewarding and challenging. We look forward to an exciting Term 4 which begins with OLE week.

Spotlight on Fortitude

Through a staff professional learning session this week, we have been reminded about the importance of drawing on our strengths as a school community. The strengths, which are also our Oxley values, come under five categories: Wisdom, Fortitude, Humanity, Justice and Mindfulness. In tougher times, we perhaps need to draw more heavily on those values that fall within the category of Fortitude. Psychology research in the area of strengths shows that we make the most growth in aspects we naturally possess, and we all possess different areas of strength that we can draw upon. However, we can also develop in areas where we may be weaker.

Fortitude includes qualities such as integrity, courage, enthusiasm, persistence, confidence and resilience. Our students have continued to exhibit such tenacity in their learning this term with their dedicated teachers. In some schools, end of term can signal a little bit of fraying around the edges when people become tired, but Oxley students and staff seem boundless in their capacity to hold to their values and live them out each day in a genuine way.

If you would like to explore the particular strengths of your children further, Professor Lea Waters' book, *The Strength Switch* is a great place to start. <https://www.leawaters.com/the-strength-switch>

Ignite! Festival of Bright Ideas Films

A few weeks ago, students enjoyed a week of Ignite events, and during Assembly, I asked the students to offer their favourite aspects of the week.

The students told me that what they enjoyed most was the special effects festoon and special lighting which transformed the school playground, performing for the cameras, working as a team with their classmates to prepare their projects, sharing their learning with Mrs Ethell, seeing the Year 6 character performances in the garden and wearing their glowstick jewellery.

The atmosphere across the week was electric and was an important way for the students to celebrate their learning. The films are now [will soon be] available on our school website. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHB7JpdZCNzCzmus8X5kDvQ/videos>.

Welcome to new students

On Wednesday, I had the great pleasure of meeting with our newest Oxleyans for a special morning tea in my office.

Ayden Hosseinzadeh, Clancy Mahoney, Laura Drysdale, Gabi von Sperl, Matthias Willis, Caelan Granger and Heidi Sinclair told me about their favourite things at Oxley so far. Among them, their new friends, their love of the specialist and co-curricular options, especially Japanese. Ayden told me he loves the music options and learning an instrument. They all said they love their teachers, and have made great friends. We look forward to introducing another 11 new students to the College Junior School next term. Over the holidays, I will be meeting them in person and getting them ready to start the term with their new friends and teachers.

Turning of the Statue

On Thursday 22 September, I accompanied our Junior School leaders, Flynn O'Brien and Imogen Gair to be a part of what has recently become a Bowral tradition of turning the Mary Poppins statue outside the Bradman Museum. Pamela Travers, who wrote Mary Poppins, moved with her family to Bowral in 1907. The special event was to welcome the Spring Equinox, and is now normally a part of Tulip Time celebrations.

By Katherine Halcrow, Head of Junior School



OLD OXLEYAN

ROBIN PONIG Class of 2000

Now that you're off in the big wide world, what have you made of yourself since finishing school at Oxley?

Since finishing at Oxley, I have accomplished a career in Critical Care Nursing, spanning over last 16 years. I have specialised in various disciplines ranging from Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) to Hyperbaric Oxygenation Therapy (HBOT). Today I hold the position of Clinical Nurse Specialist in Critical Care Nursing and Hyperbaric Nursing at The Alfred, Melbourne.

To work at the Alfred's Intensive Care Unit (ICU) is seen as huge accomplishment within the Critical Care Community, let alone gaining the position of Clinical Nurse Specialist in two disciplines. For the last 10 years I have been looking after the sickest of the sick, most noteworthy of late has been an ever-growing number of COVID positive patients.

The last six months have been the most trying of my career. Not only is it personally dangerous, the most heart-wrenching aspect is that our patients are dying without being able to be touched or comforted by their loved ones; they are only able to say goodbye via telehealth on an iPad. No one deserves this, it's the true meaning on inhumane. COVID does not discriminate, it will take the young, the fit, anyone. Most of my sick patients on ECMO are just as young as me, and most of them fellow healthcare workers. If you would have told me 10 years ago that I would be nursing through a pandemic I would have told you to watch less Sci-Fi thrillers. However, the harsh truth of the matter is that scientists saw this coming 10 years ago. It's time for humanity to take a look at how we chose to interact with Mother Nature, because if we don't I fear that we will continue to make the same mistake over and over again.

