

This year's annual celebrations for past students – the 1990 Old Oxleyans' 30-Year Reunion, the 2000 Old Oxleyans' 20-Year, and the 2010 Old Oxleyans'

- 3.** Head of College's Report
- 4.** Deputy Head's Reports
- 5.** Deputy Head's Reports
- 6.** Junior Gallery
- 7.** Junior School News
- 8-9.** Feature Article
- 10.** Old Oxleyan
- 11.** Take Inspiration
- 12.** Big Issue
- 13.** Senior Gallery
- 14.** Virtual Gallery
- 15.** GD CHAMPS
- 16.** News Flash



Christmas Hampers – Donations still needed please!

In collaboration with the Salvation Army, BDCU Alliance Bank and the Southern Highlands Christian School, the Oxley College Senior School is seeking more donations for the 'Southern Highlands Community Christmas Dinner', in support of local families in need. Bon-bons and ginger bread house kits can be delivered to Senior School Student Services.

As in previous years, we are also collecting both hamper items and children's toys for Wingecarribee Family Services. 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

Advice for Parents – Christmas Tech Gifts

The eSafety Commissioner has published advice for parents who are planning to purchase tech gifts for children and young people this Christmas; the advice covers everything from smart watches to online game memberships, VR devices and drones. The 'Gift Guide' includes age appropriate advice, what to look for in products to help children stay safe, and what measures or boundaries parents should consider. For details, go to <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/gift-guide>

By Mark Case, Deputy Head Pastoral



In true 2020 style, the Oxley College P&F AGM was held via zoom on Tuesday 24 November.

Congratulations to the P&F Executive who were elected at the AGM.

President: Mr. [Name]

Chairman: Mr. [Name]
Secretary: Mr. [Name]





Weekly Awards

Learning Journey

K: Em Hunt

Over the past decade, the world (Europe in particular) has seen a rise of far-right/right-wing populist parties in the democratic political landscape. In this instance, far-right/right-wing populist refers to groups with ultra-conservative political ideologies which lie very much right-of-centre on the socio-economic political spectrum. These groups tend to have very nationalist, authoritarian values tending towards the protection of nativist rights, national pride and even racial/ethnic/religious superiority.



they're "more entitled" to access these jobs than people who will work just as hard, if not harder, simply because they are superior in some way. Some other political groups play on the instinctive human fear of invasion by outsiders and attempt to link increased immigration with terrorism, as was most evident in the 2016 Nice terror attack in which 87 people were killed by an Islamic extremist who drove a 19-tonne cargo truck into a crowd of people celebrating Bastille Day. However, although many people would have been understandably grief-stricken by such events (and most likely very angry at the perpetrators), it is important for people to understand that extremists come in many forms and from all cultures/religions. For example, the Oslo terror attacks in 2011 – in which 77 people were killed and at least 319 injured – were orchestrated by a sick, deranged white supremacist who changed Norwegian attitudes toward extremist offenders. This brings us to our next question: how many people are really voting for parties that appear to encourage this kind of reaction?

In the past, the answer would have been 'not many'. However, in recent years these have gained a sizeable electoral boost because of said immigration patterns, and the ineffective responses delivered by governments. The AfD, for example, received enough votes in the 2017 election to enter the Bundestag, winning 94 out of 709 seats in the national parliament. Over the Summer of 2017, the AfD even passed the Social Democrats (a member party to Angela Merkel's government coalition) in the polls. Not a bad

achievement for a party established just four years previously. Meanwhile in France, Marine Le Pen's Rassemblement National created quite a reputation for itself as a far-right alternative in the last election, capturing 21.3 percent of the national vote in the first round. Despite Le Pen's shortcomings in the second round, her brand of nationalist, anti-immigration politics still took 33.9 percent of the popular vote (10.6 million absolute votes). These statistics are scary considering the nature of the ideologies held by these parties.

Ultimately, I believe that, although far-right political organisations may represent some values and beliefs held by some people in the voting demographic, such as the harmfulness of immigration, what many of these supporters may not recognise or wish to acknowledge, is the danger of democratic destabilisation, suppression of free speech and other essential freedoms, and incitement of serious hate crimes by electing these parties into power. This is most likely what keeps the informed majority from enabling their election, and in the interests of public safety and democratic transparency I personally hope it stays that way.

By Hugh Corbett Year 10

Now that you're of in the big wide world, what have you made of yourself since finishing school at Oxley?

Ha, I have no idea. I guess I've done a fair bit since leaving Oxley though. I worked as a video journalist at the Sydney Morning Herald for a few years before moving to San Francisco and running a film production company. Getting a bit over the daily grind, my wife and I bought an old camper van and headed down to Oaxaca, Mexico where I run the production and sustainability for a mezcal brand, Madre Mezcal. If you're at Oxley you obviously don't drink but your parents could try it. Mezcal is a type of alcohol made from different types of agave (with similarities to tequila). Good stuff! At the same time I just finished directing a feature documentary (www.settingthebarfilm.com). For this film, I spent a few months in the Peruvian Amazon trying to find the genetic and cultural origins of the cacao that later gets made into some of the world's best chocolate. A large part of my work now is working with indigenous groups

