

PIN OAK

DofED

HEAD OF
COLLEGE

rites of
PASSAGE-
revisited!

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Pin Oak Team

Student Editorial Team

Matilda Lambie, Hannah Zupp, Leah Halstead,
Violet FitzSimons, Thomas Clark, Jackson
Wolstencroft, Oscar Greenfield, Liam O'Connell,
Olivia Bow

Designers

Lara Fischer, Chloe Hanrahan

Head of Marketing and PR/Staff Editor
Emma Calver

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

Student Photography: Oscar Fox

Photography: AJ Moran



School Holiday Art Camps

Mon-Wed 4-6 & 11-13 July

Thurs-Fri 7-8 & 14-15 July

4-7yrs: 9:30-12.30 8-12yrs 1:30-4:30

VENUE: BREAKAWAY TUITION,
60 BOWRAL RD, MITTAGONG

*Activities may include full body tracings, fizzy painting,
painted origami butterflies, doodle lanterns, oobleck,
wood totems, robot puppets, string bowls, rainbow mural,
art cooking, alien nation and more!*

Cost: 3 day camp: \$135

2 day camp: \$90

5 day camp: \$200

1 day: \$60

Sibling discount: 10%

Contact: Tutor Mary Lou

0412 609 917

maryloupav@yahoo.com.au

Mary Lou Pavlovic: PhD Visual Arts,

MA Fine Arts, BA Fine Art

Working with Children Check,

National Police Check

Limited numbers so book early!

Mary Lou Pavlovic is a registered
Creative Kids provider.

*If your child has previously attended,
we will endeavour to schedule new projects.*

Highlands Music Collective

Presents

PORTRAITS OF LOVE

CONCERT FOR SOPRANO & STRING QUARTET

MUSIC BY: HANDEL, MOZART, BEETHOVEN, SCHUMANN, STRAUSS & HALVORSEN



ALISON CLAIRE ROBERTSON - SOPRANO

MYEE CLOHESSY - VIOLIN, ALEXANDRA DENING - VIOLIN,
LAURA McCROW - VIOLA, CATHERINE BARNETT - CELLO.

SATURDAY 11 JUNE

2:30PM

ROSE RECITAL ROOM,
51F SUNNINGHILL AVE,
BURRADOO

TICKETS:

[HTTP://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/BZOQA](http://www.trybooking.com/BZOQA)

SUNDAY 12 JUNE

2:00PM

BURRAWANG
SCHOOL OF ARTS,
BURRAWANG

TICKETS:

[HTTP://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/BZKKH](http://www.trybooking.com/BZKKH)

ALL TICKETS INCLUDE AFTERNOON TEA

CONTACT: 0405 070 721. HIGHLANDSMUSICCOLLECTIVE@PROTONMAIL.COM

HEAD OF COLLEGE'S REPORT



Any institution has to have a focus on risk and compliance. In some areas such a review was much needed. In others it has had a negative impact. The society trend has been to reduce risk across schools and all walks of our society. The litigious state has grown incredibly. Playgrounds have been sterilised; outdoor pursuits slashed; boundaries reduced so they deliberately constrain any initiative and volunteers deterred from many organisations.

In these times of society seeking to protect its children, it is running the risk of making the young far more vulnerable. Without risk, without conquering risk, without the challenge of coping with risk, we are reducing the ever so necessary power of resilience. Resilience builds personal protection against the knocks of life.

Life is not always fair; the missed promotion; the non-selection for the higher team or class; your brother or sister getting away with not doing the washing up; someone getting a better Christmas present; your family can't afford a holiday whilst others go to flash places; you get caught doing something wrong whilst others do not; you didn't get your favourite maths teacher; your essay was marked down compared to others, yet you know you put much more work into it.

In a directly related topic, the educational need of learning the consequences of your actions is crucial. Parents, and educators need to support such consequences. When a mistake is made, do we jump in far too fast to blame others, to make excuses, to over-protect and to have a negative impact on how the young learn to handle the knocks in life.

Often, we over-protect and, as a result, reduce the development of resilience. Too often we feel we always must praise, give out rewards for everything, foster self-esteem to the extreme and over-analyse feelings at the expense of common sense. We can forget about the need to build resilience as a valuable character trait. As parents and educators we have always known tough love, at times, can be necessary love.

By Dr David Mulford, Interim Head of College

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I am delighted to announce the appointment of Mr Scott Bedingfield as the new Head of College for Oxley College.

