

# PINOAK

JUNIOR  
SCHOOL  
10 YEARS!

FOUNDATION  
DAY

BIOLOGY

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@T.H.E.O.C



Want to stay up to date with the latest Oxley news, hear about the exciting lives of all Oxleyans, and most importantly: make sure you are wearing the right uniform for important assemblies? Well then, 't.h.e.o.c' has got your back!

For those late to the party, '@t.h.e.o.c' is the Oxley College Instagram account that was started by Year 12 in 2016. It is currently run by a trio of our very own Year 12 2022 students and works alongside our other Oxley College Instagram account - @oxleycollege.

We aim to share events, carnivals and, of course: reminders, with the "HUMANS OF OXLEY", and their families (as well as the occasional Chevalier student it seems). If you are yet to follow this account, make sure you 'hit that follow button' to make sure you don't miss out on any of the latest Oxley news!

By Lily Spring, Year 12

## ISA CROSS COUNTRY

On Wednesday 25 May, the Cross Country runners of Oxley travelled to the Sydney Equestrian Centre to compete in the ISA Cross Country competition. While it was sunny and warm up there, the course was extremely muddy! By the end of the day, mud was up the legs of every runner, people had slipped and shoes all had turned a new colour! It made it feel exactly like Cross Country.

Our runners performed to the best of their abilities, kept spirits high and supported everyone. There was always an Oxley runner sprinting down the last straight, and it was great to see!

We had some amazing results come out of the day. Overall, the girls came 2nd - a truly amazing result. We also had a large number of students make it through to CIS, with 5 students coming in the top three:

- Amelia May 1st
- Amelia Carpenter 1st
- Elsie Hanson 2nd
- Harry Kirsch 3rd
- Molly Knowles 3rd

A huge congratulations to these terrific runners, and to all of the runners who competed - you represented Oxley exceptionally well.

Good luck to all runners going off to compete at CIS in two weeks!

By Liv Bow, Year 12





# HEAD OF COLLEGE'S REPORT



Our 39th Anniversary celebrations at Foundation Day on Thursday 19 May went very well. The traditional tree planting and performing arts assemblies went ahead.

Two special guests were able to be here to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Junior School. They were Mr Grant Williamson, Head of College from 2008 – 2014, and Mrs Justine Lind, the first Head of Junior School 2015 – 2019.

I am enjoying meeting the Oxley Community at the various events and functions. The Oxley distinctives of strong and supportive relationships are shining through the conversations.

In staffing news, Mrs Kate Cunich, our marvellous Head of Academic and Innovation, will be away for the rest of the year on a combination of leave. Her extensive portfolio will be shared across a number of other key staff. We look forward to welcoming Kate back in 2023 to support the new Head of College.

The results of the internal survey (AIS Perspectives) instrument from March have arrived. Results are via parents, staff, students and the Board. I thank everyone who contributed as it will provide excellent feedback for the next Strategic Plan development. I will report back on the results after our initial analysis and consideration of how we condense over 200 pages into a suitable format.

## ***Second Hand Uniforms***

We are pleased to announce that second hand uniforms will once again be sold via the Oxley Shop. Parents can also continue to buy and sell via the Oxley College Facebook Buy & Sell page.

Please note the following: Blazers must be dry cleaned, no white shirts, socks or tights accepted and old style PE uniforms will also not be accepted.

Please do not leave bags of clothes outside the Oxley Shop when closed. Clothes will be priced and put on the shelves as time permits. Once an item is sold, parents will receive a credit on their next statement for 50% of the original sale price for the item.

The College Board of Governors have been very busy with a number of projects. They include the appointment of the next Head of College, the finalisation of a new Master Plan, an update to the Constitution, a review of the survey results and consideration of my initial reviews into a number of policies and practices at Oxley.

The Governors will be attending a two-day retreat in early June to enable an in-depth analysis to occur on a number of governance issues. Governors provide enormous amounts of voluntary time and expertise for the good of Oxley.

