

The Oakhill Drive



Oakhill
COLLEGE

NOVEMBER 2021

Ms Leahnore Wright - *Class of 1982*

Teaching in an Aboriginal community had always been on my bucket list and towards the end of 2017, I had the opportunity to set the wheels in motion. Within a matter of months, I had been seconded to St Francis Xavier Catholic School, Nauiyu Community, Daly River in the Northern Territory, packed up my house, traded in my new car for a 4WD, said goodbye to family and friends and arrived amidst the tropical humidity of Darwin.

St Francis Xavier Catholic School caters for students from pre-school to Year 10. Enrolment numbers vary throughout the year as some families move among communities, outstations and the bush, depending upon circumstances, family connections, time of year and community unrest. Average numbers were usually between 40 – 60 students, but rarely were more than about 30 students present on any given day.

There were four composite classes and I was lucky enough to work with the students in Years 4, 5 and 6 for the three years I lived in the community. These kids would present some of the best, funniest, most educational and challenging experiences of my 30+ years of teaching.

I could have up to 10 in my class on a good day, but six-eight students would be the norm. Some of the challenges were never having the same students present each day or students who would come to school and sleep for most of the day, which made continuity of lessons difficult.

We had eight teaching staff, including our Principal and each class had a local teacher's assistant who helped with class management, supporting student learning and aiding in communication between school and families.

School began at a balmy 8.00am with fitness activities, at 8.15am we had breakfast, followed by assembly, the school prayer, and then we would head to lessons.

Often we would end up outside and undoubtedly Sport, Art and Culture lessons were the clear favourites. Each year, the school always had a stall at the annual art festival where students' artworks

would proudly be displayed and sold to travellers from near and far.

Culture lessons with Ms Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr Baumann (former Principal and Senior Australian of the Year 2021) were attended once a week and this often consisted of us getting onto our school bus and searching for bush tucker, collecting ochre for painting, listening to stories of local sacred sites and visiting places of historical significance such as the old copper mine or the Jesuit ruins where Fr Donald MacKillop (St Mary MacKillop's brother) once lived and worked. Sometimes we would learn how to pluck magpie geese or gut a turtle and cook them up or make lawa (damper), listen to local dreaming stories, learn the names of plants and animals in Ngan'gikurrunggurr, one of the local languages, hone painting and weaving skills or discover how to make a fire, find water in a paperbark tree or retrieve fungguli (native bush honey).

We often had visitors to our school like AFL and sports players, NORFORCE (an infantry regiment of the Australian Army Reserve), science shows, swimming schools and annual visitors from Red Dust. Check out some of our music videos, made with the Red Dust mob, on YouTube by searching 'Nauiyu Red Dust.' Of course, another highlight of our year was NAIDOC celebrations when we would get a 'killer' from Tipperary Station and have a big cook up with lots of fun activities like dancing, art, music, cultural activities and water slides.

We seemed to be always having long weekends for something in the NT. Every chance I got I would hop in the 4WD and be off exploring magical places. A long weekend might be the rodeo at Mataranka with a swim in the hot springs or attending the 'We of the Never Never' festival. A weekend in Darwin was always a nice way to indulge in little luxuries. Maybe a trip to Katherine to explore the Cutta Cutta Caves or Edith Falls, fossicking at the 'Gold Digging Festival' at Pine Creek or driving further south for all the fun and atmosphere of the Daly Waters Pub, famous for its collection of memorabilia and attractions.

Family and friends were always willing visitors on longer breaks, and I became well-known for tailoring itineraries to suit interests and age groups.

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*Leahnore with brother
Matthew Wright (Class of 1983).*





From Our Principal

Greetings,

This academic year, 2021, the College marks its 85th Anniversary with the first classes of Oakhill College held in the Cox homestead in July 1936. There were four students that first year growing quickly the following year to 30 students in 1937 – twenty boarders and 10 day students.

The first teachers were Br Julian Lennon, Br Amedy Molloy and Br Kevin Price. Br Julian was the first Principal of Oakhill College. Br Julian would be mightily impressed with how his dream has been achieved and that Oakhill College has grown to be one of the highly recognised Catholic College's in Sydney and the largest Catholic High School (Years 7-12) in NSW with 1,960 students enrolled for 2022. The College is also known for achieving excellence beyond all expectation, known as the Oakhill Graduate.

- An Oakhill graduate has their feet firmly grounded, aims for the stars, and knows that life's journey will not always be clearly defined, straight or predictable;
- An Oakhill graduate knows that they have strength of spirit that enables them to rise above the fleeting things to engage life consciously – never giving in;
- An Oakhill graduate always strives for what matters, looks out for the other, knowing and experiencing true mateship, the founding virtue of our Nation;
- An Oakhill graduate is eager to accept a challenge, keeps the faith, is good and kind;

- An Oakhill graduate knows they contribute to God's Kingdom, and has an intellectual curiosity and thirst for knowledge and who uses their learnings to serve others.

It is hoped that each one of you who may be reading this 42nd edition of the Oakhill Drive, the young and old, alumni, parent, or friend of the College, will continue to support the College as guardian and guarantors of the 'Lasallian spirit' which makes the College unique. That spirit that inspires every student to aspire, to take up the challenge, to work hard with persistence, resilience, caring and mateship, and with the mental toughness to pit themselves against all odds and 'never say die'. A spirit rooted in Christian values ensuring Oakhill graduates leave as good young men and women of honesty, respect and integrity; leaders of a better world.

In conclusion I must thank Mrs Gabby Russo for her hard work and dedication in putting our newsletter, the Oakhill Drive, together and I ask for your support in her call for volunteers for an alumni committee so that the College can meet and serve her alumni better across these 85 years.

Br Steve Hogan fsc
College Principal





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We could be sailing along Katherine Gorge, swimming at Maguk Falls in Kakadu, travelling off-road in Litchfield National Park to the Lost City, fishing for Barra in Daly River whilst keeping a keen eye on sunbaking crocs, swimming with crocs at Crocosaurus Cove, exploring the WW11 Oil Tunnels underneath Darwin city, visiting Parliament House (known as the Wedding Cake due to its design), travelling down to Alice Springs and out to Uluru or across to Kununurra in WA to explore the Bungle Bungles by air, shop for pink diamonds and enjoy a stopover at the breathtakingly beautiful, Lake Argyle.

A day trip out to the Tiwi Islands by ferry was a great adventure, and the locals were always very welcoming and proud to show off their artwork and their island. Visiting the beautiful old church used in "Top End Wedding" and driving out to yet another beautiful beach amongst the island scenery was undoubtedly a sight to behold.

Before returning to NSW, one of my last big trips was the 9-hour drive along the corrugated dirt Arnhem Highway to Nhulunbuy in Arnhem Land. Such a magical place to visit and our fishing tour chasing tuna was such fun! Even losing the bullbar from the front of my 4WD on the way back didn't dampen the whole experience. (That's a whole other story!)

Living in a remote community is not for the faint-hearted. It's a very different experience to say the least. The excessively loud music blasts well into the morning, the cars hooning around the night, the occasional rocks on your roof or hard mangoes smashing your car, the fireworks, vandalism, and break-ins are frequent occurrences the cause for major lack of sleep. The fights, the frequent Careflight helicopter that comes in to airlift recipients of wounds, as well as other medical emergencies to Darwin Hospital, are a cause for conversation in the staffroom before school begins. This also often determines the attendance of certain students. Then there's the unrelenting heat and humidity, the annual pack up of school buildings and houses at the end of each year in preparation for the imminent flood. All these things take a bit of getting used to, but they all add up to the experience of a lifetime.

I cannot begin to include the many stories, experiences, places, people and memories I have accumulated during my three years in Daly River; perhaps I will have to write that book one day. But I can definitely say that if you ever get the chance to visit, work or live in the Northern Territory it will become part of your own story and one that is hard to leave.

Hermann Oval

As part of improvements for disability access to schools, the Oakhill College P&F Association secured funding for a disability ramp as part of the NSW Community Building Partnership grant. This NSW Government grant has allowed us to improve our facilities by building a disability pathway to Hermann Oval.

The pathway begins alongside Lawrence Oval and ends at the main stairway. The retaining wall has a dual purpose and allows for additional seating. Instead of disposing of the soil from the hill offsite, Maintenance has moved this to the other side of the oval, creating a flattened area to store outdoor sporting equipment safely and which can be accessed more easily.





