

## HEAD'S COMMENT:

### Earth Hour

On Tuesday, we welcomed at Assembly Old Oxleyan, Alex Kanaar. Alex finished Year 12 in 2000 then studied Behavioural Health Science at the University of Sydney. Alex also played rugby for the university and in 2004 he joined the NSW Waratahs and then in 2005 played his first test for Australia as a Wallaby. Alex is the Environmental Sustainability Manager for Visy Recycling. Alex's message at Assembly was about care for our environment and what each of us can do to make a difference.

This is particularly relevant as the Oxley College Parents' & Friends' Association have organised an Earth Hour Event on Saturday 28 March at Oxley College both as a fundraiser and an opportunity to join millions of Australians in switching off our lights for an hour.

Earth Hour began in Sydney in 2007, when 2.2 million homes and businesses switched off their lights for one hour. In 2008 the message had grown into a global movement, with 50 million people switching off their lights. In 2009, Earth Hour has the goal of 1 billion people switching off their lights.

I hope you are able to join us on this evening but please be aware that the function is for adults only and not for children.

### Caring for others

I speak often of the responsibility each of us has to care for each other. The context I use this week is when others are making poor choices that will impact negatively on them and on others.

Although we are not responsible for the actions of others, we do need to do what we can to intervene and, hopefully, bring them to their senses. To know what is going on and then choose to do nothing or, even worse, choose to encourage the poor choice, is simply non-caring.

At Assembly, I encouraged our students to be strong and to care for others, whether they know them or not. Not just sit and watch someone make mistakes but to try and help these people make better choices.

I drew attention to particular lines in a poem, a prayer, by a Dr Kent Keith:

"People really need help but may attack you if you do help them;  
*Help people anyway.*"

The poem is called *The Paradoxical Commandments*, written in 1968 and is reportedly inscribed on the wall of Mother Teresa's children's home in Calcutta.

People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centred.  
*Love them anyway.*

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives.  
*Do good anyway.*

If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies.  
*Succeed anyway.*

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow.  
*Do good anyway.*

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable.  
*Be honest and frank anyway.*

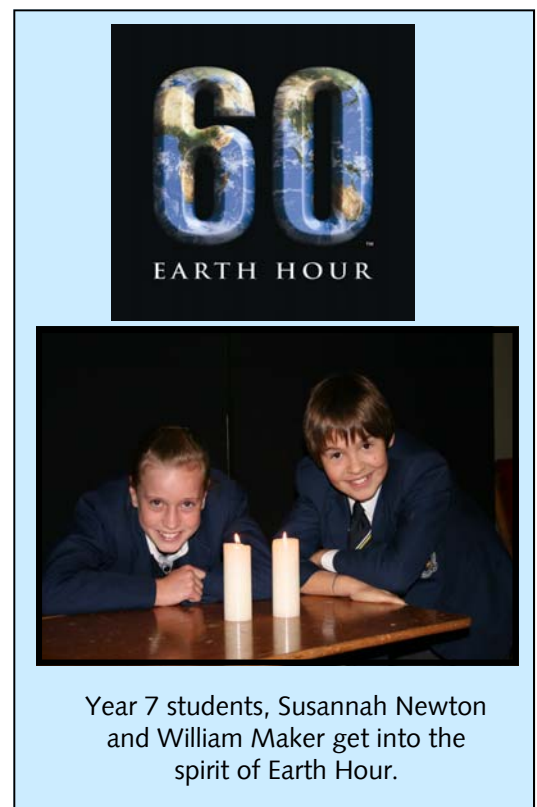
The biggest men and women with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men and women with the smallest minds.  
*Think big anyway.*

People favour underdogs but follow only top dogs.  
*Fight for a few underdogs anyway.*

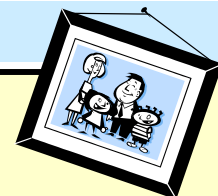
What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight.  
*Build anyway.*

People really need help but may attack you if you do help them.  
*Help people anyway.*

Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth.  
*Give the world the best you have anyway.*



Year 7 students, Susannah Newton and William Maker get into the spirit of Earth Hour.