By Dr David Mulford, Interim Head of College



# DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM



Term 2 is the time when we invite our Year 10 students to start looking forward towards 2023 and the commencement of their senior academic studies. In Term 1, they broadened their perspectives with Rites of Passage and began exploring possibilities for tertiary study, including visiting various university campuses. Our Year 10s also completed Morrisby Testing, a completely online process which aims to assist students to make better decisions about subjects, courses, careers and apprenticeships. They will soon receive their Morrisby Report which will provide valuable insights into their interests, skills and aptitudes, as well as facilitating a “where to next?” conversation with Ms Cowell, our Careers and Futures Adviser.

Next week on Monday, the Heads of Department will present the courses to be offered in 2023 to Year 10 students and their parents. This is a critical stage in each student’s academic journey and I encourage all of Year 10 to be fully engaged in this process as it unfolds.

## Da Vinci Decathlon 2022

In Term 1 students were given the opportunity to submit an Expression of Interest and participate in the Wednesday afternoon training sessions in preparation for the Da Vinci Decathlon. All students had an opportunity to meet with like-minded students on a regular basis, even if they were not selected for the final teams.

Oxley entered two teams in the 2022 Illawarra Da Vinci Decathlon which was held at The Illawarra Grammar School on Thursday 5 May. Students competed in teams of eight across 10 disciplines - engineering, mathematics and chess, code breaking, art and poetry, science, english, ideation, creative producers, cartography and legacy.

All challenges emphasised higher order thinking skills – assisting students to develop their abilities in analysis, synthesis, and creativity.

The Year 7 Oxley team consisted of the following students:

- Samuel Barrett-Lennard
- Louisa Hogan-Baldo
- Sophie Jackson
- Matilda Lambie
- Emilie Satchwell
- Olivia Sewell
- Souhaylah Shamim
- Dakota Winn

The Year 8 Oxley team consisted of the following students:

- Lucy Anderson
- Maya Boot
- Emily Byrne
- Chloe Doughty
- Flynn O’Brien
- Bronte Plummer
- Maya Reilly
- Ava Steyn

Oxley’s results:

Year 7: 2nd place English , 3rd place Legacy  
Year 8: 3rd place Engineering

Overall winners

Year 7: 1st place – Smiths Hill High School  
2nd place – Broughton Anglican College  
3rd place – The Illawarra Grammar School  
Year 8: 1st place – Illawarra Christian School  
2nd place – Smiths Hill High School  
3rd place – Holy Spirit College

Congratulations to all of the students who participated in the da Vinci Decathlon this year.

By Catherine Dobner, Director of Curriculum





# HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL



## Foundation Day

Despite the disappointment of not being able to hold our usual Foundation Night event this year, we were nevertheless able to have a day of celebration last Thursday, commencing with the traditional tree planting ceremony at Bray Fields. Staff and students from K-12 attended the event and were addressed by Mr Grant Williamson, the founding Headmaster of the Junior School, on the occasion of its 10th birthday. The Senior School Foundation Day celebration showcased the considerable musical talent of students. The Foundation Day Address was given by Old Oxleyan, Mr Sam Jones and his speech - on the theme of curiosity was very well received. Given the inability of many of our ensembles to practise over the past two years due to COVID restrictions, the quality of the musical performances was all the more impressive – and reflects the enduring strength of the performing arts at Oxley.

## PIP Exhibition

This week Year 9 and 10 students displayed their Personal Interest Projects (PIPs) in the PCC. The PIPs gives students the opportunity to pursue their passions and interests, imagine, design, innovate and create; and so many of them embraced the challenge. There were many outstanding works; listed below is a snapshot of just some of them:

Year 10:

Development and growth of birds (involving baby quails) – Emily Rodgers

Timber Bench – Jack Snell

3d printed Iron Man helmet and glove, controlled by an electronic device – Luke Suttie

Haute Couture Book reflecting the work of female botanists – Oki Thompson

Hand sketched playing cards – Rusty Waters

Artistic impression of human disease – Isabelle Wright

Year 9:

Dyed clothing using fruit and vegetables – Ava Gillis

Sustainable golf balls – Harry Kirsch

Handmade soaps - Elouise Law

Coffee briquette firelighters - Savannah Law

Recycled ornamental vinyl records – Eleanora Thomas

Charlie Webb – Recycling Centre

Parents will have the opportunity to view the final Year 9 and 10 PIPs for 2022 at an exhibition in Term 4.

