

PINOAK

ISSUE 97: TERM 4, NOVEMBER 15, 2019
OXLEY COLLEGE

REMEMBRANCE
DAY

HSC
NOMINATIONS

YEAR 10
FILM NIGHT

THANK YOU OXLEY!

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7 November 2019

Mr Timothy Dibdin
Oxley College
Railway Road
Burradoo

Dear Tim

Thank you so much for being involved in our RARsh Monster Food Drive..for the second time. We so appreciate the contribution you have made with donations from Oxley College families. Michael Winkler kindly brought the goods home and his wife Jessica then delivered them to our storage facility where she helped us repack for delivery to Newtown in Sydney.

Thank you once again for helping to make this initiative a resounding success.

Kind regards

Julia Weisz
Co-ordinator
2019 RARsh Food Drive

Some feedback from a stranger at Uluru on Outback 2019

I hope I have the right school here..? I contacted Canty's bus lines in the hope of finding a school group that was recently out at Uluru during the last school holidays. They have advised that it was possibly your school group.

I wanted to give feedback to a team of yours that recently attended a trip to Uluru.

I was at Uluru campground at the same time as your school group & bumped into your team a couple of times.

At one point, they were even required to move the massive 6berth motorhome I was travelling in with my 4 children. The guy was friendly, introduced himself & had a laugh with my children.

At all times, they were professional, fun, friendly & funny.

As a single mum of 4 children who is required to work full time, I obviously can't attend a lot of school functions & I often think about the care & support my children get when they are in a large group, away from home.

As a parent, who experienced your staf, from a complete stranger's point of view, I would have no hesitation in offering support & reassurance to other parents of your school.

This team is a credit to your school.

Kind Regards,

What an interesting time we have had! The HSC finished on Monday, school closure on Tuesday and lots of celebrations including the wonderful Film Night for Year 10 students on Wednesday and the Year 12 Formal on Thursday. We have also welcomed our new students and families into Oxley College with Orientation Days for Junior and Senior School over the last two days. It has been wonderful to witness the relief and joy each of these events brought to students, parents and staff. I would like to thank everyone involved in making each of these events a success.

I am very grateful to Oxley families for their support in the closure of the College on Tuesday due to the catastrophic fire conditions. I am relieved that our community was safe and our region remained fire free but equally feel devastated for the communities who are still at ongoing risk or have suffered loss and damage due to fires. I am sure many of you found the day very eerie, with the high winds filling the air with smoke and dust as I did.

As mentioned our Year 12 students have finished their HSC and a number of staff joined our Year 12 students in a night of celebration at their Formal in Sydney last night. We are all very proud of how our Year 12s have performed this year with all of them working hard to achieve their personal best. They were well prepared and supported throughout their year by staff and their achievements across many areas are to be applauded. Most importantly they have grown into young people of integrity and have the skills and character to take their place confidently in the world beyond Oxley College.

Each year, the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) celebrates the very best of Year 12 student work from around the state with showcases in Visual Art, Design and Technology, Drama and Music. Traditionally Oxley College students have always flourished in these subjects, and this year is no exception.

In each of the areas we have had numerous students nominated for these showcases of excellence. Overall it has been our best performance ever. I heartily congratulate all of the students and staff involved in these wonderful achievements.

