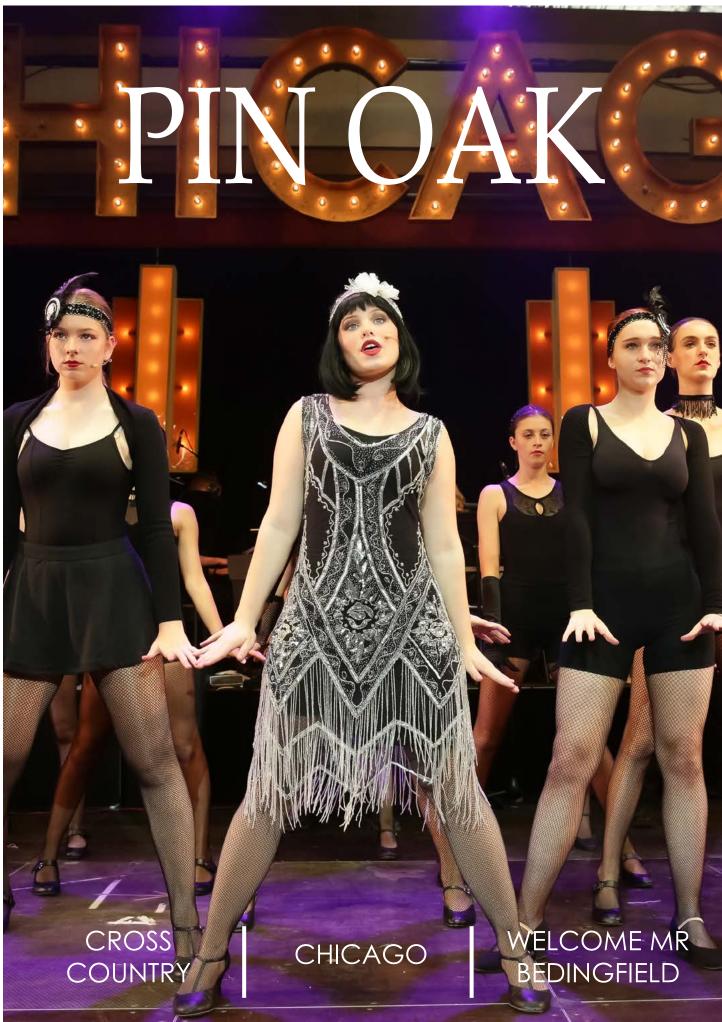
Issue 154 Week 9 Term 1, 2023



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Pin Oak Team

Student Editorial Team Lucy Anderson, Will Barnett, Thomas Clark, Ruby Cochrane, Evie Crowley, Chloe Stephen

> Designers Jade McLaughlin, Amberley Guilly

> > Head of Marketing and PR Emma Calver

> > > Staff Editor Jade McLaughlin

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



Acknowledgement of Country

The writers, editors, and designers of Oxley's Pin Oak begin this edition by acknowledging the Gundungurra people - the 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 the P & F

Pin Oak Fair - Stall holders

The Pin Oak Fair is taking place on Saturday 4 November 2023 and we would like to offer our Oxley associated businesses first preference in securing a stall.

If you are a small business of the Highlands or a professional market stall holder and you'd like to have a stall at the Pin Oak Fair please email Sooz at pinoakfair2023@gmail.com

We're looking for all types of businesses to take place in the 'Market Place' section of the fair.

Oxley Equestrian Day

Oxley Equestrian Day will be held on the first Sunday back at school, 30 April, and we will be looking for volunteers to work both in the canteen and on the BBQ. We will also be calling out for donations of baked goods for that day. A sign up roster will be sent out in the second week of the holidays.

Oxley College 40th Birthday Cocktail Party

With our 40th Birthday Cocktail Party being held on Saturday 20 May (don't forget to buy your tickets!) we are asking our Oxley families if you have any goods or services to be donated for a silent auction. Please send details through to me at moorefamily21@bigpond.com. Money raised at this event will be going towards the Oxley College Foundation.