Earlier this year the Board formed a selection committee and conducted an extensive national search, assisted by a specialist executive recruitment firm. At the beginning of this search process the Board engaged with current Oxley staff who had the opportunity to give detailed feedback on the key strengths of Oxley, where we should be focussing effort, and what sort of leader would be required to continue to drive change.

The strong themes voiced by the staff were the importance of community at Oxley and its special warmth, fitting with our statement of care for the whole child; the importance of an inspiring, high-quality educator to lead and inform best teaching practice with staff, and to continue to build on our enlightened academic rigour; and the importance of our students to be supported to find their voice amongst a wide range of co-curricular activities.

As a selection committee, we were therefore very excited to come across a warm and engaging candidate who meets all these requirements. Mr Bedingfield is a highly experienced educator who has worked in a range of senior school leadership positions, most recently as the Deputy Head at St Luke's Grammar in Sydney. St Luke's is an independent Pre-K to Year 12 co-educational day school of over 1300 students and has a wonderful academic and pastoral record.

Mr Bedingfield has a Bachelor of Education (Hons), Master of Leadership and Management in Education and Diploma of Outdoor Recreation. As a passionate mathematics teacher Mr Bedingfield will continue a part-time teaching load. He describes this as a 'touchstone' of his leadership- engaging with students, teaching, and learning and using the teaching of a class as an opportunity to inspire and work alongside teaching staff.

Finally, Mr Bedingfield is a keen supporter of co-curricular activities and is keen to see Arts, Music and a wide range of sports and outdoor activities thrive at Oxley. Over the years Mr Bedingfield has coached a range of sporting teams, been highly involved in school snow sports and has co-ordinated the Duke of Edinburgh's International programme.



He will be joined by his wife Karinne and two young daughters Lucy and Cora. Both daughters will be joining our Junior School.

Mr Bedingfield will start in early January 2023. He will be visiting the school in Term 4 2022 to be involved in budgeting and staffing matters for 2023.

I look forward to Mr Bedingfield joining our wonderful Oxley community.

By Dr Stephen Barnett, Chairman of Board of Governors

HEAD OF PERFORMING ARTS

How wonderful it has been to see a return of live performances at Oxley College with our Senior School play, Antigone in Term 1, Foundation Day concerts, Term 2 Evening of Music and our Junior School play Fight With All Your Might the Zombies of Tonight. Every event has not only showcased the enormous talent at Oxley but also brought our Oxley community together again to celebrate the Performing Arts.

The Music Captains recently organised a lunch time Jam Session. This was an opportunity for student lead music performances held over lunch time. The energy was contagious, and the impact was evident amongst the Junior School students who danced with great enthusiasm!

Year 10 Drama class performed at Parramatta Riverside Theatre in the Sharp Short Drama Competition on Thursday 9 June.

Our Year 12 Music and Drama students are now working toward their HSC major performances and we look forward to celebrating their achievements at the upcoming Music and Drama Nights in Term 3.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents for their support of the Performing Arts in what has been a difficult couple of years, and we look forward to sharing many more performances with you in 2022 and beyond.

Mr Andrew Young, Head of Performing Arts



HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL

Cyber Safety Education Sessions – Students and Parents

The College continues to work with ySafe, Australia's leading cyber safety experts, to educate students, parents and staff about all matters relating to cyber safety. It is one of the most pressing issues for parents. Following the ySafe presentations to students in 2021, ySafe are returning to Oxley on Thursday 16 June to run workshops for students in Years 5 - 8.

The online Parent Session is open to all Oxley parents and will cover key areas such as the safe use of social media platforms; research-based information on gaming and screen time; and step-by-step instructions to on how to setup a cyber safe home. Details for the session are as follows:

- Thursday 16 June 2022: 6.00pm-7.00pm [online]
- [Register here](#)

Parent Cyber Safety Hub

As a part of that partnership with ySafe, Oxley has its own Parent Cyber Safety Hub. This Hub is a rich source of live information directly from ySafe's multidisciplinary team of cyber safety experts. The Hub was established at the College in 2021 and is maintained to ensure it provides the most up to date advice for parents. The Hub includes expert advice on the most pertinent cyber safety issues and frequently asked questions around platforms like TikTok, Fortnite, SnapChat, Instagram, and more. There are app reviews with age and safety recommendations, along with a range of guides and resources to help ensure healthy boundaries around screen-time and gaming, and step-by-step instructions for using parental controls and filtering out inappropriate content.

The Hub can be accessed via this link: <https://oxley.onlinesafetyhub.com.au/>

The link can also be found on the College website under the "Wellbeing" tab.