## Oxley Portrait Prize

Over 70 works were submitted for this year's Oxley Portrait Prize and once again the quality was consistently very high across all categories. The brief was to create a portrait of someone you care about, using any art materials – drawing, painting, sculpture or photography, to a maximum A4 size.

Particular congratulations to the Senior School winners in what was a very competitive field: Runner Up – Connor Plummer, Winner – Lara Fischer, Special Commendation – Leila Drelaud and People's Choice – Joe Quilty. Photos of page 14 and 15 of Pin Oak.

By Mark Case, Head of Senior School

## PIP EXHIBITION





## Weekly Awards

### Learning Journey

K: Sebastian Lansdown, Darby Morgan, Juliet Nissen  
Yr 1: Charlotte Keats, Freddie Paterson  
Yr 2: Frankie Ventura, April Sneddon  
Yr 3B: Raj Sidhu  
Yr 3R: Max Curr, Zachariah Chalak  
Yr 4A: James Fox, Matilda McCarthy  
Yr 4W: Archie Adams, Jack Smith  
Yr 5M: Robbie Clothier, Ayden Hosseinzadeh  
Yr 5N: Harry Gaunt, Raphaela Abreu  
Yr 6H: Thomas Adamson, Freddy Florida  
Yr 6S: Vivienne Talbot, Will Coram

### Oxley Values

K: Ben Cadden  
Yr 1: Clementine Blom, George Russell  
Yr 2: Otto Richards, Harrison Peebles  
Yr 3B: Abi Brodie  
Yr 3R: Bonnie Iredale, Angus Kean, Oliver Chesham  
Yr 4A: Fergus Talman, Elena Clarke  
Yr 4W: Greta Lawson, Nina Zelunzuk  
Yr 5M: Rhodes Feller, Remy McIntosh  
Yr 5N: David White, Samsara Pout  
Yr 6H: Coco Sewell, Jett Loiterton,  
Yr 6S: Tom Sharpley, Coen Bertollo

### Library Monitors

Charlotte Holmes  
Victoria Feetham  
Anna Sutherland  
Levi Olsen  
Ivy Bacon  
Evelyn Hammond  
Teddy Blom  
Hadley Morgan  
Lexi Mendes Da Costa  
Pixie Hanson  
Isabella Sicari  
Elodie Ahern  
Andy Clothier  
Raphaela Abreu  
Lisa Mussett

### Chess

Drake Ford



## HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL

What a wonderful celebration Foundation Day was last week! Having days like that really engages our community and the students enjoy showcasing their creative talents. Very special to also celebrate our 10th birthday.

We are so lucky to be seeing the UR Strong programme having positive results in the Junior school. The whole-school friendship strategy has improved the social climate in our school, showing genuine connections between students and the use of a common, positive language of friendship.

We have been explicitly teaching our students how to develop healthy friendships and manage conflict in a respectful way. This is the key to bullying prevention and creating a caring learning environment and inspiring kinder, happier students. Win – win!

This week, we had our URStrong Friendship Day where the students completed a variety of fun activities from board games, bracelet making, techno fun to games with the focus on the language of our friendships programme. Students enjoyed the BBQ lunch and ice-cream and then watched the teachers play soccer against Year 6 – teachers were triumphant with a 4-1 win, but I think we will need to have another match later in the year as it was so much fun to watch!

We are excited to announce that tickets are now available for our Junior School Production on Tuesday 7, Wednesday 8 and Thursday 9 June at 6.00pm in Hoskins Hall. Suitable for students from Year 3. Available via this link: <https://www.trybooking.com/BZREG>

By Jane Campion, Head of Junior School



### Learning Journey

K: Pippa Rodgers  
Yr 1: Hugo Tait  
Yr 2: Jordan Pope  
Yr 3B: Cameron Bailey  
Yr 3R: Lily Bennett  
Yr 4A: Sophia Bagnall  
Yr 4W: Tess Hunter  
Yr 5M: Flor Pereira-Merlini  
Yr 5N: Mariella Vlahakis  
Yr 6H: Lucas Drelaud  
Yr 6S: Digby Bryant

