The School

Oxley High School has an enrolment of over 950 students from a diverse range of backgrounds. The school is recognised as a Centre of Excellence which reflects the strong student in achievements academic, sporting and cultural pursuits. Staff at Oxley High School is dedicated, talented and highly motivated to ensure that students excel in all their personal and academic endeavours. Oxley High School staff regularly coordinates extra-curricular activities in a wide range of student programs including acceleration in Mathematics and Business Studies.

Principal's Message

Oxley High School has an exemplary history of high student achievement in all facets of learning. Having collaborated with Principals and Deputy Principals from this region on improving schools, I will share with you that our school is often discussed as an example for both private and public schools on how to organise a school curriculum with a strong academic, cultural, sporting, personal development and extra-curricular focus.

The successful end of 2013 marks the beginning of a bright future for 2014. We have implemented one elective line in Year 7 and 8, three elective lines in 9 and 10. We have also increased the numbers of Years 11 and 12 classes on offer.

This coincides with the implementation of The Gifted and Talented sports program in Touch Football with the possibility of further expansion in 2015 into Hockey, Cricket and Soccer.

By the end of 2014, we expect that the rebuild of Castlereagh will be finished and the refurbishment of Macquarie, Hastings and Namoi will lead into the most significant modernisation of any large high school in this area.

With such a bright future, it is important to recognise the hard work of all the people who contribute to our community. In particular I would like to thank Mrs May, Mr Baldwin and Mr Haworth for their tireless work in maintaining high educational standards and a culture of success, the School Executive in positively influencing student and staff teaching, learning and assessment outcomes. I would also like to publicly thank the staff for their dedication to your children and this wonderful school, the P&C for their outstanding support of me and our school and, most importantly the students and their families at Oxley High School on their continued success.

I have taken the time to highlight some of the excellent achievements of students for 2013. Nick Browne and Zac Schmellik attained High Distinctions in the state Geography Competition.
and twenty four students were assisted in gaining traineeships in and around Tamworth leading to training and employment. We again had students place 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Tourism and Events at the VET World Skills and our Beef Cattle students achieved Highly Commended awards at the Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza.

The Oxley High School Boys Hockey XI finished first in the state for the second year running and the Girls Hockey XI finished first in the region making it to the state Quarter Finals. Furthermore, Oxley High School had significant numbers of girls and boys who were successful in gaining selection in New South Wales and Australian hockey sides.

Also of note was the fact that the Oxley High School Girls Touch Football side again performed very strongly, coming 20<sup>th</sup> in the state and our 16’s Boy’s Rugby Union XV were runners up in the Friday Night competition.

Lia Mills broke four longstanding Oxley High School records at our Athletics Carnival.

Again Oxley High School had significant numbers of students appear in CAPERS and I was proud to listen to repeated praise of our Oxley High School performers by members by the Tamworth community. In particular, outstanding performances in dance, singing and band were demonstrated by Emma Bailey, Geordie Brown, Jack Reading and Nicki Erdos.

Grace McKinnon was nominated for HSC Callback based on the exceptional standard of her HSC dramatic performance. Oxley High School again continues to develop students to outstanding levels of achievement in Drama and Performing Arts and has demonstrated a strong commitment to ensure that all students have an opportunity to develop their skills in this important area.

Lane Sinclair performed at School’s Spectacular in Sydney and Toby Harradine was invited to perform with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

The Oxley High School Student Representative Council was chosen from Public and Private schools across the state to attend a special ABC Q and A recording with the Prime Minister Julia Gillard. Our school Captain, Alex McKenzie had an opportunity to ask a question about rural education and the plans the government had to support country school leavers to attend University. In what was a very
successful year, Alex also received a Ministers Award for student leadership.

I commend all of you for your educational choice in Oxley High School and trust that as you read this document, you will be able to see that Oxley High school is a safe, positive, student-focused comprehensive high school well-deserving of its strong academic reputation in the Tamworth community.

I certify that the information in this report is the result of a rigorous school self-evaluation process and is a balance and genuine account of the schools’ achievements and areas for development.

**P & C Report**

Well 2013 has been a year of changes with the arrival and departure of some key staff members. We have enjoyed working with the new Principal, Simon Bartlett-Taylor managing to deliver some amazing activities and provide the much needed funds to the school which benefit each and every one of our children every hour of every day they are at school.

