

PIN OAK



*FOUNDATION
NIGHT*

DISCO

BIG ISSUE

ART

The Oxley spirit and spotlight on excellence has been shining brightly with so many wonderful engaging events and activities with parents and students. It has been heartwarming to receive so much positive feedback about Foundation Night. I would like to thank parents who have provided their reflections and sense of joy in being together and celebrating the incredible talents of our students and sharing the spirit of Oxley. It was such a very special night to be able to have many members of the community together either in person or virtually. Hopefully more people will be able to join us in the future. If anybody missed watching the event or would like to share in the joy again then you can access the recording on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kOP628CazZA>

Excellence in Service

As you know from my spruiking at Foundation Night we are in the middle of our drive to support Ronald McDonald House and their Dance for Sick Kids campaign. It was incredibly heartwarming to witness some of our Year 10 students leading groups of younger students to compete in a Junior School House Dance of . The winning groups proudly showcased their dances to parents at the Junior School Assembly. On Monday, we saw students in their Senior School Houses selling baked goods and dancing on Elvo lawn. Even the Executive team made a special appearance on the verandah of Elvo to lead the YMCA! The students did a phenomenal job raising more than \$2000 which will be added to the Oxley team total over the next week. Our campaign for Dance for Sick kids will finish with the Whole School Disco next Friday 4 June which will have a Wild West theme. Entry for students will require a donation of a 'note'. I encourage our community to get behind this very worthy cause and keep an eye out for an email next week about a generous opportunity to double your donations.

We also had our Harbison Grandfriends visiting again this week and enjoying the company of our youngest students. They spent time getting to know each other and playing games as part of their social and emotional development programme. It is so special to see their interactions and the joy they share.

Personal Interest Projects

This week, Year 9 students shared their Personal Interest Projects around the theme of Sustainability, with their peers and parents. It was wonderful to hear them share their knowledge and the deep thinking and learning they had acquired about their area of interest. Some of my favourite projects included sustainable house design, automatic solar lighting systems, regenerative agriculture, family heritage publications and innovative fashion designs.

Sporting Excellence

Students have also done exceptionally well representing
5 medals in Srs kt 2 fees in 10 Gumbel Tarpe 91 pfb o T 1 y T O r s

The Sport Pathway

We often hear the concept in sport of a 'pathway' of development. Usually this will come from a coach, club or sports administrator informing you of a simple linear progression of sport that eventually leads from beginner to expert or club to professional. Often you see it represented like the graph below.

In many ways this makes logical sense. An individual can, from one season to another, develop skills in an organised ascending order, from basic fundamentals through to mastering tactical skills in order to win. This leads people to conclude that the more someone does along this pathway the faster they progress up the pathway. However, this concept is a fallacy. It is good in theory, but it is not the reality of an individual's development, in any facet of their life.

From start t̄ š

JUNIOR GALLERY



Weekly Awards

Learning Journey

K: Scarlett Druery
Yr 1: Otto Richards
Yr 2: Albert Herrmann
Yr 3B: Lili Giro
Yr 3R: Maxwell Guilly
Yr 4A: Pollyanna Landrigan
Oscar Le Guay
Yr 4W: Flor Pereira Merlini
Yr 5C: Orson Francis
Yr 5N: Summer Johns
Yr 6H: Saxon Mellish
Yr 6S: Julien Simonsen

Oxley Values

K: Jack Malouf
Yr 1: April Sneddon
Yr 2: Stella Bacon
Yr 3B: Tatenda Jamba
Yr 3R: Charlotte Bentham
Yr 4A: Anna Sutherland
Yr 4W: Laura Drysdale
Yr 5C: Lucas Drelaud
Yr 5N: Anna Clark

My chosen innovation is Inventia's Rostrum 3D Bioprinter. It was developed by Inventia Life Science Ptd in Sydney and is used by different labs for cell-based research, specialising in regenerative

EyeWriter is a biomedical innovation that combines glasses that contain inexpensive eye tracking technology, which allows people to write and draw using just their eyes. The creator of the EyeWriter, graffiti artist Temp1, was diagnosed with ALS, a nerve disorder which causes all of the body's voluntary muscles except for the eyes to become paralysed. People with these disorders still have perfectly clear minds, but they are unable to do much

DANCE FOR SICK KIDS



FOR THE OXLEY DISCO

Ransom (aka entry fee): Entry by donation (includes refreshments)!

