

PIN OAK



SWIMMING

ART PRIZES

KINDY STEM

CONTENTS

Year 9 Visual Arts Gallery

- 3.** Head of College Report
P&F Report
- 4.** Head of Academic and
innovation
- 5.** Head of Senior School
- 6.** Junior School News
- 7.** Junior Gallery
- 8-9.** Feature
- 10.** Ms Jane Campion Interview
- 11.** Take Inspiration
- 12.** Big Issue
- 13.** Senior Gallery
- 14.** Canal to Creek Art Prize
- 15.** Good and Other News
- 16.** News Flash

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HEAD OF COLLEGE'S REPORT



While our student leaders could never have imagined the events that are unfolding between Ukraine and Russia it seems timely that their theme for 2022 is 'Unity'. Both Peggy and Hal our School Captains spoke eloquently at our first Assembly on what Unity means and their vision for Oxley College. They

talked about Oxley being a place of Unity where the community works together for a common purpose and each person is welcomed, included and most importantly respected, and the differences between people are celebrated and come together so the College can be a stronger and better community.

We know Unity means coming together to be stronger and working in harmony and it doesn't mean everyone has to be the same and have the same thinking or opinion. The Oxley Distinctive, Cornerstone, is an important opportunity for students to discuss big ideas and issues; to understand different perspectives and to be able to disagree in a respectful and open manner. It provides students with the opportunity to develop their own personal 'moral compass' - what they stand for and believe in and to be able to articulate their reasons for their opinion or stance on an issue. It is my hope that they take these lessons beyond school into life where respect for self and others and personal integrity are the cornerstone for a good life.

There is so much hope for the future. Despite living in a time of crisis amongst a global pandemic and being born into a world where acts of terrorism were common place and the fear of climate change is ever present, our adolescents (Gen Z) are surprisingly more optimistic, resilient and tolerant and have been defined as more 'We' people than previous generations. It seems to me, the needs of the collective far outweigh

the individualist drive of ego.

The culturally, historically and aesthetically significant film, 'Shrek' defines this generation of young people where the message of self-love and acceptance is clear. The story is about learning to tolerate others and accept them. Whether you are born an ogre, a donkey or a dragon, you are loved and can achieve anything if you set your mind to it.

From my perspective what I love about the students of Oxley is that they can express themselves with all their differences without having the pressure to fit into a box. They can be their true selves with much greater acceptance than ever before.

How can you predict the future? You can't! All I know is that with this generation we are in safe and loving hands.

Each generation brings its strengths and learnings and it is with this in mind that we continue to recognise the work of previous generations and celebrate key events like International Womens' Day and work towards a fairer and more just world.

I would also like to recognise the Oxley community and thank everyone for their words of support during my leadership at Oxley. This past week has been challenging and humbling as my decision to leave Oxley was announced. I feel very privileged to have spent the past three plus years leading this very special community and I look forward to spending time with students and staff over the next two weeks. While my time at Oxley has been shorter than I first expected, (but who expected a pandemic), this great school will continue to hold a special place in my heart and I look forward to sharing my final reflections of my time in the next edition of Pin Oak.

By Jenny Ethell, Head of College

P&F REPORT

Welcome back to the school year! Hopefully at our Welcome Drinks, to be held later this term or early next term, the P&F committee will have the opportunity to meet new and returning families in person!

The primary purpose of the Oxley P&F is to coordinate social events, therefore connecting parents and families within our school and strengthening ties within our College community. We are here to support any families in need and to fundraise for specific school projects or local charities.

Each year group at Oxley has a number of Year Representatives (Reps) who will coordinate social events, enabling you to meet other families. I believe many of these Reps have already organised coffee mornings or drinks nights to kick start the year. A list of the Year Reps is below:

Kindergarten: Danielle Pierce, Andrea Bullick

Year 1: Teresa Fisher, Alison Sheer

Year 2: Brett Plain, Emma Robertson

Year 3: Kirsty Curr, Lou Mooney

Connie Mussett, Zoe Coe

Year 4: Fiona Pearce, Belinda Burton, Shona Fury

Year 5: Kylie Morgan, Sally Kean, Chris Ahern

Nikki Sicari

Year 6: Eva Loiterton, Felicity Sewell, Sally Kean

Gail Dennington

Year 7: Kirrily Zupp, Caroline Mellish, Jo Olofsen

Julie Calkin, Jane Sealy

Year 8: Jodie Hamblin, Fiona Rodger, Edwina Carter

Year 9: Shelley Gillis, Peta-Maree Watkin

Sooz Heinrich

Year 10: Skye Sandilands, Ann-Marie Greenop

Year 11: Angie Sanchez, Shona O'Brien, Emma Bragg

Anna Smedley

Year 12: Kate Bow, Justine McKinlay, Renelle Corbett

Sean Hanrahan

Oxley Equestrian Day

Our Oxley Equestrian Day is a highlight on the calendar for our K-12 school community. The event will be held this year at Bong Bong Picnic Racecourse on Sunday 1 May and we will be calling for volunteers to assist with duties ranging from setting up the course to BBQ'ing and donating baked goods for the canteen. More information will come in the next few weeks. Again this year the Oxley Equestrian committee are calling for donations of equestrian clothing, tack and accessories to be sold at the Equestrian Day Boot Sale. Please make sure all items are in good condition. Please contact Lauren Blom via email laurenblom@icloud.com to arrange collection/drop off of goods.

P & F Meeting

The next P & F meeting will be on Tuesday 1 March at 5.30pm in the David Wright Library. All welcome.

By Megan Moore, P & F President

HEAD OF ACADEMIC AND INNOVATION



The Piano in the French Quarter

Those families that have been with us for a while know that we love to bring some magic to the school day. We mark the change of periods not with bells, but with a wonderful array of music - ranging from Vivaldi, the Radesky March to whatever surprise song plays to celebrate the end of the each day.

