Introducing **Deshon Alogi-Hine**, a year 10 student who has been living in Oberon for about 6 years.

Deshon’s great passion is sport. Of his three elective subjects - PASS, Food Technology and Visual Arts - PASS is definitely his favourite. Deshon finds PASS “pretty interesting” learning about how the body system works in sport. He describes himself as a “sporty person”. Deshon’s favourite teacher is Mr Barwick because he makes mathematics easier to understand by explaining it step-by-step.

Over the years Deshon has represented the school in numerous sports events, excelling in team sports, with his favourite being basketball.

Outside of school Deshon trains for basketball and plays in the Bathurst competition with the Oberon based ‘Net Burners’. Part of this training is weightlifting which he does to help increase his power in basketball. Deshon plays offence and, as well as playing, he also loves watching basketball.

Not surprisingly Deshon’s, dream job would be professional basketballer, preferably in the USA.

Deshon’s dedication to his sport is a quality to be much admired.

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The **2015 school magazine** is now available for purchase - $20.00.

Copies are available from the school office.

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**Student Focus**

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**Winner - Victor Chang Science School Award**

Year 12 student Ryan Hopson (pictured at left) has won the prestigious Victor Chang School Award for Science. 
[Read more on page 3](#).

Also in this issue:-

- **Bring your own device (BYOD)**
- **External school review**
- **Anti-bullying**
- **Graduation Ball**
- **‘Burning up the net’**
- **TAS report**

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**WHERE ARE THE VOLUNTEERS?**

Here is our canteen, but there’s no-one to serve. Please volunteer to help.

Call Veronica at the school between 10am and 2.00pm on 6336 1606.
Notes from the Principal

The last two weeks at Oberon High School has been an exciting time for all staff and students with the commencement of our new Senior College structure, BYOD Parent Laptop Meetings, Year 6 transition lessons and a Year 12 graduation ball. It’s always extremely busy this time of year preparing for our annual Presentation Night, however we thought we would add an external trial validation of our school to assess how we were going just to add to all the fun at this time of year.

Firstly, our rollover in Week 6 to the new compressed model of delivery in Stage 6 has been very smooth with all students excited about moving into their new year group and starting fresh with new teachers. Students felt almost a year older and their commitment in the last two weeks has matched their positive attitude. Teachers have all commented on how the students are engaged at this time of the year which is really nice to see.

On Tuesday the 18th November 2015, Mr Armstrong held a parent meeting to introduce our ‘Bring your own Device’ – BYOD policy and laptops to Year 7 parents and students. Many families attended the evening and were blown away by the quality of the new touch screen laptops which can be purchased through the school at a heavily subsidized price thanks to the P&C and school BYOD support program. The day after the meeting, many students returned their laptop contracts and signed off on the “appropriate use of technology at school” and have started receiving their new laptops to use in classrooms. If you have any questions about our BYOD program and the specifications required for technology at school, please contact Mr Armstrong on 02 6336 1606.

On Wednesday the 25th November 2015, Oberon High School was involved in an external trial school review. Objectivity, transparency and consistency are important elements for ensuring a system-wide approach that supports schools in their ongoing journeys of excellence. While improvement efforts are designed, driven and assessed on an ongoing basis by each school, an external process is important for providing an assurance to the school and the system that the progress being made aligns with the expectations in the School Excellence Framework.

The approach to school excellence includes a process in which schools provide evidence of achievements and ongoing progress assessed using the School Excellence Framework. This process involves an independent validation panel to consider the evidence provided by each school. Participating schools develop a submission to present to the external validation panel. The submission includes an executive summary and body of evidence which provides a narrative of the school’s achievement of excellence under the headings of the SEF domains: Learning, Teaching and Leading. The body of evidence is comprised of the following materials:

- the School Excellence Framework Self-assessment Survey reports,
- the 2015-2017 school plan, including the implementation of milestones,
- the 2014 Annual School Report,
- the School Excellence Framework Data reports and/or BI reports, and
- other significant pieces of evidence as determined by the school.

The external trial panel spent around 3 hours interviewing the executive team and reviewing the evidence provided by the school. After the report is finalised and signed off by our Director Public Schools NSW, Bathurst Network, Peter Harvey – our school will receive a report outlining where we sit in comparison to the School Excellence Framework.