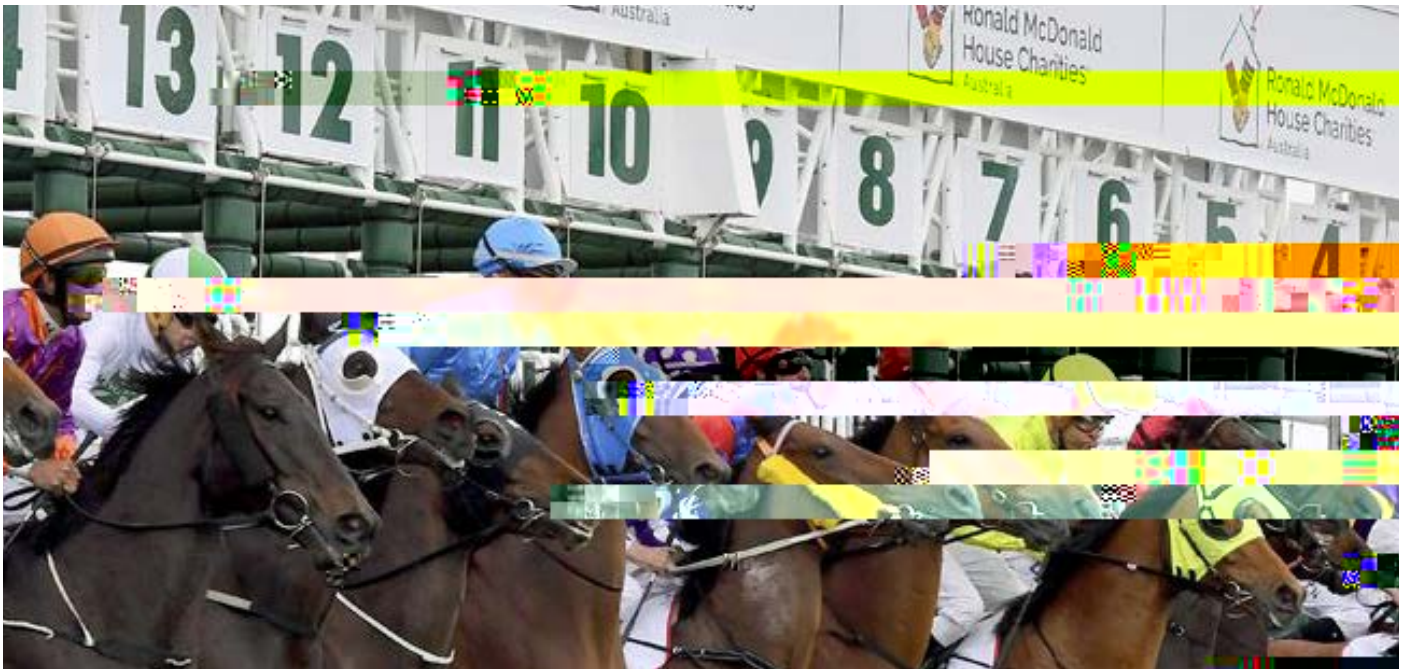
In Design and Technology we have had Bridget Drewett, Brianna Feary, Jess Malcolm, Sarah Pride, Savannah Sandilands and Jess Wade all nominated for the Exhibition SHAPE.

In Visual Art we have had Brianna Feary, Jade Gillis and Sky Holmwood nominated for ARTEXPRESS.

In Textiles and Design, Brianna Feary has been selected for inclusion into TEXTSTYLE Exhibition. This is an amazing achievement for Brianna Feary who not only studied this subject by Distance Education but has been nominated in all three of her HSC Subjects with a practical component. Congratulations Bri!

In Music, Lucie Drysdale has been nominated for the ENCORE performance.

In Drama, we have had Ben Canute, Jade Gillis, Sienna Knowles, Desiree Gvermiller and Td (early)87.e 10.



TWO POINTS OF VIEW IN THE RECENT EVENT OF THE MELBOURNE CUP

JOCKEY

The roar of the crowd fills my ears; I feel tall and proud to be in the race. My hands grip the saddle to readjust the reins making sure I can hold them just where I need them. The sun beams over the tracks making the green grass glow alongside the bright extravagant dresses in the crowd. Onlookers hold their glasses high, pose for pictures and anxiously wait for the races to commence. All the hard work over the past few months feels worth it now.

So many people say that horse racing should be banned but I've wanted to win this race since I was a little kid. People talk about the gruelling and cruel

RIDE LIKE A GIRL

We're coming to the end of the year and the range of events occurring provide pause to reflect on all the things that make Oxley extraordinary. Orientation Day for new students and families to the College is one such occasion. Much effort goes into the day in preparing our Captains to speak at the parent session and all students to extend the hand of welcome to incoming friends to be. In truth there is little convincing needed on the part of staff, it is the logistics that take the time. Our kids are way in front of us when it comes to living their school's values with enthusiasm and sincerity.

