

PIN OAK



KINDERGARTEN
2033

BIG ISSUE
Getting Older

ART

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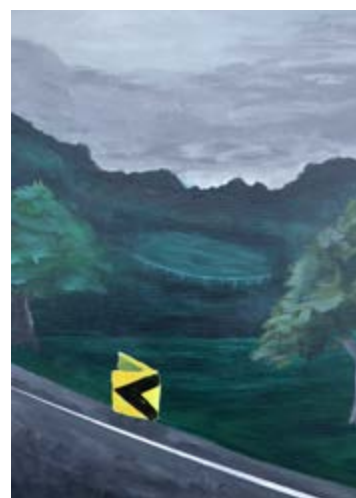
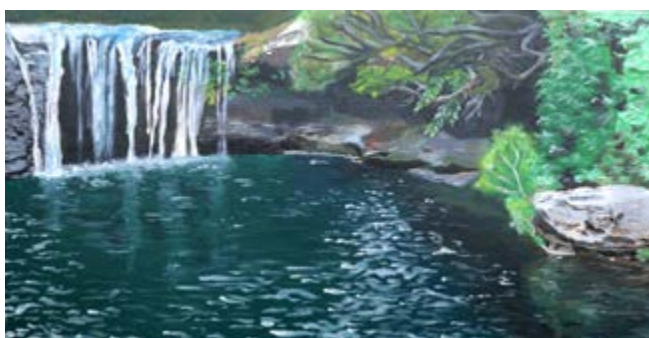
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Year 9 Visual Arts





HEAD OF COLLEGE'S REPORT

Student voice and agency

One of my greatest joys as an educator is to hear the voices of our students and see them not only be able to talk about a passion or area of interest, but also to want to take action. Over the past week Mrs Cunich and I have been listening to the 'pitches' from our Year 8 & 9 Global Thinkers group. They presented ideas of the things they saw as important to learn or do in the future of an education at Oxley and how they could action their projects. The student's ideas were diverse and innovative, and they showed a deep understanding of where the future of education is heading. Ideas included Digital Badges (Digi Cred) for resumes, a six lesson course in spoken word, the value of outdoor learning spaces, improving spaces with biodiversity, benefits of Performing Arts, serving others through improving local Breakfast Clubs, international connections, profiling the Pipe Band, sporting opportunities and a walk a day programme.

The opportunity for student agency with their learning is very important and as part of our Year 9 & 10 programmes, students have been working on their Personal Interest/Ethical projects in a wide range of areas of interest. These programmes allow our students to develop their passions and ideas as well as learning important skills in collaboration, critical thinking and communication. Research has demonstrated overwhelmingly that students who have agency in their learning are more motivated, experience greater satisfaction in their learning, and, consequently, are more likely to achieve academic success. We look forward to celebrating our student's ideas in Week 9 as part of the Festival of Ideas.

Government Funding reductions

The College has been made aware that it will receive less government funding this year and into the future. School funding will be based on the direct median income (DMI) of parents, calculated using tax office data, rather than the old system that linked the student's home addresses with ABS survey information about socio-economic status.

According to an analysis by Independent Schools Australia, 23 per cent of schools will get more money from the government, 42 per cent will stay the same and 35 per cent get less. Unfortunately, Oxley College is one of the schools adversely affected due to the income our parents earn.

The College currently receives its funding from College Fees (64%) and Government Funding (36%). With these changes announced, the ratio will change to something closer to College Fees (70%) and Government Funding (30%). We are fortunately receiving some Regional Transition Assistance as one of the 27 identified schools across NSW whose funding has been significantly affected by this new model. While this additional transitional funding will help, there is still a funding shortfall for 2022 and into the future. Put simply, this equates to approximately \$1,200 per student per year. We are discussing these issues with the Board of Governors and how best to manage the transition to the new model and ensure the College can continue to offer our distinctive Oxley education.

Staff Changes

I am excited to be able to announce some new positions for the beginning of next year.

Careers and Futures Coordinator: In 2022, we will move to a dedicated Careers and Futures educator to support students and to help prepare them for their future. Mrs Rani Ritchie who currently holds the Careers portfolio within her Counselling role will move fulltime into the Counselling and Wellbeing area. Ms Claudia Cowell will join Oxley College from her position as a Careers Consultant at the University of Technology, Sydney which she has held for the past four years. Prior to

working at UTS, Claudia held the role as Pathways Programme Development Executive at the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation for eight years. Claudia and her young family have moved recently to the Southern Highlands.