When: Friday 4 June 2021, Hoskins Hall

Time: 4.00pm to 5.00pm

5.00pm to 6.30pm

7.00pm to 9.00pm

Theme: Wild West

We will be raising money for a good cause, Dance for Sick Kids, to support the work of Ronald McDonald House. Prizes will be awarded for best dressed and best dancer!





Gallipoli is a critically acclaimed short series created in 2016 which is now available on Netflix. Gallipoli is just waiting to be watched by history fanatics, history teachers or the average joe that is looking for a good watch. This short yet critically acclaimed beautifully filmed tv series follows four young keen Australian men that learn to face the gory reality of the infamous Gallipoli landing in WW1. This TV series is a beautiful yet confronting masterpiece showing the horrific events of the Gallipoli landing in WW1. It is directed by Glendyn Ivin and filmed the beautiful Melbourne Bacchus Marsh. The first episode features a young 17 year old Australian soldier Tom, also known as Tolly, who lies about his age to enlist in the Australian army along with his brother. Tom and his comrades learn the fundamental skills of the battlefield in the eight gruelling months that Gallipoli took place in. Barely making it through the war, Tom learns and adapts to life in the army changing from a scared young man who is terribly homesick to a strong resilient soldier who is confident in his abilities. I would highly recommend this series to history fanatics, gore lovers and even students learning about the Gallipoli landing in WW1. A warning that this show can be quite confronting and gruesome. If you are under the age of fifteen please watch with a parent or guardian.

Archie Maitland Year 9

Mayfield Gardens is a wonderful 160 acre property full of lots and lots of colourful and spectacular plants and trees. I visited the gardens with my family, and they are absolutely beautiful, full of many different gardens in the one. There are Japanese gardens, a main house garden, a formal garden, creek, and lake gardens and if the kids are getting bored there's a 1.4 km living maze made of Box hedge, a big rope swing that's right next to a nice flying fox, and finally there's a stumpery, which is a garden full of tree stumps and bones from all types of animals. And I almost forgot there's an aviary full of amazing types of birds. Some of these include peacocks and black cockatoos.

We were lucky enough to hop into an old-fashioned rowboat and row around one of the many lakes, and visit the chapel that the family built for their daughter. The gardens are open 363 days a year. It's broken up into 2 sections. Mayfield Garden and the Hawkins private garden. I recommend attending the gardens during a festival to see both the Mayfield gardens and the Hawkins garden.

There is a lovely café with good food after walking up an appetite. It is definitely an all-day event but just to let you know they do have glamping on site if you want to make a weekend out of it. I loved and enjoyed seeing the autumn festival, seeing all the wonderful colours that autumn has to offer. I'm now looking forward to the spring festival to see how much it has changed during my time away.

Myles Magill Year 7

— RECIPE

We all love a good tarte! A very simple biscuit shell we can decorate with fantastic fruits, thrilling fillings, and glossy glazes. In today's issue of the Pin Oak, I will detail the method of making a good tarte!

Firstly, gather your reactants – ingredients.

You will need: 75g of western star butter, its important that its at room temp. Do not melt it! – 20g of white (granulated) sugar – 35g of confectioners (icing) sugar – 20g almond flour, a delicious ingredient, but if you want a nut free tarte then do not use this. – 1 large egg (approx. 50g) – 145g of all-purpose (plain) flour.

Deposit the butter, white sugar, confectioners' sugar, and almond flour into the bowl of a standing mixer. Beat on low, the butter will slowly combine with the sugar and almond flour to form a paste-like substance. They should be just combined.