The Canteen is a major part of the P & C and provides ongoing funds throughout the year. Our paid supervisors are lovely ladies and are always there with a helping hand and a smile, however, without the support of our volunteers the Canteen would not be able to function and unfortunately the number of volunteers continues to drop steadily. So please consider coming on board and giving up just a few hours once a month, once a fortnight or if you are able once each week – you will find it a rewarding experience.

As always, our three big events – Camp Oxley, International Night and the Antique Fair were as successful and well attended as ever, raising the much needed funds for us to provide the following amounts (totalling $56599.35) which we have donated to the school: TAS Real Babies $6795.0, Server Room Upgrade $14091.39, Defibrillator $2774.75, China Delegates $2067.60, Textbooks $4043.28, Software $6355.00, Bus Expenses $20272.33, School Functions (parent/teacher) $100.00 and Transport Subsidies $100.00.

We held our 3rd Annual Working Bee in September, held the weekend before the Year 12 Graduation Assembly so that the school grounds are looking their best for this momentous occasion. Thank you to all who attended to make this day a great success. We look forward to seeing more of you in attendance next year.

We are in the process of helping the school pay for a new senior student covered area off the back of Namoi block. As the fire reconstruction continues, our senior students have been displaced with no undercover outdoor area to congregate during breaks. Hopefully the covered area will be finished for the beginning of term 4.

As always I would like to encourage all parents to come along to our regular meetings to find out what is happening in your child’s school and take an interest in your child’s education. It is your chance to have a say on what you would like to see happen at the school. We
would love to meet you over a cup of tea and have a chat.

Finally, I encourage each and every parent to come along to at least one P & C meeting, find out what is happening in your child’s school, ask questions, make friends and have a cuppa and a chat. We look forward to meeting you.

P&C President
Leanne Thompson

Student Representative Council Message

The SRC at Oxley High School has had another very successful year in supporting student wellbeing, various school initiatives and fundraisers. As usual, the SRC organised two great discos, supported International Night by selling drinks and marched at Anzac Day. In term one, we had our annual SRC camp where we decided on our events for the year and had great fun bonding as a group through activities such as laser tag. We also helped support the Shave for a Cure initiative by shaving heads on assembly and started giving out our weekly Commitment to Community Top Deck awards. Term two was also very busy! To help people with their sniffle issues over winter, the SRC organised a tissue box drive with pizza going to the winning PC class! This event managed to get a tissue box in every Oxley classroom. We also set up a new SRC notice board in Macquarie, and set up an email address: ohssrc@hotmail.com. We also supported the Salvation Army once again by participating in the Red Shield Appeal where all our SRC members went door knocking to raise funds. Various fundraisers were held in term three, mainly a pancake and hot chocolate “winter warmers” day to raise money for our sister school in Kenya and a cake stall day for Daffodil Day to raise money for the Cancer Council. We also said a farewell to our year 12’s with our annual year 12 BBQ Breakfast, and continue to work with the new Tamworth youth organisation Headspace to get them into our school. The Oxley SRC were once again heavily involved in Regional SRC activities. Kate Falkenmire was elected to the Regional SRC executive and Bronte Somerville and Mirren McGuire were elected on the Conference Action Tea. We participated in all the term regional meetings, and sent ten of our members to the SRC conference at Lake Keepit where we interacted with other SRCs from our region and got some great ideas that we could implement at Oxley.

Thank you to all the support from teachers for supervising at discos and support us, to the wonderful office ladies, to everyone who bought cupcakes or helped us, and to Mr Squires for coming on our SRC camp with us. But most of all a huge thank you to Miss Boulton for everything she has done once again for the SRC by going so far out of her way to help us so much – we couldn’t do it without her.

Kate Falkenmire
SRC President 2013
Achievements

Academic and Cultural

- Oxley High School Year 12 students performed very well with the following HSC ATARS above 90:
  
  **Nick Stacey**
  97.85

  **Sam Liles**
  97.45

  **Alex McKenzie**
  96.2

  **Carmen Hooper**
  90.85

- Sam Liles and Nick Stacey achieved HSC Honours mentions from the Board of Studies and HSC All Rounders acknowledgement for all round achievement recording 8 or more units of HSC assessment above 90 out of 100.

