

PINOAK



YEAR 7
CAMP

CARNIVALS

IWD

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Pin Oak Team

Student Editorial Team

Violet FitzSimons, Anouk Hakewill, Brydie Taylor,
John Smedley, Sohia Hamblin,
Will Barnett, Ruby Cochrane, Xanthe McDonald,
Ava Gillis

Designers

Lara Fischer and Emma Calver

Staff Editor
Emma Calver

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

Photography: AJ Moran



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.

MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF COLLEGE

Welcome to a student voice issue of Pin Oak. This is a deliberate direction we have decided to take as a school. It has been shown that when students are agents in their learning, they have increased motivation and in turn achieve better educational outcomes and will be more likely to have "learned how to learn". As we prepare students for an ever-increasing complex world these skills cannot be underestimated. If you would like to read more about student agency, the OECD completed a report in 2019 entitled Student Agency for 2030. It can be found by clicking the QR code below:



I hope you enjoy hearing from our students and as we continue to look for ways to engage with our community, I hope this gives a snapshot of the wonderful happenings across the College. I look forward to writing to you shortly as we continue to develop our communication in the school with the roll out of the Oxley Parent Portal and App.

By Scott Bedingfield, Head of College

COMMUNITY NEWS

Orienteering coming to the Southern Highlands this autumn



Events being held on/at:
Chevalier College - 25th March
Belanglo Forest - 26th March
Belanglo Forest - 29th April
Soapy Flat (Mittagong) - 30th April

Courses for all standards from
complete beginners to experienced
athletes - you choose your own level!

Interested in finding out more?
Email Ruth Shedden
ruth.shedden@oxley.nsw.edu.au

I'm taking part in the Illawarra Memory Walk and Jog. Please help me raise funds for Dementia Australia. I'm doing this for my mum and all who suffer from this terrible disease.

COLLEGE CAPTAIN'S REPORT

The school theme that the leadership team decided on for 2023 was the idea of Regeneration. Regeneration? Why did they pick that? You may be thinking. Over the past couple of years, COVID-19 has been detrimental to all aspects of school life. That is why we have chosen the theme of Regeneration, having the opportunity to bring back what was once lost to make it better for everyone.

We broke down the theme into six separate subcategories, distributing each subcategory to one of the six houses. Florey is managing hope, Monash is zest, Durack is gratitude, Oodgeroo is self-regulation, Mawson is perseverance and lastly, Dobell who are looking after appreciation of beauty and excellence. What does each of these things mean? Well, let me tell you.

Principally zest is all about approaching life with excitement and energy, not doing things half-heartedly or halfway. It is living life as an adventure and feeling alive. Gratitude is all about being aware and thankful for what you currently have in the present; it is also an essential factor for your own wellbeing.

Perseverance is about putting in hard work to reach an overall goal when times get tough. Self-regulation is a person's ability to stay disciplined and control your emotions. Appreciation of beauty and excellence speaks for itself. It relies on you to express appreciation for various domains of life, whether playing a sport or even inside the classroom, and lastly, hope which is expecting the best in the future no matter the circumstance.

The leadership team believes that to truly regenerate from the effects of COVID-19, we have to implement all of these things around Oxley College, and only then can we reimagine a better life for all of the Oxley community.

By John Smedley, Year 12, College Captain



Wellbeing Summit

On Tuesday 7 March, School Captain John Smedley, Vice-Captains Joe Quilty & Brydie Taylor, and Prefect Spencer Lewis (due to the absence of College Captain Leah Halstead) were lucky enough to attend a "Wellbeing Summit" held at Chevalier College, alongside other local schools, including Moss Vale High, Bowral High, Southern Highlands Christian School & Frensham. We took the morning to get to know the leaders of other local Southern Highland schools; it was a great chance to get to know & connect with other likeminded young leaders. The morning was broken into two workshops with presentations led by the Chev leaders who spoke on 'Smart Borrowing from Others', 'Digital Intelligence', 'Habits & Goals' & 'Strength Spotting'. After both workshops, we spoke in assorted school groups on how our schools differed in wellbeing approaches, but also on some initiatives we could implement in our individual schools inspired by others. The summit was a great way to initiate connections between schools and by the end of the day it was strange to think why something like this had never been done before? The Southern Highlands is lucky enough to have so many diverse schools with varying approaches to education, yet in essence across all schools we share similar core values. The Summit was a major success, certainly leaving us all feeling inspired and motivated for this year. We even had a tangible sheet that displayed our success; a massive sheet of paper with concepts and the subsequent actions needed to fulfill our aims, it was remarkable to find that everyone was unified on what our big idea is... so stay tuned. It's going to be a big one and we cannot wait for everyone in both the Oxley & wider community to get involved. Keep your eyes peeled for details and what's to come! We will update you all as soon as we can.

