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Pin Oak Team

Interview with Alexander Martinek (Year 7)

What instruments do you play?

How long have you been playing these instruments?

I first started playing the piano when I was six years old, piano and violin six years old, the guitar and clarinet when I was eight and the trumpet when I was 10.

How much time do you practise?

planning on playing



HEADMASTER'S REPORT

Mr Murray Walker, our previous Chair of the Board of Governors, passed away two weeks ago. It was a sad loss for Oxley and for the Bowral community. However, as members of his family are quick to point out, he lived a fit, healthy and active life until his very last day at the age of eighty-seven. Indeed the night before he passed away he went out to a function organised by our current chair, Mr Frank Conroy. On the morning of his passing he played a game of bridge with some friends and then went and bought a new pair of shoes. When he passed away of a massive stroke in his house, he did not suffer for even a second.

Murray was very proud of Oxley. He attended Foundation Night and Speech Night every year. Even two months ago at Foundation Night he was glowing about the talent and expertise that was evident up on the stage. He always told me about any good things that he heard about Oxley from others too. Oxley has much to thank him for. He presided over Oxley at a time of its great good health with Head of School, Mr Chris Welsh. He was both an enthusiast and a gentleman.

However, Oxley was only a part of his life and for a short amount of time. One of his most enduring life's passions was sailing and being on the water. During World War Two he lived near Sydney Harbour and when the US warships would come into the Harbour he would take his sailing dinghy out with a friend. Not content to simply look at the warships, they would deliberately capsize his boat as close as possible to the ships and pretend that they were in strife. The generous US sailors would then drag him and his friend aboard and give him a piece of the American chewing gum that he loved. He sailed for many years. As an adult he also sailed in a multitude of races in a multitude of craft.

He worked in advertising and was responsible for many big accounts with many big firms. He became a Fellow of Advertising Institute of Australia. However he made his mark too in the wide variety of charity and honorary positions that he held. Not least of these was Chairman of the Royal Sydney Golf Club (undoubtedly the most prestigious golf club in Australia) for five years. He was also the Commodore of the Prince Edward Yacht Club, on the 1988 Sydney Olympic Games Committee, on the Sydney Symphony Orchestra Committee, a Director of the Foundation for the National Parks and Wildlife

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I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and
hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly

The waves beside them danced; but

Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little

What wealth the show to me had
brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood

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Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it. Goethe

Risk and resilience are the twin heroes of self-efficacy. We want our children to develop into confident, self-determining drivers of their own destiny. These attributes are not developed in adulthood, nor in Year 11 just before the serious work of the HSC begins, but from a very early age and at Oxley from Kindergarten. We've been privileged this week to have two school leaders, Mrs Senatla Mbleele and Mr Tebogo Mbgaetsho, visiting from our partner school in Botswana and they have marvelled at the degree of independence in all our students as they take charge of their own learning. All classes are deep into the process of inquiry this term. Kindergarten are completing their first taste of independent research while Years 1 to 6 this term are collaborating to achieve rich, complex and creative works that reflect high quality contributions by the individual group members.

Martin Seligman, is generally considered the father of the resilience movement. His seminal work, *The Optimistic Child* (1995) was the first to emphasise the importance of facing incrementally difficult challenges to galvanise us against subsequent challenges. His work resulted in a counter-intuitive revelation that self-esteem is not enhanced by compliments, encouragement

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What's stopping us?

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle just welcomed a new addition to the Royal Family: a pup.

Prince George eats like a King with his school's delicious new lunch menu.

Kate Middleton has a huge scar on her face from a childhood operation.

Prince Charles only has to sneeze, and the world just can't get enough of it.

Each time new news about the Royal family hits, 53% of us pro-republican Australians are once again faced with the question: although they may be lovely people, why haven't cut our ties with them yet?

Oxley College is a meritocracy that teaches us to aim for the stars and challenge ourselves to be anything we want to be. However, we Australian children are banned from one position: we can't be the Australian Head of State. Why? Because it's been reserved for one particular English family of German heritage by right of birth.

Say I wanted to be Australia's Head of State today. Well, my best chance really is to head over to the UK, somehow manage to meet Prince Charles, make him fall in love with me, get him to divorce Camilla and then I knock old Charlie off his perch and wait for the Queen to die. Not a very appealing proposal, right?

Or, Australia becomes a Republic and I get to be the Head of State based on merit. Australia is not forging a unique path here. Of the 52 Commonwealth Nations, 31 are now republics and like the same sex marriage debate, Australia is lagging behind.

So, what's stopping Australian's from wanting to become a Republic?

For starters, a lack of understanding as to what role the Royal Family plays today in the governing of Australia. All laws we wish to pass in Australia require Royal Assent. This means that the Head of State, the Queen must give approval to all new laws presented by the Governor General. When the Queen dies, Charles will take on the responsibility, and when he dies William and so on.

