

# PINOAK

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OXLEY COLLEGE



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I reflect on the year with great pride in how much has been accomplished. It truly is a team effort and there is just too much to name it all. I have been impressed with the strength and richness of the academic programme, the growth and talent in our performing arts, the engagement and skill in sport and the care and compassion that is shown daily for each other by students and staff.

With the end of the year arriving we must say goodbye to some staff members who are leaving Oxley to take up new opportunities or begin a new stage of life's journey. Each person has made a special mark on the Oxley Community and I thank them all for their service to our students. We say goodbye to Ms Mandy Bransgrove, Ms Emma Storry, Vanessa Robinson and Dr Greg Oehm who are all stepping away to gain balance and look at new opportunities.

Mrs Justine Lind will move to the Wenona School as Head of Junior School after five years of transformative leadership making our Junior School the thriving hub of learning we find today. Her watchwords of Wisdom, Wonder and Welcome will live on and we wish her well as she takes up the challenge of her new role.

Mr Robert Hughes will retire after 13 years of outstanding service and will take time to enjoy travelling with his wife Robin. Mr Hughes has made an enormous contribution to the artistic life at Oxley as Head of Music and a Music teacher. He is a devoted and talented musician and has given wholeheartedly to our students and community.

Mr Nick Wansey is leaving Oxley College after 15 years of dedicated service to Sport and PE. He has been the Coordinator of Sport and has seen many Oxley teams run out onto the field. His service to the ISA was recognised earlier this month when he received the annual ISA Service Award for a staff member who has given generously to the Interschool Sporting Association over a sustained period. Mr Wansey has taken a position for 2020 at St Kevin's College in Melbourne and we wish him well for his new adventure.

Mr Simon Wolfenden is retiring after 17 years of exceptional service as a Mathematics Teacher and former Head of Lawson House. Mr Wolfenden has played a significant role in the lives of many students as a teacher and pastoral carer. He shows his deep care for young people in all he does and is a great colleague and support to many staff members. We are all very fortunate to have had 'Wolf' in our lives and we wish him well as he begins his next stage of life's journey.

Despite the winds and storm that tried to wreak havoc on this event it was a major success. The artisan stalls, music, good food and refreshments all came together to create a fantastic Oxley event. The atmosphere was just delightful and highlighted the strength of our wonderful community. We had a whole range of stalls from local artisans and the P&F as well as a stall to raise funds for the drought affected Murrurundi community. One of the stalls which was very impressive was the 'scrunchy' stall which was operated and run by the Malouf children to raise funds for 'Emily Express'. A most heart-warming show of how our community cares for others.

I would like to thank and acknowledge the P&F Committee and in particular Prue Wade and her family for her incredible coordination and organisation of this event. A wonderful Oxley event. While we are still finalising the figures raised, the P&F continue to be strong supporters of the College Wish List. We are very grateful for all they have provided this year. This includes our Scoreboard, the umbrellas near Of The Shelf, D&T equipment and contribution to our Junior School playground. In 2020 we see Ms Megan Moore as President, Ms Bec Biddle and Ms Eva Loiterton as Vice Presidents, Sandra Talman as Treasurer and Lynda Smith continues in the role as Secretary. I thank all members of the committee both past and future for their support of the College. I would like to pay special tribute to Trevor Fair for the outstanding service he has generously given as Treasurer to the P&F. Trevor has served as Treasurer twice for a total of six years, and we are very grateful for his expertise and generosity.

On Monday night we were all entertained by the House Drama performances. I have to say what I loved most about the night was that we had Year 7-12 students all working together to amplify and support each other's talents in the drama performances. It was the Oxley and House spirit personified! Congratulations must go to Durack, Monash and Florey for taking out the top three places. As always, there were so many of our community who came to support and none of it would have been possible without the leadership of our Year 12 students and the immense generosity of the Heads of House who gave up many afternoons and weekends to support the students in their rehearsals.



I'm sure you're familiar of the devastating bushfires our country is currently facing. It has been recorded that the fires have burnt through over one million hectares of our land.

Around 600 houses have been destroyed in New South Wales, alongside the loss of six lives.

Though, on the other hand, you may not be as aware of the stories and lives behind the volunteers, those whom are working to keep us safe. The NSW Rural Fire Service is the largest volunteer fire service on our planet, with over 2,000 brigades across the state made up of over 72,000 volunteers. Through this article, I aim highlight and bring attention to the voice of RFS volunteers opposed to that of a 7.30 news reporter. This is to gain a more genuine and authentic understanding of Australia's current bushfire crisis alongside the importance of such an organisation. The following includes an interview I conducted with my Dad, Mark, whom has been an RFS volunteer in the Mittagong Brigade for six years now and takes on the rank of an Advanced Firefighter and Safety Officer.