COLLEGE NEWS

Years 7-10 Musical: School of Rock

The College was thrilled to be able to bring to life Andrew Lloyd Webber's *School of Rock* in Term Two prior to lockdown.

Based on the hilarious 2003 film, *School of Rock* sees a down and out rockstar, Dewey Finn (played by Michael Royle) needing to find a way to pay the rent. If he can't find the money fast his roommate and best friend, Ned Schneebly (played by Kieran McMurrich) and his girlfriend Patty (played by both Sophie McDonald and Mikayla Waters) will kick him to the curb. When an opportunity presents itself to pose as Ned and take on a substitute teacher role, Dewey grabs it, thinking it will be easy money and not realising he will need to convince the Principal of Horace Green School, Ms Rosalie Mullins (played by Elia Chaiban), that he is the real deal. Little does he know the students at Horace Green will win his heart and go on to fulfill his dream of forming a rock band and competing for the coveted title of Battle of the Bands!

Performed in Benildus Hall with a live rock band made up of current students Madhav Dinesh (Year 12) and Harrison Mair (Year 11) as well as ex-students James Royle, Elliott Carter (both Class of 2020) and Antony Murdica (Class of 2016) it was an experience that all involved will cherish.

The cast and crew did an amazing job putting this show together and are congratulated on a fantastic show.

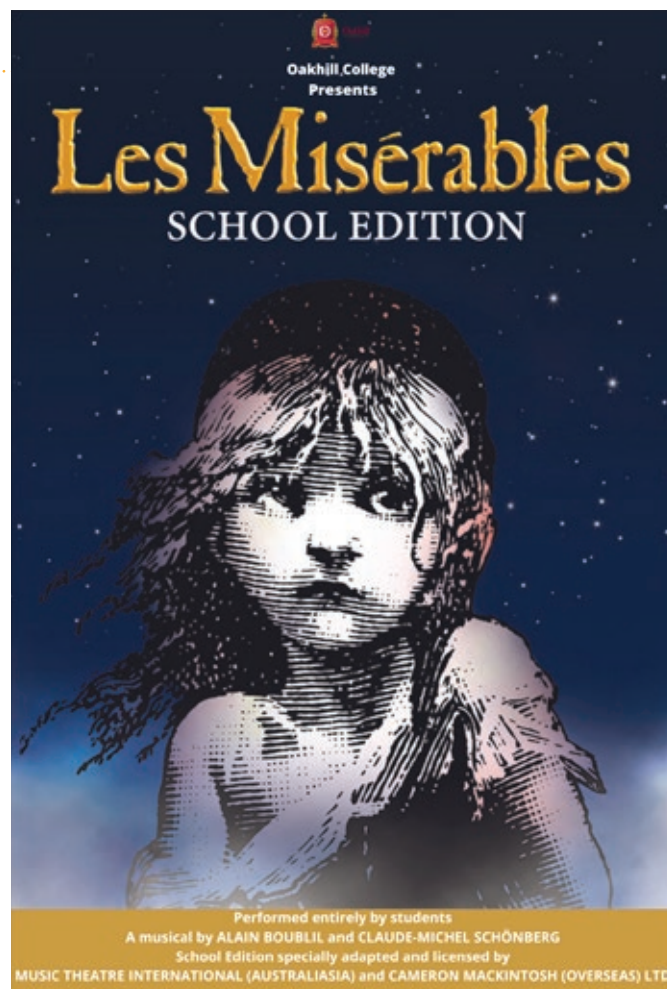


Save the Date

★ COLLEGE OPEN DAY ★

Sunday 6th March 2022

10.00am-2.00pm



Les Misérables

Looking ahead Oakhill is very excited to announce the College Musical for 2022 will be the school edition of *Les Misérables*.

One of the world's most iconic musicals, *Les Misérables* tells the story of Jean Valjean, a former convict who spends a lifetime seeking redemption. Set in 19th-century France and the aftermath of the French Revolution, Valjean's quest for a new life carries him to Paris where he is hunted by Inspector Javert and the ghosts of his past. Amidst the battle, he discovers the true meaning of love and salvation.

It will have been 20 years since Oakhill last staged this show and we are delighted to mark this milestone anniversary with an outstanding cast and crew. Our 2022 Music Captain Jack Talty (*Valjean*) will face off against our 2022 Drama Captain Noah Hickey (*Javert*) and bring to life this story of injustice, heroism and love.

Performances dates are 9th, 10th, 11th, 16th, 17th and 18th June 2022 with tickets going on sale towards the end of Term One, 2022.

One Foot Forward

At the beginning of October, Oakhill's goal was to raise \$10,000 for the #onefootforwardchallenge for the Black Dog Institute to help change the lives of people living with mental illness.

We are proud to announce that the 318 students who ran or walked 12,593kms, have raised over \$21,400. Great effort Oakhill!

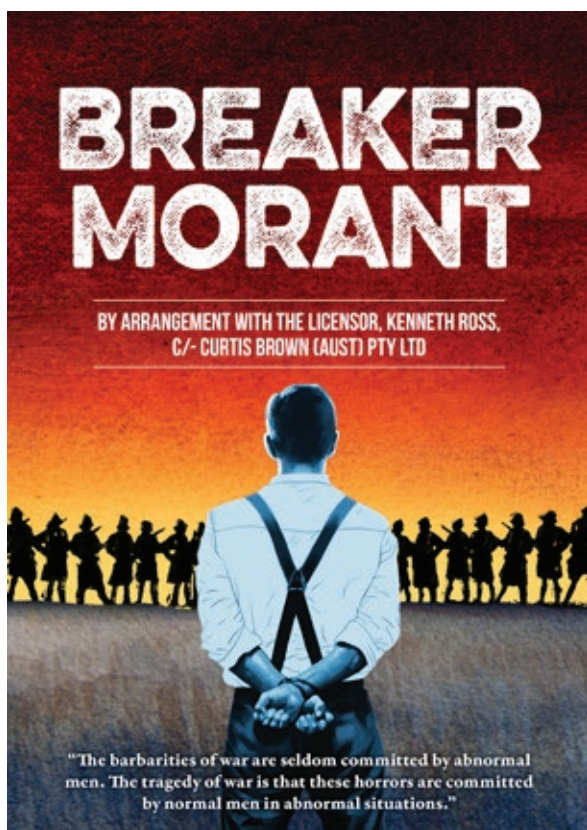
Breaker Morant

2021 saw Oakhill College presented with many challenges including the staging of the Year 10 Play *Breaker Morant* by *Kenneth G. Ross*.

Much like Breaker himself, the Year 10 elective Drama students have faced these challenges head-on, with grace and determination. While it may not be the final production that we had hoped for, the College is immensely proud of everything they have achieved.

The play follows the court-martial of Lieutenants Harry 'Breaker' Morant, Peter Handcock and George Witton as they are tried for war crimes during the Boer War in South Africa in 1902. Heavily influenced by the politics of the time, we are taken on a journey through a number of court-martials under British rule and are left questioning the justices or the injustices of wartime: Was Morant guilty? Or was he simply following orders from the leaders of the British Army?

While this production cannot be shown in a full theatre allowing for the full production experience for the students, they should all be congratulated on how well they have developed these characters and helped to tell this story, given the extremely difficult circumstances that this year has provided.



2021 Sports Lunch

Over 350 people enjoyed the 2021 Oakhill College Sports Lunch in late June. This was a fantastic opportunity for the Oakhill community to come together to talk sport and catch up with friends before restrictions hit.

Many thanks to the entertaining special guests and Oakhill College Alumni Ms Catherine Cox (Class of 1994) and Mr Luke Keary (Class of 2010), MC Mr Ben Eisenhuth (Class of 2010) and the unforgettable Mr Mick Colliss. It was great to have in one room Australian representatives in Netball, Rugby League and of course Sudoku.

The generosity and support received from sponsors is greatly appreciated, and the College thanks everyone who donated, placed bids and purchased tickets to raise money for our much needed outdoor speaker system. A huge thank you to WiseHart Events who ensured the day ran smoothly and made it so special.

Our Oakhill community is strong, vibrant and generous. We are proud of our history and the fact that we always have our students at the heart of all we do.

Save the Date for the 2022 Oakhill College Sports Lunch on Friday 17th June.





