

# PIUS In Profile



## *I'm With Cupid,*

the College's 2015 drama production, involved more than 60 students and staff from St Pius X and Mercy Colleges. The play challenged notions of strength and the idea that showing emotion and vulnerability is weakness.

Written and directed by the College's Drama Teacher, Mr Joshua Combes, the play was workshopped with students to ensure it resonated with a teenage audience.

Loosely based on Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, the play tracks the fortunes of Benedick who vows he will never be weak or stupid enough to entertain the thought of love and marriage. He meets his match in the fiery Beatrice Cupid. Hilarity ensues as his friends set themselves the ultimate challenge – to trick Benedick into falling in love with Beatrice.

Mr Combes said that the play explored the key theme of "being an authentic person and acting through love is where real strength lies".  
(continued page 9)



## PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME



*Excellence is not a skill. It's an attitude.*

Ralph Marston

In 2015 our College theme has been Liberating Education. This has called on all of us at the College – staff and students – to strive for excellence in

everything we do. This edition of Pius in Profile highlights the many ways the College community has been striving for excellence – in the classroom, on the playing field, on the stage and in the community.

During Term 3, I was privileged to undertake a sabbatical which included a visit to Edmund Rice International in Geneva, the 19th European Literacy Conference in Austria and the International Principals Conference in Helsinki. I have returned with great enthusiasm, affirmed that the College is providing world-class education to our students and an ongoing appreciation of the privilege it is to lead this wonderful College.

Thank you to the parents, students and staff who completed the College Surveys, now in their fourth year.

### Overall satisfaction ratings (out of 5)

	2015	2014	2013	2012
Students	4.07	3.95	4.04	3.85
Parents	4.12	4.10	4.06	4.00
Staff	4.00	3.94	4.02	3.99

We farewell the Class of 2015 who have been outstanding leaders and who are now focusing on their HSC preparations. We will also be acknowledging with gratitude our long-serving Deputy Principal, Mr Jim Olson, at the end of this year. The baton is being passed to Mr Mark Casey who will take up the role of Deputy Principal in 2016 and to College student leaders whose investiture will be held in October.

John Couani • PRINCIPAL

**DATES**  
*for your diary*

**OPENDAY2016**

**ST PIUS X COLLEGE CHATSWOOD**

Saturday 19 March

★ **Christmas** ★★  
**Twilight Concert**  
Friday 27 November 2015  
★ **All Welcome** ★★

## FAREWELL AND THANK YOU CLASS OF 2015





LEADERSHIP

Passing the baton

Mr Jim Olson is stepping down from his role as Deputy Principal.

For over 20 years, Mr Olson has served the College and has made a significant contribution to the leadership of the College.

*Mr Olson loves the College and has seen several generations of students through the school. He has served four Principals in that time and all, including myself, attest to Mr Olson's totally unflappable nature, his ability to manage simultaneously many complex situations while always keeping the grounded day-to-day school life in perspective.*

*I acclaim his personal loyalty and offer not only my personal appreciation but that of the entire College community he has served since 1992.*

Mr John Couani, Principal

Mr Olson said, "Over the past 20 years I have been privileged to serve four excellent and very different Principals: Brothers Michael Walsh, Paul Leary and Michael Hoffman and finally Mr John Couani. It has been humbling to work with a raft of outstanding teachers and the community which is SPX. Like all teachers I hope I have made a difference to the boys in my care and a contribution to Edmund Rice Education."

Mr Mark Casey will take up the role of Deputy Principal in 2016. He is currently Assistant Principal, Mission and Identity.



Congratulations to our Student Leaders Year 12, 2016

**COLLEGE CAPTAIN:** Liam Houlihan  
**COLLEGE VICE-CAPTAIN:** Christian King  
**COLLEGE VICE-CAPTAIN:** Nick Parker

**HOUSE CAPTAINS**  
**Barron:** Luke Humphrey  
**Purton:** Max Magee  
**Rice:** Jordan Smith  
**Treacy:** Tom Graziotto

**PREFECTS**  
Thomas Benson  
Hamish Book  
Kane Eden  
Harry Heaney  
Matthew Kennedy  
Josiah Lising  
Pat McKenzie  
Ned McDermott Healey  
Billy Moran  
Stewart Ross  
Keenan Smith  
Mitchell Tutill



Learning leadership

Leadership camps and forums have been held for leaders in Years 7–11.

Mr Bill James, SPX Old Boy, business leader and historian, addressed a forum for Year 7–10 leaders, where he drew on his own experience in building and leading well-known businesses, Top Deck and Flight Centre, and his perspective as a war historian.

He told the boys that they don't all have to be traditional natural born leaders to be successful, that they can do it "by being a good guy". But they had to have a purpose or a vision, measurable goals and a very specific action plan.

He encouraged the boys to reflect on every aspect of their personal life (studies, co-curricular, extracurricular, family, work and social), to strive "to be the best possible person you can be", and to demonstrate self-discipline to earn the trust and respect of those they lead. "As a captain, you can't ask of others what you don't, can't or won't do yourself," Mr James said.



