

## HEAD'S COMMENT:

### Learning

I took the opportunity at Assembly on Tuesday to speak with the students about learning. Often, and particularly when assessments and examinations are looming, students lose sight of why we place them into classrooms and want them to learn and add to their knowledge. In our Prospectus we speak about Oxley as a community where "learning is prized for its own sake as well as for the extrinsic benefits which flow from it" and also of our commitment to a liberal education that challenges our students to enlarge and exercise their minds. My point to the students was that understanding should flow from the acquisition of knowledge and that their learning has purpose.

In the past few weeks, my Year 7 class and I have been looking at the story (parable) of the Good Samaritan. Most of you will know the story, but just to re-cap for you:

*Luke 10:30-37 Jesus answered, "A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who both stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. By chance a certain priest was going down that way. When he saw him, he passed by on the other side. In the same way a Levite also, when he came to the place, and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he travelled, came where he was. When he saw him, he was moved with compassion, came to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. He set him on his own animal, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, and gave them to the host, and said to him, 'Take care of him. Whatever you spend beyond that, I will repay you when I return.' Now which of these three do you think seemed to be a neighbour to him who fell among the robbers?" He said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."*

Some may also know the story of the Samaritan woman at the well and the story where the only leper to say thanks, once healed, was a Samaritan.

All three stories have greater impact once the reader understands the importance of the Samaritans in the new Testament. The reader needs to ask the questions, and seek the answers to - who were the Samaritans and what was their importance?

The Samaritans were a strict sect that believed that their form of ancient Israelite Religion, as distinct from Judaism, was the true one. Their basic sacred text was the 'five books of Moses', the same as the Jews. Their holy site was Mt Gerizim not Jerusalem and the split (schism) appears to have occurred about 400 years before the birth of Christ. There was hostility, mistrust, racial and religious prejudice between the Samaritans and the Jews.

With this in mind, we can now better interpret the story of the Good Samaritan. The story should now have greater impact as we have questioned and used our learning to add to our knowledge and to our understanding.

### Virtues

Humanity is about caring for others and ourselves. The eighth of the attributes under Humanity is **Spirituality**. **Spirituality** is having an awareness and appreciation about the purpose and meaning of life. It is about Wonderment.

Albert Einstein wrote of religion in "My Credo" :

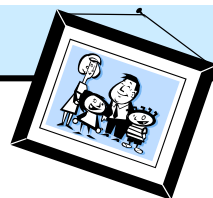
*"The most beautiful and deepest experience a man can have is the sense of the mysterious. It is the underlying principle of religion as well as of all serious endeavour in art and science ..... He who never had this experience seems to me, if not dead, then at least blind. The sense that behind anything that can be experienced there is a something that our mind cannot grasp and whose beauty and sublimity reaches us only indirectly and as feeble reflection, this is religiousness. In this sense I am religious. To me it suffices to wonder at these secrets and to attempt humbly to grasp with my mind a mere image of the lofty structure of all that there is."*

In our lives we need to learn to question, to listen humbly for answers, as Einstein did, and celebrate the wonderment.

## YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHY EXCURSION TO BOMBO, KIAMA

On Thursday 20 May, 17 Year 11 Geography students travelled to Kiama to investigate coastal ecosystems as part of their Preliminary Course – 'Biophysical Interactions'. On a mild, clear day, the students visited the Bombo Headland and neighbouring beach. They learnt about the geological formation of basalt columns, marine processes leading to the development of the coastline, the legacy of 'bluestone' quarrying and aquatic pollution. They also looked at waste treatment at the Bombo sewage treatment plant and visitor management and re-vegetation schemes on the headland and sand dunes. The students participated well in the field work and enjoyed the day especially the stop at McDonalds on the return trip! I look forward to viewing their completed photographic essays in a few weeks time. Tim Dibdin.





### *Patterns of thinking that diminish self-esteem.*

Many of the beliefs that cause us to feel inadequate or inferior stem from negative patterns of thinking. The most common are comparing ourselves with others, rating our worth by achievements and having an excessive need for approval.