Free Device Monitoring Tool for Parents

ySafe has partnered with the parental control experts, Family Zone, to provide Oxley parents with added cyber safety support in the form of Family Zone Insights. Family Zone Insights is a monitoring app that sends parents an alert if their child accesses risky or inappropriate content online. For more information about Family Zone Insights, and for instructions on how you can set up an Insights account, visit the Family Zone Insights page of the Oxley Cyber Safety Hub (under 'Cyber Safety Tech').



In Term 1 we ran a very well received online parent workshop "Tweens, Teens and Screens", with Dr Justin Coulson. For more information about Dr Coulson's work as well as free resources and access to webinars, go to <https://www.happyfamilies.com.au/>.

By Mr Mark Case, Head of Senior School

A banner image featuring a man and a young girl looking at a tablet together. The text "Cyber Safety Education Session For Parents" is overlaid in large, stylized fonts. To the right, the ySafe logo is displayed, consisting of a teal and grey geometric pattern above the word "ySafe". Below the logo, it says "Australia's leading provider of cyber safety education."

Cyber Safety Education Session For Parents

Presented by

ySafe

Australia's leading provider of cyber safety education.



Weekly Awards

Learning Journey

K: Saskia Aston
Yr 1: Violet Burrows
Yr 2: Harry Officer
Yr 3B: Xavier Halstead
Yr 3R: Abigail Cullen
Yr 4A: Jack Friesenecker
Yr 4W: Harvey Talbot
Yr 5M: Augustus Moore
Yr 5N: Aston Herriott
Yr 6H: Scarlett Curr
Yr 6S: Rosie Vild

Oxley Values

K: Ben Cadden
Yr 1: Amaya Sorensen
Yr 2: Em Hunt
Yr 3B: Heidi Sinclair-Hill
Yr 3R: Chloe Motycka
Yr 4A: Charlie Halloran
Yr 4W: Max Guilly
Yr 5M: William Carioti
Yr 5N: Levi Olsen
Yr 6H: Lily Moore
Yr 6S: Daphne Hutchison

Excellence in Japanese

Marshall Devlin
Evan Callan

IPSHA

Pixie Hanson
Lucas Drelaud
Harry Keats (absent)

HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL



A growing body of evidence supports what many educators have known for years—that physical and mental health and social, emotional, and cognitive development cannot be separated from learning and academic success. However, the necessary conditions to support learning and development must be in place for young people to thrive.

The context in which students live—especially during the pandemic—is not always conducive to well-being, which underscores the need for skill development in key areas.

To succeed academically, students need the social, emotional, and cognitive skills and mindsets to engage productively in learning. Here at Oxley, we have an intentional focus to develop the skills and mindsets for learning, including self-regulation, executive functions, growth mindset, and more!

We seek to prepare students for success in the 21st century economy where academic standards increasingly require higher-order skills like self-direction, curiosity, and resilience, as well as a growth mindset and sense of belonging. The research literature underscores the interconnectedness of social, emotional, and cognitive development and academic performance.

With this in mind, it made me think about our Junior School Production which has seen students showcase their skills across the front of house and behind the scenes. This 'co-curricular' activity running alongside the academic programme allowed students to do both and what a success!

Having the matinee earlier this week, allowed for those students who were not in the Production to experience it and hopefully encourage them to put up their hands for our next one!

I wanted to include some feedback from the audience, who truly enjoyed the opportunity during their school day. Well done one and all and a big tick for the nurturing of the whole child!

Livie Marks

I thought the play was amazing. My favourite part was the dancing.

Daphne Hutchinson

Outstanding, entertaining and funny are a few words to describe what you would experience when you watch the play. The best part for me was the reflections speaking back to the characters.

Sam Cottle

I loved it! My favourite part was all the musical references. The T-shirts were great with ACDC, Foo Fighters, Kiss and many more. The subtle fake copyright Dustin Fever joke had me in stitches.

Summer Johns

I thought the acting was amazing as it made each character unique and funny.

Edie Cavanough

The dancers were in sync and the lines were great. I liked the play it was fantastic.

More photos of the Junior School production in the next Pin Oak!

By Miss Jane Campion, Head of Junior School

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FANTASTIC CIS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNERS

Harry Keats (Year 6) came 1st with a time of 10:30.8
Pixie Hanson (Year 5) came 2nd with a time of 11:30.1 and Lucas Drelaud (Year 6) came 25th.