Head of History: Dr Fiona Radford is a very experienced History Educator and has taught both HSC Ancient and Modern History courses, Latin and Humanities. She is a HSC Marker of History Extension and has most recently worked at SCEGGS, Queenwood and Hills Grammar. She holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Ancient History. Fiona possesses a deep passion for all forms of History, and she relishes the opportunity to share, communicate and inspire this love of learning in others.

English & Philosophy: In 2022, current teacher, Ms Tahren Hicks will move into the role as Head of English and Ms Katrine Pascoe will join us from Killarney Heights High School where she teaches English and Drama and currently holds the role as Head teacher of Creative and Performing Arts. Ms Pascoe will also teach Cornerstone as Mr Dougall Ethell is retiring from teaching at the end of 2021. Dougall will continue to act as the Coordinator of Rites of Passage.

Science: Dr Shannon Marecic is an experienced Chemistry and Science teacher who has held Chemistry teaching and leadership positions at Nowra Anglican College and St Mary's College. Shannon will take up this role as a result of the retirement of Mrs Sue Hanrahan at the end of 2021. Sue has been a dedicated science teacher at Oxley for the past 22 years and we are grateful to her for her valued and outstanding contribution to the College. Our best wishes go with Sue as she commences the next stage of her life journey which I am sure will include her family and travel.

Music: Ms Lia Boulton replaces Mr Cameron Van Reyk who has received the exciting promotion as Head of Music at

Wesley College in Perth. Lia is currently a Music teacher at Loreto Mandeville Hall in Toorak, Victoria where she has taught for the past eight years. Lia is an accomplished musician, playing cello and piano and has taught Music across years 5-12 including VCE Performance. Having grown up in the Southern Highlands, Lia is returning with her partner.

Languages: Ms Nicole Phipps has been at Oxley College in a temporary part time capacity this year teaching some French in the Senior School. Nicole will be joining us permanently and her expertise in French and Japanese and will continue to strengthen our language programme at Oxley.

Design and Technology: Ms Natacha Brochard has been a teacher at Oxley for the past fourteen years. She is transferring to Redlands in Sydney at the end of the year. Experienced and talented, Natacha will be greatly missed by the Oxley community. We are currently in the recruitment stage for a new teacher in the DT Department.

Junior School: Miss Jane Campion will join us as the Head of Junior School and is an inspiring and passionate educator. She is currently Head of Primary at St James College in Hervey Bay, a P-12 co-educational school with approximately 350 students in the primary school. Prior to her role at St James, Jane held leadership positions at Fraser Coast Anglican College and Toowoomba Preparatory school and has taught at all levels of Primary school in Australia, Japan and China. Jane's leadership at St James is described as warm, engaging and collaborative with the students at the centre of everything she does. Jane is committed to building strong relationships with families and believes that all children should be nurtured to reach their potential in a loving and caring environment where they are respected and encouraged to learn and realise their gifts.

By Jenny Ethell, Head of College



Head of Academic and Innovation



Will Barnett & Sami Barker
Outdoor learning spaces



Global Thinkers

Student voice and student agency

Our inaugural Global Thinkers group commenced at the beginning of Semester 2 sharing big ideas about the world around us. As the discussion continued, our hearts were firmly held in what they could do as a collective to continue evolving Oxley College as a future focused school, enabling all of our community to flourish.

What was most evident was the kinship that developed through the conversations and the growing of ideas. Zoom discussions during learning@home saw the initial thoughts pondered, workshopped and cultivated. Ideas blossomed and passions were evident through the considered work that went on behind these important discussions.

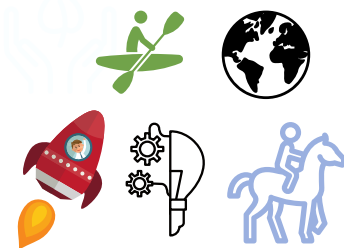
Dr Duyckers worked with the group in a coaching and mentoring role in order to amplify student voice and enable student agency as their ideas grew. Proposals were pitched to Mrs Ethell, Mrs Cunich and Ava Lambie where important feedback was gained. We look forward to continuing this story in 2022 where we can follow these students to see how they are working towards realising their vision.



