

# PINOAK



ART

LANGUAGES

MUSIC

# CONTENTS

3. Head of College Report

4. Head of Senior School

5. Head of Languages

6. Head of Junior School

7. Junior Gallery

8-9. Big Issues

10. Inspiration

11-12. Feature

13. Senior Gallery

14. Good and Other News

15. Gen Z

16. News Flash

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## OXLEY COLLEGE EQUESTRIAN DAY

Sunday 27 Nov  
2022



'Wyeera',  
Bong Bong Picnic Racecourse,  
460 Kangaloon Road, Bowral.

All entries via: [www.nominate.com.au](http://www.nominate.com.au)

Entries open: 4 November 2022

Entries close: 20 November 2022

Open to all school age riders Yr K-12

\* Dressage \* Showjumping  
\* Show Horse \* Horsemanship

### ENQUIRIES:

Oxley college  
Kim.McNaught@oxley.nsw.edu.au  
Holly Kramer  
holly@kramernoad.com.au

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

2022



# HEAD OF COLLEGE'S REPORT



I am on the Board of MLC in Sydney. The Principal, Mrs Lisa Maloney and I worked together at Radford College in the early 2000's. She recently chaired a LawSense Seminar which focused on current and emerging issues for student health and wellbeing. She reported that one of the most alarming discussions was around the rapid uptake of vaping and the number of younger children who are regular users. According to a recent NSW Population Health Survey, the number of regular 'vape' users has doubled in the last year.

Vaping has been linked to increased risk of depression and anxiety, lung, and cardiac issues yet the content of vapes is totally unregulated. Vapes (a form of e-cigarette) are not water and the cloud/spray is not steam. The main ingredient is usually a form of glycol, and they can contain any one of a wider range of chemicals, and almost always, nicotine. The amount of nicotine in one vape can be the equivalent of that found in fifty or more cigarettes, making them highly addictive and dangerous. While it is illegal to sell e-cigarettes to those under 18, they are easily purchased from unscrupulous providers.

Unlike traditional cigarettes, vapes do not smell like smoke, making their use difficult to identify unless the user is observed. They can also have an appearance

similar to a USB or small pen, allowing their presence to be overlooked. Bathroom sensors in schools are proving to be unreliable and expensive.

High school student Ari Katz writing in the SMH (15 March 2022) stated:

"We know adults are largely oblivious to the scale of the problem, so how can we ask for help when we know the first reaction of the unprepared parent is likely to be a reprimand rather than a helping hand?"

Oxley, like any school, is not immune from this issue. Parents are encouraged to engage in meaningful discussions with their children about vaping. We will do our best to educate about vaping within the relevant academic and pastoral curriculums, but one-to-one discussions are always far more effective.

By Dr David Mulford, Interim Head of College

To celebrate the Transurban Public

Art Programme, high school students in Years 7-10 are invited to create their own artwork, inspired by the 21 signature art pieces that form 'Canal to Creek'. The theme for the Canal to Creek Prize is 'Connections'. We want you to consider connections to earth, culture, history, movement and environment. There's over \$15,000 in prizes to be won! Entries open Monday 15 August 2022 until Friday 4 November 2022, and winners are announced on Monday 30 January 2023.

We encourage you to explore the virtual world of Canal to Creek and be inspired by the many different types of artworks and all the wonderful ways these pieces were created

For more information, please see Mr Bentham, Miss Aitken or Mr Lloyd and check out the website: <https://canaltocreek.com/wcx/art/prize>

# HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL

## Term 4: OLE Week, Rites of Passage & Service Trips

OLE Week (Other Learning Experiences) is a long established multi-day/overnight programme at Oxley at the start of Term 4. Public Health Orders in 2020 and 2021 have prevented us from operating our traditional camps, as well as the opportunity for students to participate in service learning experiences in the wider community. OLE is a wonderful opportunity for students to explore new experiences with their peers in a supervised, supportive and sometimes challenging environment, and to immerse themselves in activities that we hope will extend and enrich their lives beyond the classroom. Below is an outline of the programmes students in Year 7-10 are engaged in at the start of Term 4. Further information about the specific programmes for each Year Group will be provided in due course.

### Year 7 OLE: Killalea & Minnamurra River (Week 2, Term 4)

Students will be camping in tents at a campsite in this beautiful area of the NSW South Coast. Students will engage in a variety of outdoor activities, including surfing, canoeing, stand up paddleboarding, mountain biking and Indigenous studies, as well as other activities. The four night camp will be run by Oxley staff, in partnership with Southbound Adventures.

### Year 8 OLE: The Royal National Park (Week 2, Term 4)

Students will be walking in The Royal National Park, camping at different location during the week. The four night camp meets the requirements for the International Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award Practice 'Adventurous Journey', which means that all students have the opportunity to undertake the Bronze Award in Year 9, should they choose to do so.