Wishing all our Oxley families a safe and relaxing holiday,

Megan Moore President, Oxley College Parents and Friends Association

4 November 20

Come and Celebrate Oxley's 40th Birthday

10.00am - 3.00pm Saturday 4 November 2023 **Founders Field**

- Games
- · Art show
- Market stands
- Food stalls

Rides

- · High Tea
- Music and performances
- Book stalls

..and much more!











A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF COLLEGE

It has been a fantastic first term of learning here at Oxley. I have been so impressed with the way our students have settled into the classroom routines and have taken on the opportunities available to them across the length and breadth of the school. There has been much to acknowledge in the school, from our incredible musical Chicago, sporting

achievements, and welcoming parents back on site for events like our Welcome Drinks at the start of the year.

I know parents are enjoying once again being connected to our community. This is one of the many themes that have come up in the parent breakfasts that I have held across the term. If you haven't had an opportunity to join me at these yet, we will continue to offer more as the year goes on. I will share some of this valuable parent feedback with the community during Semester 2.

There are some further opportunities to be connected to the College on the horizon, including Foundation Day on Thursday 18 May. Foundation Day is an annual event celebrating the establishment of the College. Invitations will be sent early in Term 2. I also encourage you to join us at the 40th Birthday Black Tie event on Saturday 20 May. This will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate together and hear about the introduction of the Oxley College Foundation. We will have more to share about the Foundation in the coming months, including information around the plans for the development of facilities at the College.

I would like to take a moment to thank the community (and in particular our wonderful students) who played a big part in the Welcome Assembly for myself last week. I very much appreciated the support of everyone involved in this occasion. There is an opportunity on Anzac Day for students to march with the College, and I do encourage you to join us on Tuesday 25 April in Bowral. Further details can be found in last week's Junior and Senior School bulletins.

At the end of this term, we farewell two long standing staff members, Kirrily Hope and Kellie Henderson. Kirrily is finishing up to complete her Psychology degree and Kellie is relocating to Queensland with her family. We thank them greatly for the service and wish them all the best for their future endeavours.

I am pleased to announce that we have appointed a school nurse who will begin with us at the beginning of next term. Rebecca Rodgers will commence in this role on Monday 24 April 2023. Rebecca is an experienced and passionate Registered Nurse with a diverse clinical background which includes working within the Public Health Unit in the School Vaccination Program. Further details regarding her location at the College and how to contact her will be available shortly.

For our Junior School families, thank you for your overwhelming response to the survey around the possibility of introducing After School Care at the College. We have made the decision that this is a viable option for our community, and we have started advertising for a co-ordinator for this program. If you know anyone who is suitable, please encourage them to apply. We will begin this service as soon as a suitable person is found.

We continue to look for ways to support our performing arts program in the school. We are looking at slightly raising the cost of peripatetic lessons to allow us to enable 5-day a week support for this department. I do hope this assists families with their organisation. We are also considering how we could offer more lessons to students by freeing up space in the school. Further information on this will also follow shortly.

In the coming weeks you will also receive information on the School Parent App. We are in the final stages of testing and it should be ready to go very early next term. This App will greatly improve communication in the College and enable parents to sign permission notes online. I hope when the information about how to download and use the App is sent out you take advantage of this wonderful resource.

Once again, thank you for your support over this first term. I hope you have a wonderful break and are excited about what the new term will bring. I know there are some exciting things on the horizon.

Scott Bedingfield, Head of College



FEATURE

Conversion Therapy Bans vs. the NSW State Election

Gender politics remain a hot topic come election time, writes Evie Crowley, Year 11.

"It's hard to understand how

restricting an incredibly damaging

and cruel practice could inhibit the

religious organisations."

In the wake of a state election, big issues continue to thrown around by both major parties. Discussions of climate change drag on, promises are made to the public and deals are made behind closed doors. Including that of Alex Greenwich asking for promises to ban conversion therapy from both the Liberal and Labor parties. For those who aren't aware, conversion therapy ranges from preaching specifically against being queer, to electroshock, all the way to torturous practices such as sleep deprivation. It has, to varying extents, been in practice in Australia since the 1950s.