Charlie Hartwright
Expansion of Performing Arts at Oxley



Nina Giro
Breakfast program



Abigail Hunt & Clementine Heinrich
Beyond Oxley - Sports & Academic
opportunities
(local, national, international)



Savannah Law
A walk a day



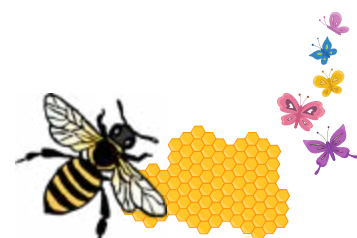
Ilana Sheezel
Innovative Learning Spaces



Ellouise Law & Harry Kirsch
DIGICred - Your skills, badged



Violet Fitzsimons
Grow Your Voice
(spoken word program)



Isla Terry
Keeping our world colourful -
biodiversity

Head of Senior School



Remembrance Day Service

We held our first gathering as a school for many months on Thursday, for our annual Remembrance Day Service on Elvo Lawn. This year, three of our Year 10 students spoke about aspects of this important annual commemoration. Leah Halstead spoke poetically about the origins of Remembrance Day as the armistice that brought the First World War to an end, and, appropriately on the 100th anniversary of the use of the poppy as a symbol, explained the link between the poppy and Flanders Field. Patrick Muldoon spoke about the global impact of conflict on Australia, the dislocation of peoples that has also enriched our nation and the contribution of all those who have stood up to tyranny and oppression. Lara Fischer spoke movingly about the long term impacts of war and conflict on veterans; including the often overlooked and under-reported mental health consequences for those who have served in the armed forces.



House Festival: Thursday 25 and Friday 26 November (Week 8) – Earth, Wind & Fire

With the easing of Covid restrictions, we are delighted to be able to put on our postponed House Festival, which follows the Year 9 and 10 examinations in Week 8. Students will compete in House groups in the areas of art, drama, dance, 'garage' band, Lego and coding (robotics). Getting as far away from any links with Covid whatsoever, we are looking forward to seeing how creative students will be in interpreting this year's theme of Earth, Wind & Fire. Each of the House groups will include students across Years 7-10 and will be led by the Year 12s in that House. We hope that the two days will bring some much needed joy and fun - and competition - toward the end of this difficult year.



Sport – and the Highlands Cup - is back!

It has been a very challenging few weeks for all those involved in sport, but it is great that inter-school competition is recommencing with cricket (weather permitting) this weekend. The Highlands Cup also returns on Saturday 20 November, with Oxley hosting Basketball as well as both Girls and Boys Touch Football (the location for Softball is yet to be confirmed). Chevalier College will host the fixtures on Saturday 27 November.



Travelling to/from School – Safely and Sustainably

Earlier this year, the College conducted a survey to help us understand transport choices made by members of our College community, so that we can better promote safe and sustainable travel. You will find the results of the survey and recent developments in the wider community in this edition of Pin Oak: Active Travel – Safe Routes to Schools on page 14. Advice from NSW Health for students to use individual private transport during the height of the pandemic has significantly impeded our promotion of carpooling, as well as bus and train travel. However, we will relaunch this at the start of 2022 as part of our strategy for safe, sustainable, active and efficient travel to and from school.

By Mark Case, Head of Senior School



JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Learning Journey

K: Ruby Rogerson
Yr 1: Harry Adams
Yr 2: Angus Sheer
Yr 3B: Lili Giro
Yr 3R: Ian Phillips
Yr 4A: Will Carioti
Yr 4W: Hadley Morgan
Yr 5C: Harry Keats
Yr 5N: Will Coram
Yr 6H: Hayden Zupp
Yr 6S: Phoebe Mooney

Oxley Values

K: Scarlett Druery
Yr 1: Fearne Pearce
Yr 2: Xavier Halstead
Yr 3B: Sophie Henderson
Yr 3R: Oliver Coram
Yr 4A: Sapphire Sparke
Yr 4W: Hamish Aston
Yr 5C: Charlotte Gordon
Yr 5N: Summer Johns
Yr 6H: Holly Bentham
Yr 6S: Asher Smith

Excellence in Art

Hugh Pratten
Chase Holmes

Excellence in STEM

Hudson Ahern

2021 My Place Competition – Australian Children's Television Foundation

Elena Clarke

Maths Olympiad Awards

Oscar Vasak
Coen Bertollo

Learning Journey

K: Maddie Cochran
Yr 1: Tom Pierce
Yr 2: Xander Fisher
Yr 3B: Nina Zelunzuk
Yr 3R: Archie Adams
Yr 4A: David White
Yr 4W: Lisa Mussett
Yr 5C: Ed Hunt
Yr 5N: Xavier Druery
Yr 6H: Asher Braham
Yr 6S: Julien Simonsen

