



FAREWELL  
YEAR 12

OUTBACK

TRIVIA  
NIGHT

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**Pin Oak Team**



An eclectic bunch of human beings who all carry unique and varied personalities. Some of whom in any other circumstance would not find each other except in the small pocket of the world that is Oxley College. Confident in themselves while respectful of difference and the need to find each other's strengths to achieve something good. I look forward to seeing what they will accomplish in the future. By Thomas Kindred, Head of Sport and PDHPE K-12

Year 12 have been one of my favourite classes to teach this year. They brought their curiosity about the world to every lesson, along with a sense of fun and a lot of laughter. Historical memes, outrageous Italian accents, and Horrible History songs will always remind me of our classes. By Fiona Radford, Head of History

Within this group of wonderful individuals there is so much variation! They are unique individuals – the result of millions of years of natural selection and selective breeding. In the face of environmental pressures, both abiotic and biotic, this group has indeed not perished, but survived as the fittest of 2022. In truth, we'd love to clone every one of them.

They have maintained their equilibrium by adjusting to any disturbances they faced. They turned vinegar and alcohol into perfume and took an organic approach to saturate their learning. Analysis has been instrumental in their progress and as a cohort they will not be substituted. Amongst them there are some precious and heavy metals, life giving gases and catalysts for change.

They came as Newton's corpuscular particles and they leave as De Broglie's matter waves, proving they have momentum and at the same time can penetrate whatever obstacles come their way.

Year 12 is a group of down to "earth" students, they leave no stone unturned and are not afraid to get their hands dirty. Despite being put under lots of pressure, they have proved to be diamonds in the rough. Rock on! From the Science Department

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# HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL

## Extract from Head of Senior School Speech at the Year 12 Final Assembly, Friday 21 September.

For each of our 85 Year 12 students in the Class of 2022, there are 85 different journeys. For some, their Oxley journey began 10 years ago when in Year 2, when then Junior School was born. Most started at Oxley in the years since, many in Year 7 in 2017. Whether born and raised in Bowral, or they moved here from Sydney, or from around Australia, or from overseas, all of them have had to overcome adversity. Make no mistake – for some, completing their Oxley journey is an achievement in itself. As a group, they came through the disruption of COVID in Year 10, being in lockdown in Year 11 and having to complete their Prelim Exams online, missing almost whole seasons of sport, not being able to sing or to perform, and having Outback postponed. Each one has their own personal story to tell – all have faced challenges, failed tests, made poor choices, experienced loss, disappointment, and self-doubt. In overcoming adversity, they have become young people of character.

For students in Years 7 -11 and the staff, we all have our own memories of your individual contributions over the years you have been here - in sport, in music, in drama and in spoken word, in Duke of Edinburgh, in sustainability, in assemblies, in service to the school and wider community.

As we emerged from the fog of COVID at the start of this year, our Year 12s led the way. In Term 4, they lived out their theme of Unity - the Unity with Ukraine event brought us together as a school in support of a people continuing to suffer a grave injustice thousands of kilometres away. In Term 2, you showed courage and kindness in celebrating unity through the acceptance of diversity in gender and sexuality. The way that you came together as a cohort, and brought the school together, is part of the legacy that you leave.

You started your HSC Trial Exams just as the latest COVID wave was peaking. In the way you approached this, as you have before and since – you have shown in the words of the Oxley hymn, that you are “dauntless in the face of challenge”. As you turn in the days ahead to your final exams – look beyond the HSC – I urge you to “keep the high goal in view”.

Now you would expect me to drop a bit of philosophical wisdom in my speech today. In the Buddhist tradition, the most important of the three marks of existence is *annica*, a Pali word that translates as impermanence. *Annica* is the truth that everything changes - nothing ever stays the same.



Although change is an inevitable feature of our lives, it is something that we all struggle to truly accept, let alone embrace. It is this truth that is reflected in the song that Year 12 will now sing, and then in the School Song that we will all sing together. It is through singing that we can express our shared human experience – and our unity. So I now invite Year 12 to come forward to sing Forever Young.



Rituals are a response to impermanence and change - through rituals we express shared beliefs, values and experiences that hold true in spite of change. The tunnel for Year 12s is a ritual – or rite – that marks the passage from one stage of life to another. It is our way of saying goodbye, of showing our appreciation for you, Year 12, of showing that whilst one chapter of your life is closing and another is about to open, you remain part of our Oxley family. Whatever the course of the 85 Oxley journeys you have had to this point, you complete this together. It is a ritual that connects you with the hundreds of Oxleyans who have completed Year 12 before you.

