

PIUS In Profile



2015 Liberating Education

St Pius X College was honoured that the Most Reverend Peter Comensoli, Bishop of Broken Bay, was our celebrant at the 2015 Commencement Mass. The Mass was attended by 1,250 students, staff and special guests. Bishop Comensoli encouraged students and staff not only to see and listen but *"using your hands and feet ... to be doers ... to practise what we preach"*.

The theme of the Commencement Mass was Liberating Education which now stands as our theme for the College year. This calls on all of us as a faith community to strive for excellence in everything we do. During 2015 St Pius X College will be focusing on quality teaching and learning experiences that open hearts and minds through critical thinking, reflection and engagement.

We strive to do our best for God, ourselves and our community.



EDMUND RICE EDUCATION
AUSTRALIA

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME



Welcome to the 2015 Autumn edition of "Pius In Profile".

LIBERATING EDUCATION

This year the College's theme is Liberating Education and our action stemming from our core values is Striving for Excellence.

There are many examples in this edition of where the College has endeavoured to encompass this

Touchstone into its many activities. From our Charter, Liberating Education calls EREA schools to respond to Jesus teaching that he came so that we may "Live Life to the Full" (John 10:10).

And so in 2015, "We open our hearts and minds, through quality teaching and learning experiences, so that through critical reflection and engagement each person is hope-filled and free to build a better world for all" (EREA Charter).

Looking back at the work of 2014 and the start of 2015 there is indeed great hope for our students and the College. We strive for improvement and to give our best. Let us recommit our efforts for the year ahead to offer our studies, service and activities through Faith and Hard Work – Fide et Labore.

John Couani • PRINCIPAL

2014 HSC RESULTS

The College congratulates the HSC class of 2014 on its outstanding results. A short summary below shows that they achieved exceptionally well. Congratulations to them and to their dedicated teachers.

St Pius X College 2014 HSC Merit List			
First in State	2	% of Courses above State average	96%
All-round Achievers	3	% of Courses above State average by 5%	79%
Top Achievers	2	% results that are Band 6	15%
ARTEXPRESS	1	% results that are Band 5	45%
Distinguished Achievers 129			



Hayden Falzon's film "Embers of Imagination" selected for ARTEXPRESS

liberating education – striving for excellence

Fide et Labore – Through Faith and Hard Work

Commencement Mass



Bishop Comensoli with Principal Mr John Couani, EREA Deputy Executive Director Mr Peter Leuenberger, Eucharistic Ministers and College Leaders



Lighting of the 2015 College Candle



More than 1,250 students, staff and special guests at the 2015 Commencement Mass

2014 ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Congratulations to the Class of 2014 on their outstanding HSC results

"Congratulations to all of the Class of 2014 on your outstanding HSC results and to your families and your dedicated teachers who have supported you.

You have been true to your College motto – Fide et Labore. These are young men whose actions speak louder than their words and they will all go on to make a positive difference in the world."

John Couani, PRINCIPAL

ATAR 99.90	College Dux – Brian Lam
All-round Achievers	Brian Lam, Richard Li and Hayden Rolls
1st Place in NSW	1st in Chinese Beginners – Leon Warren 1st in Business Studies – Nathan Reidy
3rd Place in NSW	3rd in Modern Greek Beginners – Kyprianos Corey Xeni (through Open High School)
Distinguished Achievers	129 mentions in the Distinguished Achievers list
Top 100 Schools	As ranked in <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>
ATAR over 90	30% of cohort achieved ATAR over 90
ARTEXPRESS selection	Hayden Falzon



Brian Lam (College Dux), Nathan Reidy
(1st in NSW in Business Studies) and Leon Warren
(1st in NSW in Chinese Beginners)

"Undoubtedly, the main reason for the success of the students at the College is that of the support and hard work from the team of highly dedicated and professional staff. Moreover, collaboration and positive competition among students in the year also motivated one another and improved the results of the cohort as a whole."

Brian Lam, College Dux

"St Pius taught me to make the most of my opportunities. The encouragement and support of the St Pius teaching staff was invaluable, as they pushed me to do my best and gave me great advice along the way.

My peers were always supportive, friendly and at times competitive, which encouraged me to achieve the best results I could."

Leon Warren

"Pius provided me with a great learning environment, which allowed me to reach my full potential. My teachers were extremely dedicated and always aimed to get the best out of every student."

Nathan Reidy



NAPLAN – Writing continues to grow!

Student growth is one of the dimensions of data that can be extrapolated from NAPLAN results. Simply based on their test scores, it provides an indicator of how a student has progressed since the previous testing. Most pleasing is the substantial growth displayed by our Year 7 and Year 9 students who, in the writing task in 2014, achieved growth of 126% and 93% higher than the State averages. This very pleasing result can be attributed to staff professional development and focus on using Text Types as a way of improving our students' writing. NAPLAN results from 2014 continue to provide direction in our teaching and learning.

LEADERSHIP

"The example you set is an essential form of leadership"

Associate Professor Rodger Shanahan was special guest at the Student Leader Investiture. He spoke candidly about his own education at St Pius X College, the choices he made in his education and career, different leadership styles, the Middle East, social media, the HSC and the importance of critical thinking.

The importance of being able to relate to people from all walks of life

"My graduating year produced several doctors, lawyers, engineers and an astrophysicist, one of Sydney's leading restaurateurs, 17 teachers as well as butchers, builders and council workers. Many of us still remain friends because people were judged based on who they were rather than what results they got. That's one of the reasons I'm a big advocate of non-selective education, and why the Christian Brothers tradition of teaching all-comers is one I believe in."

