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News Flash

Following the completion of the HSC Examinations on Wednesday, we were able to celebrate the graduation of our Year 12 students, with a new tradition that included a special Graduation Ceremony at school with parents, followed by a Graduation Dinner

at the Gibraltar Hotel.

It was wonderful to be able to be able to welcome Year 12 parents on site for the Graduation Ceremony to the Elvo lawn and for them to share in this important rite of passage for each of our students, as they formally passed from 'Oxley Student' to 'Old Oxleyan'. In a new tradition, each graduating student received a specially crafted Oxley pin by jeweller Robin Wells, a

At Oxley, we are delighted to call ourselves a learning community, a place where students, teachers, parents and families continue to challenge themselves daily with new experiences, knowledge and understanding.



In Senior School Assembly last week, we celebrated NAIDOC Week with a special Acknowledgement of Country and presentation by Melissa Wiya, the Aboriginal Community Development Officer at Wingecarribee Shire Council. As part of the presentation on this year's NAIDOC theme, students watched a beautifully produced short film of Aunty Sharyn Hall talking about the Guula Ngurra National Park, a place of cultural significance for the Gundungurra Aboriginal People which is located about 25km west of Bowral. It was formed in August this year and its name translates as 'Koala Country'. The park is home to many threatened species of animals and plants, as well as being a key habitat for the endangered glossy-black cockatoo.

With fine weather on Wednesday 11 November, we were able to commemorate Remembrance Day as a College, with our annual outdoor service. The tranquillity and warmth of Elvo Lawn was as far removed as it could be from the First World War trenches of northern Europe and subsequent conflicts, in which so many gave their lives. Ava Lambie, Deputy Head Girl, spoke movingly on the subject 'What Remembrance Means to Me', sharing the story of her great-great-grandfather, Private Les Williams, who fought on the Western Front in the First World War. Ava spoke about the importance of Remembrance Day as "an opportunity to pause in our all-too-busy, noisy, crowded lives and thank our ANZACs for exercising true selflessness with a moment of all-to-uncommon silence".

The Salvation Army

Along with the Southern Highlands Christian School, we are collaborating with BDCU Alliance Bank to provide Christmas hampers for those in need. Specifically, we are collecting bon-bons and ginger bread houses. Students can deliver their donations to Senior School Student Services.

Wingecarribee Family Services

As in previous years, we are collecting both hamper items and children's toys. Due to health and safety regulations, only new, unused toys can be accepted. Please do not wrap any toy donations. Students should bring donations to their Head of House's office.

- Christmas Pudding
- Long Life Custard
- Tinned Fruit
- Bon Bons
- Milo
- Soft Drink
- Christmas Cake
- Cereal
- Chocolate
- Fruit Mince Pies
- Biscuits
- Candy Canes
- Jelly
- Jams
- Christmas Napkins
- Napkins

By Mark Case, Deputy Head Pastoral



Weekly Awards

K: Lachlan Sutherland
Yr 1: Xander Fisher
Yr 2C: Harper Anstee
Yr 3B: Lexi Mendes Da Costa
Yr 3L: Jemima Anson
Yr 4: Henry Burton
Yr 5B: Oliver Henderson
Yr 5N: Molly Edwards
Yr 6A: Charlie Ryan
Yr 6W: Charlotte Strang Iori

K: Beth Plain
Yr 1: Zoe Choo
Yr 2C: Oscar Jones
Yr 3B: Flor Pereira Merlini
Yr 3L: Will Carioti
Yr 4: Orson Francis
Yr 5B: Ginger Elias
Yr 5N: Claudia Carpenter
Yr 6A: Allegra Mneef
Yr 6W: Georgie Marks

I met with a wonderful new group of students who began at Oxley this term. We met for morning tea in my office. In speaking with our new students, I had a great sense of their enthusiasm about being with us. They are excited about the new opportunities, and they have told me what they are enjoying most so far.

Hayley in Year 4 said, "Everybody's been quite welcoming. Journal writing is my favourite thing in class."

Darcy Jones in Year 2, told me he was really glad that the other children don't ignore him. "The other kids actively play with me. The Library is my favourite place as I am a big Harry Potter fan." String Orchestra is also a favourite lesson for Darcy.

Polly Hopkinson in Year 5 told me that PE is her favourite subject. "I love my friends and the playground. The uniforms are nice and my favourite activity so far this term was the Minute-to-Win-It games in OLE Week".

Henry Burton, who started in Year 4 also thinks PE is his favourite subject because they are learning Dance. Henry's sister, Phoebe in Year 2 thought Strings Orchestra was the best, as well as playing with her new friends.

Felix in Year 1 noted that his favourite subject is Drama, and that they are making puppets. He also loves playing stuck in the mud in PE. Madison, his sister, in Year 3 agreed that Drama is her best subject because of the fun games and dances they perform. "I also really like Journal Writing and I love being able to write about whatever I like."