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Good old Aussie mateship is at the core of *When Men Cry*, the impressive and engrossing debut novel from young Sydney author and Old Oxleyan Nick



The Baha'is are amid the most persecuted religious minorities in the world. Recently, there has been an increase in the level of maltreatment against people following the religion of Baha'i in Iran. They are Iran's largest non-Muslim religious minority and are routinely detained, arrested, and imprisoned. The reason they are being victimised stems from a variety of Baha'is teachings which are inconsistent with traditional Islamic beliefs. This includes; the finality of Muhammad's prophethood, and the placement of Baha'is outside the Islamic faith. These inconsistencies have made some people among the Iranian public perceive them as outsiders and this ill-treatment has been ongoing since the Islamic revolution in 1979. Lately, the Iranian government has targeted at least 77 individuals across the country in recent weeks even with the present pandemic affecting the country. A large number of people who follow Baha'i in the provinces of Fars, South Khorasan, Mazandaran, Isfahan, Alborz, Kerman, Kermanshah, and Yazd have been arrested, summoned to court, tried, sentenced to jail, or imprisoned. These have all been based on unsubstantiated evidence and cannot be perceived as anything apart from an attack on the followers of the Baha'is Religion. Most Baha'is who get imprisoned can stay in jail for 1-13 years solely because of their beliefs.

In addition to this, Iran's state associated media have started to implement public slandering and deformation of the Baha'is through a coordinated spread of disinformation regarding their beliefs through a range of media including; radio, newspapers television and more. This misinformation to the public of Iran can cause confusion and an even stronger prejudice towards the Baha'is people. The UN has even made a comment on how unmerited and extreme this

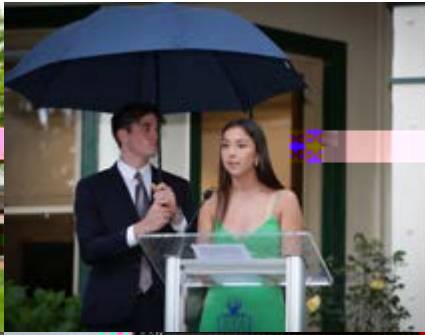
religious persecution is becoming "shocking and profoundly troubling" and that it demonstrates the "Religious bigotry and prejudice the Baha'is in Iran face" (Bani Dugal, Baha'is international community's UN representative). "Threatening to 'uproot a community', trying its members en masse, re-incarcerating them during a pandemic, and spreading hateful propaganda against them is a shocking and profoundly troubling development," (Bani Dugal). More than 200 Baha'is have also reportedly been executed since 1979 and more are being persecuted every day. The removal of the "other religions" option from national identity card application forms dealt another setback towards the Baha'i minority in Iran in January 2020. The government of Iran is even restricting the Baha'is right to have a job or an education as they are being refused entry to universities and disallowed jobs due to their religion.

This systematic persecution is unjust and a clear violation of human rights. Currently the UN and the Baha'is are doing what they can in an attempt to eradicate this clear breach of human rights, so far attempts have been ineffective and unsuccessful. This persecution is immoral and cannot be tolerated in our society today.

An example of the censorship of the media is the fact that it was difficult to find articles that provided accurate information regarding the persecution of the Baha'is in Iran.

By Jillian O'Connell Year 10

SENIOR GALLERY



The Southern Highlands community was greatly saddened by the loss of past Oxley student, George Dummer, in September this year. He was known to all as a true larrikin; an enthusiastic mate who was prepared to give anything a go and committed himself fully to following his passions. Words cannot express the huge loss felt by

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This weekend of sport was great fun, and all teams should be very proud of how they played. We had many girl Touch teams playing against Chev, with unfortunately only the Senior A White team coming away with two wins against the 1sts, 4-1 and then 6-4. Well done girls. Our Junior B Girls Basketball played a cracking game against Chev, however lost 54-26, but continued to fight until the end. Many teams also played against Blue Mountains, and lucky for them they got to play in some pink. Touch and Basketball played in long pink socks, and our 1sts Cricket played in a pink hat. Senior A Blue girls Touch were defeated by Blue Mountains, 5-2, however played some really good Fouch Footy. 1sts Boys Touch defeated Blue Mountains, 15-0 with only seven players, well done boys. Unfortunately our 1sts Cricket were defeated by two runs, but kept their heads high. 1sts Boys Basketball defeated Blue Mountains in a tough game, winning 69-62, and unfortunately our 1sts girls lost by four.

Well done to everyone who played on the weekend. Train hard and get keen for the final round of this competition this weekend, before we hopefully start the ISA next term.
By Liv Bow Year 10

They are the silent taskforce behind many of the exciting initiatives introduced at school. They are the proactive team, representative of the ideas and desires of the larger majority. They are the dedicated leaders who supplement ambition with determination.

Oxley's 2020 SRC continue to exemplify the values the school is predicated on - being brave, strong and true. Peer-elected earlier this year, they have striven to make the most of their somewhat-disrupted term as members. Whilst many traditionally SRC-run events have been deferred to next year - such as involvement in overseeing the school disco and fundraiser sausage sizzles - the continual stellar attendance at meetings evidences true commitment to selfless representation of the desires of the members' peers.

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