Alex Greenwich is the successful independent candidate for the seat of Sydney, which he has

safely held since 2012, and his support in passing state laws in the future is entirely conditional on the plans each party have to pass this ban. To give a brief rundown on the freedom of speech of international functioning of NSW Parliament, the passing of laws functions in mostly the same way as federal

laws. The law passes through two houses which can only happen if the law gets a majority vote in both. This essentially provides independent candidates, with no affiliation with any parties, the opportunity to make big asks from major parties and control some of the goings-on within state law. In exchange, major parties ask for their votes on laws that they want to pass.

MP Alex Greenwich, pictured here with Lord Mayor of Sydney Clover Moore at a Pride event (alexgreenwich.com)

While Alex Greenwich is using this ability to ban conversion therapy, it is useful to look into the various intentions of each party.

On the Liberal side, Dominic Perrottet projects the outcome in which religious institutions are still permitted to freely speak and preach and is willing to put forward \$10 million towards religious communities and schools facing security risks. This money is available to go toward staff training, security cameras, and fencing, but what is unclear is how this money will be distributed. Would religious institutions have free control over their use of it? Under a Liberal government, what would applications for these funds look like? It is also unclear what penalties would apply if laws surrounding

conversion therapy are broken.

That said, it is incredibly respectable, the Liberal government's intentions to maintain some equality between freedom of speech relating to religious institutions protection of

LGBTQIA+ people. Which in this political climate, is a tough compromise to make.

On the other side, while Labor is also planning on supporting a ban on conversion therapy, they are instead planning on introducing a group of stakeholders, including those who are survivors of conversion therapy. This group would have the ability to draft new laws surrounding the issue. This allows for experts on the issue will be drafting laws around it and frees up time for state parliament to focus on issues it knows more about.

Both parties plan on tackling this issue in varied ways, both plans providing some insight into the rights that the queer community will be given, while the Liberal party is also discussing religious freedoms. While it is easy to debate for hours on end the benefits and downfalls of having communities that are interconnected with religion, it's hard to understand how restricting an incredibly damaging and cruel practice could inhibit the freedom of speech of international religious organisations.

Across Australia, NSW is not the first state to consider or commit to a complete ban on conversion therapy. In August 2020, both the ACT and Queensland banned the practice, with consequences of between one year and eighteen months in prison.

Victoria banned it in November of 2020, and when questioned about how the ban may be restrictive of religious practices, Premier Daniel Andrews responded by condemning anyone supporting the "worst form of bigoted quackery imaginable," and since the Bill has been regarded as one of the most restrictive of the barbaric practice. Victorian laws against conversion therapy have penalties of up to 10 years and other fines for anyone found to have practised it.

Conversion therapy within this law is defined as being "Illegal to try and change or suppress a person's sexual orientation or gender identity in Victoria." Making this law one of the strictest the world has seen against the practice. The vote in Victoria's upper house passed 27 to 9 with no amendments needed.

Australia-wide, there are still states that haven't begun the discussion of banning conversion. There have been many calls for the decision to be made at a federal level, and in 2019, Bill Shorten stated that if elected, he would legislate against the practice Australia-wide. During Scott Morrison's term, there was no positive discussion towards the LGBTQIA+ community, so little hope remained for a federal ban.

"...the worst form of bigoted quackery imaginable..."

Overall, the ban on conversion therapy in the future will be a welcome one. As world pride has been hosted in Australia this year, and as we approach the seventh anniversary of the legalisation of gay marriage, hopes can remain for other states in Australia to ban the same archaic practices against the queer community.

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

INSPIRATION



GAME

Assassin's Creed II

Finally, I have had the idea to write about one of the most acclaimed trilogies in all gaming history. We all know about Assassins Creed, but, when you think about Assassins Creed, who comes to your mind? Brash Edward Kenway? Stout Connor? Strict Altair? No. When we think about what an Assassin is, only one comes to mind. The legend himself. Ezio Auditore Da Firenze.

