

PINOAK



FAREWELL
MRS ETHELL

ANTIGONE

SWIMMING

CONTENTS

3. Head of College Report

4. Head of Academic and innovation

5. Head of Senior School

6. Junior School News

7-11. Farewell Mrs Ethell

12. Junior Gallery

13. Inspiration

14. Antigone

15. Big Issue

16. Sport News

17. News Flash

Message from the Chairman



Perspectives
Your school in focus

Since the end of 2021, Oxley College has been planning our next whole school survey. We are using the Perspectives: Your school in focus suite of surveys developed by AISNSW to support our school improvement endeavours. The information gathered will assist in furthering the growth and development of our school community. We will use the survey results to help inform and direct future school planning and improvement strategies.

These surveys have been specifically designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of stakeholders' perceptions of five important areas: School Environment, Teaching and Learning, Student Wellbeing, Leadership and Community. All staff, students, parents/guardians, leaders and board members will be invited to participate.

The surveys will be available from Monday 21 March 2022 to Sunday 3 April 2022 and are conducted online, taking approximately 15- 20 minutes to complete.

Your input and contribution are important to the success of our continuous school improvement process as we aspire to improve the learning experience for everyone at our school.

For any enquiries about the surveys please contact emma.calver@oxley.nsw.edu.au for more details.

Careers & Futures at Oxley

Careers and Futures canvas site

The Careers and Futures canvas site has lots of careers resources for students in Years 10 - 12 to explore and support them in making future career decisions at school and for life beyond school.

Look out for 'announcements' coming from the canvas site, containing 'What's new in Careers and Futures' updates. It has the latest workshops, events, open days, scholarships and learning opportunities all linked to careers and ideas for their futures. Students will receive a canvas course invitation via their email.

Engagement with Careers in first half of the year

Year 12s: one-on-one career consultations looking at life beyond school in Term 1.

Years 11 and 12s: small group coaching, and workshops/events starting from Term 2.

Year 10: Cornerstone class, Morrisby Career Assessment in Term 1 and 2.

By Claudia Cowell, Careers and Futures

Pin Oak Team

Student Editorial Team

Hannah Zupp, Leah Halstead, Violet FitzSimons,
Jackson Wolstencroft, Lucy Anderson, Sophia
Hamblin, Matilda Lambie

Designers

Lara Fischer, Mollie Nash, Chloe Hanrahan

Head of Marketing and PR
Emma Calver

Staff Editor
Jodie Swan

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

Photography: AJ Moran



HEAD OF COLLEGE'S REPORT



As I reflect on my time at Oxley College some may say I am looking through rose coloured glasses as I have had to deal with a drought, fires, floods and the pandemic during my leadership of Oxley College, let

alone the thousands of interactions I have had with students, staff, parents and the local community.

However, I would say my time here in the Southern Highlands and at Oxley College has been littered with many precious moments, achievements, and highlights that it would take me all day to write this piece for my final Pin Oak. I often have been heard to say as a Head of a School, I have the best job in the world but with some of the toughest days... and I know Friday is going to be one of those tough days as I leave this community for the last time.....

I never cease to be amazed by the people in our community and in particular our students and staff. I have to say in the last week the people have continued to impress and so I don't bore you, I will only share three examples- there are a lot more!

- The first was on Friday when I attended the stunning and extremely moving drama performance of Antigone. How the actors managed to handle such sophisticated roles and stay completely in character whilst delivering complicated and lengthy dialogue was a tribute to their talent, hard work and passion. Phenomenal!

- The second was on Monday afternoon this week as we managed to get all our students and staff home safely in yet another unprecedented event for the Highlands. The calm, resilient and caring approach our staff, students and parents took in making sure everyone managed to get home speaks to the strength of this community. I witnessed big students reading to younger more anxious students in the library as we waited for parents to arrive. Staff who made sure all students were safe before finally getting home themselves, some at 8.30pm at night and of course parents supporting each other with the collection of children and even putting them up for the night. Then finally everyone displaying incredible resilience and agility to learn@home on Tuesday. Amazing!

- The talent, resilience, and determination of our students to represent the College at the ISA swimming yesterday, covering additional races for those that couldn't compete and bringing home trophies to share with the College community. The girls won their Division, and the boys came third! We also have Champions in our midst with Oliver Linde breaking a long-standing ISA record. Well done team!

These three examples are just a taste of why I have always led with the students at the centre of every decision I make. The students have provided me with the greatest joy during my three years and I will miss them greatly. We have such special young people at Oxley who never cease to amaze me, and I feel very blessed to be a part of their journey. I know our future is in good hands and Oxley students will continue to be the pioneers of the future.

I would like to pay tribute to the outstanding team of people I have been surrounded by daily, our staff. The saying 'a leader is only as good as their team' is very true and I have a deep gratitude to all of our staff for the passion and dedication they bring to their roles each day and for the genuine care and support they provide our students. In particular, I acknowledge our

Executive team of Kate Cunich, Emma Calver, Em Cassin, Mark Case, Jane Campion and of course my assistant Linda Matthews whose support and loyalty has meant so much to me. Oxley College is so fortunate to have such a strong group of leaders.

Finally to our parents, the P&F and all of you who have entrusted your children to my leadership at Oxley College. Thankyou, I have always felt your support and encouragement and even if we have had to have tricky conversations at times they have always been respectful.

Finally, on behalf of myself and Dougall I would like to thank the entire community for making our time at Oxley College so memorable. I am proud of what we have achieved together. Should any of you wish to make contact or send us a message please send it to Linda.Matthews@oxley.nsw.edu.au and she will forward it onto us.

For now, I say farewell and best wishes for the future! Continue to be Brave, Strong and True in everything you do and to hold onto the 'magic' of Oxley with precious and caring hands.