Mr Bill James with Year 7-10 leaders



Year 11 Prefects Camp

**Daniel Butler** (Year 10) is the latest in a long line of SPX students to benefit from Rotary sponsorship of leadership camps. He met with members of Rotary and NSW Treasurer and local MP, Ms Gladys Berejiklian (pictured), to discuss his experience.

"This camp has opened my eyes to a whole new side of leadership and shown me good examples of leaders to follow," Daniel said.

Daniel's full report can be found at <http://rotarychatswoodsunrise.org/>.



## TEACHING AND LEARNING

### Empowering our students to become independent, organised and responsible learners

The College Portal is a significant development at the College. "On the surface it may appear as making information readily available. However, it is a powerful tool that comes with expectations that students will access this information and take responsibility for their organisation and learning," Mr Alex Damo, Assistant Principal, Teaching and Learning, said.

"Teachers are encouraged to direct students to access the information rather than print it out and hand deliver. All assessment notifications are now available on the Portal and this can assist parents to know what their sons are currently working on. Students can also access lesson plans and homework as well as assessment marks and academic reports. The Portal is a live site and what is on the Portal is what is currently happening at the College in terms of timetabling, teacher allocations, rooming and calendar events. Students are expected to access their Portal on a daily basis. High expectations lead to improvements in student learning," Mr Damo said.



### Technology enabling "real world" learning opportunities beyond the classroom

Technology offers enormous opportunities to our students, which we seek to maximise at the College. A virtual classroom videoconference with the Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan assisted Year 11 Senior Science

students learning about tissue culture and seed banking. Our Legal Studies students in Years 11 and 12 were invited by the Honourable TF Bathurst AC, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales to participate in a Law Week seminar.

Our students participated via a live streaming from the Banco Court. The seminar included lectures on "Judging: How the law is responding to social media" and "Sentencing: How to accommodate competing objectives". The content of the lectures related directly to areas of the law that our students study.

The judges provided a very interesting insight into dealing with extreme circumstances while balancing their own emotional response, legislative requirements and societal values.

It was wonderful to be able to provide this real-world opportunity to our students and a rare opportunity for them to see the full bench of the Supreme Court.

*Mr Justin Hodges, eLearning Coordinator  
and Legal Studies Teacher*



*Law Week seminar  
live streamed from  
the Banco Court*



*Videoconference with the Australian Botanic Garden*

### Interpreting History

Year 12 History students have had unrivalled opportunities to access nationally and internationally acclaimed historians in the lead-up to the HSC. Dr Paul Kiem, former President of the Australian History Teachers' Association and HSC Chief Examiner spoke to the students about how to manage the World War I source analysis section, emphasising the importance of looking for details and making connections.

History Extension students were invited to St Scholastica's, Glebe to hear internationally renowned historian, journalist, commentator and novelist, Tariq Ali, speak on the construction of history. Mr Ali shared some astonishing stories and really challenged students' thinking in terms of how history is written.

*Ms Anne Gripton, History and Legal Studies Coordinator*



*Ms Gripton with Year 12 students*

**Ms Anne Gripton has been awarded the highly sought after Yad Vashem Gandel Scholarship and will travel to Israel in December and January to study the Holocaust. She has also been requested to speak at the Association of Independent Schools History Conference where Ms Katie Meale and Mr Justin Hodges will also be presenting on their innovative Year 7 programming work. Ms Gripton has also been selected to represent NSW Highly Accomplished Teachers at the Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership.**



## TEACHING AND LEARNING

### LITERACY – THE FOUNDATION OF ALL EDUCATION

The College engages the boys in many different aspects of learning that strengthen and extend literacy – spelling bees, reading challenges, Book Week, library visits, creative writing workshops, author visits, poetry competitions, plays, theatre visits, Da Vinci Decathlon, debating and mock trials.



Don't argue with these boys! Congratulations to the Year 11 and 12 debaters who won the Catholic Schools Debating Association (CSDA) Senior Aggregate Shield (for the senior team with the most wins). St Pius X hosted the CSDA Finals attended by 400 students, coaches, special guests, officials, families and staff from the 10 schools competing. Pictured: Ryan Attard, Keenan Smith and Josiah Lising.



Congratulations to Year 6 Blue who all completed the Premier's Reading Challenge by reading 20 books each. Pictured here in the newly revitalised Junior Resources Centre which houses extensive collections of books boys like – horror, adventure, fantasy and non-fiction.



Books Light Up Our World (and fire up our boys' imaginations)! Ingenious costumes at the Book Week Parade.



Years 5 and 6 toured Chatswood Library – a fantastic resource next door to the College.



Popular author Deborah Abela (Max Remy, Super Spy series, Grimsdon and New City Books) engaged the Junior School.



Da Vinci Decathlon Year 7 Team, 1st Place in Creative Producers category against 1,200 other students.



