

HEAD'S COMMENT:

My School website

As expected, the My School website has generated a significant amount of media and parent interest. I have made brief comment on this in previous editions of the Weekly Record and would like to expand on these comments in this edition. I welcome the establishment of the My School site and hope that it develops into an information rich site.

Whilst it is very understandable that NAPLAN results have been used to form the initial basis of comparison, I hope the appropriateness of using NAPLAN is reviewed. NAPLAN was developed as a diagnostic tool for schools and teachers to use to assist the development of teaching and learning strategies. NAPLAN was not developed as a measure of school performance and discussion/debate needs to occur on what would be appropriate tools to use to measure school performance. However, at this stage, NAPLAN is the only testing undertaken at a National level and hence the use of NAPLAN in My School. People accessing Year 7 NAPLAN results should also understand that these tests are completed in early May each year (about 12 weeks into a student's first year at High School in NSW) and would be unlikely to indicate any significant impact of the student's new school. Year 7 in states such as Western Australia is the last year of primary school before the student moves to high school at the start of Year 8. In these states the Year 7 NAPLAN results would provide more of a measure of the impact on the student's learning at primary school.

The other major concern was how ACARA (Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority) generated the Statistically Similar Schools. It is now my understanding that this is an index of the average characteristics of local census collection districts which are made up of a couple of hundred houses. Therefore, in the current form, it is an aggregated measure of the socio-educational character of the census collection district and not a measure of individual students or families. A more complete explanation of this can be found at:

<http://www.myschool.edu.au/Resources/pdf/My%20School%20FACT%20SHEET%20ABOUT%20ICSEA%2020100120.pdf>. ACARA acknowledge the need to continue the review process of this index and make ongoing adjustments.

As I said at the start of this article, I welcome an information rich site for parents and prospective parents to visit. With this in mind we must broaden the My School information to include such items as:

- information on the Pastoral programme provided within a school;
- the co-curricular offerings for students;
- the engagement of students; and
- measures of confidence and resilience developed in students.

I see My School as an initiative that, with robust discussion and debate, can lead to an information rich and transparent resource for people to use.

Head of Dobell House

Ms Jillian Culey has indicated to me that she would like to focus on teaching, following her return from Canada, and is stepping down from the Head of Dobell House position at the end of this term. I wish to acknowledge the significant contribution Jillian Culey has made as a Head of House and in Dobell in particular.

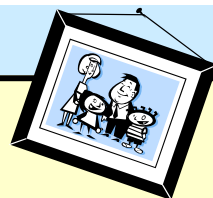
I am very pleased to announce that Mrs Jacqui Pugh has accepted the position of acting Head of Dobell House from the start of term 2 for the remainder of 2010.

Virtues

Wisdom and knowledge are about using our brains to acquire and use knowledge. The fifth and last of the attributes under wisdom and knowledge is **Reflection**. **Reflection** is the ability to review, evaluate and judge ways to improve.



Follow the light again to Oxley College for Earth Hour 2010. Be part of this world wide event within your own community. Saturday 27 March from 7:00pm - 10:00pm - lights off at 8:30pm! Please call Oxley College on 4861 1366 to book your ticket. (You can book over the phone with your credit card details). Tickets are \$40 pp and include all drinks and canapés. Let your imaginations run wild and win a prize for the most original lighting (Please no naked flames). There will be a fabulous silent auction and music – it is a not to be missed evening.



Stages of Adolescence from 'Raising Real People – Creating a Resilient Family' by Andrew Fuller

Puberty is starting earlier and earlier and may even begin as early as 10 years for girls and 12 for boys. At puberty the body grows faster than at any other time other than infancy. However, the unwritten rule of early adolescence is that nothing ever grows at the right rate. The growth spurt is often accompanied by irritability and conflict as the testosterone affects both boys and girls. It seems that early maturing girls and late maturing boys may be at higher risk during this stage. To be the last boy on the block with no hair anywhere and the first girl to have breasts provokes anxiety; comments about appearance and body shape are serious business when you are this age. At times parents may make playful comments about their teenager's body shape such as she is a bit 'chunky' or 'she has a bit of puppy fat' or 'if she keeps growing like this she will be a big girl', 'he's a late bloomer' or 'he's not as mature as the other boys in his class'. You could mistakenly believe that these comments meant lightly and harmlessly are not serious – until you look into the teenager's eyes. For them there is no such thing as playful teasing.