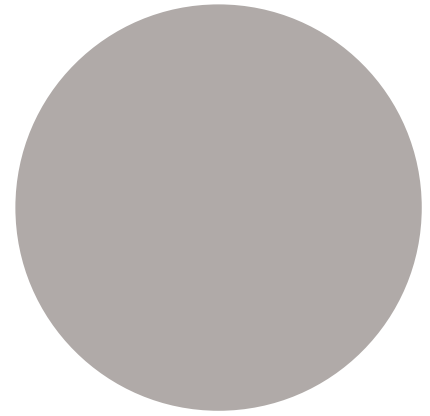
Throw in an egg! Obviously not the eggshell. Then beat on low to just combined. Your mixture should be wet, if its like a slurry or something runny and ghastrly then you 'could' be fine...

Now send the flour to the bowl, and beat on low, this will form into a dough. If the dough is quite still wet, then add more flour. If the dough is dry, then start again.

Finally let it sit in the fridge for at least one hour before rolling. When it comes to rolling the dough, flour the surface and rolling pin, and roll constantly switching your angle, you want a thin circle. Every three rolls pick up your dough and flour both sides. When you have a fitting size for your tin, fold your circle in half, then in half again to get a quarter, place the quarter in the tin, with the tip of the segment in the centre, then unfold. Cut your edges and the tin should be lined perfectly... or not. To finish, prebake the tarte for 15 minutes on 160o C if you intend to put it back in the oven. If you wish to fully cook it, go for 24-30 minutes 160o C.

Have fun!

Toby McErlane Year 11



Our Lego Houses

High school is well established as the time for 'finding one self'. There's not really much else to do if you think about it, it's that delicate age of feeling as though the world is going to end at a drop of a hat but at the same time singing along to songs that are as foreign to us as the idea of willingly doing laundry. Sure, there's not a single person at Oxley who couldn't sing you a line of 'drivers license' but the majority are singing about things they've never felt, adulthood is just far enough that life doesn't seem real just yet.

So of course we busy ourselves with the pursuit of finding concrete identity. Who are you? What do you want? Why do you want it? Profound thoughts for a 13 year old, no? But if you think about it, it's really not profound at all. Since we've been born we've been trying to build up our identities, refusing to eat bananas for some unknown reason, having an unholy obsession with Thomas the Tank Engine despite our parents desperate pleas to find something slightly less unbearable. However, this is all magnified in the teen years.

Long gone are the days of Thomas the Tank Engine, instead it's mascara, carefully selected lock screens, hobbies and relationships. Every teenager is adding to this Lego brick house they've made for themselves. An aesthetic, of course, required. Are you sunflowers or Edward Scissorhands? Sydney Sixers or rag tag beach brackets and sandy charms? All the pieces are carefully selected to build a shield to the less aesthetic inside. Within the house nothing has really changed, behind closed doors we are just as flawed and mismatched as we were before we picked our Lego pieces.

High school isn't really a time of finding oneself, you are yourself so there's no need to put on the hiking boots and dig up your mum's old compass. What we are finding is our Lego house, trying desperately to build up walls before too much damage can be done, so we can carefully comb through our image and find the flaws, making sure no-one else does. The closer you are to someone the closer they get to the door of your Lego house, the process of trusting someone to even get to the doormat is a hard one, but once you let someone inside: there's no going back.

As a college, Oxley sees children flourish from adolescence to adulthood, watches the Lego walls being built and overcome, the filter slowly becoming less saturated. That's the beautiful thing about Oxley, every student here is given the time to build and rebuild who they want to be perceived as, trial runs and second chances given to find the healthiest combination you can. So, as you stand in front of the mirror and straighten your tie or rehearse saying just how 'awesome' your weekend was try to compare your house to who's living inside of it. Please remember your identity is your own, not what others expect it to be.