Year 8 enjoyed a celebration of Australian poetry, "Hot Potatoes and Potato Crisps", with actor, singer and poet Brett Hunt.

The Junior School celebrated Henry Lawson's birthday with Australian poetry readings.



### Science Week – explosions, dissections and paper planes

National Science Week at the College was jam-packed with events that boys enjoy and aimed at fostering younger students' curiosity about science.



Year 10 Advanced Science students were mentored by University of Sydney Engineering students (including Matthew Ball, SPX 2012) who put on fiery displays and shared their passion for science.



### Robotics victories for The Terminators and ID11

Congratulations to The Terminators who won Gen II Soccer (Lego only) at the RoboCup Junior NSW Competition and to ID11 (James Saddington and Regan Kouchoo) for 1st Place in the Opens Division.

The College hosted the Sydney Regional RoboCup Competition where St Pius X teams (The Terminators, Shockwavez and The Cheeky Ones) took out 1st, 2nd and 3rd Places in Soccer Gen II.



The Terminators – David Ko, Josh Foley, Cameron Lorking and Christian Maiorana (absent)



## MISSION

### Celebrating the College's past, present and future

The Feast of Edmund Rice was celebrated in prayer and song at a Founder's Day Liturgy on 5 May.

Special guest speaker, Br Tony Whelan OAM, told the students it was a day to celebrate the past – our founder Blessed Edmund Rice, the present – Pope Francis, and the future – the students at the College. He asked the

boys to reflect on what they are being called to do in their lives.

College Principal, Mr John Couani, called on students to continue to carry out the call of Edmund Rice to "give to the poor in handfuls".

The Liturgy featured the Edmund Rice Anthem, College song, Gospel reading and prayers of the faithful. Students were given a commemorative bookmark with the Edmund Rice icon and prayer.



College Captain Fraser Toohey, Brothers Whelan and Sherrin and College Principal Mr John Couani

### Celebrating Natalie's vocation

Congratulations to former St Pius X teacher, Ms Natalie Rocca, who has entered the order of Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecelia in Nashville, Tennessee. Natalie leaves the College with our gratitude, blessings and very best wishes for her future happiness in her vocation.



### Caring for Creation – Consume with Care

Following World Environment Day, one of the

main ideas was to save water by drinking from reusable water bottles. One of our students at St Pius has really kept to this idea by reusing his drink bottle for more than a year and a half to the day! Matthew Soetrisno (Year 11) is a real idol when it comes to environmental awareness and serving mother earth by using as little resources as possible. As the theme of World Environment Day was "Consume with Care", Matt has stood out in following this theme. A true leader in environmental awareness.

Samuel Calamos (Year 11)

### The power of gratitude

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend."

Tom Graziotto, Year 11, led more than 30 boys during a Lenten Friday Morning Prayer and reflection.



### World Youth Day 2016:

**"An experience that will stay with you for the rest of your lives"**

World Youth Day (WYD) 2016 has been launched at the College.

Year 10 students have been asked to consider joining the expected 500 students from Broken Bay Diocese invited by Bishop Peter Comensoli to travel to Poland.

They will join at least 3.5 million young people from 170 countries who will gather in Krakow in July 2016 with Pope Francis.

Youth Ministry Coordinator, Mr Adrian Brannan, told the boys that WYD is a "real adventure" and "an experience in faith and travel – an experience that will stay with you for the rest of your lives".

Currently, 30 boys have expressed interest, with many attending the 365 Days to Go Mass and social evening at Our Lady of Dolours.

Mr Brannan is the College's Youth Ministry Coordinator. He is an Old Boy and was College Captain in 1990. He also serves as the Youth Minister at Our Lady of Dolours Chatswood.

A fantastic Rock 'n' Roll 'n Rugby fundraiser is underway to support our WYD pilgrims. For your chance to win 2 platinum tickets to Monster Jam (17 October) or AC/DC Live in November, go to [www.trybooking.com/147327](http://www.trybooking.com/147327).

Above: Mr Adrian Brannan with Year 10



## STUDENT WELLBEING

### Conversation, acceptance and persistence – keys to Empowering Young Minds

Premier Mike Baird attended the Empowering Young Minds Forum hosted by the College at Oxford Falls on 12 June.

The Forum aimed at destigmatising mental health and empowering students to become “change makers” within their school communities by promoting wellbeing and developing strategies to combat mental health issues.

Premier Mike Baird being welcomed to St Pius X College Treacy Complex, Oxford Falls.



Common themes included the need for conversation, acceptance and persistence in finding solutions to individual mental health issues.

The College's MindMatters Student Empowerment Teams were among 180 students from across the North Shore attending the Forum.



St Pius X students were invited to the Positive Schools Conference where they presented on the College's MindMatters program.

### Building connections

Peer mentoring involves 70 boys in Years 11 and 12, 5 and 7. It provides an additional layer of support and friendship for younger students who meet regularly to have “quality time” with their mentors at school as well as fun and challenging activities like rock climbing and paddle boarding.

