



# ORANGE ANGLICAN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

14 December 2020

*From the Headmaster....*

As we conclude a challenging, yet wonderful year at Orange Anglican Grammar School I was pleased to welcome our community to our campus for the Presentation Evening on Wednesday 9th December. For those that were unable to attend I would like to share the annual Headmaster's address delivered on the night to the attendees.



For those visiting for the first time with restrictions eased over the last two weeks, how nice it is to gather together in acknowledgement of our children and fellow students, how nice to celebrate their many successes over a year that has been 2020. Despite the many challenges - fire, drought and global pandemic - OAGS continues to grow and prosper.

Our agility in being able to respond to the needs of our community and provide timely support has ensured our school, and its growing number of students, have not missed a single day of school. This, music to the ears of our children I'm sure, at the end of a long year with many challenges.



But as indicated in the reading from 1 Peter, true character is often demonstrated as we are put under pressure, put to the test. Gold is refined by fire, fire causes the impurities in gold to rise to the surface for easier removal. As we are put to the test we can continue to refine our work and our service to one another.

Many other Schools unfortunately closed down for a week or more whilst reorientating themselves, the necessary transition from face to face teaching and learning, to online off campus during Term 2, was remarkable at OAGS, and seamless. I'd like to thank my Executive and Teaching and Learning Team for their sterling work in this space.

Our response to difficult times, proven ability in academic rigour, holistic education and care for 4 year olds to 18 years of age, has made OAGS a very attractive place for education in our local community and for those moving to Orange for the first time.



Demand was so great for a place at OAGS by the end of Term 2 this year, we had to create waiting lists for Year 7 and Transition. Year 8 2021 is currently forecast for three classes. This will allow those on waiting lists to join our growing and prospering community.

These strong foundational years have driven growth. Building will commence in just a few days on our much anticipated new School Library, Early Learning Centre and later in 2021 our Agricultural Centre of Excellence (ACE). The Library (Student

**Stay in touch...**

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/orangegrammar/](http://www.facebook.com/orangegrammar/)

**Website** <http://www.oags.nsw.edu.au/>

**Parent Portal** <https://edumate.orangegrammar.nsw.edu.au/>

HUB) will be completed towards the end of Semester 1 and the ACE Facility and Early Learning Centre sometime in Semester 2, next year.

OAGS has developed a reputation for producing students nationally recognised as significant leaders.



In my October Newsletter I commended our School Captains. 2019 saw Jessica Bennett recognised as a winner of the Country to Canberra Leadership Competition. I was pleased to announce that this year, for the second year in a row, our School Captain for 2021, Suzanne Daugherty, was awarded one of just 16 national winners of the 2020 Country to Canberra Leadership Competition. To add to that track record of success, during the October holidays one of our Year 10 students, Brynn Player, undertook the NSW Army Cadet Unit Promotion Course for Corporal and distinguished himself by receiving the much coveted 'Student of Merit'. Topping the course amidst many other high-quality candidates across NSW is a significant achievement for both our student and our unit. These are all outstanding results that testify to the quality of our students and those that guide them along the way.



Grounds facilities have also seen continued improvements this year. Our grounds have been carefully managed and maintained during a particularly difficult dry season earlier in the year. New shade sails have been purchased and high volume traffic areas concreted or improved. The Year 11 and 12 Study Centre established an outdoor courtyard and recreation area, with new seating and table tennis facilities. Access improvements to



the site for those with a physical disability or visually impaired have been made, and will continue to see improvements where needed over time. To increase traffic flow for pick up in the afternoons, an additional entry point has been improved and landscaped. This provided much relief for parents and bus drivers alike. I'd like to thank our Deputy, Scott Hazelton, Mr Terry Nye and Site Supervisor,

Mr Andrew Jarrett, for their consistent support throughout the year in managing traffic flow, in a year like no other, in rain, hail or shine.