FAREWELL MR JOHN RAPP

By Brydie Taylor, Year 12, Vice College Captain

Mr John Rapp has been a valued member of the College Board and the Building Committee for nine and a half years.

During this time of volunteering, John has committed to thousands of hours in the capacity of designer, architect and builder, working with the College Executive, builders, trades, and consultants.

During his time on the Board, John has been the Chair of the Building Committee and there isn't a window, brick, or clock tower he doesn't know about.

Those who have been working closely with John can attest to his genuine love of Oxley, his passionate care of our aesthetic - including our green spaces and overall design, and his calm professional approach respecting all who have worked with him.

Oxley has been a fortunate recipient of his time and generosity over these more than nine years and we honour him with our thanks and praise for his dedicated work.

On behalf of current and past Heads of College, the College Executive and the Board of Governors, we sincerely thank John for his service to our school.

By Dr Stephen Barnett, Chairman of the Board of Governors



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

We celebrated 2023 International Women's Day in a variety of ways at Oxley. We gathered (almost) all our female leaders in the College to celebrate the opportunity of their roles; from Kindergarten SRC Reps to House and College Captains through to Staff in Leadership and Executive Roles.

As Sheryl Sandberg (COO Meta) wrote "The gender stereotypes introduced in childhood are reinforced throughout our lives and become self-fulfilling prophesies. Most leadership positions are held by men, so women don't expect to achieve them, and that becomes one of the reasons they don't."

Students and Staff also expressed their support while others distributed a variety of posters around the grounds sharing powerful quotes from significant women throughout history, reflecting on the past and inspiring the future. We are proud that we as a whole community can mark this significant day.

International Women's Day Breakfast

College Captain, Leah Halsted, myself and staff members Ms Cassin, Ms Calver & Ms Whiteley were invited to spend the morning alongside other women to celebrate International Women's Day. We listened to 3 local women and their stories experiencing gender biases and the way they in which they have navigated through the workforces. It was inspiring to hear from a range of mature & younger voices who highlighted similar themes but also shone light upon how far we've come yet how far we have to go. Leah and I alongside our leadership team are looking forward to bringing this year's theme "Embracing Equity" to the forefront of our goals for 2023. We look forward to addressing you all in our next assembly in Week 9!

By Brydie Taylor, Vice-College Captain





Video Games

I am absolutely horrific at video games. Legitimately terrible. My brother-in-law taught me how to play Call of Duty, and the results were truly shocking. The only people I killed were purely by accident. Needless to say, it's not something that's all that prevalent in my life. But, when my auntie shed blood, sweat, and tears to get her hands on an PS5 for Christmas, and my little brother seems to be glued to something called "Goat Simulator", I figured I should do what I do best; research relentlessly, and then publish a glorified rant on the topic to The Pin Oak.

Here's what I found: as of 2023, 3.09 billion people play video games, a number that has increased by over a billion in the last 7 years (Howarth, 2022). I find this simply astounding, and so do other businesses, to the point where Netflix publicly stated that Fortnite is more of a competitor to them than HBO. Red Dead Redemption 2 made 725 million USD in the first 2 days after release. Twitch streamers have grown to be some of the most popular, and most controversial (*ahem* PewDiePie) people among popular culture, amassing thousands of die-hard fans (The Bro Army), with Oprah-like levels of influence over millions of subscribers. The popularity of streaming has led to colossal-scale tournaments with prizes up to 32.85 million US dollars (Dota 2, 2022), cheers booming throughout stadiums as gamers from every corner of the globe pile in to watch teams play more complex games, than I could ever comprehend.

The gaming community is rife with nuance, and has a completely different social contract to wider society. Watching videos of E-Girls with their amazing stationary (proud to say that I've bought myself a pastel pink keyboard in their honour), aimlessly attempting to understand the chaos that is Dream SMP, wading through pages of gaming forums to find out more. While I now understand the attraction to playing video games, I also learnt an entirely new language, as so-called Edgelords brazenly march across the line which they are so proud to question. These forums were full of enjoyment, excitement, and entitlement, but I wasn't satisfied yet. I still had questions.

So, I know why video games are fun, I know about the people who play them and about how we engage with them. But what about the games themselves? Who makes them, and how does it always seem that there's a newer, better version of a game on offer? Better still, how do games like Fortnite even make a profit?