And now we have another special thing – a piano has arrived outside Off the Shelf (our in-house coffee shop) in the courtyard, with no purpose other than to be played by anyone who is inspired to try it before or after school, or at recess or lunch. So now we hear tinkles, arpeggios and even snatches of the Moonlight Sonata amongst the group renditions of Heart and Soul. It brings joy at unexpected times,

and reminds us of how important music is to all of us.

Learning Walks

I have taken time this week to walk through and sit in many many classrooms. Invariably I see attentive students and wide ranging activities (one of my favourites being the dirt tray models in Year 11 Earth and Environmental Science, and oh yes, the Hoodies being made by the boys in Year 9 Design and Technology). But most of all, I see inspiring teachers – well prepared, out of their seats, giving of themselves for the best of our lucky students. The Junior School is calm and filled with happy students who tell me without hesitation about their learning and how much fun they are having at Oxley. While it's not yet World Teachers Day, I think it important to acknowledge the daily energy it takes to provide such wonderful learning experiences from Kindergarten to Year 12 – thank you teachers of Oxley!

After significant disruption to our pedagogical journey over the last two years (needing to pivot to learn the skills of remote teaching), we are delighted that our Language of Learning consultant is able to return to us in person next week. Sophie Murphy will work with Junior School Stage Coordinators and teachers in their classrooms, continuing to refine what works best for our students in their learning.

Encore

On Monday, music students in Year 11 and 12 had the opportunity to travel to the Sydney to attend a showcase of 2021 HSC Music performances. It seems so long since we had the opportunity to attend concerts of any kind, so to hear their excitement on their return was a joyous thing. This experience has already inspired the students to continue to strive toward excellence in their musical studies. Our thanks go to Mr Young and Ms Boulton for accompanying them.

Year 12

We are already impressed that our Year 12 students have returned with academic focus and commitment to their studies. The Study Centre is full of hard-working students in Academic Preparation, and we are also having excellent numbers at Study Club - another indication that students are organised and getting on with their learning. Our expanded Futures team now includes Mr Chambers and Ms Cowell, alongside Mrs Simpson. Ms Cowell is currently almost half way through meeting with every Year 12 student, taking them through the DOTS model of career planning. Mrs Simpson is also running essay writing workshops in Academic Prep time, providing each student with the opportunity to work in a small group collaboration. Mr Chambers' Senior Master role is to facilitate "big ideas" discussions that extend and expand beyond content into sophisticated debate and discussion. We continue to work hard to support the journey of each student so that their life beyond our gates is rich and rewarding.

Year 12 Student-Parent-Teacher

Next Monday Year 12 students, parents and teachers will have the opportunity to discuss progress to this point in the HSC journey. Held on ZOOM, these meetings will be an important step to check in and set goals toward the rest of journey.

Year 12 Half Yearly Examinations

The next step of the journey is the Year 12 Half Yearly Examinations, commencing in Week 8. Students need to practice their skills of applying their knowledge under timed conditions, honing their examination technique so that their best self shows through the black pen in writing booklets! We know that this preparation will help them in their Trial Examinations in Term 3 as well as the HSC itself. We have also organised ELEVATE to run an Ace Your Exam Session ahead of this process.

By Kate Cunich, Head of Academic and Innovation

HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL

Dr Justin Coulson: Tween, Teens and Screens – Parent Workshop

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the most common concern I hear from parents about their children is about managing screens. For many families this is a constant battleground and there is the uncertainty of not knowing 'what they are doing on them'. This topic is uniquely challenging for parents, as unlike other (like those discussed in the rest of my article), we did not grow up in an age of mobile phones and social media; we cannot draw on our own childhood experiences to inform us. So we were delighted to arrange for parenting specialist Dr Justin Coulson to present his webinar, Tween, Teens and Screens, to parents on Tuesday 15 February. Justin indicated the lack of research on the impact of screens to children's wellbeing is an additional challenge, with experts divided on the issue. 1. Justin explores the different types of screen use – consumption, creation and connection, and provided insight in to how to manage screen time, including avoiding the removal of screens as a punishment and also how to have the conversation with your child that avoids conflict. Understanding the nature of the problem, being calm and rational in approach, and communicating clearly, collaboratively and compassionately with a young person are important principles in managing screen time.

I would like to thank the more than 100 parents who joined us for Justin's webinar and for their contributions to the online discussion. The webinar was recorded and will be available to view until Friday 18 March. Please email College Services if you would like access to the recording. For more on Justin's work, including podcasts, articles and books on a range of parenting issues, visit <https://www.happyfamilies.com.au/>.

1 For more on this, see research published by J.Twenge (2018) and A Przybylski (2019).

'Returning to normal?': Parties, Alcohol and Young People

As we return to more normal pre-pandemic social settings, it is easy to forget that for many of our young people it is less a return than entering something new, as two years is a long time in the life of a child. It is great to celebrate the return of music ensembles, drama productions, ISA sport, Duke of Edinburgh's International Award hikes and so much more that has been severely curtailed in the past two years; I hope that all students will embrace these opportunities and the many benefits to physical, social and emotional wellbeing that they promote.

Students now have the opportunity to have social gatherings and parties, without the limits imposed by Public Health Orders. Whilst private social events are the responsibility of parents not the College, as partners in your child's education and in the interests of their health and wellbeing, we believe it is important for parents to be informed about the potential safety, health and legal implications of the consumption of alcohol by minors.