Leadership is a difficult thing to master

"Different situations require different styles of leadership. In my military career I learnt the times when a forceful style was essential and when a quieter style was demanded. Never forget, though, that the example you set is an essential form of leadership. It is always easy to follow and criticise, but much harder to lead and convince."



College Captain
Fraser Toohey



Year 12 Investiture Pledge

Young people need to exercise great judgment in the social media age

"The one thing that has changed fundamentally since my time at school has been the pervasiveness of social media. You need to exercise great judgment at such a young age in the presence of social media."

The HSC – one of life's many "gates"

"The HSC is just another 'gate' in life that you have to pass through and will determine what you do for the next few years. Do your absolute best; first, the higher the mark you get the more choices you have; second, it is a good life lesson to try to do the best you can at everything that you attempt."

Life after the HSC

"After the HSC do something you are interested in – society nowadays allows you to have several careers during your working life if you wish, so remain open to new opportunities."

Critical thinking is key

"Nearly without exception, the Middle East region features an education system that relies on rote learning as opposed to independent and critical thinking. Without an emphasis on this type of educational



Principal John Couani and College Captain
Fraser Toohey "in conversation" with
Associate Professor Rodger Shanahan (SPX 1982)

approach ... I fear that societies in the region will struggle to extract themselves from their long-term crises. Value the system that you live under that encourages inquiry and tries to equip you with the skills to do it."

Associate Professor Shanahan has a PhD in Arabic & Islamic Studies from the University of Sydney and is currently on staff at the National Security College at the Australian National University. He is also a non-resident fellow at the Lowy Institute for International Policy and a member on the Refugee Review Tribunal. In the Army for over 25 years he saw operational service in South Lebanon, Syria, East Timor, Beirut and Afghanistan and served as a military attaché in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. A self-confessed "sports nut" at College and at the Royal Military College Duntroon, Associate Professor Shanahan represented Saudi Arabia in Rugby Union and ran the Beirut Marathon in November 2014.



TEACHING AND LEARNING

Languages study gives students competitive edge

Two thousand and fourteen was the first year students at the College studied Chinese at HSC level – and they had outstanding success. Leon Warren came 1st in NSW in Chinese Beginners and his classmates, Elijah Rayner and Liam Mann, both attained the highest band (Band 6).

"These students saw the importance of learning another language and the HSC provided a good grounding for the further education and careers they are considering," LOTE Studies Coordinator Ms Kara Manga said.

In keeping with the new Australian curriculum that has a focus on developing stronger knowledge of Asian culture and giving students an opportunity to explore the language, St Pius X College students can study Chinese from Year 5 through to Year 12.

"One of the strengths of the program is that it is run as a languages program so there is an academic focus. However, we try to maintain content that is of high interest to the boys and allows them to talk and communicate about themselves," Ms Manga said.

In Year 8, students can choose either Chinese or French.

"The highlight is definitely the International Language and Cultural Tour which will be to China this year following the successful tour to New Caledonia in 2014. This is offered to students in Years 9 and 10. It removes the walls of the classroom and really allows students to immerse themselves in the culture of the language they are studying," Ms Manga said.

French Camp (held in Sydney) also provides an opportunity for Year 11 students to immerse themselves in their language study. Organised by the National Association of French Teachers, "It is strictly French speaking only and provides a highly structured program of activities such as petanque, French films and charades," Ms Manga said.

St Pius X students are achieving excellent results in national and international languages competitions such as the Languages Perfect Competition.



Chinese Beginners students, Elijah Rayner, Leon Warren and Liam Mann, with Languages Coordinator Ms Kara Manga. All boys attained Band 6 and Leon came 1st in NSW.



The Languages Department also supported Kyprianos Corey Xeni who came 3rd in NSW in Modern Greek Beginners through the Open High School.



French camp



Year 7 & 8 students enjoy cooking incursions where they learn to cook popular French and Chinese dishes.

Leon Warren highly valued his experience on the 2013 China Tour. He filmed the China Tour using a GoPro on his backpack strap. You can view this at www.youtube.com/watch?v=67paJN4bsG0.

Learning from each other

INTEGRATED PDHPE

Every term Year 9 students from fellow EREA school, St Edmund's, and Year 8 students from St Pius X come together to play sport (cricket, football, bullrush and Ultimate Frisbee) and socialise together over lunch. St Edmund's, Wahroonga is a Year 7–12 co-educational special high school for teenagers with a wide range of disabilities including sensory impairment, intellectual disability and autism.

The purpose of the Integrated PDHPE program, now in its fourth year, is to continue to develop a mutually rewarding, challenging and enjoyable educational partnership between students at both EREA schools where they all learn from each other.



TEACHING AND LEARNING

Boys like competition

LEARNING ENRICHMENT IN JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 5 and 6 students are given a range of opportunities to foster academic pursuits in numeracy and literacy through the College's Learning Enrichment program.

All boys are welcome at Compass Club run by Learning Enrichment Teacher Mrs Bettina Spanyik at lunchtime on Wednesdays. Mrs Spanyik runs internal competitions spanning creative thinking and problem solving, code breaking, general knowledge, philosophy and maths, as well as preparing selected boys for a range of competitions the College enters every year.

"Boys like competitions and the Learning Enrichment program provides selected boys with the opportunity to extend themselves, work collaboratively with like-minded peers in areas of demonstrated individual strength and then compete against other schools in Sydney, Australia and Australasia, extending them well beyond their classroom and immediate peer level," Mrs Spanyik said.