"Video game maker Electronic Arts says it is laying off 350 employees." (Fox 2, 2019)

"Zynga announced that it will be cutting 5% of their workforce" (CBS, 2012)

"The studio behind Bioshock... closing its door and laying off most of its employees" (Fox News, 2014)

"Activision Blizzard slashing about 800 jobs" (Fox news, 2018)

For a 97.67 billion USD industry (Video games industry in the U.S. 2023 | Statista 2023), you'd think that job security would be the last thing on people's minds. Yet, as published in a ground-breaking report by Kotaku in 2014, gaming companies seems to "regularly downsize... on what seems like a cyclical basis." The people working on the ground in this industry are treated like they're disposable, with game companies staffing up to meet release deadlines, then laying people off by the hundred after the game is released. Very few people are willing to talk about these conditions, though, due to various legal loopholes they are made to jump through once they are laid off, but Emily Grace Buck, an ex- Telltale game designer shared her experience in an interview in 2019.

"We get to the conference room, everybody's standing around, we walk in, and the CEO is making jokes... he sat down and just said 'Our journey has ended.' ... We were expected to be out of the building in half an hour."

This next idea may be something which you've heard of, but probably aren't all that familiar with. At least, I wasn't. It's called Crunch Culture. This means that, to work at any major game studio, you are expected to be working seven days, overtime, with no extra compensation, and without complaint.

"I worked about seven days a week, between 14- and 16-hour days... Other people refused to do overtime and then suddenly; their reviews were bad, and they were fired." – Osama Dorias, Game developer (The National, CBC, 2018)

95% of game workers say that they've worked overtime, and a further 80% said that they received no pay for the extra hours (IGDA, 2017), and while this kind of problem can be easy to dismiss as "Lay millennialism", cCunch has been recorded to cause PTSD in its victims (Kotaku, 2018), memory loss (New York Times, 2017) and even "developing an ulcer and coughing up blood" (Time magazine, 2019).

FEATURE continued

Players expect new updates, and better graphics, every year, which means months of crunch for employees in the lead up to release, and then the cyclical layoffs afterwards. They are going from insane amounts of work to none at all, which is unfortunately all possible because of a never-ending stream of people willing to work in the industry. In the most basic sense of the word, the workers of these industries are disposable.

Games like Fortnite, Apex Legends and League of Legends are only making the problem worse, with the introduction of the microtransaction model. Fortnite, for example, is free to play (for the most part). The only thing which players pay for are dances, skins, or tools for their avatars. What this means for workers, however, is that not only are they crunching every year to improve the graphics, but they also must be constantly working to release updates to keep players happy.

Now, what I'm about to tell you will surprise noone: The gaming industry is a hotbed of gender discrimination (dramatic gasp). Let's begin with some statistics:

- Women make up 48% of gamers (Washington Post, 2022)
- The video game industry itself is 76% male (Zippia, 2021)

Now, this revelation wasn't all that surprising to me. Now, I'm not quite sure why, but maybe because of the consistent graphic design of female characters having two (very distinct) things in common. We'll never know.

In 2018, a class-action lawsuit against Riot Games was settled for \$100 million, divided between over 1000 women affected by the company's rampant sexual harassment, sex-based discrimination, retaliation and failure by management and human resources to properly address complaints. The lawsuit reports companywide complaints of an inherent "Bro-culture", which, considering the longstanding tension between "Bros" and "Gamers", at least a small part of me must be happy that they've finally bonded together, albeit over their misogynistic tendencies. The claims against Riot also included reports of "...unwelcome picture of male genitalia from bosses...", as well as Bosses deciding to "fart on employee's faces" during staff meetings (Kotaku 2018).

One plaintiff in the case reported that her supervisor kindly informed her that "Diversity should not be a focal point of the design of Riot Games, because gaming culture is the last

remaining safe haven for white, teen boys."

Charming.

Because of all these problems, people are quitting their jobs in the industry, understandably so. But this isn't great for players, either, because I don't have to play video games to know that they are better when they're made by people who love them. The workers at Riot Games staged a walkout, and finally made steps towards unionising, but they weren't the first ones.

"It is time, more than time, that we as an industry left behind the idea that our work is made better by our pain." Meg Jayant, IGF awards 2019

Game Workers Unite is an organisation dedicated to unionising for game workers everywhere, and they have over 1000 chapters across the world. This year, Microsoft established the biggest video game workers union in North America, and positive steps forward have been made globally towards improving the rights of employees across the industry.

So, while I may still be really bad at CoD, no one can say that I know nothing about video games, and now, no one can say that about you either.