### Oxley Values

K: Polly Pemberton  
Yr 1: Maddie Cochran  
Yr 2: Eliza Galwey  
Yr 3B: Clara Hardwick-Jones  
Yr 3R: Felix Chamley  
Yr 4A: Lulu Evans  
Yr 4W: Hugh Pratten  
Yr 5M: Madison Chamley  
Yr 5N: Oscar Johnson  
Yr 6H: Max Greenfield  
Yr 6S: Sophia Denington

### Oxley College Portrait Prizes

Harnish Aston  
Saskia Aston  
Elsie Herrmann  
Albert Herrmann

### Excellence in Japanese

Grace Barnett  
Rory Shedden





# *JUNIOR GALLERY*





# Oppression vs Obsession

## Women in Australian Politics



There were no women's bathrooms in parliament house.

It was the year 1943, and despite the fact that women had been given the right to run for parliament a good 41 years earlier, there was not a single place women might go if she were in need of the restroom. There was no place for a woman. Which was unfortunate, as Ms Tagney and Ms Lyons were coming in for their first day as a part of the house of representatives and the senate respectively and had perfectly healthy functioning bladders.

But this time, it will be different. Now when Australia welcomes women into parliament house there are perfectly lovely bathrooms awaiting them, with nice little hand soaps and automatic driers. What isn't so nice is that despite the fact Dame Tagney and Dame Lyons walked into parliament house almost a hundred years ago, with the dream that this time would be different. Women in Aussie politics are in a constant state of fear, criticism and anger, far greater than that of the dames when they realised there was nowhere for them to wash their hands.

So, what exactly does modern Australian politics look like for a woman? What does it look like to be a female politician in Australia? For Julia Gillard, that answer was definitely not constantly obsessing over the state of your kitchen. Well at least that was her answer until she sat down for an interview in her own kitchen in 2004.

Australians were horrified.

You might be thinking, what she could she of possibly done? Did Leave confidential files out on the table? Did she say something outrageously offensive? Did she not notice a small fire starting behind her? Shockingly, no such catastrophe occurred.

Gillard's grave mistake was to have a very, very bland kitchen.

The fruit basket was empty, the counter spotless, the cabinets seemingly untouched. No photographs, no food, no sign of life.

Now perhaps if a male politician had been interviewed in a bland kitchen no-one would bat an eye. Chances are he would have been praised as "homely" and "wholesome". Gillard was labelled as weird. Strange. What sort of women didn't have a homely kitchen? Or at the very least a kitchen that looked like someone had entered it before? The answer is a woman who was the first female Prime Minister of Australia.

Gillard couldn't believe it when media outlets began to obsess over the cleanliness of her home environment. The population was in shock: how could this women be so isolated from our realities? How could her kitchen not have a stubborn stain from yesterday's pot-luck or a piece of half-eaten fruit left to fend for itself against the elements? There was no sign of life, no sign or relatability or connection to the public.





Gillard was thoroughly alienated. There she was years after the first women had stepped foot in parliament and she was facing that exact same feeling of isolation and confusion. But instead of finding no-where to go to the bathroom, she was told that her home was 'disturbing' or 'unnatural' when it was her job description to work long hours. Now whether the kitchen was that horrifying or not, its startling to see the similarities between these situations that are almost one hundred years separate.

It's even more startling to consider that the minute those first women stepped into parliament, the phrase on all our minds was "this time will be different".

In both instances women were treated with a separate set of guidelines to their male counterparts, a different set of reactions. Dame Tagney and Dame Lyons were met with a lack of facilities and forethought and Gillard was met with over-analysis and intrusive questions. How can we have swung from one extreme of inequality to the other? Actually, let's stick with this idea of swinging. Imagine that the first women to enter parliament attached a rope to a ceiling and tied a nice heavy rock to the end of it and then pulled that rope to one corner of the room, which we'll call the oppression of women corner. And then they let go. The rock at the end of the rope is obviously going to swing to the other corner of the room. Which we'll call the obsession with women corner. In one corner women were refused places of power and were mostly ignored, and in the other they were allowed to have political power but are now constantly analysed and criticised.