Giving to Oakhill College

Leave a Legacy for Future Generations

Financial support is essential to the continued success of Oakhill College. We encourage all members of the Oakhill College community to support the Building Fund through annual gifts and contributions. All donations to the Oakhill College Building Fund are tax-deductible. By working together, we can all make a difference here at the College in providing the best possible facilities and resources for teaching and learning; for both today's students and the next generation. You can make a tax-deductible gift to the Oakhill College Building Fund by visiting <http://www.schooleasypay.com.au/oakhill/> and select Voluntary Building Fund Donation, or if you would like to discuss a particular contribution, please contact Br Steve Hogan (Principal). When making your donation, please enter the Record ID as your year of graduation or the year of your youngest child's graduation. If you are a current parent, please use your Family ID from your College Fees Statement. You will automatically be sent a receipt in acknowledgement of your generous donation at the end of the current financial year. For more information, please contact Mrs Elke Forrest, Bursar and Operations Manager on 9634 0801 or email eforrest@oakhill.nsw.edu.au. This is an opportunity to live out our Lasallian tradition – "Enter to Learn. Leave to Serve".

Construction Trade Careers Breakfast

Bright and early in the CSC foyer, Oakhill welcomed several alumni, parents, and other guests to chat with our male and female students for our Construction Trade Career Breakfast.

This fabulous opportunity enabled our students to learn about trades, careers, cadetships and apprenticeships and gave them the chance to meet prospective employers looking to hire apprentices and engage in work experience, which some have since undertaken.

Our knowledgeable speakers gave an insight into the growing state of our construction industry, the opportunities in many different fields, advancements, and career paths to choose for men and women, the large investment that is creating over 60,000 jobs, and the importance of trialling and finding your passion to ensure a successful career path. Participants also enjoyed a cooked breakfast prepared by our Lasallian Youth Leaders and staff.

Thanks to all our speakers for sharing their wealth of knowledge including Oakhill Alumni: Mr Ben Smith (Class of 2015) AJ Flooring; Mr Damian McGrath (Class of 2007) and Mr Mitchell Thorburn (Class of 2008) Grindly Construction; Mr Richard Hoogervorst (Class of 1985) NuVision Building; Mr Tom Herd (Class of 2011) Alan Oxford Plumbing & Electrical; Mr Peter Ceroli (Class of 2010) Simonds Homes; Mr Chris Zubrycki (Class of 2001) President Plumbing and TAFE Teacher.

Other Guests and Oakhill parents: Mr Blake Chaffey Alan Oxford Plumbing & Electrical; Mr Andrew Jones TAFE Teacher - Carpentry at Nirimba College of TAFE; Ms Janelle Henson - Sarina Russo Apprenticeships; Mr Farah Georges, Design Cubicle; Ms Alyce Bertolissio - Endeavor Energy; Mr Scott Hannah – Hannah's Haulage.



The Ration Challenge

In 2021, Oakhill again participated in the annual Ration Challenge and became the second-highest fundraising school with over \$32,400.00 raised.

By putting themselves in the shoes of a refugee for one week and eating the same rations, students learnt about current global issues, developed empathy for others and were empowered to make a difference in the world.

The money they raised provided emergency food, healthcare and life-saving support for people hit hardest by COVID-19, and by sharing their experience, they've helped create more empathy and compassion in society. We are empowering Oakhill College students to change the world through the Ration Challenge.

A YouTube video was created to explain how the Ration Challenge works and features our own Br Goodman afsc, Director of Mission: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gA1kPc0JIWk>



Babaayn Shelter

During week one of the July holidays, before lockdown, some Year 11 Lasallian Youth Leaders and staff travelled to the Baabayn Indigenous Corporation at Emerton to construct an Aboriginal Bower Shed and create an Indigenous community garden. With Oakhill working tirelessly, it was all hands on deck as they moved the bogged soil delivery truck out of a nasty situation. The Babaayn community is thrilled with their new shelter and garden, and as lockdown restrictions ease, we hope to return shortly to finish the job and mulch the garden.



2021 Reading Fellowship Award

Congratulations to the College's Gifted & Talented Co-ordinator, Mrs Edwina West, who has been awarded the prestigious Reading Fellowship Award for 2021 for her project Combating Aliteracy with Australian Literature.



Edwina is a hardworking, dedicated, and passionate educator determined to make a difference in schools. This project – The Reading Australia Fellowship 2021 Grant – will not only benefit Oakhill students but help all schools to consider ways to engage reluctant readers to engage in the love of reading – an essential skill to build overall confidence in critical literacy skills such as reading and writing.

Oakhill is proud of Edwina's achievement and we look forward to reading her report! You can read more about Edwina's achievement here:

<https://www.copyright.com.au/2021/07/edwina-west-from-oakhill-college-is-awarded-the-reading-australia-fellowship-for-2021/>



P&F Gala Day Major Prize Winners

The Oakhill spirit was once again on full display for our massive 2021 Gala Day.

The success of our community event is thanks to so many people who worked tirelessly for months – our P&F Gala Day Committee, staff, parents, students and alumni volunteers, as well as our generous sponsors. The support from our hospitable community and the attendees on the day, particularly our Performing Arts students and our Sports teams was overwhelming.

Our major raffle was also a highlight and the winners of our first prize were Oakhill alumni and parents James and Roslyn Sommer (both Class of 2000) who won a Volkswagen Polo sponsored by Castle Hill Volkswagen.

Oakhill's alumni connections continue with the car being delivered by Mr Jeremy De Silva (Class of 2004) from Castle Hill Volkswagen.



New Additions to Oakhill's Farm

At the end of August, Oakhill welcomed a calf and two lambs to the College Farm. They are all settling in very well, and mums and bubs are in good health.

Our new additions will be included in our Agriculture and Show Team programs shortly.



Theatresports

Oakhill Theatresports made a triumphant return to the stage in 2021 after the 2020 hiatus. For the first time in over a decade, Oakhill had both the Senior and Intermediate teams progress through to the Theatresports Schools Challenge Grand Final at the Enmore Theatre.

Theatresports is a team-based competition, judged on quick-wit and improvisation skills. Teams must perform an impromptu scene based on a given topic with barely five seconds of preparation time, if any.

It takes a special talent to not only execute these skills of spontaneity, but to do so in front of a crowd of friends and family, judges, and peers. Ten Oakhill students represented the College across the Senior and Intermediate divisions, after a fantastic workshop and audition in March.

Our Senior Team consisted of Aidan Grace, Phil Joseph, James Ransome-Haberley and Jack Talty (all Year 11), as well as Cooper Abood (Year 12). In April, the boys took to the stage for the heats of the competition at Birrong Girls High. Blowing the competition away in style, they went home with first place on the night, comfortably booking themselves a Semi-Final spot. One memorable scene was a game of Commercial where they had to improvise a use for the absurd product "Exploding Pillows".

The Semi-Finals were at the end of May and the boys channelled their nervous energy into pure brilliance with a Grand Final spot on the line. The Semi-Finals of the competition allows for the playing of musical games with a pianist provided to accompany the scenes. The boys put their singing skills to work, producing a stunning musical on the spot about Big Mac burgers, earning themselves a top score of "5 5 5" to storm through to the Grand Final.

Sunday 13th June approached swiftly and we made our way to the historic Enmore Theatre with mixed feelings of nerves and excitement. Faced with some excellent competition, the boys shared an incredible experience performing in front of close to a thousand people. Though the result didn't quite go our way, they certainly entertained the crowd and shared a day they will never forget.

With four of the five in the Senior team having competed in the Theatresports Schools Challenge before, it was a different tale for our inexperienced Intermediate team. Marcus George, Kieran McMurrich and Logan Penfold from Year 9, and Pat McMurrich and Joel Woodhead from Year 10, were all successful in their audition.



Chris, Pat, Kieran, Joel, Ms Jackley, Logan and Marcus.



Declan, James, Jack, Aidan, Chris, Ms Jackley, Cooper, Phil and Ben.

Months of practice began, learning games and fine-tuning improv skills until our first heat at Newington arrived. Unfortunately Joel and Pat were unable to attend the first night of competition, leaving our Year 9 boys to get the job done, which they did in emphatic style. Against an experienced competition, our team of three managed second place and a spot in the Semi-Finals. Most memorably a fatal game of ping-pong earned many laughs from the crowd.

With a mix of scenes ranging from trips to space to a simple game of mini-golf, the boys ticked all the boxes to win first place out of nine schools and proceed to Enmore.