By Violet FitzSimons Year 8

FOUNDATION DAY



PORTRAIT PRIZE 2021

Oxley celebrated its second community Portrait Prize on Foundation Night 2021. We began this competition in the depths of Covid-19 in 2020 as a way to get our community engaged in artmaking while learning from home. This year, we had many more entries from our students, staff and families. We are so grateful to all who entered and all who viewed the amazing exhibition. A special thank you to Megan Monte and Milena Stojanovska, the Director and Assistant Director of the New Southern Highlands Regional Gallery Ngununggula, that



In my last article for Pin Oak, I outlined the plan for our new native garden using the advice from “Birdscaping” by George Adams. We’ve since planted around 200 native trees and shrubs, and so far, it’s going well. For anyone interested in planting a native garden to attract native birds, particularly small birds such as wrens, finches, treecreepers, robins, fantails and more, I can now share some tips that we’ve learnt so far.

Tip 1: It’s critical to understand the microclimate of your garden, so you can select the best plants for areas that are sunny, shady, boggy, dry, frosty, windy, or in some cases, a mix of all. It can take up to twenty years for plants to reach full size, so a few extra days of research will save you time and money.

Tip 2: Don’t dig with a shovel! You’ll hurt your back and give up before you start. We hired a digging machine that could dig a 40cm deep hole in less than a minute – this was great until my Dad dug through the main water pipe...

Tip 3: As they say, dial before you dig! That means call someone who can show you where your water, gas, electricity and NBN (internet) pipes are. We did in fact do this, but we clearly asked the wrong person.

Tip 4: Prepare your holes to give each plant the best chance to survive and flourish. We added gypsum (to help break up the clay soil and improve the drainage), water crystals (to help store water around the plant roots during dry weather), and good quality native potting mix (to give plants the right amount of nutrients during the first year of growth).

Tip 5: Plant each plant carefully and water them with a seaweed fertilizer, such as Seasol, to ensure they have a good start. For some reason, seaweed helps plant roots adjust to their new soil.

Tip 6: Our garden is mostly shady and boggy – we have big Eucalyptus trees over heavy clay soil – so we planted Melaleucas, Callistemons, Banksias, Acacias, Hakeas, Leptosperms, Westringias, Elaeocarps and

NEWSFLASH

We have just finished making a cardboard hydraulic robot in Year 10 Design and Technology. This required a great deal of mechanical thinking, problem solving, custom designing and perseverance to ensure every moving part worked properly and could lift, push and throw. This was quite a challenging task and took longer than expected, but it was totally worth it to finish the project and understand how hydraulics work.

By Tom Milner Year 10



Congratulations to Harry Keats, Year 5, who has been selected for the Illawarra District Rugby Junior Representative team. He will be competing in the NSW State Championships in July.

Rugby

This week in Rugby, our firsts boys team came away with a win in a thumping victory over Redlands by 29 points! Our 14s/13s weren't as lucky as they lost in a nail biting game by two points.

Soccer

In the Football/Soccer we were up against the top of the table. We had to get on the early bus up to Redfield. Our mighty Firsts lost three goals to nil even though they put up an admirable fight. They were gracious in defeat and took this bump in the road as a learning opportunity.

Hockey

Our strong First Girls side played at Barker College. Playing at the top of the ladder, our girls gave it their all but the Barker Hockey giants proved too strong to even give Oxley a chance.

Netball

This week in Netball, our ferocious Firsts Girls were playing at home against Barker College smashing them on our own turf by 25 points.

Fencing

In Fencing, Alister Hill won the silver medal in the U19 Epee at the NSW Schools Fencing League and Banjo Campbell won the silver medal in the U14s.

By Archie Maitland Year 9

2021 COXLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CONCERT

5TH JUNE, SATURDAY 7:30PM
6TH JUNE, SUNDAY 2:30PM

Venue: Oxley College
 11-29 Railway Road, Burradoo

TICKETS
 Adults \$17
 Concessional Students \$10
 Children under 10 free
 Online tickets only
www.oxley.schools.nsw.edu.au

Programs:
 Antonin Dvorak Romance for Violin and Orchestra Op 11 soloist Alexandra Dening
 John Corley High Flight 2020 Composition Competition winner based on a poem by John Gillespie Magee Jr. (1922-1941)
 Carl Nielsen Symphony No. 1 Op. 7
 Conductor Dr Allan Simes

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