

PINOAK



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Message from the Chairman

Act ng Head of College

Head of Senior School

Junior School News

Junior Gallery

Feature

Old Oxleyan

Take Inspirat on

Big Issue

There are many famous quotations about change, but they mostly agree with Heraclitus the Greek philosopher: There is nothing permanent except change.

In our Covid-adapting world, this seems truer than ever. In fact, the unusual and the unexpected have become almost expected.

At Oxley, we have had our share of unexpected change in the past few weeks. Once in a generation rain and flooding was managed with a high level of professionalism and adaptability by our school leadership and staff. The Board would like to thank all staff, students and parents for your calm, patience and understanding during this extraordinary weather.

After the flooding, the sun finally came out and the school farewelled Mrs Ethell. It was a wonderfully organised day, and a true celebration of all that Mrs Ethell has brought to the school. It was very fitting that Mrs Ethell was honoured with a school 'tunnel', giving her the chance to connect with every child in the school, all of whom have benefited from her leadership (and who enjoyed the cake on her last day)! The Board wishes Mrs Ethell a safe and happy transition from Bowral to Western Australia.

Last Monday, Mrs Cunich stepped in as Acting Head of College, ably managing the many challenges of leadership – including how best to support students impacted by flooding and road closures.

On the same day, Mrs Cunich, the Executive and I also welcomed Dr Mulford for a lunch and a chance to get to know the leadership team. Dr Mulford then enjoyed a tour of the school and a session with the staff at the end of the day. His message of support and encouragement for the staff and the school was well received. "I am here to provide support for the staff and students, to assist with the recruitment of the next Head of College and to work with the Board and the Executive on Strategic Planning and the building Masterplan. This will keep these projects progressing and ensure they are in good shape for the next Head of College to finalise and implement".

Dr Mulford will be joining the school as Interim Head of College from Wednesday 30 March. There will be a range of opportunities to get to know him, including Welcome Drinks planned for early Term 2.

Dr David Mulford is a very experienced and well regarded school leader. He was principal for 27 years at three independent schools, including Blue Mountains Grammar (1992-2000), Radford College ACT (2001-2008), which are both regional coeducational Early Learning Centre to Year 12 day schools. He was also Headmaster at Newington College (2009-2018), a large city boys' school. Dr Mulford has a Doctorate of Education and his teaching background includes economics, philosophy, and studies of religion.

He is married with three adult children, all of whom are in creative fields (a Designer, an Art Curator and an

Architect). His wife Judy is an Interior Designer and has owned and worked in a number of art galleries.

Since retiring at the end of 2018 Dr Mulford has conducted leadership mentoring across Australian independent schools, lectured at universities, and has been involved with several social justice initiatives. He serves on the Boards of MLC Sydney and Tupou College Tonga.

Last Saturday 19 March, the position of Head of College was advertised and we expect a strong candidature given Oxley's strong reputation, its liberal education and its location in the beautiful Southern Highlands. The focus of the selection committee will be to ensure that the work of all our previous Heads is built upon, and that the next Head of College is the right fit for

ACTING HEAD OF COLLEGE

It is with a sense of great privilege that I write this Pin Oak as Acting Head of College. I imagine that there are many new families who may not know me, or who I am, or perhaps only recognise my name as the overly excited person at Junior Assembly on Friday mornings, or as the gowned figure presenting academic prizes at Speech Night.

So I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you the “why” behind me sitting in this chair for just a little while. I love this wonderful school of ours, and I sometimes think that I’m like the Pin Oak tree on Elvo lawn. The tree and I have weathered storms together, and as the seasons pass, we have both grown and evolved just as Oxley has flourished. The leaves may be falling of the Pin Oak now (here comes Autumn) just as my wrinkles are becoming deeper, but the thing that keeps us grounded in the soil of Oxley remains the same – the heart of this place is built on the firmest of foundations, on the dreams of our pioneers and our commitment to think deeply about the biggest of ideas, no matter what.

