

# PIN OAK



*Rites of Passage*

**INSPIRATION**

Books, Films

**BIG ISSUE**

Emerging Technology

**ART**

Portrait Prize 2021

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## P & F

Here we are already at the end of Term 1! I do hope parents have taken the opportunity to meet others in their year group by attending one of the functions organised by Parent Reps this term. Across the Junior and Senior schools there has been a flurry of welcome drinks, numerous coffee mornings, drinks nights and dinners held at different locations and all have been well attended. How lucky we are to have the opportunity to get out and socialise AND support our local businesses in the process. Hopefully this social activity will continue in Term 2 with our Equestrian Day being held on Sunday 2 May, a Mother's Day high tea for the Junior School on Thursday 6 May and plans afoot to hold a Trivia Night towards the end of term.

To ensure the success of our Oxley Equestrian Day, we will be asking for volunteers to help work at the canteen, cook the BBQ and bake goods to be sold on the day. Please keep your eyes on the Pin Oak as we will be calling for assistance early next term.

With ISA winter sport commencing next term, our 'Hungry Ox' BBQ will be fired up, ready to feed the players and spectators attending Oxley games on Saturday mornings. Once again we will be asking for volunteers to assist on the BBQ roster. This is a great way to meet other parents at Oxley and assists the P&F greatly in providing this service.

By Megan Moore, P & F President

## OXLEY COLLEGE EQUESTRIAN DAY 2021

Show Jumping, Dressage, Show Horse and Horsemanship from K-12.



Sunday 2 May 2021  
'Wyeera' Bong Bong Racecourse, Kangaloon Road, Bowral  
All entries via [www.nominate.com.au](http://www.nominate.com.au)  
Entries close 23 April 2021  
Enquiries: [alexandrajohnston@bigpond.au](mailto:alexandrajohnston@bigpond.au)  
[holly@kramernoad.com.au](mailto:holly@kramernoad.com.au)  
Morning tea & lunch available.



# ACTING HEAD OF COLLEGE'S REPORT

As is often the case with Oxley, here is a first for me – writing on behalf of Jenny Ethell as Acting Head of College! The first thing that comes into my head is gratitude – most importantly gratitude to Jenny for



her fine leadership of the College, and gratitude that she is finally having a well-deserved break in WA after the challenges of 2020. I am sure that you will join with me in wishing Jenny all the best as she and Dougall celebrate the wedding of their daughter, Charlotte in early April.

We finish this week with a sense of joy that we have made it through a whole first term – never again will we take for granted what it means to begin a year on-site, welcoming parents and families back gradually as restrictions have been released. It has been so heartening to be able to hold parent and student conferences in person – while we did find the ZOOM experience very successful – it has been great to watch the positive interchange of parents, both with teachers and with each other in recent weeks.

There has certainly been a lot of reflection from educators about learning in 2021 as well as those who still remain in lock-down in other countries. Last week I had the privilege of presenting at the World Education Summit (via Microsoft Teams of course). It was the largest gathering of educators so far, hosted from London, streamed for four days to all parts of the world. The organisers set up eight dynamic virtual stages that broadcast across four time zones. In tandem with the world's leading educationalists, the summit highlighted the areas of learning that are of most current global significance and impact. Forming the undercurrent of every virtual stage, the themes took delegates on the journey from research into theory – from trying into embedding. I was delighted to be invited to present on the Brave Leadership stage with Sophie Murphy about Student Voice and to represent Oxley's journey on the Cool School Stage. Sophie Murphy is a highly experienced K-12 teacher, leader and researcher in Melbourne, Australia. She is part of the Science of Learning and Research Centre at the University of Melbourne, where study topics include the power of language, 'teacher talk', effective questioning and clarity of instruction. Sophie is currently working with National Geographic Learning USA and Big Ideas Learning USA on learning intentions and success criteria, and how they align with curriculum, planning, feedback/assessment, deep-level questioning and differentiation. Her PhD research is in exploring how

we can effectively use talk and communication in the classroom. Oxley is working with Sophie as part of our Language of Learning pedagogy.

We are proud that we continue to work at the forefront of best practice: always aware of the need to know the "where to next". Recordings of the conference will be available next term, and as a staff, we will take some time to review key messages.

As a school, there is much to be grateful for. As I write, Year 5 and 6 are in Canberra and Year 12 are on their Outback experience. Year 10 have also just returned from Rites of Passage. We are grateful not only to the teachers who run and staff these activities, but also to the early pioneers of Oxley, who instilled in the ethos of the school, that students should be adventurous, learn outdoors and be open to whatever new experiences come their way.

*"We are grateful not only to the teachers who run and staff these activities, but also the early pioneers of Oxley, who instilled that students should be adventurous, learn outdoors and be open to whatever new experiences come their way."*

The Rites of Passage programme from its origin in 2018, has set out to shape the journey through the mid-years of secondary education. It is well known that Year 9 and 10 can be challenging in terms of engagement and motivation for students, as it seems both a long time from Kindergarten and still too long away to get excited about leaving school. We talk often about preparing students for their futures: this year's programme, postponed from 2020, provided students with a myriad of opportunities to explore and experience what learning may look like at a university of choice, what living in a city might feel like, and the genuine immersion in weeks full of galleries, theatres and museums.