Thanks must go to our leadership team for their preparation and effort in putting together our schools submission. The results of the trail will be passed on the community at a later date.
Ryan Hopson wins Science Award

On Wednesday 19th November 2015, Year 12 student Ryan Hopson and his family travelled to Dubbo to receive the prestigious Victor Chang Award for “outstanding achievement in science in 2015” at Oberon High School. Ryan Hopson was supported by our school’s head science teacher, Mr Gyan Mudaliar, who also travelled to Dubbo to witness the event where Ryan was presented with his award and the citation written by Mr Mudaliar was read out to the crowd.

As part of the award Ryan has been invited to visit the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute in Sydney in early December, something he is really looking forward to. Ryan will be sitting for his HSC in 2016 and is currently interested in undertaking computer science studies at university. Congratulations to this outstanding science student and thanks to Mr Mudaliar for supporting excellence at Oberon High School.

Updated Oberon High School Anti-Bullying Plan

The updated Oberon High School Anti-Bullying Plan has been developed by a team of teachers, parents and students, including students who are representatives of the Oberon Youth Council. Through implementation of numerous programs with our local primary schools, this plan enables a broad perspective of the K-12 school environment.

Behaviour that involves bullying occurs when someone keeps doing or saying things to have power over another person, whether this is in person, over social media websites, or via the use of emails and text messages. The NSW Department of Education defines bullying as ‘intentional, repeated behaviour by an individual or group of individuals that causes stress, hurt or undue pressure’.

Harassment, violence and bullying will not be tolerated at Oberon High School. Oberon High School strives to provide an inclusive quality education for all students targeting both educational and social needs to support all students. It is our aim to provide our school community with the necessary knowledge about harassment and bullying, and the strategies that can be used to assist in dealing with such behaviours. At Oberon High School, we aim to work in partnership with all members of the school community to develop a learning culture where all students achieve success. Through the development of a school culture that values safe, respectful and responsible learners, we aim at ‘Educating the whole person for the whole of life’ in a harassment free environment.

The term “bullying” has a specific meaning. The school’s Anti-bullying Plan sets out the processes for preventing and responding to student bullying. The school has a range of policies and practices, including welfare and discipline policies that apply to student behaviour generally. The updated Anti-bullying Plan can be found on our school’s App or Website – http://www.oberon-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/home

I would like to thank the team who worked with all members of the school community on a plan which will support students at Oberon High School. The team were as follows –

- Ken Barwick – School Principal
- Matt Leven – Team Leader/Bullying Welfare Contact
- Shannon Marshall – Teacher/YA/SRC/OYC Representative
- Rebecca Corby – Teacher/Indigenous Support Teacher
- Kylie Hayden – Teacher Representative
- Mishka Eggins – Parent/ P&C Treasurer Representative
- Leonie Oxley – Parent Representative
- Gayle Voerman – Parent Representative / P&C President
- Dan Henby – School Chaplain/Parent Representative
- Angus Fittler – School Captain/OYC Youth Mayor
- Bronte Leihn – School Captain
- Amy Mills – School Vice-Captain
- Claudia Limon – School Vice-Captain
- Brandon Franklin - School Vice-Captain
Well done to all involved in the organisation of the Year 12 Graduation Ball this year. It was a mighty event hosting the biggest Year 12 for the past 20 years and there were more than 340 guests who enjoyed the special night with our students.

A very big thank you must go to Mrs. Tara Morrison. Even while on leave, she has carefully supported her Year group in the lead up to their special night. Mrs Morrison made a strong commitment to these students and has done an amazing job as Year Advisor. I must also acknowledge the help she received from Mrs. Tania Pringle, Miss. Meg Windsor and Miss. Rebecca Corby in organising the night. Well done supporting each other.

I would also like to thank our wonderful and inspiring teachers for their hard work over the years in preparing these students for the future. It was a great show of unity with 29 staff attending the graduation ball. Well done to all and thanks also to the staff who remained behind to help clean up.

The students were very happy on the night and the graduation cake was cut by outgoing school captains Joshua Harvey and Shannon Foley. The evening was a wonderful way to celebrate the end of school days for the graduating students.

A dedicated and talented group of Oberon High School students from Years 10 and 11 are making their mark in the Bathurst basketball competition on Friday nights. The Net Burners, comprising Max Piper, Charlie Schrader, Mike Mrdjenovic, Shane Watterson, Chris Dunbar, Deshon Alogi, Ray Sargent and Damien Curran, do not have a coach; the boys just coach themselves. However, even with this “disadvantage”, they are still a formidable team. “It’s fun”, says Mike Mrdjenovic, “I love playing the game and I wouldn’t mind taking it even further than this local competition.”