**Comparing ourselves to others** - invariably gets us into trouble. The problem is that there will always be someone smarter than we are, who is thinner or more attractive, who has more friends etc.

While all of this may sound a little depressing – remember that the opposite is also true. There are people who are less attractive, less clever, less privileged etc. The trouble is we often disregard those who are less fortunate than ourselves, and compare ourselves with those who are better off than ourselves or more successful.

A healthy way of thinking is to acknowledge that some people are lucky, gifted or privileged, without begrudging them or using their success as a yardstick for our own worth.

Next week: Part two - *Rating our self worth through our achievements.*

## CAREERS CORNER by Phillipa Condon, Careers Counsellor

The time for Year 10 students to choose their subjects for Years 11 and 12 is fast approaching. Many of the universities are holding information evenings to aid students and parents. The University of Sydney is holding this event on 3, 7, and 8 June in Sydney and University of Wollongong in the Shoalhaven and Illawarra on June 16 and 29. Further information can be found on the Careers Website at <http://oxleylearning.org/careers/>.

On June 17 and 18, the Year 10 students will be undertaking their Careers Assessment which will also help them with this decision making. The reports from these assessments will be available so that parents and students will have the opportunity to peruse the results over the school holidays. At the Year 10 information evening, on Thursday 22 July, I will be discussing these reports in more detail and able to answer your questions. When choosing subjects I cannot stress enough that students should choose areas that interest them and should consult their teachers as to whether it is prudent to undertake certain subjects in higher years. If you wish to discuss a particular career path please do not hesitate to make an appointment, online, to see me on a Thursday or Friday.

## REV (RELIGION, ETHICS, VALUES)

Year 11 are reviewing the film "Tuesday With Morrie" in order to consider some of the issues surrounding meaning in life and death. In the film, Morrie, the old professor who is dying, asks his student, Mitch, the following questions. They are great questions for all of us to consider...

- Are you happy with your life?
- Are you giving to your community?
- Are you at peace with yourself?
- Have you found someone to share your heart with?

I wonder how you would answer each of these. Later in the movie he also makes the point that is more apt for us as parents than it is for teenagers..."The fear of ageing comes from lives that haven't found meaning".

It is a great book and terrific movie. Definitely worth renting and watching on one of these cold winter nights! - *Stuart Bollom*

## CALENDAR: TERM TWO 2010

|       |      |  |
|-------|------|--|
| Fri   | 28/5 | Excursion, South Coast Public Speaking, Nowra<br>Excursion, Year 10 Food Tech, Large Scale Catering  |
| Sat   | 29/5 | ISA Winter Sport Round 5<br>Equestrian, Hunter Valley<br>Fencing Competition, Newington, three Students<br>2011 Scholarship Interviews   |
| Sun   | 30/5 | Equestrian, Hunter Valley  |
| Mon   | 31/5 | Incursion, Year 12, English Extension 2, 1:05pm - 1:40pm<br>Incursion, Year 10, Study Skills, Room 14, 3:35pm - 5:35pm   |
| Tues  | 01/6 | Incursion, Year 12 English Extension 2, 1:05pm - 1:40pm  |
| Wed   | 02/6 | Incursion, Year 12 Drama HSC Performance, Hoskins Hall, 1:00pm - 3:00pm<br>Winter Sports versus NZ touring school, Hockey & Rugby - Oxley, Football - David Woods Field, 1:15pm - 3:00pm |
| Thurs | 03/6 | Incursion, Year 12 English Extension, 1:05pm - 1:40pm  |

## CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- Amelia Chapman and Eleanor Lawless who were accepted into painting for the National Art School's Intensive Studio Practice 2010.
- Georgie Beresford who won 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for her work "Predator" in the 15-18 years section of the BDAS Young Artists' Prize 2010. Also congratulations to Michael Turczynski for his work "Fruitful". His work was commended in the 12 – 14 year section.