I had cause to reflect on our rich learning beyond the classroom as I addressed assembly on Friday. As we reviewed a visual diary of the devastation of the floods, we focused on the importance of empathy.



How would you feel as a family if that was your house floating down the river? How much resilience is needed after a pandemic lock-down, after the bushfires? I was able to relate the story of my elderly parents, who despite being cut-off by the floods last week, continued to quote to me Doreatha Mackellar's famous poem about Australia: a land of far horizons, a land of flooding plains. I was reminded yet again of how fortunate we are to have a community such as ours at Oxley – a place of welcome, belonging, connection and celebration.

Finally, I hope that all families and staff can take the time this Easter break to breathe, relax and reflect on the many things that have happened already this year. We look forward to our return with renewed energy and excitement about the things to come.

# PORTRAIT PRIZE 2021

## OXLEY COLLEGE

### Prize Categories

- Junior (0-11)
- Youth (12-18)
- Adults (18+)
- Winner and highly commended (3+) for each above
- The Ben Quilty Award for Excellence and for breaking the rules
- Family Excellence Award



### The Details

This is an open call to all of the Oxley community (students, staff, parents/carers, friends) to produce a portrait of a loved one/family member/teacher-colleague in any media (size restrictions apply) by Friday 14 May, Week 4 2021. A judge/panel will select winners. Portraits will be displayed at Foundation Night.

Size: Maximum size A1

Formats can include: photography, works on canvas or paper or card.

Submission details: Hand in physical works and email Jpeg high res. image by Friday 14 May.

Email: [office@oxley.nsw.edu.au](mailto:office@oxley.nsw.edu.au)

More details about delivery of works to come.



## HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL

Year 10 Rites of Passage is a cross-curricular academic programme designed around psychologist Michael Carr-Greg's identified needs for 14 to 16 year olds:

- Develop a strong sense of personal identity
- Build healthy friendships
- Experience emancipation from parents
- Develop a vocational direction

The purpose of this 'Oxley Distinctive' programme is to immerse students in learning contexts that expose them to ideas, people and phenomena that could never be accessed in a conventional classroom setting - to ignite students' passion for what the future holds and the learning journey they are on. The theme for the programme is "Identity – Telling Your Story" and includes tours, workshops and lectures at universities, museums, galleries and other major institutions in Canberra and Sydney. The programme normally takes place in Year 9, but was held over from 2020 due to Covid. In previous years it has taken place exclusively in Sydney, however we decided to split the programme between Sydney and Canberra this term in order to mitigate the risk of it being cancelled in its entirety in the event of a Covid outbreak.

The Rites of Passage programme marks a significant transition toward life as a senior student. After the exhilaration of starting high school and before the challenge of the HSC, the programme provides an unforgettable, transitional moment in the lives of Oxley students.

Whilst each student will have their own highlights of the programme, below is a snapshot of just some of them:

### Canberra

The programme started with a bang – a visit to Parliament House that coincided with the 'March 4 Justice' protests on Monday 15 March. Not only did students get to witness the protest outside Parliament House, but they were present in the Public Gallery for Question Time and witnessed the intense exchanges between the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition about the protests taking place outside. Other highlights from the week include a visit to the Recycling Discovery Hub on World Recycling Day, which was featured on the WIN Canberra evening news (Link: <https://www.oxley.nsw.edu.au/news-events/latest-news/>) and a tour of the Australian War Memorial and Anzac Parade. Students watched the critically acclaimed film 'High Ground', which provides an insight in to the experiences of Indigenous Australians in Arnhem Land in the 1930s. Students also visited the Australian National University and Canberra University, featuring tours and workshops with Old Oxleyans who attend those universities.

### Sydney

Despite a very wet start to the week, students completed their 'scavenger hunt' across the city to learn about how to navigate Sydney's transport network and on Tuesday explored Sydney University, again with the assistance of former Oxley students who are studying there.

The afternoon sports sessions, including virtual indoor cycling, interval training, rock climbing and pilates on the Sydney University campus coincided with the end of the wet weather. As well as a tour and lecture at UNSW, highlights of the remainder of the week included a presentation from a Holocaust survivor at the Sydney Jewish Museum and walking tours of the Indigenous history of The Rocks and Chinese history around Chinatown. Music students participated in a masterclass at the Academy of Music and Performing Arts and Drama students took part in a special class at Belvoir St Theatre. On their last night, students enjoyed a Harbour cruise - a fitting finale for the programme.

### Rites of Passage Report: "Identity – Telling Your Story"

The final stage of the rites of Passage programme involves students producing a report about their experiences; either as a hard copy scrapbook or digital report, using the journals they kept during the programme as well as photos and other materials. Details about the report can be found on the Year 10 Cornerstone Canvas page.

### Quotes from Year 10 students after Rites of Passage:

It's not many schools that offer this opportunity, so take it all in. Every single moment. This trip allows you to find yourself and see the real world outside of the Southern Highlands bubble, so live it to its fullest, because I can assure you it's been the best educational and most lively experience at Oxley I've been offered.

You don't know what the real world has waiting for you, until you go on ROP. ROP teaches you respect, courage and passion through all the different aspects. Truly one of the best opportunities you will ever get. Confidently prepares you for the real world.