Others in the team also have aspirations to take their sport to higher levels. The dedication these boys have shown to form a team, coach themselves and participate so strongly in the Bathurst competition, is a testament to their character and determination. The players appreciate the support from their parents which allows them to participate in the competition. As principal, I am very proud of the boys when I watch them play. They show exceptional sportsmanship and simply love competing. I’m not surprised we are doing well in Rural Cup at Oberon High School. Great kids; a credit to the school, community and their parents.

Ken Barwick, Principal
0418 629 198
Halloween Bingo Thank You

Oberon High School P&C committee would like to extend a huge thank you to all the businesses who contributed prizes for the Halloween bingo night that was held on Friday, 30th October 2015.

A big thank you to all the people that turned up on the night, it appeared that a great fun night was had by all.

Many thanks to Principal Ken Barwick for his bingo calling through the evening.

Lastly to Gayle Voerman, our P&C president, thank you for all the hard work that goes on. With any event the high school puts on, Gayle goes above and beyond with her personal time and contributions. Gayle, many thanks to you in particular; Oberon High School has indeed a valuable P&C President.

- Cathy Robinson
P&C Secretary

Newsletter Emailed

In 2016 the OHS newsletter will be emailed direct to your email address, as well as being available on line on the school’s website and on Skoolbag, the school’s app.

Please ensure that the school has your current email address so you can receive your up-to-date newsletter conveniently. oberon-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Students impress their TAFE teacher

The school was delighted to receive the following comments about five of our students who are currently undertaking work placement at the Columbia Aged Care Home in Oberon.

“What a fantastic group of students working extremely well in an amazing facility. They have been professional, caring and supportive of residents. I just wanted to pass my congratulations onto the school community and to Kurt, Sarah, Hannah, Amy and Caitlin, they have certainly represented the school in a very positive way”.

- Leigh Maxwell
Full Time Teacher - Health and Nursing
Bathurst Campus, Western Institute TAFE

Students impress their TAFE teacher

P&C Raffle Winners
1st Prize- Donna Harradence
2nd Prize- Denise Toohill
3rd Prize- Chloe Swannell

Tent Practice

In November the second Aspire group for 2015 were at the adventure playground in Bathurst preparing for their upcoming four day camp at Bundeena Camping Ground.

The boys had to practice erecting their tent. They had a few attempts, while blindfolded, and once with “one hand tied behind their back”, and they all did well.

The Aspire program provides students with team building skills and improved self confidence.
TAS Faculty Report

What a start!

2016 school year is well underway and students across the school, including the TAS and Creative Arts faculty, are working through the beginning stages of their courses. As Head Teacher, I have been extremely pleased with the work efforts of students and when I walk into classes it is easy to see students engaged and working on the various learning experiences and tasks which have been designed by their dedicated teachers.

If this is what the end of a calendar year brings then we should see some amazing results in 2016.

Below are pictures of the work happening in College 1 Industrial Technology Timber, Metals and Engineering, Photography and Visual Arts.

David Boyd
Head Teacher

Pictured clockwise from top left: Jye Rice cutting Legs for cabinetwork, Laura McFawn with an example pedestal leg, Shane Watterson turning pedestal leg, Dean Cesarone preparing to MIG weld a safe, Zoe Gibbons doing a clay scarecrow and William Denham designing a cross halved leg for a table.
Active Transport Strategy for Oberon and surrounding towns – for everyday transport needs

What: Draft Active Transport Strategy Report Presentation
Where: Robert Hooper Community Centre, Fleming St, Oberon
When: Monday 7 December 2015, 5:00pm - 6:00pm

Oberon Council recently received a grant from Roads and Maritime Services to engage a transport consultant to develop an Active Transport Strategy for Oberon and its surrounding towns. An Active Transport Strategy is a comprehensive strategic and action plan that assists Council to develop pedestrian and cycling facilities and policies that support a culture where people walk or use a bike for everyday transport.

An Active Transport Strategy will assist Council to coordinate investment in safe and convenient pedestrian and cycling routes. The plan focuses on developing infrastructure that connects community and commercial facilities so that residents can bike or walk to commute as part of their work, for fun or for fitness. There are many benefits that can be achieved by improved active mobility facilities including improved health and fitness as well as social, environmental and economic benefits that arise from walking or cycling instead of using the car.