## MOCK ENGLISH TRIALS

Students are welcome to come at the following times for mock English examinations in Room 14:

|                   |  |                      |                      |                   |
|-------------------|--|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Thursday 3 June:  | Paper 2 – Modules A and B                    | Reading time: 3:45pm | Exam begins : 3:50pm | Finishes : 5:10pm |
| Monday 7 June:    | Paper 1 – Area of Study                      | Reading time: 3:40pm | Exam begins : 3:50pm | Finishes : 5:50pm |
| Thursday 10 June: | Extension 1<br>or either of the other papers | Reading time: 3:40pm | Exam begins : 3:50pm | Finishes : 5:50pm |

Please bring afternoon tea to share and water. Victoria Rintoul.

## EXTENSION FRENCH

Many thanks to Dr Craig Clothier, Assistant Director of Research on the Refugee Tribunal, who spoke to our Extension French student and staff members on Thursday. He addressed issues relating to asylum seekers both in Australia and in Europe, especially in France. Australian policy and practice were discussed, and this was in a very accessible way. We are very grateful to him. Roslyn Hamilton.

## SPORT FIXTURES SATURDAY 29 MAY

| Team  | Opponent    | Venue            | Time    | Team Coach        | Transport                         |
|---|-------------|------------------|---------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Rugby</b> <i>MiC – Mr Tristan Bevan Mobile 0414 882 707</i>    |             |                  |         |                   |                                   |
| 1st XV  | Redfields   | Redfield College | 1:30pm  | Mr Bevan/Lawson   | Bus Departs 9:45am Returns 5:45pm |
| 16s   | Redfields   | Redfield College | 12:30pm | Mr Lesslie        | Bus Departs 9:45am Returns 5:45pm |
| 15s   | Redfields   | Redfield College | 11:30am | Mr Andrew         | Bus Departs 7:45am Returns 3:00pm |
| 14s   | Redfields   | Redfield College | 10:30am | Mr Wansey         | Bus Departs 7:45am Returns 3:00pm |
| <b>Football</b> <i>MiC—Mr Richard Connor 0424 745 401</i>         |             |                  |         |                   |                                   |
| 1st XI  | St Pius     | Oxford Falls     | 12:45pm | Mr Connor         | Bus Departs 7:45am Returns 4:30pm |
| 16s   | BYE         | -                | -       | Mr Forlonge       | -                                 |
| 14s   | St Pius     | Oxford Falls     | 11:00am | Mr Campbell       | Bus Departs 7:45am Returns 4:30pm |
| 13s   | St Pius     | Oxford Falls     | 11:00am | Mr Pugh           | Bus Departs 7:45am Returns 4:30pm |
| <b>Tennis</b> <i>MiC – Mrs Petah Fishburn Mobile 0433 112 003</i> |             |                  |         |                   |                                   |
| Oxley 1   | St Pius (2) | Moss Vale Courts | 8:15am  | Mrs Fishburn      | Own Transport                     |
| Oxley 2   | St Pius (3) | Moss Vale Courts | 8:15am  | Mrs Fishburn      | Own Transport                     |
| Oxley 3   | St Pius (6) | Moss Vale Courts | 8:15am  | Mrs Fishburn      | Own Transport                     |
| Oxley 4   | St Pius (8) | Moss Vale Courts | 8:15am  | Mrs Fishburn      | Own Transport                     |
| <b>Netball</b> <i>MiC – Mrs Jo McVean Mobile 0405 129 652</i>     |             |                  |         |                   |                                   |
| 1sts  | Barker      | Oxley Indoor 1   | 9:00am  | Mrs Worthington   | Own Transport                     |
| 2nds  | CCGS        | Oxley Indoor 2   | 9:00am  | Sophie & Maike    | Own Transport                     |
| Inter. A  | Redlands    | Oxley Indoor 1   | 10:15am | Alex              | Own Transport                     |
| Inter. B  | Redlands    | Oxley Indoor 1   | 11:30am | Pernelle & Gabby  | Own Transport                     |
| Junior A  | Redlands    | Oxley Indoor 2   | 11:30am | Alex & Bonnie     | Own Transport                     |
| Junior B  | Redlands 1  | Oxley Indoor 2   | 10:15am | Amy J & Courtenay | Own Transport                     |
| Junior B  | Redlands 2  | Oxley Indoor 2   | 12:45pm | TBA               | Own Transport                     |
| <b>Hockey</b> <i>MiC – Mr Peter Freeman Mobile 0425 376 242</i>   |             |                  |         |                   |                                   |
| 1st XI  | BYE         | -                |         | Mr Freeman        | Own Transport                     |
| 2nd XI  | BMGS        | Oxley            | 9:00am  | Mrs Hamilton      | Own Transport                     |
| Junior A  | BMGS        | Oxley            | 10:15am | Ms Hannan         | Own Transport                     |
| Junior B  | BMGS        | Oxley            | 11:30am | Mr Sloan          | Own Transport                     |
| <b>Fencing</b> <i>MiC—Mr Nicholas Wansey Mobile 0416 213 328</i>  |             |                  |         |                   |                                   |
|   | NSW Teams   | Newington        | 9:00am  | Mr Wansey         | Own Transport                     |
|   | Champions   |                  |         |                   |                                   |