These years are noted for sensitivity about body growth and shape, normality and abnormality and worries about sexuality.

Shifting from primary school to high school often occurs at the same time as puberty and can lead to a dip in self esteem. This is particularly so for girls. It is a good insurance policy to make sure your teenager has a second group of friends separate from their school friends at this time. Scouts, sporting groups, youth groups etc provide a second group of friends. This protects them. If they fall out with one group there is someone else to talk to. It is even more important to do this in country areas. To be rejected by all the people of your age group in a small country town is too much to handle.

CAREERS CORNER by Phillipa Condon, Careers Counsellor

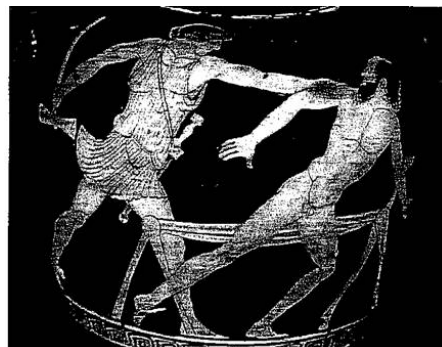
Enrolment at university has many and varying requirements depending on the course in which the student enrolls. Some of these requirements involve a portfolio of achievements and ongoing participation in specific fields. I encourage students to build their portfolio early so that it shows passion and commitment to their career path. Participation in competitions not only gives them experience but enables them to become aware of the expectations in given fields. Their names can then become associated with an industry and some gain recognition both monetarily and with commendations. Gaining work experience in these areas, and adding that to the student's resume, is also recommended when applying for university courses that have an added criteria as part of the application process. If anyone wants further information please do not hesitate to contact me. I encourage all students to begin their resumes and add to them regularly. Participation in competitions and work experience indicates interest and a willingness to achieve.

REV (RELIGION, ETHICS, VALUES)

We become narcissistic when we make other people fit our image of them. The myth of Procrustes teaches us something about this.

Procrustes was a finicky innkeeper who liked things to be just right. There was only one room in his motel, with only one bed in it – and he was so fanatical about things being tidy and in their right place that he insisted that travellers should fit the bed exactly. At night time after they were asleep he would sneak in to measure them up. If they were too short he would grab them by the arms and legs and stretch them till they were just the right size. Unfortunately none of his short guests survived the process. They all died. But that was mild compared to what happened to the tall ones. Procrustes would go in with a saw and hack their arms and legs off until they fitted the bed exactly. None of them survived either. As you can imagine, Procrustes' inn didn't get too many stars in the AA guide to Greece but it was a very orderly place.

One day Theseus – the Arnold Schwarzenegger of his day – arrived at the inn and when Procrustes came in to make him fit the bed, he jumped up, grabbed him and gave him his own treatment. He had enough strength to put Procrustes in his own bed.



ROBERTSON AND MOSS VALE SHOWS

The following students received awards from the Moss Vale and Robertson shows in the pavilion section.

Year 9 student Kieran Springett was awarded Champion Junior Exhibitor at Robertson.

