

# PIN OAK



ATHLETICS

DUKE OF ED

U R STRONG

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## Acknowledgement of Country

The writers, editors, and designers of Oxley's Pin Oak begin today by acknowledging the Gundungurra people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we learn and work and pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within the Oxley community.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

# MOSS VALE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE



## JUNIOR MEMBERS ARE BACK

**Newcomers encouraged – Ages 12-16**

- Fortnightly Friday evenings
  - 5.30pm-8.30pm
- Awesome new friendships
- Valuable life lessons
- Help protect our community
- Build confidence and knowledge around bushfires
- Zero commitment to become a fire-fighter
- Learn communications, pumps, equipment, and other lifesaving skills

[juniors@mossvalerfb.org.au](mailto:juniors@mossvalerfb.org.au)

Andrew (Juniors Co-ordinator) – 0448 746 721





# HEAD OF COLLEGE'S REPORT



In my past Principal roles, I often read a letter from a Boston High School Principal who wrote each year to her new staff and it applies equally as a message to parents:

"Dear Teacher,

I am the victim of a concentration camp. My eyes saw what no man should witness: gas chambers built by learned engineers; children poisoned by educated physicians; infants killed by trained nurses; women and babies shot and burned by high school and College graduates. So, I am suspicious of education. My request is: help your students become human. Reading, writing, and arithmetic are important only if they serve to make our children more human."

We strive at Oxley for good academic and co-curricular results that can be measured yet the main game will always remain about character and contribution.

Oxley must continue to promote the positive actions of imagination, creativity, empathy, striving, listening, and respecting difference in all that we do. We need to continue to promote inspiring human attributes. We need to work out what's meaningful in our lives and engage and be joyful about it; give generously to

others; connect deeply; be kind and of good cheer. We need to search for meaning and what it means to be truly human. We need to focus on what matters in life.

What matters – there is no better question to ask yourself than that.

By David Mulford, Interim Head of College

## BOARD UPDATE



After nine years of exemplary service, Mr Dennis Mudd OAM has retired from the Oxley College Board of Governors. At Mr Mudd's last Board meeting in June, Chairman of the Board of Governors, Dr Barnett, sincerely thanked Mr Mudd for his many years of governance and thanked him for sharing his great wisdom and experience. Mr Mudd wished everyone at the College well and we hope that Mr Mudd and his wife, Ruth, will continue to be part of the Oxley community attending many of our whole school functions into the future.

## P&F NEWS

Thank you to all those who have volunteered their time to help out with the Hungry Ox BBQ at Saturday Sport over the last term. It's been great to have so many new families volunteering – it really is a social place to be on a Saturday morning! With a few more rounds of competition to go we will continue to fire up the BBQ into August.

We are planning to hold some social events in September, as we hope the current 'wave' of sickness may have passed by then! Junior School parents should keep Friday 16 September free in their diaries and Senior School families can pencil in Friday 9 September – more details will follow soon.

Due to the recent rain and ground conditions at Bong Bong Racecourse our Oxley Equestrian Day has been postponed until Sunday 27 November 2022.

Our next P&F meeting will be held on Tuesday 9 August at 5.30pm via zoom. All parents are welcome to attend

the meeting and the zoom link will be sent out in the Junior and Senior School Bulletins next Friday.

Enjoy the sunshine this weekend!

By Megan Moore, President, Oxley College P&F



# HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL

## Year 12 – HSC Trial Examinations

It was great to see our Year 12 students make use of the Year 12 Study Centre over the July holidays, with many of them attending workshops and completing practice examinations in Weeks 2 and 3 of the winter break. A number of our Year 12s have been impacted by COVID-19 in these first two weeks of term and for them it has been a very frustrating time and we will continue to support them as they recover and return to school in the days ahead. We wish all of our Year 12s well in these next two weeks and have every confidence in each one of them.

## Mrs Emily Madden

This term Mrs Emily Madden is joining our Mathematics and Diverse Learning Departments from Launceston Church Grammar School, Tasmania. Mrs Madden is an experienced educator who in addition to teaching Mathematics has held leadership positions as a Senior Pastoral Care Co-ordinator at Wollondilly Anglican College and most recently as a Head of House at her previous school. In addition to her leadership roles and teaching Mathematics, Mrs Madden has a background in learning support and delivering mentoring programmes, as well as teaching PDHPE. We welcome Mrs Madden to Oxley.

## Philosophy

Philosophy, a NESA-approved Year 11 elective, has been a distinctive feature of the curriculum at Oxley since its inception in 2020. Unfortunately, NESA have made changes to the rules around such school-developed courses for Stage 6, which means that this will be the last year that we are able to offer the course. I remain hopeful that in the coming years NSW will come into line with other Australian states (and other countries), in developing such a course at Stage 6. In the meantime, we will be looking to incorporate much of the course into our Cornerstone programme from next year. A major focus of Year 11 Philosophy is epistemology – the theory of knowledge. Students are required to choose or develop a question about

the nature of knowledge, linking it to their HSC electives. This enables them to interrogate the acquisition of knowledge in those subjects, applying critical thinking skills to analyse fundamental questions that are relevant to their life experience. Below are some of the questions that students have explored in their presentations this week. There are, of course, no easy answers to any of these questions! Indeed, one of the key features for those of us that enjoy philosophy (and indeed the humanities more broadly) is that such subjects complicate – rather than simplify - aspects of human culture and society.



Perhaps some of the questions below could be the subject of a dinner table conversation in your home this weekend?

- Is myth and storytelling more important than science?
- What is the purpose of art?
- Is the concept of 'black swan' events valid?
- What is history – and is the pursuit of History a waste of time?
- "Art changes society more than it reflects society"- is this true?
- Is objectivity in History possible?
- How is progress achieved in science?
- Is there such a thing as 'good' art?