By Anouk Hakewill, Year 10

JUNIOR SCHOOL



Weekly Awards

Week 4

Learning Journey

KL: Georgette Kilsby KG: Dulcie Chalmers
Yr 1: Ellery Black Yr 2: Magnus Rasheed
Yr 3B: Max Godresse Yr 3R: Grace Byrne
Yr 4A: Luella Sewell Yr 4W: Oliver Di Bartolo
Yr 5K: Sophie Albert Yr 5N: Louisa Wright
Yr 6H: Jameson Clarke Yr 6S: Ayden Hosseinzadeh

Oxley Values

KL: Hudson Staunton KG: Max Wines
Yr 1: Oliver Barton Yr 2: Florence Meijer
Yr 3B: Grace Webb-Sear Yr 3R: Archie Taggart
Yr 4A: Drake Ford Yr 4W: Amelia Gordon
Yr 5K: Quinn de Haas Yr 5N: Lucas Hill
Yr 6H: Isabella Sicari Yr 6S: William Cario

Week 5

Learning Journey

KL: Edward Coombes KG: Isobel Chapman
Yr 1: JJ Pierce Yr 2: Charlotte Keats
Yr 3B: Piper Winn Yr 3R: Valentine Meyerson
Yr 4A: Lily Bennett Yr 4W: Frankie Russell
Yr 5K: Oscar Jones Yr 5N: Greta Saviana
Yr 6H: Nico Herriott Yr 6S: Oscar Le Guay

Oxley Values

KL: Ailie Watson KG: Liam Callan
Yr 1: Bella Horne Yr 2: Henry Perkins
Yr 3B: Amelia Gaunt Yr 3R: Thomas Apostolatos
Yr 4A: Eric Mussett Yr 4W: Angus Sheer
Yr 5K: Greta Lawson Yr 5N: Sophie Chalmers
Yr 6H: Maeve Ryan Yr 6S: Charlotte Holmes



WANTED

Volunteers to read and/or write for senior students during their examinations.

If interested, please contact:

Linda Maher
Head of Diverse Learning
Linda.Maher@oxley.nsw.edu.au

JUNIOR GALLERY



The Other Day

The other day, I was reading the news: like the academic I am. And of course, after about ten minutes of mindlessly scrolling, just as I had landed in that sweet spot of my eyes being glazed over to the extent that it looked like I was lost in thought: my attention was grabbed.

The headline was simple: Surfer carries shark out to sea.

His statement?

"It might earn some brownie points the next time a shark comes past".

Immediately, a smile spread across my face. The sight of this middle-aged man, sporting cheeky grin as he pointed to the water like a year one student might to a colouring in of the easter bunny. But whilst the sight of this clearly lovely man getting his own Sydney Morning Herald headline was enough to snap me out of my daze, what kept me from going back to mindlessly scrolling was a deeper issue, something that reached beyond a shark and it's no good, very bad day.

Is an act kind if we expect something in return?

Now, of course, this lovely man was undoubtedly joking. Unless a 'Skipper the Bush Kangaroo' of sharks has been born: he probably isn't going to get repaid for his act of kindness. But that statement, that cheeky, half-joking comment after a good deed is something we've all experienced far too often.

That awful moment, just as you've finished thanking someone for opening the door for you, or letting you dump your books in their locker so you can rush off to a lunchtime meeting when your saviour turns to you and says:

"You owe me one."

And you feel like you've been bludgeoned about the head with a library book. I mean, sure, their request isn't unreasonable. An eye for an eye, a favour for a favour. But all of a sudden, the relief you felt from their generosity is somewhat tainted. The act has gone from being kind, to being a transaction: and all you could do was stand there and watch as it happened.

No take backs.

No excuses.

You haven't been given gift, you've signed a contract.

As a constantly harried person myself, who is often either on their way to a meeting or just out of a meeting, looking dazedly around campus as if they don't quite know what they're doing (I am very, very bad at directions) I purposely avoid indebting myself to people in any way. A mindset that has led me to various precarious circumstances - which we need not discuss in a Pin Oak article.

This is not because I am morally righteous. I am just extremely forgetful and don't like receiving angry notices in my metaphorical mail telling me I'm two weeks behind on my favour pay-back. My life is controlled by the sovereign force that is google calendar, and unless you've sent me a google event invite: chances are I won't even remember the favour even took place.

But really, as much as I like to joke about it: this organized "pay-back" had become something of a pop culture phenomenon. Real people, with real jobs, scheduling in their good deeds with supposedly moral intentions. Otherwise known as "the act of kindness" trend".