Best wishes and kind regards,

Jenny

By Jenny Ethell, Head of College

HEAD OF ACADEMIC AND INNOVATION

Farewell Jenny Ethell

As I write this, it is only days to go until our Head of College, Jenny Ethell leaves us to return to Western Australia. I know that so many of us have been rocked by the news that Jenny will not be here with us anymore – we will all miss her so much. I often use the analogy of climate, weather and the sea when talking about life in a school. At Oxley we have a wonderful climate, often with clear skies, but sometimes we encounter some heavy or rough weather. In 2020 and 2021 we certainly were in rough seas – the storm of the pandemic raged – but each day we could look to our Captain, Mrs Ethell to be here with us, gallantly steering our ship through what at times felt like the worst times ever. While students and teachers were able to learn and teach@home, Jenny turned up every day to her office to work with her leadership team to ensure that we kept going, kept the faith, and remained optimistic – she has modelled our values of kindness, courage and wisdom in everything that she has done.



One of my most lasting memories of Jenny will be the many times lately that we have gathered on the Elvo Lawn, under the Pin Oak as a K-12 school. This was especially poignant at the Year 12 Graduation in 2021 – the first time that we as a community had been able to gather after lockdown and Jenny was absolutely determined that nothing would stop our community of teachers, staff and parents celebrating in the heart of Oxley. She spoke bravely and honestly about how tough it has been, with many in the audience probably not knowing how deeply deeply she has had to draw on her inner strength to keep going every day. Jenny truly took Oxley into her heart, and we have been blessed by her experienced leadership, wisdom and care. I know that she will never lose her love of this place and we will never forget her – our fiercest of leaders in the uncharted waters of 2019 – 2022. We need look no further to see evidence of “brave and strong and true” in one special human with the largest heart ever – go well Jen!

Sydney Morning Herald Schools Summit

Last week members of the Leadership team were able to attend the third SMH Education Summit via ZOOM. This one-day event is proving to be a pivotal opportunity for leaders and educators to interact with government and policy makers. The 2022 programme focused on policy, progress and planning and started with an address by The Hon Sarah Mitchell, Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning.

Georgina Harrison, Secretary, NSW Department of Education then addressed the key challenges for NSW schools in 2022, and was followed by Prof Yong Zhao, Foundation Distinguished Professor, School of Education, University of Kansas, USA who spoke about learners without borders: the new conditions of learning and teaching that can liberate students from the borders of schooling by removing education paradigms through technology, globalization, and the educational experiences of COVID-19.

The remainder of the day looked at how we can better celebrate powerful and engaging teachers, of which Oxley is blessed to have many. This was a thought-provoking session as the panel addressed key educational issues in 2022:

- What are the biggest challenges in today's classrooms?
- Have we got the balance right between admin and teaching?
- Strategies for connecting and enriching the disengaged
- How can technology be used to enhance learning outcomes?

We were then updated by Paul Martin, CEO, NESA and David de Carvalho, CEO, ACARA on where things are up to in Curriculum Reform. You may be aware that there is an ongoing call for the “decluttering” of current syllabus materials. They spoke about building strong foundations for future learning, increasing teaching time, strengthening post-school pathways and the key challenges to overcome prior to the launch in 2023.

The afternoon sessions were devoted to evidence-based practices, something close to our hearts here at Oxley.

It was very gratifying to see that our ongoing work was reflected in the focus of many other schools now, and indeed is cause to celebrate our early adoption of Visible Learning, which is now being rolled out systemically in many places. Sessions included an evidence based approach to the wellbeing of staff and students by fostering school belonging and engagement, employing deep listening to understanding issues and needs, implementing mentoring and support programs and building social-emotional skills.

One of the absolute highlights was listening to Eddie Woo, Leader, Mathematics Growth, NSW Department of Education who participated in a distinguished panel “Addressing the crisis in Maths.” I thought it pertinent to share the key points discussed:

- Why are we seeing a decline in our International standing in Maths?
- How can we reverse this trend?
- How best can we address the shortfall in the number of Maths teachers?
- Do we need specialist Maths teachers in all Primary schools?

I was proud to know that Oxley has already employed a Math specialist to work with teachers and students in our Junior School, and we will continue to follow the work of Andrea de Carvalho, Master Teacher Research and Leadership Team, Sydney Catholic Schools and Prof Kim Beswick, Head of the School of Education, Director, Gonski Institute for Education, and Professor of Mathematics Education, UNSW who are fierce advocates around the crisis of schools having enough Maths teachers to provide what is required for students today.

Most importantly, it is great to note that as many many schools are considering the best way forward, Oxley remains current, aware and active in its pursuit of what works best for all our students.

Elevate

In 2022 we have engaged external facilitators to help our Y7 – 12 students with their organization, study and exam techniques. Elevate workshops are presented by university students who have recently faced and aced high school themselves. The presenters are energetic, speak the same language as students, and get them thinking about study skills from a fellow student's perspective. Our 2022 plan:

Year 12 Program - ACE Your Exams: this seminar outlines critical exam skills that will allow the student to excel in the exam room and the preparation needed.

Year 11 Program - Student Elevation: this seminar covers simple to use techniques and strategies to help students with their memorisation and recall of information.

Year 10 Program - Study Sensei: this Seminar breaks down the study techniques and provides students with a road map for what they need to do across the year and how to do it.

Year 9 Program - Memory Mnemonics: this seminar covers simple to use techniques and strategies that help students with their memorisation and recall of information. Also includes what ineffective study environments can do to their memory.

Year 8 Program - Junior Time Management: this seminar shows young students how to work consistently and complete larger tasks. Demonstrating how to break bigger tasks down into manageable amounts of work and how to prioritise work.

Year 7 Program - Study Skills Kick Start: this seminar breaks down the transition process from primary to secondary and introduces students to fundamental skills for the coming years.

Staff News

Our Visual Arts teacher, Jodie Swan has let us know that she will take up the position of Creative Learning Manager at Ngungun Gallery from the beginning of Term 2. We thank Jodie for her dedicated teaching and her commitment to Pin Oak this year. There will be an opportunity to celebrate with her later in the term as we wish her all the best in her new role.