I present... The Ezio Trilogy.

We begin with what many declare to be the greatest Assassins Creed game ever. Assassins Creed II puts you in the shoes of young Florentian noble Ezio Auditore Da Firenze.

The year is 1476, the Italian Renaissance. 17 year old Ezio Auditore is thrust into a secret war between two ancient enemies, Assassins and Templars. Ezio learns of his Assassin heritage after most of his family are hung in front of him.

Armed with only a broken Hidden Blade, his father's Assassin Robes and a few scrolls of encrypted information, Ezio sets out on a quest of revenge that will span over many years. Along the way, he shall make new enemies, such as the Borgia family and new friends, including the renowned inventor Leonardo Da Vinci and diplomat Niccolo Machiavelli.

From Florence to Venice, Ezio's goal will change the fate of Italy... and the world. With stunning visuals, intense combat and amazing historical references, ACII is one of Ubisoft's finest games ever!

Thomas Clark, Year 10











BOOK

The Grandest Bookshop in the World

If you love Harry Potter, or perhaps you're a fan of Nevermoor, this book is definitely for you!

The Grandest Bookshop in the World is a gripping read by an Australian author Amelia Mellor, which is about the Book Arcade: a magical place of books, curiosity and wonder. The bookshop is run by Edward Cole - the creative mastermind who built it. However, an evil plot could destroy such a wonderful place...

Valley and Pearl Cole discover that their father - Mr Cole himself - has made a risky deal with the Obscurosmith. It will not only risk their amazing father, but it will bring great danger to the Book Arcade. In order to save it, they have to play a game: which is to face seven challenges before the time runs out...

This novel is full of adventure, fantasy and a few logic puzzles - and is something that will stoke the imagination, inspire the mind and make you never want to put it down!

On a rating scale I would give this book a 9/10.

Ruby Cochrane, Year 7

Read/played/watched/listened to something good lately?

Let us know!

Send us your film, TV, podcast, music, book and game reviews iade.mclaughlin@oxley.nsw.edu.au



BOOK

The Cheerleaders

Five girls lied. Five girls died. 'The Cheerleaders' by Kara Thomas is everything you would hope for in a young adult murder mystery book. Published in 2018, 'The Cheerleaders' is much like the best seller book, 'One of Us is Lying'. Combining the perfect amount of mystery, murder and suspense, this book is the perfect rainy day accompaniment that hangs you from a cliff at every chapter.

The story has a strong female protagonist as the sister of one of the cheerleaders. The story starts with a flash back to the car accident where two cheerleaders died after hitting a tree on a rainy night. The next two girls were killed by the man next door. Monica's sister was the last cheerleader to die. After this, Sunnybrook High disbanded the cheer squad. No one wanted to be reminded of the girls they lost.

The flashback was from 5 years ago and the story starts at the present where Monica's world is starting to unravel. There are the letters in her stepdad's desk, an unearthed, years-old cell phone, a strange new friend at school. Whatever happened five years ago isn't over. Some people in town know more than they're saying. And somehow Monica is at the centre of it all.

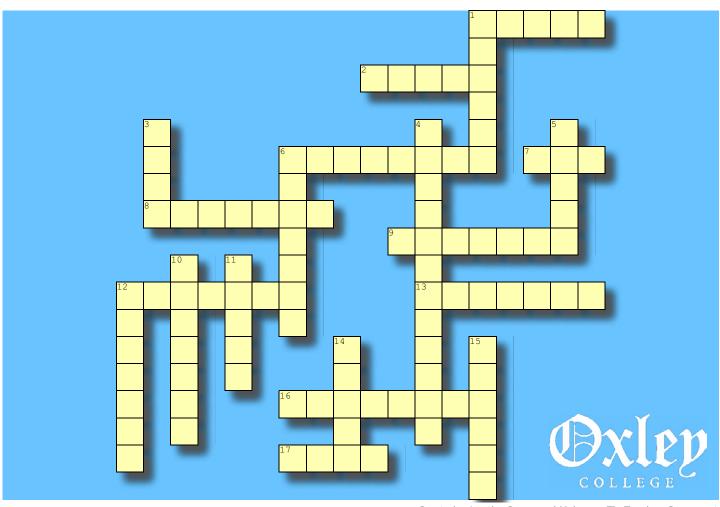
Kara Thomas has written this book in such a way so that you feel as though you are inside Monica's world. Her characterization and description of settings, emotions, thoughts and complications, creates an emotional reading experience where you empathize with all the characters involved in the story.