At school, alcohol and drugs education features in our PDHPE programmes, but we also bring in specialist presenters in this area. For Years 9-12 students, Brent Sanders will be presenting to students on the theme of Safe Partying, Consent and the Law in Term 3 (Tuesday 16 August). Brent is a former police officer of 20 years experience who provides education programmes for schools and workplaces about these issues: <https://www.brentsandersconsulting.com.au/>. Paul Dillon, the leading educator on drugs and alcohol for young people in Australia, will also be returning to Oxley to present to students in Years 10-12, followed by an evening presentation for parents, in Term 4 (Monday 31 October). Paul has a blog and regularly posts helpful articles and I encourage parents to view this: <http://doingdrugs-darta.blogspot.com/>



Whilst the boundaries and expectations regarding alcohol and parties are matters for individual families, maintaining open communication with the parents of your child's friends is important in order to maintain a consistent approach and one with which you are comfortable. It is natural for young people to sometimes push against rules, seek greater freedoms and want to take risks. They may also (falsely) claim that everyone else's parents are much more liberal in their attitudes than you (this applies to screentime rules as it does to parties)! By working together and being open with young people about these issues - and establishing trust and agreed boundaries - we can empower them to make informed and wise choices so they can safely navigate their teenage years.

The College's Drugs Policy can be found on page 144 of the Year 7-10 School Diary, and page 182 of the Senior Planner.

By Mark Case, Head of Senior School



JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS



Weekly Awards

Learning Journey

K: Elsie Herrmann
Yr 1: Hugo Tait
Yr 2: Thomas Apostolatos
Yr 3B: Xander Fisher
Yr 3R: Oliver Chesham
Yr 4A: Charlie Halloran
Yr 4W: Louisa Wright
Yr 5M: Lisa Mussett
Yr 5N: Evelyn Hammond
Yr 6H: Eddie Boot
Yr 6S: Marshall Devlin

Oxley Values

K: Benjamin Cadden
Yr 1: Evan Callan
Yr 2: Naomi Robertson
Yr 3B: Rose Hurst
Yr 3R: Lily Bennet
Yr 4A: Jack Friesenecker
Yr 4W: Oliver Coram
Yr 5M: Addison Umoren
Yr 5N: Hamish Aston
Yr 6H: Hugo Adams
Yr 6S: Summer Johns

Excellence in ICAS Awards

Year 4

Luca Sicari
Distinction English
Charlie Officer
Distinction English
Distinction Science
Liliana Giro
Distinction English
Elena Clarke
Distinction English
Archie Adams
Distinction Science

Year 5

Isabella Sicari
Distinction English
David White
High Distinction
English
Distinction Science
Jameson Clarke
Distinction English
Distinction Maths

Year 6

Coen Bertollo
Distinction Maths
Distinction Science



Can you believe that we are completing our fourth week back at school and it has been so wonderful to hear the laughter of children and see so many beautiful interactions.

Spending time with our youngest students never ceases to provide much laughter and joy as I share the world through their eyes. Starting school is a big deal and our Kindergarten children are doing an amazing job navigating the world of 'Big School'.

They start the day with such enthusiasm and energy but after a day at school being 'switched on', learning lots of things, remembering rules and doing lots of things for themselves that perhaps parents do for them at home – they are very tired.

We congratulate our youngest students on a fabulous start to the year – they try so hard each and every day, they find joy and wonder in the smallest things, their laughter and energy is infectious!

Once they begin school, time flies and they grow up way too quickly.

Each day, we celebrate how lucky we are to be back at school and learning in the wonderful, engaging environment that is Oxley Junior.

Please enjoy this photo snapshot of our Kindergarten students.

By Jane Campion, Head of Junior School



Oztag

The Oztag team known as Dragons 11, won the U12s grand final last night at the Moss Vale Junior Oztag competition! Made up of Clancy O'Mahoney, Fraser Wisken, Henry Burton, Freddy Florida, Brodie Murray, Jett Loiterton, Molly Harwood, Rosie Vild and Grace & Will Kean, the team clinched the victory in their first ever season playing the sport. To say they were thrilled is an understatement! The team played so well together all season, learning new skills, supporting each other on and off the field and having lots of fun.



JUNIOR GALLERY



James Bond vs The World



I love James Bond. Truly, I can't tell you how many hours I've spent pouring over his books, fascinated with the deeply intricate and academic story he so boldly commands. I am of course talking about my favourite bird watching book: *Birds of the West Indies* by a Mr James Bond. It's truly a pinnacle of society, a story beloved by all and far beyond its time: published in the year 1936.

Ok, I'll be honest, I've never read a bird watching book in my life. Especially not that one. Definitely not a favourable way to spend a free Sunday afternoon, but I'm sure that once you read the first line of this article you knew exactly what I was talking about. Elaborate car chases and tuxedos, English accents and montages of extremely good-looking people doing morally ambiguous things. The all-consuming franchise that is James Bond.

And, until recently, if I'd read that first line, I would have turned the page so quickly I probably would have caused a nasty paper cut. James Bond has always left a sour taste in my mouth. Ideologically, I don't love the concept of some twisted male fantasy growing into a problematic hydra-esk film franchise. Morally, I just wasn't sure if I wanted to indulge in something that already had far too much attention for all the wrong reasons. But the fascinating thing about James Bond is that despite these discrepancies, it is to this day, the longest lasting film franchise of all time.

People are infatuated with this concept and that's not something to be sniffed at. It's far more comfortable to dismiss James Bond as a guilty pleasure but at the end of the day something about the human brain is innately drawn to this. The only sensible thing I could think to do—aside from saying slightly snarky things about it—is research how any of this even started in the first place. How did James Bond become James Bond?

Well, before there was ever a James Bond there was an Ian Fleming. An Ian Fleming who spent his days as a British Naval intelligence officer strategizing and re-strategizing British war efforts. Instead of dodging bullets and making unbelievable escapes he debated the technicalities of operations and listened to the monotonous tick of the clock in the strategy room. Despite his achievements - which included planning operation Goldeneye, which sounds very cool and important - Fleming felt restless.

Undervalued.

Under-utilized.

And so the war ended and Fleming was truly at a loss. He had always promised himself that if he even survived the war, he would buy land in Jamaica and escape from the reality of England.

So, he did, moving in the year of 1943 he bought his land and named it Goldeneye. You can see how his lack of subtlety when it comes to secret operation names might not have worked in the superspy business.