Oxley Values

K: Emil de Haas
Yr 1: Thomas Apostolatos
Yr 2: Felix Chamley
Yr 3B: Charlotte Byrne
Yr 3R: Oscar Jones-
Lumetzberger
Yr 4A: Lexi Mendes da Costa
Yr 4W: Samsara Pout
Yr 5C: Rory Shedden
Yr 5N: Brayden Anstee
Yr 6H: Ivy Halstead
Yr 6S: Hugh Smith

Stage 2

It has been delightful to welcome Stage 2 back to school. We are so impressed with the way that all Year 3 and Year 4 students have adapted so seamlessly, making learning@home almost feel like a distant memory!

We have started our Innovation Inquiry unit with a bang and have been discussing the essential question 'What is the power of an innovator's mindset?' and exploring the enduring understanding 'Individuals can use their creativity to solve everyday problems'. Students have been looking at inventions other people have made over time and carefully considering a need they recognise that requires a solution. Mrs de Haas has introduced the drawing programme 'TinkerCad' to our Stage 2 students and over the next few weeks we will be creating an online prototype of our own inventions.

We have also conducted some whole class engineering experiments, including recreating a mountain rescue using a potato as a patient! Each group needed to design a rescue stretcher using given materials of straws, alfoil, bubble wrap and paper towels. The stretcher needed to be able to hold the weight of the potato over a distance of at least two metres. We certainly had some creative ideas emerge.

Year 3 have continued to work on improving their writing in 'Sentence a Day' activities. These are guided writing lessons where short paragraphs are written in response to a stimulus picture using given guidelines. This week, we needed to start the first sentence with an ___ly word, start the second sentence with an ___ing verb and the third sentence needed to include a simile.

'Jiggly and wobbly, the jelly glistens in the glass. Shaking and shining, it is loaded with sweet, juicy berries. They are as colourful and bright as ruby red gems, and make me feel excited about gobbling up this delicious dessert'

'Gloomily, the green monster stared into the shimmering sky. Shaking with fear, he peered at the shadow looming over him. Worried about the future, he wished for his Mum. As silly as a baby, he suddenly realised that the shadow actually was his Mum!'

Year 4 have been looking at time and numeracy in Mathematics. They have played games to tell the time on analogue clocks in one minute intervals, both to and past the hour. Subtraction has also been a focus for Year 4, with students building their capacity to use trading when subtracting numbers.

In addition to our regular school day, we have been lucky enough to participate in a swimming programme at Bowral Pool. Some days have been a little on the chilly side, but in true Southern Highlands style, the students have bravely embraced the elements and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

This year with Stage 2 has been delightful and on behalf of the Stage 2 teachers, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for a wonderful 2021!

By Alison Rasheed, Stage 2 Coordinator



JUNIOR GALLERY





Getting Older

At some stage in childhood, we are all asked the age-old question: what would you like to be when you grow up? Without fail, the answer is always "older". Old enough to be a doctor or a scuba diver, old enough to be a princess or an architect. Throughout the years, what we want when we grow up changes, but that desperation to just be a little bit older never seems to go away. Until of course, you realise that "older" has become now.

With the class of 2021 leaving the college, it suddenly struck me that I'm not a kid anymore. Or at least not in all the cool ways: I can't skip down main street in a princess dress, or loudly proclaim that I need to go the bathroom. My days of just showing up to school to learn addition and subtraction are long since over, and the chances of me being able to justify hoarding my little pony dolls are slim to none. Instead, I'm always tired, stressed and wondering what we have next period.

For some people, it takes a long while to realise that "older" has become "now". Sometimes you find a five-year-old pondering the inevitability of death and others you find yourself looking on horror as Year 12s attempt to make a five-man piggyback ride. It begs the question, is there a proper time to realise that you're officially older?

Society seems to have deemed Year 12 as the time you become an adult, you're taking the HSC, drinking way too much coffee running on a solid three hours of sleep: prime adult living. But then again, if you were to take a walk-through Oxley you would also see year 7's drowning themselves in ice-coffees and talking about their Cornerstone assessment task as though it was the end of the world. So, it seems sleep deprivation and maturity can come with all different ages, perhaps being "older" means you've gained wisdom.

