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What does it mean to be educated? This is a question which has been asked by educators, philosophers and parents for hundreds of years. It also leads to the question - What should schools be teaching students? I strongly believe the aim of education is to improve the Human Condition. Each person is unique and we all need to learn to know, learn to do and learn to live together.



## MUSIC

### **My Year 12 Composition: Scenes from a Locomotive**

The inspiration for my Year 12 HSC Music composition was trains and locomotives, specifically the trains we see going past Oxley so often and the landscape they encounter. The process had many components and multiple, but it was extremely enjoyable. It involved gathering inspiration and ideas from various places such as other pieces and the scenery outside Oxley. The early ideas gradually evolved into a fully-fledged two-minute composition, which showed signs of development in the process. At our rehearsal I met with my musicians who were going to record my piece, and this was a pivotal moment, as I had heard my piece being coloured by real life instruments and musicians, rather than a hearing a computerised

## MUSICAL

### **Muriel's Wedding**

Muriel's Wedding the Musical is the musical adaptation of the iconic 1994 film of the same name. The story follows the same plot as the film - Muriel Heslop (Natalie Abbott) grows tired of being the laughingstock of Porpoise Spit and fueled by Abba songs, with her parent's credit card in hand she escapes the sleepy Queensland suburbs to look for love in Sydney. There is something so perfectly Australian about Muriel's wedding - with the admittedly naive Muriel's perception of Sydney as a positively radiant hub of all different cultural outcasts - like herself - running from their pasts juxtaposed with the parking inspector's pessimistic outlook of the city and rigid businessmen raging through a city seemingly constantly under construction, in a sea of litter and pigeons.

Whilst Muriel's character is deeply fawed, she is ultimately just desperate to feel loved and accepted - and isn't that something we can all relate to. Abbott carries the show, despite Muriel's at times abysmal behaviour she continues to be endearing. Rhonda (Stefanie Jones) - Muriel's quick-witted ally serves as brilliant comic relief, able to take Muriel's former "Friends" down with a single iconic one-liner. Muriel's Wedding was a brilliant production that is bound to make you laugh and cry, although it probably loses points for not having the original Waterloo choreography. And if you happen to be looking for entertainment options in Queensland, you'll be muttering "Your Terrible, Muriel" to yourself if you miss out.

By Pearl Bendle (Year 10)

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Last month, Lara Sheils and I presented at the Critical Agendas National Conference in Melbourne on Teaching & Supporting Learners with Diverse Needs. It was a wonderful and easy thing to be able to share our philosophy and practices with a wide audience and celebrate the wonderfully inclusive learning community that we have at Oxley.

Our primary aim in all things is to provide learning experiences that engage and inspire each student towards self-determining progress.

This aim, implemented through the efforts of passionate and collaborative expert teachers, ensures optimal opportunities for success. This is the principle of universal design, emerging out of the architectural world, to create environments not with add-on elements to provided accessibility for less able bodies but environments that ensure seamless access for all. Education follows the same principles. Previously there was a pretence of equality (where everyone got the same), then we would talk about equity (where adjustments or modifications gave some what was needed) and now we talk about removing all impediments to ensure open access.

In contemporary learning, the teacher has become an architect. We design learning environments and experiences that provide for a range of different needs and take the roof off! We create the environment that the learner navigates at times independently and at other times closely guided. Learners can move between floors and departments within the learning landscape, they can take the lift, be supported by individual steps or scale the walls themselves depending on their level of expertise and confidence in any given experience. We have soft fall floors, but we let them try the high wire as soon as they decide they're ready. It is a new definition of independence.

During the conference workshop, Lara and I were able to share the ways in which our classroom and curriculum design, supports all learners. At our recent Open Morning, visitors commented on the distinctive feel of our classrooms. They noticed the calm and ordered spaces, different learning zones, minimalist displays and clarity of documentation. These features are not only about honoring our students with calm and beautiful surroundings but about minimising distractions, adding flexibility for discussion or quiet focus and multiple options for standing, sitting, lounging or lying to work in a manner that serves the sensory and physical needs of children.

In our curriculum, there are oftentimes a menu of experiences to facilitate understanding and skill development. We design appropriate opportunities for choice and control to empower children to be in the driving seat of their own learning and to explore the world in a way that complements their individual learning style. The provision of clear and explicit Learning Intentions and Success Criteria, as well as multiple forms of self, peer and teacher feedback, guide each learner as they progress through learning phases. Fluid and flexible grouping opportunities normalise differentiation and the strengths and weaknesses of all, as different children access support of erings for different subjects and tasks. Our dedicated Learning Engagement Team complement



# FAST FASHION



The industry also treats our animals in ways that will make you shiver. Eighty-five percent of the fur industry's skins come from animals who were held captive on fur factory farms, where they were crammed into severely crowded, filthy wire cages. Many were later beaten or electrocuted—and sometimes even skinned alive. The fur industry's ways are simply inhumane and truly disgusting as the animals are treated so horrendously. These furs are made simply for the fashion industry where they are then sent off to other chains of stores.