A movement in which influencers, or ordinary people who don't quite understand the meaning of "kindness" schedule a day in which they will go to a public park and hand out meals to the homeless. How lovely. The only catch? It's all recorded without the homeless individual's consent, and all the profits from the video go straight into the influencers pocket: leaving the homeless just as disadvantaged but with the added benefit of being degraded and manipulated.

Now I'm not exactly touching on a hot topic here: this issue has been tossed around just about every platform imaginable. But instead of focusing on how morally heinous this "act of kindness is", we should instead direct our gaze to a forgotten question: where do we draw the line? After all, we've identified the extremes.

Manipulating and profiting off of someone's misfortune = wrong and helping someone without expecting something in return = right.

But where's that line that allows our actions to cross from being pure of heart to pure evil? And is it as well defined as we think?

Is it wrong to think of a favour as a transaction, or is it perfectly acceptable? Is it wrong to hound your friend about paying you back for that hot chocolate you spotted them, or are you just looking out for yourself?

Now I'm no philosopher, nor am I someone with the gall to label you as moral or immoral without even knowing you personally. But generally speaking, you should keep this in mind:

Kindness isn't something that accumulates. It's fleeting. It's only there for a moment. It can't be measured. Therefore, you can't be "even". But money, that can be measured. So can the awkward silence as your friend counts their coins to see if they can spot you a garlic bread in return for that hot chocolate you got them last week.

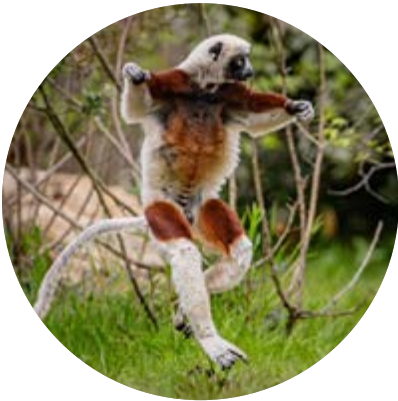
So what are you really trying to measure, and what are you really trying to get in return?

By Violet FitzSimons, Year 10

GALLERY



INSPIRATION



DANCING BACK TO THE WILD

The recent birth of a critically endangered Dancing Lemur in the UK has been described as a 'landmark moment' for the species. The baby Lemur was born at Chester Zoo, which is part of an international breeding program aimed at increasing the number of dancing lemurs in captivity, with the ultimate goal of reintroducing the species back into the wild.

Dancing Lemurs, also known as Sifakas, are native to Madagascar and face numerous threats in the wild including habitat loss, hunting, and the illegal pet trade. These factors have caused the species to be listed as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), with only around 10,000 individuals remaining in the wild.

The birth of this baby lemur marks a significant moment in the conservation of the species. Not only does it increase the captive population, but it also provides valuable insight into the breeding habits and behaviour of Dancing Lemurs. This knowledge can be used to inform conservation efforts in the wild and help to protect the species' remaining habitat.

In addition to breeding programs, conservation efforts for Dancing Lemurs also include habitat restoration, community education, and anti-poaching measures. By working with local communities in Madagascar, conservationists can help to reduce the demand for hunting and the illegal pet trade, while also promoting sustainable land use practices that protect the species' habitat.

Mark Brayshaw, curator of mammals at Chester Zoo, said to the Daily Mail: 'It's really exciting to be the first team of conservationists in Europe to successfully breed this unusual and extremely rare primate. It won't be long until this bright-eyed baby will be bouncing 20 feet from tree to tree just like its parents.'

While the birth of a single lemur may seem insignificant, it is a critical step in the conservation of this species. It is testament to the hard work and dedication of conservationists around the world who are working to save this unique and charismatic primate from extinction. With continued efforts, there is hope that future generations will be able to witness these remarkable creatures in the wild, where they belong.

By Sophia Hamblin, Year 11



PODCAST

Morbid Recommendation

Usually, when I see husbands discussing their wives on social media, I have come to expect (and brace for) some crude generalisation about A) Her appearance, B) How much she spends, or C) How they wish to not be married to her. (And yet still stay with her. This concept confuses me to no end.) However, I have come across an outstanding concern a few times, one which, for once, I don't particularly disagree with.

Despite my hesitations toward horror movies (although the most recent I have seen, M3GAN, had me giggling from start to finish), a most peculiar phenomenon occurs when it comes to true crime. Dreamcatcher by Steven King fuels my ongoing dubiousness of trees and deer, however when it comes to true crime, my tolerance miraculously improves tenfold. A sentiment echoed by scores of others, particularly women (seconded by bewildered husbands), I dedicate Killer Clowns to be far too much of an intimidating concept, despite my ideal night-in consisting of the chilling tale of The Yorkshire Ripper (fascinating, by the way) reverberating around the kitchen as I chop veggies, with profiteroles and the ensuing documentary for dessert (The Ripper, Netflix, I highly recommend it).