## Year 9: Rites of Passage (Weekdays, Week 1 and 2, Term 4)

Our distinctive Rites of Passage residential programme in Canberra and Sydney has been designed around Michael Carr-Gregg's identified needs for 14-16 year olds: to develop a strong sense of personal identity, to build healthy friendships, to experience emancipation from parents and to develop a vocational direction. Students will be visiting universities, museums, galleries and undertaking a diverse range of workshops in both cities.



## Year 10: Service Learning Trips / Work Experience (School holidays & Week 1, Term 4)

Service learning involves students gaining hands-on, real world experiences that promotes social and emotional development and the opportunity to make meaningful contributions to the wider community. This year there are three Service Learning Trips for Year 10: partnering with the Red Earth Organisation, a group of student and staff are travelling to Arnhem Land to work alongside and learn from the Indigenous community there. The Whitsundays trip will involve students learning about the ecologies of the rainforest and reef, impacts of climate change as well as participating in a collect, sort and recycle activity of debris on the Great Barrier Reef. A third group of staff and students will be going to Murrurundi in northern NSW, to engage in practical work assisting local farmers on the 'Rural Relief' trip. Students not on attending a trip in Week 1 also have the opportunity to engage in a Work Experience placement.

By Mark Case, Head of Senior School

## BURN BRIGHT: STEPPING UP WITH YEAR 10

Burn Bright is an organisation that works with teenagers across Australia to build leadership skills and positive relationships as an peer group. We started off with an activity that encouraged us to converse with different people who we may not talk to often. We were given a topic to talk about as a prompt; I am sure this would have been helpful for those who find it harder to talk to people outside of their usual friend group. We then moved on to another team building exercise where we had to get the entire cohort; around 100 people from one side of the skipping rope to the other without touching it. This exercise was unstructured, so we had to build a collective consensus and work as a team to complete the task. It took a lot of time but eventually we got everyone to the other side and there was certainly an improvement in our efficiency at working together by the end of this exercise. Another one of the activities in small groups were given was building a structure to support a marshmallow using stale spaghetti, tape and a marshmallow that appeared to have fought in both World Wars! The incursion certainly got us thinking - it's a great stepping stone in becoming closer as a peer group and something that makes the latter years of high school all the more enjoyable.

By Hamish Stephen, Year 10

The session with Burn Bright challenged and encouraged us to learn more about our own values, leadership, and teamwork. As a year group we took part in many activities for and were encouraged to focus more on what sort of person we are striving to be - we dug deeper in to our values and gained a greater understanding of ourselves and each other. For me, I found that this helped me gain a more detailed understanding of who I want to be and how I want people to view and perceive me. It was an extremely beneficial day both for our mental health and building self-belief.

By Oscar Plummer, Year 10

# HEAD OF LANGUAGES

Charlemagne famously said that to have another language is to possess a second soul, so we are so pleased to be able to provide our students with opportunities to learn French, Japanese and Latin at Oxley. Here is a brief snapshot of our students engaging with each language and culture this year.

**Japanese:** Our Year 10 class are honing their speaking skills this year. We have conducted a combined workshop at the Tanken Centre with students from International Grammar School and speaking sessions over Zoom with students at Tamashima Senior High School.

タンケンセンタはちょっとこわかったですね。そして、たのしかったです。ひるごはんはとてもおいしかったです。 - Jacob Munn, Year 10 Japanese

八月一日にタンケンセンターに行って日本語をれんしゅうしました。タンケンセンターはたのしくておもしろかったです。 - Kyle George, Year 10 Japanese

**French:** "After many months of correspondence with my French pen pal, last holidays I had the opportunity to live with her family in Eastern France. Whilst no doubt an experience of great highs, and a few less desirable moments, it was an invaluable experience in furthering my study of French and a wonderful opportunity for cultural immersion. L'herbe est toujours plus vert dans les autres pays, surtout ceux qui nous défont." - Patrick Muldoon, Year 11 French



**Latin:** Bracing ourselves for a translation covering the eruption of Vesuvius, lava cakes and tissues at the ready.

I love the grammar! I genuinely never thought I would say that - but the patterns and the meanings, as well as the English derivatives of the words are fascinating! - Violet FitzSimons, Year 9



**French:** Our very own French cuisine chef, Madame Phipps, will be making crêpes with her classes in Week 6 – what a treat!

J'aime les crêpes au Nutella et aux bananes pour le petit déjeuner. J'ai très hâte de manger une crêpe au chocolat avec la crème Chantilly !- Ellouise Law, Year 9



Year 7-9 Japanese classes engaged in a Taiko workshop with the fabulous performers from YuNiOn.