Oxley is a place for growth for all – no year is ever the same as the one before. Personally, I have been blessed to have grown here as Head of Department, Head of House, Director of Co-curricular and then when the opportunity arose, to win the hard-fought role of Deputy Head Academic. As part of that shared journey in researching what works best in schools, we’ve seen Oxley recognised internationally numerous times. Our chapter in *Visible Learning in Action: International Case Studies of Impact* continues to be sold into multiple languages. We’ve had teachers present around the world, with a particular highlight being Mr Parker and I presenting in Washington DC to educators keen to unpack what made us as a small, reu0.8Arniworks Is, wrks

Year 10 Rites of Passage – Sydney

Despite the significant challenges posed by COVID-19, Year 10 students departed for Sydney on 'Rites of Passage' on Monday



Weekly Awards

Learning Journey

K: Matilda Wolstencroft
Yr 1: Freddie Paterson
Yr 2: Charlotte Bullick
Yr 3B: Angus Sheer
Yr 3R: Stella Bacon
Yr 4A: Sophie Henderson
Yr 4W: Darcy Jones
Yr 5M: William Kean
Yr 5N: Andy Clothier
Yr 6H: Will Kennedy
Yr 6S: Harry Voss

Oxley Values

K: Bella Horne
Yr 1: Alessia Sicari
Yr 2: Finn Kean
Yr 3B: Lexie Seehusen
Yr 3R: Hudson Ahern
Yr 4A: Oscar Jones
Yr 4W: Archie Adams
Yr 5M: Ava Snowden
Yr 5N: Isabella Sicari
Yr 6H: Scarlett Miller
Yr 6S: Xavier Druer

For many children, the challenges of school life can take a heavy toll. Between academic expectations and social pressures, students can find themselves struggling with feelings of loneliness and anxiety. Here at Oxley, we use our buddy system to foster student collaboration and community.

Students from different grades buddy up in a variety of ways.



JUNIOR GALLERY



OLD OXLEYAN

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My journey since finishing Oxley has definitely been filled with twists and turns! I didn't know what to do after school, so I decided to pursue journalism as I enjoyed writing. Unfortunately, I became very disillusioned by the realities of a career in the mainstream media, and left university with no concrete plans for the future. I decided to move to Fiji for six months, where my father owned and operated a resort, while I figured out what my next steps would be. I ended up living there for 16 years! I fell into sales and marketing by accident and absolutely loved it as it allowed me to be creative and utilise my communications skills. I also got to travel to the most amazing places for sales trips, and form friendships with colleagues from all over the world. My father had some spare land and challenged my brothers and I to "do something" with it. We ended up creating a child-free boutique resort called Lomani, which is the Fijian word for love. Although we received a small initial investment for construction, everything about the resort including design concepts, branding, HR, procurement and catering were created by the four of us. We grew the business organically by reinvesting profits, and this year we will reopen in April after renovating during the Covid-19 shutdown, feeling that the resort is finally "complete".

After 15 years working in sales and marketing, I found my passion began to wane as I became more intrigued by Psychology. I was first introduced to Psychological concepts while completing a Master of Marketing, and psychology became a nagging distraction that I could not shake! I am currently in my Honours year of a Bachelor of Psychological Science and hope to pursue a Master of Clinical Psychology next year. It's been a big career shift but one that I am excited and passionate about.

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It might sound clichéd, but raising two children, Harrison and Madeline, who are kind, open-minded, respectful and loving is what I am most proud of.

**Were these things that during high school you expected
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Not at all. Marketing was not even on my radar while I was thinking about career options during high school. I remember considering Psychology during my senior years of high school but decided not to pursue it because I was terrible at maths. As it turns out, I'm still bad at maths but I'm actually pretty good at statistics!

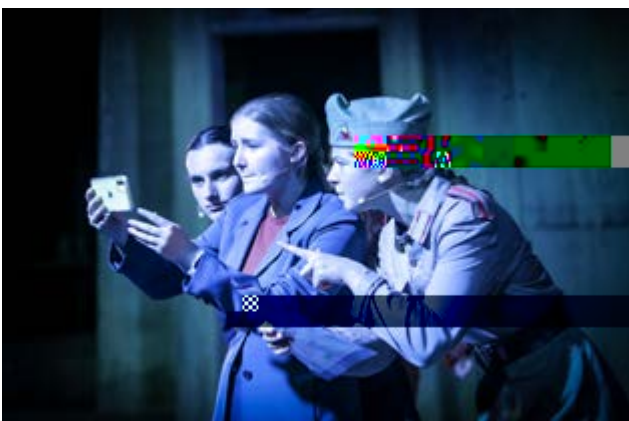
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Oxley offered me the opportunity to become a well-rounded individual. As a student, I participated in everything including music, drama, sports, debating, public speaking... I even tried martial arts! Having an attitude of giving everything a go helped me to develop various skills including teamwork and problem solving while also developing a resilient mindset. Learning to feel comfortable on a stage is also something that has served me well throughout my professional life, from being able to deliver presentations confidently to giving impromptu speeches.