Rites of Passage had a positive impact on me as it has opened my eyes to life beyond Bowral! I am now more interested in life in Sydney and I especially feel confident in getting myself around on public transport.

I feel like I have grown so much as a person and I have learnt a lot about myself and I think that I have developed many character traits that I didn't have before.

I have the courage and skills to navigate my way through unknown places and also how to be punctual. I also have more confidence in talking with new people.

I was previously very nervous and unsure of the future ahead of me, but Rites of Passage has opened my eyes. I feel more independent and strong-willed. This trip was very empowering.

# JUNIOR GALLERY





## JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

### Weekly Awards

#### Learning Journey

K: Freddie Paterson  
Yr 1: Thomas Apostolatos  
Yr 2: Rose Hurst  
Yr 3B: Sophie Henderson  
Yr 3R: William Palmer  
Yr 4A: David White  
Yr 4W: Samsara Pout  
Yr 5C: Ed Hunt  
Yr 5N: Brodie Murray  
Yr 6H: Brigitte Pietsch-Liddell  
Yr 6S: Molly Edwards

#### Oxley Values

K: Eddie Sheer  
Yr 1: Charlotte Bullick  
Yr 2: Chloe Motycka  
Yr 3B: Chase Holmes  
Yr 3R: Greta Lawson  
Yr 4A: Sapphire Sparke  
Yr 4W: Lisa Mussett  
Yr 5C: Tom Sharpley  
Yr 5N: Piper O'Sullivan  
Yr 6H: Bronte Morgan  
Yr 6S: Heidi Malouf

#### Excellence in Art

Teddy Blom

#### Excellence in Japanese

Greta Saviana  
Brigitte Pietsch-Liddell

#### Excellence in STEM

Tristan McCroary

Term 1 has been an extremely busy and rewarding start for all our staff and students. I would like to thank our staff for continuing to provide a rich, caring and engaging learning environment for all our students. We have implemented a new diary that has been well received. The diary includes an Oxley focus each week which is also then the basis of a discussion in class on Wednesdays and a speech presented by our school leaders on Friday. I would like to share a speech on Spirituality written by our Junior School Vice Captain, Miranda Hunter in Year 6:

"Spirituality is a big topic, and frankly, I found it overwhelming. So I did what all great speech writers do, I asked google.

After a lot of reading and sifting through some very big words, I managed to work out that there are two main points to spirituality or being spiritual.

The first, and perhaps the most obvious, is all about religion. God, Buddha, Allah, the Rainbow Serpent, are all examples of spiritual "leaders". Different cultures and people follow different religions. None are wrong, and acceptance of people's beliefs should always be respected. Some people don't believe in any religion, or religious leader, and that ALSO should always be respected.

Wars have been fought over religion – many, many lives lost over thousands of years. Fighting over religion or using religion as a reason to fight is NOT what spirituality is about.

But this stuff gets pretty heavy. I'd prefer to talk about the second point of spirituality. That is, the sense you have in yourself of wonder. Of being really in tune with the beauty and majesty of the world around us.

One definition talked of the feeling of compassion and love towards this world, and everything in it. We all share this world, and we should all look upon it with love. We all have the responsibility to look after it and leave it better than we found it.

Wordsworth was an English poet who died a long time ago, but he wrote some pretty amazing things that can point us towards the spirituality in each of us.

In his poem, Intimations of Immortality, he writes:

Thanks to the human heart by which we live,

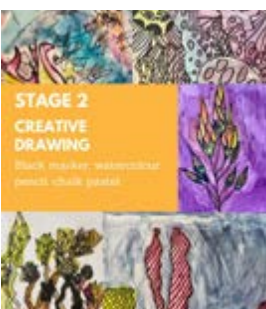
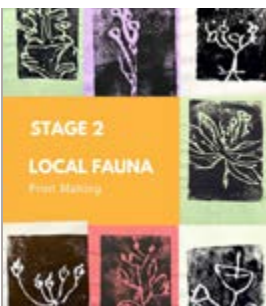
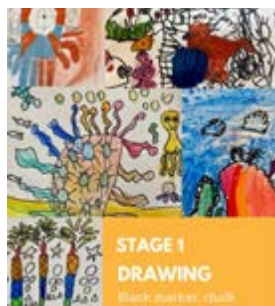
Thanks to its tenderness, its joys, and fears,

To me the meanest flower that blows can give

Thoughts that do often lie too deep for tears.