Mrs Spanyik and the Da Vinci Decathlon team

Integrated academic competitions include the Da Vinci Decathlon and Tournament of the Minds, the latter including a dramatic performance. Maths competitions include Maths camps, Maths Olympiad and Australian Mathematics Competition. Last year, the Year 6 Maths class was awarded a Certificate of High Team Achievement in the Maths Olympiad competition. Literacy competitions include the Primary Research Challenge and Poetry and Writing competitions.

Mr Tim Long, Head of Junior School, said learning enrichment is embedded across the curriculum with incursions, excursions and external expertise brought in to consolidate learning.



CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS

encouraging students to read and write

Will Kostakis started writing when he was 10 years old and had a book deal lined up before he'd finished school. By 25 he was shortlisted for the Book of the Year by the Children's Book Council of Australia for his book *The First Third*.

Will has run creative writing workshops at St Pius X College and is inspiring Year 7–11 students to read and write.

In the spirit of fostering literacy, a Year 9 English class took the creative step of compiling a book of short stories "Imagine Telling Stories". Will discussed with the Year 9 students the craft of storytelling and their experiences in turning their own ideas into short stories.

Will Kostakis with Year 9 students



ENGLISH FACULTY READIES FOR NEW NATIONAL CURRICULUM

"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge"

ALBERT EINSTEIN

In 2014 there was an almost total rewriting of the English teaching programs at the College.

Mr David Webster, English Coordinator, said "Last year the Department successfully designed and implemented the first of the National Curriculum programs for Year 7 and Year 9. All new programs and assessment tasks ensured that the focus was on creativity as well as compliant implementation of the new Curriculum. The College has made a significant allocation of funds for the purchase of all new texts, including textbooks for Years 7–10, which should inspire and develop our students in the years ahead."

"The Faculty is creating innovative assessment tasks that always attempt to 'awaken the joy' in learning and test the student's ingenuity and creative talents in a range of multi-modal presentations. Year 8, for instance, will be composing a digital novel in Term 2 that should both educate, inform and entertain. Year 10 have incorporated the Edmund Rice Reading Competition into their Term 4 program and assessment to develop their reading and responding skills," Mr Webster said.

The English Faculty is ready for the initiation of the Year 8 and 10 National Curricula in 2015 with new programs developed and new texts already available. The new programs all make reference to the Touchstones of Edmund Rice education and have attracted interest from outside the College. Year 10 began their study in Term 1, 2015, with an emphasis on the Touchstone of Justice and Solidarity. The focus in 2015–16 will be on Liberating Education.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Practical business experiences set up HSC success

Practical business experience starts early at St Pius X, setting the boys up for HSC success in Business Studies.

In Year 9, Commerce students plan and run all aspects of their own food stalls at Market Days, which have been running at the College for almost 20 years. In Year 10, all students participate in Australian Business Week, a week-long "discovery learning" program where students form companies and collaborate on designing products and making business decisions.

In the lead-up to the HSC, Business Studies students benefited from hearing guest business speakers (Mr Rory Carroll, Alcon Novartis; Mr Tony Martin, 3M; Mr Allister Cox, Super Retail Group; and Mr Derek Kirk, DK Consulting) who provided key insights and a competitive edge when it came to answering HSC case study questions.

In 2014 Business Studies students at St Pius X performed very well and Nathan Reidy came 1st in NSW. Mr

Steve Quilty, Business Studies Coordinator, attributed this success to the steady progression and practical activities that the strong "boys' education" at St Pius X offers.



Developing cyber sense

Cybersafety in schools refers to the ways in which the whole school community supports and encourages safe and responsible online behaviour. A focus on the benefits of the safe use of social media sites like Facebook and Instagram is contrasted with potential problems such as posting inappropriate material, cyberbullying, identity theft or fraud.

"The inclusion of Bamboo Theatre's Cybershots in the 2014 program was helpful to Year 7s in developing their cyber sense. A series of interactive real-life cyber-scenarios forced each student to consider what they would do under those circumstances. Many students were surprised to learn that Snapchat photos don't just disappear into the ether but go to their new copyright owners," Mrs Karen Keighery, Senior Resource Centre, said.

Other highlights of the Cybersafety and Digital Citizenry program included:

- Presentations by Australian Communication and Media Authority experts to Primary students and parents on the latest online risks
- eLearning classes
- Year 7 Religion "Identity" unit
- Student-led seminars focusing on cyberbullying as part of National Harmony and Anti-Bullying Day and RUOK? Day
- PLD induction program
- Integration within Year 10 presentations, "Men We Need" and "Matter of Style".



Bamboo Theatre

"Our aim is for all graduates of St Pius X to leave with a positive digital footprint. Their safe, responsible and ethical use of the internet is underpinned by the values of the Edmund Rice tradition and by a planned, multi-pronged approach. St Pius X provides filtered wired and wireless networks supported by our *Guiding Principles for the Use of Technology* (which are displayed in every classroom). Our programs raise awareness across the entire St Pius X community and actively develop digital citizenry," Mr Justin Hodges, eLearning Coordinator, said.

PERSONAL LEARNING DEVICES (PLDs) for every student in 2015

As part of the College's eLearning Plan, a 1:1 model has been adopted and in 2015 all students will have their own PLD.

Students in Years 5 and 7 are using a new generation Lenovo ThinkPad 10, a Windows 8 tablet device with stylus. Students in Years 9 and 11 are using Microsoft Surface Pro3 with i5 processor. This is a Windows 8.1, 12" tablet device with touch screen, stylus and keyboard.