By Kate Cunich, Head of Academic and Innovation

HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL



Farewell Jenny Ethell

A summer of terrible bushfires following the drought, an ongoing global pandemic and some of the worst floods in memory; we have faced some unprecedented challenges in the 13 terms since Mrs Ethell became Head of College. Even in the space of a week, the College has gone

from being a mini government health department to a weather bureau, at the same time as being a place of high quality learning; through it all, Mrs Ethell has continued to bring clear, astute and flexible thinking alongside her strong, but calm and reassuring leadership. In all this, she has overseen considerable growth and change, including the implementation of a 'mature model' of leadership as the College approaches its 40th birthday, innovative academic programmes such as the Personal Interest Projects and Cultivate, and the appointment of many outstanding new staff, drawn to Oxley by Mrs Ethell's passion and vision for providing an outstanding education. Mrs Ethell was the driving force in bringing clarity to the core values of the College, which are at the centre of the Oxley Lens that she oversaw: Be Kind, Show Courage and Seek Wisdom. In my experience of leadership, Mrs Ethell's dedication and work ethic is unsurpassed; she has worked tirelessly every day, bringing a remarkable energy to what is, in any school, an incredibly challenging role; throughout, she always makes time to meet with students, to converse with them and ensure that their voice is heard. Whilst always with her eye on the big picture, she is always across every detail. She is an outstanding role model to young women – she continues to be inspirational to many of our present and past students.

Mrs Ethell has led the College through what have been, for many of us, the most challenging years of our professional lives. As we emerge from the travails of COVID and look forward to a post-pandemic world, just as the sun is finally shining on Elvo this afternoon after a torrid week of rain, we are grateful to have had Mrs Ethell at the helm. She leaves the College well placed to take on the challenges of the coming years. As she returns to Western Australia to reunite with her family and soon become a grandmother, Mrs Ethell takes with her our very best wishes for this next chapter of her life - and our immense gratitude for all she has done to enable Oxley to be the best it can be.

Senior Production - Antigone

After two years of disruption in the performing arts, last Wednesday was the long awaited opening night of the Senior Production of Sophocles' Greek tragedy, Antigone. So to have to cancel on the day, due not to COVID, but to severe weather and floods – was itself a tragedy all of itself. It is testament to the resilience, dedication and passion of the cast, crew and production team that they were able to reschedule and still deliver an outstanding show, even with the further disruption of a further cancellation this week. Greek tragedy is a challenging genre, especially for school productions. To deliver performances so arresting and powerful, rich in pathos and captivating from beginning to end, is a mark of the outstanding and ongoing quality of Drama at Oxley. The play is still strikingly relevant in March 2022 – as Mr Cunich writes in the programme, "the current conflict in Ukraine highlights what can occur when too much power is placed in the hands of one individual. The position of women, the place of religion in society and the examination of the effects of pride are all issues we continue to grapple with".

Parent Introduction to Canvas

Our new Head of Learning Technologies, Mr Jonathan Adams, ran a webinar this week for parents about our learning platform, Canvas. He explains login processes for the web browser or mobile app, navigating the platform and how to change notification settings. He also speaks about BYOD requirements (see the e-learning tab on the website) as well as cyber-safety at Oxley, including internet filtering and classroom management on the school network. The webinar was recorded and can be viewed on the school website at https://oxleycollege-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/r/personal/adams_oxley_nsw_edu_au/Documents/Canvas%202022/Parent%20Canvas%20Info%20Evening%2009_03_23.mp4?csf=1&web=1&e=3TJKQR.

International Women's Day - #breakthebias

Sadly, the International Women's Day breakfast at Mittagong RSL on Tuesday 8 March was a casualty of the floods, as was our plan for a morning tea for Year 12 girls and female staff; we hope to reschedule the latter event. At assembly last week I spoke about this year's theme - #breakthebias. The discrimination experienced by girls and women at all levels of society, and the prejudice around what constitutes male and female jobs, the ongoing gender pay gap, the imbalance of televised women's sport, and the under representation of women in leadership (just 6% of AX300 companies employ female CEOs) means that we have much work to do! It is not just a gender issue, it is a human issue – because real equality benefits everyone. 1 Business News Australia, 6 October, 2021

By Mark Case, Head of Senior School



JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Here at Oxley College, we use the principles of Visible Learning. Visible Learning is an analysis of research into what works best in schools to maximise student learning. In every classroom you will see a consistent approach and shared language of learning. You will hear the students talking about the Learning Intention. These tell us the purpose of our learning, states the goal or 'big ideas' about the content or skills to be learned. Teachers also share the Success Criteria with students to engage them in identifying what they can do on a surface level and then on a deeper level. These criteria are linked to the understanding and help students to recognise when they have achieved their learning goal. These two principles help students to answer three key questions: Where am I going? How am I going? Where to next? We have a gradual release of the learning from teacher to student through a balance of direct, explicit teaching of content and skills and inquiry-based projects and units where students direct their own learning to answer their own unique questions and wonderings. The old adage of 'Practice makes Perfect' is certainly a lot more creative than when I went to school, and we drilled our facts over and over again. Teachers use hands on materials and technology to allow students to independently explore, discover and challenge themselves.



Check in with our new to Oxley students.

Peter Ayling and I have been having ice-cream check ins to see how our new students are adapting to life at Oxley this year. We are very happy to report that they all feel settled and happy. Here are a few of their responses:

"The kids are really welcoming, and now I'm friends with their friends."

"The teachers are really nice, and not as serious." "The explanations in Maths help me understand." "I really like the treehouse!"



Finally, on behalf of Junior school students and staff, we wish Mrs Ethell a very fond farewell and hope that she enjoys our gift that was made of love for her.