It was in Jamaica that Fleming met the love of his life, his purpose in living, a beautiful young woman named Ann -who just so happened to be married to the second Viscount Rothermere. Despite this tiny little detail, Fleming happily assumed the role of Mantriss* and Ann and he lived happily on the island. It was all awfully romantic, snorkelling in the day, going on adventures in the forest, taking long walks across the beach.

But that sense of restlessness was still there.

Fleming still felt as though something was missing.

In a strop, he entered the beach house after a swim and saw a Bird watching book perched on the side of a coffee table. *Birds of the West Indies* by a Mr James Bond.

I think you can see where I'm going with this.

After this moment of inspiration Fleming wouldn't stop writing, locking himself in the house at Golden Eye, with all the blinds drawn he typed away for hours without hesitation. His final product was the first ever James Bond Novel: *Casino Royale*.

And no-one really cared.

Sure, a lot of men secretly read the book and loved the thrill of the adventure, but to say it wasn't well regarded in the literary community would be an understatement. Even Flemings wife (the lovely Ann) refused to read the books, claiming them to be 'Dirty'. Still, Fleming continued to write, hoping that someone would see James in the way he did: a character built for the silver screen. Unfortunately, this didn't happen for a long while. That is of course, until a man called Broccoli came along.

I'm not even joking, that was his real name.

Anyway, Broccoli absolutely loved James Bond and inquired after the filming rights. At this point Fleming was well and truly dejected and gave them away without much fuss. Despite Fleming's lack of enthusiasm and overall lack of involvement in the entire process, Broccoli took off running and soon Harry Saltzman got on board. These two were practically a match made in heaven, not only did they share a deep desire to make as much money as possible, but both of their last names were also of the culinary variety.

Once this dynamic duo found each other they immediately started to search for their James Bond. Fleming had made one thing

abundantly clear: James needed to be classy. Thin, smart, good looking and very English.

Broccoli and Saltzman weren't too sold on this idea and ended up favouring Sean Connery for the role. Fleming was, of course, utterly horrified. Bond was supposed to be lean, witty and clever. And they had cast a bulky bodybuilder*, who was not in the least bit witty and most certainly not British. To make matters worse, he was an unknown. Ardently unfamous in almost every way.

Despite Fleming's protests Connery was awarded the roll and the indie production that was James Bond began. Deciding against going with the first Novel, Doctor No was created quite hastily, with the release of the film landing nicely in 1962.

The people loved it.

Despite Flemming's protests the Bulky James Bond captured the world's heart. He was the perfect source of comfort, one strong sophisticated man saving the good world from forces of evil. After such uncertain times in the second world war (and the threat of conflict in the future) people were in desperate need of reassurance and they weren't exactly picky about where it came from. Sure, therapy's nice and all, but a pretty man in a suit brandishing a shiny gun: now that's peace of mind.

Connery seemed to have caught wind of the public's obsession, and despite his earlier lack of fame he was soon considered to be quite the diva. He even refused to be on set at the same time as Saltzman and Broccoli, claiming he couldn't work in their presence. Seeing as they couldn't make the infatuation with Bond disappear, the two producers decided to sack Connery and find someone who's head could fit through the sets doorway.

The next bond, as it turns out, wasn't exactly an upgrade. George Lanzenbury had been out on a date with a girl when he first saw a James Bond movie. However, when the movie ended, he found his girlfriend was far less interested in him, and was suddenly fascinated with fast cars and tuxedos.

Now this couldn't do.

So, being the reasonable level-headed man he was, Lanzenbury decided that he would be the next James Bond.

The only issue was, he wasn't an actor. This didn't seem to stop him though, and spending what little money he had saved on a designer suit and watch Lanzenbury waltzed into Broccoli's office as though he owned the world. The secretary did of course stop him but, waiting for her to turn around, he quickly sprinted up the steps to Broccoli's door and flung open the door -leaning casually against the door frame when Broccoli eventually turned around.

"I hear your looking for James Bond."

Broccoli nodded and George was invited in. Then there was the problem of references, which of course, George had none of. So instead, he listed all the places he thought they couldn't check.

"Previous work?"

"Oh just a few films in Czech Republic"

"Acting experience?"

"A few community productions--"

He had the job. When he sat down to lunch, he attempted to confess his sins to the director and get out of the franchise before things go sticky. Afterall, he was about to act in front of millions- despite not having a day's work experience. Upon hearing what he'd pulled off the director shook his head and laughed.

"You just fooled the most distrustful man in the world -you're an actor"

And from that point onward he was. Until of course, the film premier rolled around and he had the gall to show up with long hair*.

Shock.

Horror.

He was immediately fired, and our bulky big headed friend Sean was once again Bond.

Fast forward a few years and we're sitting in cinemas listening to old ladies whisper about how blue Daniel Craig's eyes are.

The fact that the James Bond franchise was created on the backs of two greedy businessmen and one Scottish bodybuilder didn't exactly bode well for the future of the films. At least not in terms of morality: financially Bond has always travelled phenomenally well. Money rolled in as the never-ending cycle of James Bonds circulated through the cinemas screens. Years of flashy car chases, witty one liners and questionable choices. Again, the comfort bond brings us not something to be overlooked. He is the equivalent of escapism for entire generation of people and that's an incredible psychological phenomena.

He is also shallow. Making moral changes only when strictly necessary to appease the demands of the public. A female Q? Sure. Less misogynistic jokes? Totally do-able. And yet the core of James Bond still remained: a man who thought he could die at any second and therefore got to do whatever he wanted to.

Quite frankly I don't even know where to start with James Bond, or if I should even bother. Psychologically you can see how this thing works one unsatisfied man writes a book and generations that follow him buy into that same sense of escapism and second-hand achievement that Bond offers. I could probably write an entire article about the twisted male fantasy that Bond has grown into, but I don't think I could bring myself to.