"The pursuit of the College's eLearning endeavours is assisting our students to become contemporary, informed and responsible users of ICT – and more able to make a positive difference in an increasingly global community," Mr Justin Hodges, eLearning Coordinator, said.



OUTDOOR EDUCATION



Mr Paul de Silva
leading by example

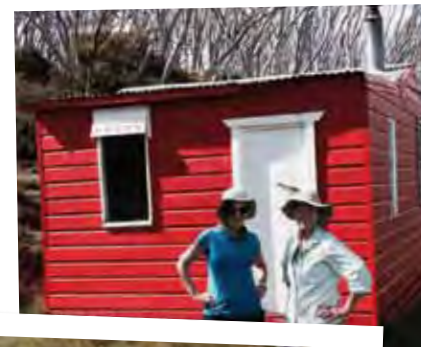
The College's first Outdoor Education Coordinator has been appointed.

Mr Paul de Silva will be focusing on integrating existing outdoor education activities (expeditions, tours, camps, hikes and immersion experiences) to see how these can contribute to Duke of Edinburgh awards and the

implementation of vocational education training in Outdoor Education which could provide students with a recognised award.

"In Outdoor Education boys have a lot of fun with their mates and this enhances learning. As importantly, it provides boys with experiences that enhance leadership and team-building skills as well as developing resilience as they overcome adversity and push outside their comfort zones. Connection with nature also provides spiritual experiences for the boys," Mr de Silva said.

Huntington House at Terrigal (now being jointly managed by the College) will be used for camps, retreats and outdoor education later in the year after it has been refurbished.



SNOWY HIKE

30-year tradition at St Pius X College

While most 16 year olds were looking forward to relaxing at the start of the summer holidays, 70 students (and 10 staff) from St Pius X College, Chatswood (56 Year 11 students) and Brigidine (14 students) hiked 100 km, carrying food, clothing and shelter, through the Kosciuszko National Park over six days.

Expedition leader Mr Sean Brannan said, "Alpine weather is known to be unpredictable. While the year before we encountered 15 cm of snow on the first day of the hike, conditions were equally challenging this time with the state-wide extreme weather conditions producing fog and low visibility, high winds, driving rain and thunderstorms across the main Kosciuszko Range."

The hike is physically challenging and it also provides students with practical lessons in planning and preparation, teamwork, resilience and being resourceful.

The party hiked from Round Mountain through the Jagungal Wilderness to Valentine Hut, Schlink Pass and the Rolling Ground, then on to the Main Range to Mt Kosciuszko and Thredbo Village.

The Snowy Hike has been an annual tradition of St Pius X College, Chatswood for more than 30 years.



Gold for Michael Jordan (SPX 2014)

Michael Jordan (SPX 2014) has qualified for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

"Looking back on my Duke of Ed years, especially over the last year for my Gold, it was undoubtedly the best thing I could have chosen to do, due to the many opportunities it provided me with, experiences I will never forget, and the pathways it created for me in the future ... it has taken me places I wouldn't have dreamed of going before and out of my comfort zone, putting me in unfamiliar situations that I needed to adapt to and work out how to handle," Michael said.

To qualify for the Gold Award, Michael completed six hikes, volunteered at a library and as a leader on an Edmund Rice residential camp for children from Indigenous communities in North West NSW, and set ambitious goals for reading and tennis. Prior to this, Michael had never camped, hiked or volunteered. Congratulations Michael.

Renewed commitment as College celebrates 10th year as a MindMatters School

In his Investiture speech, College Captain Fraser Toohey said that the major priority of the student leaders in 2015 is "to pay special attention and care to the mental health and well-being of other students and that the Year 12 leaders are committed to looking out for the students in the younger years, especially Junior School students".

College Principal Mr John Couani said, "This is a whole-school focus for 2015 and beyond".

Since 2006 the College has been actively working towards the implementation of an integrated approach to supporting the positive mental health and well-being of its students and staff. College Counsellor Mr Rick Russo said, "We are now moving into a new and exciting phase of MindMatters with a renewed major focus led by the College student leaders in 2015".

Mr Couani said, "The College wanted to be at the forefront of positive mental health and well-being for all – which is what the MindMatters program provides.

"We strongly believe that our students' feeling of connectedness to their College underpins their

well-being. We need to continue to build positive self-esteem in our boys by engaging them on many levels in and out of the classroom. Feeling safe, valued and appreciated is absolutely key as is developing trust so that students are able to seek help.

"At St Pius X we believe that every teacher is a teacher for well-being. As a Catholic School, MindMatters is embedded in our Religious Education programs as part of our reflection days as well as being explicitly taught in PDHPE, which covers areas such as resilience, risk taking and seeking help."

Other classroom activities include "listening assemblies", transition programs and, most recently, the introduction of online learning modules.

Many MindMatters activities and events take place outside the classroom including peer support and mentoring, twice-weekly boxercise, bushwalks, hikes, rock climbing, canoe trips, paddle boarding, RUOK? Day, National Day against Bullying and high profile guest speakers.



Year 6 Transition to Year 7 Program with Mr Paul Ticli



College Captain Fraser Toohey with Junior School students



Boxercise



Movember

LIAM KNIGHT

"Getting on with it"



Liam Knight (SPX 2013) returned to the College to speak to Year 8 students about having fun and staying safe, resilience and overcoming adversity, giving back to the community and his plans for the future.