This week we would like to share and celebrate Clementine Blom's recent success at the Wollondilly Gymkhana. Clemmie (Year 1) represented her Pony Club (Berrima District) at the Gymkhana last Saturday. Clemmie had a great day with her best results including placing 2nd in her Rider Class (Best rider under 9) and Jakey (the pony) placed 3rd in the best Pony Club mount.



JUNIOR GALLERY



rites of passage

The Rites of Passage Sydney programme has been designed around psychologist Michael Carr-Greg's identified needs for 14 and 15 year olds: emancipation from parents; strong, healthy friendships, vocational direction; and a strong sense of personal identity." – Oxley College

Rites of Passage is the two-three-week programme (returning home on the weekends) which every Year 9 cohort will embark on (OR Year 10 due to disruptions), to discover a sense of direction beyond the Burradoo bubble, in preparation for adulthood. The year group will travel to Sydney/Canberra to explore places from museums to potential universities as well as museums and galleries, to gain more experience and knowledge about the world and the opportunities available.

I was fortunate enough to experience R.O.P in Year 10, 2021. Personally, this trip allowed me to gain the independence, when being set in groups, to then navigate our way around the city with minimal instruction. I was able to see what the world has to offer once I leave high school, and the potential paths I can take. The friendships I made, were one of the many things I am to cherish as I connected with people I don't usually talk to at the college, in my year. From mocking animals with my House group and taking photos with the disposable cameras, to travelling across the harbour with a time limit and minimal guidance, I am to cherish these moments forever as it has opened me up to the paths of my post-high school life, gaining valuable knowledge and sense of direction. – HANNAH ZUPP – YEAR 10 2021

A common theme expressed by students who have experienced the programme, is the special bond they created with other people in their year, who they hadn't really interacted with before. Here are what some students from different year cohorts had to say about their R.O.P experience from when they were in Year 9/10:

TIEN LOITERTON – YEAR 10 2022

"Rites of Passage was such a great experience, even if it was cut short. We had so much fun doing workshops and visiting sites around the city. A highlight for me, was talking to the people in my year group, that you wouldn't have normally talked to, and learning more about them."

SARAH PIETSCH LIDDELL – YEAR 9 2019

"Rites of Passage was a monumental moment for our year group. As a group of immature Year 9's, we embarked on Sydney, full of hormones and emotions (and ideals for relationships). We looked through universities, sat through wonderful concerts and most of all got to know each other outside the school environment. The memories I made will truly last a lifetime!"

HUNTER RITCHIE – YEAR 10 2022

"Rites of Passage was overall a great experience, however, unfortunately it was cut short for us understandably due to many people contracting COVID-19. My favourite part of R.O.P were definitely hanging out and socialising with my year group. I liked how we were put into random groups which didn't have many of our friends. At the start this was somewhat demotivating, but once we began our activities, we had become friends with a larger variety of characters within our year whom I hadn't spoken much to before. I also had fun going out to dinner multiple times with my mates. We all found it very funny that people were getting take away for dinner and my mates and I would find the nicest and fanciest restaurants to eat at. Great food and good company."

DAN MURRAY – YEAR 10 2021

"I liked Rites of Passage because I got to create a strong bond with my year and explore my interests. It was also a great opportunity to step up and start thinking about future opportunities and education in the wider world."

LOLA GREENOP – YEAR 10 2022

"Rites of Passage has definitely been one of my favourite experiences of high school so far. Even though it was cut short, it really helped to shape our year, and solidify friendships. I got to talk and interact with people I had never really interacted with before, opening up myself to new friendships as well. For me, the night-time activities were always a highlight, getting to go out to dinner with friends and going to see incredible performances."

BY HANNAH ZUPP

rites of passage

Revisted!



Photos by Oscar Fox



OLD OXLEYAN

Phoebe Dettman Class of 2002



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

I'm an actor/writer/director/producer/horse wrangler/box office manager and for a while I dabbled in bar tending and catering to pay the rent. Best and worst stories come from catering and theatre gigs!

I fell in love and moved to New York. My partner and I (also an actor/writer) met some like minded actor/writers and founded a theatre company, Randomly Specific Theatre. We are launching our 14th production on Friday 10 June.

I've lived in New York for almost fifteen years now. It's a crazy, beautiful, smelly town and I think it's where I was always going to wind up. It's also a long way from my family which is sometimes hard. Especially over the last few years. But the bagels and pizza are amazingly delicious!

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

I love story telling in all it's many shapes and forms. The stage has always held a particular magic spell over me, both in acting and writing and now directing and producing. The greatest lesson I learnt was that you don't have to just be an actor, or just be a writer, or just be a stand up comedian. They're all very interconnected.