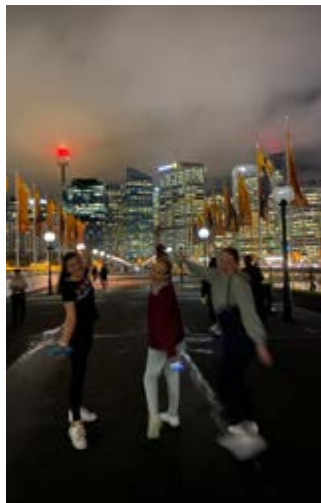
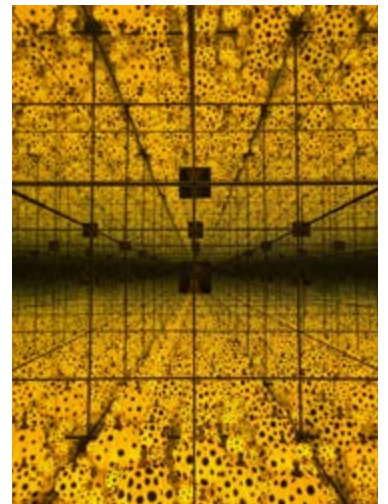
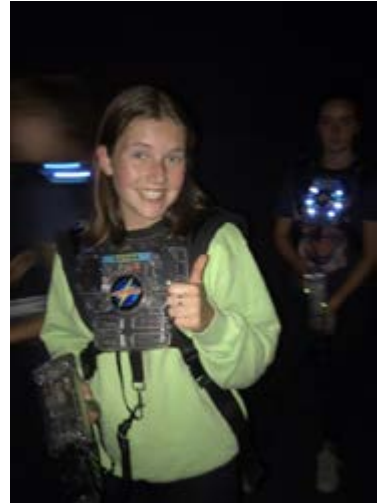
What is he saying? That as human beings, we can see in nature the beauty and wonder, in the simplest things. And that by listening to our hearts, and feeling our sense of compassion, we are motivated to honour and protect what is most vulnerable – our planet."

By Peter Ayling, Acting Head of Junior School



*FEATURE*

# *rites of passage*



“My favourite experience on Rites of Passage was probably the Australian Defence Force recruitment speech. They explained to us how you get paid a salary while studying a degree. I also liked the freedom we had when we travelled to our activities.” Matt

“My favorite part of Rites of Passage was exploring and learning about all the different universities such as ANU and UC in Canberra and Sydney Uni and UNSW and it really opened my eyes to life at university and how everything operates. The independence we had during the two weeks was enjoyable and making our way around Sydney and Canberra will help us in the future. Overall it was a great experience.”

Finn

Rites of Passage was a very memorable experience that gave me an insight into the different courses that each uni provides, helping me to form ideas for the future. I loved all the opportunities that we were provided with such as the National Gallery of Australia and the Australian Museum which were displaying very interesting and insightful exhibitions. We also met some inspiring people who shared their knowledge with us about Aboriginal and Indigenous rights and their personal experiences related to this matter.”

Lara



# OLD OXLEYAN

SIMON CRITTLE Year 10 1986



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

After leaving high school I went to Sydney Uni and did a Bachelor of Arts. I graduated at the end of 1991 and then did the Europe thing, driving around in an old Kombi Van. I got back to Oz in 1994, having decided to be a newspaper reporter. I also went back to uni and did a Masters in Journalism at UTS. I got a job on a local paper then got my big break in 1997 when I landed a job at the Sun-Herald. I was mostly a crime reporter, chasing cops around Sydney for few years. I covered the Olympics and then decided I wanted to travel more. I bought a one-way ticket to Venezuela and backpacked alone around South American for six months, learning "subway" Spanish along the way. In mid-2001, I headed to New York with my US passport thanks to my American mom. I was very lucky to get some shift work at the New York Post and then one morning I woke up, looked out my window and saw that the World Trade Center was on fire. I was first reporter from the paper to get down there and ended up with the front-page story that afternoon and the next day. It was a wild day and huge for my career. But it was very sad. I covered 14 firefighter funerals over the next few weeks.

I was in New York for five years, during which time I became a correspondent at Time magazine. Time was a whole other level. Funny, I didn't actually like it very much. Too many big egos for one relatively small office. I later wrote a book on organised crime and then headed to Sudan to work as a spokesman for the United Nations. About this time, I got married and in 2008, my wife and I moved back to Australia. We had two beautiful children and I went to work as press secretary for the then NSW Attorney General, John Hatzistergos. In 2010, I became press secretary to Tanya Plibersek, when she was the Federal Health Minister. Working in Canberra was a lot of fun but I was away from the family too much. When Labor lost government in 2013, we sold our house in Balmain, loaded up the kids and headed back to the States. We had two suit cases each and settled in a mountain town in Colorado none of us had

ever seen. We've been here in the Rockies ever since. We had another child and I worked as communications director for a couple of big government institutions in Denver. But these days I work for myself as a freelance writer and do a little ski patrolling on the side. The fun never stops!

**What is your biggest achievement since high school?**

Hard to say. The 9/11 experience was obviously a big one. Working at Time magazine was also very formative and kind of set me up for other career achievements. Africa was amazing but tough and bloody hot! I also loved being a press secretary. But truly, I'd say my children are my biggest achievement. Watching them grow and develop and become their own people is a wonderful thing. My three-year-old Atticus is a laugh a minute.

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

Absolutely not. Peter Craig will tell you. I wasn't a bad rugby player but I was a very ordinary student.

**How did Oxley prepare you for your future?**

I remember I had a geography teacher, Martin Pluss. He was pretty young at the time and passionate about what he did. He taught me how to think for myself. It was a very important lesson.

**What would you say to your fifteen year old self?**

Be kind to people. Make the most of every day. And don't let anyone tell you aren't smart enough, talented enough or whatever. We are all born with big brains. We just have to put them to good use. And remember, we only get one life. Make it an adventure!