The storyline is fast paced and consequentially, most readers finish 'The Cheerleaders' within a day. Every chapter is left with a cliff hanger, making every reader want to keep going and find out the secrets of Monica's world and the cheerleaders murders.

Overall, 'The Cheerleaders' by Kara Thomas is a perfect young adult murder mystery book, leaving you with cliff hangers at the end of every chapter.

Lucy Anderson, Year 9





Across

- 1. Peanut butter cup
- 2. Not old
- 6. The ____ of secrets7. Bow-tie and suspenders
- 8. Caring scarlet
- 9. Homer and Marge
- 12. Green sea
- **13.** Go talk
- 16. 'Sit up please'
- 17. Basket

Down

Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Compiled by WB

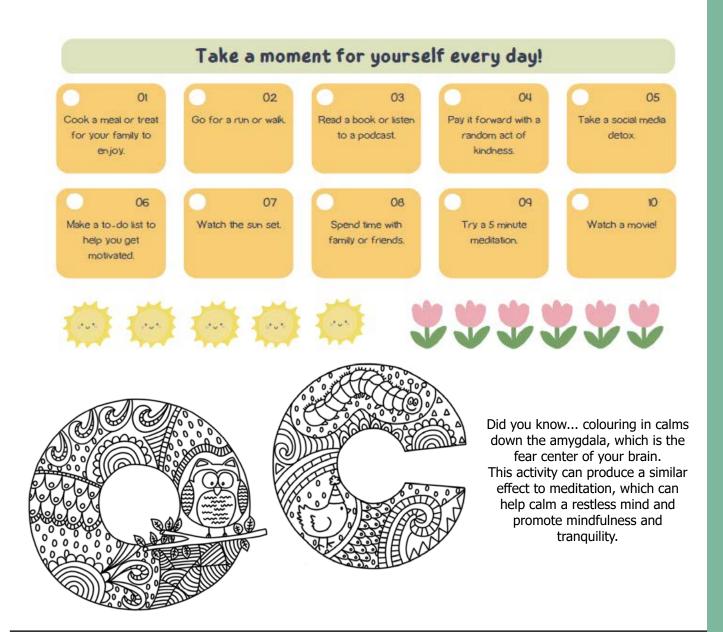
- 1. Jolly
- **3.** Zn
- 4. A man of principle
- 5. Our very own Mr blue sky
- **6.** I'll give you a clue: it
- 10. The best school magazine ever
- 11. Supports Liverpool
- 12. Going down hill, fast
- with my little eyes **14.** Eye
- **15.** Swift

SPOTLIGHT: MENTAL HEALTH

In today's fast-paced world, taking care of your mental health has become more important than ever. From work-related stress to personal struggles, it's easy to get caught up in the chaos of life and forget to prioritize our own mental well-being. However, neglecting our mental health can lead to serious consequences, such as anxiety, depression, and even physical health issues.

That's why we invite you to prioritize your mental health. Taking care of your mental health involves adopting healthy habits such as getting enough sleep, exercising regularly, eating a healthy diet, and taking breaks when needed. It also means seeking professional help if necessary.

Investing time and effort into your mental health can lead to significant improvements in your overall quality of life. You'll find yourself feeling more energized, focused, and resilient, and better equipped to handle life's challenges. Moreover, taking care of your mental health is not only beneficial to yourself, but it also positively impacts those around you.