So, I did some research and asked students at Oxley for their wisdom, here are the results:

"Don't go vegan for a month. You're just depriving yourself of joy. There's a lot of joy in the world."
-Isla Terry

"Don't stop when you get it right. Stop when you can't get it wrong" -Katie Ayling

"Horses and Trees don't mix. I learnt that the hard way yesterday." -Nicola Gardener

"It's better to be short then to be tall, because you can get the free kid's meals at restaurants" - Chiara Shannon

"Younger siblings are a gift. You can get those colouring in sheets at restaurants without looking stupid" -Abi Hunt

"It doesn't matter what's on the outside, what matters is what lies within" -Ellie Law

No matter who I asked, at the idea of giving wisdom or advice a huge smile came to their face – admittedly sometimes it was more a maniacal grin— but nevertheless everyone found joy in the simple act of sharing ideas. The beautiful thing about age and wisdom is that no matter how much you grow or how much you learn, joy can still be found in the smallest of things. Whether it be a spontaneous five man piggyback ride, a warm hot choccy from Off The Shelf or rocking out to Sweet Caroline in music: Joy and excitement are always close by.

After much pondering, I've come to the conclusion that "older" doesn't mean your ready to do what you want to do, or that your allowed to try out for some new thing. Being older means you start to understand how to make your own day brighter, how to find joy in the small things and laugh even at the darkest of times. In that way, I think we've all gotten a lot older in the past two years. We've realised that joy isn't reliant on mask free hugs and huge holidays, it hides in the corners of science class and echoes through locker rooms at lunch.

So, if the advice of a 14-year-old is anything to go by, stop looking forward to "older". It will come, but for the meantime search for joy in every nook and cranny.

By Violet FitzSimons, Year 8

INSPIRATION



GAMING

Minecraft

Almost everyone who plays video-games has heard of Minecraft. It's only one of the most popular games in the world with over 200 million copies sold! Designed by Mojang studios, this blocky game combines the concepts of survival, combat and creativity into one amazing adventure. The goal: do whatever you like! Whether it is creating that dream home of yours, fighting those pesky mobs (Short for mobile creatures to you non-gamers) or just exploring the various biomes loaded with unique blocks and loot! Minecraft was originally made in 2009 by game developer Markus "Notch" Persson and was originally dubbed "the cave game" (I know, interesting name) and was nothing more than a flat landscape made of stone and grass where you could only build in creative mode. When it was released to the public, it was renamed Minecraft. In 2010 Minecraft was still off to a rocky start, with only a few new blocks, a soundtrack and survival mode! Physics back then were also weird, as lava and water source blocks had the potential to flood the entire world! (Guess that the game developers had a twisted sense of humour) On February 2010, Minecraft finally gave those gamers who were terrible at survival mode an option with no hostile mobs called "peaceful" along with other modes such as easy, normal, hard and hardcore, preferably hardcore! Further additions included farming, paintings and... giant zombies? Anyway, by this time, Minecraft had entered the 'Infdev' stage, finally Minecraft was coming together. With new landmarks, interesting structures and the farlands! Fast forward to July 2010, Minecraft entered the beloved Alpha stage, with no beds, night, no light at all and hordes of zombies and skeletons. I think I'll stick with peaceful mode... In October 2010, Halloween, Minecraft released its first ever major update, the Halloween update which allowed you to go to the fiery wastelands of the Nether and finally added the moon to the game. January 2011 saw Minecraft sell 1 million copies and many, many new and interesting features. From 2011-2019 Minecraft was becoming an incredibly popular game.

Then suddenly in 2019, Minecraft became un-popular, causing a massive decline in sales and leaving a few loyal fans behind. However with recent updates, such as the update aquatic, village and pillage, Nether update, Caves and Cliffs Update and the upcoming wild update in 2022, Minecraft has reached its golden age. As Mojang studios works hard to improve the game we have come to know and love, Minecraft fans around the world have enjoyed the recent Minecraft Live 2021 announcements, such as tadpoles, frogs, fireflies, mangrove swamps, boats with chests and a recently voted in mob, the Allay.

I can't wait to see what the future of Minecraft holds. I probably should write a good en... Oh great. Sorry, Zombies are attacking the house again, I've got to dash! Keep calm and keep on Minecrafting!