Combined rehearsals with the Seniors in the lead up to the Grand Final helped develop confidence for the Intermediates, in what was an incredible opportunity in their debut year. The boys performed admirably, with the highlight being a spooky improvised song titled "Ghost Toast". Overall, out of eight schools, they placed fourth – a remarkable achievement.

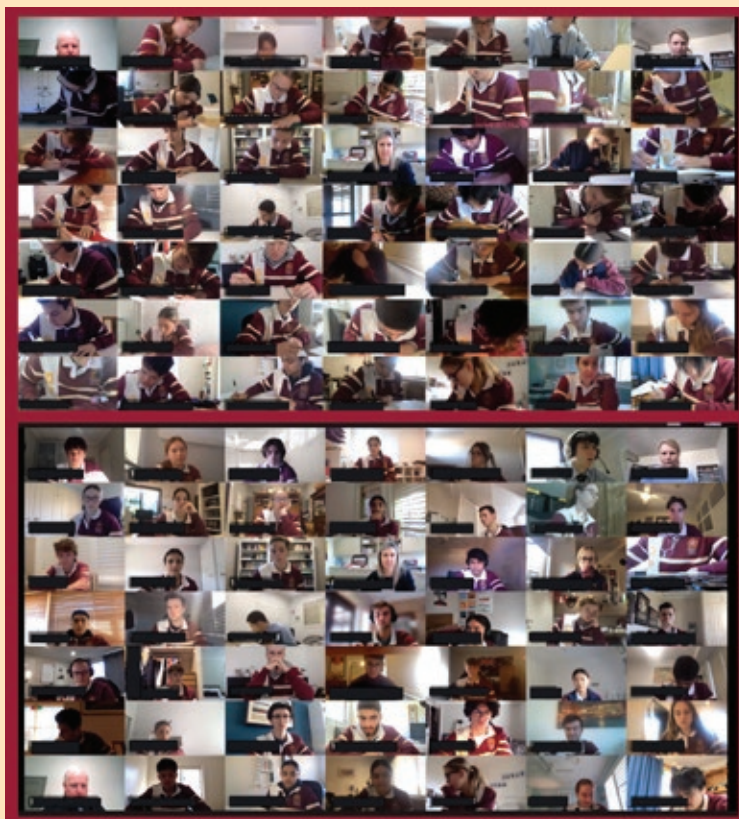
To have both teams make the final eight of the state-wide competition is not a result of luck. Many hours of dedication from countless people involved helped make this happen. I would like to give a sincere thank you to my co-coaches and fellow alumni, Mr Declan Montgomery, Mr Benjamin Tulinsky and Mr Jake Woodhead (all Class of 2017) for their support and expert coaching throughout the year. A huge thank you to Ms Catherine Jackley for her tremendous help in coaching as well as administration duties throughout the process. Lastly, to the ten gentlemen who took the stage and did the College proud; thank you for continuing a proud Oakhill tradition, and putting a smile on so many faces at a time when a smile was needed most.

Mr Chris Wadih, Class of 2017.

The Oakhill Graduate

The symbolism of Oakhill's beginnings and heritage is communicated to our community in many ways. We are currently creating some design pieces around this and are sending out a call for anybody who is interested in being involved in creating a singular piece of landscape architecture for the new central precinct, encapsulating the whole hilltop area and extension of Oakhill Drive.

If you would like to be involved, please email us at: drive@oakhill.nsw.edu.au



Class of 2021 – You've Got This!

The Class of 2021 have overcome several obstacles this year and we are proud of how they have navigated this time under the tutelage of our dedicated staff.

They have worked for many years towards their HSC, and when COVID-19 restrictions hit, Oakhill responded quickly and organised for the HSC Trial exams to be run online. It was essential to hold these exams and, on some days, we had over 400 staff and students online. The maturity, professionalism and unwavering resilience displayed by both staff and students during this uncertain time was to be commended.

Oakhill knows it takes a village to raise a child and our students received many messages of support at this time including one from some of our famous alumni: <https://youtu.be/M-MSOwAXD5Y>.

We wish the Class of 2021 the very best as they sit their HSC exams in November and December. You've got this!



St Agatha's Primary School Mural

Mr Michael Hopkinson, Principal of St Agatha's Catholic Primary School, Pennant Hills wanted to commemorate 200 years of Catholic education in Australia.

His vision included making significant changes to the aesthetics of a large wall at the school. To bring this vision to life, he commissioned our own Mrs Marie Hogan, Academic Head of Visual Arts to transform the 10m x 2.5m high wall into a legacy for this vibrant community that will last forever.

Mrs Hogan spray painted a stunning mural that features Mary McKillop, Australia's first saint, Fr Tennyson Woods, and students of the past, and 21st Century students learning and growing in the Catholic education system entwined with subtle, Australian themes throughout. Mrs Hogan said that she was honoured to create something so special for the school community and St Agatha's are thrilled with their showpiece work.

Ms Kendra Bruseker's Published Book

After many months of work, our own Ms Kendra Bruseker, Academic Head of Society & Culture, Legal Studies and Geography has had her textbook published by Cambridge University Press, which will be used across New South Wales: Cambridge Society and Culture Stage 6.

Ms Bruseker brings a wealth of experience to Oakhill and her published book shares her knowledge and experience as a presenter for numerous professional learning seminars for the Association of Independent Schools of NSW and as a sessional tutor for Macquarie University where she developed both the undergrad and Masters of Teaching method courses for Society and Culture. She has also been a committee member of the Society and Culture Association since 2019.

Her Cambridge Society and Culture book will help students develop their social and cultural literacy, become ethical researchers and encourage Stage 6 students to become active citizens, providing them with everything they need to thrive in their major work, assessments and exams.





Oakhill's **MASTER PLAN**



The College's Master Plan has been evolving for several years, commencing in 2017 with 'think tank' sessions involving many critical internal and external stakeholders, including students. Ideas were brainstormed with Oakhill's strategic vision and mission remaining at the centre of the plan whilst delivering state of the art facilities and exceptional, innovative spaces to continue delivering outstanding educational outcomes.

Following an extensive tender process, the Oakhill College Planning Committee contracted leaders in the construction industry to actualise the Master Plan and are working closely alongside FDC Building, MostynCopper and BVN Architects.

The Master Plan comprises four stages:

- Stage One – Innovation Hub
- Stage Two – Hilltop Precinct
- Stage Three – Cafeteria, Counselling, Careers and Pastoral Support facilities
- Stage Four – New arrival and entry point to the College

Fast forward to 2021, and Stages One, Two and Three of our exciting Master Plan are underway. Preparation work has been undertaken with pavers, shade structures, shrubs and trees being removed in our Year 11 yard; the Wagan and Mutien buildings and the Canteen have been demolished; shade structures in our Year 10 yard (outside Adrian building) have been decommissioned for the new staff carpark.

A key component of our Master Plan is sustainability, and several initiatives are threaded throughout the building plans. All the shade structures and trees that were removed from our yards have undergone a rebirth and are being re-planted and re-utilised in a nursery in Peats Ridge.

Bulk earthworks are currently underway as the lower ground floor and ground floor pads of the Innovation Hub are readied for a piling rig to begin. The next few weeks will see further earthworks undertaken for the foundation's preparation, and the pouring of the base slabs to the Innovation Hub.

The Innovation Hub is a largely timber building, and we have recently received a significant amount of mass timber elements which provide structural solutions tailored to the specific requirements



of our project. The manufacturing and process of the mass timber, all 389.18m3, began in Austria, Croatia and Amsterdam where it was heat-treated and packed into containers and shipped to the Port of Trieste in Italy. Once loaded into containers the ship sailed through the Suez Canal to the Port of Singapore before landing in Port Botany, where the containers are being fumigated and sent to VIRIDI's factory in Campbelltown for sorting and packing. VIRIDI are the supplier of the CLT and glulam timber used to construct the Innovation Hub. The 13 containers received thus far are made up of CLT billets for the Strongfloor flooring system and timber to be used for the ceiling, beams, rafters and walls, with five more containers due to be delivered at the end of November.

Ahead of plan, the Central Hilltop Precinct has been excavated, and clearing and earthworks are near completion in order to achieve the desired levels for the preparation of the new soft and hard landscaping. This large, landscaped area will offer additional green spaces for staff and students with seating and shade allowing for meeting places for collaboration in sociable surroundings.



FDC Scholarships

Oakhill College is exceptionally proud to announce the FDC Scholarship Program for Oakhill graduates.