While I understand a poor husband's concern for his crime-junkie wife, unfortunately, I cannot quite sympathise. Guy or gal, horror enthusiast or not, the Morbid podcast has something for every fan of all things spooky. From demonic party games, to debauched Hollywood homicide, co-hosts Ash and Alaina bring fresh and funny conversation & commentary to their cult following (or as they say, their "Weirdos"), as well as a deep sense of satisfaction at seeing every "bad guy" get their comeuppance.

By Anouk Hakewill, Year 10



BOOK

The Outsiders

'The Outsiders' is a novel by S. E. Hinton, published in 1967. The story follows two opposing rival gangs, The Socs and The Greasers, from the opposite sides of town. The Socs' idea of a good time is cruising around in their flashy cars and beating up long-haired Greasers like Ponyboy. Ponyboy knows what to expect and that he can count on his older brothers and other friends – until one night when someone takes things too far. Ponyboy may seem tough, but on the inside, he is running scared. He learns valuable lessons about family, unity, friendship, and goodness. It is a novel that made people believe in and start reading juvenile fiction, and how it can reach beyond dating and similar topics. It addresses real life issues with depth and nuance. Hinton displays the intense topics of drug abuse, domestic violence and bloody violence all corrupting the life of adolescents. Her work further proves that teenagers can write about significant issues, such as gender, sexuality, and violence. Overall, I would give this book 4.5 stars, because I thought it was a great and easy read for anyone willing to give it a go. I think this novel is one that should be discussed more as it displays such high morals and relates to teenagers and young adults in a world full of chaos, but filled with a sense of brotherhood, first love and with a dash of comedic dialogue. If you haven't already, go read this novel, as you will encounter so many beautiful emotions that will make you laugh, cry, and sympathise with the characters, plot, and beauty of this novel.

By Ava Gillis, Year 10

Chinese Spy Balloon



In an age of satellites, drones and espionage a rather unusual headline graced the front page of the Sunday paper.

Chinese spy balloon shot down in USA!

A large, free-floating balloon, dangling surveillance gear from over 18km in the sky was a strange spectacle for many Americans. Over the course of nearly a week this lumbering lump of controversy floated through American airspace before it was shot down off the coast of South Carolina by an F-22 Stealth Fighter. There is currently a large operation underway to recover and inquire as to the intention of the balloon.

There is a lot of debate as to whether this balloon was indeed spying as is believed by the US Department of Defence or was simply a weather balloon blown off course as claimed by Chinese officials. While several meteorologists have suggested that it being blown off course is indeed possible, the apparition of a similar balloon in Latin America at the same time is believed to be proof that it was indeed spying on US Army bases in Montana.

Before analysing the purpose of the balloon, it is important to recognise why a technology that is almost 250 old was chosen to potentially spy on the world's largest military superpower. The first use of a surveillance balloon was in 1794 when the French used a hot air balloon to track Austrian and Dutch troops in the Battle of Fleurus. Modern balloons provide a distinct advantage over satellites in their clarity of picture and the amount of time they can spend focused on one site. However, there are several obvious reasons as to why nations across the globe opt for satellites over balloons. Firstly, they are easy targets, flying at the same altitude as commercial aeroplanes and secondly, they

are very difficult to manoeuvre.

So, what does this mean? The shooting down of the balloon has dealt a severe blow to already strained US-Chinese relations with Chinese Foreign minister saying:

"However, the United States turned a deaf ear and insisted on indiscriminate use of force against the civilian airship that was about to leave the United States airspace, obviously overreacted and seriously violated the spirit of international law and international practice,"

Meanwhile the US Secretary of State has cancelled a highly anticipated trip to China which was supposed to improve their relationship. Instead, it is looking meeker than ever. As each nation decries the other US President Joe Biden is seemingly caught in the crossfire. Many Republicans have come forward to criticise his slow response to the presence of the balloon, only ordering it to be shot down once it had travelled across the entirety of the nation. Once again, the Sleepy Joe nickname resurfaces.

With the autopsy of the recovered balloon yet to be published there is no definitive evidence as to whether or not this was indeed a plot to spy on US army bases or simply a weather balloon. Until then we can only speculate.