たいこはたのしいです。おもしろいです。 Eve Murray, Year 9



By Tricia Gibson, Head of Languages





## Weekly Awards

### Learning Journey

K: Charlie Motycka  
Yr 1: George Russell  
Yr 2: Otto Richards  
Yr 3B: Amelia Gordon  
Yr 3R: Sebastian Rahme  
Yr 4A: Anna-Sophia Psarakis  
Yr 4W: Bianca Bode  
Yr 5M: Charlotte Holmes  
Yr 5N: Samsara Pout  
Yr 6H: Thomas Adamson  
Yr 6S: Grace Kean

### Oxley Values

K: JJ Pierce  
Yr 1: Alessia Sicari  
Yr 2: Lachlan Sutherland  
Yr 3B: George Abreu  
Yr 3R: Abi Cullen  
Yr 4A: Max Guilly  
Yr 4W: Beatrix Pearce  
Yr 5M: Lisa Mussett  
Yr 5N: Victoria Feetham  
Yr 6H: Brodie Murray  
Yr 6S: Summer Johns

### Excellence in Japanese

Clementine Paterson  
Leo Le Guay

### Learning Journey

K: Pippa Rodgers  
Yr 1: Scarlett Drury  
Yr 2: Amelia Gaunt  
Yr 3B: Lilly Mansour  
Yr 3R: Chloe Motycka  
Yr 4A: Oscar Jones  
Yr 4W: Harvey Talbot  
Yr 5M: Ava Snowden  
Yr 5N: Eloise Richards  
Yr 6H: Coco Sewell  
Yr 6S: Brayden Anstee

### Oxley Values

K: Isaac Choo  
Yr 1: George Kindred  
Yr 2: Finn Kean  
Yr 3B: Heidi Sinclair-Hill  
Yr 3R: Elliot Hansen-Burns  
Yr 4A: Clementine Paterson  
Yr 4W: Robert Arnold  
Yr 5M: Robbie Clothier  
Yr 5N: Levi Olsen  
Yr 6H: Jett Loiterton  
Yr 6S: Edie Cavanough

### Excellence in Art

Madison Chamley  
Beatrix Pearce

### Excellence in Japanese

Jameson Clarke  
Xavier Halstead



## HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL



We have had a great week in the Junior School. Huge congratulations to our amazing Debaters. A group of Year 6 students grabbed the opportunity to learn the skills of debating having had very limited or no experience previously. Under the wonderful guidance of Jono Hunt, Victoria Rintoul, and Gill Case and Year 11 students Patrick Muldoon, Tyra Beckett and Breanna Billett, they have become confident and adventurous, courageous risk-takers! With each debate, they have improved and are developing the skills of teamwork and problem solving, having to think on their feet and to really be challenged in the moment. Outstanding success to reach the State Semi-Finals and we wish them well on August 24 when they go again – up against an opponent who is equally skilled. Go Team Oxley – Sam Cottle, Hailey Law, Henry Burton, Daphne Hutchison, Rory Shedden and Grace Kean.

*Last week we embarked on every debaters' dream, we clashed with TIGS (The Illawarra Grammar School) in the Sate Quarter Finals. We came out on top with the precarious topic- "All primary schools should teach the local Indigenous language". This was hard for the other team but they put up a great fight. We came out victorious and are now going to the state semi-finals. If we win that, we go to the Central Coast for the finals. I would like to thank everyone who made our debating journey what it is today. Sam Cottle*

*I have very much enjoyed participating in debating this year. I think it's great how our team always work hard, are able to have a laugh, and then get to work again. Thanks so much to all the people who have helped us along the way, we would not have been able to get to the State Semi-finals without you! Hayley Law*

We also celebrated 100 days of Kindergarten and it reminded us of the essential role that a school plays in the life of a young student. Our Kindergarten students are flourishing and it will be wonderful to continue to watch them grow over the next 100 days and beyond. Kelly Lees asked them what they will be doing when they are 100? Here are some of their reponses:

*I'm going to plant flowers every day and watch movies and eat lots of candy. Juliet*

*Driving a red hot rod. Ben*

*Playing tetris. Isaac*

Today, we welcomed a group of Heads of Junior School as part of the Independent Primary School Heads of Australia (IPSHA). This group of Junior School leaders are in the Southern Highlands attending a two day conference and thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Oxley. They were incredibly impressed with our students, staff and grounds. They commented on the pervading atmosphere of deeply engaged learning and that our students seemed very comfortable in their own skin. One Head observed that the school had a special feel and felt like a village, a real community.

It prompted me to reflect on the magic of Oxley which we should never take for granted.

By Jane Campion, Head of Junior School





# JUNIOR GALLERY





# ***Black Dog Institute***

### **Who are the Black dog institute?**

The Black Dog Institute is a not-for-profit facility for diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mood disorders such as depression, anxiety and bipolar disorder. First founded in 2002 by the UNSW School of Psychiatry Scientia Professor, Gordon Parker.

The Black Dog Institute undertakes research into treatment of early intervention and treatment of depression, bipolar disorder, PTSD, and anxiety. They partner with the Australian Centre for Research Excellence in Suicide Prevention (CRESP) concerned with lowering suicide rates in Australia. According to CRESP, suicide is the most common cause of death in Australians aged 15–44 years – more common than deaths from motor vehicle accidents or skin cancer and the tenth most common cause of death overall for Australian males. The problem is worse in rural and regional areas, according to a 2012 study by Griffith University.

The Black Dog Institute launched “Men’s Health Study” in 2014, with the aim of identifying ways to prevent male suicides and developing mental health tools designed specifically for men. Based on this research, the Black Dog Institute launched an online program, Man Central, that helps men identify early signs of depression and provides tips on how to cope.