He said setting goals, pushing through doubt, "hard work and commitment", the support of his family and friends and a positive attitude to life were key to his recovery.

Liam told the boys it is important to give back to the community "in any way you can". He outlined the work he is doing as a mentor for Fresh Tracks, an organisation that helps young people with brain injuries, as well as The White Knight Foundation, which supports the recovery of victims of crime and their families.

www.thewhiteknightfoundation.com

SIMON SAYS ...

Choose happiness

Stand-up comedian Simon Kennedy had a strong message for Year 10 students about resilience and bouncing back. Simon lost his mother in the maelstrom of 9/11; she was on the plane that crashed into the Pentagon. It was a devastating experience, which he reflects on in his book, *9/11 and the Art of Happiness*. Simon cautioned on the futility of harbouring ill will towards others: "Hatred is like drinking poison and expecting the other guy to die".

For Simon, "getting on with it" involves a conscious and continual choice to be happy, quoting Groucho Marx, "I, not events, have the power to make me happy or unhappy today. I can choose which it shall be. Yesterday is dead, tomorrow hasn't arrived yet. I have just one day, today, and I'm going to be happy in it."

Mrs Karen Keighery, Senior Resource Centre



MISSION



Celebration, solidarity and action at Founder's Day Festival

The 2014 Founder's Day Festival at Oxford Falls was a day of celebration, solidarity and action.

In the College's theme year of Justice and Solidarity, student leaders and special guests heightened awareness of social justice issues relating to "the first Australians and the last Australians" – Aborigines and refugees and asylum seekers. It was also a rallying call to action, with the College community raising more than \$30,000 for our partners – Callan Services in PNG, St Joseph's School Walgett and St Mary's School Bowraville.

The inaugural House Choir Cup was contested with great spirit, with Rice being declared winner.



St Joseph's Primary School Walgett visits St Pius X

St Joseph's School Walgett made their biannual visit to the College as part of their school excursion to Sydney.

Students from the primary schools played a range of sports (football, Oztag, cricket, tennis, table tennis and basketball) and shared lunch together at Oxford Falls.

St Pius X College and St Joseph's School have had an ongoing mutually rewarding partnership for more than 10 years.



Transformative Education in PNG

College Principal Mr John Couani and Assistant Principal Mission and Identity Mr Mark Casey travelled to Papua New Guinea last year to strengthen the College's partnership with Callan Services.

They visited three centres in Vanimo, Wewak and Gerehu in Port Moresby to see first hand the transformative and destigmatising effects Callan Services is having on children with disabilities through early detection and its inclusive education model that can successfully integrate and transition some students with disabilities into mainstream classes.

The College community raised \$12,000 through the Junior School Walkathon and Founder's Day Festival to assist Callan Services with its work in continuing to transform the lives of its students – and their families.



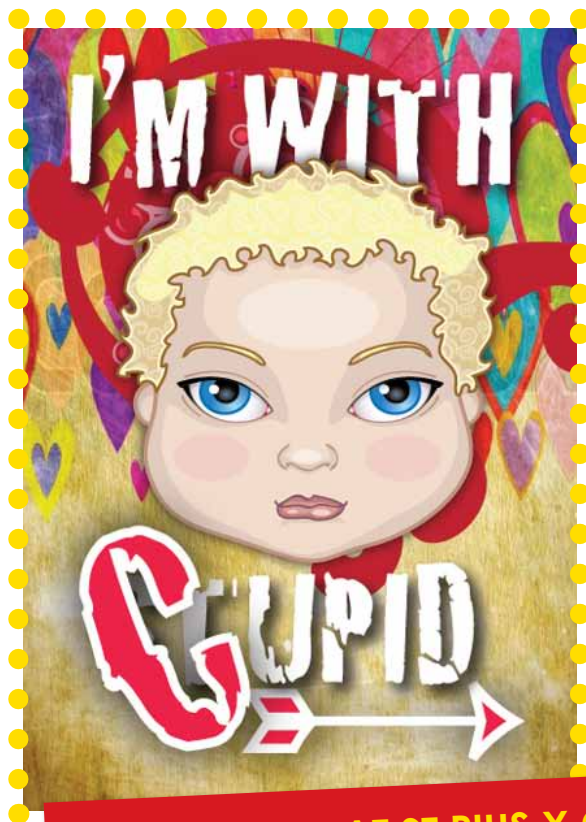
Immersion

The College's Immersion program continued in December with 12 Year 10 students travelling to fellow EREA schools (St Joseph's School Walgett and St Edmund's Wahroonga) and St Mary's Bowraville to work as Teachers' Aides and assist in the schools.

St Joseph's is in a very small and isolated country town, Walgett, a 12-hour journey north-west of Sydney. St Mary's is located at Bowraville on the state's north coast and 90% of the students are Indigenous. St Edmund's Wahroonga is a high school for students with disabilities.

Mr Mark Casey, Assistant Principal Mission and Identity, said "Immersion is a wonderful opportunity and truly life-changing experience for our young men. The boys involved are a credit to themselves, their families and the College. I have received many compliments about their involvement, initiative and kindness."

