#### **ISSUE 3** Term 1, Week 6 2024

# OAGS News

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#### Oh What a Night!

On Thursday night we gathered as a community to celebrate the Year 11s as they commence their senior most years of schooling. It was a glorious late summer evening and the students turned out in style with their parents and loved ones. As they gathered on the amphitheatre steps and red carpet for photos, it was obvious to all that this was not only a 'coming of age' moment for these students, but also for the school. With 66

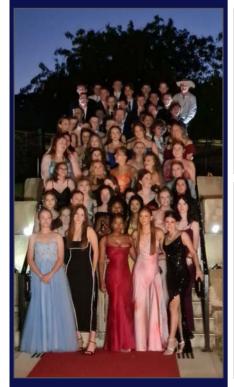


ORANGE ANGLICAN

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

students in the cohort this year the stairwell was packed as we tried to capture the perfect photo. But the realisation of triple-stream cohorts in upper secondary is not the only mark of success. The repeating refrain from families on the night was that 'that there is something very unique about this community'. Despite our growth, we remain connected. Despite our success, we remain aspirational. It was a privilege to be a part of such an evening and I'd like to particularly thank Mrs Karen Huntly, Mrs Mel Mclaughlin, Mr Adam Cusack and Mrs Nicole Nealon for their work to make it happen. I trust you enjoy this bumper edition of the newsletter, blessings for the weekend ahead.

#### **Scott Hazelton Deputy Headmaster**







## PRIMARY NEWS

#### Year 4 is STEMsational

"...but why?" is certainly a question we have all heard children ask and has become one of my favourite questions to hear. "Why" is at the heart and spirit of inquisitive thinking. Encouraging our students to ask questions, to wonder, and to explore is fundamental to fostering their curiosity and igniting their passion for learning. Every child is a natural investigator, eager to unravel the mysteries of God's creation. Which is exactly what we have been doing in Science as we explore the concept of melting and freezing.

This term we have used demonstrations and experiments to capture students' imagination and provide them with an opportunity to explore why substances behave the way they do. We have lifted an ice cube on a string. We have expanded our vocabulary to include the word 'viscosity' and experimented with how we can alter the viscosity of a substance. Later, students agreed that having a dependent and independent variable would help us make better observations when we froze honey, rubbing alcohol and oil.



Naturally, all of this science understanding was applied later on when we made Rocky Road. We have loved learning about how different elements behave and at what temperature they might melt or boil (yes! we have discussed atoms and molecules in year 4!). All this in the first half of Term 1, which is only possible when you have a group of keen and enthusiastic learners.



#### Introducing Mr Bowtell to OAGS

At the beginning of this term, we were fortunate to welcome Mr Bowtell to OAGS. Having spent some time last year becoming acquainted with OAGS and many of our Primary students whilst completing a teaching practicum, Mr Bowtell is now teaching Christian Studies across our Primary School. I recently interviewed Mr Bowtell to find out a bit more about him.

#### What do you love about teaching Christian Studies?

I get to spend every day exploring God's Word in the Bible through a range of media and crafts. I can't think of a better way to spend my time.

#### What has impressed you in your first few weeks at OAGS?

The children's engagement and questions have been inspirational. I feel blessed to have the opportunity to grow with them through what can be really challenging ideas. Furthermore, the staff and their passion for what they do in all aspects of the school has been a powerful model for myself.



#### What opportunities do you see in teaching Christian Studies to our Primary students at OAGS?

As students become more engaged in God's message, I have been encouraging them to find their own answers, to seek their own knowledge in the Bible. Guiding them back to the good news in Jesus Christ, I see this as an opportunity for them to build their foundations of an ongoing journey with support from God's word.

#### What is something most people wouldn't know about you?

I wasn't a great student myself. I would often be distracted or have unfinished work which frustrated most teachers. I believe this has put me in a position to understand and help students who need extra guidance when not connecting with schoolwork.

Thank you Mr Bowtell. Coupled with your passion for our lunchtime CRU ministry, you are clearly being instrumental in pointing our students to the light that is Jesus Christ. No doubt, with your dedication and wisdom, our Primary School community will continue to flourish as we wrestle with the truth of the gospel.

#### Paul Lipscomb Acting Director of Primary School

#### Peer Buddies Christian Studies Games

For the past few weeks in Christian Studies, Year 5 has been excitedly working on creating their own activity to play with their buddy during Pastoral Care. It had to include an aspect of what they had been learning in Christian Studies with Genesis and what the bible tells us about the creation of the world. Board games, dances, chatterboxes, memory cards, origami and bracelets were just some of the incredibly creative works that the students came up with and performed with their buddy (even with the wind doing its best to deter them). We are very proud of the contribution from Year 2 and the hard work from Year 5 during this fun exercise.

#### Jonathan Bowtell Christian Studies Teacher



#### **Exciting Adventures in Year 5!**

What an incredible start to the year it has been for our Year 5 students! As we dive into the first term, we're thrilled to share the exciting journey of learning and discovery our students have embarked upon.

In Science, our young scientists have been captivated by the fascinating world of earthquakes. Through hands-on experiments using Mars bars, they've delved into the mechanics of tectonic plates and how they shape the Earth's surface. From understanding the movement of these plates to simulating erupting volcances using Seesaw and paint, our students have truly embraced the wonders of geological phenomena.

Meanwhile, in English, our students have embarked on a thrilling novel study of 'The Wild Robot'. Engaging with multimodal texts, they've explored the intricacies of comparing and contrasting two distinct yet interconnected stories. Through innovative activities, such as organising, mapping, and crafting sizzling orientations, our budding writers are honing their skills and creativity, laying the groundwork for their own literary masterpieces.

In HSIE (Human Society and Its Environment), our young explorers have embarked on a captivating journey to Greece and the Inuit Territories. Through immersive activities, including creating posters and slide shows, they've deepened their understanding of these diverse regions. Mapping countries and honing mapping skills have further enriched their exploration, allowing them to identify and appreciate the unique features of each area.

In Sport, our Year 5 students have been developing their athletic prowess in preparation for the upcoming school athletics carnival. Through dynamic rotations and group activities, they've been refining their skills in various athletic disciplines, gearing up for an exhilarating display of sportsmanship and camaraderie.

As we reflect on the past five weeks, it's evident that Year 5 has been a hive of activity and enthusiasm. With the much-anticipated camp to Vision Valley on the horizon in Week 7, excitement is palpable as our students eagerly anticipate new adventures and experiences.

We can't wait to show you what will be happening for the rest of Term 1.

#### Year 5 Teachers Mrs Erin Purvis and Miss Molly Collins



SAVE THE DATE 28TH MARCH 2024

# EASTER FAIR

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. JOHN 3:16

#### EASTER FAIR Thursday 28th March





Order will open on Flexischools Soon

Please note that the canteen will be closed all day.

Students can bring a packed lunch, or order a BBQ lunch through Flexischools, catered by the P&F.

Students ordering a BBQ lunch will receive a sausage in a hot dog roll and their choice of soft drink or water. Gluten Free option available

Orders for Students must be completed via Flexischools.

Parents we are offering lunch packs for you too - just add your parent order to one of your children's orders to assist with catering.

We will also be selling Zooper Doopers and Lolly Bags for \$1

We are seeking volunteers to help out on the day - if you are available between 10am - 1pm please email us oagspandf@gmail.com



#### Second Hand Clothing Shop will be OPEN at the EASTER FAIR

The P&F will be opening the Second-hand Clothing stall at the Easter Fair from 11am - 2pm.

If you are attending the Easter Fair please drop in and say hello and purchase what you need for Term 2.

If you have any old school uniform items to donate - please drop them into the front office in the coming weeks.

Cash and Card payments available.

We are seeking volunteers to help out on the day. If you are available between 10 - 2 please email us oagspandf@gmail.com



## SECONDARY NEWS

#### Secondary Study Skills Seminars

Good study skills can increase your confidence, competence, and self-esteem. They can also reduce anxiety about tests and deadlines. Last week students in years 7, 9, 11 and 12 participated in study skill seminars to help them to establish healthy study habits at the start of the school year. Whilst each year group will spend time discussing this topic at key moments during stage meetings, these seminars are designed to provide year specific information that relates to their specific stage.

Thank you to our year 7 students: Isaac Lee, Molly Spicer and Sophie Harris who wrote a fantastic reflection below:

On Tuesday the 27th, The students of OAGS High School were honoured to attend a seminar on study skills, which provided them with invaluable tools to enhance their productivity while studying. The seminar was conducted by Kate from Elevate Education, who shared new study techniques to streamline students' study practices and enable them to reach their full potential. Throughout the seminar, the students were equipped with effective note-taking skills and learned how to memorise complex information using trigger words, mind maps, and other techniques. This event was designed to help students study more effectively, thus enabling them to achieve academic success. The students and faculty alike appreciate the time and effort that went into organising such a valuable experience.

Some of our Year 9 students wrote in their evaluation at the end of the seminar:

"I think that this was a great program that I will definitely incorporate into my study time."

- "The most important thing I learnt today...
- ...was to study without my phone,
- ...that I don't always need to listen to music,
- ...to eliminate distractions,
- ...that it takes 7 minutes to get into the flow of studying."

I hope that these seminars will have a lasting impact on the skills and habits of our students this year. To help our students continue on their journey our seminar provider Elevate shares additional study skills resources on their website that students have been given access to. As a parent, if you're interested in accessing those resources too, so you can support your child at home in their study, please go to: <a href="https://au.elevateeducation.com/home">https://au.elevateeducation.com/home</a> If you're prompted for a password, the word is: rondo



#### Getting to know our HSIE Coordinator

At the start of this year Mr St. Julian became the inaugural Coordinator of HSIE faculty in the secondary school. Whilst he has been a valued member of staff for sometime, he now has the important role of leading this faculty as the school continues to flourish and grow. I took a few minutes earlier out of Mr St. Julian's day, to hear how he is settling in and get to know him better.

#### What did you do prior to training as a teacher?

Prior to becoming a teacher, I studied archaeology at Sydney University and I spent many years working on archaeological sites in Australia and Cambodia. I was a member of the Sydney University Greater Angkor Project, which investigated the rise and demise of the Khmer Empire, which once occupied most of mainland South-East Asia. Our work pioneered the use of ultraviolet satellite photography and LiDAR to locate archaeological sites, ultimately leading to the discovery of the lost capital of Mahendraparvata in the Kulen Hills. The archaeological research also revealed the sophisticated nature of Khmer Hydrology and engineering, as well the impact of unsustainable water engineering upon low-density urbanisation. This work led me to writing a number of books for Cambridge University Press and I also lectured at the University of New South Wales for a couple of years. I am still involved with Sydney University's archaeological research and I continue to write for Cambridge University.

#### What do you love about teaching History?

Essentially, the purpose of History is to make sense of the past from the various scraps of information that have survived, whether it is written evidence, archaeological material or other sources of information. I love putting together



the different pieces of evidence to reconstruct the past, similar to a Detective investigating a crime. My Year 12 Ancient History class is currently investigating the possible reasons for the assassination of a Roman politician named Tiberius Sempronius Gracchus: it's great delving into the differing evidence and trying to produce an explanation that encompasses all the material, whilst successfully explaining why certain contradictory details may be excluded from the reconstruction.

I enjoy the debate associated with so much of history. Some students become frustrated with history as they want a 'black and white' explanation, but I try to remind them that life is messy and rarely do things happen in a 'black and white' manner. I love showing students how to read evidence and extract information for their own reconstruction of the past. Again, some students can be frustrated by the debatable nature of history, often saying: 'just tell me the correct answer.' I reply that my job is not to tell them what to think or what the correct answer is, but to show them how to use the evidence: I won't mark a student on their interpretation, rather I will mark them according to their use of evidence and the depth of their analysis. It's wonderful to see a student develop their own clearly articulated interpretation of history that is substantiated with appropriate evidence and critical explanation.

#### What has impressed you in your first few weeks in your leadership of the HSIE faculty?

'Hashtag Blessed' seems to be a popular expression at the moment and I would hate for anyone to mistakenly think that I was a regular user of contemporary vernacular phraseology, but I feel truly blessed by my colleagues in the HSIE faculty. Each of them bring passion, dedication and in-depth knowledge to the subjects that they teach. It is wonderful to hear the enthusiasm and engagement Mrs Foster promotes in her Geography and History classes. Mrs Kimmins' Banana Mummifications captivated the Year 7s, whilst the blood and guts flow profusely in her Stage 5 Elective History 'Assassinations' unit. Mr van der Merwe is to be applauded for his dedication to all things Financial and Mrs Brown is the doyenne of the mediaeval world: the students may not currently appreciate her devotion to Monty Python, but in years to come, they will. Each member of the faculty brings unique skills and insights that enliven their classes, and I am grateful for their collegiality and passion.

#### What are you most looking forward to in Semester 1?

I have some wonderful classes and I am really enjoying working through a wide variety of topics, such as Charlemagne, Periclean Athens, Stalinist Russia and Tiberius Gracchus. More broadly, I am looking forward to working with my HSIE colleagues: we have started overhauling the Geography programmes and we are working on a range of new activities and assessment tasks.

Thanks Mr St. Julian for your time. We are fortunate to have such a professional, dedicated and passionate teacher here at OAGS. We look forward to your leadership of HSIE and are so grateful for the positive impact we have already seen in your first month.

Mr Tim Brown Director of Secondary

#### **RYDA Road Safety**

Year 11 students participated in the RYDA driver education program at Towac Park on Wednesday the 6th of March.

Participating is a series of practical and powerful workshops for secondary school students that are designed to change the way young people think about driving with mates, speeding, and how your personal mind space affects how you drive.

#### Mrs N Nealon Stage 6 Pastoral Care Coordinator





#### International Women's Day

Today is International Women's Day, and to mark the occasion well Mrs Kimmins was the keynote speaker at an all girls seminar. She spoke of her time in the defence force & shared stories of adapting with courage when plans go awry. Our current Male Secondary School Captain, Luke Reed, initiated a workshop for all the boys from year 7-12. The male students gathered in a small groups to work through a series of pledges to help forge a 'gender equal world'. The Male staff helped our secondary boys discuss typical gender stereotyping and commit to breaking this down to fight against discrimination and bias. Mrs Katie Wallace, our school psychologist helped the boys as they workshopped together, and Luke is to be commended for his initiative in this space. #inspireinclusion.

#### Scott Hazelton Deputy Headmaster







#### **Canberra Royal Success**

Mrs Eyb and the cattle team have just returned from a very busy six days at the Royal Canberra Show where the team, with only one previous Royal Show under their belt, performed exceptionally well achieving great recognition for their sponsor studs and the school.

The highlight of the show was taking out the Grand Champion Charolais female with Macquarie View Tranquility and the reserve champion with Macquarie View Tara led by a combination of Greg Finlay, James Butt, Hannah Flynn and Flynn Baker. Competing against some exceptional heifers presented by Murrumburrah High, our students also battled the elements as the heavens opened during Charloais judging - not easy presenting white cattle in pouring rain!

Our students also took on a huge field of exhibitors in the Limousin section on behalf of our sponsors Elberta Limousins collecting second and third place in a highly competitive section.

The paraders division was the toughest competition of the show with over 180 students competing for honours in the school's division. Our students really put on their best show with James Butt placed second, Flynn Baker placed fourth, Hannah Flynn placed third, Hunter Slattery placed fourth, Ruby Gunn placed fourth and at his first ever "big" show Liam Postma placing fourth in the 13 years paraders. What an exceptional result! The students impressed all the judges with their sportsmanship and behaviour with many new studs offering our school the opportunity to compete with their animals in future. This included Pallisade Miniature Herefords who gave our handlers the opportunity to lead cattle to multiple champion placings over the show. Certainly leading

the tiny calves for this stud was a big hit for the Year 8 girls! Mrs Eyb and the team would especially like to thank Mrs McKenna, Mrs Butt and Mrs Flynn for their incredible support over the period of the show and to all the parents who provided meals and came to cheer the team on.



#### Harvest Season at OAGS

Harvest festival is celebrated in many cultures as a time to be grateful for the bounty provided by the land we care for, and at the ACE academy, late summer is one of our peak harvest times as students gather a range of foods from honey and eggs to figs and lamb.

The honey collection and prime lamb projects are being undertaken by Year 10 Agriculture (200 hours). These are a key feature of the Project Based Learning in the Farm Business Management unit currently being undertaken. All produce at the school is graded and marketed by the students and quickly snapped up providing funds which are reinvested into the Agriculture program. This week the first shipment of prime lambs were delivered to happy customers throughout the school as cutlets, chops, roasts and sausages. Pictured are Stage 5 students with Mrs Cooper and Mrs Botta with their purchased lamb products.

The honey collected from changed out frames was also available for sale, while the group have commenced refining the wax collected to make a range



of products which will be available for sale later in the year including lip balm, food wraps and other wax products. Let's just say the product has been extensively tested by the students!

#### **Mrs Sarah Eyb Agriculture Teacher**



**Orange Anglican Grammar School Presents** 

3rd & 4th

# Seussial Orange Civic Theatre







#### **OAGS Swimming Carnival**

On Tuesday 20th February students from Years 3 to 12 ascended upon the Orange Aquatic Centre for our annual swimming carnival. It was a beautiful day with the sun shining bright (but not too hot) all day long. 193 students competed in 99 different events, ranging from our first time swimmers in the 8 year old 50 metre Freestyle to our more experienced swimmers battling it out in the 200 metre Individual Medley. 18 records were broken on the day which goes to show the calibre of the swimmers that we have attending OAGS.

This year the Multiclass level was recognised as individual events, this is great as it allows for opportunities to be created for students who may need accommodations to participate. To swim in these events a student must have a classification given to them from the head organisations of that sport, in this case Swimming Australia. If you believe your child may be eligible for a multiclass status please contact Mrs Pauline Dwyer, together we can assist in the process.

This year the swimming carnival assembly needed to be broken into two separate events. Primary were awarded their Age Champion, Reserve Champion and record breaker certificates first as well as finding out the winning House. Secondary's assembly followed up the next week and they were just as excited to find out that BILADURANG was the Swimming Carnival Champion House for 2024.

The Secondary Swim team had a very quick turn around and headed off to the WAS swimming carnival held at Kinross the Friday following the carnival. We took our largest team ever and the results did not disappoint! 22 students are eligible to attend the AICES swimming championships on Friday the 5th April, a wonderful development for swimming in Secondary.

A huge thank you to the teachers and parents who helped make the carnival run so smoothly. Thank you to the P & F for running the BBQ.

#### Dominique Hutchinson Leader of P-12 Sport

	Age Champion	Reserve Age Champion	Age Champion	Reserve Age Champion
8 Years	Sia Mittal			
9 Years	Summer Barkwill	Madeline Bugden	Beau Pigot	
10 Years	Victoria Ingram	Imogen Flowers	Harvey Bruem	Boston Stewart
11 Years	Isabella Ghattas	Sadie Kimmins	Vincent Oxenburgh	Alfred Jones
12 Years Primary	Harper Quirk	Jessica McGreal	Oscar Pigot	Robert Ingram
12 Years Secondary	Hannah Whittingham		Flynn Webb	
13 Years	Grace Lingier	Loti Ward	Elliot Stuart	Dylan Whiting
14 Years	Lilly Hawke	Milla Bruem	Joel Springer	Jack Thompson
15 Years	Рорру Кау	Calai Bunworth	Nicholas Irwin	Kyran O'Donnell
16 Years	Rebecca Kemp	Milla Jurd	Jacob Hassan	Miles Bucknell
17 Years	Isla Stringer	Brooke Floyd	Lachlan Thompson	Thomas Horan
18 Years	Tomika Frankham	Alexandra Baines	Nate Lee	Keegan Willis
Multiclass			Ruben Oxenburgh	















#### Exciting Debut for OAGS Basketball Team at AICES Schools Cup

We are thrilled to share with you the exciting journey of our 1st Opens Basketball team as they recently travelled to Sydney to compete in the prestigious AICES Schools Cup. Representing our school proudly, the team showcased remarkable resilience and sportsmanship throughout the tournament. The competition hailed from various regions including Northern, Southern, and Sydney, our OAGS boys stood out as the sole representatives from an Anglican school in the Western region.

Despite the challenges posed by tough opponents, our boys displayed exemplary teamwork and determination in every game. Although the pool rounds presented formidable challenges and the outcomes weren't in our favour, the boys faced each match with grit and determination, demonstrating commendable sportsmanship on and off the court. It's worth noting that many of our players are in Year 11 or Year 10, competing against teams composed predominantly of Year 12 students, this speaks volumes about their courage and commitment. This tournament provided our boys with invaluable exposure to metro style basketball, offering insights into the nuances and differences compared to their usual country basketball format.



We're immensely proud of their adaptability and eagerness to learn, reflecting positively on their character and dedication to the sport. A special note of appreciation goes to Mr. Terry Nye for his invaluable support in ensuring a safe and smooth journey to and from the carnival. His dedication is truly commendable and greatly appreciated by the entire team and staff.

While this year's AICES Schools Cup may have concluded, it marks just the beginning of our basketball journey. The experiences gained from this tournament will undoubtedly serve as a solid foundation for our future endeavours. With determination and continued effort, we are confident that our team will emerge even stronger and more prepared for the challenges ahead in the coming years. Congratulations to all the boys on a remarkable first experience at the AICES Schools Cup. Your hard work and dedication have set a high standard for the years to come. We look forward to cheering you on as you continue to strive for excellence in basketball and beyond.







<u>Recruiting.</u> It is still not too late to join. Come along on a Monday night for a "try before you buy" session or speak to Mr Nye, Mr Player or Mr Reid at school.

<u>Anzac Day.</u> This is during the holiday break - ALL unit members not absent on holiday are asked to attend. The unit will march behind the veterans in the Orange city march from the Services Club to Robertson Park. The RSL sub Branch have also requested we carry flags and banners. We will meet at OAGS at 8am to check uniforms and practice marching. We will also ensure everyone is well hydrated and has a snack before being transported by coach into the city. A detailed information sheet will be issued before the end of Term.

<u>AFX (Annual Field Exercise) 28 Sep-5Oct.</u> This will be held at the Singleton Army Field Training Area adjacent to the military camp. Please note the corrected dates – it is the first week of the NSW state school holidays **<u>BUT</u>** it is the **middle week** of the OAGS holidays.

#### Dates for your Diary

9 & 10 Mar 6 & 7 Apr	Orange Running Festival support - community engagement Recruit Induction weekend & Uniform Issue - Rank, Staff and Recruits
7-15 Apr	Adventure Training Award (Tasmania) volunteer
25 Apr	ANZAC DAY – march in Orange - ALL
6-13 Jul	NSW BDE Promotion Courses – selected cadets only
8-9 May	<b>T2 Bivouac</b> – ALL – Lewis Ponds – To be confirmed
26-28 Jul	Term 3 Biv - Cudal
28 Sep- 5 Oct	AFX (Annual Camp) - Singleton

CAPT (AAC) Terry Nye Officer Commanding 252 ACU

#### **Chess** Club

<u>NSW Secondary Schools (Western Region) Competition</u>. The draw has been released and there are 20 teams entered in our region this year. We will play Orange Christian School in the coming weeks for the first Round.

During Term 2 and 3 we run a school competition to determine the champions of upper and lower Secondary and Primary School. We also take students to represent the school at external competitions.

<u>Master Class</u> – Available to stage 3 and senior school students on Wednesdays 3.30-4.30pm to learn from Mr Cummins. Players who would like to represent the school should consider attending these sessions.

Mr Terry Nye Chess Coordinator

### Seeking Support Inaugural OAGS Sports Academy Ball

Save the Date Sports Academy Ball Saturday 3rd August 2024

#### The Plan

Orange Anglican Grammar School Parents and Friends are extremely excited to announce that an Inaugural OAGS Sports Academy Ball will be held in 2024!

The proposal for the Inaugural OACS Sports Academy Ball has been developed by parents and carers who would like to assist in providing much needed resources to support the grass roots development of sport at our school for all children. If you would like more information about the event contact the committee via the P&F email.

## How can you get support the event?



Sponsor the event



Donate goods and services for the auction and raffles



Organise a table of family and friends to attend the event



Purchase vouchers from your favourite store to donate as prizes



PARENTS & FRIENDS

ASSOCIATION



**Contact Us** 

Make a donation to the event if you can't attend

oagspandf@gmail.com

**The Annual Orange Community Easter Festival** has been running for over 30 years. This year we are back in Robertson Park with activities and events galore for all the family. The best thing about the Festival is that it is all FREE! Yes, even the food, drink and fairy floss!! We have some great artists lined up to entertain us, some interviews with key people and OAGS will be involved! Put this date in your diary; Sunday MARCH 24th from 12-3pm. And remember it's not too late if you wish to get involved. Email <u>orangeeasterfestival@gmail.com</u> or search our Facebook page. Let's Celebrate Jesus together this Easter!