What is your biggest achievement since high school?

I'd say that my biggest achievement to date is gaining my positions of Clinical Nurse Specialist (ICU and HBU) at The Alfred. I'm one of only three people in Australia to have this title. Working at a world leading hospital like the Alfred also gives me the opportunity to work on projects that have never been done before, like that taking both Ventricular Assistance Device (VAD) and ECMO patients into the Hyperbaric Chamber. Both of these projects will save many lives and change intensive



care and hyperbaric medicine as we know it.

Were these things that during high school you expected you would end up doing?

To the level my nursing career has gone, no absolutely not. However, I always knew I'd be a humanitarian. However, after this pandemic I plan on changing my career and return to university to become a Veterinarian. It's time to help animal-kind.

What would you say you miss most about being at school?

Having no real responsibilities and the feeling of having the rest of my life ahead of me. Life was a so much simpler back then.

What would you say to your fifteen year old self?

I would tell myself not to listen to the nay-sayers and to rest assured that I can do anything that I put my mind to. Highschool was not easy for me, both in the classroom and out. I firmly believe that any adversity that I faced has made me into the person I am today, resilient and strong.

Year 12 Reflect

on the year and covid

Usually, at this time of Year 12, focusing on academic preparation for the HSC must be balanced with the competing demands of shopping for formal dresses and suits and planning for the celebrations of schoolies week. For the Oxley Class of 2020, the reality of the global pandemic means that these events are no longer happening, at least not in the way in which students envisioned.

I caught up with Oxley's Year 12 to find out about the things that have changed and what has stayed the same ... here are their thoughts, in their own words:

What were your expectations for your final year of school? What were you looking forward to?

"A balance of curricular and co-curricular. Studying hard but also playing sport together and going to parties. I think that these are the things that foster a sense of cohesion during the final year of school, a sense that we are all in it together. I know that's how it was for my siblings."

"I was looking forward to everything about Year 12. I was especially looking forward to my leadership role, speaking at assemblies and going on the Year 7 orientation camp. I knew it would be a demanding year academically but all the good things like 18th birthday parties and the formal would balance that out."

"I was really excited about my Group Performances in Music Extension and Drama."

"I had just witnessed the year above me have the best schooling year of their lives. I was excited to spend my weekends playing our last season of school sport, hanging out with my friends and bonding as a year group."

"I was really looking forward to 18th birthday parties, schoolies on the Gold Coast and meeting lots of new people through new experiences."

"I thought our final year would be the same as it was for last year's Year 12, with

exactly the same rituals and celebrations."

How has COVID-19 impacted your experience of Year 12?

"No sport. Assemblies on Zoom. No music groups. Strings are allowed but I play in the wind ensemble."



"Schoolies being cancelled was a big thing for me. Also not being able to have a party for my 18th birthday."



"It is really different making a speech at assembly when it is on Zoom. Public speaking while making sure you are looking straight at a tiny camera on a laptop screen is a new skill for me. I also learnt to be careful about my facial expressions because if you pull a funny face or yawn, you can be sure someone will screenshot it."

"COVID-19 has meant that I have focused more closely on my studies. Usually sport is a huge part of my life which I love but it takes a lot of my time. Obviously more study is not a bad thing, but I am disappointed that we couldn't have spectators at our last Athletics Carnival."



"I was, fortunately, able to experience learning from home which worked so much better for me than regular school. If COVID-19 hadn't occurred I would not have been able to negotiate learning from home."

"For most of high school, I have been dreaming about a Gap year travelling across Europe. Now it feels like the only logical thing to do is head straight to university."



"COVID-19 has limited our ability to engage in new experiences and gather together physically as a year group. We've had to find other ways to make connections with each other."

Has anything about your final year changed for the better because of COVID-19?