Essentially, in taking that big step into parliament, Dame Tagney and Dame Lyons swung that rope right from one extreme to the other. Sure, the second corner is different from the first, almost a polar opposite in fact, but is it any better? Is it any easier?

It's very clear that these two extremes on the spectrum of female empowerment in Aussie politics are not healthy places to be. Either way, women are put at an extreme disadvantage. So, I think the solution is obvious. Australia has to run out to the centre of the room, stick a hand-out and grab the rope when it hits the centre of the room: none of this swinging back and forth between the extremes business.

How can Australia work up the courage to grab the rope before it swings too far? Maybe it'll be by people slowly changing the way they talk about female politicians, maybe it will be senators themselves extending the same respect to every senator no matter their gender. Maybe it'll be setting up a charity to help Prime Ministers to decorate their kitchens properly.

No matter how we manage to do it, one thing's for sure:

This time it will be different.

By Violet FitzSimons, Year 9

# OLD OXLEYAN

## Katy Jolly (nee Parsons) class of 2004



### Can you tell us a little about your career journey since leaving Oxley College?

Serving my community and making global connections has seen me leap into varied opportunities.

- B. Arts (Applied Linguistics)/B. Asian Studies (Indonesian Specialist) at ANU
- Graduate Diploma in Secondary Education
- Teach Indonesian to Years K-8.
- Senior travel consultant, travelling the world on many a work junket, managing a travel business and meeting so many amazing people around the world.
- Expanded my skill set as an English, Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D) teacher - helping new arrivals from all over the world, some of whom are refugees just starting out in an Aussie school, has been phenomenally rewarding.
- School ICT Coordinator during Covid lockdowns. Now pursuing a career in educator ICT training - assisting teachers and schools to enhance their integration of digital tools across the curriculum.

### How is your career journey to date similar or different to the plans you had for yourself in Year 12?

I always knew that my career path would involve Indonesian language somehow, yet always assumed that meant a role at DFAT. Nowadays, I'm glad to have combined teaching and business management.

### What are you most proud of since completing high school?

When I finished my 'skripsi' (or mini thesis) at the end of a six-month participant observation research in East Java, I tracked

down my old Oxleyan Indonesian teacher, Mr Anderson, and showed him it. On opening it he sighed "I'm afraid I can't read that, it's a bit too advanced for me." It was a wonderful moment to attribute some of my success to his teaching and to live out the adage: so the student becomes the teacher.

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

My student cohort was amazingly supportive, quirky and sincere, which helped me to develop my resilience in the face of mental health issues. I often look back fondly on Oxley's pastoral mentor groups. This was an aspect of Oxleyan life that enriched our experiences so much yet is missing from many other schools.

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

Mr & Mrs Hall were (and still very much are) absolute champions. They encouraged my passion for language and broadened my interest in poetry and satire. You have not heard *The Canterbury Tales* until you've heard Mrs Hall's reading in mind-bending Chaucerian Middle English, nor have you seen a loud tie until you've seen Mr Hall's collection!

### If you could do it all again, what advice would you give to your 15 year old self?

Stop taking yourself so seriously. It is ok to make mistakes and share these with others; it is unreasonable to maintain a facade of infallibility. Oh, and watch the sass you give to your teachers. Who knows, one day you might become a teacher and receive all that sass back in some twisted form of cosmic karma.

## REUNIONS



Last weekend, we hosted the combined 20 and 30 year school reunions at Oxley College, capturing the years that missed out on their reunions due to Covid. There was a huge buzz of excitement in the room and lots of reminiscing as they walked around the College amazed at the changes and new facilities. ##Don't forget to follow the new Oxley Alumni Instagram account.