Two exciting scholarship opportunities exist for Year 12 Oakhill graduates – one in 2022 and one in 2023. This will give Oakhill graduates unparalleled prospects to jump start their career journey within a leading construction company, with financial support and hands-on, real-world experience while they are studying.

Oakhill is pleased to have collaborated with FDC on this scholarship initiative, which will open up unprecedented opportunities to Oakhill graduates.

International Men's Day

On Friday 19th November, Oakhill celebrated International Men's Day. This is a day to celebrate the positive value men bring to the community, and shine the spotlight on men's health and wellbeing.

This year, Oakhill's focus was to ask the question, 'How can you be a good mate?' With this objective in mind, our Year 10 and 12s together workshopped the best way for students to open up, take ownership and engage in conversations during Tutor Group.

We also had Mr Ryan Papenhuyzen, Class of 2016, College Captain and NRL star join us for a video to share his thoughts and experiences on how to communicate and be a good mate, as well as busting myths and negative stereotypes. Ryan is always willing to give back to Oakhill; this was a topic he closely identifies within his career, personal life, and as an ex-student.

The results were impressive. The conversations started flowing from our male and female students and didn't stop. Our students workshopped and discussed values, traits, and ways to be a good mate, and had intelligent conversations about positive masculinity and manhood.



Can you identify the people in this photo?

A prize will be awarded to the person who is first to name the students in the photo correctly. Send entries to drive@oakhill.nsw.edu.au

(NB: College staff are ineligible to enter this competition)



A History of our Library



Books and reading have always been important at Oakhill College, as we continue to challenge, encourage and motivate students to be lifelong learners. From humble beginnings to today being the vibrant centrepiece of our College, the Library has evolved into an important hub utilised by students for resources and so many other activities.

Circa 1960 the Library was a small room off the dining room building behind the Adrian Building, which housed a collection of second-hand books. In 1961 the Library also served as a classroom for students completing the Leaving Certificate.

Circa 1970's the Library moved to the ground floor of the Miguel building and Mrs Maureen Forrow was the Librarian.

In 1977, under the leadership of Principal Br Martin Blackman, the Walsh Building was constructed, including a 'Learning Resource Centre' with an open area in the centre with adjoining classrooms downstairs, along with a dedicated audio-visual space.

Prior to 1991, the Library was a standalone building with an access ramp. It was named PJ Walsh Library after Mr Patrick John Walsh, a long-time servant of the De La Salle Brothers as College Bursar.

In 1988 Ms Sue Craig was employed as our first Teacher Librarian. Under the leadership of Principal Br Ambrose, in 1991 the PJ Walsh Library was refurbished. Downstairs, an audio-visual department was built with an adjoining classroom, and a television was installed with a video cassette player. Upstairs in the Library was a classroom that later became a computer room.

In 1991 Mrs Heather Muirhead joined as Library Assistant with Br Phillip from the old Primary Library. The first Homeroom resided in the Library with Mrs Craig. In 1996 Br William Shaw joined as an additional Teacher Librarian. Audio-visual was staffed by Mrs Beverley May featuring a state of the art 'Video Commander System'.

In 1992 lounges were installed with an upstairs computer room and a downstairs audio-visual room. In 2011, this room became an IT maintenance workshop. In 2016 new lounges arrived, flip tables, sliding chairs, standing tables, downstairs study carrels and a 'cafe' with a hot chocolate coffee machine.

More computers arrived in 1992 along with a dot matrix printer. Back up tapes were made every night and taken off-site to store securely. By 2016 the Library management system was backed up in 'the cloud'. In the 1990s, banks of computers started to grow for classes, with 36 in the Library. Students researched Encyclopedia Encarta on a CD and later the World Wide Web and collected and presented information using MS Word. They saved their work to floppy disk drives, then later USB sticks.

Up to 1993 paper was dominant with a card catalogue and a book accession register. Barcodes started to replace borrowing cards in books and automation of the catalogue using the Library management system *Winnebago*, *Alice* in 2010 then upgraded to *Oliver* in 2013. In 2016 eBooks and audiobooks became available and a substantial online collection with databases such as Encyclopedia Britannica, EBSCO and Gale, giving students access to Library resources 24/7.

Circa 1998, Br Bill adopted the role of 'Webmaster' with the beginnings of a College webpage. Mrs Lorraine Bruce joined in 2001 as Teacher Librarian and was later replaced by Mrs Linda McCauley. Library Assistants were Ms Kathryn Wilkins in (2000-2016) and Mrs Alison Peacock in (2012-present).



Mrs Linda McCauley in the Library circa 1978.



Circa 1977.

Viewing videos evolved from 16mm movie projector, Video Commander via coaxial cables, TV remote control video cassettes, thousands of compact discs then Clickview digitisation that provided access to over 22,000 videos through Clickview exchange, and storage was in 'the cloud'. Following the retirement of Mrs Beverley May in 2003 Mrs Joanne Hazel arrived. Many VHS players then CD players were in rooms before wi-fi was installed throughout the College, making it possible for Clickview Online to be on every student's laptop in 2015.

Following the retirement of Mrs Sue Craig in 2014, Mrs Lynn Revai became Head of Library. In 2015 under the leadership of Principal Br Peter Ryan, the PJ Walsh Library temporarily moved to the Miguel Lecture Theatre. The Library was gutted and "reimagined" with the help of funding from Gala Day.

In 2015 with wi-fi, students could save their work on Google drive and print directly from their laptops and in 2018, top-up their print account. Video was in demand and in 2015 students could make their own videos using green screen in the Create Multimedia Area.

In 2019 the additional MacKillop Learning Commons opened to support students with study periods.

Much has moved from paper to digital including eBooks through Sora <https://soraapp.com/Library/nswsecondaryau>. Students enjoy single sign-on of Library services through the College Active Directory managed by the Information Technology department: <https://library.oakhill.nsw.edu.au/>

In 2021 there are two Teacher Librarians – Mrs Lynn Revai and Mrs Tania Moriarty and two Library Assistants Mrs Alison Peacock and Ms Tiana Visnjik. There are six learning spaces - Explore, Create, Read, Collaborate Cafe and downstairs the Create Multimedia with



Newly refurbished in 2017.



Study carrels 2014.

Green screen filming and the Silent senior study. There are two Tutor Groups in the Library and at lunchtimes, there are clubs for Coding, Virtual Reality Explorers, Readers and Writers.

The Library is regarded as a 'teaching' Library where the Teacher Librarians work extensively with classes in developing information literacy skills and working to develop aptitude and attitude for reading through our *Read to Succeed* initiative. Teachers regularly meet with their Professional Learning Team (PLT) and Library staff are welcoming and ready to be of service.

Join our blog conversation with your memories of the Oakhill College Library here:

<https://pjwalshlibraryoakhill.blogspot.com/>

Alumni NEWS

REUNIONS

Due to COVID-19, only two reunions were held in 2020 and 2021: Class of 1980 and Class of 1990.

Therefore, the following Classes from 2020 and 2021 are due for their reunion:

- ★ Class of 1960
- ★ Class of 1970
- ★ Class of 1971
- ★ Class of 1981
- ★ Class of 1991
- ★ Class of 1995 – Saturday 12th February 2022 from 4.00pm at the Rooftop Bar, Café del Mar. An email has been sent with further details. Mr Rodney Frost is organising the event.
- ★ Class of 2000
- ★ Class of 2001 – Ms Luisa Pagliarini (details to follow).
- ★ Class of 2010 – Saturday 15th January 2022 at The Rooftop Bar. An email has been sent with further details. Mr Rory McVeigh is organising the event.
- ★ Class of 2011

The following Classes are due for their reunion in 2022:

- ★ Class of 1962
- ★ Class of 1972
- ★ Class of 1982 – Saturday 15th October. (More details to follow). Mrs Carmel Christie is organising this event.
- ★ Class of 1992
- ★ Class of 2002
- ★ Class of 2012

Anyone from these cohorts who would like to be the reunion organiser, please email us at drive@oakhill.nsw.edu.au. Then you may choose a venue, date and time for the reunion. Unfortunately, if we do not have a representative from a Year group, there will be no reunion for that cohort. Oakhill will be the liaison between the cohort and the reunion co-ordinator and assist in communicating and advertising the event. Shortly, we will be assembling an Alumni Committee. The Alumni Committee will be created from alumni who will set up terms of reference, support alumni programs and be involved in Oakhill College's activities. We are calling for expressions of interest to be on our committee. Please email your EOI to drive@oakhill.nsw.edu.au

Please keep your details up to date

Communication between the College and generations of families, past and present is important to the Oakhill College community. You can update your current details by visiting our website or www.oakhill.nsw.edu.au/alumni-update



Class of 1990 REUNION





Oakhill Alumni Staff

Oakhill is proud to have so many Alumni as staff members. There is something special about Oakhill that keeps our alumni returning to the College.