The whole thing just seems sad. Truly sad.

I could probably spin this whole thing as a misogynistic, male fantasy that dominates the film industry purely by capitalizing on our guilty pleasures. But in knowing the history of this franchise and watching the films I can't help but feel that the fact that this haphazard franchise exists is truly reflective on our own fears.

We're scared that our lives aren't worth noting, just like Fleming was. We watch this man who can never be a publicly acknowledged figure do incredible things for the good of the people and it comforts us -it reassures our worries.

We watch women become trivialized and objectified and we don't even see it as sexism -we see it as a part of James Bond. This concept that escapes time, morals and boundaries. This franchise has kept us comfortable and intrigued and fulfilled for so long.

Like any story James Bond was created for a reason. He was created to entertain, and to comfort, to fulfill and to gain profit. With all of these elements mixed together there's bound to be chaos and mistakes.

So, what do I think of James Bond? After all this soul searching and researching what conclusion have I come to?

Well, in the wise word of my Kindergarten teacher during our stranger danger lesson:

"Stop it, I don't like it."

In my ever so important opinion, it's time for James Bond to leave the conversation. He has obviously served a purpose, and I can't discredit the fact that he has captured the hearts of millions, but he is still so deeply flawed, confused and unstable that I just don't think it's safe for him to be a crutch for us anymore. He's a concept that's being pulled in a thousand directions when he was only ever supposed to go in one. Bond was a character born in escapism but he can't escape from his confinements anymore. He is outdated, he is a fantasy and there isn't a place for him in the 21st century.

So if you've got some spare time on your hands this weekend, instead of indulging in another James Bond movie maybe try out the Bird Watching book that started it all.

Or just do anything else with your time.

Written by Violet FitzSimons Year 9

JANE CAMPION

New Head of Junior School

We are delighted to welcome our new Head of Junior School, Jane Champion to Oxley College. Jane is an inspiring educator and leader who is committed to the development of students and staff in her care. Year 12 student Hugh Corbett sat down with Ms Champion to get to know her better.



When and how did you first become involved in education?

I started off doing a few other things and sort of fell into teaching by accident. It was certainly always there as a choice, but not my first choice to begin with. The decision to pursue a career in education was very much influenced by my formative years, including a gap year trip with a friend in Australia which opened my eyes to how learning from others gave me wisdom beyond what I imagined possible.

What kind of job opportunities interested you and where did they take you before coming to Oxley?

I moved here from Hervey Bay, in Queensland. I had also taught at Toowoomba Preparatory College, Fraser Coast Anglican College and in Cairns, as well as overseas in China and Japan, specialising in early-childhood teaching. Each of these opportunities was as exciting and interesting as the last. They reaffirmed for me that education is definitely my passion.

What have been your initial perceptions of Oxley College?

Well, I spoke to the students earlier about the 'magic' that was present here. At first, I couldn't put my finger on it, because I took my interview for the job over Zoom and so my first impression of the College was on the Oxley website with Hal's tour. When I finally came to Oxley, just before December, whatever that magic was – it was just there. It's just that connection people have with each other – especially the students with the teachers – and everyone being so warm and friendly and welcoming, for me, was amazing. It definitely feels as if everybody wants to be here.

What is a goal that you have set yourself for your time here at Oxley?

I just want to be the best leader that I can be. For me, I'm always constantly learning. And so the goal I set for myself is definitely: continue to improve. Continue to connect to the people that I work with and so, for me, the continual, progressive goal is to be a better leader than I currently am. I am very content being where I am at the moment; being the Head of Junior School is absolutely my dream job.

INSPIRATION



FILM

Australia: The Time Traveller's Guide

Australia, a continent at the bottom of the world.

When Europeans first settled Australia, they found no structures and few relics. They saw it as a young country.

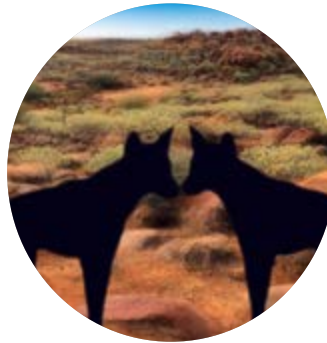
Nothing could be further from the truth!

Australia - The Time Traveller's Guide: A Natural History of the Australian Continent, reveals more to Australia than meets the eye. Taking you from the birth of our world to the European colonisation, this riveting documentary guided by historian Richard Smith, narrates the first stirrings of life, it's global domination of land and the catastrophic extinctions that changed our planet.

Australia - The Time Travellers Guide is a must see for anyone interested in how the world was created (handy in those year 7 science classes). Why we are here today and the burning question of were there really megafauna around when Aboriginals arrived? You will behold amazing locations such as Wolfe Creek Crater, Broome and Shark Bay's Hamelin Pool in Western Australia.

You will be enlightened with many unknown and exciting facts, such as the formation of Australia's dangerous Cambrian inland sea, once located in our central deserts of today; the Cretaceous tale of two dinosaurs named 'Banjo' (a big carnivorous Australovenator) and 'Matilda' (a beautiful, giant herbivorous sauropod); how two massive asteroids slammed into our continent with the immense force of nuclear explosions; and the existence of foreboding sea scorpions the size of humans! You will also marvel at the deciduous forests of the Carboniferous period that have morphed over time into the coal deposits being mined for income across parts of Australia today.

By Thomas Clark, Year 9



GALLERY

Ngununggula

Ngununggula means 'belonging', in the traditional language of the Gundungurra First Nations people.

Ngununggula Regional Art Gallery is the most recent art gallery to open in the Southern Highlands.

The gallery has set their focus on the visual arts as well as the education, cultural voice and artistic practice, and have their sight set on becoming the place for expression and discovering for "generations to come". The gallery is suitable for all ages and is family friendly. Each Friday from 6pm-9pm 'Ngununggula nights' attract those who want to get their "weekend started", with live music, beverages, food, and a extended gallery opening into the night. For more information on what bands will be playing when, see the Ngununggula website and book your tickets.