Getaway operates every Tuesday lunchtime in the Junior School for boys who want to play games and learn to interact and feel connected to others and the school.



Year 10, 11 and 12 MindMatters Teams with the Premier.



During the Q&A session, Ryan Attard asked the question: “What is more important – homework or sleep?”



“Taking it Back” students discussing the day and what actions they can take.

### Mindfulness

There has been a lot of discussion recently about the benefits of students practising mindfulness or “being in the moment”: a greater sense of calm and wellbeing; improved ability to focus and pay attention in class; improved sense of creativity and productivity; and decreased levels of stress and anxiety. Senior students and staff at Pius and Mercy were given the opportunity to attend a weekly course facilitated by Paul Jozsef, a mindfulness practitioner from Headspace in Chatswood.



### Students lead DAY OF ACTION against Bullying and Violence

A day to promote harmony and connectedness, students were encouraged to stand together against bullying (including cyber bullying), not to be a bystander, to take responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of others, and seek help when required.

Liam Knight (SPX 2013) spoke to the boys about practical actions they can take to prevent bullying and violence.



### “Life is never a journey you walk alone” – 2014 College Dux addresses High Achievers Assembly

“The time at the College has prepared me, and will also prepare you, for the transition into the adult life. What you learn from ... school ... should not be purely academic ... Involvement in the school community exposes you

to new experiences and provides you a basic human need, according to Abraham Maslow, that is, a sense of belonging. This ... comes from the friendship with other members of the College, whether it is with your peers or even, with your teachers. It teaches you something more important, that is, the way you interact and work with other people.”

Brian Lam, College Dux 2014

## ART AND DESIGN

## ON EXHIBITION

Many College artists' works have been exhibited this year around Sydney.

### Alex – Head On Student Finalist

Alex McLarty (Year 10) was a finalist in the inaugural Head On Student Prize, part of the Head On Festival, the leading photography festival in Australia, which attracts nationally and internationally acclaimed artists as well as emerging talent across all genres of photography.



Alex had two photographs included in the exhibition of the 50 finalists at the Museum of Sydney, which coincided with the VIVID Festival.

### Smart Expressions and ARTEXPRESS

Smart Expressions at the Concourse included work by 2014 St Pius X artists Nicholas Major, Hayden Falzon, Francis Nay and Matthew Miller.

Hayden Falzon's film, Embers of Imagination, has been on exhibition during ARTEXPRESS at McGlade Art Gallery, Australian Catholic University.



### The Young Creators

Joel Andrews, Matthew Lovesy and Matthew Chan were chosen for the Willoughby Council Young Creators project. They curated and hung the exhibition, Memory Fragments, at the Art Space Gallery at the Concourse, Chatswood. The project is a rare opportunity to experience all aspects of curating an exhibition.



## PERFORMING ARTS

### Music score

Record numbers of students are participating in the music program at St Pius this year:

- ➔ 268 students are enrolled for individual music tuition – that is one-quarter of students enrolled in the College.
- ➔ 521 students are participating in 25 ensembles.
- ➔ Largest ensembles are the Junior Concert Band (64 members) and Senior Choir (68).

### Dragsters, skateboards and speakers – New D&T Program for Year 9

This is the first year of this exciting Design and Technology program for Year 9 students. Their first project was to build a dragster fuelled by a CO2 canister, which they then raced along a 20-metre wire track.

Winner Andy Lau (pictured centre) had the most aerodynamic design (based on the Japanese bullet train), beating all students and staff who raced against him.

Other projects this year include designing their own skateboard deck and recycled case and electronics with a blue tooth speaker.





## PERFORMING ARTS

### Orchestra reaching for **HIGH NOTES**

The College Orchestra was established in 2012 for the 75th Anniversary, but has really come into its own since 2014. Consisting of all the string players and "invitation only" brass, woodwind and percussion students, the

Orchestra's repertoire ranges from Dvorak to Gaga! The Orchestra is currently looking to strengthen its membership with oboe and bassoon players.



The Orchestra playing at the Twilight Concert in August. The new orchestral bass drum thanks to the generosity of PAPA.



### **ELECTRONIC DANCE MUSIC** comes to Pius

Digital Music ensembles are a new contemporary addition to the College's already extensive music program in 2015. Students collaborate to remix songs or work on their own material by recording instruments using the College's Recording Studio and then remixing and editing them in the Digital Music Studio to create new electronic dance music (EDM), hip hop or rock compositions.



Nick Wellard and Nick Parker rocking the Twilight Concert in August.



Jack Moran (Year 9), Daniel Liem (Year 9) and Tom Benson (Year 11) collaborating in the Digital Music Studio.



Year 11 students Nektary Kotlaroff and Liam Kivijian had their remix of the 90s' classic, *Infinity*, shortlisted to play at Good Life (U18s music festival) in March.