"Because we can't have parties or big gatherings, I have learnt to really appreciate the time I can spend with my friends at recess and lunch."



"I realise how lucky we are to live in the Southern Highlands as there are comparatively few cases of COVID-19 here."



"Our school's learning@home programme worked really well and I am so glad that we have kept aspects of it even though we are back at school. The Weekly Learning Cycles are so helpful for planning ahead."

"I have learnt not to take things for granted. I have become more flexible and adaptable as I have had to adjust to the restrictions of COVID-19, particularly coping with not having face to face lessons during lockdown. I have surprised myself by how much I have grown."



"I think COVID-19 has forced Year 12 students to discover their own learning style. Some students thrived during learning@home, while others recognised that they need support from and contact with their peers to succeed."

"During lockdown, I spent a lot more time with my family and even thought things are back to the "new" normal, I am determined to continue to prioritise spending time with the people I love, especially my sister and nieces who do not live with me."



"So many more opportunities to do things differently, especially in Music. Our Foundation Night performances were professionally filmed, as was our Year 12 Music Night, so I will have that record of Year 12 forever."



"While COVID-19 has thrown many curveballs in my direction, it has also provided an important opportunity for self-reflection and personal development. I have focused on making the very best of situations and having a positive mindset and I am a better person because of that."

By Molly Simpson, Year 12 Academic Master

INSPIRATION



FILMS

HSC VA and DT
Videos



ROB PARKER
BAGPIPES



BOOK
Perspective



In 2020, we were sadly unable to invite our community to our annual HSC Showcase exhibitions for Visual Art and Design and Technology.



However, we hope you enjoy these short films which capture both these inspiring exhibitions: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHB7JpdZCNzCzmus8X5kDvQ/videos>

Rob Parker has been the sole teacher of bagpipes and passionate leader of the Oxley College Pipes and Drums since its conception in the year of 2015. Subsequently the band has grown significantly in numbers with programmes involving the Junior School aimed to involve students from the younger years in the band and increase interest in the pipes and drums. Thanks to Rob we are given many opportunities to demonstrate the band's capability to the rest of the piping world and have been involved in many local and national events such as the annual ANZAC parades in Bowral, the Senior School piping competitions held at Scots College in Sydney and even played with the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo inside the colossal ANZ stadium late last year. Through all this Rob consistently assists every member in the band to the best of his ability, passing on his integral and lasting knowledge of the bagpipes to his pupils so that they may continue playing the instrument after school. However Rob has sadly decided to retire from the band, leaving us in the trusted command of one of Australia's greatest contemporary Pipers, Barry Gray. Though this is deeply moving news for those who work with Rob at the school, his some 25 years of experience as a professional Piper makes his contributions all the more worthwhile - allowing the band to reach its current sophistication and high performance potential for upcoming competitions in early 2021. Knowing Rob Parker personally, I feel safe to say that he leaves a massive impression on those he teaches not just because of his boundless knowledge of the instrument but the amazing, engaging stories he shares about his lengthy career in the Piping world. I can also say that he will be sorely and deeply missed by those he opened the world of Piping to and wish him well. I must also thank Rob's wife Mary Lou for her patience and variety of foods she brings for smoko every Monday. Therefore I thank both of them for their commitment to not just the band but the school as a whole.

By Cameron Regan (Year 11)

Ellyse Perry is an extraordinary sportswoman, who has represented her country in not one, but two sports, debuting for both at the age of 16. She has been one of my idols for as long as I can remember, and after reading her book "Perspective" I feel like I know her so much better.

This book is all about Perry's approach to the way she lives her life. She is so appreciative for what she has and never takes anything for granted. Her journey is laid out in this book, and it gives you an insight into her daily life.

Despite being one of the most famous Australian sportswomen, she does not believe she is better than anyone else. This book is all about her perspective on life, and makes you question your perspective: "What are the important things that you know make experiences special? What are the things that motivate you? What are the things that give you joy? The things that challenge you but ultimately, make you a better person? Most importantly, who are the people who unwavering help and support you couldn't go without?"