By Mark Case, Head of Senior School

## ATHLETICS RESULTS

2022 Senior School Athletics Carnival Champions and Points					
Age	Gender	Runner Up	House	Champion	House
12	Girls	Emilie Satchwell	Monash	Claudia Carpenter	Dobell
12	Boys	Anthony Neilson	Mawson	Blake Ramear	Florey
13	Girls	Olivia Hill	Florey	Amelia Legge	Florey
13	Boys	Bryce Rodger	Oodgeroo	Alexander Psarakis	Monash
14	Girls	Klaudia McKinnon	Monash	Helena Wright	Florey
14	Boys	Archie Carter	Dobell	Archie Cosgriff	Dobell
15	Girls	Annabel Arnot	Monash	Xanthe MacDonald	Durack
15	Boys	Harry Kirsch	Dobell	Ben Hogan	Mawson
16	Girls	Amelia May	Dobell	Leah Halstead	Durack
16	Boys	Joseph O'Shannessy	Monash	Phoenix Sparke	Oodgeroo
17	Girls	Lily Hogan	Mawson	Sophie Dunn	Monash
17	Boys	n/a		Christian Gallina	Monash
				Finn O'Mahoney	Mawson
18+	Girls	Camille Falshaw	Durack	Olivia Bow	Dobell
18+	Boys	Lachlan Sell	Florey	Rex Sparke	Oodgeroo
House Championship					
Place	Points	House			
6th	1,111	Durack			
4th	1,195	Mawson			
4th	1,195	Florey			
3rd	1,279	Monash			
2nd	1,315	Oodgeroo			
1st	1,435	Dobell			
New Records					
Amelia May	16 Girls 1500m	5:15.42 replacing 5:34.04			
	16 Girls 800m	2:36.36 replacing 2:38.68			
Sophie Dunn	17 Girls Triple Jump	10.11 replacing 9.51			
	17 Girls Long Jump	4.60 replacing 4.57			
Dobell	Junior Boys Relay	57.11 replacing 58.34			
Mawson	Senior Girls Relay	1:01.90 replacing 1:02.89			

2022 Junior School Athletics Carnival Champions and Points					
Age	Gender	Runner Up	House	Champion	House
8yrs-10yrs	Girls	Phoebe Burton	Chisholm	Gabi von Sperl	Walton
8yrs-10yrs	Boys	Chase Holmes	Walton	Lucas Hill	Flynn
11yrs	Girls	Sapphire Sparke	Chisholm	Ella Reilly	Flynn
11yrs	Boys	Augustus Moore	Chisholm	Oscar le Guay	Flynn
12yrs	Girls	Piper O'Sullivan	Walton	Coco Sewell	Flynn
		Charlotte Gordon	Flynn		
12yrs	Boys	Henry Burton	Chisholm	Harry Keats	Walton
House Championship					
Place	Points	House			
3rd	950	Chisholm			
2nd	1,038	Walton			
1st	1,180	Flynn			
New Records					
Harry Keats (Walton)	12yrs Boys 100m	12.83 replacing 13.27			
	12yrs Boys 200m	27.27 replacing 28.49			
	12yrs Boys 800m	2:36.61 replacing 2:40.51			
	12yrs Boys 1500m	5:18.39			
Coco Sewell (Flynn)	12yrs Girls 1500m	7:06.52			
Lucas Drelaud (Chisholm)	11yrs Boys 1500m	6:11.36			
Pixie Hanson (Flynn)	11yrs Girls 800m	2:46.86 replacing 2:59.97			
	11yrs Girls 1500m	5:46.86			
Lucas Hill (Flynn)	10yrs Boys 100m	14.65 replacing 14.68			
Louisa Wright (Flynn)	10yrs Girls 100m	15.58 replacing 15.64			
Chase Holmes (Walton)	Junior Boys 1500m	6:38.17			
Phoebe Burton (Chisholm)	Junior Girls 1500m	7:32.33			
Walton	Senior Boys Relay	1:03.86 replacing 1:04.70			

# DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM

## Why Geography?

"The study of geography is about more than just memorising places on a map. It's about understanding the complexity of our world, appreciating the diversity of cultures that exists across continents. And in the end, it's about using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together."

*Barack Obama (President, United States of America, 2009-2017)*

Semester 2 will allow our geographers to explore a wide variety of issues and access wonderful experiences: Year 7 will have the opportunity to travel to Mt Keira to undertake fieldwork as part of a unit on landscape and landforms, Year 8 will learn about the importance of water management in our Shire by visiting the Wingecarribee Water treatment works, Year 9 will appreciate the implications of the war in Ukraine on global food security, Year 10 will witness first-hand the changes that are occurring on our coastline and investigate strategies to manage the changes, Year 11 will make use of the recently released census data and investigate the issues arising from population changes while our Year 12 geographers will be putting the finishing touches to their school geography journey as they embark on the HSC.

But what can you do with geography beyond school? The Australian Geography Teachers Association has recently published the GoWithGeo website - [www.gowithgeo.com.au](http://www.gowithgeo.com.au) which provides valuable insights into the multiple career options available to geographers beyond school. International development, urban planning, meteorology, hazard mitigation, conservation and land management, remote sensing, real estate and surveying. This list goes on.

While we look forward to the opportunities in Semester 2, it is wonderful to celebrate the achievements of students who studied Geography in Semester 1. These students had the opportunity to take part in the 2022 Australian Geography competition and we are really proud of how our students performed. Nineteen students in Years 7 to 11 achieved a Distinction which placed them in the top 20% of their age group in Australia while 12 students in Years 7 to 11 achieved a High Distinction that placed them in the top 10% in their age group in Australia. Fraser Findlay (Year 7) was the best performing Oxley student and his result placed him in the top 1% in his age group in Australia.

The annual competition, entered by over 70 000 students, tests the cognitive domains of knowing, applying and reasoning. 'Knowing' addresses the student's ability to recall, recognise, describe and provide examples of facts, concepts and procedures that are necessary for a solid foundation in geography. 'Applying' focuses on using this knowledge to compare, contrast and classify concepts, generating explanations and solving practical problems, while 'reasoning' includes using evidence and geographic understanding to analyse, synthesise and generalise, often in unfamiliar situations and complex contexts. Surely these are valuable skills for all learners that will help to set them up for success whatever they go on to do beyond school?