By Thomas Clark, Year 8



BOOK

The Happiest Man on Earth

The Happiest Man on Earth tells the true and inspiring story of the late Eddie Jaku a Holocaust survivor, motivational speaker and volunteer at the Australian Jewish Museum. Eddie was born in Leipzig Germany born on the 14th of April 1920. Eddie grew up in a small town with his family and they got by through his dad's small business. Eddie had a very good education, even going to College under a fake name due to his religion. One day, Eddie came home from his College to surprise his parents for their anniversary and realised that his house has been abandoned and his parents had gone into hiding due to Kristallnacht. Eddie stayed the night at his house and is found out by German authorities who take Eddie to his "hell on earth" (his first concentration camp). Eddie was confronted with death and hardship many times due to his Jewish religion, but he considered himself to be the happiest man on earth. Eddie showed extreme perseverance as he made it through the war being transferred through numerous death camps and making it out alive with the help of his many connections and friends. In 1950 after the war, Eddie migrated to Australia with his wife and started a small petrol station. Eddie left our generation with a message that needs to be spread throughout the world, "Your efforts today will affect people you will never know. It is your choice whether that affect is positive or negative. You can choose to wake up every day, every minute, to act in a way that will uplift a stranger or drag them down. The choice is easy, and it is yours." This book is an absolute page turner and is highly recommended to people who are interested in the Holocaust. So I will leave you with this quote from Eddie himself: "Here is what I learned. Happiness does not fall from the sky; it is in your hands. Happiness comes from inside yourself and from the people you love. And if you are happy and healthy, you are a millionaire."

Eddie Jaku, 1920- 2021, the happiest man on earth.

By Archie Maitland, Year 9



BOOK

We Were Liars

We Were Liars is a book by E. Lockhart about a girl, Cady, and her cousins and friend Gat, Mirren, and Johnny. It is set on their private island, in the four different houses on the island. Mirren and Johnny are Cady's cousins, and Gat is Johnny's friend from school. They become really close over the years, spending every summer they can with each other. They call themselves 'The Liars'. In the Summer of 15, Cady got in an accident, causing a head injury. She has constant headaches and migraines, and on top of that, she has lost her memory of the whole of Summer 15. "Nothing. I lie there and wait, and remind myself over and over that it doesn't last forever. That there will be another day and after that, yet another day." – Cady Sinclair. In this book you will experience Cady and her journey of recovering her memory and secrets of Summer 15. I strongly recommend this book, especially to those who enjoy mystery and drama.

By Mollie Nash, Year 7



OLD OXLEYAN

Andrew Rumsey class of 2006

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

I guess 'making something of yourself' depends on your own personal interpretation or standard, but I think I'm able to say that I have worked hard enough and developed sufficient skills to be able to do the things I enjoy for work. I have always been passionate about music and the piano, and so after several years of practice and study, I have been able to perform around the world, in Israel, Italy, China, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, Canada, the USA, and given several world premiere performances. I also teach, accompany, examine for the Australian Music Examination Board, work at the head office of Kawai pianos, and my family and I import a particular harp from Germany for people in Australia (called the 'Veeh Harp' - look it up)!

What is your biggest achievement since high school?

I was fortunate enough to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York in 2017, which for me is one of the pinnacles of a classical musician. Three months later I also performed to many thousands of people at the Burning Man festival in the Nevada desert - two polar opposite performing experiences!

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

Yes and no. I always felt that I cared more about what I loved doing than what I should do in terms of a career. I knew that music would be a significant part of my future, but the specifics have materialised along the way. I knew I would always play the piano, but never thought at Carnegie Hall.

How did Oxley prepare you for your future?

I absolutely loved my years at Oxley. I literally couldn't have spent my high school years at a better place. It wasn't always easy, or fun, but neither is life. At Oxley I endeavoured to be part of many groups, juggle many activities/sports, and give everything a go. This prepared me for living a portfolio life where I do several different types of work, and gave me the confidence to take (calculated) risks. Oxley nurtured my sense of adventure, my work ethic, and my passions.

Is there anybody from the Oxley community who inspired you throughout high school?

Honestly, there are too many people to mention. There were countless teachers who went above and beyond to help me learn, grow, and succeed. The staff at Oxley are special - they genuinely care and I have many happy memories getting to know them (particularly in my senior years).

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

Definitely the lack of responsibility and the amount of school holidays.

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

Keep doing what makes you happy but work hard enough to become good at it, always say 'yes' to opportunities, and have faith that things will work out exactly the way they should. Also - start investing in the share market in three years and buy some Bitcoin as soon as you can!

VIRTUAL GALLERY

YEAR 10 VISUAL ARTS



Which one is Frida Kahlo's *Self Portrait*, 1940?
Maddy Bragg (Year 10 VAO) has honoured Frida's self-portrait oil painting, with great attention to detail.