By Jane Campion, Head of Junior School



Weekly Awards

Learning Journey

K: Archie Gaunt
Yr 1: Ronnie Fragar
Yr 2: Harry Adams
Yr 3B: Harrison Southcombe
Yr 3R: Felix Chamley
Yr 4A: Greta Saviana
Yr 4W: Greta Lawson, Louisa Wright
Yr 5M: Ella Reilly
Yr 5N: Sapphire Sparke
Yr 6H: Rory Sheddin
Yr 6S: Clancy O'Mahoney

Oxley Values

K: Theo Lawford-Smith
Yr 1: Leo Rodgers
Yr 2: Fearne Pearce
Yr 3B: Harriet Trenchard-Smith
Yr 3R: Chloe Watson
Yr 4A: Tatenda Jamba
Yr 4W: Jack Smith
Yr 5M: Charlotte Holmes, Addison Umoren
Yr 5N: Elodie Ahern
Yr 6H: Hailey Law
Yr 6S: Henry Burton

Excellence in Art

Stella Bacon
Jack Friesenecker
Molly Harwood

Excellence in Japanese

Isaac Choo
Clara Peebles

Learning Journey

K: Annabella Bullick
Yr 1: Maddie Cochran
Yr 2: Beth Plain
Yr 3B: Cleo Bathur
Yr 3R: Bonnie Iredale
Yr 4A: Quinn de Haas
Yr 4W: Tessa Hunter
Yr 5M: Anna Sutherland
Yr 5N: Oscar Choo
Yr 6H: Charlotte Gordon
Yr 6S: Louis Robertson

Oxley Values

K: JJ Pierce
Yr 1: Isabella Francipane
Yr 2: Amelia Gaunt
Yr 3B: Sahara Sorensen
Yr 3R: Max Curr
Yr 4A: Clementine Paterson
Yr 4W: Max Guilly
Yr 5M: Jameson Clarke
Yr 5N: Eloise Richards
Yr 6H: Orson Francis
Yr 6S: Molly Harwood

Excellence in Japanese

Fearne Pearce
Molly Harwood



FAREWELL MRS ETHELL



FAREWELL MRS ETHELL

Senior School

Mrs Ethell always had a smile on her face and greeted us whenever she walked past us

- Oscar Plummmer, Year 10

"Mrs Ethell has been an amazing Head of College, she has supported us all through tough times and I am truly going to miss her, my favourite memories of her is when she would say hi to all of us just when she was walking around and genuinely ask how we were, not a general "how ya going" but a real, how are you and I always made me feel safe at school. We are all really going to miss her"

- Sarah Pietsch Liddell, Year 12

Mrs Ethell was a really kind-hearted person she has always made me and my friends feel safe and welcome from the start, she came when I was in Year 7 so it will be weird to not have her at Oxley anymore and I'm sure everyone will be really sad to see her leave.

- Mallory Robinson, Year 10

Mrs Ethell has navigated the college through floods, fires and a pandemic. Her growth mindset has kept us, as a College positive as she has persevered through the highs and lows. We will miss her immensely and hope the best for her and Mr Ethell back in WA.

- Hannah Zupp, Year 11

Junior School

YEAR 1

Ruby Rodgeron – "She was really kind and helped us a lot, especially when I was in kindy"

YEAR 2

Emily Hunt – "She was a great person at the school and made me smile"

Amelia Gaunt – "We hope to see her again and we will miss her a lot"

YEAR 4

Greta Saviana – "She is really kind and wise and inspirational"

YEAR 5

Ivy Bacon – "Your words make our day brighter"

Ava Snowden – "When you walk past, we all put sunglasses on which is really fun, and I'll miss that"

Andy Clothier – "Your words of encouragement help us greatly"

Oxley Staff

I remember the day Mr Conroy advised me that Mrs Ethell had been selected for the Head of College. I was absolutely delighted. I was excited by the prospect of working with Jenny given her level of experience and reputation. The Board's decision did not disappoint. Having worked as an Executive Assistant for over 12 years in the corporate world, and now coming up to 10 years in the Education field, I have experienced many different working styles from my bosses. Jenny, by far sets the bar.

Jenny exemplified excellence and was the complete package. She tried to bring the best out of every single team member – no matter what team they belonged to and that's a talent that even the most educated and experienced head's don't always have. With her level of performance, dedication and professionalism, she leads the field. The College has been blessed to have had her at the helm for the last 3 years.

Jenny has been a friend to me, not just a colleague. I will miss our daily chats at 7am with a cup of tea, I will miss her openness, her humility and her support of me as a work partner rather than an employee. Her trust in me is humbling.

I will find solace in the fact that our friendship will endure. How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard. Go well Jenny – you will be missed.

- Linda Matthews

Jenny has been a huge part of my experience of Oxley. I have worked for a many excellent leaders, but I have learned the most from her. Jenny strikes just the right balance between tough justice and earnest compassion, between formal professionalism and her keen sense of humour, between starry-eyed idealism and hard-headed pragmatism. She always placed the students at the centre of any conversation and worked tirelessly to make the Oxley experience the best it can be.

- David Houghton

"You have been my friend. That in itself is a tremendous thing." -E.B. White (Charlotte's Web)

As the first female Head of College, Jenny has offered our community a fresh perspective and wisdom gained from extensive experience. More than that though, Jenny's commitment to modelling the values we expound to our students every day has made her an inspirational leader who will be missed.

- Peter Ayling & the Junior School

Jenny Ethell is going to be greatly missed at Oxley by students, staff and the wider community. In my time at Oxley, Jenny has shown herself to be a brave, practical, big hearted, kind leader who always put young people and all her staff first. She has been an amazing advocate for design and the arts and has helped to improve the facilities and future thinking learning and spaces in her time as Head of College. I remember her giving up her mornings before school in 2019/20 to help a struggling group of Distance Ed Agriculture students to have the face-to-face teaching of a passionate and experienced teacher. I absolutely loved driving a bus with her on my last Outback trip in 2019! I know the students enjoyed seeing how real, wise and fun she was. Jenny you will be greatly missed, and I thank you for your strong and kind leadership and bravely being the first female Head of College.

- Beattie Lanser

Jenny and Dougall - I was very happy to work with you. I knew that I wanted to work with you from the first time I met you on Zoom. Life is a journey: I am looking forward to seeing you next time.