A philosophical text, known as Ecclesiastes, explores the quest for the meaning of life in the face of change and adversity. At around 2500 years old, it dates from the same time as the Buddha, but from Israel. It, too, accepts change as a mark of our existence and the full range of experiences that we all share. Reciting it each year in the final assembly for Year 12 has itself become a ritual.

For everything there is a season;

A time to be born and a time to die.

A time to plant and a time to harvest.

A time to kill and a time to heal.

A time to tear down and a time to build up.

A time to cry and a time to laugh.

A time to grieve and a time to dance.

A time to embrace and a time to turn away.

A time to keep and a time to throw away.

A time to tear and a time to mend.

A time to be quiet and a time to speak.

A time to love and a time to hate.

A time for war and a time for peace.

So Year 12, as the title of the song goes, now it is time to say goodbye.

By Mark Case, Head of Senior School



## Weekly Awards

There are so many benefits for students attending a K-12 College and as our Year 12 students left us yesterday, these benefits became obvious to all in attendance. Our Year 12 students shared how special school was and how fast the time had gone but they had so many wonderful memories and a lot of those involved their interactions with younger students. As they passed through our 'tunnel' formed by staff and students, their tear-stained faces displayed the realisation that they were part of a very large family, and the younger students were proud of them as individuals.

As a Head of Junior School, I get to see our younger students and senior students interact in spontaneous moments but also structured ones such as our buddy time. These are the moments that I see the students gain valuable social, emotional, and academic skills. For our younger students, the older students can give them advice and prepare them for the future. The young students will learn social skills, as well as make a new, older friend. It



# JUNIOR GALLERY

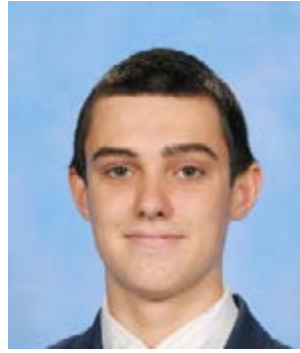








William Dowe



Patrick Dufy  
"Hi my name is Patrick D-D-D-Duf y"



Molly Eagan



Camille Falshaw



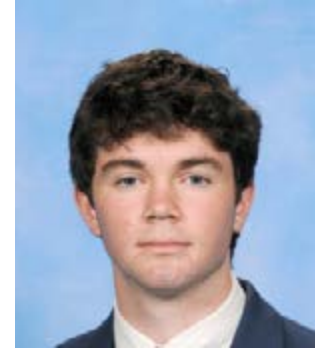
Isabel Feetham



Charlotte Gallagher  
"Finally got my tab"



Christian Gallina



Ethan Gough



William Gray  
"Picking her up from preschool"



Baxter Gregory  
"If its not a hell yeah- it's a no"



Brianna Grice  
"Short and sweet"



Archie Hancock



Kade Hanrahan  
"Tough t me never last, Only tough peo-"



James Hart



Amelia Hescot  
"Looks good for uni" a bet er school mot o



Saxon Hilkemeijer



Alister Hill  
"Merrick Hanna fan club"



Hannah Hilscocks



Lily Hogan  
"life moves pret y fast, if you don't stop and"



Peggy Holmwood  
"Together we can change the world" SW

# YEAR 12 QUOTES



Jake Houghton



Avery Howes  
"DEVILTOWN IS COLDER IN THE SUMMER"



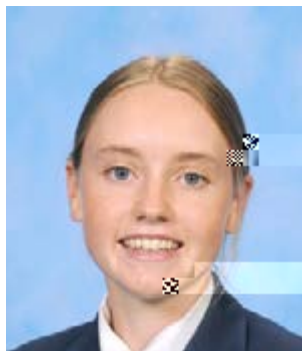
Mack Kane  
"I tried"



Scarlet Kiklovich  
"I crave release"



James Kim



Molly Knowles



Charlotte Little  
"Overthought this just like everything else"



Oscar Lobban



Matilda Longworth  
"Personally I'd be happy with AAB"



Lachlan Malcolm  
"Boomerangs come back, and so do I"