How did Oxley prepare you for your future?

There was this ideal at Oxley of 'well roundedness'. At the time I resented it because I was only interested in English, history and art. I was terrible at math, not great at science, rubbish at computers and aside from cross country running a pretty shabby athlete. Looking back, being forced to do things outside of my natural interests, skills and passions really helped me understand the importance of struggle and failure. It also made me appreciate the people who are great at math and science and tech in a whole new light because you can't run a theatre company without them! They hang the lights, set the board, create the ticketing systems. Working in the theatre industry you're constantly running up against rejection and disappointment. If you can get past that and keep on regardless then when you do finally win, succeed, whatever you want to call it, the reward is ten fold.

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

I lucked out with some amazing teachers. I had Mr Graham who took a chance on me as a shy fourteen year old and cast me in the senior play. Mr Craig who challenged me to always ask questions. Mr Cunich who I can still picture screaming at me from the sidelines to push for the win. And Herr Schaffer who taught me as much about English as he did about German. That's just naming a few.

What would you say to your fifteen year old self?

Never take a stage manager for granted. They are the most important people you will ever work with. And wear sunscreen.

INSPIRATION



FILM

Top gun Maverick

This movie really took my breath away. I'll admit, when I sat down in the cinema I was sceptical. With classics such as Top Gun, you can't help but brace yourself for them to be man-handled to conform to modern standards. One of my particular fears was feminism. In an attempt to satisfy the raging beast that is wokeism, it's become a pattern for films to ham up stereotypes so they can claim their gender equality brownie points. I could practically see a woman walking down the runway alongside her male pilot-counterparts on the screen, listing of reasons why "she isn't like other girls", or worse yet, there being a decent female character who is ruined by an un-necessary romance.

Despite my trepidation, in perhaps one of the greatest feats of modern cinema, "Top Gun: Maverick" pulled of its landing in the danger zone that is the modern cinematic world. Still maintaining it's 80's roots and keeping a good sense of humour throughout "Top Gun: Maverick" finds that lost loving feeling of classic 80's cinema, without making you want to punch a hole through the wall with it's refusal to grow as a universe.

While still standing proud on the foundations built by "Top Gun", the film allows for a new cast of loveable, dangerous and gravity defying characters to grace the screen. As well as new challenges, new planes and new admirals to breathe new life into a universe so deeply enrooted in 80's culture. There's rivalry, there's tension – almost to the extent where you can feel them glaring great balls of fire at each other from across the room – and most importantly, it's full of life.

Top Gun Maverick easily scores a 5/5 in my books, with a creative and energetic plot, a loveable cast and phenomenal music— and I mean that without the slightest amount of sarcasm. It truly has cemented itself as a part of modern cinema.

One might even say, "I feel the need, the need to speed back and see it again."

By Violet FitzSimons, Year 9



GAME

Minecraft: Wild Update

At long last, it's here!

Have you ever wanted frogs in Minecraft? Mangrove swamps? Creepy giant monsters that can KO you in a single hit even when you are equipped in full diamond armour??? THEN LOOK NO FURTHER! The Minecraft: Wild update has arrived! This is a tremendous occasion for all Minecraft fans. The wild update will include frogs that eat small slimes (tiny jelly like creatures), mud, mangrove swamps, and boats with chests. Finally!

A new mob that many Minecrafters have been waiting for is the Allay! A small, winged spirit that spawns in the cages and cells of Pillager outposts and woodland mansions. It makes you wonder what those evil beings are doing holding such an innocent creature? Aside from that, Allays were part of the Minecraft mob vote last year. While the plant-like Glare and the Redstone operating Copper Golem have faded into gaming history, the Allay loves music and can be a new found companion! Just give it an item and it will follow you around, looking for identical items to give you.

But in my opinion, the biggest feature of this amazing update is the deep dark. A dark underground biome with plants of the skulk family that feast off dead monster souls, sense vibrations and shriek whenever you are nearby. Plus, a new monster is here - the Warden. What is a Warden? Welllll, it's a blind giant monster that is attracted by skulk shriekers, is powered by souls and can easily kill you! Think you are safe on top of that tower? The Warden can create a sonic boom which will deal tonnes of damage, sending you back down to the angry monster! However, in the middle of each deep dark biome, if you are brave enough to look, there are ancient underground cities overgrown with skulk plants ready to be explored. And in the centre of each one lies a mysterious structure...