- Eighty five Band 5 and 6 results were achieved by the 2013 HSC cohort meaning that eighty five HSC assessments were recorded as achieving in the top 20% of the state results.

- In the Geography Competition, High Distinctions were achieved by Nick Browne and Zac Schmellik.

- Alex McKenzie was awarded first place in the region for Student Leadership and was also one of the 24 recipients received a Ministers Award for Student Leadership selected from all public high schools across New South Wales.

- Year 12 Visual Arts students visited the Tamworth Regional Art Gallery to view a dynamic and popular exhibition featuring a selection of outstanding student artworks developed for the art making component of the HSC examination for the 2012 Visual Arts. It included a broad range of approaches and expressive forms, including a collection of works, documented forms, drawing, graphic design, painting, photo media, printmaking, sculpture, textiles and fibre and time-based forms.

- In April 2013, Oxley High School hosted a Chinese Schools Exchange with two teachers Mrs Lijun Liu (Vice Principal) and Miss Jian Li (English Teacher) and two students, Amy and Hortensia.
• Oxley High School’s Mock Trial team competed against Scone High School. Kate Falkenmire led the way scoring rare 10 out of 10’s for appropriate submissions on issues of law and legal authorities in her closing address. Our other barrister, Mirren McGuire, also performed admirably, regularly placing pressure on their witness with skilful questioning. Oxley High’s solicitor Liam Stephenson was well prepared and frequently helped out his barristers as required.

• “Oxley Live” again showcased student talent across music and drama. Mr Parnell, Mrs Reading, Ms McGrane, Mr Fraser, Mr McInnes, Ms Creighton who made the event such a success. I would also like to thank the staff who also attended out of interest and support for the students and mostly I would like to thank the parents and caregivers who attended to support all of our students. It is wonderful to see a strong sense of community and belonging at Oxley High School.

• The Oxley High School Debating Team made it through to the state Quarter Finals. The team defeated Inverell High School, last year’s state debating winners

• Nicholas Stacey achieved in the 100th Percentile in UMAT Exam (Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test).

• Giyanha Dirrabu Murri Awards; Tanika Mclean was awarded the Senior Leadership Excellence Award and, Mr Joe Craigie and Mr Michael Watton received the Community and School Partnership Awards.

• The Rock and Water program was again implemented to develop student leadership, friendship groups and resilience amongst boys in years 7-9.

• Oxley High School purchased 96 iPads at a cost of approximately $80000 to enhance learning in Years 7-9. These resources will be utilised to drive these students academically, increase writing and comprehension skills, and link technology to learning in the classroom.

• The Regional Creative and Performing Arts showcase, known as CAPERS, performed to enthusiastic audiences on Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd November 2013. CAPERS provided an important opportunity for students from the New England Region to showcase their
creative talents. Once again, Oxley had many students participate in a range of ways. Dance was a strong area with a large number of students performing in the Stage 4 and 5 massed items. Many of our students also featured in the Regional Dance Ensemble whilst some showcased their skills in the Indigenous dance items. Abbey Condon and Meg Atwell shone as featured dancers. A number of students played in the Concert Band and Leah Griffiths played a moving trumpet solo. Oxley also had a number of featured vocalists, namely, Nikki Erdos, Emma Bailey, Geordie Brown and Jack Reading. These students were incredibly fortunate to work not only with Robert McDougall (Head of the Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music) but also with Roshani Priddis who brings a wealth of experience including her time as a contestant on Australian Idol. These students found this mentoring opportunity to be invaluable. ‘Southern Sketch’ was the featured rock band in the show made up of a group of gifted year 10 students, namely, Ethan Latsinos, Isaac Finlay, Damon Coe, Jordan Cowley and Jesse Green. It was also great to see the many ex-Oxley students who were contributing their time and effort to promoting the arts including, Robert McDougall (vocal coach and director), Bridget Long (choreographer), Michael Jobson (concert band conductor) and Lane Sinclair (featured artist) to name a few. For those looking closely you may have sighted some of our talented staff musicians, Mrs Noelene McGrane (trumpet), Mr Matthew Parnell (bass guitar) and Mr Matthew Frazer (stage director and keyboard). An immeasurable amount of work goes into the production of a show like this including countless hours of rehearsals and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the students and staff for their commitment to this production. I would particularly like to thank Mrs Kelly Singh for her generosity of time and expertise in choreographing the majority of the dances and Mrs Christine Massey for her exceptional organisation of in excess of seventy dancers.