# INSPIRATION



## FILM

### Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring

Whether it is the beautiful mountains of middle earth, the hobbits of the shire, or just the overall fantasy theme then this is the movie for you. The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring, follows Frodo Baggins a young hobbit from the shire and his efforts to destroy the ring that his cousin bilbo has left for him to destroy. The ring possesses evil like powers that can darken the mind very quickly! The classic overtone of adventure is outstanding and truly has some lessons to be learnt. This is the perfect movie to watch in the holidays and if you think you will binge this quick enough there is three other Lord of the Rings movies to be watched in this fantasy extravaganza. Please don't be put off by the time length of three hours, the movie it is totally worth it. This movie is beautiful as it was filmed in the landscapes and mountainsides of New Zealand and this really adds to the the fantasy medieval theme. Howard Shore has composed the music for this masterpiece which is a beautiful touch to the long but entertaining movie. This movie is one of the best movies I have recently watched and I would highly recommend it to Year 7-12, I would rate this movie 10/10.

By Archie Maitland, Year 9



## COOKING

### Choux Pastry

I was watching Master Chef a long time ago in a house far, far away, and one of the contestants was cooking something called choux (Pronounced as 'shoe') pastry. The judges were advising the contestant how hard choux pastry is to make and they should stop before they put too much time into it. The contestant wanted to prove their worth as a chef by cooking something difficult and delicious. This pastry can be very tricky... at first. After eight or so practices you figure out what does and does not work, and how expensive eggs are.

The first step to cooking this dish properly is exact values: 1 2/3 cups (160.00g) all-purpose flour – 1/3 cup (80.00mL) full cream milk – 1/3 cup (80.00mL) Water – 2 tsp (8.0001g) white/granulated sugar – 60.00g western star unsalted butter – 1/2 tsp (3.00g) salt – 3 large (150.02g) eggs.

The procedure is simple:

Pre heat oven to 200 Celsius. Throw everything except the flour and eggs into a heavy saucepan on low heat and stir with a wooden baker spoon, it is absolutely vital that you bring the mixture to the boil slowly. Once the mixture is combined and boiling, put ALL the flour in and mix thoroughly on a low heat. The mixture should fully combine into something yellow, then take off the heat. Now, one at a time, beat the eggs into the mixture – with your wooden baker spoon – the mixture might be a bit sloppy... just keep stirring.

To check if your slob is pastry, use your finger to make a trench. If you make the trench with ease, then it is not too thick. If the trench holds its shape, it is not too wet.

Now put your slob pastry into a piping bag. Your bag nozzle MUST be a 10-15mm French Open Star nozzle. When piping, you must keep the bag at a 45 degree angle from the baking paper. Pipe them however you want. And dipper-dapper a bit of water on top of them.

Place in the oven for 25-35 minutes, DO NOT open oven until 25 minutes have passed.

Oh, by the way, the Master Chef contestant went home...

By Toby McErlane, Year 11



## BOOK

### Gone

Gone is a bestselling book and is part of a series which consists of six and is aimed at readers of 12 or more.

Gone is centered on a small town in California called Perdido. The plot line of the first book consists of everyone under 15 disappearing from Perdido and everything around it. It is later revealed that the young teenagers are stuck under a large opaque dome and have developed supernatural powers. The story is a hard-core sci-fi story and covers many other genres. The main character of the story is 14-year-old Sam Temple, who is set to turn 15 in a few months and finds himself as a leader of this town.

What I particularly like about this book is its characters. The Gone series has many diverse characters and themes that cover many touchy subjects well through character development and as the series goes on you learn to love and hate some characters. The Gone series also grips the reader very well with its plot twists and dark themes. There isn't much to dislike about this series other than its boring pages when it feels like nothing is going on, but what powered me to keep reading was the eventual excitement of the next part or chapter. Overall, The Gone series is perfect for all readers and I would recommend it to everyone that reads this and on a rating scale I would give this a 8/10.

By Jackson Wolstencroft, Year 7



# *Emerging Sustainable Technology*

Scientists have been warning us for years now about the imminent climate disaster that will come if we continue to burn fossil fuels and release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. At the moment our average emissions stand at about 33 billion tonnes a year (or 33 gigatons), this isn't sustainable and without any intervention this will rise to above 51 billion tonnes a year by 2050. This huge amount of gas adds to an enhanced greenhouse effect, acting like a blanket that will destroy the majority of life on earth. These emissions can be seen in everything in your daily life. From the fuel in your car to the plastic iPhone case you bought. Fossil fuels were an amazing part of our lives and helped economies all around the world get to a better living standard but now we need to cut them out of our lives to save the environment and ourselves.

A large portion of the yearly emissions from the USA come from energy production accounting for just over 25%. These emissions are caused by a reliance on electricity by the developed world. To provide this 24-hour supply of electricity we rely on fossil fuels as their reliability cannot be found in current sustainable sources. An overcast day will block out the sun, the wind doesn't always blow, and dams aren't always filled by rain. This means if we want to maintain access to reliable energy as well as a thriving natural ecosystem, we need to develop other sustainable fuel sources or better battery technology. Battery technology has come leaps and bounds in the last century, but our current technology is starting to reach its limits, Lithium ion batteries which are the most widely distributed type of battery, but they can't improve much from their current iterations. It is expected that they will be able to increase their capacity by 20% before they reach their limit. So, to stabilise the grid and make sure we have enough storage to store our solar energy for the night we can either build these batteries in large quantities or develop new technologies. The latter is the better option as new battery tech is being discovered all the time, all of which with theoretical energy densities many times more than that of our current tech. Examples of this technology includes Metal-air electrochemical batteries, hydrogen fuel cells and more. If we can't get solar power on a large enough scale to power these batteries during the day then this won't work, and we will need another source of energy available 24/7. Currently one of the most promising solutions for this is biofuel which is produced through the refining of corn starch and other crops. This fuel is classified as carbon neutral as the carbon is taken out of the air and put into the fuel but is then released again when the fuel is burnt.