PERFORMING ARTS



TO PREMIERE AT ST PIUS X COLLEGE
9-11 JUNE 2015



SYNOPSIS *Benedick, who is full of macho bravado, thinks that showing feelings and falling in love make a man weak. He is not shy about making his friends, Don Pedro, the prince, and Claudio, feel foolish if they do so. When he and his friends come to stay at the Cupid's Arrow Resort, Benedick meets his match in Beatrice Cupid. Beatrice is the staunchly single and opinionated niece of the owner. Benedick and Beatrice have had a brief past. Whenever they come together, a loud, public argument occurs, much to the embarrassment of the audience around them. Don Pedro begins to view this volatility as passion. After all, the opposite of love is not hate: it is indifference. He enlists Benedick's friends and Beatrice's family in a mission to trick them into revealing their true feelings and falling in love. Hilarity ensues as Benedick and Beatrice get caught up in the ingenious trap. Will they allow themselves to show vulnerability and have a shot at happiness or will pride get in the way?*

Fresh from the outstanding success of "Honest Iago" last year, rehearsals are now underway for "I'm With Cupid", the College's Drama production for 2015.

"I'm With Cupid" is an original script by St Pius X College Drama teacher Mr Joshua Combes. The play is based on characters from Shakespeare's much loved comedy Much Ado About Nothing.

"The play's themes challenge the idea that showing emotion is weakness. Being an authentic person and acting through love is where real strength lies," Mr Combes said.

"I'm With Cupid" will be performed at the Sarto Centre in Week 8 of Term 2 and guests will be part of the large ensemble.

CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS

Twilight Concert

The 2014 Christmas Twilight Concert was held on a perfect December night. Guests enjoyed a broad repertoire from the College's choirs, ensembles and bands. The finale featured the College Orchestra and a Massed Choir leading the community in Christmas Carols.



Giving

The College community showed overwhelming generosity in its response to the Christmas appeals for food for Vinnies, children's presents for our partner schools in Walgett and Bowraville and personal items for the Matthew Talbot hostel.



SPORTS WRAP

Junior School Sport

FITNESS, SKILL DEVELOPMENT,
MATESHIP AND FUN

If you ask a Junior School boy which is his favourite day of the week, the answer will be a resounding "Thursday" – the day the Junior School goes to the College's Oxford Falls campus for PE lessons and sports team training.

"The emphasis is on fitness, skill development and, above all, enjoyment. Sport is an integral part of the College's educational philosophy and we have a proud sporting tradition in all fields. The College's, as well as individual, success has been built on strong participation, mateship and fun," Junior School Sportsmaster Mr Greg Virgona said.

The College offers traditional sports such as basketball, cricket, football, rugby, softball and tennis as well as programs in dance, swimming and surf education. The competitive Junior School Swimming, Athletics and Cross-Country Carnivals and charity and community events (such as the Father and Son Day) are highlights of the Junior School sports calendar.

Sydney Kings'
Josh Duinker
(SPX 2007)

returned to the College to train basketballers and address the College assembly.



Congratulations to St Pius X students **Nicholas Brewer** (Swans Academy candidate) and **Aiden Teuma, Thomas Hunt, Max Martin** and **Bert Johnston** who were part of the victorious U13s St Ives AFL team.

SURF'S UP

Water safety and surf education are an important part of the Sports program at St Pius X College. In Term 4 every year, Years 5–8 participate in a range of programs that build upon each other in readiness for the summer holidays when boys often spend time in the pool and at the beach.

Year 5 participate in the Swimming Development Program. Years 6 and 7 go to Dee Why and Manly beaches for the Surf Education Program (a practical water safety and surf education program where boys learn to stay safe in the surf through board-riding and rescue techniques and identifying and navigating rips). It culminates in fun – but still highly competitive – "carnivals" where boys put their paddle-boarding, sand-running and swimming skills to the test. Year 8 learn the finer points of surfing or body boarding at the Manly Surf School.

Mr Greg Virgona, Junior School Sportsmaster, said "The water safety and surf education program is well established at the College, with the surf program in its ninth year. It's a fun program for the boys but it also provides a safe environment for them to further develop their skills and confidence to stay safe and enjoy the water."



Sportsmen of the Year

Sean Reidy – IMPRESSIVE ALL-ROUNDER



Professor Darcy & Sean Reidy

Impressive all-rounder Sean Reidy was named 2014 Sportsman of the Year. Sean played for the 1st XI Cricket and 1st XV Rugby teams and still managed to attain an ATAR of 98.60.

Sean was presented with his award by Professor Simon Darcy (SPX 1981), former Treacy House Captain and member of the 1st XV, 1st XI, swimming and athletics teams. Simon went on to represent New South Wales Under 18s, Combined Colleges and Manly Rugby prior to a spinal cord injury at 19. Simon is Professor in Management at UTS Business School where he specialises in major cultural infrastructure development and sport events.

Stuart Dingley – FIRST AMONG EQUALS



Mr Couani & Stuart Dingley

Stuart Dingley was the 2014 Junior School Sportsman of the Year. He played cricket, rugby and basketball for the College and represented the College at CIS Rugby, IPSHA Athletics (4 x 100m relay) and IPSHA Cross-Country. Honourable mention went to Michael Fakhoury and 3rd Place to Gregor Dingley.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

Lest We Forget

Remembrance Day was commemorated in a solemn and moving ceremony at the College.

The College was honoured to have as guests Old Boys, friends of the College and staff veterans, and family members of deceased soldiers and veterans.

The College's 1,130 students and staff attended the ceremony. As special guests entered, the Senior String Quartet played Bach's Anna's Minuet. The ceremony included prayers, scripture and poetry readings, Remembrance Day reflection, wreath laying, the Act of Remembrance with the lowering of the national flag to The Last Post, The Ode, a minute's silence, and the raising of the flag to Reveille. Musical interludes also included Abide with Me sung by the Senior Choir and accompanied by the Senior String Ensemble, and the ceremony concluded with the National Anthem.