- On 9 September 2013 Oxley High School were fortunate enough to have Skill Set bring tradespeople in to the school hall, where each student was inducted as if entering the real workplace, dressed appropriately for the trade they chose and had the opportunity to attend a variety of workshops.
Sport

2013 was another successful year for Oxley High School’s Sportswomen and Sportsmen.

Individual Results

- Matt Everett was selected to represent an Australian Combined High Schools XI to tour England.

- Sam Liles was re-selected to represent an Australian Combined High School Hockey XI.

- Jessica Aldridge and Lia Mills were selected in the NSW All Schools Athletics team.

- John Moore competed again in the NSW Athletics competition and was selected to compete in Canada. He collected three Bronze Medals in the 15yrs 100m Hurdles, 200m Hurdles and Triple Jump. John’s 4x100m relay team also came first in their event.

- Jessica Saunders won 2 National Gold Medals in cycling.

- Brady Curry was selected as the youngest member of the Northern Inland Hockey team that competed in the NSW Academy Games in Wollongong.

Team Results

- **Bill Turner Soccer**
  Round 2 of the Bill Turner Cup was played on Monday 13th May. The Oxley boys played Farrer and yet again showed their skill with a 4 nil win.

- **Duri Horse Sports**
  The Oxley Horse Sports Team had another successful day on Friday 17th May with Sigrid Penrose winning Champion in her age group and Hayley Corbett & Stephanie Penrose both receiving Reserve Champion in their respective age groups. All participants once again proved very competitive and represented the school in a very positive light.

- **Water Polo**
  On Monday 18th March seven boys represented Oxley to compete in the North West Water Polo Knockout and Trial. With no reserves, the boys were gallant in defeat, losing to Tamworth High School 7-4 and Farrer 8-1 respectively. Jonathon Stacey and Will Haywood worked tirelessly in defence and all boys are to be commended on their sportsmanship and effort in the pool. Jackson Sharpe and Stewart Wheeler were selected in the North West team.

- **OXLEY’S CHESS**
  The Oxley Chess achieved great success in 2013 in the NSWCJL Country Secondary Schools Chess Teams Competition. The Oxley High School Chess Team competed in seven rounds of the Knockout Chess Competition gaining second place in the region by defeating Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School.

State Knockout Hockey

- The Oxley High School Girls First XI State Knockout Hockey Team was again won the North West Region Competition. The team was defeated
by a very strong Westfields Sports High School Side.

- The Oxley High School Boys First XI State Hockey Team was back-to-back winners of the NSW State Title. The First XI Hockey Team defeated Moss Vale 5-3

**State Knockout Cricket**

- Coleman Shield. Of note was the first round innings of Mathew Bryant (257 n.o.) and Oxley High Schools score of 9-405 against Tamworth High School. Tamworth High made 134 in reply.

- State Knockout Touch Football

CONGRATULATIONS to the open girls touch team for making the final 20 of NSW and just missing out on the top 9 of the State. The girls' journey began with a fantastic win against Quirindi High School - 19 tries to nil here in Tamworth. Mr Squires was lucky enough to take the girls to their next game in Narrabri against Narrabri High School while Miss Barnes was on the year 10 central trip. The girls all played fantastic and a big thank you to Tegan Resch for stepping up and being a fabulous leader and helping the girls win another game 8 tries to 2. Thank you also to Mr Squires for helping out and driving the bus. With a couple of forfeits in the next few rounds the girls progressed into the final stages of the North West knockout competition. The girls drew a hard game in the cross over match but luckily it was our home game. Hunter Sports High School drove up for an early match and we were hoping they would be too exhausted from their travels that we would get another victory. Unfortunately we lost in the final stages of the game. The girls played exceptionally well considering Hunter Sports High School implement a Touch program within their school. I would like to thank all the girls for their motivation, behaviour, sportsmanship and their positive attitude they always displayed.