JUNIOR SCHOOL

Weekly Awards

Week 6

Learning Journey KL: Archer Aleksandric KG: Yorke Dunlop

Yr 1: Archie Gaunt Yr 2: Jack Malouf Yr 3B: Oliver Johnson Yr 3R: Em Hunt

Yr 4A: Zoe Choo Yr 4W: Zac Chalak Yr 5K: Charlie Halloran Yr 5N: Sophie Henderson Yr 6H: Pixie Hanson Yr 6S: Sienna Patruno

Oxley Values

KL: Henry Graham KG: Hewin Walsh Yr 1: Charlotte Jones Yr 2: Emil de Haas

Yr 3B: Harrison Peebles Yr 3R: Harry Officer

Yr 4A: Harrison Southcombe Yr 4W: Chloe Motycka Yr 5K: Charlotte Byrne Yr 5N: Euan Shedden Yr 6H: Ava Snowden Yr 6S: Oscar Choo

Week 7

Learning Journey

KL: Harry Tait KG: Charlie Goff

Yr 1: Theo Lawford-Smith Yr 2: Ronnie Fragar

Yr 3B: James Barnett Yr 3R: Joshua Lawrence

Yr 4A: Nash Elvy-Mourd Yr 4W: Lexie Seehusen Yr 5K: Annabel Bertollo Yr 5N: Gabriela Johnson

Yr 6H: Markus Simonsen Yr 6S: Ivy Bacon

Oxley Values

KL: Steele Toelle KG: Harry Mussett

Yr 1: Matilda Wolstencroft Yr 2: Clementine Blom

Yr 3B: Eliza Galwey Yr 3R: Barclay Ryan Yr 4A: Eliza Arnold Yr 4W: Dylan Atkinson Yr 5K: James Fox Yr 5N: Alex Wines

Yr 6H: Victoria Feetham Yr 6S: Anna Sutherland

Week 8 Learning Journey

KL: Harry Noonan KG: William Perkins

Yr 1: Juliet Nissen Yr 2: Violet Burrows Yr 3B: Beth Plain Yr 3R: Otto Richards

Yr 4A: Xavier Burrows Yr 4W: Albert Herrmann Yr 5K: Darcy Jones Yr 5N: Robert Arnold

Yr 6H: Rhodes Feller Yr 6S: Eloise Richards

Oxley Values

KL: Henry Graham KG: William Trute

Yr 1: Ben Cadden Yr 2: Albie Fisher

Yr 3B: Charlotte Bullick Yr 3R: Jasmine Rainey Yr 4A: Rose Hurst Yr 4W: Heston Ryan Yr 5K: Nina Zelunzuk Yr 5N: Harper Anstee

Yr 6H: Eli Winn Yr 6S: Sapphire Sparke

Week 9

Learning Journey

KL: Tilly Arnold KG: Freya Chalmers

Yr 1: Annabelle Bullick Yr 2: Scarlett Druery Yr 3B: Tom Evans Yr 3R: Fearne Pearce

Yr 4A: Harriet Trenchard-Smith Yr 4W: Oliver Chesham

Yr 5K: Clementine Paterson Yr 5N: Ian Phillips

Yr 6H: Hadley Morgan Yr 6S: Harry Gaunt

Oxley Values

KL: Ted Rodgers KG: Sophia Traill

Yr 1: Georgia Hurst Yr 2: Isabella Francipane Yr 3B: Tom Pierce Yr 3R: Finn Kean

Yr 4W: Xavier Halstead

Yr 5K: Elena Clarke Yr 5N: Luca Sicari

Yr 6H: Samsara Pout Yr 6S: Teddy Blom

Excellence in French

Max Wines Willow Devlin Charlotte Jones Ruby Rogerson Thomas Evans Cora Bedingfield Hudson Ahern Felix Chamley Angus Love Teddy Blom Beatrix Pearce Andy Clothier

Sports Coaches' Awards

Anna-Sophia Psarakis Jemima Anson Charlie Halloran Drake Ford Harry Officer Phoébe Burton



































*

CHICAGO: HIGH SCHOOL EDITION





























GOOD & OTHER NEWS

Awards

Cross Country

The following students have received **colours in Performing Arts**:

Elise Davies Daniel Murray Brydie Taylor

The following students have received **colours in Sports**:
Jack Ayling Amelia Carpenter Chloe Cassim
Mia Edgerley Hamish Gardner Alex Jurgs
Ella O'Connor Finn O'Mahoney Joe Quilty
John Smedley Will Thomson Maree Wilson **Cricket Awards**Hattrick Ball Myles Magill
Century scored Darcy Kent
Joe Quilty

NSWCIS Awards for Outstanding Achievement

These are awarded to students representing CIS and are based on their performance represented at NSW All Schools.