Orange Anglican Grammar continues to develop into the future with improvements over the next 12 months, that will include;

- The development of a new library or Student HUB facility and Early Learning Centre
- 'Building Success', will see the completion and publication of a **10-year OAGS Master Plan** whilst working with Orange City Council.
- Our current strategic vision 'Securing Success' is due for completion **a year earlier than forecast**, requiring the exciting development of a new Strategic Vision 2022 to 2026
- Securing enrolment growth will require new leadership opportunities for future and existing staff requiring promotion and investment in expanded school leadership and student support structures
- Our Strategic Vision for 2020 to 2026 includes the development of both a Creative and Performing Arts Academy and Sports Academy.



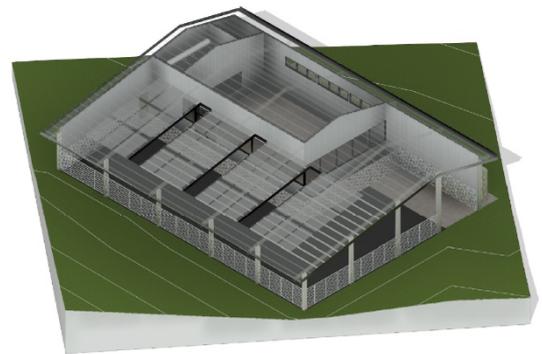
- In preparation for the Academy of Sport, a new Head of Sport (K-12) will be announced early in the new year and within the next week many of our upcoming Secondary emerging athletes, already competing at the highest levels, will be invited to participate in the launch of the 2021 OAGS EAGLE Program
  - EAGLE Emerging Athlete - Growth Leadership and Enrichment Program
  - More information on the OAGS EAGLE program will be shared with our community early in the new year.

- I am pleased to announce that representing our School Chaplaincy Team, Mr David Whittingham, will also join the Executive Team for 2021



The Chaplaincy Team - Mr Esson, Mrs Edwards, Mrs Colgan, Mr Thompson and Mr Whittingham - are to be commended for their tireless support and service to our community this year.

- Four additional classroom spaces will be made available by the end of 2021
- A new Agricultural Centre of Excellence (ACE) will be completed sometime in Semester 2 next year (concept pictured)
- Continued staff Professional Development in Visible Learning
- Further Improvements to Primary School play equipment
- And the continuation of grounds improvement and beautification



At OAGS we are blessed with an amazing team of Educators, Support and Operational Staff and volunteers. I am abundantly grateful for their continued faith and support in the School's leadership and unwavering dedication to the school, students and community. During a year of uncertainty, the solidarity and support of our team and community has been unshakable.

As we honour Him, may God's certainty in love and grace continue to bless you and keep you always. Thank you Staff.

Like gold refined by fire, we continue to feel the heat of setbacks, illness or other challenges in our family and community. Yet more precious than gold this Christmas, I pray that we all experience the everlasting peace and love that comes through knowing Jesus.

I leave you with verse 24 and 25 from Hebrews 10. *'...let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.'*

*Let me close in prayer  
Gracious God,  
You have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son,  
As we prepare to celebrate his birth this Christmas,  
Make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word,  
And move us by your holy spirit to bless your wonderful works.  
We ask this through him whose coming is certain,  
Whose day draws near,  
Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit  
One God, for ever and ever. Amen*



I wish you all a very happy Christmas. May 2021 bring you the freedom to meet, encouragement, love and good deeds.

**Rev Louis Stringer  
Headmaster**

## OAGS PRESENTATION NIGHT 2020

On Wednesday 9 December 2020 we celebrated the year that was 2020 at our annual Presentation Evening. Congratulations to all of our students, not only those who attended and received awards, but all of our students who persevered through the changes and challenges that 2020 presented us with. It was a year like no other! On the night we presented our most prestigious whole school awards, and we would like to share these wonderful achievements with you all.