## I'M WITH CUPID

### *I'm With Cupid* (continued from page 1)

"The best part about being in *I'm With Cupid* was personally developing my character, trying to understand who he was and how he reacted to the world around him. Also, being assistant director and sound designer brought a lot more interaction and engagement with the production."

Thomas Benson (Year 11) who played **Borachio**



"Being able to build up the courage to act and sing in front of all those people. The experience was almost surreal. Learning how to bring a character who was completely unlike myself to the stage, it was truly to 'become' the character and enjoy myself immensely while doing so."

Patrick McKenzie (Year 11) who played **Leonato**

"The best part about being in the play *I'm With Cupid* was the rewarding experience of the performance nights, the feeling of accomplishment when everything went well and all our hard work paid off. It was also getting the chance to meet and become good friends with some of the Mercy students, some of which I'm regularly talking to and meeting."

Christian Whale (Year 11) who played **Benedick**





## SPORT

ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

**1ST XI CRICKET ISA WINNERS**

The 1st XI secured the ISA Division 1 Premiership with a commanding win over St Stanislaus at Oxford Falls.

"This is what we decided that we were going to do at the very first meeting and now we'd done it!"

1st XI Captain Nick McCamley



Ben Kafer in action



Nick Refenes

**Jacob represents Australia in Dragon Boat racing**

Jacob Ibrahim (Year 8) has recently returned from Canada where he was a member of the Australian Auroras Junior Dragon Boat Team that competed in the IDBF World Dragon Boat Championships.

**Vicko skates for State**

Vicko Poon (Year 7) represented NSW at the Ice Racing Duke Trophy 2015 Competition. The biggest short-track (ice speed skating) team event in Australia, it is also known as the State of Origin on Ice.

**Congratulations to our Premiership teams**

- ★ **Basketball:** 15 Blue and 15 Red
- ★ **Football:** 2nd XI, 4th XI, 16B, 15A and 11Blue (undefeated, scoring 60 goals with only 2 scored against them)
- ★ **Tennis:** ISA Division 9

**Congratulations to our Representative Players**

- ★ **Dermott Beattie** U15 NSW Schoolboys Cricket
- ★ **Nick Refenes** (pictured) chosen as a shadow player in the NSW CIS Football team to play at the NSW All Schools Championships
- ★ **Dominic Easy**, Captain, NSW U15 Rugby
- ★ **Fraser Toohey** and **Ben Murphy**, ISA Rugby Opens
- ★ **Dominic Easy**, **Ryan Bento** and **Josh Thrum**, ISA U16 Rugby
- ★ **Benjamin Kafer** (Year 6 and Prep 1sts Rugby Captain), fly-half in the victorious and undefeated CIS Rugby team at the PSSA (Primary School Sport Association) State Championships



15As



2nd XI



Congratulations to Year 10 student Tom Gazey (pictured), who received the Spirit of Rugby Award.

**RUGBY HONOUR for Rick Russo**

Rick Russo (St Pius X College Counsellor) has been selected in the "All-time 1st XV" at St Patrick's Strathfield as it celebrates 50 years of rugby. Rick was selected as inside centre and was the only player to be unanimously selected for his position – apart from Wallabies John Ballesty and Michael Foley. Rick went on to play first grade rugby for Wests and now coaches and guides young St Pius X players.

**STEVE QUILTY RECOGNISED FOR 20 years of service to Football**

Steve Quilty was acknowledged with gratitude by the St Pius X 1st XI Football community for two decades of service. Fifteen past 1st XI captains were in attendance as well as members of the SPX Parents Football Club when Steve was presented with a commemorative St Pius X jersey in his honour. This season, Steve was selected to coach the NSW CIS Representative Football team, coaching them to victory in the All Schools Cup.





# OUTDOOR EDUCATION



## YEAR 5 – Milson Island



Milson Island is the destination for a fantastic Year 5 camp. Excitement builds on the boat ride over and there is a myriad of games, sports and challenges for the boys to enjoy.

Outdoor education, camps and retreats are an integral part of every boy's education. At the College the boys participate in a range of camps and retreats as well as optional hikes, bushwalks and treks.

## Hikes



Year 9 and 10 preparing navigational data sheets (left) and Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Hike (right)

## Wilderness Retreats

The College's Wilderness Retreats started in 1989 in the Wollemi National Park on the Colo River. They moved to Tallow Beach in the late 1990s. Close to 100 camps have been run for senior years. The program involves prayer, paraliturgy, meditation, affirmation and discussion "to find God in ourselves, each other and nature". Whilst the weather was perfect this year, previous years' students have been challenged by floods and wild weather.



## YEAR 6 – Canberra



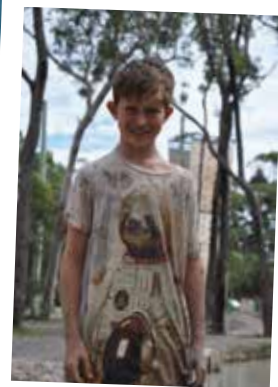
Taking in all the attractions of our nation's capital as well as testing themselves at the AIS and Questacon.