There are so many moments in this school where the essence of each unique personality shines. The sparkle of optimism, compassion, enthusiasm and gratitude spreads to others and reflects back to the source. It makes me wish that every single child knows where to find this inner glow to share with others or to buoy themselves at any given time. I want them to know that "you've got this" or "we've got your back" no matter the situation.

I've just discovered the most enchanting book of illustrations and disarmingly gentle wisdoms that provide the perfect dose of soul enriching, spirit lifting tonic. The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the Horse by Charlie Mackesy is a wonderful journal of four friends. The boy is small and ordinary and worries quite a lot. The fox is silent almost all the time. The horse is gentle and kind and strong enough to share his weaknesses with others and the mole just loves cake. Together they can face anything in the knowledge that they have each other and are loved for who they are. They are the perfect friends for each other – they are the kind of friends that everyone needs.

I shared this story with everyone today at Assembly and the take home message was simple – how would it be if everyone could show this much kindness to each other and in troubling times, by this kind to themselves? We want our children to be their own wise friend and to speak to themselves the way they would speak to their best friend. We all need a little bit of wise horse whisperings from time to time. This would be a gorgeous book to put beneath anyone's tree this Christmas.

Image source: <https://www.instagram.com/charliemackesy/>

Weekly Awards:

Students of the Week

Learning Journey

K: Emily Wright

Yr 1: William Palmer

Yr 2C: Zoe Sneddon

Yr 2S: Charlotte Stirling

Yr 3: Jett Loiterton

Yr 4: Joel Sheezel

Yr 5C: Zara Clancy

Yr 5H: Aislinn Kenny

Yr 6A: Eva Dufy

Yr 6W: Grace Malouf

Oxley Values

K: Albert Herrmann

Yr 1: Anna-Sophia Psarakis

Yr 2C: Hadley Morgan

Yr 2S: Samsara Pout

Yr 3: Fraser Wisken

Yr 4: Miranda Hunter

Yr 5C: Max Maclachlan

Yr 5H: Hamish Murray

Yr 6A: Ben Shields

Yr 6W: Arkie Francis

Suzuki Level 1 Graduation

certificate

Hamish Aston ee25 A998 Tf 53i467250304m/Im1 DoQQBT

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS



A CHRISTMAS WISH

The countdown has begun, there are only 40 days until Christmas! Even though I may have been counting down since April, I think it's now socially acceptable to bring up such a topic. The following discusses the act of gift giving at Christmas and how we can turn our drive for materialistic possession into something a little more valuable for someone a little less of .

'Give a gift worth giving this Christmas,' is probably a phrase you hear a lot in ads around this time of year. Though, these advertisements are usually referring to a luxurious cinnamon scented candle that your grandma 'may' adore or that new stainless steel thermo mix your Dad supposedly bought for your Mum yet he's the prime user. Christmas does not fail to entertain me in that sense. Though, not everyone is filled with joy and celebration on Christmas. The fact is that many people are experiencing poverty, sickness and loss at this time of year and no David Jones advertisement can mask that inequality. Therefore, I have explored many different ways we can support during these tough times.

CHILDREN IN NEED:

BUSH FIRE AID:



2019 HSC Examinations

This week our Year 12 students have sat their very last HSC Examination. It was a HSC with lots of changes in it. Science Extension became the first course that culminated in an online HSC Examination, the new syllabus for English resulted in a papers that asked questions like "To what extent does the exploration of human experience in The Crucible invite you to reconsider your understanding of love?" This tested student's ability to interpret unexpected questions and then demonstrate their skill in writing – expressing their own voice and their own ideas.