Levi in Year 3 finds that his favourite things at school so far are Creative Journal Writing and Sport.







FILM

A Life on Our Planet

This documentary, really gave me a different perspective of the world and what we are capable of for the better and the worse. It proves that with human intelligence creating such magnificent inventions and technology, we should use this knowledge to create and restore our planet's natural world. David Attenborough shows us what is happening with real statistics and footage. The audience is made to feel guilty and that they do need to take action. As we couldn't see the whole documentary in one regular class lesson, it made me reflect a lot until I could watch the remainder of the film.

His language and realistic facts for upcoming nations made me sad and scared. David Attenborough described nature as being beautiful and something which we can't let go of. Normally I would take advantage of the sights of trees, wildlife, floral and sunrises/sunsets. However, his words really moved me and made me understand it all at a much deeper level. Some footage in his documentary included images of beautiful wildlife and what we will miss out on if we continue to act as we are now. He also did comparison videos of animals forced to leave their environment because of our actions.

He suggested using less fossil fuels and greenhouse gases our environment can benefit naturally and overtime will return and regrow what we have taken away. He noted that this was for us and our future generations. That if we do what we can for the environment it will return, cleaner air, space and beautiful animals and scenery for ourselves and our scientists to learn about. Finally, he mentioned that everybody has to do their part to help the environment. Doing the little things such as mostly eating less meat and more plant based. Planting more trees, especially native wildlife. Making sure animal populations do not decline. Just the little things, slowly will help our planet.

In conclusion, our population needs to listen to what Attenborough is saying. We will be confronted with it in the coming decades, global crises that he, as a man, will not experience in his 90s. Yet he nevertheless finds hope by extrapolating small successes. Sustainable agriculture in the Netherlands has made the country one of the world's top food exporters. Fishing regulations around the Pacific island state of Palau have enabled marine wildlife to recover. The major achievement of the film is that it positions its subject as a mediator between man and nature. Life cycles go on, and if we make the right decisions, new growth can emerge from ruins.

By Charlotte Florida

In the David Attenborough: A Life on our Planet film, Attenborough uses his own life span to frame the ecological changes of the last century and expose the peril humans now collectively face. In the same hushed voice that once sparked such wonder and joy for anyone who grew up watching Attenborough's films, he delivers a bleak final warning of the senseless destruction of our mother Earth and the loss of its biodiversity. With its opening title subject standing amidst the Chernobyl nuclear plant, Attenborough maps out the wilderness degeneration and how human errors can render such civilisations uninhabitable. An array of ecosystems are displayed across the film to emphasise the stability and beauty of nature when untouched by humans; the grass plains are rich and productive, the rainforests provide the majority of oxygen, mangroves and corals nurse fish schools and other species; and all are exploiting seasons for food crops.

Through this effective approach to cinematography, such remarkable nature photography is coupled with Attenborough's retrospective; juxtaposing an ecosystem's lush potential to its stark counterpart. While the grim statistics that visualise the rapidly growing population, and the steady decline in the remaining wilderness concrete the demise of life on Earth; Attenborough finds hope by extrapolating small successes. Attenborough offers exciting and financially sound resolutions to the problems, from rewilding the planet, guiding population growth, increasing the use of renewables and regulating the fishing industries.

From someone who has cherished the Earth for almost 100 years, Attenborough urges the human race to prevent absolute failure by protecting our its ecosystems and being the ones to look after Earth when he is gone. For in the end, it is David Attenborough who says, "It's not really about saving the planet.