By Ruth Shedden, Head of Social Sciences

Year 7 Fraser Findlay	Top 1%
Year 11 Courteney Butcher	High Distinction
Year 10 Kyle George	High Distinction
Year 10 Mikey O'Connor	High Distinction
Year 9 Clementine Heinrich	High Distinction
Year 8 Lucy Anderson	High Distinction
Year 8 Isaac Bertollo	High Distinction
Year 8 Emily Byrne	High Distinction
Year 8 Gemma Fraser	High Distinction
Year 8 Harris Keith	High Distinction
Year 8 Jude Ottaviano	High Distinction
Year 7 Caelan Granger	High Distinction
Year 7 Oscar Vasak	High Distinction
Year 11 Matt Smith	Distinction
Year 10 Lily Bingham	Distinction
Year 10 Oscar Davis-Rice	Distinction
Year 10 Phoebe Pratten	Distinction
Year 10 Marla Washbourne	Distinction
Year 9 Banjo Campbell	Distinction
Year 9 Harrison Kirsch	Distinction
Year 9 Sophie Spring	Distinction
Year 9 Elise Steppat	Distinction
Year 9 Isla Terry	Distinction
Year 9 Maxime Trudeau	Distinction
Year 8 William Cavanough	Distinction
Year 8 Oscar Craigie	Distinction
Year 8 Harry Kean	Distinction
Year 8 Ella Loiterton	Distinction
Year 8 Maya Reilly	Distinction
Year 7 Samuel Barrett-Lennard	Distinction
Year 7 Thomas Bode	Distinction
Year 7 Alexander Cochrane-Ryan	Distinction





# JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

## UR Strong Social Skills Programme

As the author Paulo Coelho said, 'Friendship isn't one big thing, it's a million little things'. Here in the Oxley College Junior School, we have been doing 'a million little things' as we put into practice the skills we've been learning through the UR Strong ([www.urstrong.com](http://www.urstrong.com)) social skills programme.

Research has shown that the strongest predictor of happiness is the strength of your social connections. The aim of UR Strong is to help create a kinder world by empowering students with friendship skills. This strengths-based programme comes out of Canada and was developed from research conducted by founder and teacher, Dana Kerford, who has worked directly with teachers in the Junior School. UR Strong helps children form a solid foundation of effective functioning, conflict resolution and interpersonal skills.

As well as our Term 2 'Friendship Day', classes have been participating in both weekly Personal Development and Health lessons that address common themes in friendships:

- Self-compassion
- Making and keeping friends
- Understanding what a healthy friendship looks like
- How to respond to conflicts in friendships
- The importance of trust and respect

Fostering a culture of kindness here at Oxley College where students feel safe, secure, valued and seen is one of our highest priorities. We know that there is a strong relationship between children's mental state and academic success and learning, and UR Strong is helping us to develop a common language and shared values across Kindergarten to Year 6. In the words of our students:

"Trust and respect are the two most important qualities of friendships." – Clara

"The friend-o-meter can go from the red zone to the green zone. When you're in the green zone, you know you have a healthy friendship." - Clementine

"It's important to include people so they don't feel left out." - Hugo

"There are always ups and downs in friendships." – George R.

"No friendship is perfect." – Freddy George R – there are always ups and downs in your friendships

"A friendship fire is when something isn't going your way. When there's a friendship fire, you try and compromise so you're both happy." - Jordan

It's really important that we keep an eye out for each other and if someone's feeling unhappy, include them in your game." - Charlotte

"Friendships change and that's OK." - Charlie

By Alison Rasheed, Stage 2 Coordinator

## Term 3 Library News

It's a very exciting term in the Library, with a number of literary events occurring. Please see below the events that parents need to be aware of.

**BOOK WEEK (Monday 22 August – Friday 26 August)**

We will be celebrating Junior School Book Week with a range of events throughout the week. Parents, please support your child in being prepared for the following days;

- Tuesday 23 August: Book Parade. Students are to come to school dressed in a costume inspired by their book of choice. Students will also need to have a copy of the book with them while parading. Parents are invited to attend the parade, wearing a mask. Subject to Covid-19 restrictions, the parade will be held in the PCC or the JS Courtyard.

- Thursday 25 August: Book Donations: We would appreciate any book donations to be given to local communities. Please only send in fiction children's books (no non-fiction or magazines, thank you.) Please ensure books are in good condition. Students are to bring these books in on the day.

## NSW PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE (closes Friday 19 August)

Information regarding the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge was sent out earlier in the year. Your child has a username and password, which has been printed and given to them by their classroom teacher. Please support your child in logging in to the PRC website and completing their list of books read so far in 2022.

By Belinda Candelori



## Weekly Awards

### Learning Journey

K: Ellery Black  
Yr 1: Albie Fisher  
Yr 2: Beth Plain  
Yr 3B: Harrison Southcombe  
Yr 3R: Albert Herrmann  
Yr 4A: Charlie Officer  
Yr 4W: Ruby Groom  
Yr 5M: Anna Sutherland  
Yr 5N: Elodie Ahern  
Yr 6H: Freddy Florida  
Yr 6S: Piper O'Sullivan

### Oxley Values

K: Oliver Barton  
Yr 1: Nolan Rees  
Yr 2: Harry Adams  
Yr 3B: Xavier Halstead  
Yr 3R: Chloe Watson  
Yr 4A: Chase Holmes  
Yr 4W: Ian Phillips  
Yr 5M: William Kean  
Yr 5N: Harry Gaunt  
Yr 6H: Charlotte Gordon  
Yr 6S: Ed Hunt