Minecraft is an amazing game and this new update will make it even better. I wonder what the next update will be about? New weapons? New block textures? New mobs that won't kill you??? That, I can't wait to see.

By Thomas Clark, Year 9



BOOK

Dances with Wolves

Dances with Wolves is a late 1980's novel by American Michael Blake. It follows the journey of late 19th-century Lieutenant John Dunbar during the Civil War as he goes through a period of self-discovery. Dunbar is part of the American army as they progressed over the endless frontier. He dreams of seeing the endless plains of the frontier "before it's all gone". He finds himself alone at Fort Sedgwick with nothing to do except make his jobs and ration the supplies he has. Shortly afterwards, Dunbar finds his loyal horse Cisco to be wanted by the local Indian tribe, though Cisco returns unbothered on countless occasions. Whilst at his post, Dunbar befriends an old, wise wolf which he names 'Two-socks', following this he encounters an Indian woman injured under a lonely tree, though he is surprised that her appearance is not unlike his own. Dunbar begins to learn the ways of the Indians, becoming one with the land and exploring true society, unveiling the dysfunction of his own culture and the destruction it brings to the natural world. He falls in love, travels with the tribe, and gets a new name, nonetheless a new identity: "I had never really known who John Dunbar was. Perhaps because the name itself had no meaning. But as I heard my Sioux name being called over and over, I knew for the first time who I really was, I was Dances with Wolves". If you don't feel like reading the book there is an award winning (12 academy awards to be exact) screenplay adaptation which is only 4 hours long!

By Leah Halstead, Year 11



Four Books to better yourself.....

Four Books to better yourself with over the holidays

Congratulations on daring to read past the title of this article. There are no two things that are worse to read about: someone encouraging you to read something else (I mean, come on, you're reading a magazine right now – surely you've done your time) and someone telling you what to do with your holidays – which quite frankly, should be a crime. At this point in the term, it's pretty risky to tell anyone to do anything, let alone read a book. I've had highlighters thrown at me after the suggestion that we go to the Mawson bathrooms instead of Monash.

Seeing as this is an Pin Oak article, and hopefully as you read this I am out of range for you to throw a highlighter at my head, I think I'm pretty safe. So without further ado, allow me to present you with my unsolicited book reading advice.

The Great Gatsby, A Little History of Philosophy, Cold Comfort Farm and Just William

The Great Gatsby

I know, I know, a classic is never a great way to ease yourself into a summer of reading. But I promise you, this book is different. The Great Gatsby is astoundingly readable, the story flows so smoothly you'll almost forget that you're not living it yourself. It's always difficult to attempt to justify reading a novel so deeply ingrained in the past, when there seem to be a thousand new books thrown at you ever second that you "just can't miss", but The Great Gatsby remains profoundly relevant, entertaining and addicting despite its age. Plus, it's a great way to subtly brag to your friends – which is what bettering yourself is all about- with lines such as "That muesli bar is my green light," or "You are being such a Daisy right now." – That last one's a real burn by the way.

A Little History of Philosophy

Ok, I know I'm pushing it now— but stick with me. A little history of philosophy is the best history book I have ever read: its concise, it's fun and it's not so full of itself that you feel slightly insecure after reading it. The book goes from philosopher to philosopher throughout history, starting with Socrates and going up through the ranks, and exploring everything from hedonism to animism making the history of philosophy seem like a bed time story and not a textbook you want to throw at a wall. Each chapter is short, informative and a great talking point when you want to make yourself sound smarter, for instance: "That's a very consequentialist take on the situation," or "I really don't think Plato would agree with you there Sir, seeing as...".

Cold Comfort Farm

I'm a little biased on this one, but I promise you Cold Comfort Farm is something you have to read at some point in your life. The book follows Flora Post, a young English girl, as she meets and lives with her very eccentric family in the English country side. Now before your eyes glaze over and you go to the next recommendation, let me assure this is not Anne of Green Gables rolling fields and endearing characters. There are demented grandmothers who refuse to leave attics, mono-syllabic farm hands with aspiration to become film stars, babbling authors who should really just keep their opinions to themselves, and preachers who think that all of humanity should go to hell. All under one roof. I'm telling you, you get a classical equivalent of reality tv, and brag to your friends about being well read! It's a win win!