Today, the Black Dogs Institutes focus has expanded to address new challenges and opportunities in mental health – suicide prevention, digital innovation, lived experience, youth and workplace mental health. Work in mood disorders continues through the investigation of new and better ways to treat and prevent conditions like anxiety and depression through digital tools and novel treatments.

### **Current initiatives**

With suicide becoming the leading cause of death in Australians aged 18-24, it is more important than ever for increased awareness nation-wide about the effects of anxiety and depression on people of all ages. The Black Dog Institute aims to do just that through the “Mullets for Mental health” programme.

As Mullets continue to become a staple of Australian culture, the goal is for them to become synonymous with comradery and the support of mental health. By capitalising on social media and an increased ease in “trend setting” TDBI hopes to see a renewed

upheaval in mental health awareness. During the COVID-19 pandemic, over 52 million additional cases of major depressive episodes were reported within the 18-25 age demographic. ‘Mullets for mental health’ will help to make research and support for these demographics accessible nation-wide

### **Mullets for Munz-**

The story behind a footy team that raised over a quarter million dollars.

The Mullets for Munz crew are all too familiar with the devastating impact of losing a loved one to suicide. Fundraising in 2021 was dedicated to the memory of their friend and classmate, Nick Munsie who was 18 years old when he took his own life. In 2021, the 100 strong high-school team dedicated their mullets to Nick and promoted mental health to help save lives.

“The purpose of cutting our mullets is to raise awareness for mental health. We aim to help break down the stigma that keeps men from speaking up. We hope that no one goes through the situation we have been through. It is avoidable.” says Harry, Team Captain.

The team went above and beyond to raise as much money as they can for mental health research and education. By week three of September 2021, they had already raised \$300,000 for Black Dog Institute. Community support and generosity was overwhelming, with local businesses and supporters receiving donation incentives, such as an online raffle.

By Finn O’Mahoney, Year 11





## BIG ISSUE

# Clothes Swap

100 million items of clothing are produced each year.

Three out of five fast fashion garments end up in landfill within a year of purchase.

One in every three Pin Oak readers will start to get sick of statistics at this point.

So, allow me to put these stats into context. The fast fashion industry is something I'm sure you've heard about. Or most likely been lectured about. Repeatedly. However, as a Year 8 geography student will tell you, the topic is so much deeper than a guilt trip.

During Year 8 Geography, all students are sat down and informed of the events of the Rana Plaza collapse. That lesson is not something any student is soon to forget. Once it's revealed that the fast fashion industry doesn't run on fairy dust and the phrase, she'll be right the awareness we have towards our clothing consumption heightens.

And that's where we come in.

That's right, the Environment Club is once again back in the Pin Oak and boy do we have some exciting news to you. Admittedly, we haven't had the best track record with news. As it turns out, starting every conversation with "you'll never believe what we talked about in the environment group," isn't the best way to make friends. But this dear Pin Oak readers, is different. This is breaking Oxley College news and you are definitely one of the first one hundred people to know about it.

Oxley College will be hosting its first ever clothes swap on Tuesday 29 November of Term 4!

Before you run screaming to your parents that we are becoming a nudist school, please allow me to emphasise that we will not be taking our school uniforms off and switching them around randomly. Instead, for the next term, you can bring in all your old clothes that you don't fit or just don't wear anymore to the college. We, the coolest group in the school, will be accepting clothes every Tuesday from now until Week 7 of Term 4, where you can drop them off at lunch times in Lib 1.

We will then tirelessly sort through your clothes, and organise them into sizes, genders and categories. Everything from business casual to beachy chic. Then, on the day, all students in Year 6-12 will come to the PCC and shop around the stalls of clothes, for free!

The goal of the clothes swap is to be more sustainable in our fashion choices. Due to the nature of the fast fashion industry, and the fact that our hormones have a sick sense of humour, a lot of clothes go through faster than Australia does prime ministers. This way, you can give a few pieces (or a few bags, if you so wish) of clothing up, and pick up some pieces that others don't need anymore.

More information will be given out in upcoming assemblies, daily notices and emails. So, if by some tragic turn of events, this article was ripped out of your hands and eaten by a polar bear, and what you are reading now is the only remaining scrap, never fear.

We encourage kids from Years 7-12 to donate clothes, as well as parents who may have some items that will serve kids well in the future (eg. some business casual pieces). We won't be accepting swimwear, underwear, rags, socks or random textiles in the clothes swap, but aside from that – go wild!

There may even be a bake sale or raffle on the day - so make sure to watch out for any updates!

To end the article with a bang- I thought I'd throw in a pun.

Here goes:

There was a debate suggesting the environment isn't that important after all,

It was pretty anti-climactic.

By Violet FitzSimons on behalf of the Oxley College Environment Group

**THE CLOTHES  
SWAP**  
ENVIRONMENT GROUP

# INSPIRATION



## FILM

### *The Rise of Star Wars*

I can personally tell you that Star Wars is the greatest film franchise of all time.