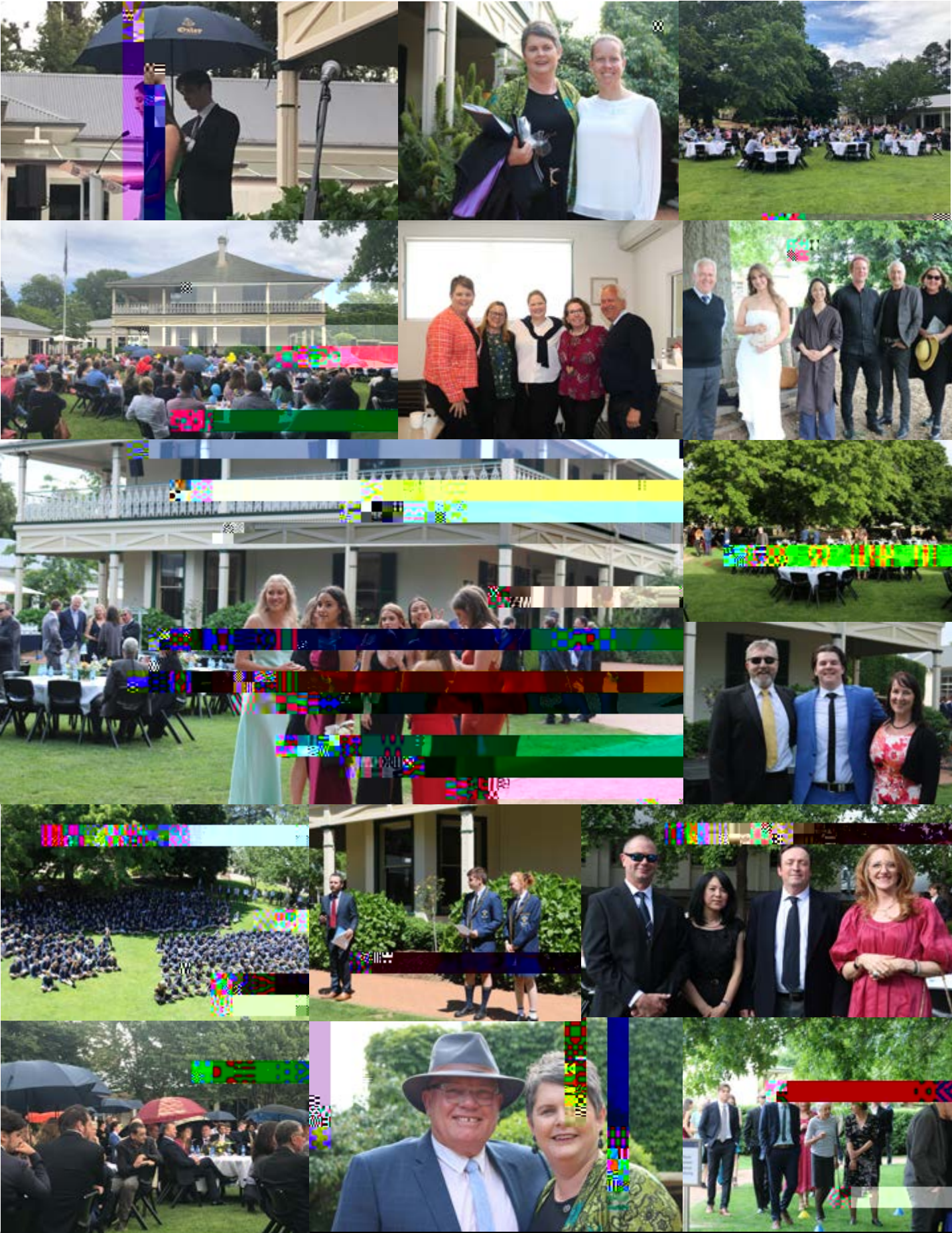
It's about saving ourselves."

By Breanna Billett

What is the biological difference between sexes and gender? Basic scientific principles define an individual's sexual identification to be determined by the genetic composition of their chromosomes, anatomy and fundamental sex characteristics. However, within this rigidity of male and female categorisation there is a series of biological overlaps which discredit the typical classification of societal and gonadic features. Over the last decade, it has been proven that there is in fact a wide spectrum of different sexes accustomed to genetic deformities, chromosomal abnormalities and disordered sexual development (DSD). In fact, some researchers believe that as many as 1 person in 100 have some form of DSD. Now this physiological anomaly does not always present itself structurally, and can often manifest itself in hormonal and endocrine activity; resulting in a misdirection of reproductive signals and a sex drive incongruent with societal norms. These recent discoveries have been smeared by the scientific community and political realm as such ambiguous biological dichotomy does not adjoin with society's standards of stereotypical sexual behaviour and thus cannot be easily affixed within the political system, as in a world of binary definitions a person's legal rights and social status can be heavily influenced by whether their birth certificate says male or female. Therefore, the issue of sexual identification

is not in fact a dispute of 'scientific evidence' but rather a debate of challenging societal norms as the world

Sexes VS G000as?/



VIRTUAL GALLERY



The Year 9 landscapes in our Library foyer remind us of the healing power of nature and its importance to our mental wellbeing. The positive impact of the natural world is more than just conjecture and is backed by scientific research; it even has a name, ecotherapy.

Two paintings have won the latest Librarian's Choice Award, one is of a peaceful dawn and reminds me of our recent Year 12 Mt Gibraltar dawn walk, by Joe Quilty, a wonderful community experience that began in the dark and finished at first light. The other landscape by Lara Fischer is enlivened by two dogs in the foreground, one of them staring directly out of the frame making a connection with the viewer and the other heading off, with head up, to explore. This painting is an invitation not to give up but to get up, get out and head off into the horizon with a friend. We are very grateful to have all the landscapes in the library to remind us of how lucky we are to live where we do.

By Mark Hetherington



By the time this article is published
it'll be that time of year again- "Nearly