Starting on January 8th until the 13th of March, Ngununggula Art Gallery opened the 'Dingo project' exhibition, with the works of 27 artists, the first exhibition of 2022 explores the locality of 'Mittagong' meaning "plenty of native dogs". The exhibition aims to expose the role of the Dingo and its spirituality and how it is conveyed through "storytelling, dance, song and language" by the Gundungurra people. Upon entrance to the exhibition chambers, Djon Mundine, an Indigenous creator the artist of the Aboriginal Memorial at the entrance of the National Art Gallery in Canberra, has beautifully used the traditional ochre to imprint his body on the wall. The exhibition is comprised of a range of works including photography, paintings, sculptures, and videos all encompassing the Dingo.

In the 4th chamber a moving piece by Blak Douglas, "A dogs breakfast" portrays the 1980 Azaria Chamberlain legal case. Douglas uses well known symbols including the female + male restroom signage as well as the baby change symbol to illustrate the message in a recognisable manner. The textured and layered artwork is representative of the outback and vast night skies, each small detail sharing a story.

The Dingo Project is one of many exhibitions to come to Ngununggula. For the full calendar visit the Ngununggula Art Gallery website.

By Hannah Zupp and Leah Halstead, Year 11



BOOK

Breathe

'The switch changed everything. I need to escape. Just because no one's managed it in the past, doesn't mean that the future is lost.'

When three teenagers set out to find somewhere that doesn't make you pay for the air you use to breathe, they realise that they are running from more than just costs.

This thrilling dystopian novel by Sarah Crossan explores the differences between a privileged boy and a girl that only uses her money for oxygen. They find friendship through difference and use kindness to help a heartbroken resistance member escape the pod with a sufficient supply of air.

'Breathing is a right, not a privilege, so I'm stealing it back. I'm nervous, but I'm not scared.'

By Mollie Nash, Year 8

FOOD

HEARTH by Moonacres

'Hearth' means the floor of a fireplace – and connotes a sense of warmth and family.

Hearth café is located behind Ngununggula Regional Gallery. With a seasonal lunch and all-day breakfast menu, the café aims to reduce the amount of food waste produced along with using sustainable food production. The distinctive menu provides mainly vegetarian meals, with an interchanging meat meal each week. The produce is freshly picked and delivered every morning from the local Robertson Moonacre's farm as well as all baked goods being baked in the early hours each morning.

By Hannah Zupp and Leah Halstead



Anxiety & Women in the Spotlight

Our news cycles often revolve around discussions of gender and celebrity. There was a time when women weren't even allowed on stage. Fast forward to now, and we have female leads and actors, comedians, musicians, and writers in the spotlight. Not only that, but many celebrities are sharing their anxiety stories with high relatability.

Kate McKinnon

"People are often confused when they meet me because I'm soft-spoken and pensive. I am extraordinarily introverted". This what the SNL star says of herself while portraying and satirising well known celebrities from Justin Bieber to established politician Hilary Clinton. Across genre and gender she shows insight to the character and person.

When Kate McKinnon was in school, she struggled, as many others do, to understand that difference is the most interesting part of anyone. Now, she shows her difference openly.

Through her journey of becoming a comedian, she has found many characters to wear but has also found many to mask herself in.

Kate McKinnon trained for sketch comedy eight years before joining Saturday Night Live in 2012. She said that SNL helped her get through the pandemic in many ways, feeling less alone and having a connection to some kind of audience. She said that it may have been her favourite season altogether. 'Being able to share in the ludicrousness and pain of what we were all going through made my year bearable.'

As a young girl, she talked in funny voices, pretending to be fictional characters. This helped to relieve her social anxiety. As a gay and female comedian, it was hard for Kate McKinnon to find her place in the comedy world. Now, she is rising with her character work and celebrity impressions on the sketch comedy series The Big Gay Sketch Show and Saturday Night Live.

"I found it was a way to share joy and to bring a sense of fun and community in a way that I had trouble doing just in my own voice. I do have a personality, but I find it easier still in some ways to communicate in character."

In 2016, she was cast in the remake of 'Ghostbusters'. Kate McKinnon asked the director, Paul Feig, if she should use a Russian accent. He insisted that she should just be herself, and not anything else. "I thought, 'Well, which one?' That for me is the hardest thing, but I've gotten more comfortable with it as the years have worn on."

She also made a guest appearance on 'Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner' hosted by David Chang. Whilst this show was about the food in Cambodia, the conversation turned to mental health

and their reflection of self very quickly. Over Noum Kong (rice doughnuts), Kate McKinnon said 'The struggle of whether to try to completely assimilate or be alienated and really run with what makes you different is the genesis of any sort of meaningful creation.'

Emma Stone

'Everyone experiences a version of anxiety or worry in their lives, and maybe we go through it in a different or more intense way for longer periods of time, but there's nothing wrong with you.'

Emma Stone is an American actress. She is the recipient of various accolades, including an Academy Award, a British Academy Film Award, and a Golden Globe Award. In 2017, she was the world's highest-paid actress and named by Time magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

Emma Stone identified her anxiety from ages 8-10. Specifically, it was separation anxiety for her mum. Nearing the end of Year 1 and beginning of Year 2, her separation anxiety almost became agoraphobia, the fear of places and situations that might cause panic, helplessness or embarrassment.

Around this time Emma Stone experienced her first panic attack. She was visiting a friend's house, she was overwhelmed with the feeling that the house was about to burst into flames. 'There was nothing in me that didn't think we weren't going to die.'

Now, she overcomes that anxiety with help of her therapist, meditation, reaching out and stepping outside of her comfort zone, like interviews and acting roles, which also triggers a little bit of agoraphobia.