Year 7 Ski Trip enjoyed great conditions with fantastic snow and sunny days.



"It's so important for boys to have experiences like these – in terms of their development and maturity. They have to overcome personal doubts and fears and they all seemed to relish the challenge. They have grown in confidence and independence and many had the time of their lives."

Mr Paul Ticli, Year 7 Guidance Coordinator



YEARS 8 and 9  
Plenty of challenges  
at "The Great Aussie  
Bush Camp"



# REMEMBRANCE

*“The greatest love you can have for your friends is to give your life for them.”*

*Gospel of St John*

The centenary of ANZAC Day was celebrated at the College and in the community as we remembered in prayer and with gratitude all men and women who have served and especially those who have died.

Honoured guests at the College ceremony included Old Boy veterans and their families.

A powerful Act of Remembrance featured a bell being tolled as students from the congregation stood to name each of the 110 St Pius X Old Boys who have served.



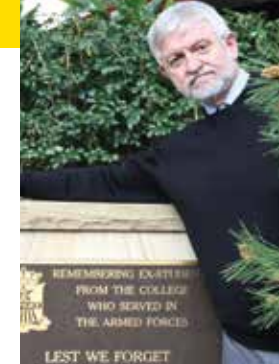
A very moving and personal address by Vietnam veteran Mr Jim Fitzgerald (SPX 1961) who told the College Assembly that Anzac Day “is a day where everyone has a story to be told”.



Students were also honoured to participate in the RSL & Schools Remember ANZAC commemoration at the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park. Mr Rod White AM RFD, State President of the RSL (and ex-student of St Pius X College), officiated at this service.



Kokoda Expedition students represented the College at the Chatswood RSL Dawn Service.



**Mr Tony Cunneen** (pictured), Student Studies Coordinator and History Teacher, and a staff member for over 30 years, has been instrumental in maintaining the important College tradition of continuing to pay our respects to our war veterans and their families. Mr Cunneen is an authority on Australia at war

and is a regular contributor to The Journal of the NSW Bar Association, The Law Society Journal, Wartime (the magazine of the Australian War Memorial), The Australian Law Journal, Teaching History, Digger and others. He is also a regular speaker at local history groups and conferences where his depictions of how the local communities responded to war have been deeply moving. This year, Mr Cunneen was honoured to be asked to give the 2015 John Laffin Memorial Lecture on “The Home Front 1914–1918” at the Australian War Memorial.



## KOKODA 2016

Following the success of the inaugural College Kokoda Expedition in 2014, preparations are now underway for 2016. Richard James from On Track Expeditions presented at an information evening attended by 40 students, parents, siblings and staff. It is envisaged that the trek will take place in June 2016. Flying into Port Moresby, the party will trek 100 km over 6 days from Ower's Corner to Kokoda Village. Last year's participants described the trek as the “experience of a life time”.

The expedition group is planning an immersion visit to Christian Brothers Callan Services Gerehu School for students with disabilities as well as to the villagers of Abuari, with whom we developed a solid rapport on the Track last year.

For more information, contact Mr Sean Brannan, Head of Student Services.



## SERVICE AND SOLIDARITY



**TOWELS**  
**TOWELS FOR MATTHEW TALBOT Hostel for Homeless Men**  
 More than 200 towels were collected by Year 11 students for the Matthew Talbot Hostel in Woolloomooloo. Every week students and staff go to the Hostel to serve an evening meal to guests.

## Serving



### Serving the local community

St Pius X students are active every week in the local community. On Monday afternoons a busload of ERS students go to Willowood Aged Care Facility in Chatswood to "sit and chat" with residents and perform at occasional musical soirees. On Tuesdays, the College has a permanent appointment at the Chatswood Blood Service for boys over 16 eligible to donate blood once a year. Wednesday is our rostered day for serving dinner at Matthew Talbot Hostel.



Pancake stalls were a delicious way to raise money for Project Compassion. The College community once again generously supported this Lenten appeal – raising almost \$14,000.

### Fraser's legacy

College Captain Fraser Toohey started an initiative in Year 9 to collect exercise books to send overseas. Since then, 2,500 books have been collected. Overseas agencies including in East Timor have been grateful recipients. Thank you, Fraser, for your leadership in all aspects of College life.

FOOD FOR LIFE



Kaleb Taylor

### Spark a change

The College continued its commitment and journey towards Reconciliation with the unveiling of the College's new Basketball singlets and Football shirts. Like the Rugby jerseys launched last year, they feature totems from the College's Reconciliation Artwork. They were worn by the teams touring to Queensland in July.

The sports kit is intended to "start a conversation" and "spark a change" and reinforce each person's unique role as an ambassador for Reconciliation.

Mr Kaleb Taylor, a Gamillaro man, conducted a water ceremony where he blessed the shirts and all at the College with the waters of the Cammeraygal people.