# INSPIRATION



## SERIES

*One Piece*

Created by Eiichiro Oda, One Piece is an epic Anime series originating in 1999 (based on Oda's manga series which began in 1997) depicting the adventures of hilarious and light-hearted, Luffy.D.Monkey (Luffy for short). After gaining the properties of rubber as a result of eating the legendary Gum-gum fruit as a child, Luffy takes on the world searching for the legendary treasure, known as the One Piece, in the hope of becoming the king of all pirates. There are many challenges along the way. Can Luffy lead his colourful rag tag band known as The Straw Hat Pirates, defeat the villainous Im (who works for the treacherous World Government) and find the One Piece? One Piece is for those who love, and I mean LOVE, anime fighting. From the Whitebeard Rodger Haki Clash to Garp's fist, the screen is ablaze with colour, every fight scene explodes with unique detail showing every inch of each character's facial expressions and vibrant clothing. The rocking soundtrack will strike you and the story will keep you on the edge of your seat! In my opinion, the best scene in

the entire series is Episode 1015, when Luffy absolutely DESTROYS the villain Kaido with his epic Gomme-Gomme-Rouge-Roc punch!

One Piece, however, has a downside. There are so many characters that it takes a while to learn the 936 individual names and personalities in the series. Also, there are so many episodes! So far there are over 1000 episodes of One Piece that have been released - plenty to keep you busy on rainy days.

To sum things up, One Piece displays a clear message - never be afraid to fight for those you love..., that, and pirates are EPIC!

By Thomas Clark, Year 9

## BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP

Last Monday, the Year 11 Biology elective students went on a field trip in Beaky Bay, Shellharbour to explore first-hand Ecosystem Dynamics. After an early morning bus ride, we walked along the road to the Bass Point surrounded by beautiful green vegetation and blessed by the sunny weather. Upon our arrival at the rock platform, we had the opportunity to evaluate algae samples using a dichotomous key in order to decipher the exact species. Following the morning investigations, we split into two groups. To begin with, my group took data using the transects we set up to investigate the distribution of organisms on the rock platform. Afterwards, we moved on to the more time consuming quadrat sampling, taking data on the distribution, diversity and abundance of organisms at random locations on the rock platform. Then we used some specialised equipment to track salinity, temperature, and pH. After lunch, we went octopus hunting! Throughout our search, we encountered many varied organisms including crabs, sea cucumbers, red anemones, and three octopi! Our leaders Matt and Jess caught the octopi and put them in little buckets for our close observation. This field trip provided us with an exhilarating hands-on experience that has introduced new opportunities for our understanding in the Ecosystem Dynamics module during our Preliminary HSC year.

By Leah Halstead, Year 11





## *In Safer Hands*

Another year.

Another election.

Another win for democracy.

With a landslide Greens-Labor victory, the Australian people on Saturday decided that it was time for a change.

Without even having gained a majority, it was clear that Labor had pulled ahead of the LNP with a 22 seat advantage. On Saturday, Anthony Albanese took to the stage, lauded by cheers and chants of "Albo!", to claim his victory. While enjoying the emotional moment of his own success, he honourably acknowledged Scott Morrison's leadership, much to the surprise of his supporters. Surely, wouldn't working-class Albo love nothing more than a final dig at his pompous Liberal counterpart? But, instead of gloating, he humbly accepted his achievement alongside his family. No 'miracles' involved, just hard work and persistence against the odds of a powerful media monopoly and a divisive landscape of identity politics and conspiracy theories to gain the trust of Australians.

In his speech, Albanese stated his main purpose as prime minister was to "change the country and change the way that politics operates in this country". There is no doubt the country desperately needs these things to happen. In the view of many, politics in Australia has become devalued. Devalued by decades of incessant lying and manipulation of language to suit political agendas, devalued by the corruption and intra-party disputes, devalued by the willingness and even eagerness to divide a vast majority of people who all share a common dream: life, happiness and the livelihood of their future generations.

This was recognised not only by Labor, but by many independents and minor parties, such as the Greens. Their commitment to raising the living standards and equality outcomes of their communities, achieving integrity and transparency through an anti-corruption commission, as well as progressive (and legitimate) climate action won the respect of many Australians thus far unconvinced by the limited promises and insubstantial offers of the major parties. Arguably, the great divide in this election was between the major parties and their refusal to fully engage voters in a discussion about reality, and the candidates who said yes to that discussion. Their success is a challenge to what has become the conventional approach of skating lightly over the real problems in this country.