Jessica Marshall



Tobias McErlane



Darcy McKenzie-Slaven



Sophie Nash-Smith  
"I wish there was a way to know you're in"



Hannah Neath  
"Double Donut Mcgee - Dave"



Edward Nethersole



India O'Brien  
"I love you all"



Jillian O'Connell



Liam O'Connell



Oliver O'Riordan

# YEAR 12 QUOTES



Sarah Pietsch Liddell "Never worry about bad press. All that matters is if they spell your



Thomas Pike



Yannis Psarakis



Gaia Rickels



Hamilton Saeck



Olivia Scott



Lachlan Sell



Raina Singh  
"UwU"



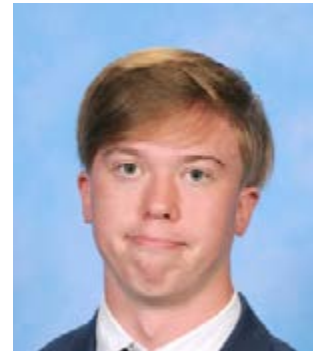
Sienna Spagnol  
"This was nothing like high school musical"



Rex Sparke "Goats are like mushrooms. If you shoot a duck, I'm scared of toasters"



Lilly Spring "When someone tells you to 'break a leg' it doesn't mean actually do it"



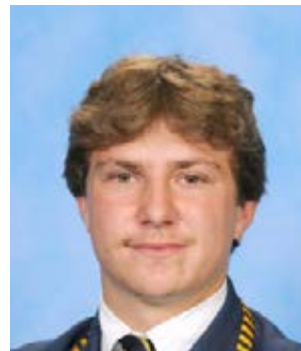
James Tansey



Julia Tansey "If I wasn't there I was probably broken down somewhere"



Hamish Tregenza



Dominic Ulliana  
"What's this?"



Victor Van Der Schalk



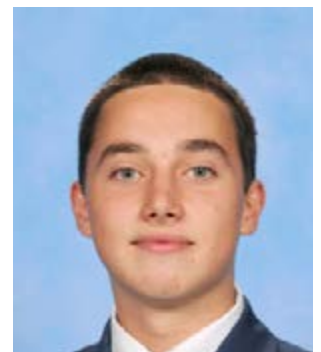
Liam Verity  
"You're still here? It's over. Go home. Go!"



Anika Vlahakis "Let's hope the next two Vlahakis' make my parents proud"



Gracie Walker "13 years of school and I still don't know what a verb is"



Toby Walker Levy

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## *OUTBACK 2022*

In 1988 the first Outback trip set out with 30+ Year 11 students in two buses. It was an 11-day trip that travelled into South Australia to explore the Flinders Ranges, the Oodnadatta Track and the vastness of the country in between. Since that trip there have been 34 similar adventures with Senior Oxley students serving as a transition into their final year of school to build both collegial and individual strengths and resilience.

Routes have varied and been altered near! a te

# YEAR 12



# Who is most likely to...

Return as an Oxley teacher <b>Sophie Nash-Smith</b>				
Appear on 'the bachelor' <b>Dom Uliana</b>	Write a best seller <b>Peggy Holmwood</b>			
Get a "Yes" from Simon Cowell <b>Lilly Spring</b>	Become a crazy cat lady <b>Julia Tansey</b>	St II say "lol", "slay", and "material girl" when they're 50 <b>Meg Callaghan</b>	Run for Prime Minister <b>Mackenzie Kane</b>	St II get ID'd in their 30s <b>Brianna Grice</b>
Save the planet <b>Liam O'Connell</b>	Leave and never come back <b>Hamilton Seack</b>	Be on Broadway <b>Liam Verity &amp; Hal Canute</b>	Be late to their own wedding <b>Ally Cavanagh</b>	Do anything for \$5 <b>Oscar Lobban</b>
Become a compulsive cross-dresser <b>Avery Howes</b>	Get stuck in a bathroom stall or elevator <b>Nick Anderson &amp; Charlotte Little</b>	Forget where their car is parked every time <b>Jamie Hart &amp; Sienna Spagnol</b>	Get stuck in a swing set <b>Matida Longworth &amp; Josh D'lorio</b>	Go on a blind date arranged by their mum <b>Toby Walker-Levy</b>
Start a TikTok famous small business <b>Georgia Day</b>	Fake their death <b>Alister Hill</b>	Have the most hair colours in their lifetime <b>Grace Walker &amp; Claudia Brady</b>	Have a borderline-inappropriate authority crush <b>Jacqui Worthington &amp; Scarlet Kiklovich</b>	Develop some unexpected supernatural abilities <b>Patrick Duffy</b>