Just William

Just William is the perfect series to become addicted to over the holidays. Each Just William book has many stories about the mischievous, ridiculous schoolboy that is William. With classic literature, it's very easy to grow to expect the same trope over and over again – especially when you encounter enough "mischievous young boys" to create a boarding school. But Just William has the wit and humour to put other novels to shame, as it tells stories of William being the great, great, great, great grandson of William Shakespeare himself, William becoming a figure in the wax shows, William stealing his brothers valentine and, of course, William running a candy store. I truly don't think words can describe just how charming and memorable this series is, it's perfect to listen to over long car trips or snuggle up with for a story before bed.

Happy reading!

By Violet FitzSimons, Year 9

BRONZE DOE



GOOD & OTHER NEWS

Year 12 Geography Excursion

As part of their study unit Ecosystems at Risk, the Year 12 Geography class recently visited Long Reef and Cronulla on the Northern Beaches of Sydney. At Long Reef, the students investigated an intact coastal dune ecosystem using a variety of field work techniques, before moving on to observe the consequences of severe wave erosion at Collaroy caused by the 2021 storms. The students also documented the recent attempts made to manage this stretch of coastline.



OXLEY SHOP- CLOSED

From Tuesday 14 June until Thursday 16 June the Oxley Shop will be closed. If you have an urgent request, please contact the College on 4861 1366. The Shop will be open for normal trading hours during the last week of term from Tuesday 21 June until Thursday 23 June from 8.30am - 4.00pm. During the holidays it will be open from Tuesday to Thursday each week.

Duke of Ed

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's International Award – Adventurous Journey

Last Sunday 5 June and Monday 6 June, Year 9 students embarked from Oxley bound for Shoalhaven Heads. This was the start of a two-day hiking expedition to practice for their qualifying journey in September. The weather was favourable, but the first day long, testing the fitness of the two groups. Highlights included high jinks on beautiful Seven Mile Beach and a gorgeous sunset over the Illawarra coastline and escarpment. Running almost on empty up the last few hills, there was a collective sigh of relief as the entrance to the campsite at Werri beach was approached in the rapidly fading light. Nursing sore feet and shoulders, the groups enjoyed dinner, Paddy's birthday cake and games of Mafia under a clear, moonlit sky, before heading off to bed, all oblivious to what was to come.

At precisely 4.20 a.m., the calmness of the night was rudely disturbed by a howling gale! Startled students were seen huddling for safety in tents stripped of their flysheets, while others chased hysterically around the campsite searching for items lifted and carried away by the tremendous gusts of wind. Battening down the hatches, all returned to sleeping bags to grab a last couple of hours of rest.

The following morning was sunny but still very windy, so the groups hunkered down in the camp kitchen to retrieve gear, review their packing and to route plan for the day ahead. The second day witnessed the groups snaking their way along the coastal path, trying to stay upright against the unpredictable westerly gusts. As these subsided, the students were treated to fine views of the mighty cliffs, rock platforms, green hills and an azure sea, before finally descending onto Surf beach and the welcome sight of the bus at Kiama. It was truly an eventful journey, but all survived the heavy packs and vagaries of the weather with true grit and Oxley spirit...

By Mr Tim Dibdin

NATIONAL ART SCHOOL

Congratulations to Lara Fischer, Year 11, who has been accepted into a selective HSC Intensive Art Programme at the National Art School as a day student.

There was a highly competitive field with over 200 applicants with a final selection of 12 students. This will enhance Lara's senses of the artworld and will provide a specialised environment.

In 2021, Bri Grice, Year 12 was also selected into this intensive programme.



The Food Service Mafia

I have never considered myself the dodgy looking type. I'm pretty lanky, I've got a decent set of dimples and I will squeal if presented with a puppy. This was of course, until I was accused of being apart of the food service mafia.

Let me explain.

I was working at this place that involved customers putting their food purchases into a machine. Pretty straightforward right? Click on the nice little photo, buy the food, everyone's happy. So there I was, working my first ever shift at this fine establishment and I kid you not, at least 15 people asked within the first hour if I was attempting to overcharge them.

I would point at the screen, and explain that being an inanimate object it had no ill intent. Me, being the only human aside from the customer (who of course could do no wrong) in this situation, had to do my best to convince them I was not a part of an underground food service scam. Though after about the 6th customer who accused me of theft, I thought the prospect of the food service mafia didn't sound too bad.

Operation: Bird Brain

A few years ago, I worked at my parents' lodge several afternoons a week. I was paid \$10 an hour to wash dishes, unpack picnics, and serve afternoon tea to the guests. However, this job also included some strange chores, including guarding the buffet table from hungry birds. Yes, these birds were so confident that they would swoop down and steal food from the table the moment your back was turned. Black birds, Silvereyes, Swallows, and Buff-banded rails would all go straight for the cake.