I would highly recommend this book for all sports lovers out there, especially if reading is not your thing, as this book is not hard and is so inspiring. Each chapter is about a different character trait and makes you think about how you can improve on yourself to be the happiest person you can be. With uplifting and motivating quotes alongside sporting photos of Ellyse Perry, this book is one to read.

By Liv Bow (Year 10)



Josh Bramley

Oxley is proud to have sustained a long and rewarding involvement with the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, facilitated by the tireless Mr Dibdin and Ms Rees. Recently, a Year 12 student, Josh Bramley, achieved the prestigious Gold Award. This is by no means a simple feat; instead it is the culmination of 52 weeks of participation in a physical recreation, skill, adventurous journey and service component, as well as attainment of prior Silver and Gold awards. A Gold Award requires an additional Residential Journey to be completed. In recognition of Josh's significant achievement, we sat down and asked him about his experience as a Duke of Ed participant:

How did you become involved in DofE?

Loving the outdoors and previous OLE week hikes and canoeing trips, when Mr Dibdin opened up the opportunity to complete DofE, in year 9, it was something I had already been looking forward to and seemed like another wonderful opportunity to spend time with friends, away camping on the weekend

What activities have you completed over the years to fulfil the award requirements?

I play and learn the Saxophone, so that was a "Skill" area already covered. For physical, I play basketball (summer) and rugby (winter). Over the years, I have volunteered leading small groups of year 3-4 boys at Sunday School Church, as well as serving on the music and sound teams.

What are your fondest memories?

There's so many to choose from! Having a snow fight near the peak of Mt Kosciuszko, squeezing 22 kids into a small 4x3 hut while it felt like -8 outside that night, reading stories from the log books in the Kosciuszko huts, cooking chicken kebabs, sausages and pizza on the Trangia, sliding down a muddy hill, known as the "mud slide" over and over again - and then washing off in a leech-filled dam... the list is endless - any and every hike we went on we left stories that will hopefully last and encourage people to share the enormously fun times we had.

Have there been any particular challenges you have had to overcome?

"You're only as fast as the slowest member" is a phrase that I will never forget. I'm impatient and rather forthright so this was a particular struggle that I endured every hike, however

I like to think I got better with time at understanding that DOE is a team effort, and the team isn't 10 Josh's - what a nightmare that would be!

How do you think DofE will help you throughout your life?

I've formed life-long memories and friendships. Some of the conversations I've had while walking aimlessly through forests with friends, navigation skills I've learnt, and an overall confirmation of my love of camping, hiking and generally being an idiot outside has been amazing. In addition, it's a nice rubber stamp achievement that I can mention in a CV, job, uni or scholarship application.

What would you recommend to younger participants?

Throw yourself in, head-first! Whether you're an outdoorsy type or not, DofE is an amazing opportunity to learn new skills, have fun with your friends and challenge yourself - with a tangible, practical end-goal and achievement.

Ava Lambie, Year 11



SENIOR GALLERY



VIRTUAL GALLERY



Arabella Brown, Year 11

The freedom of death (Verdigris Green)

My work, the freedom of death Explores the idea of the inevitability of death, and how people can be comfortable with the idea. I expressed this through the use of photography, I was influenced by the artist Olafur Eliasson and his use of colours in his artworks. I enjoyed the use of uncertainty in how the light would behave with an open exposure photograph.

I hope that my work makes the audience think about how nature and death work together, and that nothing is certain with anything. I'd hope that there would be a sense of emotion, and that they would simply bring with them calmness.

BRAVE, STRONG AND TRUE



GOOD & OTHER NEWS



Staycation

To say I'm intellectually exhausted is an understatement, I've spent the time since completing prelims reverting between playing the Sims and watching Bondi Rescue compilations; it's safe to say I desperately need a holiday. However, like many my tropical getaway dreams have been dashed by travel restrictions so I am forced to resort to (Or anything other than a "resort" to) a staycation. A "Staycation" is one of the many portmanteaus gifted to us by the 2010's (See: "Hangry" and "Frenemy"), referring to holiday completed entirely from one's own home. So here are some Staycation ideas to make it a trip of a lifetime!