The amount of faeces that are left in fur farms become harmful to our environment as the faeces contain phosphorus, which is only healthy in small amounts. In large amounts it can become dangerous and harmful. When fur factories are left with large of the faeces there is a very limited choices of what to then do with it because of the amount and also how it is dangerous on different levels. If placed in water ways it can become toxic and unsafe for users and people near the area.

Over time as our clothing has evolved our fashion industry has become one of the most polluting in the world. If the fashion industry continues their ways by 2050, they could account for around a quarter of the world's carbon emissions. Our environment is so vital yet there has become a constant demand on the earth's resources. For a single pair of cotton jeans to be made it requires 10,000 litres worth of water to produce the amount of cotton,

By now you're probably feeling despair. So, what can be done about this murderer in your cupboard? What if there was another type of 'fashion'? Ethical fashion is an umbrella term to describe ethical fashion design, production, retail, and purchasing. It covers a range of issues such as working conditions, exploitation, fair trade, sustainable production, the environment, and animal welfare.

#### Top tips to avoid 'fast fashion'

1. Only buy items that you either really 'need' or really like. Buy recycled/second hand op shop clothing when you can. You can get excellent bargains.

2. Think about these four things before purchasing any items:

- o Who makes them?
- o Do the people that made your clothes get paid enough to survive?
- o Do the people who sell these clothes care about the environment?
- o Do the manufacturers test their products on animals or use real fur or feathers?

3. Review shopping brands through apps such as "Good on you" which give the clothing brand overall ratings on their inside shop safety, environmental policies and how this is transferred into the actual garments. This does not even include the amount to make the overall jeans into a usable item. This is just one way in which our love of fast fashion is killing our environment.

4. The Uniting Church every year puts out a booklet also rating hundreds of clothing brands on environmental and animal friendliness. The brands are rated between 0-5, 5 being outstanding and 0 being the absolute worse.

By Brydie Taylor (Year 8)

## Students with Voices

We are so proud of our learners at Oxley. Each day they impress us with their effort, their attitude and their willingness to “stretch, strive and stick”. At our recent Open Day, it was the visitor’s comments about our students that struck me most – that they were articulate, informed and passionate about their learning at Oxley. Our guests remarked over and over again about how confident the Year 10 students were, how willing to engage and answer all sorts of questions, particularly when adults were out of the room. Later, the Student Tour Leaders commented on how curious the potential new parents were, wondering why they asked about things that we take for granted here at Oxley ... that classrooms were different, that students and teachers sat together learning, that intentions and success criteria were visible and explicit and that engagement was palpable!

How does this happen? Well, first of all we are privileged to have a wonderful range of students who bring to our Oxley gate their innate goodness, love of life and hunger for new knowledge and experience. Once here, we consciously help them develop their skills for life, not just in the classroom but beyond. This is done in a myriad of ways, but mostly in a safe and supportive environment which helps young people grow and flourish.

Our recent focus has been around student voice. How can we explicitly help our students to not only have an opinion on the obvious and popular, but to also wrestle with complex scenarios across multiple disciplines and then say it out loud? Our secondary curriculum encourages students to evaluate, to dissect, to reflect and to hypothesise at the deepest level, not an easy feat without instruction and practice.

Through our distinctive, Cornerstone, from Year 7 we also have the luxury of setting aside regular time to sit in a circle, considering an idea and then providing opportunity for each student to add their perspective in a supportive and respectful space. Certainly our topics can be challenging, none more so than the ethical complexities currently being explored that include relative morality, the trolley problem and who to save on a lifeboat!

So, if visitors can be impressed in a half-hour tour with students, imagine how impressed parents should be if they were to be part of the discussions that take place daily in our classrooms. Parents – I encourage you to ask about what big ideas your child tackled this week – please listen to their voice and be very proud.

## School Strike 4 Climate

The climate strike for schools movement has certainly grabbed media attention over the past year. In May, around 4000 climate strike events took place in around 150 countries. It has caused much angst and debate amongst government education departments and school boards around the world. Prime Minister Scott Morrison made the government’s position clear last year, stating in parliament “We want more learning in schools and less activism in schools”.

In response the climate strike in May this year, NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian condemned those who supported the strikes as “grossly irresponsible” and whilst she said that students should be encouraged to express their views, “to take time of to go to a protest is not acceptable”. In contrast, NSW Opposition Leader Michael Daly supported students attending protests. Whilst the Sydney Anglican diocese and the Sydney Catholic Schools will not be supporting the strikes, the NSW Uniting Church, which oversees nine schools, has come out in support of the student strikes, stating this week “It’s their future that is at stake and their protests are genuine and informed and should not be ignored”.