- Masako Chikushi

I have the great honour of sitting on the school Executive with Jenny Ethell. I have many highlights of our time together, and with particular fondness I will remember our yellow raincoat traffic duty up to our knees in rain, our dancing in the 2021 Year 12 drive through celebrations, and our Christmas party present exchange :) As she now sets off on a new adventure and awaits the safe arrival of her grandchild, I reflect on her wonderful leadership and the differences she has made to many here at Oxley. Em Cassin

Jenny always endeavoured to put the students first. She actively visited K-6 classrooms, helped out where in need (marking pen and rubber in hand!), got involved and brought a positive energy to our learning. Jenny always interacted and had a laugh with the primary students, joined in on carnivals, games and even practised her circus skills during OLE Week activities. She has been a positive role model to our students as our first female Head of College and her empathy, passion and enthusiasm to ensure a K-12 focus will be missed. Lara Sheils

P & F

On behalf of the Oxley P&F I would like to express my thanks to you Jenny, for being so approachable and supportive in your time as Head of College. The last 3 years have really thrown everything at us; starting with fires, leading straight into the pandemic and finishing this week with a flood! Throughout these turbulent times, we have welcomed your direct communication and leadership. With so many health guidelines and rules to follow over the past few years, I have appreciated your guidance and advice when planning P&F activities. On a personal note, as a parent of a Year 12 student last year, I will forever be grateful for the efforts the school went to in supporting the morale of this cohort – in what was the longest last year of school ever! Wishing you and Dougall all the best for your return to WA, we will miss seeing you both – and Lou!! – on the sidelines of the sporting fields. Megan Moore, President, Oxley College P&F

FAREWELL MRS ETHELL



MRS ETHELL INTERVIEW



Matlida Lambie, Year 7

We know that you are heading back to Western Australia and are very sad to see you go. What will you miss most about living in the southern highlands?

Many people would say the beautiful environment but for me it is the people and especially our students. I have just loved living in a regional community where people are welcoming, inclusive and really care about each other. In particular I have loved the diversity of our school community with students and parents with a wide range of backgrounds, talents, professions and personalities. There is not just 'one type' of Highlander which is refreshing and always makes for interesting and diverse conversations and ideas. Just like our students!

What is your favourite place/space on the Oxley campus and can you tell us why?

Oh that is easy but I have two! The first is Elvo Lawn or the outlook walking down the pathway past the Pin Oak towards Elvo. Being on Elvo Lawn in the heart of the school is such a special place. It has been one of the great joys and surprises of the pandemic in how we have found new ways to use this space for special events and activities.

The second would be the Junior School Playground or 'House beside the tree'- this always engenders such joy amongst our youngest students and how they grow in courage and confidence as they take on new challenges. Not many people would know but I had to try the 'big slide' out secretly when it was first built in 2019! Always a big kid at heart!

You are a highly experienced educator and leader who has worked in a range of schools. What, in your opinion, makes Oxley College special?

That is really hard as there is not just one thing that makes Oxley special but most definitely includes the people. We often talk about the 'magic' of Oxley- it is a special mixture of ingredients of welcoming, inclusive and engaged students, passionate and inspired teachers and most importantly the broad liberal and future focussed education that we have designed and students embrace. For me it is the character and selflessness of our students and staff which make it extra special- the Oxley spirit!

What do you see as your greatest achievement or achievements since you have been at Oxley College?

Some might say just surviving the past three years of drought, fires, floods and the pandemic! It certainly has been action packed and unpredictable but we have come out of it in a stronger position than when we started with strong levels of trust that every decision I have made has always been with the best interests of the students at the centre.

I am particularly proud of how we have been able to reach our 'mature model' as a school with full enrolments, attracted new and talented staff and been able to develop the educational model at Oxley to include new subjects and strengthen the enlightened academic rigour across the College.

However, at times like this when it is pouring with rain, I am particularly proud that we have managed to stop the library roof leaking and upgraded many of the facilities and areas around the College.

What parting advice would you like to share to the current students of Oxley College?

Always remember that the more you put in to something the more you will get out of it. So I encourage all students to be grateful for and embrace every opportunity provided at Oxley and always remember that talent will only get you so far, it is character and determination that will take you further.

And – of course – always be brave and strong and true!



INSPIRATION



TV SERIES

Manifest

In a time of lockdown uncertainty and miserable weather, we all turn to our best comfort companion, Netflix. Scrolling through the endless shows, I stumbled upon Manifest. This show ticked every box for the ultimate lockdown escapism. Mystery, drama, and 3 seasons already released ready to binge watch. Pressing play, revealed a suspenseful mystery right from the outset. It started off with a bang when a plane that had disappeared for 5 1/2 years, magically returned. None of the passengers had aged a day. However, the world had moved on without them, making the passengers face strange, new realities and disbelief from the people around them.

This is a great show to watch because each episode has a story within itself whilst the ongoing mystery of why they returned and what happened, continues to unfold, and twist and turn. In series three, however, it starts to become somewhat far-fetched, but it still keeps you hooked and entertained.

The acting is not of the greatest calibre and there are very few moments that are infused with comedy. Instead, this show creates suspense and mystery with the addition of drama.

Overall, this series is worth watching. It has many twists and turns, something mysterious is always happening. Whether you are trapped in flood waters or stuck in isolation, 'Manifest' has all the ingredients for your best lockdown binge viewing.