Fairy lights

If there is something more 2010's than the word "Staycation" it is most definitely fairy lights, from my current vantage point I can count three strings of fairy lights. This is nothing to aspire to and should be viewed more so as a baseline.

Learn to cook eggs

Even if you got an "A" in year 7 food tech, there is still always way to cook eggs which you are yet to have mastered as a result of the pure amount of ways to cook an egg. Scrambled, boiled, fried, poached; use your staycation to experience the full depth and breadth of egg-based activities.

Come up with a fun name for your bedroom

It sounds 10 times cooler to tell someone you spent your holidays in "Purpleville" than it does saying in "the second bedroom to your left down the hallway". Simply pick a word and add "-Ville" and you have returned from not just a staycation but an exciting getaway to one of the hidden wonders of the world.

Declare your own micronation

Has a lack of international travel got you down? Take coming up with a fun name for your bedroom further by declaring your bedroom as a micronation. Australia has an exceptionally large number of micronations, thanks to a legal loophole entitled the "Treason act of 1945" which states that "An Acte that noe person going wth the Kinge to the Warres shalbe attaynt of treason.". Meaning that any person acting as the ruler in a member state of the Commonwealth of nations is considered a ruler and it illegal to deny their reign. So make of that what you were will; start a nation and assert your rule. Personally, from now on I shall only be addressed as "Queen Pearl of Fairytopia".

By Pearl Bendle, Year 11



A survivor of the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami

This term, Year 5 have been studying the concept of 'Survival.' Mrs Mangelsdorf (a survivor of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami) had a zoom with Year 5 to tell us about her story of survival. We'd like to share her story, with you.

What is your story of surviving the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami?

My boyfriend and I were living in Malaysia. We decided we wanted to spend some time with my sister, who lived in New York, and planned a holiday to Sri Lanka. We were staying on the coast in Mirissa, for Christmas. Our hotel was up on a hill. On Christmas Day the bay was filled with people swimming, surfing and playing on the beach. However, nobody knew what the next day ahead held. On the morning of Boxing Day, we awoke to the sound of waves lapping at the shore, like usual. We looked out the window to the coastline. But suddenly something wasn't right. People were panicked, pointing; they looked confused. Abruptly, unpredictably, the shore started to retreat. Fish were left on the now bare sand. And then a giant, towering wall of water suddenly rushed towards the coast – a tsunami. Puzzled people on the beach were walking outwards to see what was happening. I started warning people to run away, screaming out the window, but they didn't understand English. The water became taller and raced towards shore.

How did you feel when you didn't know what was happening?

I felt shocked and confused. My body froze. I was frightened and I was shaking. I tried to put on my contact lenses, but my hands were too shaky, and I kept dropping them.

What were some of the things you did to help after the tsunami?

On the day of the tsunami, our immediate thought was to fill the bathtub with water, in case we lost water supply. The electricity had cut out. We did a stocktake of whatever food we had. The following day we went looking for my sister, who we found. Together we helped re-build the road as well as helping some people who were stranded. We took them to a temporary housing project in Kalutara. We flew out of Sri Lanka that night. I still have a guilt for leaving.

What were your family's reactions and how have they supported you since this event?

When the news was heard in Australia, the nation panicked. Our families were worried, of course. They weren't able to get in contact with us straight away as the phone lines weren't working. We had many people checking in to see if we were ok. I have tried to re-assure my family that many people were affected, much worse than us.

How has surviving changed the way you live and look at life?