Over 26% of the USA's yearly emissions come from transportation. This includes the transport of goods and people. 40% of this 25% comes from personal vehicles such as people's cars and means of transportation. This means that 10% of the USA's yearly emissions come directly out of the exhaust of people's cars. This is a problem. At the moment there are two main options. The first is obviously electric cars. There's a bit of a catch on this one though, if the energy for the cars isn't produced via renewables then it is just as bad as having a diesel guzzling truck. Currently this is a small market with just 4% of cars registered in the UK being EV's but this sector is sure to expand, with new sales all around the world bringing more and more EV's into the picture. The other option is biofuels. As I talked about in the previous section, these are carbon neutral. But what is particularly interesting about biofuels in automobiles is that they are interchangeable with fuels such as petrol and diesel, meaning they can be used in cars already on the roads today. This is already a practice being used in the US as the average gallon of fuel at a petrol station is about 10% biofuel. This is to cut down on gas prices nationwide. In terms of the rest of this sector of transport, shipping accounts for 36% in the US which is a problem that is harder to solve than in automobiles. Again, biofuels can be used as a replacement to their normal fuel, but it would have a high green premium (extra cost for being carbon neutral) and as such would not be quickly embraced by many shipping companies. Other options include using high tech spinning sails that act as sails and electrifying a ship, though this is very hard as batteries are currently very heavy and not energy dense and as such would decrease payload space.

This topic is a massive one and I haven't been able to fit as much as I can into this article but if you want to look into how we are using technology to save our planet, please visit some of these sites:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR1IuLEqb6UEA-zQ81kwXfg> Real engineering provides technical insight into many different interesting topics.

<https://www.cleantech.com/> Clean tech offers insight into sustainable tech solutions

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/633968/how-to-avoid-a-climate-disaster-by-bill-gates/#:~:text=In%20this%20urgent%2C%20authoritative%20book,and%20effects%20of%20climate%20change>. This Bill Gates book is incredible, and I highly recommend it.

By Will Barnett, Year 9

# SENIOR GALLERY



## DEBATING ROUND 1

There was wit, quick thinking and enthusiasm in abundance for Round 1 of the 2021 HICES Debating competition – as well as the occasional sly insult! Five of Oxley's nine debating teams contested the affirmative and negative sides across four HICES divisions in Week 9, with the remaining teams set to debate early next term. Due to the ongoing climate of COVID-awareness, all debates were held after-school over Zoom, with adjudicators tuning in from across the country.

Topics ranged from banning smartphones for all ages in school, to implementing a sugar tax and mandating first-aid certificates for all drivers. Our junior debating team (comprised of five eager Year 5 and 6 students) utilised their impressive collection of research and preparation for their debate on banning smartphones, with several of the members steeping up to the metaphorical 'lectern' (in reality, a highly sophisticated array of microphones and cameras to facilitate the virtual competition) for the very first time. The quality of their prepared arguments, in addition to their agility throughout rebuttal, earned them a well-deserved win against worthy opponents Wollondilly.

Equally-indicative of the outstanding calibre of Oxley's debaters was the face-off between two of our middles (Year 7 and 8) teams – Oxley Gold and Oxley Navy. Having four teams in the same division is an impressive, never-before-seen feat at the College, and it was very pleasing to observe the genteel rivalry amidst the fervent lines of argument. Congratulations to both teams on a riveting dissection of the pros and cons of mandatory first-aid training for all drivers, and obvious extensive research before the debate.

In our senior and open division, debaters are provided their topic an hour before the actual debate commences – known colloquially as a 'short prep' debate. For many of our Senior Blue debaters, this was their first experience engaging in such impromptu speech-writing, and so their cohesive argument must be commended. For our Open Blue arguers, the season postponement in 2020 (due to COVID) meant our own skills were a little rusty. However, both teams utilised the diverse general knowledge of members – ranging from economics to dietetics – to propose and rebut models. Our Open Blue team were successful in securing the win against TIGS, confirming that a sugar tax is indeed a necessary inclusion to supermarket budgets in order to prevent obesity.

The season has certainly propelled to a promising start, and it remains to be seen what heights of victory Oxley debating will rise to in 2021. There is no doubt, however, that the skill and passion of each debater who has participated in debates so far is evident to our competitor schools, with remarks made as to the strength of Oxley teams a resounding theme post-debate.

To finish, a sentiment shared by one of our junior debaters that made my day: I'm going in on the AFF side, so my friend said "Break a NEG!"