- Rugby Union

In 2013 we entered three teams in the Tamworth Friday night completion, with our largest number of boys playing rugby in over four years. It was particularly pleasing to see an Oxley Opens side competing again. Although they did not find many victories, they certainly showed great courage and willingness to defend. The Under 16 side was together again for the third year running and this year they demonstrated the commitment to match their potential. The boys were competitive in every game, finishing second on the ladder. This meant a semi-final with Calrossy, which Oxley won. The final was played against Farrer and what a match it was. Unfortunately the boys lost in golden point extra time after the final score was 22 each. The team must be congratulated for the wonderful manner in which they conducted themselves throughout the season. The mighty Under 13 side joined with Carinya to make a very strong side. The team went undefeated throughout the season and eventually won the competition. The boys were a credit to their school. They displayed great sportsmanship and commitment, going
to Carinya each week for training. Their attitude was outstanding.
A big thank you to all the parents who came to support the games in the freezing conditions. Every student who represented Oxley this year in Rugby deserves to be congratulated and encouraged to come back in 2014 with the same attitude and enthusiasm as demonstrated in 2013.

• **Swimming**
The swimming carnival was again another huge success. The Age Champions were as follows:

12yrs: James Lye, Chelsea Young  
13yrs: Bradley Mills, Sarah Collison  
14yrs: Brady Curry, Chloe Mann  
15yrs: Max Collison, Lia Mills  
16yrs: Matthew Thompson, Natalie Gaunt and Michelle Nugent  
17yrs: Anthony Clark, Madison Robinson

**Results:**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Namoi</td>
<td>581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castlereagh</td>
<td>552</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hastings</td>
<td>397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macquarie</td>
<td>349</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Oxley High School sent a large contingent of students to Arinya Zone and the North West Regional Swimming Carnival.

• **Athletics**
The Athletics Carnival saw many records fall as students used this event to set about gaining regional and state selection in athletics.

Records were broken by the following students:

15yrs: Lia Mills (1500m, 800m, 400m and 100m)  
14yrs: Jessica Aldridge (shot put)

14yrs: Corin Webster (high jump)

The Age Champions were as follows:

12yrs: Caitlin Barber, Braden Grzazek  
13yrs: Sarah Collison, Blaine McBean  
14yrs: Havannah Ellsely, Ethan Parry  
15yrs: Lia Mills, Zach Cam  
16yrs: Sara Bierling, Stuart Honeysett  
17yrs: Brianna Fritsch, Cody Hazel

**Results:**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Castlereagh</td>
<td>958</td>
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<tr>
<td>Macquarie</td>
<td>898</td>
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<tr>
<td>Namoi</td>
<td>796</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hastings</td>
<td>781</td>
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</table>

Oxley sent a large number of students to Arinya Zone and the North West Regional Athletics Carnival.

Lia Mills and Jessica Aldridge qualified for the NSW All Schools Team.
Student information

It is a requirement that the reporting of information for all students be consistent with privacy and personal information policies.

Student enrolment profile

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<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>486</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>469</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>434</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>583</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>589</td>
<td>579</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>512</td>
<td>509</td>
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Workforce Composition

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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<td>Principal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deputy Principal</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Teachers of students with Special Needs</td>
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<td>Support Teacher Learning difficulties</td>
<td>2.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Administrative and Support Staff</td>
<td>17.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>96.8</td>
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</table>
The National Education Agreement requires schools to report on Indigenous composition of their workforce.

Oxley High School has 4 staff from Aboriginal backgrounds. This includes 2 classroom teachers, 1 AEO and 1 AEW.

**Staff retention**

Oxley High School has a very stable staff with a retention level of 95%. This may dip, as more staff are nearing retirement age.

**Teacher qualifications**

All teaching staff meet the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools.

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<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>% of staff</th>
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<td>Degree or Diploma</td>
<td>93</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
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**Financial summary**

This summary covers funds for operating costs and does not involve expenditure areas such as permanent salaries, building and major maintenance.

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<td>Canteen</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Balance Carried Forward</strong></td>
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School performance 2013

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

NAPLAN

In the National Assessment Program, the results across the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 literacy and numeracy assessments are reported on a scale from Band 1 to Band 10.