### Major Awards – Primary School

All Rounder	Luke Brown
Citizenship Award	Genevieve McGoldrick
CAPA Award	Imogen Johnston
Chaplaincy Award	Steven Collins
Contribution to Music	Bethany Baker
Primary Chess Award	Mykayla Hazelton & Rohan Mittal
Most Improved Chess Player	Charlotte Johnstone
<b>Dux of Primary</b>	<b>Mykayla Hazelton</b>



### Sports Awards

Primary Sportswoman 2020	Emily Meiring
Primary Sportsman 2020	Samuel Butt
Secondary Sportswoman 2020	Isla Stringer
Secondary Sportsman 2020	Joshua Whittingham
OAGS Medallions 2020	Thomas Dale, Jackson Willis, Bayden Willis, Keegan Willis

### Major Awards – Secondary School

Citizenship Award	Charlie Watson
Chaplaincy Award	Tobias Johnston
John Chapman Award	Suzanne Daugherty
All Rounder 7-10	Scott McGoldrick & Isla Stringer
Excellence in Science UNSW	Adelaide Webster
Secondary Chess Award	Scott McGoldrick
Contribution to Music	Rhys Johnston
Rotary Student Service Award	Suzanne Daugherty
Creative Writing – Junior	Harrison Baker
Creative Writing – Senior	Hamish Roberts
Public Speaking Prize	Jamie Lipscomb
Danygamarra Shield	Bandhaa
Agriculture Award	Jock Johnston
Long Tan Award (Yr10)	Brynn Player
Long Tan Award (Yr12)	Timothy Phiri
ADF Future Innovators (Yr 10)	Rhys Johnston
ADF Future Innovators (Yr 12)	Jessica Bennett
<b>Year 12 Dux</b>	<b>Ethan Norcott</b>



We were also thrilled to announce the **Primary Leadership team for 2020** as follows:

Primary School Captains:	Nicholas Irwin & Holly Reed
Vice Captains:	Maxwell Rimmer & Charlotte Johnstone
Prefect:	Hallie Ellice
Bandhaa House Leaders:	Genevieve McGoldrick (Captain) & Steven Collins (Vice Captain)
Biladurang House Leaders:	Johan Butt (Captain) & Celeste Rengger (Vice Captain)
Dinawan House Leaders:	Rohan Mittal (Captain) & Miley O'Brien (Vice Captain)
Gugaa House Leaders:	Kayne Birkin (Captain) & Holly Wilson (Vice Captain)



Congratulations to this team of future leaders who will work alongside our Secondary leadership team in 2020.



## Red City Gym CrossFit Scholarship - Claudia Horan - Year 9

I was recently very blessed to have won a CrossFit scholarship to Red City Gym Orange. CrossFit is a form of interval training which combines strength and conditioning in the one workout performed at a high intensity level. CrossFit

is great for you because it gives you strength, power and endurance, and the movements that you learn in CrossFit help you in day-to-day life like squatting, pushing, pulling, and it gives you stamina! I have loved CrossFit because you are part of a team and it focuses on improving my health and fitness whilst encouraging me to extend myself and work towards new fitness goals. I am looking forward to starting my one month scholarship at Red City Gym Orange and would like to thank Lachlan and Karina for this wonderful opportunity.



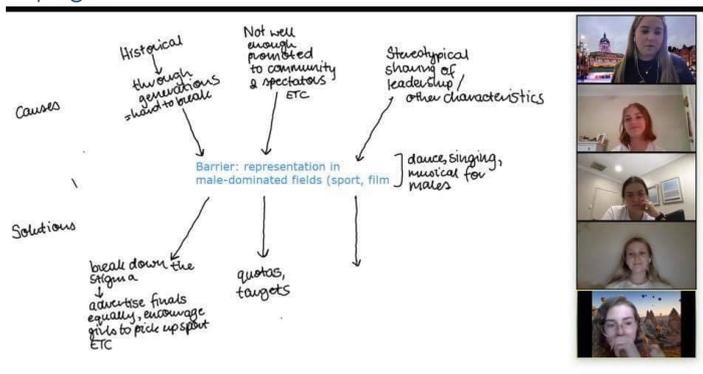
## Country to Canberra (C2C) 'On Screen' - Suzie Daugherty - Year 12

I recently had the great privilege of participating in Country to Canberra's (C2C) 'On Screen' event. I competed in a major competition with many other Australian girls, and was one of 16 girls in Australia to win. Unfortunately, the winners were meant to go on a "power trip" to Canberra in November and meet politicians, CEO's and other leaders to develop our leadership skills, but Covid decided it wasn't the right time. Hopefully, we'll be taking this exciting trip in July.