In questions about her mental health and anxiety, Emma Stone always talked about pushing herself outside of her comfort zone. Being able to help others is regenerative. 'To be a sensitive person that cares a lot, that takes things in in a deep way is actually part of what makes you amazing, and is one of the greatest gifts of life,' she said. 'You think a lot, you feel a lot, you feel deeply—it's the best.'

Mollie Nash Yr 8

SENIOR GALLERY



CANAL TO CREEK ART PRIZE

Interviews by Olivia Bow, Year 12

Joe Quilty

Can you tell us about the Canal to Creek Art Prize? What are the entry requirements?

The Canal to Creek Art Prize is a nation-wide high school art prize, open to students from Year 7-10. It was launched last year by WestConnex as part of its public art legacy programme. It's open to painting or sculpture using any materials to align with the themes of Ecology, Community, Transformation, Indigenous Culture, Heritage.

Could you tell us about your prize-winning painting? (Describe the subject matter and style of the artwork, who is the portrait in the centre of the triptych, why did you choose to paint him?)

I have created this painting of Vincent Lingiari. He was an Australian Aboriginal Rights Activist, who continuously helped his community the Gurindji people. He fought for his people's rights to retain their land as it always should have been. He died in 1988 after achieving so much for his people ranging from retaining land to marches and strikes. I painted it in my normal style not worrying about making a mistake or smudging colour together.

How did you feel when you were notified that you had won a prize for this competition?

I was quite shocked and excited. I was on holidays at the beach and had completely forgotten about the prize. I then received a phone call and it caught me out of the blue. I was extremely happy to be told that I had won second prize in the Year 10 category.

Why is it important for young people to have opportunities like this to showcase their artwork?

I think it's important to have these opportunities to get feedback, showcase how they are feeling and the issues that are important to them right now. It is also a useful way of developing your art skills and seeing how your work differs or relates to others.

What advice do you have to young artists in the Oxley community?

I would stay the most important things that I've learnt, and can pass on, are to enter competitions, make drawing and art part of your everyday and always have a go. This will really help develop your art skills.



Issy Blanche

Can you tell us about the Canal to Creek Art Prize? What are the entry requirements?

The Canal to Creek prize is a competition across NSW for Years 7-10 Australian school students. There were several themes for this prize, these were ecology, community, transformation, indigenous culture and heritage. You could pick one or more of the themes to follow in your artwork, my artwork was part of the ecology theme.

Could you tell us about your prize-winning painting? (describe the subject matter and style of the artwork, who is the portrait in the centre of the triptych, why did you choose to paint him?)

I did my artwork as part of a school Visual Arts project. We had to choose an animal to show in different art forms such as watercolour, charcoal and sketching. I chose the iguana because I thought that the details of its scales would be great to draw. For my artwork that I submit to the competition, we had to use oil pastels to draw our animal in unrealistic colours. At the end of the project Mr Bentham asked me to submit the artwork to the competition, which had posters set up around the school.

How did you feel when you were notified that you had won a prize for this competition?

When I found out I came second I was very surprised as I submitted my artwork thinking this is something I could never win and immediately gave up on the idea of coming close to a prize. I also looked at the other entries in my year and thought that they were just incredible so the fact that I won a prize came as a big shock.

Why is it important for young people to have opportunities like this to showcase their artwork?

It's important that young people have opportunities such as the Canal to Creek prize to showcase their work as it helps to allow them to see their work in something more than a classroom and improve their confidence in their art.

What advice do you have to young artists in the Oxley community?

My advice is even if you think there is no chance of you getting anywhere in something to do with your art, such as a competition, just do it because there is no harm in trying and the results may surprise you.



GOOD & OTHER NEWS

OXLEY WELCOMES DR RADFORD

It is with great pleasure I introduce Dr Fiona Radford to Oxley College in 2022 as the Head of History, History teacher and new Mawson mentor. Dr Radford teaches junior history as well as Yr. 11 and 12 Ancient, Modern and History Extension. Having taught at SKEGS Darlinghurst amongst other schools in the past, Ms Radford has transitioned to Oxley and the Southern Highlands to enjoy a change in lifestyle and promotion as a head teacher. Dr Radford is not only an extremely talented teacher and historian but an environmentalist, feminist, and podcaster. Alongside a close friend, Ms Radford records 'The Partial Historians' which is a podcast dedicated to educational conversations about all things Ancient Rome including interviews with experts and source analysis. Dr Radford has always been interested in historical thinking as she is intrigued by the relationship between creative and critical opinions as well as evidence-based analysis of the past which originated from her teenage obsession with Nancy Drew mystery novels. Dr Radford has instantaneously fit into Oxley College's culture as she has made an appearance as a vibrant and inspiring teacher this term. We look forward to your bright future ahead at Oxley College. Welcome Dr Radford!

Lily Hogan, Year 12



YEAR 12 SO FAR



Year 12, the big year, the year all of our 12 previous years of schooling has prepared us for. Being in Year 12 comes with its benefits like, being able to claim a whole microwave purely to heat up your food, bossing the younger years around as well as an elevated sense of respect between you and your classmates. So far this year I have experienced a heightened level of support from teachers as they attempt to motivate us to put in the hard yards that are required for us to reach the big goals that we all are striving for. Along with the benefits comes the disadvantages, the things that cause stress. Most commonly these things are, homework, some Year 7 getting on your nerves for not moving out of your way, assessments that are due next week that were forgotten, that quickly become a mad haze on the night before, and someone taking your car park. Year 12 for me so far has been a fun, stressful, challenging, and exciting year. The combination of both good and bad experiences is what makes something memorable. The bad experiences usually in retrospect become humorous or something a good experience can stem from. I am sure as we continue through this year that there will be many ups and downs for us as a year group (but hopefully no more lockdowns), yet these will combine to make our Year 12 experience and then in turn our memory of this time more valuable. So, for the rest of this significant year I am going to strive to not only value the good things I encounter but also try to make a positive out of the negative things that happen along this journey. This advice doesn't only apply to Year 12s but to everyone who is starting their journey at Oxley as well as throughout all of our lives. I challenge everyone to try to adopt this mindset and to make this year a memorable one.