Secondly, the old "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" argument. In other words, the lazy way of saying, "I don't like change". The more comfortable people become, the more resistant they become to change. In this respect, Australians are much like the rest of the world. Although it has been a long time since Australia undertook a major long-term project, this is more so because of a resistance to spending large amounts of money, regardless of the cause.

Which brings us to cost. The cost to become a republic is a rounding error, when the Australian government is out there allocating tens of billions of dollars towards projects such as the Snowy Hydro 2 and the NBN.

Apart from changing some coins, notes and stationary from what was once the Queen's face to an Australian, there really isn't much more to it. I would be surprised if it works out to be any more than what our Government already spends on entertaining the Royals.

For those who are concerned that we won't be able to compete in the Commonwealth Games anymore if we become a republic. Don't worry, we will! Just like all other republics still part of the commonwealth, we can still win gold at the Games.

And as for the royals, their faces will continue to food the trash mags and our social media. So, there's no missing out if we decide to cut ties.

When you think about it, Australia is in a similar position to all of us in Year 11. We are getting closer and closer to finishing school, leaving home and paving our own path in life. By no means does this mean that we don't love our parents anymore, nor does it stop them from ever seeing us again. At the end of the day, no relationship is ruined.

Mobile Phone Policy – See it, Hear it, Lose it

The new Mobile Phone Policy has now been in place for three weeks. Whilst there have been a small number of mobile phones confiscated from students in Years 7-10 each day for their phone being seen or heard between 8.40am and 3.30pm, the implementation of the policy has gone smoothly. The overwhelming majority of students have been accepting of the new policy and have abided by it. Whilst some Year 11 and 12 students have needed to be reminded not to use mobiles in public places around the school, most have now adjusted their habits to accommodate the new approach. There have been increased numbers of students playing and interacting on the oval at recess and lunchtime (no doubt assisted by the milder weather) and the absence of phones has certainly led to a palpable buzz around the College

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MOUNTAIN BIKING

Oxley College introduced cross country mountain biking to the sports program last term, with a skills coaching session every Friday afternoon at Welby. The group is coached by Oxley teacher, Meaghan Stanton, who is a current national champion on the mountain bike, and Peter Dowse, who balances his role as manager of a mountain bike race team, Trek Shimano Australia, with being a mechanic for the Australian mountain bike team, and working locally at the Fixed

Please email: kim.mcnaught@oxley.nsw.edu.au if you would like to register your interest.

On Friday 31 August, 11 students from the Oxley College mountain bike team joined around 700 students from 41 other schools to compete at the ACT Interschools Championships. Riders battled the elements, with bitter cold, driving rain and an increasingly muddy track to contend with. Our two teams of Year 7/8 boys managed 16th and 42nd place out of 71 teams in their category, but the big news of the day was that Euan Barrett-Lennard, Lucy Cavanough-Quince and Nicholas Milner won first place out of the 16 teams in their category (Mixed Year 9/10), an outstanding achievement. Congratulations!

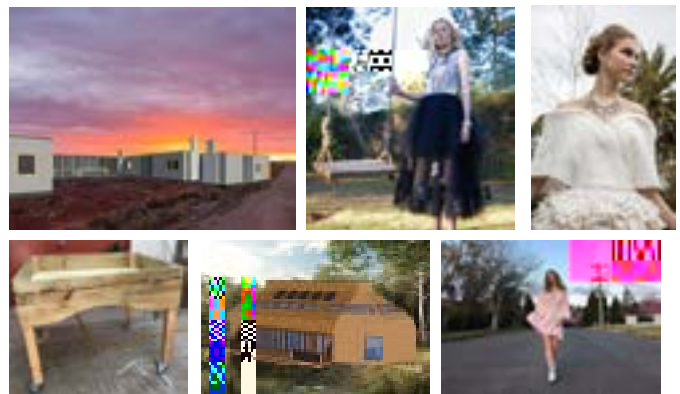
LIBRARY

A new way to read the news

I'm excited about an experiment we're conducting into providing access to the latest news from across the world for our senior students. Mr Simpson and I are "news nerds" and we were both delighted by the opportunities offered by a news aggregation app called Inkl. We contacted them a year ago but they were new and had not properly considered school subscriptions. This year, we contacted them again and they agreed to take part in an experiment where our school subscription enabled students to access articles at 10c per view.

Using Inkl, our senior students are not limited to a single news service but can choose news from across the world; The Sydney Morning Herald, The Washington Post, Al Jazeera and many others. Rather than receiving an overwhelming amount of news, students identify the topics they wish to follow for their studies and articles matching these interests are streamed to the Inkl app on their phone.

It is early days but we feel Inkl has the potential to provide varied opinions and broad perspectives of the news that may lead our students to become discerning and up to date consumers of information.