The other successful students were:

- Kristen Kime
- Philippa Lawson
- Madeleine Aliprandi
- Christine Frank
- Duncan Faulk
- Oliver Hart
- Pernelle Veyerman
- Billie van Beek
- Matthew Bate
- Isabella Macken
- Alice Carmichael
- Jamie Cook
- Justin Middleton
- David O'Toole
- Louise Wurth
- Alister Middleton
- Eliza Roche
- Tomas Beuzen



CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Peter McKellar Stewart who competed, together with about 400 other riders, in the Victorian, Mt Buller Mountain Bike Festival last weekend. There were three stages to the event, a 25km cross country, a 14km downhill and 50km endurance stage on Sunday. Peter won all three stages as a junior (18yo). He won outright Junior Champion and was placed overall 8th in open male. This was a mighty win in a one of Australia's peak mountain bike endurance events.

OXLEY COLLEGE 2010 INTER-HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY

The Oxley College Inter-House Cross Country Carnival was run during sport on Wednesday 10 March in perfect conditions for cross country running. The distances had to be altered this year to match the distances which will be run at the ISA Cross Country Championships at Central Coast Grammar School on Saturday 20 March 2010.

The number of students who ran competitively was impressive and it was pleasing to see all students and staff enjoy the carnival.

Mawson were the victorious House, taking the Championship by almost 50 points from their closest rival, Monash. This is the first time Mawson has won the Inter-House Cross Country Trophy since 1992. The minor placings were amazingly close with only 13 points separating 5th to 2nd place.

The top eight place getters in each age group (four in U12) have been selected for the Oxley College Cross Country Team to compete at the ISA Cross Country Championships at Central Coast Grammar School.

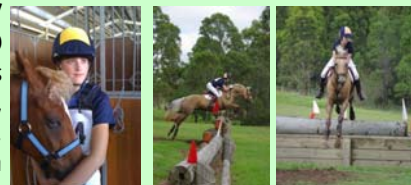
Results

1. Mawson – 672 2. Monash – 625 3. Dobell - 619

		Girls	Boys
12 Yrs	1 st	Madeline Wilson (Monash)	Alex Pugh (Mawson)
	2 nd	Monique Turczynski (Mawson)	Stephen Evans (Monash)
13 Yrs	1 st	Zoe Binder (Oodgeroo)	Oliver Taylor-Helme (Florey)
	2 nd	Olivia Spring (Durack)	Oliver Hardman ((Dobell)
	3 rd	Caitlin McMullen (Florey)	Alex Hughes (Dobell)
14Yrs	1 st	Phoebe Dunn (Mawson)	Anthony Uliana (Durack)
	2 nd	Felicity Weal (Dobell)	Patrick Nappa (Mawson)
	3 rd	Ainslie McKay (Monash)	Max Moran (Florey)
15Yrs	1 st	Lia Scambary (Florey)	Daniel Bollom (Oodgeroo)
	2 nd	Jacqueline Basquil (Dobell)	Hugh Walker (Mawson)
	3 rd	Sarah Goshi (Florey)	Peter McKellar Stewart (Durack)
16Yrs	1 st	Stephanie Allman (Mawson)	Denash Kumar (Dobell)
	2 nd	Bonnie Hart (Oodgeroo)	Edward Sutherland (Oodgeroo)
	3 rd	Madeleine Monro (Florey)	Patrick Stanton (Monash)
17Yrs	1 st	Belinda McNaught (Monash)	Henry Hobson (Mawson)
	2 nd	Georgina Meredith (Oodgeroo)	Tom Hobson (Mawson)
	3 rd	Jacqueline Wilson (Mawson)	Ian Downes (Oodgeroo)
18Yrs	1 st	Tahlia Shaw (Dobell)	Stephen McNaught (Monash)
	2 nd	Montana Mays (Durack)	Nick Allen (Monash)
	3 rd	Kate Rutherford (Mawson)	Harry Cook (Florey)

EQUESTRIAN REPORT

Just over a week ago, 13 members of the Oxley Equestrian team competed at the NSW State Inter-School Championships, along with 470 other riders representing over 130 schools. The Oxley team is often successful and this year was one of our best. Oxley was represented by Lucie Van Der Schalk, Caitlin McMullen, Lauren Chapman, Lily Swanson, Felicity Weal, Philippa Lawson, Jacqueline Basquil, Charlotte Waugh, Gabrielle Nappa, Rebecca Weal, Brittany Burgess and Caitlin Guy. With highlights such as Lauren Chapman-1st in the Newcomers Eventing, Jacqueline Basquil- 2nd in Preliminary Eventing, Brittany Burgess- 2nd in Combined Training and Caitlin Guy- 2nd in the AM7 and 3rd in the Power and Speed Show Jumping. The classes were highly competitive and the Oxley riders did extremely well, with most managing to place in the top ten. I would like to thank Mrs Pugh for helping us so much.