I may seem a little biased because I absolutely LOVE Star Wars! Everything about it is awesome - the soundtrack, storyline and the characters. I know lots of people who are completely obsessed with Star Wars, but how did it come to be so famous? Why is it so deeply immersed in some people's lives? And why is the Empire Strikes Back the best movie ever??? (No offense Star Trek fans)

Star Wars has been around for far longer than most of you reading this. And for people new to Star Wars, you would be surprised to know that the films did not start with an Episode I. Rather, it started with an Episode IV. Star Wars, Episode IV - A New Hope was first screened on the 27th of October 1977. That day, the legendary film franchise was born. That first scene of the Star Destroyer 'Avenger' chasing the unfortunate Tantive IV in a galaxy far, far away kicked in motion a film series that changed the world. This was followed on with the movie 'The Empire Strikes Back' (1980) and then 'Return of the Jedi' (1983). Then came the prequel trilogy (Episodes I-III). The Phantom Menace, Attack of the Clones and Revenge of the Sith were great hits in the worldwide film industry, followed by the sequel trilogy (Episodes VII- IX) 10 years later. The Skywalker saga was complete...

But why is Star Wars so popular?

That question got me scratching my head. I mean, don't get me wrong, Star Wars is cool with the lightsaber battles and blaster shootouts, but it couldn't just be that... Could it?

Two days, approximately 7 YouTube videos and 9 Star Wars movies later (alongside 4 hours' worth of neglected homework) I may or may not have an answer.

Star Wars is, to quote Marvel's Thanos, 'perfectly balanced, as all things should be'. It has a bit of everything. Fan of old Western shootouts? Watch the Mandalorian. Love a bit of romance? Episodes II, III, IV and VI are definitely for you. But, without a doubt, one of the things that makes Star Wars truly epic is most definitely... THE SOUNDTRACK.

If I had the opportunity, I would write at least 5 articles worth of praise and glory to the soundtrack because it is just amazing. Star Wars is technically a cinematic opera, from the beautiful piece 'Binary Sunset' on Tatooine's desert planet to Darth Vader's famous 'Imperial March', the movie score will incite powerful feelings of suspense, wonder, love, danger and adventure.

It may also be the story's locations, such as the bustling futuristic city of Coruscant, the ice planet of Hoth, Yoda's swamp planet in the Dagobah System and the sweeping desert dunes of Tatooine. There would be no Star Wars without these amazing places. In addition, the aliens certainly make things more interesting! You have got to love those adorable man-eating Ewoks and the walrus-like Tusken Raiders shaking their Gaderffii sticks at the sky. Throw in a monstrous Sarlacc, a drooling Rancor, a howling Wampa and Admiral Ackbar from Mon Cala and you have unique visuals that keep you hooked at every turn.

Adding to the glory of Star Wars is the outstanding menagerie of main characters. Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, Darth Vader, Obi-Wan and of course, Han Solo and his furry companion, Chewbacca are the backbone of the Star Wars franchise along with countless other charismatic characters. Boba Fett is a definite favourite of mine. And who can forget the most iconic duo of all time, the comical droids R2-D2 and C-3PO, always present throughout the odyssey that is Star Wars. (Name a more iconic duo, I'll wait).

Maybe it's also the storyline that makes Star Wars so good. From episode I-IX, the so called 'Skywalker saga' has been seen by almost everyone in the college (for now, I must resist the urge to find out the location of the people who haven't watched Star Wars and throw a copy of 'A New Hope' through their window). From the Trade Federation Blockade to the crisis in the Republic, to the Clone Wars, to the Galactic Civil War and all the way to the Resistance-First Order Wars, Star Wars has shown an epic saga of adventure and danger. Heroism and villainy. Hope and tyranny. Star Wars has it all.

There are SO many reasons why Star Wars is awesome, so many that I can't write them all down. Star Wars is the best... No matter what the Star Trek fans say!

By Thomas Clark, Year 9



## BOOK

### *The Revenant*

The Revenant is an award-winning period film set in the 1820s starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hardy. The film follows fur trapper Hugh Glass (DiCaprio) in his quest along the brutal wintery American frontier to seek revenge on Fitzgerald (Hardy). Glass is betrayed by his fur trapping team after he is attacked by a bear. Only Glass's half-native American son convinces the captain not to "take him out of his misery", insistent on protecting his father's life. Fitzgerald then murders Glass's son in order to obtain a \$70 bonus; out of greed he buries Glass alive and abandons him. Glass travels along the frontier with a slit throat, broken legs, and a torn-up back with the infections growing worse by the day. He begins his travel on his stomach (as he couldn't walk), pulling himself along the ground with one objective - to get revenge on Fitzgerald as "that boy was all [he] had...and [Fitzgerald] took him from me". Through his journey, he meets a native medicine man, Hikuc, who ultimately saves Glass's life through his knowledge of natural remedies. Once reaching Fitzgerald, Glass obtains his revenge, but Fitzgerald antagonises Glass until his final breath: "You come all this way, Did you enjoy it Glass, ye revenge... because ain't nothin gonna bring your boy back". With his successful revenge on Fitzgerald, Glass accepts his fate, joining his son and wife in passing.