## LIBRARY NEWS



The David Wright Library provides the students and staff of Oxley College access to over 20,000 book titles, 200 periodical subscriptions, reference titles and encyclopaedias. We currently house 20 desktop computers and 15 notebooks, to provide access to the OLIVER library catalogue, Encyclopedia Britannica online, eLibrary and the internet. Students are able to access these electronic resources externally enabling 24 / 7 usage.

Library services cater for the constant needs of students as they pursue their academic studies by providing information literacy instruction when researching, guiding in the access of information from books and electronic databases and developing strategies that will deter plagiarism.

As importantly, the library collection also promotes reading for personal enjoyment by including a variety of fiction and non-fiction literature aimed at the interests of young adult readers.

Students are encouraged to use the library facility before and after school and during recess and lunch. Senior students use the library and the adjoining outdoor area to complete their work during study periods.

The [David Wright Library Blog](#) located on the [oxleylearning.org](http://oxleylearning.org) website has been designed to readily provide information about library provisions. The "[New Books](#)" tab encourages students to add their comments about books they have read, while the "[Tutorial](#)" page provides directions on how various information databases can be used.

Parents are welcome to direct any inquiries to library staff. Petah Fishburn.

## OLE! 2010 (OTHER LEARNING EXPERIENCES)

Students were briefed at assembly last week about the 2010 OLE! programme. OLE! takes place in Term 4, Week 1 (Oct 11 – 15), coinciding with the first week of the HSC and the return of Year 11 students from Outback.

### The OLE! vision:

OLE stands for **O**ther **L**earning **E**xperiences and it is the intention that the experiences offered will extend and enrich activities beyond the classroom. During that week, students are engaged in new and challenging activities, designed to provide a variety of skill and team building opportunities.

### Core Experiences:

Year 7: Active: Kangaroo Valley (provider: Outdoor Education Group (OEG))

Year 8: Active: Biloela (provider: OEG)

Year 11: Outback

### Year 9 and Year 10 Programme

Students in Year 9 and 10 will participate in small group, vertical activities according to choice. Each activity will take place over five days, in three streams:

**ACTIVE:** Duke of Edinburgh (DEA) outdoor experiences e.g. a hike that qualifies for the Silver Award Hike and other outdoor pursuits.

**COMMUNITY:** Serving the local community in a five day project.

**CULTURAL:** An enrichment or extension project based on building specific skills.

Selection forms were sent home last week. They are due back to **Students Services** by **Monday 31 May**.

## P & F NEWS

### P & F MEETING

The next P&F meeting will be on Tuesday 15 June at 7:30 pm in the David Wright library. All welcome.

### YEAR 8 PICNIC

The Year 8 Picnic was held last Sunday at Kangaloon and was enjoyed by all who came. Many thanks to the Year Representatives: Kim Ashbrook, Alex Priebee, Alex Orchard and Julie Chapman for organising the day.