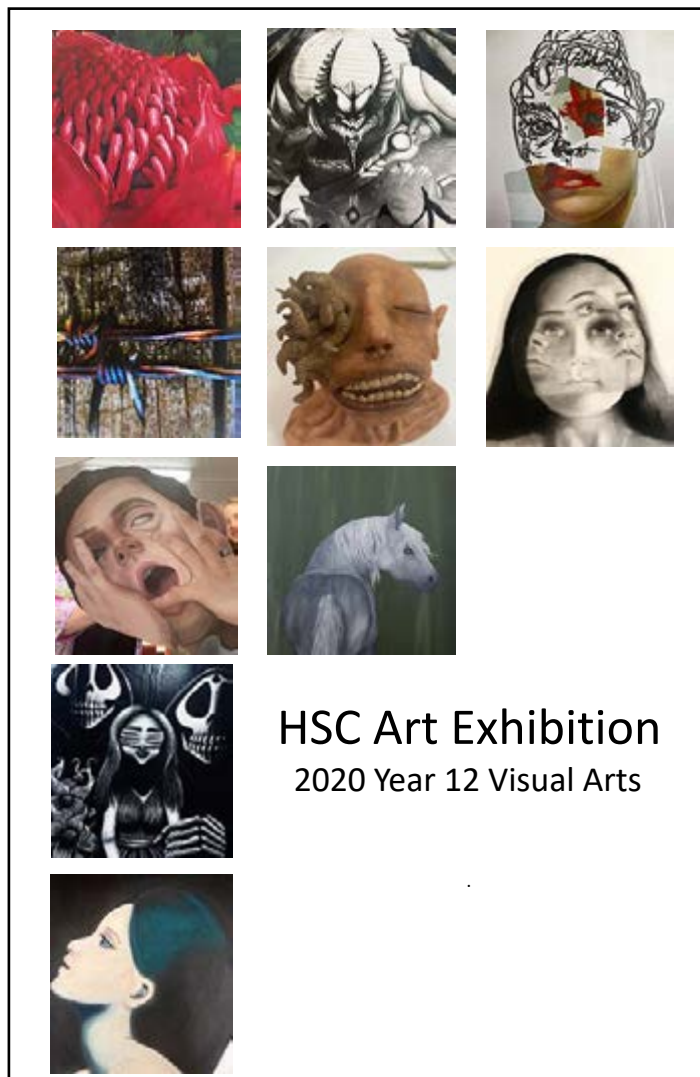
Well, 2004 was quite a long time ago. Life really just continued. Although, since the tsunami, I now don't like the sounds of cracking trees or buildings falling. I also get nervous when I see moving crowds. I definitely have a higher empathy level. We actually went back to Sri Lanka after the tsunami and helped the communities re-build. Surviving this natural disaster has directed me to be more aware of others who need help.

We found this interview with Mrs Mangelsdorf extremely moving and we are very thankful for her time.

By Leila Palmer and Tilly Lambie, Year 5



*Y12 HSC
Design and
Technology
Major Projects
Exhibition,
2020.*



HSC Art Exhibition
2020 Year 12 Visual Arts

P & F

How is it that a year when nothing much has happened seems to have gone by so quickly?

The P&F of Oxley College would like to wish the Year 12 students all the best for the upcoming exams and the exciting future that lies ahead of them.

Over the last week the P&F have organised a few treats for these students to demonstrate the support and encouragement of our Oxley community as they finish off a difficult school year. With the departure of our Year 12 students we also say goodbye to a number of parents who have given a great deal of time and energy into the Oxley College P&F.

Thank you to those parents who have contributed so much and now leave Oxley days behind. In particular I would like to say thank you to Bec Biddle who, with her daughter Georgia finishing Year 12, now leaves the College parent body. Bec was President of the P&F for a three year term before taking on the Vice President role this year. She has been an enthusiastic and supportive leader and we extend our sincere thanks to Bec and Sam for their commitment to the P&F over the last four years.

Wishing the Oxley College community a safe and enjoyable spring holiday.

By Megan Moore, P & F President



CLAIRE ALLAN AND ARCHIE WATERS NOMINATED FOR ONSTAGE 2020

Congratulations to Archie Waters and Claire Allan who are nominated for OnStage, the NSW HSC showcase for Drama. This is a huge achievement. We caught up with Claire just before she left yesterday.

1) Can you provide a brief overview of the piece you were selected for Onstage with?

My piece was titled "Songs for Nobodies - Pearl Avalon". It depicts a American girl from Kansas in the South who is recounting the time she met her idol, Patsy Cline, a famous country singer over in the States. She explains how Patsy was the catalyst in her becoming of a professional backup singer.