Athletics Blue Medallion Amelia May
Cross Country Blue Medallion Amelia May
Swimming Blue Medallion Oliver Linde

Student Representative Council

All the votes have been tallied, and the 2023 Oxley SRC has been elected. We welcome our new student representatives:

Dobell: Max Greenfield, Fred Jones, Amelia Dowe

Durack: Max Steyn, Clementine Heinrich, Gloria Waters

Florey: Souhaylah Shamim, Harry Moore, Tien Loiterton

Mawson: Lachlan Hessey, Liam Halloran, William Barnett

Monash: Emilie Satchwell, Joseph Cipolla, Sami Barker Oodgeroo: Ruby Cochrane, Flynn O'Brien, Hamish Stephen



Oxley College Junior Cross Country Carnival 2023 Age Champions

5/6 yrs Girls 1st Willow Devlin (Chisholm)

- 2nd Ailie Watson (Flynn)
- 5/6 yrs Boys 1st Archer Aleksandric (Flynn)
- 2nd Liam Callan (Chisholm)
- 7 yrs Girls 1st Charlotte Jones (Chisholm)
- 2nd Matilda Wolstencroft (Flynn)
- 7 yrs Boys 1st Christo Galwey (Chisholm)
- 1st Charlie Webb-Sear (Chisholm)
- 2nd Emil de Haas (Flynn)
- 8 yrs Girls 1st Charlotte Keats (Walton)
- 2nd Ruby Rogerson (Walton)
- 8 yrs Boys 1st Hugo Tait (Walton)
 - 2nd Ronnie Fragar (Walton)
- 9 yrs Girls 1st Naomi Robertson (Flynn)
- 2nd Rose Hurst (Walton)
- 9 yrs Boys 1st Josh Lawrence (Chisholm)
- 2nd Oliver Johnson (Flynn)
- 10 yrs Girls 1st Luella Sewell (Flynn)
- 2nd Stella Bacon (Chisholm)
- 10 yrs Boys 1st Angus Kean (Walton)
- 2nd James Russell (Flynn)
- 11 yrs Girls 1st Gabi von Sperl (Walton)
- 2nd Hadley Morgan (Chisholm)
- 11 yrs Boys 1st Euan Shedden (Flynn)
- 2nd Chase Holmes (Walton)
- 12+ yrs Girls 1st Pixie Hanson (Flynn)
- 2nd Sapphire Sparke (Chisholm)
- 12+ yrs Boys 1st Will Kean (Walton)
- 2nd Andrew Clothier (Flynn)

House Championship

- 1st Flynn (718 points)
- 2nd Walton (669 points)
- 3rd Chisholm (624 points)

Oxley College Senior Cross Country Carnival 2023 Age Champions

- 12 yrs Girls 1st Charlotte Bartlett (DO) 2nd Molly Harwood (DO)
- 12 yrs Boys 1st Lucas Drelaud (DU) 2nd Milo Shepherdson-
- Woodhouse (FL)
- 13 yrs Girls 1st Penelope Browne (MA) 2nd Isabelle Fergusson
- (FL) 13 yrs Boys -1st Harry Keats (DU) 2nd George Hamblin (OO)
- 14 yrs Girls 1st Amelia Legge (FL) 2nd Annalise Wright (MO)
- 14 yrs Boys 1st Jenson Appel (DO) 2nd Sam Hitchiner (DO)
- 15 yrs Girls 1st Mollie Kettle (FL) 2nd Zara Love (OO)
- 15 yrs Boys 1st Fred Hamblin (OO) 2nd Archie Cosgriff (DO)
- 16 yrs Girls 1st Annabel Arnot (MO) 2nd Amba Rose Satchwell
- (MO) 16 yrs Boys 1st Harrison Kirsch (DO) 2nd Hugo Findlay
- (MO) 17 yrs Girls 1st Amelia May (DO) 2nd Emily Rodger (OO)
- 17 yrs Boys 1st Phoenix Sparke (OO) 2nd Oscar Lambie (DO)
- 18 yrs Girls 1st Amelia Carpenter (DO) 2nd Laura Holt (DO)
- 18 yrs Boys 1st Matthew Smith (OO) 2nd Jack Ayling (MA)