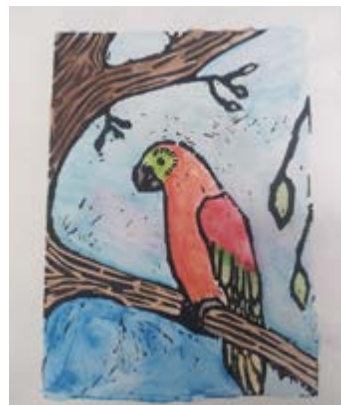
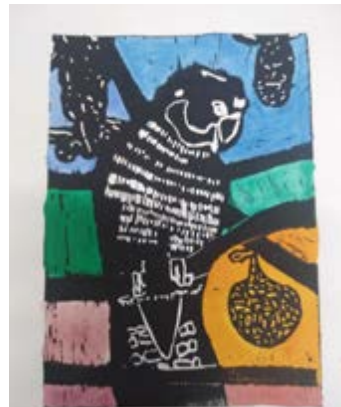
She persuaded her model and gathered and incorporated found objects for this photograph.

Meanwhile, Celeste Walker (Year 10 VAX) expertly and delicately places fine porcelain dinnerware for her dog! "Sit" and "Stay"

The original was an oil painting, Barber's *Marco on the Breakfast Table*, 1893



YEAR 7 VISUAL ARTS



CALENDAR

November/December

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				12	13	14
15 Yr 5 & 6 Amazing Me for families via Zoom, 6.00pm	16 P & F AGM, 5.30pm via Zoom. All welcome.	17	18 Inc: Yr 5 & 6 Amazing Me via Zoom	19	20 Highlands Cup - Oxley vs Chev	21
22 Year 9 & 10 Examinations Year 11 Assessments Year 8 Diagnostic Testing	23 Year 9 & 10 Examinations Year 11 Assessments Yr 3,5,7,9 online NAPLAN readiness testing	24 Year 9 & 10 Examinations Year 11 Assessments	25 Senior School House Festival	26 Senior School House Festival Exc: Year 6 Jamberoo	27 Highlands Cup - Oxley vs Chev	28
29 Year 10 Festival of Ideas	30 Year 10 Festival of Ideas	01 Final HSC exam Year 9 Spark Day Year 12 Graduation Evening, 6.00pm	02 Orientation Day Junior School, 9.30am Senior School, 12.30pm Year 6 Celebration Dinner, 6.00pm	03 Speech Day, 9.30am Last day of Term 4	04 DofE Silver Hikes Silver and Gold	05 DofE Silver Hikes Silver and Gold
05 Pin Oak Issue 134 pub. DofE Silver Hikes Silver and Gold	06	07	08	09	10	11

P&F

With less than a month of the school year remaining, I would like to say thank you to those parents who have kept the P&F 'friend raising' machine humming along this year. Our Year Reps have really done a great job organising social catch ups including coffee mornings, drinks and family picnics. Thanks to all the Year Reps for embracing the role and to Ann Marie Greenop and Rebecca Morse for coordinating activities this year.

Fortunately both our Junior and Senior Schools got to enjoy a Trivia Night, with a wild array of dress ups and plenty of enthusiasm from participants! Thank you to those school families who donated items for these events and to our clever, helpful families who wrote the questions, judged and moderated the evenings.

Our wonderful Equestrian Team put together another great Oxley Equestrian Day at the beginning of Term 2. Thank you to all involved for your organisation, to our Year 11 students who were fabulous volunteers on the day and to all the parents who BBQ'd and donated baked goods to sell. We were delighted to make a donation of \$2,000 to Wombat Care Bundanoon, from the proceeds of our raffle.

With the P&F AGM coming up next Tuesday via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83864827229?pwd=S3VQTjJoUDdIa1BXbWNZUEZwMDBadz09>, we are farewelling our Treasurer, Sandra Talman and our Secretary, Lynda Smith.

They have both been incredibly efficient in their roles and we have been lucky to have them as part of our P & F Executive team. Thank you Lynda and Sandra!

As my daughter finishes her schooling (only four exams to go at the time of writing this!), I feel so grateful for the friendship and support of other Year 12 parents I have met along this six year journey. This support network has been invaluable throughout this year and this is what I believe the P&F at Oxley is all about – providing opportunities for connection amongst families.

Next year, I can say with greater optimism, that we will have more parent events on the calendar and we will be gearing up for a big celebration in 2023 when Oxley College celebrates 40 years.