40 Hour Famine

### No talking, no eating for 40 hours

Angus Dingley and Rory Beattie (Year 10) led the 40 Hour Famine. Angus gave up speaking for 40 hours and Rory gave up eating. With their peers they have raised \$1,000 for World Vision. Well done boys!



### Mothers' Day Meals on Wheels

Pius boys served at and entertained a special Mothers' Day gathering at Chatswood Meals on Wheels.



### Winter Appeal wraps up

Beautiful warm blankets were collected by Year 9 for the Winter Appeal. More than 100 blankets were collected by The Smith Family who reported they would be on the streets straightaway.



## SKATEBOARD DECKS for The Haven

St Pius X Social Justice Coordinator, Mr David Blake, donned his TAS teaching hat to come up with the idea of the College's Edmund Rice Society (ERS) students (Years 7–10) making skateboard decks for students at The Haven Terrigal, an EREA school for students who are being educated for reintegration into mainstream schooling. The decks will form the basis of an Art and Technology project for The Haven students as they decorate and assemble the skateboards.

## EPIC SWIM

*"Tom is an inspiration to our students and to all of us at the College."*

*He is a man of courage, compassion and action."*



St Pius X College teacher, Mr Tom Pembroke has swum the North Channel (between Ireland and Scotland) to raise money for Callan Services in PNG. Congratulating Tom on his epic swim, College Principal, Mr John Couani said, "Tom is an inspiration to our students and to all of us at the College. He is a man of courage, compassion and action."

PRIDE OF PIUS



## CELEBRATING OUR FAMILIES

### Generations of Pius boys

Currently, a number of students at the College are sons of Old Boys. There are some boys whose families have been connected to the College for at least three generations, some back to the first days of the College:

- ➔ Hudson O'Brien (Year 12), his father Martin (SPX 1987) and his brothers, and grandfather Phillip (SPX 1957) whose four brothers all attended the College, one being in the original class
- ➔ Kalani Lenehan (Year 8), father James (SPX 1987) and grandfather Tony (SPX 1954)
- ➔ Charles McElvogue (Year 7), father James (SPX 1988) and Charles' late grandfather Brian (SPX 1951)
- ➔ Jeremy (Year 9) and Daniel (Year 7) Hoy, their late father Bryan (SPX 1985) and grandfather Dermott (SPX 1957)
- ➔ Tyson McCallum (Year 7), grandfather John (SPX 1959)
- ➔ James Brannan (Year 12) and Matthew (Year 6), father Sean (SPX 1986) and uncles attended the College, and their grandmother's brother, Kevin McCarthy, was in the first class at the College in 1937.



Sons of Old Boys (2015)

## GALA DAY



Our recent Old Boys played against our senior students in a fun but highly competitive day of football, rugby and basketball.

### Looking forward to a 75-year family association

#### with St Pius X College



Tony Lenehan (SPX 1954) began student life in 1949, aged 10, in Year 6 – in a class of 44 boys. By the time Tony had left school in 1954 at the age of 16, he had represented the College in the Cricket and Rugby 1sts as well as being Open Tennis Champion.

"It was with much pleasure that Denise and I found ourselves living in the Chatswood Parish with four sons and one daughter and the boys accepted into St Pius X from Year 5 to the HSC. This meant years of school involvement with Martin, Matthew, Anthony and James sharing their love of learning, sport, music and friends. The pleasure of working with other parents (some of whom were also Old Boys) on fetes, art shows, footy barbeques and a period on the P&F (including a time as President)."

With grandson Kalani in Year 8 and another grandson Thomas starting at the College next year, by the time he finishes "we will have had 75 years of involvement with this wonderful College," Mr Lenehan said.

Mr James Lenehan (SPX 1987) added "I have so many fond memories of my time at St Pius and I am proud to have my son attending the same school that myself, my brothers and my father went to."

Photo above: James, Kalani and Tony Lenehan

## There is no love like a mother's love

The College honoured all mothers and the important role they play in the lives of their sons and welcomed mothers, grandmothers, sons, family and staff members to Mothers' Day celebrations.



Our Lady of Dolours Church was bursting at the seams, and with pride, for the Junior School Eucharistic celebration honouring mothers.



Thanks to the P&F for the beautiful morning tea.



The Vocal Ensemble performed a moving rendition of "Gone, Gone, Gone".



### The festival of Fathers' Day

Fathers' Day is a great festival at the College with the fun (and competitive!) Junior School Father Son Sports Day and BBQ at Oxford Falls and the Fathers' Day Breakfast.



The Rain did not dampen spirits at the Fathers' Day Breakfast complete with bacon and egg rolls, espresso coffee and entertainment.



Fun and games (and food) at Oxford Falls.



## COMMUNITY

Highlights of the P&F calendar in 2015 have been the Cocktail Party, attended by more than 240 parents and staff, and the Trivia Night – great fun and a great fundraiser.



### Rugby Club Dinner

A great night of entertainment with former Wallaby Captain Stirling Mortlock, and MC, former Wallaby Fly Half (and St Pius X parent) Rod Kafer.