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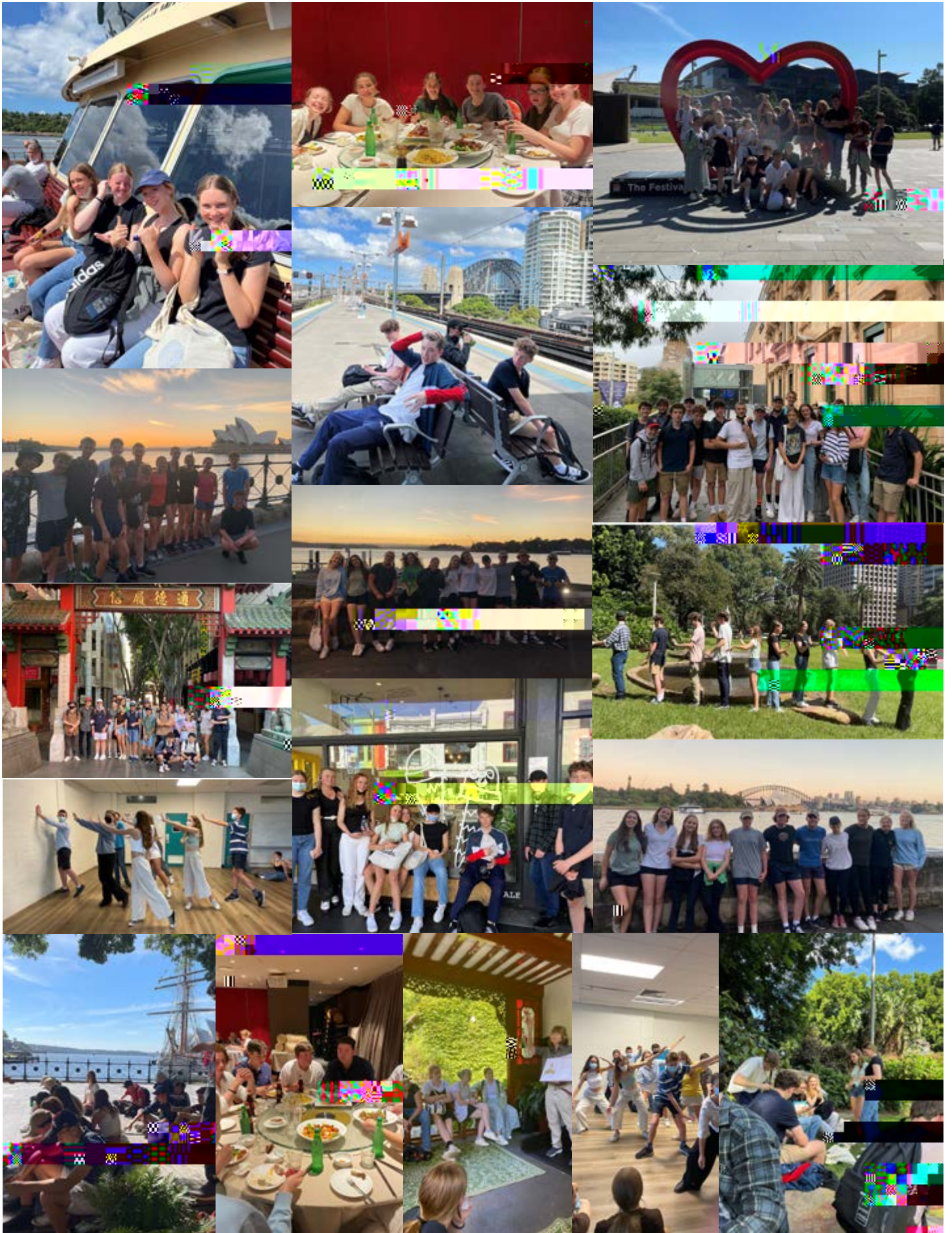
This year the Oxley drama enthusiasts performed in Sophocles' tragedy Antigone, with outstanding results that moved the audience. Antigone highlights worldwide topics such as power, morality, love, society, and pride. The students, whose performances are to be commended, auditioned in Term 4 of last year and rehearsed following a rigid schedule to achieve the best production. Each of the cast members showcased exceptional talent, allowing the audience to become fully immersed in the atmosphere and dynamic of the world of Antigone.