Jill O'Connell, Year 12

LIBRARY LOVERS DAY

On Monday 14 February, as well as it being Valentine's Day, it is also Library Lovers Day. Students in Years K-6 showed their love for our wonderful school library by making love hearts saying "I'm a Library Lover", which have now been put on display on the front of our circulation desk, bringing a pop of colour. We think they look great!



NEWSFLASH



BETH ZUPP CRICKET

When did you first get into cricket?

I played a few games for Bowral Public School in 2017 but only began playing competitively at the start of this season (end of 2021). I got into cricket after playing a couple of games in the local Women's Comp for fun on a Wednesday afternoon.

What has been your favourite memory so far in the duration of you playing cricket?

Probably to have had the opportunity to play on North Sydney Oval in the Women's Plan B regional Bash Finals representing the Illawarra flames (in the bowling cartel).

Who has inspired you?

I would say definitely Hayden Kerr and Lauren Cheadle as they are both Left-Arm pace bowlers from Bowral that play at an elite level, who I have been lucky enough to work with.

What teams/competitions have you been part of?

I have done most of my representative cricket travelling around NSW representing Greater Illawarra in the U/19 country championships and in the NSW academy. I play in a few teams for Bowral C.C and am lucky enough to assist in coaching with some junior Oxley cricket teams.

What do you hope to achieve in the future?

I am looking forward to playing in Sydney next season and hope to get a place in the Oxley 1st XI. I am also keen to build my skills in all areas of the game and work to playing at an elite level.

By Hannah Zupp, Year 11

MAKE MARCH PURPLE

For Epilepsy

Every week 305 Australian lives are turned upside down and are diagnosed with Epilepsy. Lack of sleep, stress and flickering lights are just a few things that can trigger an Epileptic seizure in someone with Epilepsy. During these seizures, you could lose consciousness and twitch and jerk in uncontrolled movements. If you see someone having a seizure you should:

Stay calm. Remove anything sharp or hard away from them as to not injure themselves. Only move them if they are in danger carefully roll them to one side. Put something soft under their head like a jacket so they do not hit their head.

Every March the Epilepsy Foundation runs "Make March Purple for Epilepsy". The Month of March is used because the Jacksonian seizure is also known as the Jacksonian March because the tingling or twitching begins in a small area and then spreads or "Marches" to a larger part of the body. The Epilepsy Foundation is working with people to promote awareness, raise funds and make a difference for people living with epilepsy all over Australia.

What you can do to help:

There are many things you can do to help. You could set up a fundraiser, donate directly to the Epilepsy Foundation, raise awareness, whether its just talking to your family or friends or putting it on your social media page. Wear Purple in March to get a conversation started. Support someone you know with this condition. So, this March help out the Epilepsy Foundation, and where some Purple.

By Myles Magill, Year 8



THE ASHES

2021-22

THE FIRST TEST:

The latest ashes series started off with a blast this year. It was hosted at the Gabba, Brisbane. Alex Carey Australia's new wicket keeper received the 461st Australian baggie green cap from Adam

Gilchrist, former Australian wicket keeper, and debuted for Australia. England won the toss and chose to bat, later realised, by England captain Joe Root, to be a terrible mistake. Mitchell Starc opened the bowling with the England's Rory Burns on strike, and Haseeb Hameed at the bowler's end. Starc comes in with a beautiful in-swing ball, and Rory Burns with his terrible foot work gets bowled clean on the first ball of the series. An amazing start for Australia. From there it just got better and better. The first day ending with England bowled out for 147 runs, and Nathan Lyon getting his 400th test wicket. Australia ended up winning the first of 5 tests by 9 wickets.

THE SECOND TEST:

The pink ball day/night test was looking rough toward the end, and England were hoping for a draw. Their last hope for runs was Jos Butler he was facing Australian player Jhye Richardson and after only getting 26 runs off over 200 balls, played a cracking shot on the backfoot, but much to everyone's surprise stepped onto his own stumps and got himself out. England really struggled with the pace and bounce on our pitches, and couldn't quite get their footwork right. Meanwhile on the Australian team Marnus Labuschagne got player of the match after scoring a century and a half century over the two innings. Steve Smith awarded the prize as our captain Pat Cummins was unfortunately sick with covid-19. In the end Australia won by 257 runs.

THE THIRD TEST:

The Boxing day test match was the best test yet, with the Australian Scott Boland bowling 6 wickets for seven runs at one stage and the England team out for 68 runs and us winning the 3rd test match and therefore winning the ashes series all together. But Australia couldn't end there, if we were to win, we wanted to win all 5 tests.

THE FOURTH TEST:

The Pink day test is for Glenn McGraths foundation which raises money for breast cancer. During this test he raised over \$3 000 000. England did not want to be humiliated, with a whitewash series, so held on tight this test. It all came down to Steve smith bowling some rare leg break and the rest of the Australian team crowded around the stumps with a couple of fielders in the outfield. Earlier wickets by Cummins and Boland left the English bowling trio batting. Leech, Anderson and Broad. Leech was facing and smith came in with an amazing ball and leech was out, this was smith's first test wicket in over 5 years. This left Anderson and Broad to bring the game to an unthinkable draw, which unfortunately they succeeded in doing so, smothering Australia's hopes of a whitewash series in the process.

THE LAST TEST:

This test was hosted in Hobart which was the first time they had ever hosted an ashes test. Cam green, Pat Cummins and Scott Boland each picked up 3 wickets on the last day, helping to get England out on 10 for 56. Travis head was awarded man of the match for his excellent batting. The game ended with Australia's own captain bowling the last batter out. It was a 4-0 ashes series. Australia won the ashes and England returned home with their tail between their legs.

By Myles Magill, Year 8