Mrs Alyssa and Mr Raymond Paragas - *Class of 2010*

Raymond and Alyssa met at Oakhill College and remained friends after they graduated. The hour commute together on the bus to university in the city from the hills was where their friendship blossomed into love. This inspired the way Raymond proposed in 2019, as he rented a bus and filled it with fairy lights. Alyssa and Raymond can fondly remember having Mutien House meetings in the Oakhill College Chapel with Mr Martyn. It only made sense to get married in this same Chapel. They kept in contact with most of their friends after high school and ended up being the people

who stood by them on their big day. The bridal party included fellow Oakhill alumni from the graduating Class of 2010. Eliza Villaneuva (bridesmaid), CJ Molano (groomsmen), Alexander Santos (groomsmen), Michael Vista (groomsmen) and Matthew Tangonan (best man). Alyssa recalls that it was incredibly nostalgic to recreate their wedding day photos in the quad where they sat over 10 years ago as high school students. Alyssa and Raymond had decided to get married on 26th September 2020 in the Oakhill College Chapel with a small number of loved ones despite the challenges of the pandemic at the time. However, due to the restrictions, they had postponed their reception to September 2021. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 lockdown during 2021, this did not go ahead.

Raymond currently works as a cyber security engineer and Alyssa works as a high school teacher. She has been recently employed at Oakhill College as a science teacher, hoping to carry on the legacy of her past teachers who helped form her into the person she is today. They recently gave birth to their first child, Ellie Corazon Paragas this July during the peak of the 2021 lockdown. Ellie has grown into a very happy and healthy baby and her parents are very smitten over her.





Mr Harry Schweikert, Mr Grant Brennan and Mr Nick O'Brien - Class of 2020

In May 2021 Grant, Nick and I were all fortunate enough to attend the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Ceremony held by the Vice-Regal Patron of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award – Australia (NSW Division) and Governor of NSW, Mrs Margaret Beazley. She addressed the crowd and awarded our certificates, which had the late Prince Phillip's signature on them as we completed the award in July 2020.

This was a satisfying conclusion to a journey we all began in Year 9. We all thoroughly enjoyed the Duke of Ed Program, where the challenges set among the Adventurous Journey took us across Australia. Whether we were kayaking out at the Central Coast, hiking up Mount Kosciusko or trudging our way up the snowy peaks of Cradle Mountain in Tasmania, each journey held something special and memorable alongside it.

Each one of us pursued different sporting and volunteer work in the lead up to these adventures. Grant was involved with soccer and basketball for sport and Scouts and Venturers for his Volunteer

component. Nick was involved with Fencing for his sport and helped at the Salvation Army store. While I enjoyed playing soccer and basketball for sport while also enjoying my time working as a volunteer for the Salvation Army and sometimes working alongside Nick. The number of hours we put into each of our three designated categories of both Skill, Physical Recreation, and Service were all intensive, with the Adventurous Journey challenges at the end pushing us to our limits. But all was worth it for the banter, memories and moments we all cherish forever.

For all of this and much more, we have our Team Leader Miss Nussdorfer to thank, for her dedication and perseverance through our shenanigans and banter, as well as leading our Teams to victory with her planning and constant direction.

The Duke of Edinburgh was an amazing experience, and we are extremely pleased to have been given this wonderful opportunity.

Mr Harry Schweikert, Class of 2020



L to R: Mr Harry Schweikert, Mr Grant Brennan and Mr Nick O'Brien receiving their awards from Governor of NSW, Mrs Margaret Beazley.

Mr Paul Francis Barber, MStJ, JP - Class of 1970

Paul graduated in 1970 and took part in the first HSC exams. He has fond memories of his time at Oakhill as part of Benildus House. While at the College he participated in Rugby, Handball and School Cadets.

One of his favourite teachers was Br Jerome, one of the original Irish Brothers to come out to Australia circa 1900 and who sadly passed away in 1968. He fondly remembers that he was 'one of the most gentle, caring fellows you would care to meet. He was almost genius, and wrote Calculus mathematics for Sydney University pre-1940's.'

Paul witnessed many changes at Oakhill and was at the College when the school became co-educational in 1971, giving girls the opportunity for Years 11-12 when there were no schools in the area offering this higher education.

After walking down the drive for the last time, he worked for 40 years in the NSW Public Service, retiring at 58 years old. While working for the government, he was a member of the St Vincent de Paul Society for 40 years, as a Conference President and rose to become Regional President for five years in the Penrith Area.

In 2003, he joined the volunteer organisation St John Ambulance of Australia and has received a long service medal from them. John is also a Member of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, a decoration approved by Queen Elizabeth II and an honour received from the Governor of NSW. John is very proud to have received this award and wears it with pride.

Paul has three children - Rachel, David and Adam who he has raised and are now almost in their 40's.

Mr Lachie Anderson - Class of 2015

I first walked up the famous Oakhill drive in 2010 following in the footsteps of my older brother Josh (Class of 2013) as well as my father, Warwick (Class of 1979). Since then and graduating in 2015 it has been a rollercoaster journey for me and one that I hope continues for many years to come.

At the end of 2016 I was fortunate enough to join the Australian Men's Rugby Sevens team on a full-time training basis, and this opportunity ultimately led to what would become my first professional contract at the age of 19.

I went on to make my International World Series debut for the Australian Sevens team in early 2017 and was lucky enough to get to do this at our home tournament in Sydney in front of family and friends. From there, I went on to play a further four seasons with the Australian Sevens team travelling around the world to places like Dubai, South Africa, USA, United Kingdom and Europe - getting to do all of this with a great group of blokes with whom I have created lifelong memories.

From the rugby side of things, I accumulated 27 caps for the Australian team with the highlight being winning our home tournament, Sydney Sevens in 2018 and receiving the personal accolade - Player of the Final.

On top of this, I was also selected to go to the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast, 2018 Rugby Sevens World Cup in San Francisco, and more recently and probably the pinnacle of sport, the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

However, when COVID-19 hit in 2020 and the world battled a pandemic with no end date known, I wasn't sure whether I would ever get the opportunity to compete in an Olympic Games - something that I had worked so hard for and strived to for many years. The 2020 Olympic Games were suspended and in addition, with international

Undefeated ISA Premiers 2014.



Lachie, Warwick and Josh Anderson.



Lachie and Patty Mills.

travel suspended, borders closed and quarantine enforced travel, the World Sevens Series came to a rapid halt halfway through the season.

With no Rugby Sevens in the foreseeable future, I was fortunate enough to get an opportunity to pack my bags and move south of the border to Melbourne and return to the XV a side of the game playing for the Melbourne Rebels in the Super Rugby competition. I went on to make my Super Rugby debut later that year against the Western Force in Newcastle, with a win against the Force that ultimately put the Rebels into their maiden finals series.

Having re-signed with the Rebels for 2021, I began my second season of Super Rugby AU and played in the Super Rugby Trans-Tasman competition for the first time. At the conclusion of the season, I linked back up with the Australian Rugby Sevens team back in Sydney to make one final run at the Olympic dream. Through an 8-week training stint of camps and games, I was finally selected in the final 13 man squad that would get the honour of representing our country in Tokyo.

For me, it was a huge privilege to be given the opportunity to represent our country at such a prestigious event and to be able to call myself an Olympian is something I will be proud of forever. Watching the world unite once again over sport during such a difficult time was a great reminder of the unique power that sport can provide. To walk through the Olympic village and rub shoulders with some of sports finest such as Ash Barty and Patty Mills is something I will never forget.

Post the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, fourteen days quarantine in a hotel room and some time off to refresh both mentally and physically, I have returned home to Melbourne where I have re-signed with the Melbourne Rebels until the end of 2023 and look forward to continuing to develop, grow and mature as an individual both on and off the rugby field.



Miss Hayley Marshall - Class of 2017

Hayley left Oakhill to study a dual degree in Criminology and Psychological Science at Deakin University.

A keen creative arts student, Hayley runs her own business "Hayley Marshall Music" and gigs most Friday and Saturday nights. She also has her own Photography business and works as a teacher at *Bam Bam Music*. When time permits, Hayley continues to see many of the friends she made in her short time at the College.