I always wanted to help out the community and after the Hall Road fires that devastated the Wingecarribee and Wollondilly shires in 2013, I felt that I was young and fit enough to join.

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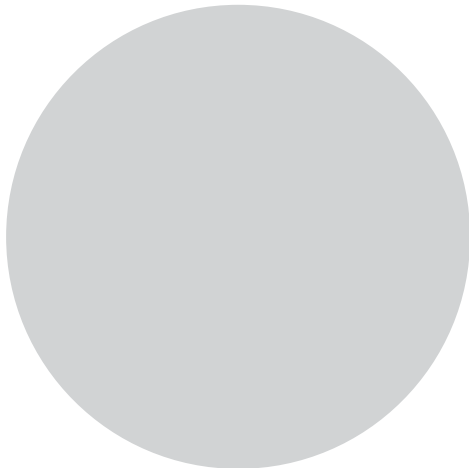
The comradery of working with a team dedicated to a purpose, the appreciation of people in need when the chips are down. I guess we're up against natural disasters of epic nature where the finite resources undoubtedly make it very challenging in meeting the ultimate expectation of saving houses and lives in extreme situations.

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As a firefighter on the ground, I am aware that the past

I recently finished a project I had started on many months ago with my Dad; the task of building an electric guitar. Once I had adjusted the intonation of the damned Floyd Rose and tuned the guitar to concert pitch, I sat down - with much anticipation - and plugged it in. And boy, what a sound! From that moment onward! ilwknw 0.12





# WE ARE GOING TO MISS YOU!

Mr Simon Wolfenden

I started in Term 2 in 2003 under the supervision of Howard Leslie who was Head of Mathematics.

## **K \Ukh Yfy'nci f'UfghfYgdcbg[V] JhYg3**

My first sports team at Oxley was a Netball team which was interesting because I had never played Netball. After one season I managed to wangle a transfer to Softball, which was much better, as I knew what I was doing. Coaching was a great opportunity to get to know the students outside the classroom and help them develop their skills while having fun. The highlight of my softball coaching career was when a few of the boys who were still upright after a Friday night party at St John's College at Sydney University decided to do a nude run across the diamond during a Junior game against St Andrews. I think this caused me more consternation than the players and we didn't play there ever again.

Initially I taught Maths and Science (because I was originally a geologist!) but after a few years I was such a success as a Maths teacher that I shed my Science responsibilities. (I was no good at dissections!)

It has been such an enormous privilege and pleasure to work at Oxley and I feel I have been so fortunate to have been given the opportunity to be part of the College community. Working and making friends with other staff members who





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In the final weeks of this term Year 12 have completed their first assessment tasks for the HSC, Years 7 to 10 have received feedback on their Yearly Examinations and Year 10 had a great time doing Australian Business Week.

The ABW programme has been operating in schools around Australia for approximately thirty years and involves more than 15,000 students each year. This year, students worked in teams on the theme of 'hospitality' and successfully ran a hotel. The week culminated in a dinner at Gibraltar Hotel where students celebrated the week's endeavours and heard from guest speaker Greg Wall about his experiences in business.



# SENIOR SCHOOL



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The 2010s are coming to an end, so why not reminisce on the somewhat cringy mess of things we found enjoyment from in the past decade.

2010 Was the year of unironic minion memes, Simon Cowell left American idol and Year 9 would have started school.

2011 was really a year of cats; Business cat, chemistry cat and perhaps most notably Nyan Cat.

In 2011 "Friday" by Rebecca Black was released and blasted across speakers – and unfortunately in 2019 continues to be played in the Mawson house area on you guessed it; Fridays.

Perhaps most notable about 2012 was it's immense musical prowess over other





Wednesday 20 November proved to be a special day of recognition for Oxley College. In the morning Jemima Taylor, outgoing school captain, became the fourth Oxley student to be awarded her Gold Duke of Edinburgh's International Award this year. Her ceremony took place in the beautiful Victorian church of St Stephen's in Macquarie Street, Sydney. Along with 74 students from across the State, Jemima received her Award from Her Excellency, Margaret Beazley AO QC, Governor of New South Wales. Margaret Beazley congratulated the awardees for their commitment to completing the programme, and for their