By Leah Halstead, Year 11



## THE DILEMMA

As an avid lover of discussion and debate, one of the major qualms in my life is the lack of contentious conversation present within it. While others shy away from disagreement, for me, “disagreement” does not mean “argument”. Instead, the power of comparatively cordial conflict is invigorating; defence, declaration, and demonstration spinning between opposing participants, a desperate flurry of words and wild gesticulation.



Of course, not everyone around me has the same inclination for the revelry of reason, or to be frank, a perhaps concerning love of the sound of my own voice. Not wishing for a person to feel stuck in a conversation, the opportunity for rambunctious contention is rather limited, unfortunately tending to burst forth during English, to the unfortunate vexation of my peers, I’m sure.



Thus, was born The Dilemma, an opportunity for Oxleyans with the same issue as I, to be given a lip-bitingly dense Dilemma to sink their teeth into, and the opportunity to share their eventual interpretations in the partner article, 2 Cents by Violet Fitzsimons the following week. Whether serious or silly, these Dilemmas may be pulled from discussions held around the Hakewill’s dinner table or startlingly profound questions from babysitting escapades. Whatever the source, these Dilemmas will echo real-world scenarios, with real-world stakeholders and consequences.

### **Now, following the formalities, may the Dilemma begin...**

*Once upon a time, a small group of children slipped onto the back of a train travelling across Sydney. 1944, and bullet casings fell like hail in the streets. This group was made of toddlers and teens alike, however while every age differed, each was mature – beyond their years. Despite this, one tiny tot stood out, as they often do, and as such, we discover the protagonist.*

*The true pocket rocket, Linda burned bright among the children. In fact, she burned ever brighter throughout her adolescence, and well into her maturity; a flame stands in solace, unwavering, through the storm. It was not that she never wanted a partner, nor that she couldn’t find one, yet she found that in solace she was her strongest. The air around her would fill with ideas, like a balloon, and she remained ever self-sufficient.*

Those around her could never quite give an apt description of her – “I think she paints,” a neighbour considers, “I thought she was a writer,” another hazards. And yet Linda’s presence remained ever so distinct, an imprint left wherever she stepped.

As her measured stride turned to steps, to a hobble, and eventually, a sedate shuffle, the world forced her to slow. Her fast-paced cognition slacked, and in due course, she retires, as people do.



Now, on the second Wednesday of each month, an envelope, with her name printed on the front, is slipped under her door, and inside is a cheque for a certain amount of money. It’s just enough to get by, but Linda always was rather frugal, so it doesn’t bother her. She packs up her bag and sets off down the street towards the bank, coiffed curls rigid against her neck. Her usual teller, Joshua, waits for her to come in, smiling slightly when he notices that she’s popped on a bit of lippy. She always puts in the extra effort when the manager is around, vivid images of shaky, arthritic fingers fumbling around a pink tube popping into Joshua’s mind.



Linda sits in her faded wingback on those cold Wednesday nights, and she counts. Meticulously too, may I add, and she accounts for every cent in a faded green journal. The leather cover is cracked, and the endpapers are covered in mindless (and occasionally ribald) doodles, but this journal holds the budgeting information from 60 of her 80 years on this Earth, and her planning priorities have rarely wavered.

Her next day is taken at a leisurely pace. A Thursday, akin to the second Wednesday, is important for Linda. Pension day is often too crowded, the hustle and bustle threatening to sweep her from her feet, but the morning afterward proves more tranquil. Canned food and jars fill her trolley, and she ducks between a quarrelling couple to browse the frozen sections.

As she shambles back over her threshold, Linda grabs at the bench for a breather. She slowly begins to unpack her food into the cupboards, only leaving out the ingredients for her meal for the night, before retreating to the couch for a cup of tea and few chapters of her favourite novel.

A loud laugh from her neighbour’s backyard startles her from her slumber, and she blinks off the drowsiness, belatedly realising that the sky outside is dark. She stumbles towards the kitchen bench and begins to prepare dinner. She grabs the can closest to her and attempts to hook her fingers beneath its pull tag, but to no avail, she cannot. The jar beside it is no better, trembling hands slipping from the top as if it were covered with butter.



And this is where our scenario ends, and the true Dilemma begins. I humbly ask the reader one question; With whom does the responsibility lie to ensure that those affected by arthritis can access things that the average person doesn’t think much of, i.e., opening a can?