2) What are your future aspirations or dreams? Would you like to continue to be involved in the performing arts?

I am actually currently applying and auditioning for the Western Australian Acting and Performing Arts Academy in Perth for the Bachelor of Arts, both Music Theatre and Acting. The prospect of having a career in drama and performing is always something I have pondered on, especially concerning some aspects of viability. But I would love to live and breathe theatre everyday. However, the university I am applying for is very competitive and hard to get in, so I have received early entry at ANU for a double degree course in law and international security studies. But I know I can always be involved in local productions wherever I am and can appreciate the brilliance of professional performances from the seats of a theatre

3) Did you find it difficult combining a major work with other subjects? How did you manage your preparation?

This was my only major work this year, as I completed Music 1 last year, so this made it easier to focus on my performance a bit more. Because Drama is starkly different from other subjects I

was doing which were more humanities based I actually found arriving to drama and performing a huge release. But, as is with Year 12, managing your time between subjects and your IP is something I had to figure out, and thankfully with the help of Mr Cunich and Ms Bull, I was able to complete my monologue with great satisfaction.

4) What advice would you give to younger students pursuing an interest in drama?

I would say to those thinking about doing a monologue to delve into the depths of all the monologue books Mr Cunich has to offer and find a character that speaks to you. I was able to really connect with my characters bubbly nature and enthusiasm to strive and stretch, as well as the obvious fact that we both like singing too! But also find a character you find interesting, out of your comfort zone and someone who is unique and different from what you'd usually find. This was true for me with the Southern accent!

5) Which aspects of HSC Drama have you found most rewarding, and most difficult?

The most difficult part was not having the group performance. I think everyone joins drama because they grovel at the prospect of working with peers to conjure a piece of theatre that is eye catching and engaging. So with this aspect out of the picture because of the pandemic, I think it was definitely a downer for my class and myself as we were really looking forward to it. But the most rewarding aspect was that I discovered a little bit more about myself as an actor. Those numerous amounts of times where I'd rehearse by myself were times where I was learning about my own emotions, tone and presence on stage as a performer. I found this greatly rewarding to experience as I have been acting for so long in my life and am glad that I have found there is still so much more to learn

By Ava Lambie (Year 11)

TEN YEARS OF THE CIVIC2SURF

Despite the odds, the 2020 Civic2Surf returned to the Highlands for its tenth anniversary – gaining support from the Oxley College community. Ten years ago, the Civic2Surf was established by six Australian National University students who shared a common desire to raise funds and awareness for young people suffering in silence. Each year since 2011, the Civic2Surf have supported between 60 -80 runners to run 340 kms in 24 hours to raise funds for Batyr.

On Friday 11 and Saturday 12 September, eighty Australian National University students ran a return trip from Canberra to Bong Bong Racecourse to smash the stigma surrounding youth mental health. This year was particularly challenging due to COVID restrictions, however, that failed to impact participants dedication to training and ultimate completion of this phenomenal feat. The team behind this year's event are especially grateful to all those who made it possible, including local businesses, and volunteers such as the young people from Oxley College.

On this day, the Southern Highlands community also gather to remember Old Oxleyan student, Harriet Nixon, who was a former President of the Civic2Surf and tragically lost her life four years ago. The Walk for Hat has become an important annual community event.

By utilising and strengthening the use of youth perspective, the Civic2Surf encourages young people to talk about mental health and to take charge of their stories. Youth mental health has become an increasingly prevalent issue in recent years. As such, it is so important to have positive conversations about mental health and to empower young people to reach out for support when needed.

This year, our community has faced large scale devastation. Now, more than ever before, Australia's youth need to know that they aren't alone; that the negative voices in their heads are not there to stay, and that it is okay not to be okay. This year, the Civic2Surf Community want to spread a positive word of encouragement and hope to raise \$20,000 to help implement a 'Being Herd Program' in a school located within the Southern Highlands.

To donate or for more information please head to: www.civic2surf.com

Or go straight to the donation link: <https://civic2surf-2020.raisely.com/>

By Isabella Davies

2020 Civic2Surf President and Old Oxleyan