### SRC Semester 2

K, Grace Barnett, Ben Cadden  
1 Clara Peebles, Isabella Francipane  
2, Harry Adams, Naomi Robertson  
3B, Harrison Southcombe, Heidi Sinclair-Hill  
3R, Chloe Watson, Elliot Hansen-Burns  
4W, Max Gully, Clem Paterson  
4A, Lucas Hill, Darcy Jones  
5M, Thomas Berry, Hadley Morgan  
5N, Harry Gaunt, Teddy Blom  
6S, Marshall Devlin, Theo Evans  
6H, Jake Linde, Brodie Murray

### Learning Journey

K: Christo Galwey  
Yr 1: Isabella Francipane  
Yr 2: Esther Saviana  
Yr 3B: Angus Sheer  
Yr 3R: James Gregory  
Yr 4A: Zara Finlayson  
Yr 4W: Lucas Hill  
Yr 5M: Thomas Berry  
Yr 5N: Isabella Sicari  
Yr 6H: Ethan Smith  
Yr 6S: Grace Kean

### Oxley Values

K: Isabella Horne  
Yr 1: Magnus Rasheed  
Yr 2: Vryan Black  
Yr 3B: Rose Hurst  
Yr 3R: Maggie Rees  
Yr 4A: Annabel Bertollo  
Yr 4W: Nina Zelunzuk  
Yr 5M: Adelina Rahme  
Yr 5N: Oscar Le Guay  
Yr 6H: Max Greenfield  
Yr 6S: Sam Cottle





# JUNIOR GALLERY





## FEATURE

# The Feminine Voice



Olivia Rodrigo is a nine-teen-year-old girl who writes songs and sings those songs in front of thousands of people. And yet, despite the fact that society never expected anything more of her, Olivia managed to voice the opinions of millions of women across the globe on a deeply controversial, and often taboo issue. How did this happen?

As per usual, Oliva stepped onto the Glastonbury stage in a fabulous pop star outfit, and sang her songs accompanied by thousands of voices. What happened after this was something truly incredible, those thousands of voices stayed with Olivia as she got up from her piano and spoke about the overturning of Roe v Wade, which had occurred only hours earlier in the USA. Here is what she said:

"I'm devastated and terrified. So many women and so many girls are going to die because of this. I wanted to dedicate this next song to the five members of the Supreme Court who have showed us that at the end of the day, they truly don't give a s\*\*\* about freedom. The song is for the justices: Samuel Alito, Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch, Amy Coney Barrett, Brett Kavanaugh. We hate you."

And she proceeded to sing "F\*\*\* You" to the supreme court, with the entire crowd of Glastonbury singing passionately along with her.

To some, this action is easily dismissed as childish and volatile. A young woman was upset about the state of politics in her country and decided to sing about via a song jam-packed with the f bomb.

But this moment is so much more than that. Olivia, through this short speech, showed bravery and maturity beyond her years. Through one paragraph, she encapsulated the views of millions of women who previously were unable to express their opinions

on the Supreme Court's recent decision. Who were unable to succinctly show how heartbroken they were to have this decision go ahead. Who were unable to publicly take a stand against the Supreme Court justices, by listing them each by name, one by one.

It's not very often we get to see a woman express herself so well in our society. We aren't really given that much of an opportunity to learn to express our opinions or craft our stories. At dinners, men are the people expected to regale the table with anecdotes, while women often interject with details but very rarely get the opportunity to launch into a story themselves. At barbecues, men often huddle around the grill while women sit a completely separate circle. These small actions, these habits seem irrelevant, without impact.

But the ability to tell a story, to express yourself is something that women have often struggled to attain. Not because they don't have brilliant stories, and valuable opinions but because women simply don't have the practice. As a result of this, when reacting to the issue of Roe v Wade we often see young women stuttering and stumbling over their thoughts. The extreme emotion of an issue such as this making it almost impossible to succinctly voice exactly how you're feeling and why.

And Olivia did just that. Through her gift for storytelling, through her bravery to express herself, and through her youthful clarity she shared a message millions of women wanted the supreme court to hear.

That's not to say that all women agree with Olivia's perspective, or her political stances. And they have every right and reason not to. But that's not what this moment is about. It's not about the two sides of American politics disagreeing, or who is right or



wrong. This moment is a moment of unity for a group of women who struggled to vocalize the pain and fear they felt, and had their message delivered on the global stage by a teenage girl who wasn't afraid to talk about politics in a pretty dress.

That's one of the most moving things about this moment, the fact that Olivia changed nothing about herself to present her message. She didn't slip into a modest suit or attempt to use words usually reserved for English essays: she spoke her mind just as she was, just how she felt. As a young woman who has had her fair share of speaking competitions and debates, there's often a distinctly unfeminine feeling to the entire event.

To be respected, to be listened to, young girls are often encouraged to adopt masculine traits. To wear their hair back, to abandon the way they would normally speak, to present themselves so that their femininity isn't distracting or ostentatious. The thought of getting up in front of a crowd in a crop top, mini-skirt and fish net stockings to discuss politics is something that would never have even crossed young women's minds - and yet Olivia did it. Olivia got up there and showed the world that femininity isn't something to be diminished when discussing a topic that is extreme in its severity - it is something to be proud of.

Especially with a topic such as Roe v Wade, the fact that femininity is something lacking in the conversation is completely ridiculous. That age old stereotype that femininity means emotion, loose lips and innocence seems to linger in our political discourse, and as a result it's almost impossible for women to truly vocalize how they feel about the issue. How are you supposed to discuss something that offends the very essence of who you are as a woman, without sounding or acting like a woman? How are you supposed to adopt masculine traits, when the issue is so deeply entwined with feminine culture?

If you'll allow me to let you in on a secret: teenage girls are very aware of the fact that they can be emotional, that they can speak out of turn and discuss things that might be beyond their years. But by no means do these traits make us weak, or ridiculous,

or somehow less equipped to express ourselves. But, as we go through life, time and time again we are presented with a list of ways to make ourselves more respectable, presentable - more successful. Almost every time, the key is to adopt more masculine traits. Femininity has become a synonym for "weakness", and as a result in political discourse it's become a habit for women to hide traits or habits that seem overtly feminine.