# NEWS



## A PASSION FOR ART

**Interview with Poppy O'Sullivan (Resident Year 7 Artist) who speaks about her passion for ART.**

**How old were you when you first fell in love with making art?**

It was when I first picked up a pencil - I just found it so satisfying that I could drag a pencil across a page and create a picture. I would do art anywhere. I always loved to use chalk and draw on the driveway and use a stick as a pencil to make large pictures on the beach, and my finger as a paintbrush to make funny drawings on my mums dirty car, in fact I still do that now!

**Do you spend much time at home making artworks?**

Absolutely, when I'm not doing homework, I'm drawing. I'm either sketching animals or drawing fantasy creatures from my wild imagination. Half of the time I can't see my mum as the kitchen is drowning in my drawings.

**What style of art do you enjoy most?**

I enjoy sketching fantasy sketches the most, in particular dragons, I also like drawing realistic animals and focusing on shading and depth.

**What are you developing at the moment in Art After Hours? Are you entering any competitions at all?**

I am thinking of entering both the Blue square competition and the Oxley Portrait Prize. I am also thinking of entering the young Australians Endangered Species Art Competition with an artwork I'm working on in afterschool art, which is a painting of an outback lace monitor.

**Why do you like artmaking so much?**

I personally think of art as a portal to another world, the only limits are the page and you can just do anything you want with it. For me it is my way of calming down. I always like to come home from a busy day at school and spend hours drawing and sketching my ideas. It puts me in my happy place!

**What would you say to someone if they said they did not like art, because they thought that they were no good at it?**

I would say to keep on trying. It is only practice that makes progress, after all most amazing artists used to draw for hours and hours because they knew that if they just kept going they would improve. I started out as an inexperienced artist, but if you keep trying you can achieve great things. Remember Thomas Edison failed to create a light bulb 10,000 times, but he kept persisting and in the end he made the perfect one, so if you just try and try and try again you will end up achieving greatness.

If you are reading this article, and would like to participate in art classes – Mr Bentham assists in running Art After Hours every Wednesday afternoon from 3.40-5.00pm and held in Room 20.

## DUKE of ED SKILLS

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is a rigorous yet rewarding programme, keenly embarked upon by dozens of Oxley students each year. The Award requires sustained commitment to four components – physical recreation, service, skill and an Adventurous Journey – over either 13, 26 or 52 weeks. To recognise the diverse and intriguing activities being undertaken by Oxley students, we will be interviewing participants in the Bronze, Silver and Gold Award levels to showcase their newfound talents to the Oxley Community.

Jasmine Maclachlan (Bronze, Year 9)

We heard word of Jasmine's spectacular cookery through Mr Dibdin, who recommended her as our first interviewee.

"For physical activity I'm doing basketball and soccer which takes 13 hours worth, and for my skill I'm doing cooking which will take a span of 26 hours. I am doing it to expand my cooking skills and learn new recipes and have to provide proof that I am completing an hour a week. For my service I am doing Drama in the junior school with Ms Halcrow, and Ms Bransgrove, where I help the younger students in their junior play and help with skills for them. For this I need 13 hours.

I am really enjoying doing the physical activity as it gives it more meaning and is really fun and a good way to connect with friends.

I am excited for our hike because I will be with all of my good friends and will experience new things I haven't done before. Many of these moments leading up to the hike have been my favourite, including my physical, skill and service. The OLE week and tree planting I enjoyed because I got to hang out with people I didn't know as well and make new connections. I learnt many new skills that connected with me and I would like to expand on them in my future."



Images of Jasmine's latest culinary creation: Mum said of her Quinoa Salad, "I love watching Jazzy get more confident in the kitchen, and was impressed to see her choose a colourful, plant-based dinner. Super-fluffy quinoa for her first ever attempt!"

Well done Jasmine. Keep an eye out for more DoE interviews in the weeks to come!

By Ava Lambie Year 12

# GOOD & OTHER NEWS



## BIRDSCAPING

My family has always loved birds. We recently moved from Lord Howe Island where there are all sorts of amazing native land and sea birds, as well as friendly currawongs that feed from your hand. Now that we're in Burradoo, we've struggled to find any birds smaller than a noisy myna, and our currawongs and magpies are scared of us. After spending time in the garden, we've noticed that the noisy mynas chase every other bird away. They're kind of crazy. We've also noticed that most of the plants are European, so there's no reason for native birds to visit our garden. They need grevilleas and banksias, not magnolias and roses.

Many Highlands gardens have the same problem. The European plants are beautiful, but they don't provide much food and shelter for small native birds. Knowing that we should do something, but not knowing where to start, we bought the beautiful book *Birdscaping* by George Adams. The book provides a step-by-step guide on how to create a backyard sanctuary for native birds.

I've learned from *Birdscaping* that small native birds like a particular type of habitat. They need multiple layers of plants under the canopy because different species live at different levels. They also need tight spiky bushes to provide protection from predators, and lots of different native plants that produce nectar and seeds throughout year (particularly in winter). Most importantly, small native birds need wildlife corridors to connect all the native sections of the garden, so they can travel in safety to different areas without being ambushed by predators or chased away by noisy mynas.

With our great new guide, we're planning to transform our two acres of European garden into a sanctuary for native birds. We're still designing most of the spaces, but in the next month, we'll plant about 250 banksias, grevilleas, wattles, tea trees, paperbarks, bottle brushes, waratahs and native daisies. It's just a start, but assuming we can get most of the plants established, we'll hopefully attract parrots, wrens, honeyeaters and finches to a new home in Burradoo. I'll let you know how it goes.