As Greens leader Adam Bandt said in his now-famed "Google it, mate" speech, genuine political discourse in Australia has been marred by the media's attempts to turn what should be a passionate contest of ideas into a "basic fact-checking exercise". Of course, while it is important for leaders to be in

touch with reality and the lives of the people they represent, it's also important to remember that the degree to which new ideas and proposed policies reflect the aspirations of the people is a much better indicator of how socially aware politicians are than their ability to recall basic statistics. Indeed, as Bandt put it, "most of the people in Canberra are on six figure salaries, just passing time until they go out and work for their coal and gas corporations to earn even more". Even the best memory retention for GDP and wages growth statistics won't help them become more engaged in their socio-political world. Therefore, when someone with progressive, fresh ideas comes along with the intention and the know-how to make change possible, they should be given the chance to do so.

To be clear, this is not an article aimed at promoting a particular political party or agenda. Although I certainly had my firm preferences going into the election, I have no wish to become some kind of ridiculous school-boy partisan. However, I will not hesitate to make my position clear on what I will and will not tolerate from a government that is supposed to serve its people and not itself.

Teachers, childcare workers, hospital staff and even private businesses all have a duty to care for and protect those in their custody, particularly children. Like them, the government should also owe a duty of care to younger generations. Despite what myself and many others believe, making decisions in our best interest has not seemed to cross the minds of our so-called "leaders" in the recent past. Climate policy. Fiscal policy. Wages. Housing. Education. At every turn, young Australians have been duped by the Coalition government. And now, they have lost an election to an increasingly youthful voting demographic. In the 10 electorates with the highest proportion of youth voters (aged 18-29), only two were won by the Coalition. Four were won by the Greens. This collective realization of political power by young people and a grassroots approach to meeting the needs of the community evidently won despite the stranglehold of a formidable, albeit monotonous, reigning government propped up by a wealthy media mogul.

While it is still early days, and we can't know how the result of this election will play out over the days, months and years to come. It is comforting to know that, this time, the power rests with more independent minds, whose words and actions will shape Australia's political legacy for ourselves and for future generations. May transparency and honest democracy forever prevail!

By Hugh Corbett, Year 12



# GALLERY





# *Oxley College*

## *PORTRAIT PRIZE*

2  
0  
2  
2



Adult Runner-Up  
Cecelia Kemp



Adult Winner  
Rachel Pratt



Family Prize Winner  
Albert Herrmann



Junior Runner-Up  
Saskia Aston



Breaking the Rules Winner  
Olivia Quilty



Family Prize Winner  
Elsie Herrmann



# *Oxley College*

## *PORTRAIT PRIZE*

2  
0  
2  
2



Junior Winner  
Hamish Aston



People's Choice Award  
Joe Quilty



Senior Student Runner-Up  
Connor Plummer



Special Commendation  
Leila Drelaud



Senior Student Winner  
Lara Fischer

# Things gen z people don't say but really wish they could say:

## election edition



"Now I'm no expert or anything, but it's got to be morally ambiguous to put an election add in a kids YouTube video. Right? Or am I missing something here?"

"Here's what I think: voting should be like going to the doctor's office. You fill out the form, you pop it in the little box and then you get a lolly pop for being brave."

"At this point I don't even know what's going on anymore. I kind of wish there was some sort of politics point counter you know – so you could see if someone actually has an argument or if they're just really good at saying things that sound reasonable."

"Personally, I've been looking forward to the election sausage sizzle. The politics thing is important and all, but that sausage- I've waited for years for that sausage."

"I can't even vote and I'm stressed."

"Voting in my mind is like when you get to the multiple-choice section of a quiz that you've sort of half studied for. Like you get the gist, and answer all the important ones, but then you're still left with some more questions so you just circle C."

"Remember when people who weren't white men ran for Prime minister? Yeah- neither do I."

"Am I saying that if I see one more United Australia party ad I'll loose it? No, of course not, why would you say that?"

*Please contact Violet FitzSimons if you have any entries for the column! If you've ever been puzzled by coffee cup lids, outraged by miss-spelt street signs or confused as to why people from the Netherlands are Dutch and not Nethermens (which would be way cooler) - this column is for you.*

**By Oxley's Gen Z**

*Next week's edition is... things gen z people don't say but really wish they could say: fashion edition.*