Milly Arthur in Year 11 played Antigone, her performance was outstanding, the audience was able to connect with the character easily, following a journey of morality driven by love of her brother, despite the challenges posed by Creon. Hal Canute, Year 12, in his last Oxley College production, played the role of Creon to an exceptional level. Hal effectively embodied the character, truly grasping the attention of the audience. Lilly Spring, Year 12, also in her last Oxley performance played the role of Ismene, Antigone's sister. Both Lilly and Milly established the moral journey throughout the play, as their character perspectives bounced off one another. Members of the





More to come...



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



climate change edition

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NEWSFLASH

Phoenix Sparke Year 10 has just returned from representing Australia, racing in the Youth World Championships Biathlon in Soldier Hollow, Utah.



Phoenix competed in the youth category (u19) and placed 60th in individual, 61st in the sprint and was part of Australia's first ever Youth Mens Relay team who placed 16th. Phoenix performed strongly and at 15, was the youngest male competitor who qualified. His ski times were fantastic, and shooting improving with each race. His qualification was over summer when he was training and racing in Austria and Italy. Phoenix placed 2nd in the Austrian National Championships U16 races, and within the percentage timeframe of the U19 category.

Phoenix is training for State and National championships in Australia this year - with a view to being eligible for selection to the 2024 Youth Winter Olympics.

The situation in Ukraine is not something that needs an introduction. To put it quite simply it is war, and it is wrong. In true Oxley fashion we decided that it was not our place to shakily step up to the podium and deliver politically correct speeches about the topic, or even half-heartedly advertise fundraiser or initiative. No, we knew this was an issue that called for a good old fashion sausage sizzle.

Last Thursday all Senior School Oxleyans came to school wearing yellow and blue mufti, but more importantly, on Thursday all Oxleyans came to school wearing the colours of Ukraine. A long queue stretched across Elvo lawn and the science corridors steps as students lined up to swap their money for tokens to spend at stalls that boasted cakes and lollies and chips and most importantly, freshly cooked sausages.

Fundraisers, in the past, have always been days where students can be seen sprinting across the grounds, shouting at their mates and chugging Fanta like they don't have a chemistry exam tomorrow. But on this day, it was different. Despite the smell of cake wafting towards us as we queued in line for the various stalls the mood of Oxley College was sombre. Though we all made attempts at pleasant conversation and bragged about how warm our various clothing items were against the breeze never once did we forget why we were spending our money. Mackenzie Kane, a Year 12 student at Oxley, stood on the balcony of Elvo while we milled about, clutching our newly bought goodies, and he delivered a speech about why we were raising money, why the Ukrainian flag hung from Oxley's flagpole, why this day was a day of sadness as well as community.

"With the issuing of an order in Moscow, history's course has forever been altered" he stated as the crowds of students began to stop and look up.

"Until 20 days ago, international law, world order and state sovereignty, liberal and democratic ideals have, for the most part, reigned supreme. Peace between major nations had been maintained since 1945. But with the issuing of an order in Moscow, that all changed and history's course has forever been altered."

He continued this speech, this explanation, this summary of a concept so foreign to students like us who have never seen war before in real time, in real life, with real people and Oxley stood silent.

Oxley raised \$4335.20. Because the situation in Ukraine is war

Oxley Firsts Boys Basketball just missed coming out on top for the season, losing to Oakhill College 39-41. The team fought hard to come back from being 10 points behind to nearly winning the game in the last minute, just missing out on a penalty. Congratulations on a great season.



and it is wrong and whether we help by donating or cooking sausages Oxley will not stand silent.

This war is not something that can be aptly covered in a Pin Oak article or explained in passing, so please educate yourself on what is happening and why it is happening. The news will fluctuate with stories of horror and hope but please don't let yourself fall into a state of apathy, of numbness or disbelief. As Mackenzie said, "We must not, we cannot, as the world has done numerous times before, grow apathetic or fatigued at this crisis, at the suffering of other people."

Please consider donating to <https://www.savethechildren.org.au/donate/appeals/ukraine-crisis-response>.

Written by Violet FitzSimons, Year 9

Today, the Junior School also had a mufti day to raise money for Ukraine. They raised \$1200.00 for the children of Ukraine. A group of Year 6 students organised stalls selling keyrings, slim and balloons and many other things and ran a raffle.

Congratulations to our wonderful K - 12 Oxley community.