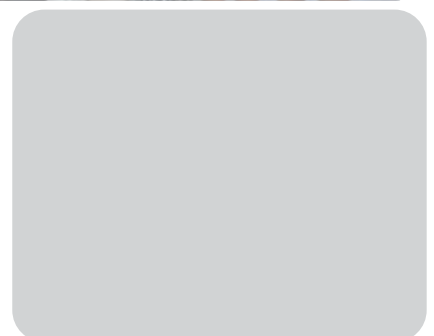
We have watched over them with pride as they have run the marathon of 3 hours examinations over four weeks – some finished in the first two weeks; others had to wait a week for between their last two examinations; and one student had two examinations on the last day. But what did we consistently see? Students who were calm, prepared and mindful prior to entering the Hoskins Hall, who then emerged hours later excited, confident and pleased with their efforts. We wait now to hear of the academic results, published on Tuesday 17 December. Students receive their HSC results in the morning and for the first time their ATARs on the same day. We know that whatever the outcome, our students have conquered challenges, sustained effort and ultimately showed the best version of themselves at this important but fleeting time of their lives. Our Year 12 teachers deserve many thanks for their continued support of their students throughout the process. Students have sent their teachers practice papers, essays and short answers for feedback. Their teachers have responded with encouragement and timely feedback to assist further study. Mrs Simpson, as the Year 12 Academic Master, has worked with each every one of these students - supporting, encouraging and refining their process. She has met them where they were at and helped them get through whatever challenge was facing them. We must acknowledge too the wonderful work of the HSC Presiding Officer, Mr Richard Connor who has managed the process for NESA on our site. We thank him sincerely for his work and support.

Year 8 Languages

Mrs Ethell, in a previous Pin Oak, wrote about the opportunities for languages that we have in 2020. We have been very fortunate to engage a Japanese teacher as an addition to our LOTE department. This means that we can now expand our offerings to Year 8 by giving them a choice of either French or Japanese to meet NESA's mandatory 100 hour of LOTE in a 12 month period.

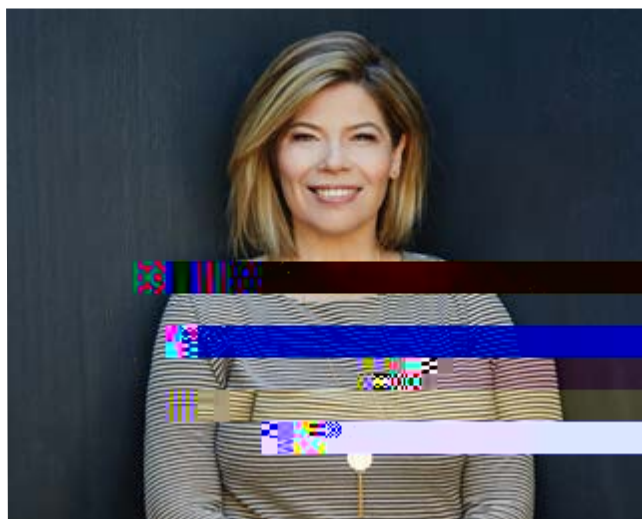


FILM FESTIVAL



OLD OXLEYAN INTERVIEW

MELANIE TAIT CLASS OF '97



Melanie Tait – playwright and journalist

Now that you're of in the big wide world, what have you made of yourself since finishing school at Oxley?

I have a really varied and fulfilling career these days as a playwright and a journalist, which means I've travelled a lot and most importantly, met lots of incredible people.

I'm currently writing my new play, *A Broadcast Coup*, which will premiere at the Ensemble Theatre in April next year.

What is your biggest achievement since high school?

That's really tough, as I live project to project! I'm very proud of my last play *The Appleton Ladies Potato Race*, which is doing a national tour in 2021, after selling out at the Ensemble Theatre in Sydney. I guess my most substantial achievement was *The Vegemite Tales*, which played for seven years in London (two of these on the West End).

That said, as I write this I'm filling in as host on ABC TV's *One Plus One* for a couple of weeks and that feels like a really big, exciting moment for me.

Were these things that during high school you expected you would end up doing?

Absolutely not! I didn't really know it was a possibility for me to be a playwright or a journalist. Those careers seemed entirely out of reach. I wanted desperately to be a musical theatre actor.

How did Oxley prepare you for your future? Is there anybody from the Oxley community who inspired you throughout high school?

I had really wonderful English teachers – in particular Mr Graham and Mrs Christie who made me really excited about language and drama. They encouraged me so I trusted my own instincts with storytelling when the time came.