The achievement scale represents increasing levels of skills and understandings demonstrated in these assessments.

Yr 7: from Band 4 (lowest) to Band 9 (highest for Year 7)
Yr 9: from Band 5 (lowest) to Band 10 (highest for Year 9)

In the Higher School Certificate the performance of students is reported in performance bands ranging from Performance Band 1 (lowest) to Performance Band 6 (highest).

All graphs show the school performance in 2013 in pink, the average school performance over the past four years in lilac and the performance of similar schools group (SSG) in pale green.

For more detailed information please see the My School website.
The My School website provides detailed information and data for national literacy and numeracy testing (NAPLAN).
Click on the link http://www.myschool.edu.au and enter the school name in the Find a school and select GO to access the school data.
Higher School Certificate

Oxley High School continued to offer a broad curriculum of more than 40 HSC courses.
**Significant programs and initiatives**

**Aboriginal education**

**Oxley Clontarf Academy**

The Clontarf Academy Director is Mr Joe Craigie and Mr Michael Watton is the Operations Officer. The academy in partnership with Oxley High School works with Aboriginal males from year 7 to year 12 to ensure educational outcomes, life skills, employment prospects and retention until the end of year 12. The Clontarf Academy continues to provide many opportunities for students and they are involved in a large range of activities, camps and leadership initiatives.

**Oxley High School's Junior AECG**

"Aboriginal Educational Consultative Group".

Program aims:

- To promote leadership development for Aboriginal students.
- To increase community recognition of the strength of Aboriginal students leadership at Oxley High School.

Program outcomes:

- Students will promote cultural identity and topical issues within our school, increasing understanding and tolerance across the whole school community.
- Students will contribute to whole school student leadership initiatives.
- Students will identify and help in organising culturally specific events within our school such as NAIDOC week.

**Smoking Ceremony**

On Tuesday the 28th of May Mrs Way attended the Botanic Gardens with three of our senior students for a smoking ceremony for ancestral remains given back to the Tamworth Aboriginal Lands Council by The University of Sydney.

The ancestral remains are believed to be from the Barwon area.

**Sista Speak Program**

The Sista Speak program has been successful with 20 Aboriginal students from year 7&8 participating.

The object of the program is to:

- Encourage young Aboriginal girls to think about the connection between education, careers and economic independence.
- Introduce young Aboriginal students to concepts of diverse careers and associated salaries;
- Provide access to resources for personal development including networks, activities, contacts, mentors and role models.
- Work with local Aboriginal women as mentors in order to support the young women through the program.

The Sista Speak program links with the following priority domains:

- Engagement and Connections - positive relationship building, sense of belonging, improved engagement in classrooms
- Attendance – increased attendance of students
- Building Literacy skills - resume writing, reading recipes, following instructions.
- Numeracy - budgeting, measurement
- Leadership - communication both written and verbal
- Developing pathways to future career paths and options for subject selections in year 9&10
The outcomes for students were:

- Increased self-esteem and confidence
- Enhanced student’s social and personal development and connectedness with each other
- Established positive relationships with community mentors.
- Knowledge and information on careers and career pathways
- Grooming skills-hair, makeup and how to present for an interview/apply for a job
- Resume writing
- Budgeting
- Cooking on a budget
- Healthy lifestyles
- Awareness of Internet safety.

Homework centre
This program involved the provision of support for Aboriginal students to access extra teaching and learning time provided by a member of staff (teacher) and the AEO. Students’ learning is a priority in the development of literacy and numeracy skills. This however is underpinned by further development in their social and interpersonal relationship skills. Aboriginal students from all years are able to access the support to improve their development of skills cross all KLA. The Homework Centre provides intensive support in small groups after school so the student does not fall behind in classroom tasks but also gains from the experience of more personalised instruction that may not be given in the classroom environment. Through the homework centre, students went from completing late assessment tasks to avoid consequence, to completing tasks well on time and before due dates in order to receive feedback on performance for learning.

Norta Norta Program – Years 11 and 12
The senior Norta Norta Program has been a huge success with thanks to Melanie Smith.

Direct feedback from staff to tutors express the need for the program to continue next year as they have seen the direct benefit through improved results in student assessment tasks. Student results have improved throughout the year, with yearly results well exceeding student and teacher expectations. This has led to higher expectations in the future.