By Will Barnett, Year 11

SENIOR GALLERY



BERRIMA DISTRICT SPORT AWARDS

Monthly Award Recipients 2020-2022



Above Left to Right:

2020 Junior – Emily Roger – Cricket, 2020 Senior – Nic Milner – XC Running, 2021 Junior – Lucas Hill – Athletics, 2021 Senior – Lachlan Mineeff – Motor Sports, 2021, Senior – Anneliese Wansey – Equestrian, 2022 Junior – Harry Keats – Athletics, 2022 Senior – Phoenix Sparke – Winter Biathlon, 2022 Co-Senior – Ollie Linde – Swimming, 2022 Senior – Alistair Hill – Fencing, 2022 Junior – Pixie Hanson – XC Running, 2022 Junior- Euan Shedden – Orienteering, 2022 Senior – Sam Harwood- Cricket.

Right hand photo: Gabi von Sperl and Sapphire Sparke were Berrima District Sport Awards Junior Achievers in 2022. Awards received for the consistence excellence across a range of sports over 2022.

Below Right: Harry Keats awarded Berrima District Sportsperson of the Year 2022 Award.

Below: Some of the Oxley College recipients of 2022 awards at the recent Berrima District Sport Awards.



GOOD & OTHER NEWS

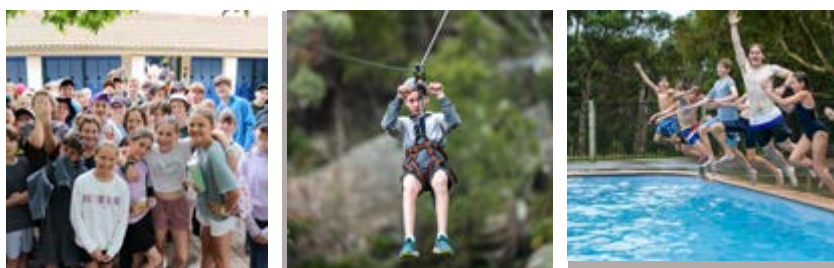
Year 7

High school. It is a huge milestone in our lives, and something we Senior School students experience at the incredible Oxley College. Oxley is such an amazing school, but now I am a part of its vibrant community, it feels like I have belonged here all along. Do you know what I mean? This is because of what is here within it: respect, support, regeneration, opportunities, growth and, most importantly, kindness. But there is even more to the College - like how you feel there - especially for a new student...

So, what does it mean to be at Oxley College? Well, I can tell you how it is from a new Year 7's point of view: ever since I walked into the school on my first day, I knew this was the place for me. Other Year 7s know what I mean, as they feel the same as I do. I know because I asked them! They have already experienced what Oxley is, and previewed new challenges as well as exciting opportunities for all of us ahead. They are enjoying the community of Oxley; the variety of subjects offered; the wonderful staff and students; the canteen; the spacious grounds: the canteen; sports; going to different classrooms, but most of all: making friends.

In Year 7, we will develop new skills and engage in a whole new way of learning. It is our 'big step,' taking us on a journey that leads us all the way to Year 12. And we all have the opportunity at Oxley College "to think, to dare, to dream."

By Ruby Cochrane, Year 7



Year 10 Geography

The Geography department's objective for this excursion was to enlighten us Year 10 novices on coastal environments and the processes which determine them. Riding on the bus, we were equally stoked about leaving school as we were about the day ahead. Arriving at Elliot Lake, we were greeted with a picturesque view of Warilla Beach and after collecting our equipment and booklets, we were ready to begin our work. Walking along the beach on this gorgeous day, our observations of longshore drift tempted us into the beautiful, clear water - so close and yet so far! We learned that tombolos, disappointingly, are not related to Toblerone's at all, but instead, are overgrown spits that connect the mainland to islands. Exploring the rocky edge of Windang Island, we were taught how cliffs, wave-cut notches and wave-cut platforms are formed and learned through field work measurements, about the evolution and importance of coastal sand dunes. We were lucky enough to see coastal management in action, with a new seawall under construction at the beach. After a full day of investigation, a relaxing lunch, and play around the Lake Illawarra entrance, we were ready to head home with of a new appreciation of our coastal environment.

By Xanthe McDonald, Year 10



Swimming Results

Oxley College Junior Swimming Carnival - 2023

Age Champions

- Junior Boys and Girls
 - 1st Cassidy Rainey (Flynn)
 - 1st Angus Kean (Walton)
 - 2nd Luella Sewell (Flynn)
 - 2nd Felix Chamley (Flynn)
- 11yrs Boys and Girls
 - 1st Madison Chamley (Flynn)
 - 1st Angus Love (Walton)
 - 2nd Beatrix Pearce (Chisholm)
 - 2nd Leo le Guay (Flynn)
- Senior Boys and Girls
 - 1st Charlotte Holmes (Walton)
 - 1st Levi Olsen (Walton)
 - 2nd Pixie Hanson (Flynn)
 - 2nd Will Kean (Walton)