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YEAR 7 MORNING TEA—THURSDAY 25 MARCH

Year 7 parents are invited to join us for morning tea on Thursday 25 March after drop off at 8:45am. Come and join Mr Williamson and Year 7 parents for a catch up and cup of tea! There is no need to rsvp just come to the canteen area on the day.

YEAR 9 PARENT/STUDENT/TEACHER MEETING—WEDNESDAY 24 MARCH

The Year 9 Parent/Student/Teacher Meeting will be held on Wednesday 24 March in the PE Centre. Students have been given a letter with a booking form to be completed by staff and parents. Spare copies are available from Student Services. If parents could bring a plate of food along, this will be greatly appreciated.

OXLEY COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

You are most welcome to come and join our Scholarship Information Morning at Oxley College on Saturday 27 March 2010 at 10:00am. Please call Emma Calver to book the Scholarship Information Morning on 4861 1366 or go to link <http://www.oxleylearning.org/portal/node/16> for further scholarship information and criteria.

Deadline for Scholarship Applications: Friday 7 May 2010

Scholarship Interview Day: Saturday 29 May 2010

Please note: Students do not need to sit the ACER Scholarship Test.

CHARITY SOLO FLIGHT AROUND AUSTRALIA

Local Qantas pilot, and husband of Old Oxleyan, Kirrily Brown (1990), Owen Zupp, is embarking on a solo flight around Australia to raise funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service. The route is via historical waypoints and the position of the aircraft will be relayed via satellite to his website every six minutes. Details of the route and how to help sponsor can be found on <http://www.thereandback.copm.au>. Any help would be much appreciated.

STOLEN WATCH

Last Tuesday, Edward Sutherland's watch was stolen from his bag in the change rooms. The watch has unsurmountable sentimentality as it was the last gift from his late father to remember the good times his family shared. This incident has caused a great deal of anxiety, especially for Edward but also for the other boys and Mrs Sutherland. It is hoped and prayed that the watch may be quietly returned to the office. It is a timely reminder that theft has a huge impact on our community, often unintended by the person who stole the item. If you know about this theft or any thefts from our school community please see Mr Bollom. If you are the recipient of Edward's watch please return it to Mrs Morrow.

CANTEEN ROSTER - TERM 1

Thank you to those who have volunteered in 2010.

Monday 22 March	Tuesday 23 March	Wednesday 24 March	Thursday 25 March	Friday 26 March
Orissia Turczynski	Barbara Miller	Julie Pennington	Jill Howarth Philippa Sanderson	Judy Hobson Mandy Lawson

CALENDAR: TERM ONE 2010

Fri	19/3	Yr. 11 Excursion, Ancient History, Nicholson Museum
Sat	20/3	Yr. 9 and Yr. 10 Bronze DEA Hike (Day 1 of 2) ISA Cross Country Carnival, 6:45am—5:15pm
Sun	21/3	Yr. 9 and Yr. 10 Bronze DEA Hike (Day 2 of 2)
Mon	22/3	ISA Hockey Trials 16s Excursion
Tues	23/3	Inter-House Senior Vocal Music heat, Orchestra Room, 1:15pm - 1:45pm Cricket Tour Meeting, Room 26, 5:30pm - 6:30pm Fast and Fresh Oxley heats, Hoskins Hall, 7:00pm- 9:00pm
Wed	24/3	Yr.9 Parent/Teacher/Student Meeting, PE Centre, 4:00pm - 6:00pm
Thurs	25/3	Yr.7 Parents Morning Tea, Canteen area, 8:45am

P & F NEWS

P & F MEETING

The next P&F meeting will be on Tuesday 20 April at 7:30 pm in the David Wright library. All welcome.