House Championship

- 1st Dobell (385 points)
- 2nd Monash (357 points)
- 3rd Oodgeroo (348 points)

NEWSFLASH

GOOD NEWS, EVERYONE!

Cross Country

Oxley made a great showing at the IPSHA Cross Country Carnival at The Kings School on Saturday April 1. All runners did a fantastic job with the majority finishing in the middle of the pack. Well done to **Pixie Hanson (Year 6)** who placed 3rd on the day and will go on to represent Oxley in the CIS team.

Swimming

A huge congratulations to **Charlotte Holmes (Year 6)** who competed at the Speedo Sprint Finals at Sydney Olympic Park on Saturday May 4. Charlotte swam in the 50m breaststroke and came 2nd, finishing with a personal best time of 38.66. Despite not being able to go to Nationals yet, she has secured her time 2 years in advance!

Basketball

Congratulations to the U14 Boys Basketball team on their Grand Final win!



Cricket

Joe Quilty (Year 12) is commended on a great partnership in the ISA 1st XI v 2nd XI game on Sunday March 5, scoring 70+ runs for the 2nd XI.

ISA Premiers

A number of Oxley teams have come out on top in their ISA Grand Finals:

- 1st Girls Basketball Coach Josh Watts
- 13 Boys Basketball Coach Dan Collins
- 2nds Cricket Coach Adam Cadwallader
- Inter Girls Touch Football Coach Richard Madden





HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT MOUNTAIN BIKING AT OXLEY?

The Oxley Mountain Bike team has had a busy summer! Harry Greenfield (Year 10) and coach Meaghan Stanton raced the Cross-Country State Championships in Nowra late last term and the National Championships in Thredbo early this term, with two separate disciplines at each event. Ms Stanton won three gold medals and one silver in the Masters' women's category and Harry achieved some very promising results in the very competitive Under 17 category (11th at State and 23rd at Nationals). They both also raced the Willo 60km marathon event in Nowra in March, winning their respective age categories, and are now training for Marathon Nationals in Wagga in May.

In Week 6 of this term, a team of Oxley students represented our school at Australia's largest Interschools MTB event in Thredbo, where thousands of school-aged students gathered to compete in cross country, pump track and three gravity events on the Flow, All-Mountain and Cannonball trails. There were more than 500 riders in the Year 9-10 category for the Flow event alone, so the competition was fierce! The weather was also fierce, with icy winds and rain on and off throughout the event.

Standout results were from Harry Greenfield (5th/156 in Y9/10 Cross-Country) and **Aston MacDonald** (Year 9) (who was a little held up by other riders but still managed 75th/507 in Y9/10 Flow and 105th/340 in the Y9/10 Cannonball Downhill) and solid efforts from Oxley MTB captain Will Nash-Smith (Year 12), Harry Kean (Year 7), Noah Byrne (Year 9) and Jenson Appel (Year 8) in a variety of events. Well done team!

Our MTB team has a new coach, Luke Skelly, who is an incredible rider and has a wealth of knowledge to pass on. Students are really enjoying his input and continuing to hone their skills with our other coaches, Meaghan Stanton, Peter Dowse and Cameron Butcher at training each Friday. If you are interested in joining the Oxley Mountain Bike team, please contact the Sports Department!

Will Nash-Smith, MTB Captain