By Elsie Hanson, Year 7

## WHAT YOUR EMAIL SIGNATURE SAYS ABOUT YOU

### "Cheers"

- You think that you're the life of the party
- But you're actually that one guy at the party who plays the acoustic guitar on the staircase.
- "This isn't an appropriate time to play pop songs from 2014."
- I hope they get with ukulele girl so they can be insufferable together.

### "Yours Truly"

- Wanted to be a romance author, but ended up in Data Entry.
- Relives this dream in their email signature.
- Cries whilst watching lifetime movies.
- Posts inspirational quotes to Facebook.

### "Yours Sincerely"

- Not sincere at all.
- Passive aggressive.

### "Before you print this email, please consider the impact it will have on the environment"

- Part of the environment club.
- Superiority complex; Why would somebody want to print an email anyway? To frame it? Hang it on the wall?
- The only reasons people print emails in 2021 are to report the content to a higher power or a lawyer.
- You'll be hearing from my lawyer soon.

### "Best"

- Straight to the point.
- Couldn't pull off "Cheers" but "Sincerely" feels too outdated.
- Deeply insecure.
- Is part of a meal delivery box subscription surface.

### "Looking forward to hearing from you"

- Actually not looking forward to hearing from you.
- Busy with a deadline to meet.
- Caffeine. Caffeine. Caffeine.

### "xoxo"

- Went to Paris one time four years ago, and once they came back began kissing their friends on the cheek as a greeting in longing for the European sophistication of their 12 day holiday.
- Posts photos of Valentines day presents they brought for themselves on facebook.
- Non-ironically says "Oh La La."
- Watches gossip girl.

By Pearl Bendle, Year 12

# NEWSFLASH

## TREE PLANTING AND THE ENVIRONMENT GROUP

As I walked towards the river, I was nervous. A colleague had sent me images of the flooded Wingecarribee from earlier in the week and I had noted from one image that road access to the Bray Fields was completely under water. What was the impact of the recent floods on the 400 trees that Oxley students had planted during OLE week in 2020? Would they be washed away, strangled by debris or simply be underwater? I shouldn't have worried; the trees were thriving. The careful planting by our students and moderate rainfall during the summer months had allowed the trees to develop strong and healthy roots which weren't going to be disturbed by some excess water.

Given our success with planting, members of the Oxley Environment Group volunteered their time on Tuesday afternoon to plant 30 shrubs (*Hakea Salicifolia*) which will grow into a hedge and act as a screen for the new carpark. A big thank you to Liam for his knowledge of what to plant, Mick from our maintenance team for providing expertise and tools on the day and to Luke, Liam, Lachlan, Toby and Euan for their willingness to give their time at the end of a busy term.

By Ruth Shedden



## STATE LITTLE ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Xanthe Macdonald, Year 8, recently competed in the State Little Athletics Championships. She knocked over three seconds off her personal best to run 400m in 103.73 coming 13th in the State. Congratulations on this huge achievement.

## THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Year 10 Geography – Deloitte and the Solar Buddy Project

As part of the study unit in Geography, Human Wellbeing, Year 10 has been exploring strategies to improve people's quality of life through the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

On Friday 5 March, we had the privilege of attending a presentation given by parent Pip Mackenzie, a market representative for Deloitte, the trans-national professional services company. She spoke to us about 'corporate responsibility' and how Deloitte is assisting large companies such as Rio Tinto, Nike and Amazon, to reduce their environmental footprint, while improving their social impact. We were heartened to hear that big companies now have greater purpose beyond merely increasing their profit margins.

Ms McKenzie also introduced us to the 'Solar Buddy' project, a programme conceived by an Australian, to reduce energy poverty around the world. The aim is to distribute six million solar lights to more remote overseas communities by 2030! Pip is currently producing a film to promote the project among large corporations.

Following on from this, we were shown motivational video montages of communities in the Asia-Pacific region which have received solar lights through the programme. Each of us were then given the opportunity to build our own solar light and to write a letter to its intended recipient. The positive atmosphere in which we assembled the lights was tangible; everyone focused on the tasks, but at the same time having fun and learning something about the intricacies of construction and how best to word a letter to someone whose first language is not English!

On behalf of the Oxley Year 10 students, we thank Solar Buddy, Deloitte and our Geography teachers for this valuable learning experience and hope that our lights are put to good use in the communities where they will be sent.

By Leah Halstead, Year 10



## CULTIVATE - YEAR 9

As many of you may have seen, outside the Food Technology classroom there are new garden beds. These beds are for a new Year 9 and 10 Elective at Oxley, Cultivate.

This term, we have been studying small scale farms and regenerative farming techniques. Cultivate gives you lots of hands-on learning experiences, it is not just theory. What we learn in the classroom is translated directly to what we physically do. We aren't just spending our time note taking, most of it is implementing what we have learnt and we are using our knowledge gained from the classroom and putting it to practice. The goal is to maintain a sustainable, organic and effective small-scale farm.

Once we finish the current topic there is a lot to look forward to. Personally, I am looking forward to the last unit this term which is called Nose to Tail. This unit may see us learning butchering skills and how to prepare meat.

By Hamish Stephen, Year 9