2023 House Points

- 1st Flynn 806.5 points
- 2nd Walton 763 points
- 3rd Chisholm 593.5 points

Oxley College Senior Swimming Carnival - 2023

Age Champions

- 12yrs Girls and Boys
 - 1st Soraya Rennie
 - 1st Milo Shepherdson-Woodhead
 - 2nd Charlotte Bartlett
 - 2nd Finlay Terry
- 13yrs Girls and Boys
 - 1st Anna Clark
 - 1st Blake Ramear
 - 2nd Madeline Kirsch
 - 2nd Joel Ramear
- 14yrs Girls and Boys
 - 1st Annalise Wright
 - 1st Joel Sheezel
 - 2nd Imogen Bidwell-Watson
 - 2nd James Blanche
- 15yrs Girls and Boys
 - 1st Isla Terry
 - 1st Fred Jones
 - 2nd Eva Duffy
 - 2nd James Trudgeon
- 16yrs Girls and Boys
 - 1st Annabel Arnot
 - 1st Harry Kirsch
 - 2nd Ava Gillis
 - 2nd Oliver Linde
- 17yrs Girls and Boys
 - 1st Chloe Hanrahan
 - 1st Max Murray
 - 2nd Amelia May
 - 2nd Will Brady
- 18+yrs Girls and Boys
 - 1st Ella O'Connor
 - 1st Duncan Greig
 - 2nd Natalie McCarthy
 - 2nd Finn O'Mahoney

2023 House Points

- 1st Dobell 1,065.5 points
- 2nd Durack 900.5 points
- 3rd Monash 812 points

NEWSFLASH

CONGRATULATIONS!

Surf Lifesaving

The last weekend in February saw Pixie Hanson Year 6 win the 1km beach run at the NSW Surf Life Saving Championships. She hit the lead at the 400m mark and won by 60m. Pixie also competed in the swim, board and ironman races, and made the semi-finals in the swim and board rescue in big waves! Well done, Pixie!

Swimming

Congratulations to Annabel Arnot, Year 10 who is heading off to the Gold Coast to swim in the Nationals in April competing in the 50m Breaststroke, she smashed the qualifying time and swam it in 36'72",

Athletics

Wonderful ongoing track success for Harry Keats, who at the recent NSW State Junior Championships not only ran PBs in the 400m & 800m races but won both events. Incredible work!

Futsal

After participating in the Youth Women's NSW Futsal squads that competed at the 2023 Australian Futsal Associations National Championships, Lexie Kennedy, Year 12 was selected for the Australian Futsal Association Australian Representative Futsal Team. She will travel to Spain to take part in the Costa Blanca Cup. Off the back of competing in the Southern NSW Futsal team at the 2023 Futsal Nationals, Lexie's brother Will Kennedy, Year 7 was selected for the Australian Futsal Association Australian Representative Futsal Team where 13 boys will travel to Italy to take part in the Montesilvano Futsal Cup. Well Done Kennedys!

Ethics Olympiad

While Oxley College is proudly regional, distance was no barrier for our students who competed in International Finals of the Ethics Olympiad, against students from India, Singapore, Hong Kong and around Australia.

Our students are guided through a range of ethical challenges by Head of Information and Library Services, Stacey Taylor who commented "Our students had the opportunity to compete on the world stage, stretch their critical thinking and communication skills by competing in the International Middle School Ethic Olympiad which has students discuss current issues through an ethical lens with their peers from across the world."

They achieved an honourable mention, a big accomplishment for their first time!



FUNDRAISING FOR NEPAL

The Nepal Crew (52 students and 5 staff) who are travelling on our service learnign trip to Nepal later in the year, will be running the Bunnings BBQ in Mittagong this Sunday 12 March and again on Saturday 1 April.

They are raising funds to donate to three Nepalese schools and a hospital in the local village of Jhib Jhibe (50km North of Kathmandu).

It would be great to see a few familiar faces. (You can even help cook the sausages)!

Thank you our students and to Tim Dibdin, Gen Whiteley Steve Marnoch and Rani Ritchie.

CHICAGO- HIGH SCHOOL EDITION

Tickets are selling fast for our spectacular HIGh School Edition of Chicago. On for one week only from Thursday 16 March until Saturday 18 March.

OXLEY COLLEGE PRESENTS

CHICAGO

HIGH SCHOOL EDITION

BOOK BY FRED EBB AND BOB FOSSE
MUSIC BY JOHN KANDER LYRICS BY FRED EBB

PERFORMANCES
16, 17, 18 March 2023



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