Mrs Cunich also gave me huge confidence with singing and I'm so grateful to her for that, because I learned a lot about audiences from my years singing in clubs, pubs and bands.

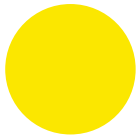
What would you say you miss most about being at school?

I miss having access to beautiful musical instruments and lunch breaks to play them in! And, I miss being in house plays, major productions, choir and vocal group! I don't miss being a teenager – the anxiety sucks! Believe me, it gets so much better!

What would you say to your fifteen year old self?

Writing will be your job so start taking it more seriously. Keep playing music. Stop worrying about those pimples they'll be gone by the end of Year 11.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW...



IS USA GOING TO WITHDRAW FROM PARIS AGREEMENT?



Described as a large, middle-aged, Caucasian male (tanning shade-faming hot cheeto dust I presume), with arguably small hands and hair that resembles a decomposing ear of corn. If you couldn't already guess, I'm talking about the President of the United States - Donald Trump.

If you have been paying close attention to the news lately, you may have heard that Donald Trump is moving to formally withdraw from the Paris climate agreement by the end of the 2020 election. This would thereby make the United States the only country in the world that does not participate in the pact, yet the United States is the second-biggest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world, falling short just behind China, and is by far the largest cumulative greenhouse gas emitter in history.

This is extremely concerning news, considering just in May of this year, for the first time in human history, the amount of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere topped 415 parts per million, reaching 415.26 according to the sensors at the Mauna Loa Observatory, a research outpost from Mauna Loa Observatory and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency. In addition to this devastating phenomenon, global temperatures are persistent to rise around the globe as extreme weather patterns continue to drive millions into poverty. Yet the Trump administration continues to slash environmental funding across the board, with up to 70% of the EPA'S funding planned to be cut as part of the 2020 budget.

Emilie-Rose Westlake-O'Dwyer (Year 9)



On Saturday 23 November Paddy's River Band will be playing at the Burrawang School of Arts. They have been described as "A rollicking bush band providing music and dance with a distinctive Australian favour". An experienced dance-caller will be there encouraging all to participate and enjoy the social fun of barn dancing. Tickets are \$25 but free for children under 12. All are welcome. If interested find more information at <http://burrawangvillage.com/whats-on/>.