Instead, the C2C team created a new virtual experience over Zoom over two days. We learnt leadership skills, stress management and met young politicians. I especially liked doing the stress management as I am one of the most stressed out people I know! One of the speakers named Maddi gave a great analogy on how to manage responsibilities. She said, "We are all juggling glass balls and plastic balls. If you drop a plastic ball, you can just pick it up again. If you drop a glass ball, it will shatter. Protect and prioritise your glass balls." I found this helpful when juggling my family, friendships, HSC subjects, school captaincy duties, youth group, work and more.

I hope to use all of the things I learned on the C2C 'On Screen' to be the best school captain that I can be. I hope I can be a kind, genuine and a caring leader, and make the school an even better place!

Photos were retrieved from Country to Canberra Facebook page.



## OAGS Triathlon

During term 4, a group of dedicated students selected to participate in triathlon as their weekly sport option. Throughout the term students trained for each individual leg of a triathlon before competing in the inaugural OAGS triathlon. The very first OAGS Triathlon was held on

Wednesday 2nd of December and for many students this was their first time completing a triathlon. It was perfect weather conditions for the event, with warm water temperatures for the swim and an overcast day for the bike and run.



It was a great day out and we had a few sprint finishes. I was so proud of all the students involved for their determination and willingness to step outside their comfort zones.

**Miss Stephanie Harrison**  
Triathlon Coach



## **SHINE DAY - Investing in our Ladies**

Year 12 is an exciting opportunity to focus on subjects' students love. However, it can also bring with it some doubts and uncertainty around the often daunting process of balancing work, social lives and consolidating who they are as they stand on the brink of adulthood. It is during this time that friendships are most important.

It was with this in mind, that the 2021 cohort of young ladies met last Friday, 4 December, for a day of reflection, positive introspection and bonding.



The day involved three main sessions:

### Session 1 "Shine - For Others"

This session focused on each girl's leadership style. We discussed how they can use this to set goals and achieve outcomes both within the Year 12 cohort as well as the school as a whole.

### Session 2 "Shine - From Within"

The girls were encouraged to value themselves, acknowledge their strengths and validate who they are and what they stand for. A great deal of reflection was done on thinking about how they are heroines in their own lives, based on the stories they listened to about famous Australian women who have made their mark on the world including Jessica Watson, Miranda Kerr, and Ellie Cole.



Lunch was a delightful affair, organised and set up by our wonderful Year 9 girls and shared with female secondary staff. This was followed by our third and final session "Shine - With Others", where hysterical laughter could be heard from the room as the girls engaged their 'creative selves' in designing and decorating gingerbread houses.



This was a wonderful day spending time with each other and I loved the opportunity it gave in encouraging and supporting these beautiful shining lights as they begin their final year of school.

**Mrs Karen Huntly**  
Leader Secondary Welfare





## Early Learning

What a fantastic year it has been with our youngest learners. They have amazed us with their achievements and have brought us all a lot of joy. Their wonder, curiosity and love of learning inspire us to do our best every day, their kindness and care for each other and our school is inspirational.

Below are some photos taken on the last day, that reflect a year of smiles.



Thank you to all our wonderful families for your support, education is very much a partnership and we appreciate being with you on this journey.



Have a safe and wonderful break. We look forward to seeing everyone in 2021.

Thank you and Merry Christmas from everyone on the Early Learning Team.



**Mrs Drury**  
Early Learning Coordinator



## Alpaca Paraders Competitions

This year was a quiet one for the OAGS Alpaca Team with many shows being cancelled. Therefore we decided to hold an internal Alpaca Paraders Competition at the end of this term. This also provided a great training opportunity for both students and alpacas who have not attended shows before. Students were required to lead their alpaca through a series of challenges that were designed to simulate

day-to-day handling of alpacas on farm, school or public settings. They needed to show safe handling skills and a good relationship with their alpaca. We are incredibly grateful to our judges, Jennie Menzies (of Tirrikee Alpacas) and Erin Marsden (of Hyghclere Alpacas), for their ongoing support of the OAGS Alpaca programme. Everyone performed extremely well, showing great patience and care, thereby bringing out the best in their animals. Scores were extremely close with only 6 points (out of 130) separating all competitors. Congratulations go to our placegetters:

- 1st: Jonathan Pottie**
- 2nd: Sabrina Mackay**
- 3rd: Ilka Gordon**
- 4th: Rebecca Kemp**
- 5th: Annabelle Wrigley**



**Ms Kelly-Ann Sackey**  
Alpaca Team Leader



### Infants and Primary Drama Club 2020

I have enjoyed working with a wide variety of students through the Infants' and Primary Drama clubs. With these groups, we usually choose an item to prepare for the Orange Eisteddfod, but due to COVID-19, it was closed to groups. This led to us preparing for a recording day, which turned into the OAGS CAPA Showcase. The infants'

drama club performed 'Marumara's Reef' by Catherine Bauer and the primary drama club performed 'The Worst Pirate of All' by Elizabeth Klein. The students worked hard on their items throughout Term 3 and 4. The infants' students even got to make their own costumes, by decorating the fish that they wore as headwear. It has been exciting watching these students become more confident as each week passes. Many of the Kindergarten students showed outstanding confidence at remembering their lines. I would like to thank the parents that helped their child practise their lines, decorate their costumes and locate costumes. The support you give them at home helps them be more confident and prepared on the stage. I look forward to seeing many of the students again next year.



**Mr Kyle Palmer**  
Primary Drama Club Coordinator



## OAGS CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

OAGS Administration will be closing the doors from 23<sup>rd</sup> December to 5<sup>th</sup> January, reopening on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2021.

If you have an emergency during this closure, please email  
[admin@oags.nsw.edu.au](mailto:admin@oags.nsw.edu.au).

We wish the OAGS community a wonderful Christmas and New Year.  
Thank you for your support in 2020.

## *Christmas* 圣诞 2020

**Sunday 20th December - 5pm**

FAMILY CHRISTMAS CAROLS on the lawn at  
St Philip's Church, 768 Burrendong Way, March  
BYO picnic rugs and snacks

SERVICES AT ST BARNABAS CHURCH (26 Dora Street, Orange East)

**Christmas Eve - 10pm**

Communion Service

**Christmas Day - 7:30am and 9:30am**

Communion Services



ph 02 6362 7729

[stbarneyschurch@gmail.com](mailto:stbarneyschurch@gmail.com)

[www.stbarneys.com.au](http://www.stbarneys.com.au)





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Grammar School  
7 Murphy Lane, Orange, NSW, 2800



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# Australia Day

PICNIC IN THE PARK

Join us for a Picnic in the Park to  
celebrate Australia day! Relax on the  
lawns of Cook Park with a barbeque,  
live music, market stalls and more.

Welcome the newest Australian  
Citizens in Orange with a ceremony and  
congratulate the winners of the Orange  
Australia Day Awards including Citizen  
and Young Citizen of the Year.

This will be a COVID safe event.

Tuesday  
26 January 2021  
8am - 1pm  
Cook Park, Orange



Australia Day

[www.orange.nsw.gov.au/australia-day](http://www.orange.nsw.gov.au/australia-day)

Proudly organised by the Orange City Council  
Australia Day Community Committee  
For more information, contact Orange City Council  
via (02) 6393 8000 or [council@orange.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@orange.nsw.gov.au)



## Become a foster carer

Foster Carers are needed in your area more  
than ever before.

Whether you are giving a child a long-term  
home, or stepping in to help in a crisis, being a  
foster carer is a hugely rewarding experience.

If you have room in your heart and your  
home, please take the first step and contact  
Challenge Foster Care on **1800 084 954**,  
[fostercare@challengecommunity.org.au](mailto:fostercare@challengecommunity.org.au)  
or visit our website  
[challengecommunity.org.au](http://challengecommunity.org.au) to find out more  
about becoming a foster carer.



CHALLENGE  
Community Services

Foster Care

Orange Anglican Grammar School, 7 Murphy Lane, Orange NSW 2800  
(02) 6360 4811

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