Somewhere along the line, whether it be through the lack of female storytelling or the association between femininity and weakness, we have lost sight of the fact that femininity is slowly fading from our conversations. Associating masculinity with respectability and strength has become a painful reflex, something we almost don't notice until something so jarringly different is presented in public discourse.

Olivia's youth and her choice to sing that song, on that day to those people, has forever altered society's perception of our own public discourse.

It's become apparent that youth, that simplicity, has been overridden by age old turns of phrase that are safe to weave through when you are attempting to make a point. So that's why it's so important that Olivia did what she did, and that's why her actions transcend the cause itself - no matter what you believe.

Because Olivia Rodrigo is a nineteen-year-old girl who writes songs.

And Olivia Rodrigo is a nineteen-year-old girl who has reminded us all that femininity is one of the most powerful things in the world.

By Violet FitzSimons, Year 9



# OLD OXLEYAN

## Linden Thornley class of 1998



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

- I studied Architecture at the University of South Australia and the University of New South Wales. My thesis project looked at public housing offerings for Remote Indigenous Communities in Central Australia.
- While at university I worked in a large commercial architect's office on larger scale projects including railway stations, a school and apartment and commercial office buildings.
- I then worked in a small architectural practice for 10 years on award winning private houses and public buildings, usually with a strong sustainability focus and often with a heritage overlay and lots of regional projects all across NSW and the NT.
- Then, I felt ready to take the plunge and set up my own practice. I now have two kids and am a registered Architect and Certified Passive House designer and my practice has been up and running for 8 years. The focus of my practice is on designing mostly houses to the International Passive House Standard. These buildings are designed to be really comfortable to live in and in doing so require up to 90% less energy to heat and cool them than a conventional Australian build.

- Why passive house design? Today buildings and their use account for 39% of carbon emissions. Through doing what we do with Passive House and similar Near Net Zero Energy Building Standards we can halve that 39% of Carbon emissions and ultimately live more comfortably, simply through better and more rigorous design and building. This is something that I am passionate about leading both in my local community in Sydney, back home in the Highlands and beyond.

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

By Year 12 I had a pretty clear intention to become an Architect and have my own practice at some point, which I achieved. What was different was that as student I always viewed architecture as primarily a creative and aesthetic endeavour, what I didn't realise then was how small a part that aspect is of the work I do and just how significantly my leadership skills, communication skills and broader understanding of science and geography and the environment has on the projects that I lead.

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

Alongside my beautiful family, one of my proudest achievements is the recent completion of my own house in Sydney's Inner West. It is my first completed Passive House Project and a model for future new houses in cities. It is approximately two thirds the size of your average Australian family home (156sqm), while still accommodating four bedrooms and three bathrooms, and is very comfortable to live

in. We have managed this with really careful use of space and height, prioritising the living areas and access to light, minimising single use spaces like hallways, and keeping bedrooms and bathrooms small but also luxurious to use, interesting and fun.

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

Oxley gave me a breadth of experiences and opportunities that made me an effective leader, an independent, resilient, and capable person and the ability to think critically about what I am doing and how I want to achieve things in my life. Essentially a confidence in myself to achieve what I believe in.

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

Chris Welsh was the Headmaster, during my time at Oxley. He helped me to look at my skillset and interests which ranged from music, sport and outdoor pursuits, to design, science and geography and help me to choose Architecture as my profession. I will always be grateful for this suggestion.

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

School is a lot more than achieving really well academically, it is a foundation to your values and interests and the building blocks to the way that you think and conduct yourself as an adult. For me, non-core subjects that I chose like geography and general studies ended up being more useful than my design and technology classes that at the time I thought were key. I didn't do brilliantly academically at school, but I have done really well at university and beyond, and it was probably the broader co-curricular experiences that helped with that, like learning independence, resilience, leadership and determination, rather than my academic achievement.





# INSPIRATION



## BOOK

*A Good Girl's Guide to Murder*

Suspense. High school. Murder. This is the book "A Good Girl's Guide to Murder" by Holly Jackson, the first in a mystery trilogy.

The plot is full of twists and keeps you guessing till the very end. It starts with a simple schoolgirl who chose a 'solved' murder case as the topic of her final-year project. The murder victim, Andie Bell, privileged, popular, and party girl. The murderer, Sal Singh aka the boyfriend, quiet, sensible, and smart. It was simple; Sal killed her and then out of guilt, killed himself, everyone in town knew it. However, Pippa Fitz-Amobi was convinced Sal was innocent. Pippa starts to uncover secrets leading her closer and closer to the truth; secrets that someone in the town desperately wants to keep hidden.

Reading this book is a form of addiction. Every page keeps you hooked with countless cliff-hangers, red herrings, and a blossoming relationship. The characterisation of the characters in this book makes you vividly imagine them and the journey they undergo. The book grips you until the very end and pulls at emotional hooks, creating a strong sense of empathy toward each and every character. Every plot twist has you going "What?! No!? How?!" and of course you have to keep reading.

Overall, A Good Girl's Guide to Murder is the perfect holiday mystery book; filled with plot twists and cliff-hangers leaving you wanting more after every chapter.

By Lucy Anderson, Year 8



## GAME

*Ireland vs The All Blacks*

On Saturday 16 July 2022 an extraordinary and welcome event, some might even say a miracle, occurred on a sporting field. For the first time since 1994, and only the fourth time in history, the mighty New Zealand "All Blacks" lost a test series on home turf. The team fell under the unbearable pressures and expectations set by its own people and the rest of the rugby playing world.