By Lucy Anderson, Year 8



GAME

Ghost of Tsushima

Ghost of Tsushima is a hit game that came out July 2020 and was followed by amazing reviews. The game takes place in 1274 when a mongol fleet invades Japan and you play as the last remaining samurai of your clan. This game is infamous for its beautiful view and it's hard not to appreciate the views as you walk and run around Japan, looking at the meta critic data and reception of the game and everyone critic praises the aesthetic and art style. The story is quite amazing and could rival some of the best games in my opinion like Titanfall 2. The game comes with its ratings though and is quite a gory and gruesome game, sometimes reminding me of Mortal Kombat and For Honor style games, and I doubt many parents would be open to allowing their children to play this game if they were under the age requirement. In my opinion it's a must play and will be in my books as one of my favourites, although I do have a lot of bias when it comes to eastern content created by western because it is usually either really creative and uses the history of Japan to its favour and sometimes it's really lack lustre, this often being due to lack of research and culture and not many opinions of the historians or people of Japan or any eastern country for that matter.

By Jackson Wolstencroft, Year 8



BOOK

The Paris Library

The Paris Library is based on the true story and experience of Librarians at the American Library of Paris during World War II, it encompasses romance, friendship, family, morality, and more.

As you read, you follow two separate journeys, both revolving the protagonist Odile, during her timeline, is a young Parisian who dreams of being a librarian at the American Library. She begins to find her own identity as she continues to work and grow as an independent woman; meeting intellectuals from around the world, whilst enlightening those who seek knowledge and understanding. She falls in love with policeman, Paul. Some uncomfortable atmosphere shifts become apparent, particularly surrounding the loyal Jewish subscribers. Odile forms a connection with Margret, and the two become dearest friends. Odile discovers that her father is sending Jewish people 'away', she attempts to protect them. Paul betrays Odile. Odile and Paul get married immediately, leaving Paris for their honeymoon. Upon return Odile and Margret are forever drawn apart, Odile is caught for felony, news from brother Rémy in a concentration camp, and the library has been closed. Odile escapes to Montana with her new fiancé.

The novel also follows Odile's life year after the war, through the life of young teenager Lily during the 1980's. Lily becomes increasingly closer to her neighbour Odile following her mother's death, and further complications in her family dynamic. Lily becomes too curious in Odile's past and betrays her trust only to reveal Odile's true heroism. Lily encourages Odile to reconnect with Margret and her family in Paris before it's too late. Lily becomes the saviour of Odile's life.

By Leah Halstead, Year 11

ANTIGONE



MAKING PUBLIC SPEAKING LESS SCARY



Grow Your Voice

During the summer holidays I created a website that takes away the scary part of public speaking and teaches kids the skills they need to thrive when speaking in front of crowds.

How? Why? When?

Well, it all started in the summer of 2012. It was the Arden pre-school nativity play and I was so ready to be an Angel. It was a sort of ranked system: the first year pre-schoolers would be stars, which was fine, but the 2nd year pre-schoolers – the second year pre-schoolers were Angels. And let me tell you, my four-year-old self had never found greater purpose in life than donning those fairy wings and standing at the top of the choral risers. Except – when the rehearsals came, I discovered I was not an angel. I was, in fact, a narrator. I found this to be deeply puzzling. There I stood, watching my friends pile onto the choral riser's fairy wings grasped tightly in their little hands and I remained with my feet on the hall's floor standing with a script. Which seemed doubly silly as I couldn't read at the time.

But when the big night came around, I found myself hopping out of my chair on the side of my stage – wearing a very jaunty looking red dresses as it was Christmas, and I wasn't going down without looking fabulous – and smiling at the audience. I stood up on the step to reach the mic, leaned in, and said with the gusto only a child could muster:

"Jesus is the true gift of Christmas!"

I went to a very religious pre-school. But from that point onwards, I felt as though I had a hidden talent. A secret hobby. I could stand up on that step, smile at a crowd, say something and then they would clap and smile.

It was magic.

Then came primary school and I successfully lost every public speaking competition I ever entered – and let me tell you, I entered them all. I never lost that gusto – though admittedly the red dress had to go – I just never seemed to catch on as to what exactly I was expected to do. I would hop onto stage with the confidence of a politician and then launch into a speech about the creation of the telephone when the rest of the children had carefully crafted speeches about gender inequality and the political complexities of Australia day. Every time I'd get up on stage, smiling as I clutched at my palm cards, I'd deliver my speech and then clap as the winner was announced.

I still loved public speaking – I just sort of gave up on the idea that I was any good.

But one day in third grade, my teacher pulled me aside and asked if I'd want to be trained up to be on the debate team. I didn't really have anything else to do that day – being 9 and all – and it was raining, so I agreed. As it turns out, I was actually very good at competitive arguing. In the end, my school team and I won the entire debating competition we were a part of (which over 830 schools competed in) and I was chosen to represent the Illawarra South East in a separate debating State Championships and we placed second. I was the only kid who managed to make it to both State Championships, placing me in the top spot for Junior Debaters in NSW.

Somehow, someway, the girl who wouldn't shut up about telephones

just clicked with the idea of logically tearing apart someone's argument. So, I re-imagined my little hobby, instead of being good at just getting up there and smiling I was now good at getting up there and smiling and then launching into a 200 word per minute speech about Australian politics.

It was only when I reached high school that I realized that these two skill sets weren't separate. My knack for finding logical gaps and habit telling silly off beat stories wasn't something to dismiss as me just being a bit of an odd duck – no, it was something to capitalize on. Afterall, what's a good speech if not a silly off beat story that points out the logical gaps in societal structures? Once I had this epiphany, I entered into my first ever competition since the dreaded event of the Telephone speech: The Legacy Public Speaking competition. I made it to the state championships.

Now I'm not trying to say I'm the best public speaker in the world, or that my approach is the be all and end all. However, I have fun, I'm not scared or uncomfortable and the way that I choose to approach public speaking has been successful. What's not working is how we're teaching kids about public speaking right now.

For some unknown reason public speaking is still taught like swimming in the 1950s: we throw kids into the deep end and a few adults stand by to see if anyone drowns. The majority of kids will end up sopping wet and swearing they'll never enter a body of water again. My experiences are very rare: being able to access incredible resources and have amazing opportunities – as well as the fact that I just loved public speaking to begin with. But what about the kids with stage fright? What about the kids that aren't given opportunities or are, and then they don't know how to improve or learn?