Wishing you and your families a restful, safe holiday.

By Megan Moore, P&F President

SENIOR GALLERY





SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS CHRISTMAS DRIVE

Dear Oxley,

As the festive season rolls around again and we start planning our Summer holidays and winding down for a well-deserved break, we are inevitably reminded of how fortunate we are to enjoy a safe and happy Christmas surrounded by friends and family. This should also be a pertinent reminder that many people will be doing it especially tough this Christmas. Coincidentally, this time of the year is known as the 'season of giving' and it offers us the perfect opportunity to acknowledge others who have not been as fortunate and give back to our community.

In saying this, we as a College will be taking part in the Southern Highlands Community Christmas Drive by donating non-perishable goods, including ginger-bread house kits and bon bons, to lend our support to those in need. If you have anything to offer for this good cause, it will be greatly appreciated!

Further details regarding collection stations will be provided shortly for your convenience.

Many thanks,

BY Hugh Corbett , Year 12, 2022

SPORT UPDATE

It has been great to see the return of all students and that means a return to the SUMMER SEASON OF SPORT! Despite not having the ISA competition this term, everyone has been getting stuck into their afternoon sports training, selecting teams and training hard so we can smash out the competition next term. I, for one, am ready to see some competition and have loved seeing all the smiling faces on the sports field.

Just a reminder for everyone though - it's hot. Make sure to wear a hat and bring a drink bottle to training. But most of all, ENJOY YOURSELF and stay active out in the sun!

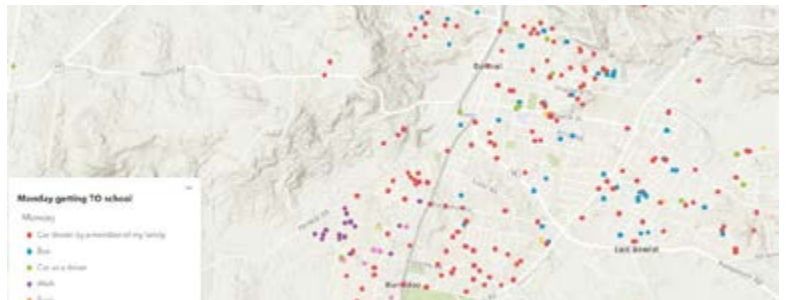
By Olivia Bow, Year 12

ACTIVE TRAVEL Safe Routes to Schools

According to the ABC, we drive our kids to school in record numbers. The national rate of "active travel to school", has declined over the past 40 years from 75 to 25 per cent of trips. Despite a reported cycling boom during lockdown, research from the UK identified that as schools returned following closures, families are looking for safe and socially distanced ways to travel. "There is a real risk people will be locked into car dependency, causing gridlock and adding to dangerous levels of pollution, unless councils provide viable alternatives by making walking and cycling safer for everyday journeys, including the school run".

So, as we look to 2022, what can we do to ensure members of the Oxley community can travel safely to and from school and are spared the traffic congestion that plagues school gates around the world? Earlier this year, we undertook some research into how our students travel to and from school. 656 students, 120 parents and 61 staff completed the survey and through this research, we have a better understand of the choices our students, staff and parents are making and have identified some of the barriers to active travel.

The most common way of getting to school for students was in a car driven by a member of their family while in the afternoon, the bus was the most common method of getting home.



Students commented that the main motivation for their choices was convenience and when asked about walking and cycling, 10% commented that they would not feel safe. When asked about how likely they would be to walk or cycle if there was a better network of footpaths and cycle paths, 157 students (24%) commented that they would possibly or definitely walk or cycle with better infrastructure while some students acknowledge that even with better infrastructure "I'm lazy. I only live 10 minutes away by car but it is a 20-minute walk. Do you really think I want to get up early to walk?"

The recently established Southern Highland Walking and Cycling

	Bus	Car driven by family	Car as passenger with another Oxley family	Car as a driver	Walk	Cycle	Train
AM	23%	59%	2%	8%	4%	2%	2%
PM	41%	40%	2%	8%	5%	2%	2%

Advocacy (SHWACA) group aims to "champion improved, connected and accessible pathways and trails for walkers and cyclists within and between townships, villages and recreational parklands across Wingecarribee Shire." <https://www.shwaca.org/> In the coming months I will be working with the group to look at solutions to enable children to safely walk and ride to school. I believe that data from other local schools will demonstrate the need and desire for improved and connected infrastructure which will not only benefit our young people but the wider community.

By Ruth Shedden