As an independent, non-denominational school, what should our approach be at Oxley? I believe that the fact that these protests are described as a ‘strike’ and not as a ‘rally’ or ‘march’ is significant. Technically, students cannot ‘strike’ – they are not employees, and typically strikes are a refusal to work in order to gain a concession from the employer. A strike harms productivity and hits the bottom line of the employer, or, in the case of government services, causes significant inconvenience to the public to raise awareness about the rights (or pay) of workers. School children who refuse to go to school as a protest about government inaction on climate change are not in dispute with their school over pay or conditions.

However, the organisers and students who are leading this protest movement use the term ‘strike’, as the action closely resembles that of a workers’ strike. Crucially, it is organised and led by school students, who in the words of the student group Schools Strike 4 Climate, “are temporarily sacrificing our education in order to save our futures”. Students who attend these events are acting in their own right and this is an important dimension to this movement - they are not representing their schools. Whilst some schools may believe that sending a delegation of selected students is a great way to show support for the issue and reduce or eliminate unauthorised absence on the day, I think this is to misconstrue the nature of the event. For schools to take ownership in such a way is to feed

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## **Wildlife Rescue**

We rescued Henry the wombat from his mother's pouch when she was hit by a car in Robertson. He was only 78 grams, the size of a mouse, which means he was about 75 days old. He had to be fed with special wombat milk from a tiny bottle every two hours, day and night. He lived in a knitted pouch on a heat pad in a basket in our living room. One year later he is 10 kgs and eating only grass and horse biscuits. He now lives in a burrow with his buddy, Possum the wombat and will stay with us until he is 20kg and old enough to be released back into the wild. Before we can release him we have to clear up the mange problem in Robertson by treating affected wombats and putting medication faps on their burrows so that when they walk in or out the medication is poured onto their backs. It's a long-term commitment and we have looked after lots of little wombats like Henry and Possum. We also care for kangaroos, wallabies, birds and rescue koalas, possums, turtles and lizards. We are part of a volunteer group called Wildlife Rescue South Coast. Go to <http://www.wildlife-rescue.org.au/> to become a member, sign up for a course or find out more. If you find any orphaned or injured wildlife you can call Wildlife Rescue South Coast on 0418 427 214 and we can help rehabilitate it for release. By Tika Conway (Year 7)

## **What would you do with \$1000?**

On World Environment Day 2018, the Oxley Environment Group launched an initiative to encourage staff and students to recycle containers eligible for the Return and Earn scheme. For every eligible container, we would receive 10c. Given that drink container litter makes up 44% of the volume of all litter across NSW, Return and Earn aims to reduce this volume of litter by 40% by 2020. Last week we broke the \$1000 mark and have now recycled over 10000 containers. Staff and students have used the green tubs in the Pavilion and House areas to deposit their containers and it has been great to have the support of the P&F whose functions generated additional bottles and cans! Thank you. However, the waste audit that we conducted in Term 2 revealed that some eligible containers are finding their way into general waste and we would encourage all the Oxley community to make use of the green tubs as much as possible. Money

# INTERNATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE FORUM



Earlier this year I had the wonderful opportunity to be selected as a representative for Australia at the International Youth Science Forum in Singapore. Now honestly, going into this programme I had little idea as to what to expect, and to be travelling by myself to a different country, knowing absolutely NO ONE was a little more than daunting. Yet, once the other five Australians started appearing at the Singapore airport, it seemed as though these next six days would be nothing short of incredible. The combination of experience, learning and opportunity were all amplified during these unforgettable days, creating an overwhelming sense of excitement and anticipation for our futures in science.

Now one element of this enthusiasm was accomplished through the variety of captivating workshops, lectures and guided tours. For instance, we were taught components surrounding DNA profiling technologies, to uncover the actual details of the 1995 OJ Simpson case. The interactive nature of these workshops revealed to us the incredible facilities and emerging devices that are actually used in up-and-coming research, whilst also revealing the applications of such technology in solving genuine, real life issues. This was furthered in the workshop on 3D printing, as we got to individually code a design, whilst also being taught the medical, industrial and agricultural uses of the device. We also delved into the atomic life of a range of species via electron microscopes. Yet, what truly encompassed the value of learning during the programme was the Science Demo Lab in which we were very fortunate to have an experienced physics professor to assist our exploration in the range of mechanisms that demonstrated the fundamental principles of physics, and by extent, the workings of the universe.

Another source of invaluable experience was gained through our cultural immersion, as we explored the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve which uncovered the innate beauty of Singapore's natural environment that often goes unnoticed. We also had a variety of guided tours exposing us to the huge range of cultures that reside in Singapore, and simultaneously the range of historical value throughout the city. We visited the Art Science Museum, and I was captivated by the FutureWorld exhibition which highlighted the crazy possibilities regarding the interaction between innovative technology and immersive installation, bridging the gap between social and visual.