You may fervently believe that this a problem for public health, or perhaps even federal government. Maybe your position lies with the manufacturer. Is the answer to do with politics, ethics, or human morality, or perhaps something else? Whatever your position, share it! I encourage – no, implore you to engage in a hearty discussion on the topic. Even better, jot down the happenings of your conversation, and share them to the wider Oxley community. For a chance to feature your response in Violet Fitzsimons’ 2 Cents, email your response to either Violet Fitzsimons ([violet.fitzsimons@oxley.nsw.edu.au](mailto:violet.fitzsimons@oxley.nsw.edu.au)), Ms Calver ([emma.calver@oxley.nsw.edu.au](mailto:emma.calver@oxley.nsw.edu.au)), or myself ([anouk.hakewill@oxley.nsw.edu.au](mailto:anouk.hakewill@oxley.nsw.edu.au))

I will see you all on the other side of your thoughts, and I look forward to a fervent discussion,

Sincerely, Anouk Hakewill, Year 9



# SENIOR GALLERY





# GOOD & OTHER NEWS

## Pereira Rumsey Concert

On Friday 22 July, Years 9-12 music students had the privilege of attending a musical performance of Cello and Piano by David Pereira and Andrew Rumsey followed by a masterclass performed by the two of them. David Pereira is a world class musician who has won many awards, including twice winning the Sounds Australia Awards for the Best Performance of an Australian Composition. Pereira has played in Europe, Russia, China, India, New Zealand, Japan and the Philippines, and has performed at venues such as Wigmore Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, the Concertgebouw, and the Lincoln Center. Andrew Rumsey has appeared in China, Italy, Israel, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, Canada, and the USA, including at Carnegie Hall in 2017. Andrew attended Oxley from 2000 when he commenced Year 7 and was Head Boy in Year 12, 2006.

As a Year 11 music student, I have not yet had much opportunity to listen to live cello and piano music. The experience of watching both Pereira and Rumsey play was incredible and quite breathtaking, as we watched the two of them play so well together. Their performance has helped me to understand the level of connection a musician needs to play well with others in a way that will move and inspire the audience. One of the performances by Andrew Rumsey was on the Veeh Harp, a new and unique instrument to Australia. It's a user-friendly instrument that uses its own notation. So, no prior musical knowledge is needed. During the masterclass, David worked with two Oxley students: Spencer Lewis and Aiofe Barnett-Lennard. During the class, he encouraged them in their work and presented new ideas and ways in which they could play their pieces, giving suggestions such as to "get nasty with it!" The ease and confidence with which David spoke encouraged everyone to be proud of their musicianship and to enjoy it. I believe I can say on behalf of the rest of the students there, that it was an amazing learning experience that will inspire us all as we continue our music journeys.

By Saskia Gray, Year 11

Following the performance Andrew Rumsey said it was so lovely to play for an attentive and mature audience. He felt the students all listened and took things on board, "It felt like we were performing to music enthusiasts not students."



## Year 11 Ancient History Excursion

On Friday 5 August, the Year 11 Ancient History class got the opportunity to indulge in the fascinations of ancient history at the Chau Chak Wing Museum. The museum consolidates collections from the Macleay, Nicholson and University art projects and notably shares all of its artifacts in a careful and respectful way. Curiosities such as the Augustus statue and the Horus mummy complement our own studies of ancient Rome and the treatment/display of ancient bodies, yet they also lend us the benefit of studying items first-hand. An interactive component of the excursion allowed us to handle an assortment of ceramic, stone and glass artefacts which we were then encouraged to sketch as a means of exacting their detail and precision. Processes such as this are enjoyable as they make us consider the significance in smaller artefacts, yet also divulge how archaeologists and historians alike grapple with these kind of objects that will later lead to greater discoveries. Though some may gain that excursions such as this are just simple strolls in a museum, it's experiences like this that allow us to understand the invaluable nature of the past.

By Breanna Billett, Year 11



## An Afternoon of Strings

Oxley's younger musicians performed for their parents at An Afternoon of Strings on Tuesday 26 July 2022. All Years 2, 3 and 4 students learn a string instrument as part of their weekly music lessons. They have worked hard in class to master their violins, cellos and double basses. Each year group played two prepared pieces. Oxley's dedicated Music Peripatetics talked to parents about the programme, how to care for instruments and the importance of taking time to listen to their children play at home. We were treated to a Vivaldi piece by our string Peripatetics: Catherine Barnett, Myee Clohessy, Ethan Ireland, Kate Malone and Rachel Miller. It was such a uplifting and joyful afternoon and left everyone feeling in high spirits.



## Veeh Harp Private Tuition

We are looking at expressions of interest to have Veeh Harp lessons and or participate in an ensemble. Andrew Rumsey sat next to the daughter of the inventor on a train trip to Melbourne. Whilst performing in Switzerland in 2018 Andrew decided to drive over to Wurzburg to investigate. He ended up bringing a harp to Australia and loved it. The harp is 'user friendly' and lends itself to group music making. If you have any interest in the Veeh Harp and would like to find out more, please contact Andrew Young, Head of Performing Arts - [andrew.young@oxley.nsw.edu.au](mailto:andrew.young@oxley.nsw.edu.au)

Year 10 student, Joseph O'Shaunessy pictured playing the Veeh Harp, watched on by Will Barnett and Evie Crowley.





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

## Sport edition



"Sometimes I think to myself, do I have to do sport? And the answer is yes. Yes I do."

"Here's my problem: I wear the shortest dress you've ever seen in your life to play netball in the winter, and yet I wear long pants, long socks and a t-shirt to play softball in the summer. There are no words for my confusion."