The Irish rugby team made history by winning a series to the legendary All Blacks in New Zealand, a team who is often considered the best ever team in any sport in any era – a remarkable win/loss ratio of over 75%! The Irish become the first touring team in the professional era to win a series on New Zealand soil. I'm sure everyone who watched will agree that it was excruciatingly close with the Irish holding off a fierce All Blacks fightback to claim an epic 32-22 win, with Ireland only being too able to relax in the closing seconds. So many teams playing against the All Blacks have grabbed defeat from the jaws of victory, and with the All Blacks so rarely beaten, there was almost an expectation that this would happen again on Saturday night. However, the All Blacks simply failed to improve their performance after being outplayed in the first half by the merciless Irish side. And now they suffer the consequences; their leading world ranking drops from 1st to 4th and have to bear the embarrassment of being replaced by the team that beat them, noting that, New Zealand have held the Number 1 world ranking longer than all other teams combined. Let's see how long Ireland can keep their newfound title of being Number 1 in the World – hopefully into and beyond the World Cup next year!

In the after match interviews, the Irish side were basking with pride. O'Mahoney said "This has never been done before, it's something I never thought was possible as a young fella, but now the young fellas back home will know this can be done." There are an inspiration to everybody. Showing that hard work and persistence - and a little charm - pays off because finally after 100 years of "try-ing", this Ireland team have ushered in a step-change in the art of the possible.

By Emilie Henderson, Year 7



## LOCATION

*Snowy Mountains NSW*

Bored with the same old rustic Southern Highlands? Been to that desert in the middle of Australia? Got kicked in the head by a kangaroo? (Ok, probably not that one. I wouldn't recommend trying it).

Have you ever wished you could go to the snow? Well, I know a great place! The Snowy Mountains are located along the border of Victoria and New South Wales. There is usually snow all winter. It is an alien place, filled with vast wilderness, mountains and valleys. Filled with alpine shrubs and mystical gum forests shrouded in snow...it is magical to listen to the crunch of snow under your feet and the gurgle of streams under ice, with the occasional echo of excited tourists. See the strange square-footed tracks of wombats, be surprised by the occasional emu, discover unique ice formations and trek scenic mountain trails!

There are tonnes of exciting activities awaiting you at the Snowy Mountains. You can slide down that exhilarating slope on your toboggan and watch the multi-coloured flash of thrill seekers whiz by (beware the out of control tobogganers!). Have that epic snowball fight you've always wanted or just relax and take in the beautiful sight of endless snowy forest with the fresh cold air on your face.

The Snowy Mountains are a four hour drive away from the Southern Highlands and can sometimes be exceptionally cold (pro tip: never get snow in your gloves, I found that out the hard way). However, the destination is worth the gruelling pain of a sore bottom. Prepare to have an awesome time and the occasional snowball pelted into your face!

By Thomas Clark, Year 9

# Brouhaha

To invoke the words of Grammy-award winning comedian and Singer-songwriter, Bo Burnham, "the world is changing". Much of the world's populace would never have anticipated that an era of such radical social change would be sweeping the world, very similar to the way that I, myself, never anticipated that Bo Burnham would be a Grammy-award winning songwriter. Major steps are being taken towards the end of unfounded bias and stereotyping, and while much of the world is moving into a time of social sensitivity, the past decade or so has unveiled a chasm beginning to open between sides of the political spectrum. And while, yes, Australia is its own country, separate to the, forgive me for saying, unfathomable chaos of United States politics, much of the world, and particularly the West, is massively influenced by the happenings of the USA.

This applies to many major debates, such as anti-abortion laws, the recent reversal of *Roe v. Wade* causing global uproar and much fear surrounding the potential ripple effect that this may have on other countries laws surrounding equitable access to contraception, accessibility to female-specific healthcare, and access to abortions for personal or health-related reasons. Others would include matters such as BLM and queer activism, modern day revolutions filtering down the ladder to reach the wider world, with the help of innovations like the internet, streaming services, and social media.

Bearing this in mind, however, the affairs of adults are not my concern. That is so say, they are not completely irrelevant either. Because, while many of the politically concerned high school level Oxleyans, staff members, and parents of the Oxley community will be well aware of the politics referenced above, the average youngster (or, to use an objectively fabulous word, whippersnapper) may not have any interest whatsoever in the political opinions and leaning of any which person. In fact, many little people may not even be aware that one may have any opinions concerning the validity of another's identity. Thoughts induce belief, in turn, influencing behaviours, and vast majority of a small child's serious opinions, outside of "Brussel sprouts are terrible", and "I like my jelly sandals", come from the beliefs and opinions of the adults and the limited access to outside influences that a child of eight may have, thus introducing the importance of quality children's literature.

In March of 2022, Florida's Governor Robert DeSantis, signed the "Parental Rights in Education Bill", popularly dubbed the "Don't Say Gay" laws. This stated that "classroom instruction . . . on sexual orientation or gender identity may not occur in kindergarten through grade 3 or in a manner that is not age-appropriate" and prohibited any and all "classroom discussion" on said topics. The very next month, Alabama's Governor Kay Ivey signed a bill holding striking similarity, and many other American states have comparable legislature pending. Following Texas' Governor Greg Abbot attempting to criminalise gender-affirming paediatric care and calling for state investigation to investigate the "availability of pornography" in the Texas public school system, Texas state representative Matt Krause released an 850 strong list of books that may potentially cause "psychological distress on account of the individual's race or sex." And so began a national censorship scheme, spearheaded by many conservative parents, a manhunt for books presenting critical race theory (eg., Ibram X. Kendi's "How to be an Antiracist") and many queer centred books for older readers, with the likes of Carmen Maria Machado's "In the Dream House" and Maia Kobabe's "Gender Queer" being condemned as "clearly pornographic". Not only are books for older readers being banned America-wide, but so are many innocently written picture books, such as "And Tango Makes Three" by husband and husband team, Justin Richardson, and Peter Parnell, and "Julián Is a Mermaid" by Jessica Love.

All the brouhaha surrounding representation in literature

tells me only one thing, and that is that more education, representation, and normalisation is absolutely required, not only across the board within the literature world, but starting from the ground up, with the future leaders and educators of the next 50 years. And I'm not the first to be saying it.