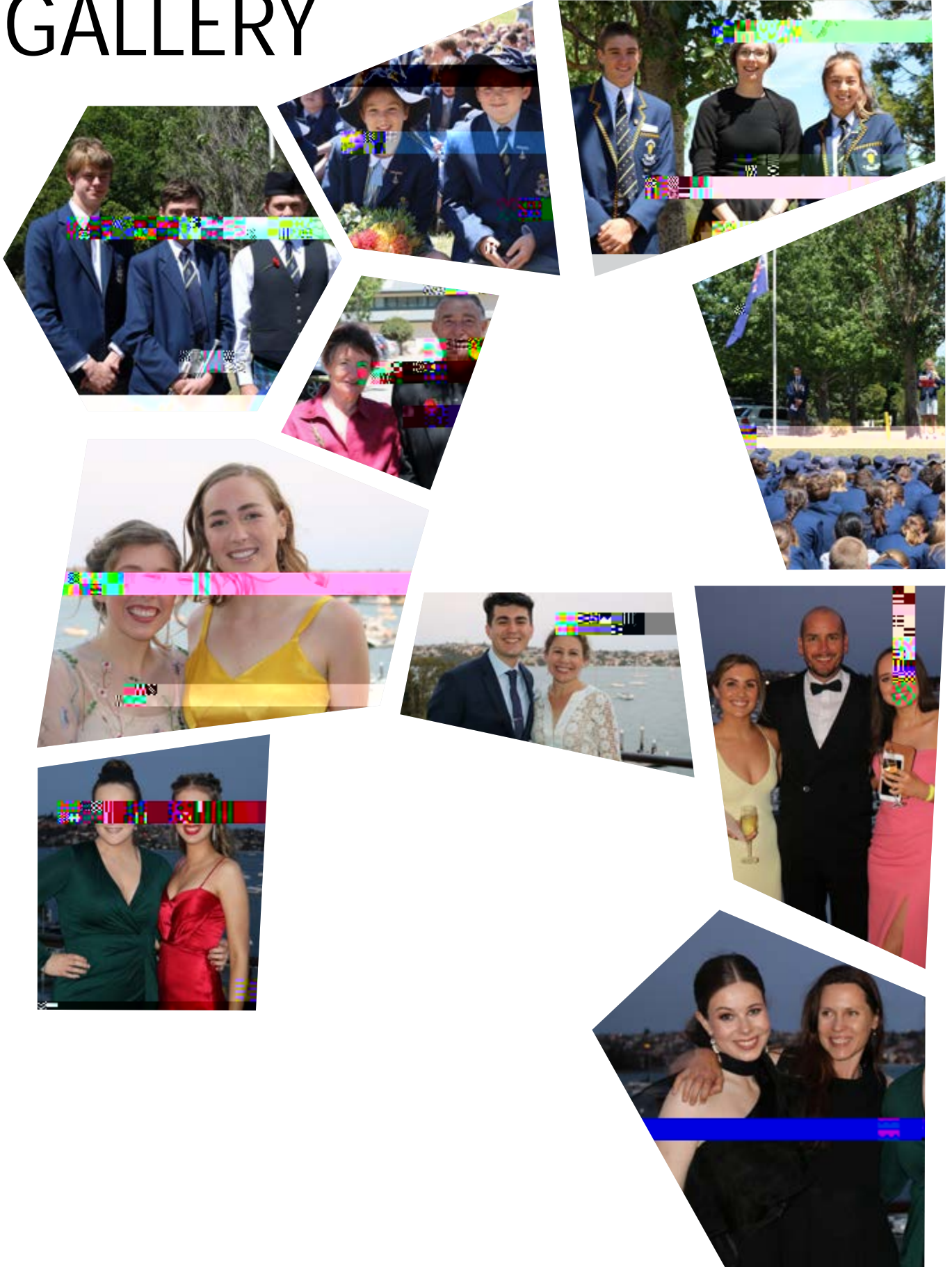
Lights, Camera, Action!

Red carpets, Paparazzi, awards and popcorn, what else could this be besides the Oxley College Film Festival.

As part of the program Year 10 were sorted into nine different film groups and got to take on a new role. From Director to Actor/Actress and Cinematographers. This was a new experience for most students

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GALLERY



NOVEMBER CALENDAR

NEWSFLASH

GEOGRAPHY CHALLENGE DAY



SUITCASE STORIES

Last Friday Year 8 attended a performance at Frensham called, 'The Suitcase Stories,' where individuals described their personal experiences as refugees. The performers were aged from 12-18 years old and captured the attention of the audience with their moving tales. From countries as diverse as Pakistan and Iran, their stories provoked deep thought on the plight of refugees today. It also gave rise to an appreciation of how fortunate we are here in Australia. The debate around refugees continues to be broadcast in our media. However, hearing first-hand tales and observations meant so much more.

Particularly moving were the experiences of families separated by time and distance whether it be due to a major event such as war or a smaller incident such as a market bombing. It is something that we do not consider in our fortunate lives here in Bowral. Personally, the thought of being forced to move to another country or to be torn from my family, is terrible to think about. And yet, these people not only lived through the experience but took the time to share their story with us.

I, for one, have a greater understanding of their situation through this presentation. I would like to thank Ms Rintoul, Ms Hanrahan and Mr Simpson as well as Frensham and the wonderful speakers for increasing our understanding of this global issue.

By Beth Zupp (Year 8)

MUSICA VIVA

Year 5 have been conducting family groups for Years K-4 every Monday, as leadership development. The theme for family groups this year has been the 'Renaissance' period. Students have been working together to create models of inventions from this period of time and have been discussing how these inventions have influenced our modern day society.

On Tuesday 5 November the Junior School enjoyed a musical performance by Musica Viva, titled "Da Vinci's Apprentice", culminating their family groups programme.