HSC DESIGN TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION



"I live in a remote forest reserve in Eastern Sabah, Malaysian Borneo, facilitating conservation ecology research. The project is attempting to quantify ecological responses to human agricultural impact on tropical lowland rainforests. I am the interface between the local research assistants and visiting researchers, managing logistics and keeping the camp functioning. The conditions are basic and tough, but the rewards are many as I get to see a lot of wildlife in my backyard, immerse myself in ecology and learn from some of the best scientists in the conservation field and have made life long friends within the local and scientific community."

What have you made of yourself - I am a trained horticulturist and worked many years in the nursery industry. I then got a job as a tour guide and worked in SEAsia, the Middle East and Africa. After a short stint as a dive instructor, I got a position managing a remote Conservation Ecology field station in Borneo.

Biggest achievement - Since leaving school in 1993 I have had quite a few different jobs, they have always been varied and very interesting to me. I especially loved working in the jungle in Borneo (The SAFE Project). It came with its difficulties but I feel very privileged to have lived for so long in such a unique place with so many interesting people as colleagues, and having the opportunity to always learn from them. I have basically always done what I love and am passionate about. This is probably my biggest

Did I expect to be doing these things - not at all. I had no idea what I wanted to do when I was at school.

How did Oxley prepare me for my future - I don't really know, I loved Oxley though. My family moved to Sydney when I was in year 11, so I finished school at Epping Boys High. The difference between the schools for me

was astounding. The sense of community and friendship amongst Oxleyans, even with the teachers, was completely absent in Epping. That could be down to a city/country divide, but there was definitely something special about Oxley. All the teachers were engaging and generally friendly with students. When I am back in Australia I have a whole group of friends from Oxley that still regularly get together, my friends that didn't go to Oxley find it amazing that 25 years after school we are still friends.

Inspirational staff - I always liked Mr. Forlonge, he was a great teacher with a sense of humour and excellent rapport with students. Also my music teacher, Ms Shannon, she really displayed incredible patience with our class. Always encouraging, supportive and amazingly positive against enorm

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IN THE WORLD...

At 7am on the morning of 9 February, 1942, Canadian forces were forced into a three-mile defensive perimeter around Winnipeg. Sirens blared, and a blackout began. German Panzers advanced into the city, supported by the Luftwaffe in the skies, as anti-air guns mounted atop cars desperately defended. But by 9.30, the city had fallen.

After the surrender, the Nazis set about subduing the population. Churches and schools were stormed, priests and teachers arrested. On the radio, Adolf Hitler could be heard giving a speech, and news came through that the mayor had been arrested, replaced with Colonel Erich von Neuremburg. The swastika was hoisted above the renamed Himmlerstadt City Hall, as the Union Jack's ashes smouldered.

But they weren't German troops.

Winnipeg was unquestionably still in Canadian hands.

This terrifying Nazi conquest was a massive dramatic production by the Canadian government.

War bonds are a patriotic appeal to the citizenry of a nation by the government, requesting that they lend their government money to support the war effort. Most Canadians saw the war in Europe as a far-off threat, something that couldn't possibly harm them. The war had been going for over two years at this point, and these factors meant war bond sales were at a low point. This is why the Canadian government decided to show the populous what life without their rights, which were taken for granted by most, would be like.

And so, 3,500 men were pulled from active duty and reserves, and were instructed that they were not to hurt anyone. They were dressed in fake German uniforms bought from Hollywood, including Iron Cross badges, and other small affects. Many fake Reichsmark coins and notes were printed for the day, with an ad for purchasing war bonds on the back. The planes flying overhead were just Canadian Air Force temporarily painted in Luftwaffe liveries. B

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER CALENDAR

	Mon 17 Y11 End of Prelim Exam Week	Mon 24	Mon 30
	Tue 18 Y11 End of Prelim Exam Week	Tue 25 NSWCIS Athletics Carnival - Secondary Music Night	Tue 01
	Wed 19 Holyroyd High Visit - Morning Tea	Wed 25 Y11 PDHPE First Aid Course Junior School Market Day	Wed 02
	Thu Junior School - Fiver for a Farmer David Wright in Conversation, Centennial Vineyards Restaurant	Thu 26	Thu 03
Fri 14 Y11 End of Prelim Exam Week, Hoskins Hall	Fri 21 EXC: Y1/2 + 3-6 Larks Choir Tulip Time Y3-12 Headmasters Assembly HSC D&T EXHIBITION	Fri 27 Term 3 Ends Y12 Farewell OLE Y9/Y10 Botswana Trip Y12 Farewell Dinner, Gibraltar Hotel	Fri 04
Sat 15	Sat 22 P&F 35 Year Anniversary Celebration Dinner	Sat 28 Y11 Outback Trip	Sat 05
Sun 16	Sun 23	Sun 29	Sun 06

Thanks to some exceptionally generous Oxley College Family and