In 1970, publishing house "Lollipop Power" was launched, self-proclaimed "feminist collective that writes, illustrates, and publishes books to counteract sex-stereotyped behaviour and role models presented by society to young children." They released some of the first proper representations of queer people in kids lit, including "Jesse's dream skirt", a pioneering portrayal of a gender nonconforming pre-schooler, "When Megan Went Away", the first representation of lesbians in kids lit, and "Lots of Mommies", a picture book about a girl who is raised by her mother and three other women, making the first major steps towards reclassifying sexuality as a spectrum, instead of intensely fought divides. Unfortunately, their inexpensive, zine-like books never made it to mainstream, but in 1980, Alyson Publications began, a queer focussed publishing house, and released "Heather has Two Mommies" and "Daddy's Roommate". Unfortunately, many of Alyson Publications' books were impossibly dense for the age group it was intended to reach, and while it was a major hit among queer adults of the time, parents rarely encouraged their children to read it.

Many books within the kids lit space can be sorted into two distinct categories, and unfortunately that is also the case for much queer literature. Unfortunately, many books written about diversity are often intensely didactic, always serving to teach the reader a lesson, instead of simply being for pleasure. Kyle Lukoff, author of "Call me Max", a story about a young trans boy anxiously awaiting the birth of his baby brother, puts it quite well, saying that "There are books that are 'Once upon a time there was a character who was different, and everyone was mean to them,' and then at the end of the story you learned why you should be nice to people."

While representation in any form is important, one could argue that perhaps the most important kind is when characters "Just happen to be" an identity, the kind of books that do not make young kids feel like they will be bullied for who they are. While this may seem to be idealistic, some of the most valuable books of today's literature world are the ones which demonstrate that one may simply be themselves, without introducing the idea that they could be bullied for that, or to make an identity a source of conflict to a young and impressionable reader. Books like "The Story of Ferdinand" by Munro Leaf, "Julián Wants to be a Mermaid" by Jessica Love, the Percy Jackson series by Rick Riordan and "When Aidan Became a Brother" by Kyle Lukoff are so vitally important to children's literature, as they represent diversity in a way that is wholesome and normal, without condemnation or lecture involved.

So, while I may just be a "Gen-Z Snowflake", representation in literature remains to be vital to the future of the children's literature space, and while the world above their heads rages with the wilds of differing adult opinions, there is no reason for a child not to be exposed to the more diverse parts of our world, because with every child that sees themselves reflected on a page, and for every child that feels accepted as themselves, makes the world all the more colourful, beautiful, and interesting, and personally, I think that that will make the world all the better.

By Anouk Hakewill, Year 9

This article was inspired by New York Times article, "What Should a Queer Children's Book Do? How a vital, burgeoning genre of kid lit is being threatened across the country" by Jessica Winter, published July 11, 2022.



# SENIOR GALLERY





## Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award Qualifying Adventurous Journey

Towards the end of last term, 30 intrepid Year 10 and 11 participants, accompanied by Year 12 Gold students India O'Brien and Liam O'Connell, travelled to Spencer on the lower Hawkesbury River. On a glorious, still day, canoes were excitedly launched into Mangrove Creek and one boat immediately capsized!! The students revised their paddling skills and enjoyed a lovely day on the water. At camp, some fine cuisine (pesto pasta and bolognaise) was enjoyed, followed by some games, before everyone retired to their tents.

Overnight, the temperature plummeted and sleepy campers emerged to a thick frost and morning fog. After striking camp, the groups hit the track along a pretty valley, before looking for a route up the steep escarpment. It took two hours to find a suitable and safe way along the cliff line, but time was running short and daylight was fading. A decision was made to take a more direct route to camp through attractive forest, but even so tents had to be erected in the dark. Dinner, more games, star-gazing and group shoulder massages ended the evening.

Another fine day saw the groups head along the muddy track from whence they had come the previous night, before a steep ascent onto a ridge covered in magnificent gaia lilies, accompanied by the plaintive calls of the black cockatoos. This is where navigation became an issue since the features on the map had changed. Walking round in circles through a disused quarry and a paddock full of feisty thoroughbred horses was not much fun and again an adjustment to the route was enforced. A view of the bus was a welcome sight and everyone piled on before a final stop to enjoy ice creams and some well-earned zzzs on the journey home.

By Tim Dibdin

## The Southern Highlands - Behind the Seasonal Tourism

Every year the Southern Highlands experience an influx of tourism from all over the state. They search for tulips, autumn leaves, or a chilly weekend. But we have so much more to offer than meets the eye. If you're interested in agriculture, architecture, art, photography, history, media, journalism, and so much more, our beautiful shire can give you everything in our many antique stores scattered throughout the crowding towns.

Each store holds the secrets of our past, the endless supply of beautifully maintained antiques with over 100 years of love, experience and wisdom. Every piece of furniture, art, jewellery, or clothing... has a story that, if you look just a little further, you can uncover the most delicate details of past life in the Southern Highlands. For example, a discus used by an Australian Olympian in the 1916 Olympics has travelled the world and returned to its home. Or a leather trunk that may have come from England after WWI, but how will you know if you don't look further? Instead of just admiring from afar, go to the effort to observe it close up, read the attached blurb, or look at its features to acknowledge its uses. Did you know that here in the humble Highlands bubble, we have countless Campaign Furniture pieces used by our courageous soldiers during their enlistment and dedication to our country? You might even find some bargains for your room redecoration, or for your future apartment when you move into the big wide world.

What is the Highlands without our history? So why don't we, as proud Oxleyans, take the opportunity to admire it? You may learn something new, get inspiration for a project, find your new favourite reading chair or even get your hands on some vintage gaming consoles! The history of our ancestors is significant to understand and appreciate; without them, whom would we be today?

Next time you are in town, I challenge you this: go into a shop you would typically pass by and experience the roots of the Southern Highlands because they are profound!

By Leah Halstead, Year 11





# W<sup>o</sup>RK

## Experience

### Story one: Me and my new friend Betty

I work room service. Which wasn't really something I ever pictured myself doing if I'm being perfectly honest. When I was little, I always liked to think there were little fairies who came around the hotel and turned the sheets, replaced the soaps and folded the towels. So now that I myself am the mysterious towel fairy, it all felt a bit odd- especially since no one at the front desk had offered me a set of wings.