"Hot tip to all those non-sporty kiddos out there: pick the PCC sports. I'm talking netball and basketball guys: that's rain free, heated sport playing right there. You're welcome."

"Sport is like a box of chocolates. Well, actually it's not, your sport's coach would probably advise you against eating chocolates. Um, let me think..."

"Show up to your trainings on time, full sports uniform, with a good attitude and a drink bottle,"- Someone who is totally a student and definitely not a teacher.

**By Oxley's Gen Z**

"How come softball is called softball and yet baseball is called baseball? Like I get the ball in softball is a bit softer, but we still have bases! By that logic, baseball should be called hardball – which honestly sounds cooler."

"Sport is the greatest way to make friends. Aside from actually talking to them and not pegging a ball at their heads. But don't think about that too much."

"You know, you always think you look so cool when you're in the middle of a match. And then you reach the age where you're umpiring a match and you realise that absolutely no-one looks cool playing sport in Year 7."

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

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

# NEWSFLASH

## YEAR 8 ART EXCURSION

On Monday 8 August all of Year 8 Visual Arts travelled to either Ngununggula to see their newest exhibition Spring Collection with Ken Done and Rosie Deacon or to Ben Quilty's studio. The students were able to engage with the artists, by asking lots of questions and by undertaking specific artmaking activities. Both Rosie and Ben were extremely generous in sharing their passion with us all. Every student walked away thinking about Visual Arts in new and interesting ways. The photographs reflect how immersed they were on the day.



## ANNALEE WATSON CRICKET

Congratulations to Annalee Watson (Year 10) for her selection in the Cricket NSW Female U16 country state squad. An all-rounder, Annalee is looking forward to a busy summer of cricket at fixtures in Sydney and across New South Wales.



## IT'S FINALS TIME!

As the winter sport season comes to a close (excluding the Rugby), we have 17 teams going to Semi-Finals, ranging through all the sports here at Oxley (a few going straight through to the Grand Finals!). Come down to Oxley on Saturday to watch a day of Football finals, with the Girls 1sts playing on Governors Field at 1.00pm where they will verse the Blue Mountains Grammar School and the 13s + 14s Boys Football playing at 9.00am and 11.15am, also on Governors Field. Good luck to the Netball teams travelling to Sydney Olympic Park, the Hockey who are travelling to Moorebank and other Football teams travelling to Barker College for a chance to move onto the Grand Finals, and best of luck to the Tennis teams playing in the Grand Finals.

Hannah Zupp, Year 11



## FENCING

Wonderful results for Oxley at the NSW SCHOOLS FENCING LEAGUE 2022 on Saturday 30 July at St Aloysius

### EPEE TEAMS EVENT - U14

A fabulous atmosphere. Great matches, new friendships. These relatively new fencers were introduced to the excitement of interschool team fencing.

We hope to see them all again in 2023!

### EPEE TEAMS EVENT- U19

The big guns were out in our senior event. Most of the fencers now have several years of interschool experience resulting in close exciting and highly competitive matches. A great win to our hosts on the day St Aloysius College. Old rivalries and friendships rekindled and a great spirit of earnest competition in a friendly environment had fencers, parents and coaches on their toes.

Some fencers will conclude their school fencing in 2022. Good luck in your finals. Don't let fencing escape. Fence at Uni or a community club. Don't let it go. By Olivia Takacs

NSW SCHOOLS' FENCING LEAGUE	
U14	2022
SYDNEY BOYS HIGH	1st
ST ANDREWS	2nd
OXLEY	3rd
ST ALOYSIUS	4th
ABBOTTSLEIGH	5th

NSW SCHOOLS' FENCING LEAGUE	
U19	2022
ST ALOYSIUS	1st
ST ANDREWS A	2nd
OXLEY	3rd
BARKER	4th
ST ANDREWS B	5th



## GOLD FOR GEORGIA



Georgia Godwin is one of Australia's most decorated artistic gymnasts, with six national titles and an array of Commonwealth medallions. For her competing in gymnastics is "experiencing 'this', being on the Australian team wearing the green and gold", and "the medals are just a bonus". Since her twin-ankle surgery late last year, Godwin debated her campaign at the Birmingham games, yet with a long recovery, she managed to bring home five medals of assorted colours. Her victory as a motherly figure among the young athletes has meant so much more than the shiny circle she wore around her neck. The publicity brought about by her medals allowed her to encourage young Australian gymnasts. She "does her best to try and show that gymnastics is a safe sport and that everyone should feel safe doing it". Her perspective and support of gymnastics have become the sun in the recently drowned International Gymnastics community, identifying that Gymnastics in Australia is not necessarily about the medals but about growth and enjoyment. Godwin brings this to the awareness of the young Australian gymnasts following the abuse claim mid-last year. Godwin's stellar performances in Birmingham led her to win 2 golds (all-around and vault), and 3 silvers (team, beam, bars); her dedication and strength are to be commended alongside all our other incredible Australian competitors. By Leah Halstead Year 11