Year 10 and 11 students supported the Poppy Appeal by selling poppies around Chatswood Station to raise funds to support the work of the NSW RSL and Delegate RSL in particular.



SPX Old Boy veterans



Laying of the Wreath



Vale

Bede Tongs

The College community was saddened to hear of the death of Kokoda veteran and Military Medal recipient Mr Bede Tongs OAM. At the age of 93, Mr Tongs visited the College last year and gave inspiring talks to our Junior School, Year 9 and Kokoda Expedition students. Vale to a great Australian.



Year 5 Excursion to the Kokoda Memorial



A contingent of 110 students, staff and parents will attend Camp Gallipoli to commemorate the ANZAC Centenary. It is anticipated 10,000 people will attend the "swag only" overnight camp in Centennial Park where tribute concerts, a light horse parade and "mess" style camp dining will culminate in a Dawn Service.

CONTACT SEAN BRANNAN FOR INFORMATION

James Spencer
(Year 9)
representing his
Army Cadet Unit
(206 ACU) at a
Remembrance
Day Service
at the Mosman
War Memorial



SPX Old Boys 2014

President's Report

In 2014, the SPX Old Boys Association (OBA) continued its growth and its involvement with the College community. The OBA supported the College in many ways:

- **Scholarships.** The OBA provided three scholarships to senior students. They are awarded in the true spirit of Edmund Rice.
- **Funding of individuals in the pursuit of excellence.** The OBA was pleased to assist Kanishk Purohit and Scott Watts (SPX 2014) attendance at International Youth Science Forums. The boys were amongst an exclusive hand-picked group of outstanding science students from across Australia to be selected to attend the respective forums.
- **Kokoda Expedition.** The OBA was delighted to be a major sponsor of the inaugural SPX Kokoda Expedition.
- **Callan Services PNG.** The OBA contributed \$2,000 of the funds donated by the College.
- **Infrastructure funding.** The OBA committed significant funds to the installation of a new electronic scoreboard at Chaplin Oval, Oxford Falls.
- **Rugby and Football home game BBQs.** Throughout the winter season, a hardy bunch of Old Boys run the BBQs at the SPX Rugby and Football home games. It's hard to go past undoubtedly the best cappuccino for miles around and the tantalising bacon and egg and steak and sausage sandwiches, especially on those chilly winter mornings around 8am!
- Funding to the various sporting tours and SPX clubs.

OLD BOYS HIT THE WORLD STAGE

SPX Old Boys, Wallabies Captain **Michael Hooper** (SPX 2009), Wallaby **Luke Jones** (SPX 2009) and Sydney Kings' **Josh Duinker** (SPX 2007) and others hit the world stage in style in 2014.

(BLUE AND) GOLDEN ERA FOR SPX OLD BOYS RUGBY

Brothers Rugby Club Sydney (formerly CBOBs)

After 100 minutes of rugby, nothing could separate the Brothers and Newport sides in the Grand Final of the Division Two Barraclough Cup. The final score was 13 all and the teams were declared joint premiers for 2014 (Division 2 and 1st Grade). Although not an outright premiership, a premiership none the less and a second Barraclough Cup in as many years. Brothers are certainly in a (Blue and) Golden period with many titles under the belt in the last few seasons.

In 2015, in First Division (for the first time since 1983), we will be fielding five senior grades and one colts (U21s) team. We look forward to your support.

www.brothersrugby.com.au

NEW! Old Boys Association Website and Facebook page

The OBA website is currently being significantly upgraded. To register your details, reunions, news, events, membership and how to get involved, go to: www.spxoldboys.org.au. You can also connect with us on Facebook – **SPX Chatswood Old Boys**.

THANK YOU

I wish to thank the SPX community with whom the OBA works, in particular Mr John Couani, College Principal, Mr Peter Hughes of the College Board, and all the various clubs and committees.

I also wish to thank a special band of blokes who give up their time to ensure that the Old Boys of this fine College have a vehicle to enable us to stay in touch and provide much to the SPX community. Thanks to Barry Wong (1968), Charles "Chuck" Kilby (1980), Br Dave Curtin (1968), Bill Gleeson (1972), Brett Laird (1982), John Reid (1968) and Sean Brannan (1986).

It is always an honour and a pleasure to serve as the President of the SPX Old Boys Association in working with the wider SPX community.

David Bullard (SPX 1982) – President

Patron – Br John Griffith (SPX 1944)

Full report at www.spxoldboys.org.au



DATES for your diary

15 MARCH 2015

2015 Students vs Old Boys Gala Day
Basketball, 20/20 Cricket,
Touch Rugby and Football
– Oxford Falls

4 SEPTEMBER 2015

ANNUAL DINNER 2015
St Pius X Old Boys Assoc.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.spxoldboys.org.au

Pink Caps for Cancer Cause



St Pius X and Blue Mountains Grammar cricketers proudly wore their pink caps at the match to raise funds for the Jane McGrath Foundation.

Vale BRYAN HOY

Our College community was deeply shocked and saddened by the sudden death of our colleague Mr Bryan Hoy last year. We continue to pray for Bryan and for his wife, Donna, and his sons, Jeremy and Daniel, and all his family, friends and colleagues.