That's why I created Grow Your Voice, an online free to access program with lessons on everything you need to know about public speaking. It consists of five lessons on the basics of public speaking (matter, manner, method, motive and the magic touches) and has everything you need to know without you ever having to speak in front of a crowd or do anything you're uncomfortable with. The course has interactive activities, videos, examples explanations as well as resources that kids can use now and in 20 years. Afterall, public speaking isn't something we can hide from: at some point in time, you're going to have to do it and you're going to have to do it well.

If you'd like to check it out, you can find it at: growurvoice.com and in the near future I'm hoping to incorporate it into local junior schools and hopefully the college (there are already some things in the works!). I hope that my story can help you to reconnect with and grow your voice no matter what age, hesitancy, or skill level you are. Afterall, if the crazy girl who wouldn't stop talking about telephones can do it, so can you.

At this point in a speech, I would sign off with a 'thank you' (despite the fact my debate coach said you should never do that – I still feel as though I should thank people for putting up with me for so long) but seeing as this is an article and you can't actually see me I'll settle for a quote:

"Please please please check out my website I put a lot of effort into it!"

Violet Fitzsimons Yr 9

SPORT NEWS

Junior School Swimming Carnival Results

2022 Junior School Swimming Carnival Results

Age Champions

Age	Gender	Runner Up	House	Champion	House
Junior	Girls	Hadley Morgan	Chisholm	Luella Sewell	Flynn
Junior	Boys	Elijah Winn	Walton	Leo le Guay	Flynn
11 Years	Girls	Flor Periera Merlini	Chisholm	Charlotte Holmes	Walton
11 Years	Boys	Oscar Johnson	Chisholm	Levi Olsen	Walton
Senior	Girls	Anna Clark	Chisholm	Piper O'Sullivan	Walton
Senior	Boys	Brodie Murray	Walton	Oliver Johnson	Chisholm

House Champion (including 25m Novelty Events)

1. Walton 693 points
2. Chisholm 679 points
3. Flynn 471 points

New Records

Name	Event	Old Record	New Record
Charlotte Holmes (Walton)	Senior Girls 100m Freestyle	1:17.51	1:15.16
	11yrs Girls 50m Freestyle	35.69	34.09
	11yrs Girls 50m Breaststroke	50.28	44.56
	11yrs Girls 50m Backstroke	45.88	43.50
Levi Olsen (Walton)	Senior Boys 100m Freestyle	1:29.28	1:25.53
	11yrs Boys 50m Freestyle	41.39	35.52
	11yrs Boys 50m Breaststroke	54.82	54.28
	11yrs Boys 50m Backstroke	49.83	48.91
	11yrs Boys 50m Butterfly	1:00.41	43.09
Henry Burton (Chisholm)	12yrs Boys 50m Breaststroke	55.60	52.77
Walton	Senior Boys Relay	2:54.00	2:54.00

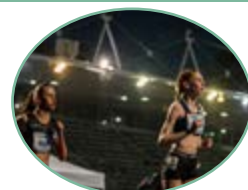
Senior School Swimming Carnival Results

2022 Senior School Carnival Champions and Points					
Age	Gender	Runner Up	House	Champion	House
12	Girls	Claudia Carpenter	Dobell	Madeline Kirsch	Dobell
12	Boys	Joel Ramear	Florey	Blake Ramear	Florey
13	Girls	Sydney Dyer	Florey	Annalise Wright	Monash
13	Boys	Joel Sheezel	Oodgeroo	Christopher Kim	Dobell
14	Girls	Chiara Shannon	Monash	Isla Terry	Dobell
14	Boys	Fred Jones	Dobell	James Trudgeon	Mawson
15	Girls	Ava Gillis	Florey	Annabel Arnot	Monash
15	Boys	Harrison Kirsch	Dobell	Oliver Linde	Oodgeroo
16	Girls	Ilana Sheezel	Oodgeroo	Sienna Soster	Monash
16	Boys	Michael O'Connor	Dobell	Max Murray	Dobell
17	Girls	Ellanora O'Connor	Dobell	Lilly Spring	Mawson
17	Boys	Hal Canute	Oodgeroo	James Kim	Dobell
18+	Girls	Hannah Neath	Monash	Olivia Bow	Dobell
18+	Boys	Molly Knowles	Durack		
18+	Boys	Hamish Tregenza	Monash	Victor van der Schalk	Mawson

House Championship		
Place	Points	House
6th	717.5	Oodgeroo
5th	754	Monash
4th	764.5	Florey
3rd	845	Mawson
2nd	862	Durack
1st	1,183.0	Dobell

New Records		
Annabel Arnot	15 Girls 100m Freestyle	1:05.95 replacing 1:06.35
	15 Girls 50m Butterfly	32.27 replacing 33.47
	15 Girls 50m Freestyle	29.97 replacing 30.32
	15 Girls 50m Breaststroke	39.40 replacing 39.86
Oliver Linde	Open Boys 200 IM	2:33.91 replacing 2:40.60
	15 Boys 100m Freestyle	56.90 replacing 1:04.81
	15 Boys 50m Butterfly	31.60 replacing 32.12
	15 Boys 50m Freestyle	26.71 replacing 27.93
	15 Boys 50m Backstroke	32.19 replacing 33.24
Max Murray	16 Boys 100m Freestyle	1:03.47 replacing 1:03.75
Dobell	Senior Girls Relay	2:21.13 replacing 2:22.28
Mawson	Senior Boys Relay	1:57.59 replacing 2:09.20

NSW State Athletics Championships



At the recent NSW State Athletics Championships Amelia May ran a personal best in both 1500m and 3k and will progress to Nationals for both events. Sophie Dunn, Year 11) and Harry Keats (Year 6) also competed at the event. Harry won the 800m State title in U14 age group and will progress to Nationals as the fastest qualifier.



Pixie Hanson (Year 5) won the NSW Championship for the U11 1km beach run. It wasn't without drama - she fell in the first 50m, got up in last place, ran the girls down over 600m, and won by 70m. The girl who won the race last year went on to win the 1500m run at the Australian Athletics Championships, but Pixie won't have a chance this year because she's still a year too young!