"As the bridge of adolescence loomed, I felt I shouldn't be going onto it with him. He was on his way to manhood, a concept I barely understood, and I knew I wouldn't and couldn't understand parts of the journey he was about to undertake. I was proud of the special mother-son relationship I felt we enjoyed, but I knew that if he was to become a man, a good man, we would need to separate for a time. But I wrestled with a problem as we drew close to the bridge: if I couldn't go onto it with him, who was going to? His father wasn't a major feature in his life at that time and although there were some good men in my life, the challenge was to find ways of having these and/or other good men more directly involved in my son's life." Celia Lashlie.

For mothers who are in a situation of being a single parent it is important to remember that if at all possible it is good for the father and son to have a continued relationship. It is your relationship that has broken down and that may not be necessarily true for the relationship of your son with his father. You may be in a situation where this is not possible so it is always a positive thing to find other male role models for your son. A wise young mother who was speaking to me recently about her infant son was telling me how she had realised there might come a time when her son would not wish to speak to her or his father about *things*. She decided to invite some friends who were her age to be *godparents* for her son. She determined that she and her husband would actively promote these relationships over the life time of her son. There would always be a '*significant other*' adult in the life of her child – how wise!!! More next week - Jan Ryan

## YEAR SEVEN TALENT QUEST



Anthony Uliana, Max Moran, Hugh Walker and Luther Canute are an appreciative audience.

Last Wednesday afternoon was the culmination of the Year 7 Introduction to Co-curricular program. As a final celebration, students participated in a Talent Quest for which they volunteered participation in musical, dance and dramatic events. All students were not only enthusiastic and confident performers but showed great support and respect for their fellow performers.

All students also participated in a Visual Arts workshop with Ms Lampert where they produced a three-dimensional sculpture - look forward to these coming home soon!

## SCHOOL PHOTOS

The following school photos will be taken on Friday 3 April –  
Year Groups and individuals

House Groups

Family Photos

Please ensure your child wears full school uniform, including blazer. Long hair should be tied back and clean regulation school shoes worn.

An order envelope from Advancedlife Photography will be given to each student during Tutor Group next Monday 23 March. Please ask your child for the envelope. A flyer will also be enclosed with details of purchasing options and price details. Each student MUST have their own completed envelope even if another sibling is paying for the family. The College is not responsible for collecting money on the day or taking orders after Friday 3 April. Please direct all enquiries to Advancedlife Photography 1300 728 972 or [enquiries@advancedlife.com.au](mailto:enquiries@advancedlife.com.au).

There is an additional envelope called 'sibling photos' – please ask your child to collect one from Student Services for family photos.

## CALENDAR: TERM ONE 2009

<u>Mon 23</u>	Exc: Yr.11, Physics
<u>Sat 28/3</u>	P & F Function, Oxley Earth Hour, 7:00pm ISA Cross Country, Central Coast Grammar
<u>Sun 29/3</u>	Junk Art Exhibition, Oxley College, 11:00am—3:00pm
<u>Wed 1/4</u>	Year 9 Parent /Teacher Meeting, P E Centre, 4:00pm
<u>Thurs 2/4</u>	Exc. Yr 11/12 Visual Art to Art Express

## RESULTS FROM ROBERTSON & MOSS VALE SHOWS

Congratulations to the students who entered the Pavilion section of the Robertson and Moss Vale shows over the last two weeks.

Every student who entered this year won an award. We would like to especially congratulate Michelle Hanham who was awarded the champion ribbon and medal for the best junior exhibitor at the Robertson show.

Other exhibitors were: Matilda Blair, Kathryn Mahr, Holly Campbell, Cameron Meaney, Chloe Chamouille, Alister Middleton, Duncan Falk, Abby Porter-Shaw, Sian Fehon, Rhys Sheppard, Daniel Goshi, Maike Tattersal, Jarred Goshi, Sarah Twee, Sarah Green, Billie Van Beek, Caitlin Guy, Jillian Visser, Ceinwen Hall, Ellen Woffenden, Michelle Hallam, Oliver Hart, Thomas Hobson.



Pictured above is Michelle Hanham holding her Championship Ribbon.