Bryan Hoy – an appreciation

The sudden death of Bryan Hoy has left a gap in many lives that will be impossible to fill. He was taken from us at far too young an age – he still had so much to give in so many ways. He was a husband, father, son, brother, teacher, sportsman, and many people called him a friend. He was the sort of intelligent, honest, decent, hardworking man who is the rock upon which any community depends. Whether it be a family, a school, a church, a suburb or a sports team, any group of people relies on men such as Bryan to live the spirit in practical ways, making sure that the daily round of organisational detail is fulfilled in its most efficient form. People were in awe of his ability to juggle so many things with such efficiency.

Bryan was a true son of the Northern Beaches: tall, powerfully built, quietly spoken and with a shock of blonde hair – the personification of the local. He loved his surfing, had been a fine rugby player and coach, and he loved Manly Rugby League Football Club. He was always a devoted Wallabies supporter and was proud that the current Captain, Michael Hooper, and another top-ranking player, Luke Jones, had both been in his Science class. He took great interest in their careers, as he did in all his students. Bryan also combined his physical prowess and interests with great intellectual capability – his studies at the Australian Catholic University had culminated in his being awarded a Masters in Education.



Bryan was devoted to his family. He met his wife, Donna, through St Pius X. Their love lasted for over 25 years. They had a very happy marriage and Donna remains his most loyal admirer, along with his boys, Jeremy and Daniel. The boys loved their dad mightily and appreciated the many ways he supported them, always attending their sports days and other activities. Bryan continued the St Pius X connection in that both these boys attend the College, as did his father, Dermot. It is rare that someone



combines so many connections to a school: as teacher, ex-student, son of an ex-student and a parent of current students. Truly Bryan was a part of the DNA of the College.

Bryan was the ultimate professional at St Pius X College – a quietly spoken tower of strength on staff. He was a fine Science teacher, who never cut corners and made sure that he was always doing the best for his students. He was sincerely concerned for their welfare in many ways. This desire to be of service to his charges extended on to the sporting fields where he was variously rugby, cricket and tennis coach. As the College's General Coordinator, he was responsible for much of the daily organisation of the school: allocating the daily variations to the timetables and organising exam supervision rosters, movement to various venues and endless staff allocations for excursions and inservices. This role meant that he was rarely able to leave the College premises and was often the first one to arrive at work in the morning, ready to answer the phone and allocate the classes of those who were unable to attend work at the last minute. Bryan handled this often stressful start to the day with great aplomb. It is no easy task to make sure that over one thousand sometimes recalcitrant schoolboys are in the right place, with the right teacher at the right time, on a daily basis. The task requires a person of great organisational ability, tact, resilience and equanimity. Bryan was indeed such a man. He was constantly on duty, responding to the many pressures of a fluid environment, reorganising tasks on a short time frame and often having to ask others to change their own plans to do different duties – never an easy task in a busy environment.

While the loss of Bryan is an intolerable burden for many, it is also easy to find the joy that was a part of his life, and for those close to him to recognise how lucky they were to have him for a time. The memories of Bryan will live on through the stories of his favourite activities, through the love of his family, through the admiration of his many friends and the lasting legacy of the many students who were fortunate to have been in his class. Bryan Hoy balanced many skills and attributes with calm and determination. His loss is deeply felt. He was a fine man.

Mr A Cunneen

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



ST PIUS X COLLEGE Open Day

SATURDAY 14 MARCH

- Meet the Principal, staff and students
- Principal's Welcome -12 noon (*Chatswood*)
- Campus, classroom and sports facilities tours • Musical performances
- Robotics, science, design & technology and art exhibitions • Personal Learning Devices and classroom technology demonstrations
- BBQ



EDMUND RICE EDUCATION
AUSTRALIA



Chatswood Campus
35 Anderson Street
Chatswood NSW 2067
PH 9411 4733
OPEN 10am-2pm

Treacy Sporting & Education Complex
1 Dreadnought Road
Oxford Falls NSW 2100
OPEN 8am-12noon

www.spx.nsw.edu.au



**TO PREMIERE AT
ST PIUS X COLLEGE
9-11 JUNE 2015**

P&F

The St Pius X College Parents & Friends Association is a busy group who work in a highly collaborative and enjoyable way to organise and facilitate events throughout the year.

Our President, Paul Hunt, a St Pius X Old Boy himself, believes firmly in our role of supporting the College by providing liaison and occasional counsel on behalf of parents. We also give carefully considered and targeted financial support to appropriate projects, and provide a platform for parents to enjoy a number of social interactions.

Ultimately, Paul and all of us on the P&F Committee believe a happy group of parents and a strong College will maximise the benefit for our boys.

For your diary, below are key social events to be run by the P&F in 2015:

- 20 March** COCKTAIL PARTY AT OXFORD FALLS:
a fantastic night, especially for new parents
- 8 May** Mother's Day Liturgy and Muffins
- 8 August** TRIVIA NIGHT: Our only fundraiser for the Clubs which provide so much high-quality organisation for our boys
- 4 September** Father's Day Breakfast, with boys
- 9 November** P&F Annual General Meeting.

Please contact our Committee Secretary, Steve Johnson, at spxpandfsecretary@gmail.com if you are interested in getting involved.

YOUR P&F FUNDS IN ACTION Thank you to the P&F for funding the following improvements and programs at the College.

Weights program – all sports	12,000	Senior Dance program	2,600
Tennis courts at Oxford Falls		Robotics kits	2,500
resurfacing	10,000	History resources	2,500
Science Competition Year 11	6,000	Photographic equipment	2,225
Snowy Hike jackets	5,000	Junior School staffroom	
Junior Library writer project	4,500	refurbishment	2,000
Senior Library Manga books	3,000	3D printer	1,500