### Old Boys Annual Dinner 2015

On Friday 4 September a good gathering of Old Boys attended the Annual Dinner. The Old Boys were delighted to have Br John Henry Thornber and Br Carl Sherrin (SPX 1953 and the new Old Boys Patron) as special guests. Fr Paul Roberts (SPX 1979) led Grace with a special blessing to those Old Boys and Brothers who have passed on. A special prayer was offered for Bryan Hoy (SPX 1985). The class of 1968 was in good number, David Bradley (SPX 1951) was the oldest Old Boy present, with the most recent being James Roberts and Dan Buskariol (2010). MC Adrian Brannan (SPX 1990) gave an impressive update on current College undertakings, highlighting the various cultural, sporting and justice initiatives. OBA President David Bullard (SPX 1982) presented a report outlining Old Boys support to the College over the last year. From the offer for two scholarships, finance in support of sporting tours, funding boys to attend academic forums, significant contribution to the new electronic scoreboard at Chaplin Oval, running the home game BBQs for the winter sports season and much more, the Old Boys are proud to give back to the College.



Mr Bill Glesson (SPX 1972)

### Honoured for their service

Congratulations to St Pius X College community members who received recognition in Australia Day and Queen's Birthday Honours Lists:

**Mr Richard Stewart**, father of Angus (Year 5) (pictured), who was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to social welfare organisations, and to the accounting profession.



**Mr Joe Rizk** was awarded an OAM in the General Division for service to medical research, for Lebanese Australia relations and to the banking sector. He is father of two ex-students, Tom and Anthony, and his wife, Maureen, has been an HSC supervisor here many times.

**Mr John Watkins** (pictured), ex College Vice-Captain, former Deputy Premier of New South Wales and currently CEO of Alzheimer's Australia, was awarded an AM in the General Division for services to health, tertiary education and parliament. The Watkins family has had a long association with the College as students and parents of students. Watkins Oval at Oxford Falls is named in their recognition.



**Mr Denis Strangman** (SPX 1957) was also awarded an AM in the general division for significant service to community health through advocacy, public policy, and support organisations for people with brain tumours.

Teaching and Learning Continued from page 5

### Passionate about TAFE courses

TAFE courses enable students to pursue interests outside school and be "workplace ready".

"I became interested in 3D Animation after being involved with video games for years ... I really love art, it's always been a huge passion of mine and this allows me to express my creativity and imagination in another medium. It also allows me to combine both my interests – art and technology ...

I'm not just considering this for a career, but committed to making it happen and ensuring that I do make it into this industry.

I would HIGHLY recommend this course to younger students interested in game design, art or film. If you enjoy video games, you'll get a huge kick out of this course and meet some awesome people who are guaranteed to share similar interests. It's quite honestly

LIAM KNIGHT

### "Our White Knight"

Liam Knight (SPX 2013) has launched his own foundation, The White Knight Foundation ([www.thewhiteknightfoundation.com](http://www.thewhiteknightfoundation.com)). Its mission is to provide meaningful support for young victims of violence through their journey to recovery. College students and staff (pictured with Liam) were proud to raise more than \$2,500 in the inaugural Walk Against Youth Violence.



*I really love art, it's always been a huge passion of mine and this allows me to express my creativity and imagination in another medium.*

the best choice I've made in terms of education – practical, interesting, creative and ... absolutely enjoyable!"

**Austin Bolliger, 3D Animation student**



"I've always had an interest about how electronics work as well as building and repairing mechanics ... it is a very interesting course, learning about physics aspects and drawing diagrams involved. If you have a passion about electronics then do it."

**Tyler Donney, Electrotechnology student**



TAFE



## STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE – SPLINTERS, SPLASHES, SOUNDS AND STAGE

The annual HSC showcase of woodwork, visual arts, performing arts, and design and technology was again a highlight as 45 Year 12 students exhibited their outstanding bodies of works. Congratulations to all our HSC students.



Adam Melzer, Performing Arts Captain and Music Extension student who wrote a two-movement piano work, *Prelude and the Butterfly*, for the HSC, which was performed at *Splinters, Splashes, Sounds and Stage* by Dr Jeremy Eskenazi



Nicholas Montague's film, *Afterlight*



Dylan Ottery's intricate cabinet



Daniel Makerry's table tennis with woven net



Dante Bernard's drawing, *As You Sow So Shall You Reap*



Matthew Rath's Design & Technology project, "anti bender"



Scott Timbrell performing *Lied*



Tyler Jarvis performing *Flight of Fancy*



Hayden Tufill's side cabinet



Isaac Capra, Dante Bernard, Ben John, Calum Fitzsimons and Jack McCutcheon, the College's inaugural HSC Drama class, performing *When Life Gives You Lemons ... Break a Leg Boys!*



Matthew Lovesy's linocuts/prints, *S.O.S.*



Sam Enthoven's guitar



Matthew Chan's photographs, *The Eye of the Beholder*



Isaac Rayner's drawing, *Stripped Emotions*