Perhaps one of the most rewarding elements of the programme was the opportunity to connect with many like-minded people from across the globe. We stayed on campus at the National University of Singapore, along with the other students in the programme who were representing over 150 different countries, such as France, Switzerland, Korea and China. In saying this, we became very close and saying goodbye was certainly no easy feat.

I'd like to say a huge thank you to the Berrima District Rotary club for sponsoring this trip, as it's opened my eyes to the infinite possibilities surrounding such ground-breaking, internationally collaborative science. I honestly cannot recommend applying enough, and would also recommend looking into all the other programmes that Rotary endorse and run, as the opportunities are truly incredible. For instance, if heading overseas by yourself is a little too scary, then another great programme is the National Youth Science Forum which I also attended this year in Brisbane. If any of this interests you whatsoever, please feel free to come and chat to me about the application processes and what it all involves!

<https://berrimadistrictrotary.com/>

By Skye Holmwood (Y12)

# THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW...

A new law has been passed by the South Korean Government which aims to encourage the recording of alleged workplace bullying, harassment or abuse. The law states that companies whom "unfairly demote or dismiss" harassment claims can be fined up to 30 million won (\$36,658 AUS) or be sent to prison for three years. Hence, this new law has seen a spike in high-tech sales of recording devices disguised as pens, belts, USB's and glasses. This is great because people are now being encouraged to speak up about their workplace issues which creates not only a much more supportive workplace but an understanding

community. Some people tend to only focus on the negatives of our world, yet, the happenings in South Korea demonstrates the power of community when a society recognises an issue and then has the power and ability to change it. This simple fact can so easily be applied to everyday life whether it be relevant in your family, school or friend group! The South Korean Government chose to accept that there was a problem in their country as they even have a word for abusive people in power,

I must have audibly squealed at the news of Lizzie McGuire's triumphant return to television screens (or computer screens) around the world. If your living under a rock or making slightly too long social media posts about the face of capitalism belonging to an anthropomorphic rodent and consequently avoiding anything remotely Disney... (Good on you, also are you okay)? Disney Plus is Disney's effort at throwing their Mickey Mouse branded hat into the ring of streaming services currently available in an attempt to further monopolise the international entertainment market... And trust me Disney is coming to play! Catering to both their main audience of families with Disney mainstays such as Mickey Mouse Clubhouse as well as a full library of all their cinematic hits, and of course catering to the audience of sad millennials craving nostalgia with a fresh supply of new Disney Channel originals (A Lizzie McGuire reboot and a High School Musical spinof ... Yes, please and thank you). As an arguably sad person born in the early 2000's in honor of Disney Plus, here is what your favourite Disney Channel Original franchise says about you.

## **Lizzie McGuire**

- "Hey Now, hey now - This is what dreams are made of."
- You were obsessed with Rainbow Loom Bands in 2014.
  - Hilary Duff is undeniably the most underrated Disney channel starlet.
  - You aren't afraid to admit that you own jelly sandals
  - ... also maybe some butterfly clips.
  - But that's it!
  - Fine. You maybe have worn pipe cleaners in your hair - But that was one time! Give me a break.

## **Highschool Musical**

- "We're all in this together!"
- You do drama as an elective
  - Highschool was underwhelming, to say the least; I mean where is the randomly breaking out into choreography?
  - You wish that you fell in love with Troy Bolton at a Ski resort in 2006... Stupid Gabriella.
  - You know that Sharpei is the true victim of East High's rigid social structure.
  - Ryan Evans is the hero you didn't know you needed.
  - You are an active member in at least eight group chats.
  - You cried when Troy and Gabriella reunited in HSM3 (I didn't put a spoiler alert since if you didn't know that, there is a serious problem.)

## **Hannah Montana**

- "You get the best of both worlds"
- You've adamantly supported Miley through all of her ups and downs.
  - You've listened to old town road unironically.
  - Liam Hemsworth is a babe.
  - Tears may have been shed at the news of their divorce.
  - Your main personality trait is the careful maintenance of your "Spotify Aesthetic."
  - You somehow have affiliate links in your Instagram bio??

## **Wizards of Waverly place**

- "Everything is not what it seems"
- You probably have done the "What Harry Potter House are you in?" quiz at least six times.
  - You've frequented Room 19 often.
  - You have been gifted a lot of candles you never used.
  - You bring your own food to the cinemas- \$5 for a small popcorn? No thank you, Woolies will do.
  - You use a lot of ellipses'.
  - Halloween is unquestionably the best holiday.
- By Pearl Bendle (Year 10)

# GALLERY