Hayley will graduate next year and is looking forward to moving to New York.



Congratulations to **Mr Zayne Ahluwalia** (Class of 2020) and 2020 Oakhill College 1st XI Football Co-captain who has been signed by the Portuguese second-tier side Casa Pia.

Mrs Rachael Wiafe (nee McDonald) - Class of 2012

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Eddie Wiafe on their marriage on 3rd April 2021. The happy couple were married at St Mark's Church in Darling Point, followed by a reception at the Sergeants Mess in Mosman.

Rachael remembers her time fondly at Oakhill and a highlight was being awarded Lasallian of the Year in 2012.

Eddie and Rachael crossed paths at Macquarie University and officially met through an internship program at GlaxoSmithKline in 2015. Fortunately, the wedding was celebrated with 180 guests just before the second COVID-19 lockdown in Sydney, with minimal restrictions in place. The wedding was well attended by Oakhill graduates including friends who graduated from Oakhill in 2011 and 2012.

Rachael comes from a long line of Oakhill graduates – her father Luke McDonald (Class of 1982) was Solomon House Captain and her late uncle, John Flint (Class of 1965) and several uncles, aunts and cousins who also attended Oakhill.



Mr Rory O'Connor - Class of 2015

I have very fond memories of my time at Oakhill College. In particular, being Mutien House Captain in 2015.

Since walking down the drive, I have graduated from Macquarie University with a Bachelor of Media and a

Bachelor of Commerce and have been named one of the Hills Youth Ambassadors for 2021-22 by The Hills Shire Council.

Every year Council recruits Youth Ambassadors and Champions to assist Council in identifying and determining youth needs and interests. This interested me and I submitted a nomination application that involved writing a letter outlining why I would make a good Hills Youth Ambassador and my involvement in the local community.

I was then required to supply two supporting character references, one from a professional in the workplace and one from a volunteer organisation, of which I provided one from my manager at the Commonwealth Bank and one from a State Councillor of the Catholic Men's Fraternity, The Knights of the Southern Cross.

At my interview with the Mayor, Dr Michelle Burn from the Hills Shire Council, she was interested to know that I've lived in the Hills Shire area my whole life, attended local schools, worked in multiple local businesses, volunteered with Bushcare/Sleep Out for the homeless/Retirement Villages/Special Olympics/University Mentoring, played for multiple local sporting teams, and was 'House Captain' in Year 12 and a 'Student Ambassador' at Macquarie University.

I explained my passion for representing young people at Local Council meetings and events, and how enthusiastic I am about helping young people understand how local government works. I also plan to use my position to help promote the Abdallah family's annual 'i4Give Day' in the community on 1st February. I think forgiveness is such an important part of our faith and lacking in society.

I was awarded one of three Hills Youth Ambassadors for 2021/2022, and will join them for a delayed ceremony on Saturday 15th January 2022.



Ms Linda Adair nee Coxhead - Class of 1979

Linda's first collection of poetry *The Unintended Consequences of the Shattering* was published in December 2020 by the

Melbourne Poets Union as one of the 2020 Red-bellied Poets books. Launching on Zoom due to lockdowns, Linda was privileged that one of Australia's leading women poets, Irish-born Anne Casey did the honours. This debut volume has been well received by critics with reviews in *Text* and *Cordite* journals. It is available to buy on <https://rochford-pressbookshop.square.site/product/the-unintended-consequences-of-the-shattering-by-linda-adair/>

Linda's work has been anthologised in *To End All Wars* (Puncher & Wattmann), *Messages from the Embers* (Black Quill Press), *Pure Slush No 21: 25 Miles from Here*; and most recently in *Poetry for the Planet: An Anthology of Imagined Futures* (Littoria Press) as well various online journals and magazines. Her emergence as a published poet has seen a life's ambition come true after decades of devoting her energies to working as an editor, reviewer and being involved in one of Australia's oldest independent small presses. She'd come to Oakhill to study 3-unit English and 3-unit Art and to avoid Mathematics at the HSC, intent upon studying English Literature at Sydney University. She holds especially fond memories of (later Principal of Oakhill College) Br Ken Ormerod's entertaining English classes where he taught the poetry of John Keats and Robert Browning as no one else could.

Straight out of school financial realities dictated Linda's start to work so she took a job at the Sydney Futures Market via word of mouth from a former classmate. To balance the focus on commodities and profit margins, Linda took night classes in sculpture at TAFE and took the central role of Grandma in the 1980 Oakhill Players' production of Edward Albee's *The American Dream*. By the following year she had saved enough money to take a long holiday and resigned her 'good job' to go backpacking with friends to South Australia and then Victoria. After a few weeks at home, she flew to Canada for a fabulous road trip through the Rocky Mountains and down into the States with a friend studying at Calgary University.

Returning to Sydney she again worked in clerical jobs before enrolling at the University of Sydney. Whilst in the Honours program she became an active member of the English Department's FELT Collective which comprised mature age students, PhD candidates

and tutors. This dynamic group hosted monthly readings that featured readings by then emerging women writers including Helen Garner, Kate Grenville, as well as founding editor of the Women's Press Stephanie Dowrick, and feminist author Dale Spender among others. Meeting Anna Couani who was a featured poet one month led to Linda attending a Poets Union reading at The Performance Space. There, in March 1985 Linda met a young journalist and poet named Mark Roberts. He edited and produced P76 magazine having established Rochford Street Press and it was the start of their lifetime partnership.

After graduating in 1987 Linda began a three-month contract at the Powerhouse Museum, editing and writing exhibition text and publications prior to the museum opening to the public. She fell in love with the place and the ideas and spent 12 years moving from assistant to editor, and in 1996 was even seconded to the Health and Medicine curatorial team. At this stage she saw herself as an editor and researcher not a creative writer.

Linda is a passionate advocate for reconciliation and truth telling. Together with Mark she was active in the call for the Royal Commission into Deaths in Custody. Linda was elected honorary Vice Chair of the Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Watch Committee a committee of allies which joined with the Committee to Defend Black Rights to stop the deaths in custody which were happening in the 1980s. She is appalled that 32 years later the recommendations of the Royal Commission have been largely ignored, and more than 470 Aboriginal people have died in custody since that time.

Linda and Mark married in 1990 and their son Blake Adair-Roberts (Class of 2011) and daughter Lucie Adair-Roberts (Class of 2014) also attended Oakhill where they formed lasting friendships. Oakhill has cast a wide and surprising net in Linda's life. Her brother-in-law Christopher Connolly and his three brothers are alumni, and she discovered that her husband's godfather sent his sons there in the 1960s, and their children also attended!

Whilst Blake and Lucie were little, having left the museum Linda achieved a Diploma in Landscape Design at TAFE and then a Masters in Sustainable Development from the Macquarie Graduate School of Management. Her educational garden designs to help promote sustainability won awards at the Sydney Royal Easter Show and Gardening Australia for community group Permaculture North in the early 2000s. From 2005 to 2019 she worked in the strata and building management industries, encouraging clients to adopt sustainable practices and systems whenever practicable.

Today Linda and Mark are empty nesters living in the beautiful Blue Mountains in North Leura. The move to the traditional lands of the Dharug and Gundungurra people inspired Linda's return to writing poetry, and reawakened her art practice as well as editing and publishing small press books for Rochford Press. The couple are currently preparing the 33rd issue of the independent online literary journal Rochford Street Review and run the niche Rochford Cottage Bookshop (<https://rochford-pressbookshop.square.site/s/shop>) to promote small press independent publishing of Australian authors. In addition to the above, Linda is a board member of the Zonta Club of Blue Mountains, and she advocates for better support for people experiencing homelessness and especially older women who are the fastest growing cohort in NSW due to a lack of affordable housing. She is a member of Modern Art Projects Blue Mountains and was one of five artists commissioned for the exhibition *Sewn Up!* in 2020 in which she explored in both image and words the issue of modern-day slavery in the global garment industry and will be an artist in residence at BigCi, Bilpin, in 2022.



Mr Andrew Scarsbrook - *Class of 2019*

Since walking Oakhill Drive for the last time in 2019 my career in the Beef Cattle Industry has been one full of opportunity. At the end of 2019 I began rural contracting, this gave me the opportunity to travel and gain as much practical experience into different types of production as possible. In 2020 I commenced study at Western Sydney University Hawkesbury Campus where I am currently studying a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Animal Science. I managed to get three weeks of university in before our first COVID lockdown in 2020.