EARTH HOUR—don't miss out on this unique community event.

Tickets for Earth Hour are \$40 per person which includes canapés and a free bar. To buy your tickets please see Natasha at the Oxley office or you can ring Natasha on 4861 1366 and quote your credit card details to reserve a ticket.



SILENT AUCTION + great prizes !

- Experience life as a journalist for week as part of a work experience package for two students.
- Take excellent care of your cat & dog with an annual vaccination voucher from Alcorn Vet Clinic.
- Bid on a portable gas BBQ or you may just fancy the \$350 premium spit voucher.
- Enjoy a one hour massage to heal the spirit or perhaps run away to Tasmania for the weekend to a cottage next to a trout filled river.
- If gardening is your thing, then grab a new wheelbarrow full of garden goodies plus a spring bulb package worth \$85 ready to plant, or...
- ...pack your gorgeous Ella Maiden leather & cowhide overnight bag and head to Jervis Bay in time to make the Dolphin cruise along with three friends.

There are some wonderful items for sale. We are still looking for items for our recycled section of the Auction so if you have any good second hand furniture or household goods e.g. crystal, china, linen etc that you would like to donate, please call: Julie Chapman on 0403783495.

YEAR 12 PARENTS GET TOGETHER

To all parents of students in Year 12, you are warmly invited to what will be our last informal social function for the year. Come and relax in the warmth of the open fire in the elegant courtyard at Centennial Vineyards and enjoy a glass of Centennial Vineyards sparkling, white or red wine, beer or soft drink and a selection of their delicious canapés. We look forward to seeing you there. Invitations will be sent shortly.

When : Friday 4 June 2010 Time : 6:30pm - 8:30pm Where: Centennial Vineyards, Centennial Road, Bowral

Cost: \$35 per person (includes a glass of Centennial Vineyards champagne, white or red wine, beer or soft drink and a selection of hot and cold canapés).

RSVP: Tuesday 1 June (with payment) to Natasha Bennett at Oxley College Reception.

YEAR 7 GET TOGETHER

We warmly invite you and your family to the Year 7 Picnic on Sunday 2 May 2010 at Burrawang Oval at 12 noon. The cost will be \$9.00 per person and this will include use of the facilities, succulent roast beef, onions, salad, beetroot, mustard, chutney, relish and rolls. Also a selection of delicious cakes and slices, tea and coffee. Invitations will be sent shortly.

Bring your own drinks, chairs, picnic rugs, balls, bats and tennis rackets (white soled shoes only on tennis courts please). Enquiries to Year Representatives - Diana Cavanagh 48871114 Karin Evans 48623369 Orissia Turczynski 48621606 Sonia Zawal 48721298

OXLEY SHOP

Tuesday	12:30pm - 4:00pm	Saturday trading 20 March 2010
Wednesday	8:30am -11:30am and 12:30pm – 4:00pm	
Thursday	8:30am - 9:30am and 12:30pm – 2:30pm	
Saturdays	First and Third Saturday of each month 10:00am – 12:00pm	

The Oxley Shop will be open during the school holidays and with regular hours. The shop will however, be closed the first Saturday of April being the Easter long weekend.

COMMUNITY NEWS

NEW YOUTH CHURCH CHOIR AT ST JUDE'S

St Jude's Music Association is launching a new choir to provide an opportunity for children and young people to learn about and experience church music. Rehearsals will be held weekly after school for boys and girls aged between nine and 16 years. An ability to read music is an advantage but not necessary. Contact Children's Ministry Coordinator, Mrs Annabel Michie, on 0402 117 834 or 4861 6944 for more information.