Other Benefits:

- Improved student retention until HSC
- Increased student engagement in class
- Reduced the number of N awards and N-warning letters
- Improved relationships between staff and students (as a mediator)
- Improved organisational skills of the students
- Focus on improving autonomy of student learning and study practices
- Improved student confidence and self esteem
- Significant improvements in literacy (especially the quality of work/responses)

The effectiveness of the program can be seen through the achievements of one of our year 11 students. This student has had very limited success during his schooling career and the school had started to look for alternative arrangements for his future education. Through the assistance of the Norta Norta tutors this student is now not only meeting the requirements of the year 11 syllabus but also his attitude, attendance and engagement has improved greatly. He recently achieved his highest ever assessment mark and through this his self-esteem, confidence and relationship with both staff and parents has grown.

National partnership programs
Centre For Excellence Program
Oxley High School continues to be recognised as a Centre for Excellence.

The program is closely aligned to the Melbourne Declaration Educational Goals which are:

Goal 1: Australian schooling promotes equity and excellence and;

Goal 2: All young Australians become:
- successful learners
- confident and creative individuals
- active and informed citizens

At the end of the 2012 Oxley High School had achieved:

- A middle/senior school with a strong foundation of learning underpinned by a deliberate, specific focus on literacy, numeracy and social skills.
- Enhanced our relationship with our partner primary schools to establish and embed the ‘Oxley Learning Community’ and to develop a transition model for Years 5 and 6 students which links closely to the middle/senior model.
- Developed benchmark skills, practices and experiences to underpin minimum best practice in all classrooms.
- Boosted the already strong relationships with our Spoke Schools to support effective professional learning to build teacher capacity.
- Focused on teacher quality.

ILNPNP

Oxley High School was given a grant from the Federal Government to implement strategies to enhance NAPLAN results. $324000 in funds was granted to the school to enhance comprehension skills in Years 7-9.

The school plan has been strategically developed to resource Oxley High School with 96 iPads (at a cost of approximately $80000), staff Teacher Professional Learning established to focus on developing improved student comprehension and technology skills.

As this program becomes embedded into school custom and practice, a comprehensive process for evaluation will be implemented at the end of the 2014 school year.

Student Welfare

Student Welfare has remained a priority throughout 2013. A major focus for 2012 was the consolidation of the Points program which is run in conjunction with our Pastoral Care (PC) Groups; which meet each morning. Students who achieved enough points were eligible for prizes donated from local businesses or paid for by the school.

To assist in the fostering of positive relationships in PC, a Trivia competition was in operation during morning roll call. Apart from prizes for individuals, points are also tallied by House and PC group with Houses and groups being rewarded with BBQs and pizza lunches throughout the year.

To allow for more effective learning at school a Breakfast Club is available to all students throughout the year for those who may need that little extra nourishment in the morning to help improve their focus in the classroom.

Rock and Water continued to be used to develop the self-esteem of boys in the Junior years.

Progress on 2013 targets

The school had specific targets relating to its 2012 school plan.

Target 1

Improve Literacy and Numeracy performance in the Middle School so student growth is within or above State growth

Our achievements include:

- All students in the Middle School were exposed to a set of skills that allowed them to practice and develop their literacy and numeracy through the implementation of a structured study class in years 7, 8 and 9.
• SMART data was used to ensure that all teaching practice was “geared” towards teacher improvement.

• Gifted and Talented strategies were identified and promoted for students in the higher bands.

**Target 2**

*Continue to develop the Senior School Policy and align Middle School Policy to prepare Middle School students and parents for the senior years.*

This target was not achieved and will continue to be a focus in 2013.

Our achievements include:

• The provision of accessible information and guidelines for all students, parents and staff for BOS requirements in the Senior School including Assessments manuals for the Preliminary and HSC courses.

• Professional learning opportunities continued for staff to increase curriculum and teaching practices specific to their learning areas.

**Target 3**

*Aboriginal students are engaged, experience success at school and the school community is connected to Aboriginal Culture.*

Our achievements include:

• Successful implementation of the ‘Dare to Lead’ program.

• Implementation of professional development activities in cultural awareness.