NSW Surf Life Saving Championship



Cricket Tribute

On Friday 4 March 2022, not just the cricketing community but the world, lost two of its' greatest cricketers.

Rod Marsh, one of the Greatest Australian wicketkeepers passed from a heart attack at age 74. Marsh has a test career spanning from the 1970-71 to the 1984-84 seasons, playing 96 tests. Over his career as a wicketkeeper, he caught 343 catches, had 12 stumpings, 355 WK dismissals, also scoring 3 centuries and 16 half centuries. He was also the first Australian wicketkeeper to score a test century.

Shane Warne, the "king of leg spin" passed unexpectedly at age 52 from a suspected heart attack. Shane was regarded as one of the best cricketers in history, claiming 708 test wickets, with an average of 25.41 with the bat between 1992 and 2007. He was inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame in 2013 alongside Don Bradman and many other greats, also being named one of Wisden's 'Five cricketers of the Century'. He was still a great advocate for the sport alongside professional commentating in his retirement.

By Hannah Zupp, Year 11

NEWSFLASH

BEING WATER WISE

On 21st February Cecilia Kemp, Coordinator Environment & Health Systems at Wingecarribee Shire Council spoke with Year 8 Geographers about water resources in our Shire. The attached article are some of the things that Elsie Hansen took away from her talk.

Water. The most valued resource in the world – it sustains all life. We use water for everything; food production, drinking, cleaning, cooking, and washing. Unfortunately, it's one we don't have much of...

In the Southern Highlands, we're lucky, we have plenty of water. Or, at least, everyone thinks we do. Turns out, according to the Wingecarribee Shire Council, our shire uses about 12 ML per day. To put that into perspective, that's equivalent to 5 Bowral swimming pools a day, or 306 L per person. How can we even keep up with that amount of water?

Water comes from all of the natural sources around us – lakes, rivers, and creeks. It's drawn

into the three water plants in our shire that filter it, add fluoride (a vital mineral for humans), and filter it again. Only then is it suitable for us to drink. Also, the Wingecarribee water plants aren't only for us. Since we're part of the Sydney water catchment, that water is also supplied to the rest of Greater Sydney.

Back to water use – according to the World Health Organisation, humans can live a healthy life with just 15-20 litres of water per day – enough for drinking, washing, and cooking. Yet on average we use 306 litres. That's almost 6 times as much as the World Health Organisation says we need!

With all the rain and floods at the moment, it seems like we will never run out of water! So why bother saving it? Actually, only 1% of the world's water is suitable for human use, and about half of that used for agriculture. Add on the fact that we live in Australia, the world's driest inhabited continent, we don't have that much to spare!

Conserving water isn't that hard, it comes by developing good habits. Turning off taps when they're not in use, having shorter showers, only washing full loads of laundry and using the same water to wash dishes all helps in the long run. Outside, being aware of how much you use the hose (as fun as it is), watering plants at a time of low evaporation, and using sprinklers only when necessary also conserve precious water.

So next time you use water, be aware of how much you're using, it really helps!

By Elsie Hansen

ALISTER HILL FENCING

Congratulations to Alister Hill, Year 12, who was selected to compete in the Men's Individual Epee Junior World Cup (representing Australia) held Winterthur Switzerland in February 2022. Alister represented the school and country honourably and was very thankful for this amazing opportunity.



YEAR 10 HISTORY HOLOCAUST INCURSION

Between 1933 and 1945, the Nazi regime and their collaborators murdered six million European Jews and five million prisoners of war. Behind these greatly disturbing statistics and numbers are the stories of both persecutors and victims, which are woven into our collective human history.

Last Friday, Dr. Ari Lander, an education officer at the Sydney Jewish Museum, visited the College to speak with the year 10 history classes regarding their current history unit, the Holocaust. Rather than focusing solely on the horrific statistics of the mass genocide, Dr. Lander provided a more intimate approach, sharing the personal stories of survivors and victims. He provided an unexpected perspective by humanising the suffering through intense and emotive storytelling. It is this intimate human aspect that was so powerful, asking our own questions about human behaviour, but also about individual and societal motivations that could create such an abomination. His powerful presentation reinforced the importance of studying these confronting historical events.

By Sophia Hamblin, Year 10

THE ANXIETY OF SPORTING PERFORMANCE

When it comes to sport, you might perform well at training but then when it comes to the game, you freeze up and you let your nervous game-day emotions play with your performance. This can be known as performance anxiety, which is caused by the amount stress or fear about your ability to perform. You may have high expectations, but that's ok! Recognise that everyone

goes through those pre-game nervous energies. Rather than focusing on it, do something to distract your mind that will prepare you both physically and mentally. During the game, you need to focus on the game rather than thinking of the possible outcomes – play like you don't care of the outcomes. When it comes to the post-match reflections, think about how you played and recall on the things that you are proud of from the game and acknowledge but lay off on those things that hindered your performance.

By Hannah Zupp, Year 11

Above Image: Michael Phelps has fought with anxiety and depression for 17 years, but he only spoke out about the issues within the past two years. "We're supposed to be big, macho, physically strong human beings, but this is not a weakness," he says. "We are seeking and reaching for help."



OXLEY COLLEGE EQUESTRIAN DAY

Sunday 1 May
2022



Bong Bong Picnic Racecourse,
460 Kangaloon Road, Bowral.

All entries via: www.nominate.com.au
Entries Close: **25 April 2022**

Open to all school age riders Yr K-12

* **Dressage**

* **Showjumping**

* **Show Horse**

* **Horsemanship**

ENQUIRIES:

Oxley College
kim.mcnaught@oxley.nsw.edu.au

Holly Kramer
holly@kramernoad.com.au

RAFFLE

Raffle to be held on the day with over
\$1,000 in prizes to be won with funds to support Wombat Care Bundanoon