### YEAR 10 DRINKS EVENING

Year 10 enjoyed their get together last Friday night at the Briars. There was a good turnout with many parents going on to dinner. Many thanks to the Year Representatives: Fran Monro, Annabel Lomax, Terry Muller-Maher and Martine Carroll for organising the event.

### THE ANNUAL OXLEY DAY – Saturday 5 June 2010

Please join us for a day of sport and community spirit on Saturday 5 June at The Annual Oxley Day. We need help at the canteen and barbeque. This is a great opportunity to get involved while watching your son or daughter play sport. If you would like to help on the day, please contact Lisette Slotboom on 0415 059710 or email [lispaul@hinet.net.au](mailto:lispaul@hinet.net.au).

## NEWS FROM OLD OXLEYANS

### Jack Wasiliev (Old Oxleyan 2007)

Jack has been awarded the Edgeworth David Prize in Palaeontology (Sydney University) in recognition of his 2009 annual results.

Founded in 1934, the prize commemorates the work of Emeritus Professor Sir T W Edgeworth David. It is awarded annually for proficiency in Senior Palaeontology. Previous recipients include many Australian scientific luminaries, Tim Flannery being one of them.

Jack, who is in third year at Sydney University, was presented with his award on May 18 in a ceremony hosted by Associate Professor Peter Cowell, Acting Head of the School of Geosciences and Dr Tom Hubble, Director of the Earth Resources Foundation. He is currently doing a double major in geology and physics with a view to studying geophysics in an Honours year in 2011.

### Sally Westren (Old Oxleyan 2004)

Sally has been awarded the Bates Smart Award which encourages academic excellence in Bachelor of Design, in the Interior Design Course, University of Technology, Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building. This award is made to the student who has completed all Year 3 subjects and has been judged, through portfolio and interview to be the most talented student in the area of design.

### Timothy Tompson (Old Oxleyan 2003)

Timothy has been awarded the Jack Greenland Travelling Scholarship which encourages students to explore the area of environmentally sustainable development within the broad discipline areas of Design, Architecture and Built Environment at the University of Technology. This is an annual award to a final year student who has been judged on a portfolio of work which explores the area of environmentally sustainable development. The prize consists of \$2500 economy return international flight.

### Christopher Lean ( Old Oxleyan 2004)

Christopher finished his science degree at Sydney University last year writing an Honours thesis on philosophy of evolutionary ecology in the Philosophy of Science Faculty. He is currently tutoring both bioethics and environmental ethics at Sydney University. Later this year, Christopher will be going to Salt Lake City to study a Masters/PhD at University of Utah and be involved in the philosophy of biology laboratory. He has just been accepted as a research assistant to a grant for studying the evolution of cancer and identification of cancer (natural kinds). He will also get to go on a dinosaur dig which will fulfil a childhood dream. The irony of going to Utah to preach evolution is not lost on Christopher!

Each term, we will include News from Old Oxleyans in the Weekly Record. Please pass on news and information about Old Oxleyans to Emma Calver or Peter Craig.

## OXLEY SHOP

|           |  |                         |
|-----------|--|-------------------------|
| Tuesday   | 12:30pm - 4:00pm   |                         |
| Wednesday | 8:30am - 11:30am and 12:30pm – 4:00pm                    | <b>Saturday trading</b> |
| Thursday  | 8:30am - 9:30am and 12:30pm – 2:30pm                     | 5 June 2010             |
| Saturdays | First and Third Saturday of each month 10:00am – 12:00pm |                         |

## CANTEEN ROSTER - TERM 2

Thank you to those who volunteered in Term 1 2010.

|                                  |                                     |                                    |                                    |                                    |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Monday<br>31 May<br>Tom Isaakson | Tuesday<br>1 June<br>Barbara Miller | Wednesday<br>2 June<br>Sue Oberman | Thursday<br>3 June<br>Nina Redpath | Friday<br>4 June<br>Kerry Leishman |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|