• Aboriginal community members attended various school functions and activities to celebrate Aboriginal culture.

• Continued support for Senior School Aboriginal students through Norta Norta tutoring and Middle School students through classroom STLOs, AEO and AEW.

• The provision of a homework centre to support Aboriginal students to access extra teaching and learning time with provision of a member of and AEO.

**School evaluation**

NSW public schools conduct evaluation to support the effective implementation of the school plan. In 2012 our school carried out evaluation of Technology and its Integration into Classroom Practice.

**Curriculum and Assessment**

**Technology and Its Integration into the Classroom**

Positive Developments:

• The ILNNP partnership has purchased 96 iPads focusing on improving literacy and numeracy skills of students in Years 7-9.

• The email/web services system is a positive development for the majority of students;

• School’s T4L rollout continues to ensure that faster technology and access to the internet is of a high standard.

• The Smartboard is seen as an effective classroom tool;

• Some teachers are able to use the new technology very effectively and in a way which motivated students.

Areas for improvement:

• The server requires urgent upgrade.

• Computer rooms continually need to be updated as equipment quickly becomes outdated and can slow the access to internet;
• All staff need to use new technology as part of their general classroom practice.

• Many teachers need to upgrade their computer skills.

• There is a need for more Smartboards.

• The content of the Computer courses needs to be reviewed as much of it is outdated.

• The use of MOODLE needs to be taught to all staff and students and revisited annually.

• The school webpage needs to be updated regularly to ensure that effective communication is occurring between the school, students and parents.

• Many students report that they are often frustrated using web services at school as many relevant sites are blocked.

• Senior students reported the need for more computers in the senior library area and or a Senior Study area.

School planning 2012—2014

The school planning policy provides direction for the preparation and implementation of school plans including the identification of priority areas, intended outcomes and targets that are consistent with the NSW State Plan and the Department’s planning documents.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2013

• Staff Professional Learning was aligned to the School Plan to ensure that resources were allocated towards improving student results.

• Implementation of whole school review of teaching and learning programs for strengths and areas of improvement.

• Implementation of significant Teacher Professional Learning in the area of differentiation and assessment for what students have learned in class.

Literacy and Numeracy

Outcome for 2012–2014

Improve literacy and numeracy performances in years 7 and 9 so student growth is within or above State growth.

2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

• In year 9 students assessed as proficient in literacy and numeracy will increase by minimum of 1% in reading, spelling, grammar and punctuation and numeracy.

Strategies to achieve these targets in 2014 include:

• All students in the Middle School have accessed a range of literacy and numeracy enhancement strategies over the whole year.

• Teachers continue to use data to inform their teaching practice.

• Gifted and Talented strategies are identified and promoted for students in the higher bands.

• Whole programs demonstrate evidence of differentiation to cater to the needs of all students.

• All assessment tasks are aligned to key verbs to ensure that every student is able to access every question.

• A review of the timetable to implement

School priority 2

Organisational Effectiveness

Outcome for 2012–2014

Embed the Middle School and Senior School structure within the school and school community.

2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

• Professional Development for all staff on Middle Schooling.
• Reflect and act on the Middle Years Transition Matrix. Continue to develop the Oxley Learning Community (OLC).

• Introduce formal Senior and Middle School student led assemblies.

**School priority 3**

**Leadership and Management Outcome for 2012–2014**

Strengthen the leadership and management capabilities of the Executive Team and develop these skills and experiences in classroom teachers seeking promotion.

**2012 Targets to achieve this outcome include:**

• To provide the opportunity and acceptance of 90% of the schools executive to undertake Instructional Leadership professional Learning in 2013.

• Quality teaching and learning is occurring in all KLA areas with Head Teacher support and monitoring.

**Strategies to achieve these targets include:**

• Further develop an effective process for the implementation of EARS and TARS.

• Provide access to effective professional development within and outside the school.

• Improve the delivery of Merit Selection and Career Development training within the school.

**About this report**

In preparing this report, the self-evaluation committee has gathered information from evaluations conducted during the year and analysed other information about the school's practices and student learning outcomes. The self-evaluation committee and school planning committee have determined targets for the school's future development.

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Parents can find out more information about Annual School Reports, how to interpret information in the reports and have the opportunity to provide feedback about these reports at: