From the Principal

THE SEASON OF ADVENT
The following prayer was prepared by Ms Iwatani’s Year 6 class and presented at last Monday’s assembly.

The season of Advent, the time of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas and the start of the liturgical year in the Roman Catholic Church. Last Sunday was the beginning of Advent when the first candle of the Advent wreath was lit in our churches. May we reflect on what the candles of the wreath represent in our lives.

- The **1st Sunday of Advent** (purple) symbolises Hope with the “Prophet’s Candle” reminding us that Jesus is coming.
- The **2nd Sunday of Advent** (purple) symbolises Faith with the “Bethlehem Candle” reminding us of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem.
- The **3rd Sunday of Advent** (pink) symbolises Joy with the “Shepherd’s Candle” reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.
- The **4th Sunday of Advent** (purple) symbolises Peace with the “Angel’s Candle” reminding us of the message of the angels: “Peace on Earth, Goodwill Towards Men.”

In this holy season of Advent we are called to better ourselves for the birth of Jesus Christ. The season of advent is here so that we may prepare the way for the Lord. In this period we should reflect and think over what we have done during the year. Are we in the inn where there is no room for Jesus or are we in the stable with him?

We all need to find our way into the stable and there we all need to reflect, listen and learn. May the light of Christ be within us to protect us, to guide us and to open our hearts and minds to touch others with the goodness of the Lord.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS
On behalf of the College, I wish all members of the St Pius X College community every Christmas blessing and pray that each of you enjoy a happy and holy Christmas season. I thank each of you for your contribution to College life for 2015 and look forward with great anticipation to 2016.
INVITATION TO MASS: Parents are most welcome to join us for the end of year Mass for Years 5 – 10 this Friday in Our Lady of Dolours Parish Church commencing at 10.00am.

STAFF MOVEMENTS FOR 2016: It is with deep appreciation and acknowledgement of service that I recognise those staff who are departing the College this year. On behalf of the College I thank each of them and there is no doubt just how much the students and their colleagues will miss them. We ask God’s blessing on their journey into the future and for their families.

Mr Andrew Scanlon (Year 6) and Ms Rebecca Noonan (Year 5) are moving to Queensland with their family. Mr Justin Hodges (e-Learning Coordinator) has accepted the position of Leader of Governance and Communication at Marist Sisters College Woolwich. This is a Leadership Team position. Ms Jizella Akkari (REC Curriculum) has accepted the position of Pastoral Care Coordinator at Lasalle Catholic College Bankstown. This is also a Leadership Team position. Ms Monique Braun (Maths Department) is taking up a position at Shore School, and we also thank Mrs Robyn Withford (Primary School) and Mrs Trish Crampton (Art Department) who each took on temporary positions this year replacing staff on leave.

There are also a number of staff taking leave for 2016. Ms Rachel Mowle (Science) has taken 12 months leave, Mrs Natalie Rawle has taken Maternity leave for 2016 and Mrs Joe McCarthy has taken Maternity leave. We wish both of them every blessing as they await the joys of the arrival of their new baby/babies. We also wish Mr Tony Cunneen a relaxing time for his long service leave in Term 1, 2016.

Last but not least, I once again acknowledge with sincere appreciation, the service of Mr Jim Olson for the past 23 years as the Deputy Principal. As is well known, Mr Olson will continue at the College next year in the role of Special Projects Officer.

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE: Congratulations to Nicholas Parker, Adrian Currington, Michael Currington and Samuel Massey for achieving the highest level in the Premier’s Challenge. Please see Mrs Keighery’s report later in this newsletter.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE AND FOOD FOR SVDP HAMPERS: Sincere thanks to the many parents who have sent in toys and food and goods for our two Christmas Appeals. These will really make a difference. When our Year 10 Immersion students went to St Joseph’s at Walgett last week, the children asked “Are you from the school that gives us the Christmas presents?” When the boys said they were, the children were so grateful and said how much they look forward to them.

YOUR BUILDING FUND IN PROGRESS: Progress on the Science Block continues well as you can see from this photo. All is on track for completion by the start of the 2016 school year.

YEAR 12 BBQ: The HSC results are released on Wednesday 16 December and the ATARS are released on Thursday 17 December. A reminder to our Year 12 2015 students that there is a BBQ for all students in the Junior School Playground (Baby Brother) on Thursday 17 December starting from 10.30am. All welcome.

TWILIGHT CONCERT: Congratulations to all from the Performing Arts department on a wonderful concert last Friday evening. There is a full report later and some photos in the Performing Arts section of this Woodchatta.

PLD RETIREMENTS FOR YEAR 6, 8 AND 10 STUDENTS: For some families, this device is surplus to their needs and if this is the case for your family, I would like to invite your consideration of donating the device and the College who will provide this to one of our partner schools which has desperate needs in technology. If you feel that your retired PLD will be of limited use in your home, the College will arrange for its use in one of two (2) Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) Flexi Centres. The two schools in great need are The Haven Flexi Centre, Gosford and St Mary’s Flexi Centre, Penrith. These Flexi centres are part of Youth+ which is the arm of EREA focussed on youth who are disenfranchised from mainstream education and they offer education services in flexible, inclusive and welcoming communities. A letter regarding this will be sent home upon re-imaging of your son’s device this week.

MESSAGE FROM MRS HELEN COONEY, PRINCIPAL OF ST JOSEPH’S WALGETT: “I just wanted to say how humble we all felt when I told the staff about the generous donation from the staff and students at St Pius X College Chatswood. Please give our best wishes to all and let them know we are putting the donation towards our Multipurpose Court. We appreciate everything that you College does to support us.”

MESSAGE FROM BR KEVIN RYAN – CALLAN SERVICES Br Ryan has sent a beautiful letter of appreciation for our donation of $15,000 from Founders Day, see Woodchatta Extras.

2016 CHRISTMAS CARDS
The Annual College Christmas Cards will go on sale from next week, in packs of 10, at the Uniform Shop. These cards have been designed by Year 7 students and depict the Star of Christmas, encompassing all that Christmas means to us.

Mr John Couani
From the Assistant Principal – Mission and Identity

Last week Mr Blake and Ms Foord along with Daniel Greenland, Matthew Hall, Andrew Jackson and Daniel Warren spent the week at St Mary’s Primary School Bowraville. The school is 20 kilometres inland from Macksville, on the north coast of New South Wales and is made up of 90% indigenous students whose backgrounds are less fortunate than others. The Staff, led by their Principal, Mr Brendan Kelly, provide an amazing level of education that goes way beyond the classroom. We were able to work as Teacher’s Aides in the classrooms and prepare lunch for them all on Thursday.

At the same time Rory Beattie, James Habib, Brodie Jones and Joshua Thrum accompanied by myself, ventured to St Joseph’s School Walgett for our Immersion experience. Our boys similarly enjoyed the interaction with the children at St Joseph’s with half the students being Indigenous. The twelve hour trek by train and car to Walgett from Sydney on Monday, certainly highlighted the isolation of this area. Our boys learned much of the struggles the children face as well as the different challenges that life in the bush presents. Both Immersions were privileged to be taken around by the local aboriginal elders to learn firsthand experience of the aboriginal culture and especially bush tucker. The contributions that Pius has given over the years are greatly appreciated and our College is well known to both the Bowraville and Walgett children. The students open thanked our boys for the Christmas presents. Mrs Cooney, Principal of Walgett, declared that for some of her children, this would be the only present they would receive.

Our third Immersion experience was with St Edmund’s, Wahroonga. Our four young men, Dermot Beattie, Jacob Crisafulli, Angus Dingley and Joe Unwin worked closely with the students and assisted the Staff in duties in a very full four day program, sharing with the students their skills and equaling coming to know about the gifts and vast array of talents of the students at St Edmund’s.

These immersion experiences are a truly wonderful opportunity and life changing experiences for our young men and all twelve of Year 10 gentlemen were outstanding in all they did. We have received constant praise of these young men’s involvement, initiative and kindness that they gained for our College, their families and themselves.

Many thanks for the contributions to our three Christmas Appeals. Under the tree and around the crib are bulging in our foyer due to your many generous donations. If you would like to contribute to the Giving Tree, you can simply label the present with gender and age (5-12), that would be greatly appreciated.

Our non-perishables goods contributions for our St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal hampers also continues to grow and finally, any of the following items are greatly appreciated for the Men of the Matthew Talbot Hostel:

- Toiletries (in particular deodorant and shaving foam)
- Men’s underpants and socks (various sizes)
- Packets of playing cards and puzzle books
- Inexpensive wallets (e.g. from $2 shops or Woolworths)
- Caps
- Key ring Torches
- Men’s Handkerchiefs
- Small packets of lollies
- Small writing pads and pens
- Environmentally friendly shopping bags to put the gifts in (e.g. the green ones)

All collections are gathered tomorrow, so please feel free to send any final donations by tomorrow morning, Thursday 3rd December. Thank you so very much for your very generous contributions.

Our final Monday College Assembly was led in Prayer by Ms Iwatani’s 6 Blue class who explained the Season of Advent sharing the significance of LOVE, FAITH, JOY and HOPE as we prepare to celebrate not only the birth of Jesus but also his presence in our lives.

Our End of Year Mass commencing at 10am on Friday, the 4th December in Our Lady of Dolours Church, Chatswood. It is also an opportunity to commission our new Eucharistic Ministers. Parents are most welcome.

May the message of Christmas reverberate with all our families as we continue through this Season of Advent as we prepare for the celebration of the Birth of Christ. As the second purple candle is lit on this coming second Sunday of Advent, may our prayer be:

O King of all nations, Jesus Christ,  
only joy of every heart,  
come and save your people.
From the Assistant Principal – Teaching and Learning

With the issue of Semester 2 reports going live on the portal late this week, there is the opportunity to clarify with your son’s teachers any aspect of students’ academic progress. Please contact the teacher on Monday 7th December when they should be able to speak to you briefly. Please recognise that teachers are involved with extensive professional development from external providers on Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th December and may not be able to get back to you immediately.

Mr A Damo

From the Social Justice Coordinator

St Pius X College has finished the year strongly in Social Justice. The Edmund Rice Society have been very active with discussion of 2016 ERS topics and the “Books for Timor Lestre” stationary, text and writing book collection that is run this Friday.

Year 10 Immersions to Bowraville, Walgett and Wahroonga. Eight St Pius X students and three teachers experience working in North-Western NSW. They were fully immersed in the Aboriginal cultural life with Indigenous nature walks and working one on one within the primary school communities. Four other St Pius X students spent the week working one on one with St Edmund’s College students at Wahroonga. St Edmund’s is an EREA secondary college for students Years 7 to 12 with a wide range of disabilities including sensory impairment, intellectual disability and autism.

Year 7 have been very busy collecting Christmas presents for primary aged children. These will go to both St Mary’s Primary School Bowraville and St Joseph’s Primary School Walgett, both schools St Pius continue to support. Year 9 have been collecting Christmas food hampers as well, these will be distributed to needy families in Sydney and the Central Coast. The Edmund Rice Society have been collecting men’s toiletries for the Matthew Talbot Christmas appeal.

Willowood Aged Care were treated to an SPX Christmas choir consisting of Matthew Ross, Michael Haratzis, Matthew Chicco, Chris Lanzon, Oliver Tysoe, John Paul Shahady, Ms Tracey Bates and Mr John Couani. The choir was accompanied on piano by Ms Stella Waddington. This was the final visit for 2015 but both St Pius Social Justice and the Willowood residence look forward to resuming Monday afternoon visits in 2016.

It is good to see there are a large amount of Social Justice projects that St Pius X College students, staff and families are currently involved in. We are a generous community.

Mr D Blake – Social Justice Coordinator

From the Head of Student Services

Students are reminded that they need to adhere to the College’s standards of uniform, haircuts, grooming, punctuality and behaviour, throughout the remainder of 2015 and into 2016. We can be very proud of the standing of our students and College in the community, but must continue to strive to maintain that standing through the representation of all of our community. No exceptions and don’t stop before the finish line!

Mr S Brannan – Head of Student Services

Language Department

The Language Department is happy to announce that the 2016 French Tour will be run next year. Mr Couani has also announced today the participating teachers accompanying the students as Ms Sumner (French Teacher), Ms Grove (French Teacher) and Mr Olson (Deputy Principal). We will look forward to more news on the tour in 2016.
We wish all the families and students a wonderful Christmas and great break.

Ms K Manga – Teacher in Charge of LOTE
White Ribbon Day
Last Wednesday, 25th November, marked the annual White Ribbon Day. Students and Staff were quick to show their support for White Ribbon Day, a day that highlights the need to stand against any violence – but particularly violence towards women. Some students assisted in the making of the Ribbons that were on offer to our community as they arrived at school on Wednesday, and our students and staff wore these ribbons proudly throughout the day.

‘White Ribbon Day’ official staff visiting Chatswood for community events, reported to one of our teachers that they were most impressed with our senior students’ ability to articulate the message of this day and that they would wear ribbons demonstrating to the broader community their solidarity for this cause.

The students here are very lucky to have such solid, positive male role models in their lives – be that at school or at home.

Well done, to all at St Pius X for supporting such an important value and message in our society.

Ms S-J Grove - Edmund Rice Society Member

Your P&F In Action!
THANK YOU to all the Class Parents and Social Co-ordinators who have worked hard throughout 2015 to create so many successful events for the boys and their families. Thank you also to the many volunteers who have been available to help when the call for helpers has gone out!

We at the P&F wish all College families and friends a wonderful, safe and happy Christmas and New Year. See you in 2016!

DATE FOR DIARY - Saturday 13th February 2016: P&F Family Welcome Mass and Light Supper
All Families are invited to the P & F Commencement Mass on Saturday 13th February 2016 at 5.30pm in Our Lady of Dolours Church, followed by a BBQ in the College grounds.

Reminders about RSVPing will be in Woodchatta early in 2016, but feel free to RSVP anytime via the P&F website

Nadine Robson - SPX P&F Secretary / Communications

PLD Program Renewal For 2016
Our negotiations have now been completed and details about the renewal of the PLD Program for students in Years 5, 7, 9 & 11 in 2016 will be mailed home later this week. Please look out for the information pack in your mail.

Mr Justin Hodges, eLearning Coordinator and Mr Andrew Ballesty, Business Manager

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal
YEAR 9 are leading the food appeal to go to our local St Vincent de Paul families. Christmas is one of the peak times of the year where many individuals and families experiencing hardship turn to Vinnies for support. Christmas is also one of the times of the year where St Pius X generously supports the community through non-perishable food donations. Thursday is the last chance to donate.

Each morning Year 9 boys collect items from each homeroom. Please give generously.

Mr P Stollery – Year 9 Guidance Coordinator
Performing Arts News

TWILIGHT CONCERT

There are many people to thank for making this fantastic night such a memorable experience: Performers: Senior, Intermediate and Junior Percussion Ensembles, Guitar Ensembles, Concert and Jazz Bands; Intermediate and Senior String Ensembles; Senior and Junior Choirs; Vocal and Drama Ensembles and the College Orchestra; Ensemble Directors: Mrs Stella Talati, Mr Jonathan Dollin, Mr Geoff Power, Mr Shane Cranney, Mr Ian Talati, Mr Joshua Combes and Ms Natalie Rawle; Accompanists: Ms Stephanie Gan and Ms Stella Waddington; Teaching Staff: Ms Jizella Akkari and Ms Jessie Tu; Performing Arts Captain Stewart Ross and Vice-Captain Matthew Ross; Cultural Prefects: Patrick McKenzie and Thomas Benson; Stage Crew: Hunter Clark, Benjamin Di Tomasso, Hamish Alexander, John-Paul Shahady, Nicholas McLachlan and Oliver Tysoe; Sound Engineer: Mr Stephen Cummins; Support Staff: Mrs Cathy Jellema and Mrs Maxine Hunt; Maintenance Staff: Mr Wayne Burling, Mr Andrew Darbin and Mr Mark Harvey; Photographer: Mr John Couani; and last but by no means least the Performing Arts Parents Association.

ENSEMBLE PLACEMENTS 2016

Students who attended auditions on Saturday the 7th and 14th of November will be advised of their result by email during the week of December 14th. There may also be a need to move existing students in order to accommodate the large number of new students who auditioned. These students will also be notified by email.

JUNIOR SCHOOL PRIZE DAY

The Junior Choir and Junior Jazz Band will be performing THIS Thursday 3rd December at Oxford Falls. The students will travel to and from Oxford Falls with the Junior School and will return to the College in time for dismissal at 3.15pm. Those Junior Jazz Band boys who are in Years 7 and 8 should wear their summer uniform and ensure that they bring recess and lunch.

BAND ROOM

The roof of the Band Room is being replaced over the holidays. Consequently, all students must ensure that they take their instruments home on or before Friday. There will be NO ACCESS to the Band Room from Monday 7th December.

AMEB RESULTS

Congratulations to Ethan Camp (Year 5) and Samuel Pavely (Year 6) for attaining Honours and a Credit respectively in their recent Grade 3 Trumpet Examination.

AND FINALLY

……….thank you to all students who have participated in the Performing Arts Program at the College this year. There have been some truly wonderful and inspiring performances. I wish everyone a happy, holy and safe Christmas. I look forward to seeing you all in 2016.

Ms T Bates – Performing Arts Coordinator
FROM THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) holiday activities

There are a number of activities that students interested in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) can get involved in over the school holidays and beyond. Australia’s Chief Scientist describes STEM knowledge as crucial to Australia’s future. The following support the NSW curriculum study and provide opportunities for students to apply their knowledge beyond the classroom.

- The STEM video games challenge is an annual competition suitable for Year 5 students upwards to develop games. Viewing the 2015 winners may encourage students to work towards the 2016 competition using the linked resources.
- Science by doing has units of work for children from Year 3 that both entertain and educate students about Science and Engineering.
- Bridge design software, which includes simulated forces and costs, is available free from Engineering Encounters. It is suitable for Year 5 students upwards, who can participate in an international online competition.
- Engquest is an Australian initiative to interest students from Year 4 to Year 8 in engineering. The site has a number of quizzes and challenges that provide good information and engaging practical activities.
- Girl Code will run computer programming activities for girls in Years 5 to 8 in early January in Sydney, Western Sydney and Wollongong.
- Exhibition: Designing Your Future at Sydney Olympic Park, which showcases the work of South Western Sydney Institute’s Lidcombe design students, runs from Monday 5 December to the end of January and is suitable for all students.
- The Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (PowerHouse Museum) has hands on workshops for children available at different times and for varying age groups.
- The National Computer Science Summer School, is a wonderful opportunity to work with tech savvy students for teachers of all year groups, who are looking for a holiday activity.

For more information, contact Peter Thompson, Inspector, Technology Education peter.thompson@bostes.nsw.edu.au (02) 9367 8454

Ms J Black – Science Coordinator

Dr Paul Payne
Sydney Observatory
Einstein’s Theory of Relativity in 3D Lecture

After originally being cancelled for our Year 12 HSC Class in April due to the storms, our Physics HSC class of 2016 were able to attend this important HSC syllabus related lecture last Thursday from 6 – 8pm at the Historic Sydney Observatory. Dr Payne’s lecture explained the derivation of the Relativistic concepts and formulae around both time - length contraction and dilation.

Accepting C – the speed of light in a vacuum as a constant which cannot be exceeded, the constructs of length and time become variable at relativistic speeds (those approaching C or 3x 10^8), ie if C is constant then concepts such as time and distance become relative to the frames of reference of the object in motion and the observer.

Our students were also able to tour the iconic Sydney Observatory towers and telescopes which were originally developed to measure the transit of Venus decades after Lt James Cook was sent to Tahiti aboard the Endeavour to pursue the same scientific mission and subsequently search for “Terra Australis” – The Great Southern Land!

This leap from Newtonian Mechanical Physics to Einstein’s Theory of Relativity was a scientific development which now 100 years on provides an important basis for the concepts, calculations and higher order understanding required at HSC level Physics and beyond. The students learned much and highly recommend the experience to future physicists. Particularly following our International Year of Light Excursion to Siding Springs Observatory, Coonabarabran and the Warrumbungle.

SPX HSC Physics students interview Dr Paul Payne and inspect the Sydney Observatory historic telescope during last Thursday night’s Einstein’s Relativity Lecture.

Mr S Brannan
Australian Business Week 2015
Our Year 10 students have just completed Australian Business Week for 2015. The activity based program was undertaken at SPX and Oxford Falls across the week. The range tasks undertaken included a Trade Display, Video Commercial, A written report, Web Site Design and an Oral Presentation. Teamwork was key. The overall winning group was Vardis followed by Mad Dog Enterprises with Blitz in third place.

Many thanks go to our group of external mentors; Mr Danny John of Westpac; Mr John Whalley of Renault; Ms Channel Lobo of Dentavision, Mr Philip Cronin of Intel. Mr Phil Cameron, Mr John Towns, Mr Andrew Ballesty and former SPX students Tom and Jack Murphy; Luca Monk, Toby Kerr, Andrew Swann, Daniel Saouma, Ben Kinchington and Liam Carroll all gave their time. Thanks to them!

Year 5 Excursion to The Kokoda Memorial Walkway, Bray's Bay Reserve Concord
Our Year 5 students were highly commended for both their knowledge and exemplary behaviour while attending the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway last Friday. Australian Service Veterans, some of whom saw action on the Kokoda Track in the 1942 Owen Stanley campaign, and are therefore now in their 90s, provided a first-hand account of the iconic examples of Courage, Mateship, Honour and Sacrifice which were hallmarks of the campaign.

After recent visits from Br Kevin Ryan, Principal of EREA’s Callan Services in PNG, and members of the St Pius X College Community who have hiked the Track, our boys were highly informed and greatly respectful of the situation and occasion about which they were learning. Our Class Captains distinguished themselves in leading the wreath laying ceremony at the Memorial Shrine, and every student listened respectfully as they toured the memorial stations. Well done to Mrs Williams, Mr Carroll, Mr Scanlan and Mr Abbott for preparing the boys so diligently, and to the Year 8 and 9 students: O Tysoe, D Langreiter, H Pfeiffer, E Mendoza, R Ryan and P Baker who lead the Year 5 Groups as potential members of the SPX 2016 Kokoda Track Expedition Team.

The name plaques of service personnel against which our students laid miniature poppies will form the basis of a research task in classes this week. And given the students’ level of interest we may well be able to field another Kokoda Track Expedition in 2018/2020.

Duke of Edinburgh’s Award
Congratulations to Alexander McLarty (Year 10) who was awarded with his long awaited Bronze Certificate for fulfilling the requirements of this world re-known International Award. Alex has been a committed Duke of Edinburgh student, completing the Bronze and since moving onto the Silver Level.

He has been involved in squash and trail-riding for physical activity, volunteered as an assistant in a Child-care Centre for Service and developed his artistic talent using Art for his Skill section of the Award. Finally, Alex has attended Outdoor Education with Mr de Silva and used this towards completing his Adventurous Journey. Congratulations Alex and good luck with the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award.
Year 6 Robotics – First Lego League
On Monday this week, 16 of our Year 6 Robotics Club students competed in the F.L.L. (First Lego League) Regional competition hosted at Narrabeen Sports High School. The theme for this year’s challenge was Trash Trek. As this was the first competition for our Year 6 students, team “Robo-penguins” and team “Robocops” gained valuable experience with regards to planning, preparation, programming, building and team work. In addition to the Robot Table Challenge the boys were presented with a range of activities including a project presentation and an interview on Core Values.

Congratulations to the boys for their efforts. A big thank you must also go to Mr ten Seldam for his efforts in mentoring the boys.

A First for St Pius X
Congratulations to Year 9’s Nicholas, Adrian, Michael and Samuel who completed the NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) to the highest level. Mr Couani commended these students on this great achievement as he awarded the prestigious ‘Medal’ at this week’s assembly. They enter the ‘Pius Book of Records’ as the first students to achieve this outstanding reading award.

The PRC recently opened to the senior school allowing students to continue on with the PRC commenced in Primary school. While many begin the Challenge, very few complete it. These students demonstrated their commitment to reading, completing the Challenge every year from Year 3 to Year 9, what an achievement!

RC Medalists: Nicholas, Adrian, Michael and Samuel

Year 9 Interactive Ceroc Dance Day with Brigidine College
The qualities demonstrated by our Year 9 cohort in terms of: respectful interaction, inclusion, cooperation, teamwork and, not least of all, coordination, were highlights of the way our young men conducted themselves on Monday as we hosted Brigidine College’s Year 9 students to a day of Ceroc Dance lessons and participation at our Oxford Falls Campus.

Thank you to the staff and students of both schools and dance instructors for the part each played in the success of the day.

In an initiative which was a first for both schools, the spirit and manner in which our students entered into a challenging, fun and rewarding day, went a long way to ensuring the ongoing spirit of cooperation between the two schools. Building upon our recent interaction in events like the Snowy Hikes, Musical and Drama Performances and Assessment, Anzac Ceremony Bugling and the like, the way Year 9 represented the College in this instance was highly encouraging and demonstrated a level of maturity and responsibility befitting the standards we set for ourselves.
Year 8 French Breakfast

The Sarto Centre was transformed into a little French Café last Wednesday, complete with the atmosphere of a French Accordion player, as Year 8 French students celebrate the end of Year 8 French studies with some French food and culture. Our visitors decked out the room with French cloths, flags and posters from all over France. The students were served Hot chocolate in the traditional French bowl style, and enjoyed some typical French breakfast foods such as baguettes and croissants with jam, along with ‘Pain au Chocolat’. As students ate their way through the French feast, there was the opportunity to learn about characters of the French Revolution and French explorers and their voyages to our region of the world. Thanks to Mademoiselle Sumner for her organisation of this activity, which our students thoroughly enjoyed!

Bon Appetit!

Our Year 9 French students were treated to a 4 course gastronomical feast last Wednesday. The staff at Bistro Mémé in Gladesville were very hospitable and spoke to our boys only in French to create an authentic French café experience. As we relaxed in the courtyard, we listened to iconic French music such as Edith Piaf. Adorned with traditional red berets, we enjoyed an amuse bouche (a small bite-sized course to excited the palate) featuring cucumber, mango and herb cream.

For entrée the boys were adventurous and tried escargots (snails) for the first time. Surprisingly, most of them enjoyed it and said that it reminded them of mushrooms. Some were torn between whether they enjoyed the main or dessert more. We dined on filet mignon with pommes Lyonnaises and a red wine jus followed by passionfruit soufflé with vanilla bean ice cream and chocolate sauce, as well as salted caramel parfait with fresh figs.

We all agreed that it was the perfect way to bring a year of French studies to a close. It was great to see the boys practising their French and enjoying trying authentic French dishes for the first time. Thank you to Mr Stollery for driving us all on the school mini bus and for joining Year 9 in this memorable experience.

Homework Help

***Homework Help has a new home until the end of the year***

Due to the upcoming renovations and closure of the senior library block, the Homework Help program has relocated to:

- Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons - Junior School Library, and
- Thursday afternoons - top of A Wing.

Homework Help is held every Tuesday to Thursday inclusive after school from 3.15pm - 4.00pm. Students are to be actively engaged in school work, reading or study. All ages and levels of ability are welcome to attend, so come along and take advantage of the service.

Ms J Raheb-Mol – Coordinator, Learning Support and Enrichment
Careers News

University Bridging Courses

Many universities offer bridging courses in a range of areas. These courses are designed to provide students with the necessary information to study certain courses and replace pre-requisites for certain courses. For example, bridging courses can be offered in science so that students can undertake a science degree without having studied science at high school. These courses are generally run in the lead up to first semester admissions.

For more information, check your desired course & university to see if bridging courses are available.

Macquarie University: https://web.science.mq.edu.au/bridging-courses/
University of New South Wales: http://www.science.unsw.edu.au/future-students/bridging-courses
Australian National University: http://www.anu.edu.au/study/apply/preparatory-bridging-courses


Ms D Janes – Careers Adviser

Learning Enrichment Notices

Looking for something fun to challenge and engage your son in the holidays? AccessMQ at Macquarie University will be offering the Junior Science Academy Enrichment Program for primary school aged children in the January school holidays. Their program includes experiences involving creative arts, physical activities and experiments to demonstrate ideas and phenomena, to help students develop their understanding.

If you are interested, there are exciting topics for your son in Years 5-7 to enjoy and learn about. The course organisers recommend that you enrol your child into the course that corresponds to the school year that they will be going into in 2016.

All topics are designed for all children and no previous experience or understanding of science is needed. You will find a list of the activities for each topic on the website link. Sample new topics running in January 2016 include:

- Engineering: Symmetry (Years 3-6)
- Computer Science: Coding (Years 5-7)
- The science of Ancient Greece (Years 4-6)
- Simple and compound machines (Years 3-6)

Please see the January 2016 program and Enrol now

Ms J Raheb-Mol, Coordinator, Learning Support and Enrichment

Junior School News

Junior Prize giving Presentation

Our Junior School prize giving day will occur at Oxford Falls on Thursday 3rd December at 12 noon at Oxford Falls and will conclude at 2.15pm. We will acknowledge with a pennant every boys major extra curricular contributions (not one off events but seasons). We will also acknowledge sports that haven’t already had a prize giving night. They are Swimming, Athletics, Cross Country, Chess, Debating, Tennis, Softball and Basketball. We will also acknowledge the Academic endeavours of the boys with subject and class FIDE ET LABORE awards, the PB Wilson Award and the scholarship winners. Boys wear their full summer uniform on this day, not their sports uniform. I realise that parents are trying to make the boys school shoes survive till the end of the year due to the likely growth spurt over the Christmas break but please get your son to put some boot polish on them for Thursday.

Reports

Reports will be mailed this week. If there are any queries, the staff will be at school on Monday and Tuesday but they have meetings. Please send an email or phone and they will be able to answer any queries.
Requirements for next year
For boys going from Year 6 into Year 7, you are encouraged to buy a Maths Pack from the uniform shop. For boys going into Year 6 you may wish to purchase a Stationery Kit or do your own. The stationery kit contains:

Junior School Classroom Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stationary Kit</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 x 96 page A4 Exercise books with margins *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 x Music Exercise Book 96 page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 x Maths Grid Book 10mm x 10mm *</td>
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<td>1 x Highlighter</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 x 30cm Plastic Ruler</td>
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<td>1 x pencil case</td>
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<td>1 x Maped Compass *</td>
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<td>1 x Highlighter</td>
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<td>1 x Scissors 15cm</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 x A4 Spiral Sketch Book Q534</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 x 2B &amp; 3 x HB Lead Pencils</td>
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Also required but not included in stationery kit:
1 x Art Shirt , 1 x Box Tissues, *1 x Calligraphy Pen,* 1 x Usb ,*1 X Library Bag, *Calculator.
*All these items are available for purchase from the College Uniform Shop.

End of Year Mass
The boys will be going to Mass this Friday at 10.00am. Parents are most welcome to attend. It is a Mass of thanks and as we are in Advent, it is a Mass of preparation for the coming of the Christ child. Please remember to keep Christ in Christmas.

Next Year
School starts on the 28th January with the boys coming in their school uniform, NOT their sports uniform on a Thursday. It will be a normal, ‘gettin organised’ day and we will have a welcome cup of tea for the parents. If any existing parents can assist on that morning that would be great. We will have a full sports trial day on the Friday 27th January.

Monday 1st February will be an information night for 5.6 and 7. Years 5 and 6 will commence at 6.30pm and Year 7 at 7.30pm. The Junior School swimming carnival is on 3rd February and parents are most welcome to attend.

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<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
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Thanking you for your support.

Mr T Long – Head of Junior School
Senior School Sport
Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the successful year that was Sport 2015. We should all be very proud of the effort our boys have made in representing the College in every Sporting Field. Thank you for your support in all that they have done. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you all in 2016.

Mr M Stearn – Senior Sportsmaster

CRICKET
ISA Round 4 – Rescheduled Saturday 28 November 2015

ISA Standings
At the Christmas break the 1st XI are in second place, and the 2nd XI are in fourth place.

2016 Christian Brothers Cricket Week – Queensland Tour
Over the period 10-18 January 2016 a combined 1st and 2nd XI squad will travel to Brisbane to compete in the 37th Christian Brothers Carnival. This year there are 30 teams participating. The touring party comprises:
Alex Graffeo, Tom Graziotto, Matt Hall, Harry Heaney (vc), Luke Humphrey, Sam John, Matt Kennedy, Christian King, Max Magee (c), Ned McDermott-Healey, Nick Onslow, Pat Purcell, Tim Robertson, Will Roser and James White.

Green Shield
The A.W. Green Shield is the premier U16 Cricket competition is Sydney. Contested between Sydney Grade Cricket Clubs. This year the following student will compete: Joe Unwin (North Sydney DCC), Liahm Williams (Gordon DCC), James Brown (Gordon DCC) and Dermott Beattie (Gordon DCC).

District Cricket
Players and parents are reminded:
• MWJCA competitions break for Christmas after 5 December 2015 and resume on 30 January 2016.
• NSJCA competitions break for Christmas after 19 December 2015 and resume on 30 January 2016.
• Training with Cricket Appeal coaches for all District teams has concluded for 2015 and will resume in Week 2 of Term 1 2016.

Mr D Reay - Convener

BOXERCISE FOR FITNESS & FUN
Boxercise is available for all students every Thursday and Friday morning at 7.30am in the Blue Room. Please contact Mr Russo if you have any queries.

HOLIDAY SARTO GYM OPENING TIMES
The Sarto Gym will continue to operate for all students of the College during the school holidays under the supervision of Francis Cullimore. This is an invitation to current SPX students only. Students using the gym are reminded that a certain level of hygiene is expected and that towels must be used at all times. The gym will operate from 9am to 11am on the following dates:

- Monday 7 December
- Monday 14 December
- Monday 21 December
- Monday 4 January
- Monday 11 January
- Monday 18 January
- Monday 25 January
- Wednesday 9 December
- Wednesday 16 December
- Wednesday 23 December
- Wednesday 6 January
- Wednesday 13 January
- Wednesday 20 January
- Wednesday 27 January
- Friday 11 December
- Friday 18 December
- Friday 8 January
- Friday 15 January
- Friday 22 January

Junior School Sport

Thursday Sport
No Sport tomorrow. The Junior Academic and Sport Awards Ceremony takes place in lieu of Sport. Boys will depart school at 9am and the afternoon’s ceremony will conclude around 2.15pm (see Jnr School Newsletter for full details).

Thanks once again to all for another huge year of Junior School Sport. The involvement and sportsmanship displayed by all students was superb and I acknowledge our cohort for this. I especially thank the House Captains for their energy and leadership over the year, especially at the Major Carnivals. We once again had much success but more importantly we developed our boys holistically and gave them an opportunity to form closer ownership of the College culture.

I would like to sincerely thank parents for their support over the year. Have a happy and safe Christmas period and I look forward to doing it all again in 2016!

Mr G Virgona – Junior School Sportsmaster
Uniform Shop

TRADING HOURS – MONDAYS, TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS 8.00AM – 2.00PM DURING SCHOOL TERM
The Uniform Shop will closed today and will re-open on Thursday 21 & Friday 22 January from 9am to 2pm.

Opening Hours for Week 1 of Term 1 2016:

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<tr>
<td>January 25th</td>
<td>9am to 2pm</td>
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<td>Tuesday 26th</td>
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<td>Wednesday 27th</td>
<td>8am to 2pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 28th</td>
<td>8am to 2pm</td>
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<td>Friday 29th</td>
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Orders can be placed via the College website [http://www.spix.nsw.edu.au/facilities-resources/dsp-default.cfm?loadref=83](http://www.spix.nsw.edu.au/facilities-resources/dsp-default.cfm?loadref=83) or by sending an email to uniformshop@stpiusx.nsw.edu.au.

- The new College Rain Jacket will be available from late March 2016.
- Parents are reminded that the Uniform Shop also sells second-hand school uniforms.
- Blazer Buttons are available from shop $2.00 each.


Mrs D Muirhead – Coordinator

Canteen Roster

TERM 1, 2016

Thursday 28 January
T Weber, P Rodrigues, A Spencer

Friday 29 January
J Bendall, S Panozzo, D Boustani, L Falsone

COLLEGE ● 35 Anderson Street, Chatswood NSW 2067 P(02) 9411 4733 F(02) 9413 1860
TREACY COMPLEX ● Dreadnought Road, Oxford Falls NSW 2100 P(02) 9451 7375
E admin@stpiusx.nsw.edu.au  www.spix.nsw.edu.au
ABN 50 451 308 630

A CATHOLIC BOYS' COLLEGE IN THE EDMUND RICE TRADITION

1) Letter from Br Kevin Ryan – Callan Services

2) EREA Parent Communication (on behalf of Anthony Ryan)

3) Lifeline Book Sale
2 December 2015

Dear John

**Contribution of $A15,000 to The Network of Callan Services for Persons with Disabilities**

This brief letter is firstly to say a very big ‘thank you’ to St Pius X College for the $15,000 that has been contributed to work of The Network of Callan Services for Persons with Disabilities via Edmund Rice Foundation Australia.

Edmund Rice Foundation Australia continues to be a very significant funding partner for The Network. Over recent years the funding has assisted with:

- Callan Special Education Resource Centres providing services directly to children and adults: informing people (awareness) about disabilities and the rights of persons with disabilities, identifying children and adults who have disabilities, supporting them with assistive devices (wheelchairs, hearing aids, aids for low vision, etc.) and special education services and including children in schools.
- Delivering training to Special Education Resource Centre inclusive education officers (teachers) in special education
- Training of all staff members in The Network in child care safety and protection
- Developing deep collaboration and partnership with Disabled Persons Organisations and Officers of the Government to ensure that we can advocate in a unified way with the Government for higher levels of funding from the Government of PNG

How we use the funding from Edmund Rice Foundation Australia will grow and change, and we will keep the Foundation and you informed of that.

While writing I wish to add my thanks to you, all the staff members whom I met, and the student who made me so welcome on Monday November 23 in classrooms, in the staff room and in the coffee shops nearby. As I said to the Board Members on that night and to the staff members at morning tea, I am very impressed with the spirit of the College and how it works very hard to express the values of Edmund Rice Education in Australia:

The support of the College and your personal support of our work in Papua New Guinea is deeply appreciated.

Yours brother in the dream of Jesus and Edmund

Br Kevin P Ryan
Director
Dear Supporters,

A little over two years ago I took a group of 10 Australian business people to Nairobi for the first Gore Fishing immersion. The immersion centred upon three projects that we partner and support in East Africa. Since that time over 40 business people have now accompanied the Edmund Rice Foundation on this immersion.

Immersions provide powerful experiences that challenge our everyday way of thinking. The only negative of immersions is that most people cannot find the time or the resources to leave Australia for a period of ten days. As a response to this challenge Edmund Rice Foundation has developed a website that allows every Australian the opportunity to visit online any Project in Australia or the world.

Essentially all you need to do is visit the Metanoia Matters website www.metanoia-matters.org and register your willingness to share your knowledge and skills. Our dream is that via Skype or Phone you can help our program and project leaders achieve their goals.

In essence, this is Australia’s first online peer to peer website to link our Project leaders with Australians who want to give more than a donation. All you need to do is give your time and knowledge from the comfort of your own home or business.

Edmund Rice was a businessman who utilised his skills to bring education to the poor, the Metanoia Matters website now allows every Australian to follow his example in a simple yet powerful way.

Anthony Ryan
CEO Edmund Rice Foundation
PROJECT UPDATES: OCEANIA

Comunidade Edmund Rice  East Timor

Pre-school education (TEKA) was tentatively commenced by Comunidade Edmund Rice (CER) in 5 villages in the District of Ratolaco in 2006. Volunteers from New Zealand spearheaded the venture. It involved gaining recognition from the Basic Education Department, staffing, training, resourcing and finding accommodation for the pre-schools. Volunteer builders from various Rotary groups & Terance Timor Network (TTN) from Australia set up a suitable room in each village.

The structure of the TEKA week was:
- classes on 3 days for the children aged 3 - 5 years.
- classes were conducted from 8:30am to mid-day.
- a food program each day for the children.
- a training day each week for the teachers.
- transport for the staff to come together for training.
- professional training through Baucau Teachers College.

In the ensuing years the program grew under local leadership with classes now held on 5 days. Teachers continue to travel on one day in the week and participate in external training during school holidays. CER now has 10 TEKA centres operating across the villages. In 2015 there are 247 children attending in the care of 27 teachers. The seed that was planted 10 years ago has grown into a large tree that benefits so many children teachers and families. Strong financial support comes from the Edmund Rice Foundation) and various donors. Recently CER recognised the contribution of teachers who have served for 10 years with a certificate of celebration.

Br Frank Hennessy  Project Leader

Edmund Rice Services  Maasin, Philippines

Questions we face at Edmund Rice Ministries:

How to sustain ministries beyond the reach of the main centre at Maasin City?

ERM Maasin established a centre in Bato with 5 staff to serve the region. The staff are working with the communities to have them engaged in developing regular services across the population.

What to do when disaster strikes?

Taking measured action driven by compassion: In 2013, Typhoon Hayan/Yolanda hit Tacloban City and regions along the Leyte Island east coast. The wind reached recorded peaks up to 315 km/hr. Accompanying the wind, an 8 metre high tidal wave swept all before it. Noting what other agencies & NGOs set out to do, with support from Australia, we set up a mobile ear health clinic screening children in all schools within reach and facilitated treatment for the poorest people, no matter what the injury or critical condition.

Where now for Tacloban, Palo & Tanauan, post-typhoon?

There remains looking to liberation through development and 20 months later we are establishing in this “ground zero” area, with the help of Edmund Rice Foundation, our regular services of Youth Development, Child Assistance & Livelihood, and Community Based Rehabilitation in Palo. We will use a model similar to the outreach centre at Bato by having 3 Filipino nurses, a social worker, and 2 teachers, working as a team, assisting communities of people to become engaged in their own development.

Br Graeme Leach
Edmund Rice Services Kabankalan, Philippines

In partnership with the Cataract Foundation (CF) and Visayas Hearing Centre (VHC), Edmund Rice Ministries conducted hearing screening recently for 500 Grades 1 and 2 children from a nearby Elementary School. The screening revealed that nearly 100 of these children had inner ear infections, common among young children who live in conditions of poor hygiene. These infections often cause partial temporary deafness. Unaware teachers may scold the children for not paying attention. Some consequently stop coming to school. Ear screening is one strategy we use to counter this loss of education. VHC provided free ear drops to enable our ERM nurse to treat them gradually over the ensuing weeks.

On the same day, ERM staff worked with CF personnel screening 255 adults with sight problems. A large number walked away wearing broad smiles and new glasses, their first ever, which had cost them hefty prices (about $1.00). Others were found to have cataracts for which treatment is arranged.

Training of nurses and teachers in screening and after care is scheduled for August. ERM staff will participate and be involved with nurses working with the Division of Education until they can work alone. Kabankalan Division of Education has 139 schools, attended by many thousands of children. The focus initially for the younger children will be ear care, and for the high school youth, eye care. In time both aspects will be catered for across the Division.

Br Rod Ellyard Project Leader

Callan Services Papua New Guinea

A visually-impaired student, Emmanuel Simon, from Rosary Secondary School in Simbu sat for the Grade 12 National Written Expression Exam. He was assisted by the invigilators and the visually-impaired teacher and Braille officer from Callan Services - Mirimende Special Education Resource Centre, who transcribed the Brailled answers onto the actual answer sheet for easy and quick marking for the exam markers.

It was fascinating for the invigilators who had not come across such a student in the past. The team leader from Musaile Secondary School paused for a while to absorb the Braille machine and Braille paper and then exclaimed “it’s so amazing and very interesting to see Braille dots or writing.”

The purchase and transport of low vision equipment, braille equipment and optical lenses for lower vision clients has been a major source of expenditure this year. This equipment will be located at Callan SEPC Rabaul and Garihu to allow Braille services to be available in the New Guinea Islands Region and to the Southern Region. Braille services are already present and are being re-developed and upgraded in Goroka for The Highlands Region and Wewak for The Morobe Region. Training of Braille staff members is being negotiated. We are being helped in this by Dr Francesco Gentile from the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children in Sydney and Mr Ben Cleary, former student of St Edmund’s Wahroonga, for training of staff members in Braille.

Star Support Group Yambio, South Sudan

Yambio is in the west of South Sudan. It has been one of the most peaceful parts of this war-torn country. Sadly, tension here began about a month ago when some 35 innocent young people were arrested by an order from the capital, Juba. The whereabouts of those young men is not known yet but the rumour is that they are in Juba in a torture chamber.

The tension started mounting when some civilians, in response to the disappearance of the youth, killed some soldiers. The military decided to take revenge; a Dirha soldier executed two young men at the airstrip. The killing of the two young men marked the beginning of an exodus: people fled Yambio town seeking refuge and the town was nearly deserted. Friday night we heard heavy gunfire, which continued past midnight. On Saturday the situation deteriorated; the shooting started in the morning with firing of heavy artillery. The town became completely deserted. People sought refuge elsewhere, but have since returned. Tension is still very high. But the program continues for over 520 people receiving Home Based Care Support. Home based care includes provision of food; beans, rice, sugar, salt and soap.

On the first Saturday of the month, the orphan children also have their monthly meeting and day of support. Recent progress has seen formation of an advisory board for the project and further mutual collaboration with other NGOs.
Br Beausang Catholic Education Centre Embu, Kenya

During the past 3 months staff and students were involved in various training activities - Child Protection (staff); counselling skills (teachers); Student Leadership (students). The Deputy Principal selected to attend a program on Edmund Rice spirituality. The school submitted an application for a grant through the Australian High Commission's Project Assistance Program to install a water filter for the bore hole to lower the fluoride level. An application for capital assistance for a trade/vocational building was submitted to the Edmund Rice Foundation.

School celebrations included the Edmund Rice Celebration Day. This was particularly significant as the theme was marking 10 years of Edmund Rice education from when the Christian Brothers East Africa District took over the administration of the school in 2006. Many Brothers from Nairobi attended the day and student and staff awards were presented.

At the Ngong Diocese Education Day, the school was awarded the prize of Most Improved in the secondary national exams for 2015 as well as having the top student in the Diocese (Rick In-Soo). Students also excelled in the Kenyan schools national science competition, achieving four first places at the County level and a second placing at the nationals.

The netball team won the County championship for the second successive year and the boys soccer also qualified for the County games. The Zimele Foundation Immersion group visited the school prior to our exchange visit to Edmund Rice Simon.

Mr Peter Shanahan Principal

Comboni Hospital Nzara, South Sudan

Despite South Sudan’s political power struggle with fighting and population displacement, the area around Nzara remains relatively peaceful and secure. The Italian Comboni order has worked in South Sudan for 50 years facilitating development of community health care, education and community support groups. Edmund Rice Foundation Australia’s (ERFA) financial support for training and infrastructure development at the Comboni managed Nzara Hospital has assisted healthcare of the STAR HIV/AIDS community, a Christian Brothers initiative. The success of an EFDA financed 10kW solar energy system enabling reliable laboratory testing and refrigeration gave the impetus for the development a larger scale 100kW solar energy system. A team of Australian and German expert volunteers worked closely with Sr [D] San Antonini, Nzara Hospital director, to assess current and future energy requirements and future design of the hospital and provided a sustainable energy solution. Designed and built in Tasmania by Modo Electrical, it will provide a reliable energy supply for X-ray equipment, improved transfusion services, oxygen supply, laboratory equipment, and introduction of new patient monitoring facilities. The basic support structures for this system and power distribution will be built onsite by Nzara contractors with the system installed and commissioned by volunteers in January 2018. Funding has been provided by donations and support from the Abruzzo Club in East Brunswick, the Bitu-mil Group Golf Day and of course, ERFA. Thanks to all our contributors.

Dr Daniel Doyle

Education for Life Eldoret, Kenya

Traveling through the rift valley of Kenya to Eldoret to visit the Education for Life Centre is always a special part of the Zimele immersion experience. The Education for Life Centre caters to over 300 women with HIV and their children. While one can be overwhelmed at the suffering, it is inspiring to hear the positive stories coming to the lives of so many. The house visits are the most confronting experience on the immersion. Each ‘home’ is little more than a tin shed, with no electricity, no light, no running water. The stigma associated with HIV is still very strong in the community. The women of Education for Life are testimony to the great human spirit to survive. Their gratitude for the support they receive was expressed by one of the mothers we visited.

“Education for Life is transforming. It provides us a place we call home. Education for Life gives us a second chance at life. You don’t give up because you know you are not on your own. Education for Life enables us to carry each other’s burden, makes us happy and have little stress. Here we are able to be free, free to share, free to be who we are.”

The Education for Life Centre is tied with hope. We went back to Australia with a great sense of hope and gratitude that EFL is uplifting the lives of so many people.

Mr Tom Purcell
Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School  
Arusha, Tanzania

This is a real success story of our work in Africa. When the Brothers were asked to take responsibility for it 20 years ago, it was a low “Sin” school, few students and not performing at all well. The remarkable transformation is evident and the number of students that it serves so well is a great credit to many. Our Australian supporters contributed substantial funds to build the school and its infrastructure, but now it is near sustainability level. Generous supporters enable many students to attend. As academic results are so vital for the future of the locals, the school works hard on this front and does very well for its students. Volunteers over the years have made a substantial contribution and continue to do so.

Last year an exchange visit was organised with Brother Beauchang School (BBCEC) in Nairobi with assistance of the Zim male immersion group led by Tom Purcell from St Kevin’s College in Melbourne. This year the immersion travelled to Arusha, where they assisted in the running of the sporting/cultural exchange between ERSSS and BBCEC. The exchange came to fruition with the help of Peter Shoneh (Head of BBCEC) and Br Omer Barnett (Registrar of ERSSS). 50 students from BBCEC travelled south to Arusha to challenge ERSSS students in volleyball, netball, basketball, AFL football and debating. The hospitality offered to the visitors was most appreciated and the exchange was a resounding success.

Mr John Mount

Mary Rice Centre  
Nairobi, Kenya

The Centre carried out home visits during this month to facilitate home training to the parents and guardians so that they can assist their children in bathing, toileting and feeding, and also to perform basic therapy to help children with mobility difficulty such as walking. Parents are guided to support and encourage their children to stand and walk. We carried out the renovation of Virginian House to facilitate Income Generation Activities (IGA). We built a perimeter wall which was six feet high to provide security and an extension for poultry and vegetables. Unfortunately the perimeter wall was demolished by our neighbour who claimed the house belonged to him. We have reported the case to the police and the Nairobi County Land Department who have decided to sort the dispute by drawing the boundaries. Eye screen testing was carried out through the collaboration with the Lions Club Eye Clinic to identify children who might need treatment.

Three out of 27 children were found with serious eye problems and they will receive treatment free facilitated by Lions Club. We did the evaluation of the children who have been placed in schools, both regular and special. The number who have been supported by the Centre is 17. We observed 14 children are doing very well in terms of adjusting to the learning environment and following instructions, but three children are struggling.

Br Gerald Mgalula Director

Ruben Centre  
Nairobi, Kenya

We have started a special class for children of the Mukuuru slum who do not attend school because of a range of disabilities. We have 17 children, 5 girls and 12 boys, who now come to school daily. We have had 2 groups of visitors from the Association of People with Disability of Kenya (APDK) to advise us on the best approaches. We are grateful to APDK who have given some wheelchairs which are of great help to the children. We have one teacher who is working in that class, one Yoga trainer – part-time and three caregivers. The Teacher was only part-time but is now full time in the unit and this has helped the children considerably. Most of the children have gained social skills since being in the class. We have one boy who is dumb and now is able to communicate by simple sign language. And now the mothers have started a support group for themselves with a focus on ways to improve their economic well-being among other things.

Some comments from the children’s mothers:

I am very appreciative because my child is doing well at home. We wanted to abandon him because of his condition.  
Mama Lameck Omwenga

My child can write at least numbers 1 – 3, which he couldn’t do before.  
Mama Nickely

I thank God for you people; you have done well for my child. Mama Shikynah

I have hope now for my girl. Mama Gloria

Br Frank O’Shea  
Director
LEARNING SUPPORT AT THE SUNSHINE HARVESTER PRIMARY SCHOOL, VICTORIA.

Many new arrivals enrol with only very basic English language skills due to little or interrupted prior schooling, limited time spent at introductory language school, and little or no available support to undertake learning at home. Many students also bring with them the emotional impact of their refugee experience - trauma, separation anxiety, grief from family loss, and sensitivity to noisy environments. All of these factors impact on the student’s ability to learn and thrive. Refugee background students participate in mainstream schooling including having an English as Another Language coach who works closely with teaching staff. Even with appropriately skilled teachers, it is a challenge to provide the individualised support that is needed.

A collaborative partnership between Edmund Rice Community and Refugee Services and Sunshine Harvester Primary School, to strengthen the literacy ability of children of refugee background, began in 2013. This “out of school hours” learning support program was established with the goal of assisting students to develop the literacy skills to be active and engaged participants when they return to their mainstream classrooms. The program has achieved set outcomes and has a consistently high attendance of 30 students per session each week. A further two secondary schools have partnered with ERCS to bring student volunteers tutors each week to ensure that students can receive individual support. Opportunities are opened up for students to participate in activities such as swimming lessons and camps during the school holidays, which are either funded by or organised through ERCS partner agencies. In the Term III school holidays this year, Edmund Rice Camps Victoria, will operate a camp for the Burmese families whose children are enrolled in the learning program.

Dr Frank Perkins
Project Leader

VANILLA – BEANS OF HOPE

"Now we know how to look after our vanilla we can help others to grow vanilla," says a woman while tending vanilla vines in her garden." She is Adelina. Her age is unknown but her spirit is young, energetic and inspiring. Adelina lives with her husband Manuel in Samalate, 6 hours walk uphill from Dili, Timor-Leste. Most farmers in Samalate and the surrounding villages rely on coffee as their sole cash crop. Coffee generates less than $250 income, less than $1 a day for the majority of households, causing farmers many financial problems, including difficulties in feeding their children and seeking medical treatment when they are sick. Adelina earned an additional $260 from vanilla beans in 2014 - life-changing sum. Imagine what she could earn if she had something other than a machete to work with. ERFA and its partner Terrace Timor Network (from St Joseph’s College, Brisbane) are working together with Comunidade Edmund Rice in Timor-Leste to support Adelina and other farmers to build a sustainable vanilla industry. The vanilla project is a 5 year economic development project.

Kaylene Benson

FUNDRAISING EVENTS 2015

October 16
Blu-mill Golf Day, Melbourne

October 17
Terrace Timor Network Annual Fundraiser, Brisbane

October 25
Zimwe Walkathon – Yara Brand Park, Melbourne

October 27
The 800 Supporters’ Group Spring Racing Lunch–on – MOG

For booking details visit
www.erf.org.au/events
LIBERATING LIVES
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

I would like to support the work of the
Edmund Rice Foundation (please select a box)

- [ ] Africa Projects (supporting education, health and community development)
- [ ] Oceania Projects (overseas projects supporting education, health and community development)
- [ ] Australian Projects (local programs supporting disadvantaged youth and families)

Name

Address

City

State Postcode

Phone

Email

Please accept my donation for the amount of $________

CREDIT CARD

- [ ] Mastercard
- [ ] Visa
- [ ] Amex

Please debit my card

□ Monthly □ Quarterly

Credit Card Number

[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

Expiry (mm/yy) [ ] [ ] [ ]

Signed _______________________

CHEQUE

For overseas projects please make cheques out to Edmund Rice Overseas Aid Fund
For Australian projects please make cheques out to Edmund Rice Foundation

□ Indicates interest in Immersion program

Please send the completed form to:

Edmund Rice Foundation
PO Box 610, Panania WA 6962
Email: info@erf.org.au

Thank you for supporting the Foundation and liberating those in the poorest regions.
Lifeline $1 and $2 Fiction Book Sale

Saturday and Sunday, 5 and 6 December, 9am to 4 pm
Lifeline Book Depot,
Corner of Polding and Ignatius Roads, West Lindfield

**Summertime is fiction time!**

Whatever you're planning to do, wherever you're going, however you'll be relaxing and winding down, there's no summertime companion like a good engrossing novel.

As well as the $1 and $2 bargains you get 10 – yes ten! – children's books for one dollar. And you can get ten very-good-condition adult fiction novels for less than the price of one single paperback at your local shopping mall bookseller.

Payment can be by cash, credit card (MasterCard or Visa) or EFTPOS.

All proceeds of this sale go towards funding Lifeline's vital crisis support and suicide prevention services to the communities of the North Shore and beyond.