I am currently working on two properties, firstly is the agriculture unit at the Richmond TAFE Campus, this is a wide and varied role where when TAFE students are on Campus I engage with them in their learning.

The second is working at the WSU farm where I am gaining valuable skills in not only the management side of a working farm for example attending sale yards and buying new stock, dealing with companies who buy the WSU beef as well as the everyday farm jobs which I love.

Working at both these places has given me the opportunity to participate in the Uni Steer Challenge on the other side. The Uni Steer Challenge was always a highlight in the year for the Oakhill Show Team and working to prepare the animals for the schools this year was very rewarding.

Outside of work, my networking and leadership skills learnt whilst at Oakhill have stood me in good stead and I am currently in my second year as the Vice President of the Limousin Youth Association and have spent the last 18 months organising events for the youth and mentoring the young members of the Association.

I still am heavily involved with the College Show Team where I got my start way back in 2014. We managed to get the Royal Easter Show in this year before our second COVID lockdown. I thoroughly enjoy helping Mrs Muirhead each week with the Show Team. I've watched the boys grow and develop their skills over time and this is a very rewarding for me to teach them the skills taught to me by Ms Breen, Mrs Muirhead and Mr Dennis-Smithers over the years. Skills and lessons I will have and remember for life.

So, what's next? In 2022 I am looking to transfer to UNE to study via correspondence. COVID has changed the uni experience for many, and I now know that I can be disciplined enough to study online and work. This will give me many more opportunities in the future and will allow me to keep working as much as I am whilst studying.



Mr Nathaniel Deitch - *Class of 2020*

Since "walking down the drive" with the Class of 2020, I have enjoyed the first year of a combined Bachelor of Economics and Bachelor of Advanced Studies (majoring in Finance) at the University of Sydney. I love the university's history; its long and proud tradition of academic excellence reminds me in many ways of the wonderful traditions of Oakhill College. And who would not be impressed with the Quadrangle? I have found the staff and students very welcoming, and it's great to bump into so many Oakhill alumni on campus.

At the beginning of the year, I joined the USYD EconSoc (Economics Society) and was honoured to be appointed as a member of the Education subcommittee. My subcommittee aims to enhance the experience of students interested in economics at Sydney University. I am actively involved in organising events such as guest speaker events by members from both the government and private sector about their experiences and advice and case competitions run together with the NSW Treasury.

Of course, COVID-19 has overshadowed all of us in the last two years. In Semester 1, our lectures were pre-recorded, but I could still attend my tutorials onsite at USYD. However, Semester 2 has been and will likely remain completely online. Nonetheless, the university has provided an excellent online learning system.

I look forward to being able to get back to the real campus and to enjoy university life again.



Congratulations to **Mr Adam Bugariji** (Class of 2022), who has recently travelled overseas to follow his football dream. Not long after landing in Europe, he was signed on for the U17 side with the Croatian club GNK Dinamo Zagreb.

Mr Daniel Reeve - Class of 2019

Daniel was actively involved in the Drama and Music departments during his time at Oakhill. Daniel appeared in *Starlight Express*, he also played Richard Hannay in *The 39 Steps*, Doug in *Strictly Ballroom* and Florindo in *The Servant of Two Masters* and in 2019 was Oakhill College Drama Captain.

While in Year 10 (aged 15), Daniel enrolled himself in *Class Clowns*. *Class Clowns* is part of *The Melbourne International Comedy Festival*, aimed at discovering comedians under 19. After three rounds of competition (Sydney, NSW, National) Daniel was crowned the *Winner of Class Clowns* in 2017. He received a prize of \$1,500 and \$1,000 worth of Comedy workshops for Oakhill.

Daniel was asked back to the *Melbourne International Comedy Festival* to perform with the *LOL Squad* the following year. *The LOL Squad* consisted of selected *Class Clowns* contestants and the shows were workshopped over a period of six months (including many trips to Melbourne). *The LOL Squad* performed four live shows at *The Melbourne International Comedy Festival* in 2018.

In 2019, Daniel did the HSC and wrote his own 15-minute musical podcast for English Extension 2. He received 47/50 for that unit. Daniel also appeared on the 2019 HSC Honour Roll, achieving 90+ in three of his subjects.

As a result of his work with the *Melbourne International Comedy Festival*, Daniel was asked to perform a musical comedy set on Facebook live last year to support youth mental health.

Daniel is now in his second year at Sydney University. He is studying a Bachelor of Music (Contemporary Music Practice) at the Conservatorium of Music. He also works part-time at the Hillside Hotel, Castle Hill.

On Friday 3rd September, Daniel released an original song – Grow Up and Cry – on Spotify and a music video on Youtube. Daniel recorded and produced the song and the music video alone in his bedroom during the current lockdown!

<https://youtu.be/t8e17rYF5kA>



Can you identify the people in this photo?

A prize will be awarded to the person who is first to name the students in the photo correctly. Send entries to drive@oakhill.nsw.edu.au

(NB: College staff are ineligible to enter this competition)

Mr Dominic Clarke

- Class of 2014

After a COVID delayed, but intense build up to the Olympics, Dom Clarke headed off to Tokyo to compete in the 2020 summer Olympics in August 2021.

Dom wasn't sure he would qualify for the Olympics, however, he did more than that becoming an Olympic Finalist and finishing 8th in the Men's Trampoline final.

Congratulations to Dom and his team including his coach of 17 years Mrs Belinda Cox. We know we will see more of him and his successes in the future.



Mr Ben Quilty - Class of 1991

Ben a Southern Highlands Artist set an extraordinary goal to raise \$1,000,000 for Afghan refugees attempting to flee on behalf of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Commissioned in 2011 by the Australian War Memorial to follow the Australian Defence Force and tell the story of what was happening on the ground in Afghanistan, he is well placed to understand the complexities and necessities needed to assist.

To date Ben has raised \$6,000,000 and counting which is going towards UNHCR's Afghanistan operation for needs on the ground supporting millions of Afghans displaced by years of conflict and human rights violations.





Scott Graham (Class of 2011) and **Loredana Graham nee Quattrocchi** (Class of 2012) are happy to introduce to the Oakhill College community their first child a little boy **Odin Xavier** born on Friday 1st October. They are looking forward to future involvement with Oakhill College when Odin is older.

NSW Swifts Win

The NSW Swifts were crowned 2021 Suncorp Super Netball Champions on Saturday 28th August. What a fabulous season they have had despite the challenges they've faced. Special mention to **Tayla Fraser** (Class of 2017), **Danielle Mace** (Class of 2012) and super Coach/Oakhill parent **Briony Akle** who were integral to the team's success.



Contributions to *The Oakhill Drive* publication are welcome. Please let us know what has been happening in your life since you last "walked down the drive". Email your article (200-250 words) and photo to drive@oakhill.nsw.edu.au

VALES

We pray for those members of the Oakhill community who have passed away and may they rest in peace:

Vale **Mr Jaiden Selvan**, (Class of 2023).
Passed away on Friday 25th June 2021.

Vale **Mr John Flint**, (Class of 1965). Passed away on Friday 9th July 2021. Father to Mr Domonic Flint (Class of 1989), Mr Ben Flint (Class of 1994), Mr Damien Flint (Class of 1996), Mrs Belinda Durant. Father-in-law to Mr Adam Durant (Class of 1989). Brother-in-law and uncle to Mr Peter McDonald (Class of 1978), Mr Luke McDonald (Class of 1982), Mr Jim Barnes (Class of 1982), Mr Simon Gaudry (Class of 1985), Mr Marc Gaudry (Class of 1986), Mr Adam Gaudry (Class of 1991), Mr Joshua Gaudry (Class of 1989), Mr Nicholas Gaudry (Class of 1992), Ms Tayla McDonald (Class of 2014), Mrs Racheal Wiafe (Class of 2012), Cooper Vickery (current Year 7, Class of 2026). Grandfather to Charlotte Durant (Class of 2020), Samuel Durant (current Year 9, Class of 2024) and Lucy Durant (current Year 11, Class of 2022). Mr Flint commenced in 4th class in 1958 and represented Oakhill in Rugby, Cricket and Athletics.



Mr John Flint as his family remembers him and as an Oakhill College boy in 1960.



Vale **Mr Stan Wetherall**, (Class of 1966).
Passed away on 8th July 2021.