# YEAR 12



Don't miss out. Try everything you can. High School is the best environment to try new things and have fun doing them. Mack

It goes without saying that High school is not the easiest challenge to face. Sometimes i (env9p8(school) ( ) (to) (otherTJ/5)9.o) ( ) Tf wil5 (and) kvtimeoms (H

You have power over your mind, not outside events. Realise this and you will find strength. Darby

Do drama. Best choice you'll ever make.  
Hal

Don't let other people control your decisions. Don't pick subjects, sports or anything else just because your friends are doing them, or your parents want you to, or even because you think it'll give you a good ATAR.

Do activities and subjects that you enjoy, do the ones you find fun, interesting and uplifting.

Don't pick your subjects based on what you think it's what you 'ought to do'. Mack

Six years might seem like a very long time – but it creeps up on you. As Queen Elizabeth said – “It is often the small steps not the giant leaps that bring about the most lasting change.”

Embrace every moment and live life with an open mind. Baxter

In all seriousness, the biggest advice I can give is to participate in school, whether it's in co-curricular, sport, or even raising your hand in class a bit more. Branching out is important and it's an easy way to talk to other years. It's similar to the advice you might hear 'talk to everyone in your year', which is also important too. Co-curricular help you learn new skills in an environment separate from classes and exams. It will also help you practice time management outside of school. Bri





# *MAJOR WORK REFLECTIONS*

## *MUSIC*

You know, it always surprises me at how shocked my peers have been at the fact I had to perform four songs for my music major work. Like there are people making literal chairs, and artworks the size of my body, but each to their own.

Major works. It's called that for a reason, and with my lovely friend 'Thesaurus.com', I am very happy to spell it out for you. The word major is also a synonym of; big, dominant, extensive, large, large-scale and sizable. The word work is also a synonym of effort, struggle, grind, endeavour, job and task. Just to name a few. Basically, I am saying that it takes a lot of time and effort. I had the joy this year to complete three major works in the subject's Visual Arts, Music 2, and Music Extension, and for each, I would like to say some discoveries I have made and a couple of apologies.



I think it is so important to put yourself first. It sounds terribly arrogant and perhaps selfish but I promise you, it's not. At its core, it understands that you must be kind to yourself first in order to be kind to others. You need to be empathetic and compassionate to yourself before you can truly do the same for your friends, family and partners. Especially in later years when the assessments roll in and social groups become (at times) tumultuous, it is so crucial that you know your worth. Not as a number, but as a valued member of not only the Oxley community but the greater sphere we all call home.

### 3. Favourite thing about your time at Oxley?

The connections I have made with my peers and teachers. The building of trust, commitment and respect is what I reflect on most. In particular my incredible mentor group led by the fabulous Meaghan Stanton so count this as a shout out to my favourite 18 Mawsonites that gave me energy every morning and afternoon.




The opportunities you are given, time and time again, are uncountable and extremely memorable. Varying from house sporting carnivals and getting behind your house to Duke of Ed hikes, the opportunities that you are given at Oxley you will not find at many other places. In my early years (Year 7, 8 and 9) getting to experience OLE camps was amazing. Hiking up Mt Durras to Pretty Beach in Year 8, and then Rites of Passage and overseas trips to Botswana in Year 9, I will never forget the opportunities and memories I have made while being a member of the Oxley College community. And although we had a delayed and altered Outback, the ability to bond with our year group for 10 days in rural NSW was another experience I will not forget. I am forever grateful for all Oxley has offered me.

Spending time with mates at lunchtime and recess.

My favourite thing about my time at Oxley was probably just spending time with friends. All of the bigger stuff has sort of been phased out and it's the smaller moments with mates during the day that have actually stuck Botswana! I will never forget my Year 9 overseas trip to Africa. The scenery, the people, the food - it was all brilliant. I am so grateful to Oxley (and my parents!) for the opportunity, it will truly stay with me forever.





"A death that stopped the nation" is a phrase that is not used lightly, but in our late Queen's case it was true. The death of Queen Elizabeth II made not just a nation, but the world bow their heads. After a lifetime of devoted service, at the age of 96, our beloved Queen passed