The kitchen doors were usually left open, because if they weren't, the steam from the ancient dishwasher would turn the whole place into a sauna. Birds were constantly wandering inside and getting lost. Naturally, it was my job to chase them out. It was incredibly frustrating work, chasing the stupid bird around the whole interior of the lodge, before it would end up in a corner, panic, and do a nice poo on the carpet. Guess whose job it was to clean that up? Each time I managed to shoo one outside, another would wander in half an hour later. We don't have the expression "bird brain" for nothing!

Work Experience is a new anonymous student voice column in the PinOak, for kids to pass on funny stories and cautionary tales from their part time jobs. Please contact Violet FitzSimons to submit your story.

NEWSFLASH

CHEMISTRY MARITIME MUSEUM EXCURSION

As a part of our preliminary chemistry course, the Year 11 chemistry students got to spend an exhilarating day in Sydney at the national maritime mu-sea-um, to commence our depth study segment of the course. Our presenters Al and Diane took us through a special staff entrance to the workshop room where the first part of the program began. Al, who is quite the character, introduced us to what we would be investigating, marine archaeology and conservation! You may be wondering how this relates to chemistry, at this point we all were, but then we got introduced to the almighty 'Location' factor. After a shipwreck, the metals and timber that make up a ship begin to corrode in the ocean due to three main factors: salt, water, and oxygen. But the rate of corrosion and the amount of deformation of the artifacts are all impacted by the environmental impacts surrounding the shipwreck. We then got to conduct a mock assessment on different artifacts to identify what metals they were and what salts were responsible for their corrosion. Following this, we collected data using solutions to extract the salt from the metal to prevent further corrosion. Afterwards, Al and Diane took a group each for a tour of the mu-sea-um, where we learnt about how they conserve shipwrecks as war graves using electron discharge, the use of sacrificial metals, and how we almost lost the largest artifact from the first fleet! To finish such a wonderful day, we got denied entry onto the submarine. But we had all the time in the world to explore the 'vampire' navy vessel and eat a scrumptious lunch in the 'Harbour-Side' food court.

By Leah Halstead, Year 11

ALISTER HILL- FENCING

How long have you been Fencing for and what got you into the sport?

I've been Fencing for six years with the school offering it in Year 7, I initially wanted to try something a bit different, In the beginning I was terrible however I wanted to win against the Year 12s.

What does a training schedule look like for you, and how do you balance it between school/schoolwork?

I train every day apart from Tuesdays and sometimes Saturdays, at UTS, Sydney University, and at the NSW fencing centre, I try to study wherever I possibly can, whether that be as soon as I return, before school and after, and if possible I get lifts to study to and from Sydney in a car, Tuesdays are free for me so I normally fit as much study in as possible, the same goes for Sundays if I don't have a competition on.

What have been your proudest achievements?

Getting into the Australian squad and going to the Junior World Cup in Switzerland was a cool achievement for me.

Would you like to continue your Fencing journey in the future/when you leave school?

One hundred percent I'm going to continue it, it's something that I enjoy and that I think I'm alright at. In any capacity I will continue it, If I can get to the Olympics that would be pretty nice too.

By Beth Zupp, Year 11

MUNA

On Saturday 28 May, six Oxley students arrived at the Council Chambers in Moss Vale to denounce human rights and manipulate others to do the same – all the while wearing flowing, majestic outfits. No, this was not the Southern Highlands chapter of the Ku Klux Klan, but the 'inaugural' Southern Highlands Mock United Nations Assembly. Oxley presented two teams to the competition – Saudi Arabia (Jennifer Allan and Liam Verity of Year 12 and Sophie Dunn of Year 11) and India (Mackenzie Kane, Liam O'Connell and India O'Brien of Year 12). To give a quick run down of MUNA, each team must accurately represent their country whilst debating specific resolutions ranging from climate change to women's rights. nine teams from across the Highlands participated in the competition, each having undergone many hours of research and preparation into politics both literally and metaphorically foreign to our own. After numerous hours of debate and political negotiation (read: gaslighting and manipulation), Oxley was astonished to learn that not only had Saudi Arabia won the competition, but India had also come second! This means that the teams will go on to participate in the National MUNA on Tuesday 16 August hosted in Parliament House – along with the Southern Highland Christian School's German team. The whole ordeal, whilst challenging and strenuous, was nonetheless a lot of fun exploring different cultures and navigating the world of political tact. Now time for the sequel: Oxley takes on Canberra!

By Liam Verity, Year 12