In early September, GTA Consultants visited Oberon and liaised with a number of relevant stakeholders and gained an appreciation for the area.

GTA Consultants has subsequently prepared a draft report for review by the community. A number of active transport infrastructure and initiatives have been developed to promote walking and cycling in the local community and we are seeking feedback from local residents.

Some of the questions GTA will be asking of the community include:

- Is what has been proposed in regards to a ten year plan for infrastructure and initiatives consistent with community expectations?
- Are there any ideas which have been omitted but community members would like to raise for consideration?

Comments received will assist in guiding the development of the final report.

What happens if I cannot make it?
Please feel free to email Dean Rance on dean.rance@gtata.com.au, or call the GTA Consultants office on 6448-1800. Alternatively contact Gillian Salmon at Oberon Council on 6329-8145.

Participate in a 3 minute survey at any time
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OberonStudy

Oberon District Little Athletics Proudly presents
Community
Carol's in the Park
Oberon Recreation Ground
Friday 4/12/15
Starting from 5:30 pm

Performances from Oberon’s Finest Talents, Young and Old.
Special Guest – Domino Houlbrook - Cove and Kurt Booth
Face Painting
Fun Glow Items and battery operated Candles available to purchase
BBQ and Canteen Facilities
Ruell Coffee with Real Coffee and Hot Chocolate
Mr Whippy
All you need to do is bring the family with a blanket or chairs to the Oberon Recreation Ground for some great Festive Fun.

*We will even be having a visit from SANTA*

Gold coin donation per person, which will be going to the Oberon District Little Athletics Centre to improve our facilities and equipment for the little athletes of Oberon.

(Wet Weather Plan in place so don’t let that put a dampener on a great family evening out!!! If you have any questions ‘like’ Oberon Little Athletics on Facebook and send us a message.)

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Parent Line NSW professional counsellors take calls 7 days a week from parents of High School-age children. Parents can ask questions about aspects of behaviour, relationships, substance abuse and educational concerns until 9pm every night.

Young people often struggle with mental health issues more than younger children do. If your child has not been him or herself for several weeks, explore some options to help:-

* Find a quiet time to have a chat
* Visit a GP
* Investigate services such as headspace
* Call us on 1300 1300 52 to explore what parents and carers can do to help.

Online Counselling
Parent Line NSW is trialling Online Counselling on Mondays from 3pm to 5pm and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11am to 1pm. Go to www.parentline.org.au Outside of these times you can call 1300 1300 52 or email info@parentline.org.au

Online Counselling is available to Parents, Carers and Professionals concerned about a child from 0-18 in New South Wales. Parent Line NSW is a state funded program managed by CatholicCare Sydney.

Highlands Steam & Vintage Fair
February 2016

Hosted by the Oberon Heritage and Collectors Club
More information at www.oberonsteamfair.com.au

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Practical Support for Higher School Certificate Examinations

Information for Students and Parents

The Board of Studies has a program to help students with practical support in their Higher School Certificate examinations. This practical support, known as provisions, assists students to read examination questions and to write their answers. Provisions include rest breaks and extra time. The use of any provision is not written on the student’s results.

Students may need provisions for:

- a permanent condition, such as diabetes or reading difficulty
- a temporary condition, such as a broken arm, or
- an intermittent condition, such as back pain when sitting for long periods.

It is not embarrassing to apply for or use provisions. More than 5000 HSC students apply for provisions each year. Provisions help students to show the markers what they know and can do.

To apply for provisions, the school submits an online application to the Board of Studies. This application tells us which provisions the student is requesting and includes recent evidence. Evidence may include medical reports, reading results, spelling results, writing samples and teacher comments.

Much of the evidence can be collected by the school, but the parents’ role is welcome and needed. Parents help by talking with the school, describing the student’s needs, and providing the school with medical or other reports.

Applications for provisions should be submitted by the school to the Board of Studies by the end of Term 1. Late applications are accepted for an emergency, such as a broken arm, until the time of the examinations.

Once the Board of Studies has made a decision about which provisions are approved or declined, a decision letter is provided to the school. The school will provide the student with a copy of the letter.

If you or the school are not satisfied with the Board’s decision, it is possible for the school to lodge an appeal. Appeals must state why the Board’s decision is unsuitable and must include new evidence to support the appeal.

If you think that you or your child may require support in completing the Higher School Certificate examinations, please discuss the matter with the Year Adviser, School Counsellor or teacher.