## SPORT NEWS

### Equestrian

On Friday 13 March, a large number of Oxley riders competed in the Inter-Schools rider classes at the 123<sup>rd</sup> Annual Moss Vale District Show. All riders performed well and Oxley College managed to come away with the following outstanding results; Year 7, Felicity Weal 1<sup>st</sup> with Reserve Champion rider, Year 8, Phillipa Lawson 1<sup>st</sup> with Champion Rider, Jacqueline Basquil 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Chrissie Frank 3<sup>rd</sup>, Year 10, Rebecca Weal was 1<sup>st</sup> with Reserve Champion rider, Year 11, Eliza Roche 1<sup>st</sup>, and in Year 12, Katie Wise was 2<sup>nd</sup> with Reserve Champion Rider. Well done to all riders, as we were by far the stand out school team on the day.

### Girls Basketball

The Open B's played in the ISA Grand Finals on Saturday against Redlands Open B's at Minto. Redlands were a very tough competition but Oxley worked hard and managed to maintain the lead throughout the whole match. The team worked well together and got some great stops in defense. Special mention must go to Gabby Young who worked hard under the basket, drawing many fouls, which put Redlands into foul trouble. Zuni Garcia Clarkson and Charlotte Blake played some very good defense. Final score 19 -15 Oxley's way. Thank you to Louise Thaning, who did a great job as Girls Basketball Captain for this season. It was a great way to finish off the season.

### Softball

On Saturday 14 March, all three Oxley Softball teams played in the semi finals at Stanhope Park. This was an outstanding achievement in itself and is a credit to the enthusiasm of all players and their coaches.

The Junior Bs played a wonderful semi final against Chevalier, losing in a very close battle 10 runs to 12. The Junior Bs have shown enormous improvement in their skills and in their understanding of the tactics of softball and are to be congratulated on a magnificent season.

The Junior As made an uncertain start to their semi final against SACS, but overcame their nerves to win comfortably by 12 runs to 2. This allowed them to progress into the final against their Southern Highlands rivals Chevalier. Nerves were forgotten by now and a display of powerful batting, strategic base running and skilful fielding allowed the Oxley girls to run away with the game, winning 31 runs to 0. Congratulations to the Junior As on winning Oxley's **third** successive Junior Premiership.

The senior team played their semi final against SACS. We dominated the SACS batting from the start with accurate pitching and sharp fielding. When it was our turn to bat all players hit consistently and ran the bases aggressively resulting in an Oxley win 19 runs to 5. In the final we were pitted against our old rival Barker, a team which has been the benchmark for the competition for some years. The girls lifted their intensity and managed to restrict the powerful Barker batting with strategic pitching and excellent fielding. Great batting enabled us to get runners on bases but we were unable to get anyone home as the Barker players defended their lead with outstanding fielding. Barker won the game 16 runs to 0 but the Oxley girls can be proud of their efforts this season.

Congratulations to all players and coaches on a most successful season which culminated in Oxley winning the Shield for Most Successful School in Softball.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO:

### **Matt Bate**

In November last year, Matt joined a local shooting club. He completed his firearm safety training and now holds a TAFE qualification in firearm safety. Matt competes in small bore and has recently won the Juniors Gold Award at the recent event in Castle Hill. Matt will also be competing in Dubbo in June and we wish Matt every success.

However, Matt's contribution has extended well beyond being a competitor as he was elected as the club's Statistician, one of the publicity officers and Vice Captain of small bore. Matt is enjoying his opportunity to compete but is also helping others by taking on these responsibilities.

### **Georgina Beresford**

Last year, Georgina was asked to create a hero for the 21st Century, and she chose to base her art assignment on her real inspiration; Lynn Barton, the first female pilot for British Airways who is currently a captain on the Boeing 747-400. Georgina met her on Christmas Eve last year, after she had found Georgina's portrait of her on the internet. Georgina gave her the portrait, so it is now hanging in her house in England. Georgina also did a smaller portrait of the CEO of BA, Willie Walsh which won the 'Youth Art Award Under 17yrs' at Robertson show, as well as the 'Most Outstanding Junior Art Exhibit' at the Moss Vale show. A second portrait of Nancy Bird was successful in the open section winning the portrait class as well as the 'Most Outstanding Open Art Exhibit'.



Alex Kanaar and Grant Williamson after Alex's inspiring address to Assembly.



Shalmali Yadwad in action at ISA softball finals.

Year 7  
Maths Puzzle  
Morning



## THE OXLEY SHOP

Tuesday 12.30pm - 4.00pm

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 - 12.00 noon

The Oxley Shop will be closed for the first week of the holidays, April 14-18.

Normal trading hours will resume on Tuesday 21 April.

**Term 1 Saturday trading**

March 21 & April 4

## CANTEEN ROSTER – WEEK 7A

<u>Monday 23 March</u>	<u>Tuesday 24 March</u>	<u>Wednesday 25 March</u>	<u>Thursday 26 March</u>	<u>Friday 27 March</u>
Judy Hobson	Barb Goodfellow Mandy Lawson	Orissia Turczynski	Deb Gross	Angelique Aksenoff

## P & F NEWS

The next P & F meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 19 May at 7:30pm in the David Wright Library.

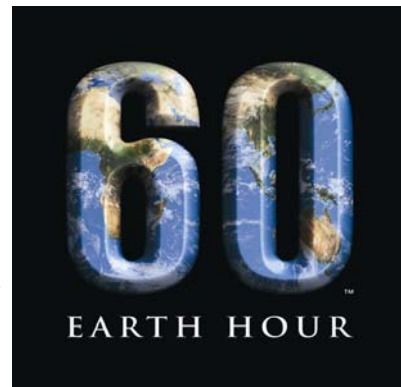
## OXLEY P & F EARTH HOUR EVENT — Saturday 28 March

There is now not long to go before millions of people around the world will be switching their lights off for one hour between 8:30pm and 9:30 pm on Saturday 28 March. This popular movement which began only a few years ago in Sydney is now being embraced by numerous large cities from many countries to focus our attention on the many environmental issues that face our planet today.

You too can get involved in this global event right here at Oxley College. The Earth Hour Night being run by the P&F on Saturday 28 March will be a wonderful evening. There are numerous musical acts booked including Jo Caseley who is an Australian and international vocalist and who will be accompanied by Marie Dunn on the electric violin. There will be food and a bar as well numerous Silent Auction prizes offering a wide variety of holiday breaks, horse riding and sailing experiences, fashion, gift packs, wine and much more all at excellent prices. There will be balloon prizes and a special prize for the best guest with their own lighting system for when the lights get turned off at 8:30 pm.

It promises to be a lot of fun and you now need to purchase your tickets if you haven't already done so. Tickets are only \$35 from the Oxley office (Phone: 4861 1366) or send in the form that was sent to you with a cheque made payable to Oxley College P&F. (Please note that students cannot attend as alcohol will be served at this event). We look forward to seeing you on the night and recommend you bring a torch or some sort of independent light source (no naked flames allowed). The money raised from this event will be used to fund new screens at the Canteen to help keep out the rain and cold.

Also don't forget the Junk Art Competition – don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to get creative and clean out your shed!! Please contact Lisette Slotboom on 0415059710 if you would like more information.



## LIBRARY NEWS

### Accessing Encyclopaedia Britannica Online From Home

In this age where information is freely available on the internet, the problem for students is not "Where do I find information?" But rather "What information is factual and accurate?"

The David Wright Library at Oxley endeavours to assist students in locating information that will enable them to succeed in their research tasks. For this purpose we have purchased Encyclopaedia Britannica Online. Through internet access, this database provides information that has been screened on the basis of accuracy, currency, readability and bias. We encourage our students to use this source rather than open GOOGLE searching that may lead them into a quagmire of information that they will need to sift through.

Students have access to Encyclopaedia Britannica Online whenever they log onto their school account. However, we have recently introduced access from home. By going to this web address or URL: <http://www.oxley.nsw.edu.au/Britannica/Britannica.html> and following these steps they will be able to access it from home. This would be very handy for completing many homework tasks.

1. Login into school domain: "oxleycollege\username" ...that is student's school username.
2. Type in password ... same as school password.
3. Select the year level appropriate to student. Year 7, 8, 9 – Middle: Year 10, 11, 12 - Senior.
4. Type topic into the search window.

Select the result that best matches the information needed.

Please ask the Library staff if you have any difficulty following these steps.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Southern Highlands Youth Concert Band

The junior band has returned for 2009 and is meeting on Wednesday evenings from 6pm to 7 pm at the Mittagong Playhouse. The band has approximately 25 members with most instruments represented. Any junior players (under 18) will be welcomed. If you are interested ring the Musical Director, Mike Butcher on 4869 1382 for more details.