Anyway, I was walking through the corridor one day, wingless and grumpy as all teenagers are, when I knocked on the door of my last room of the day. I had my lolly lady esque trolley in front of me, the wheels tangling in on themselves every three seconds, and I was just about ready to tie all my towels together and propel down the side of the building if someone even said one wrong thing.

I knock. And I knock again. And again. Once I'm absolutely certain that I've given the possible serial killer inside ample time to escape, I push the door open and find myself face to face with an elderly woman, sitting on her bed in her robe, watching The British Bake Off. Betty, which I discovered that later was her name, didn't seem in the least bit bothered as I awkwardly stepped in, and continued to watch Bake-Off as I replaced and folded all her towels.

### Story two: To get a new sliding door for the laundry, or to not get a new sliding door for the laundry— that is the question

It was a completely normal day on the job, which of course meant that it was a completely boring day on the job. I sat at my desk, trying my best to not fall asleep and look I could put up a fight if someone tried to snag the cash register.

There weren't really even that many people in the store that day. Just an elderly couple who had walked in a good fifteen minutes ago and who had been staring in silence at the same sliding door for about fifteen minutes. To clarify, we do not sell sliding doors. It was just the front door to the store. So this couple was standing, dead still, completely silent, at the front door of our store and most likely scaring all the prospective customers away. So of course, I already loved them.

Then the man spoke "Do you think we should get this for the laundry darling?"

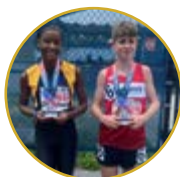
"Well love, I don't know."

This conversation continued for the next 70 minutes.

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

# NEWSFLASH

## HARRY KEATS IN THE US



During the July school holidays, Harry Keats, Year 6, travelled to the US to compete in the USATF National Youth Outdoor Championships (in Australia, all our events are outdoors but because of the harsh US winters they also have an indoor athletics season during winter). The USATF is the National Governing Body for USA Track and Field. It was a truly National event drawing competitors aged 8-18 years from even as far as Alaska and Hawaii. It was held at Icahn Stadium in NYC. Harry competed in two events for his age category: 400m and 800m. He ran heats before making it through to the finals and was the fastest qualifier going into both finals events. He won both events with the following times: 400m - 56.27 (one sec in front of second place); 800m - 2:10.52 (6 secs in front of 2nd place). The 400m dash in particular is a blue ribbon event in the US so his win in that was especially prestigious. An incredible achievement.

## CIS CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to Amelia May (Year 10), Harry Keats (Year 6) and Pixie Hanson (Year 5) who recently all competed at the NSW All Schools Cross Country as part of the CIS team. Congratulations to Amelia (1st), Harry (1st) and Pixie (13th). Amelia and Harry will now progress through to Nationals later in the year. Outstanding achievement by all three students.

## CROSS COUNTRY SKIING



Congratulations to Sapphire (Year 5), Chilli (Year 9) and Rex (Year 10) Sparke on their recent success in the NSWACT XC skiing at Perisher. In the NSW/ACT XC - U18 Men's gold for Phoenix, U16 Women's silver for Chilli and U12 Women's silver for Sapphire. At the Snow Australia Interschools Inaugural Nordic Day - Division 2 XC and Biathlon Gold medals for Phoenix, Division 2 XC and Biathlon Silver medals for Chilli, Division 4 XC and Biathlon Silver medals for Sapphire. Huge achievements.

## SNOWSPORTS TEAM



Congratulations to our Oxley Snowsports team who recently competed at the Snow Australia Regional Interschool Championships.

There were many triumphs but particular mention to the following students: Skier Cross Individual Silver medal Division 3 - Tom Campbell. Skier Cross Individual Silver medal Division 2 - Rocco Perrotta. Division 2 Boys team Silver medal in Alpine and Skier Cross - Rocco, Matteo and Salvatore Perrotta. Harry Kirsch came 7th overall in Moguls.

All five students should progress through to State Championships in August. We look forward to sharing an update after this event.

## FUTSAL- LEXIE KENNEDY

### Where did you go during the holidays?

I travelled to the US spending most of my time in and around San Francisco, specifically in Santa Clara and San Jose.

### What were you playing?

I was playing Futsal which is essentially a five-a-side version of football, generally played indoors and on a hard-court surface.

### Who were you representing?

I was selected to represent the Australian Futsal Association (AFA) 17's Girls team to compete at the 2022 US Futsal National Championship. The tour was for just over two weeks and involved a number of training sessions and pre-tournament friendly matches with local US futsal clubs. The actual National tournament went for four days.

### What were the highlights whilst you were over there, both on and off the court?

On the court, my highlights were being able to challenge myself when playing against players from across the US with high skill levels and scoring a goal at the National Championship. Off the court, being able to go to a Major League Baseball game, a Major League Soccer game, and experiencing local attractions such as Alcatraz and the fog covering the Golden Gate Bridge (we never actually got to see it)! A main highlight was the friendships formed within the Australian teams and with the San Jose Legends Futsal team. We were able to spend a weekend training and playing against the Legends who showed us a generous amount of hospitality and kindness, leading to the swapping of jerseys at the end of the National Championship.

### How did the team go overall?

Overall, we performed well as a team and worked hard to compete against some extremely strong US teams. However, we were knocked out in the quarter finals.

Lexie Kennedy (Year 11) was interviewed by Hannah Zupp (Year 11)

## PUBLIC SPEAKING

Yesterday, both Violet FitzSimons (Year 9) and Harry Kirsch (Year 9) were selected to move onto the Legacy Public Speaking Regional Finals. Their prepared and impromptu speeches were outstanding, and having two students progress from the same school is a wonderful achievement. Congratulations to Violet and Harry.

## ORIENTEERING

Rory Shedden (Year 6) has been selected in the NSW All Schools Orienteering Team to compete at the 2022 Australian Schools Orienteering Championships this September. Congratulations Rory.