

PIUS In Profile



2014 • FOCUS ON JUSTICE AND SOLIDARITY



College Captain
Leon Warren with
Indigenous Artist Sean Ryan,
February 2014 (see page 2)



**Outstanding
HSC results**



**eLearning,
Literacy and
Positive
Learning**



**Sports
Wrap**



**Vale
Pat Reilly**



EDMUND RICE EDUCATION
AUSTRALIA

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME



Welcome to the 2014 Autumn edition of Pius In Profile. The College year has commenced with dynamic energy and the College celebrates the arrival of the school year with great promise and a commitment to continue the religious, academic, cultural and sporting traditions and achievements of last year.

This year sees approximately 175 new students commencing largely in Years 5, 6 and 7 and the school year has begun with impressive efficiency and enthusiasm from all involved. Our success in the 2013 HSC has inspired our 2014 Year 12 class who are working solidly to make this year their best ever.

Entering the College this year, the improved learning environment and the refurbished Reception, invite all into a spirit of light, openness and optimism. New desks, classroom furnishings and outdoor and playground spaces have enhanced the Chatswood Campus. The ongoing rollout of new technology in the Lenovo Thinkpad 2 has now seen an effective Personal Learning Device in the hands of all students.

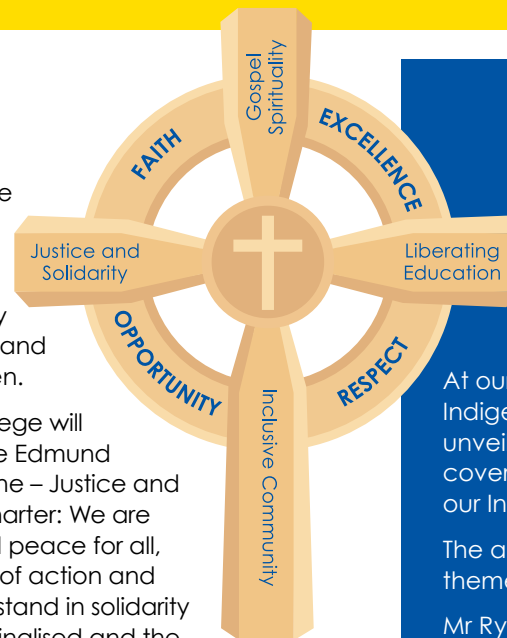
The College wholeheartedly congratulates the efforts of the 2013 HSC class. Their results eclipsed even the brilliant results of 2012. The school grows from strength to strength. Six students achieved ATARs over 99.0; 15% achieved an ATAR over 95.0. Again this year, over 25% of students achieved an ATAR over 90.0. Even more pleasing was that over 50% achieved an ATAR over 80.0. Truly outstanding. The culture of learning at St Pius X College is strong and through Faith and Hard Work our students achieve the best for each other, for God and for themselves.

In this edition, the College acknowledges the passing of Mayor Pat Reilly who passed away in January this year. Pat was a proud Old Boy of the College and made a very significant contribution to the life and culture of the

City of Willoughby. You will also discover just some of the rich tapestry of Pius school life and the many activities which make up the rich tapestry that enriches the growth and learning of our young men.

Throughout 2014 the College will centre its attention on the Edmund Rice Education Touchstone – Justice and Solidarity. Through our Charter: We are committed to justice and peace for all, grounded in a spirituality of action and reflection that calls us to stand in solidarity with those who are marginalised and the Earth itself. May each of us embrace the opportunity to really make a difference in everything we do.

John Couani • PRINCIPAL



COVER STORY

An Act of Reconciliation

At our first College Assembly for 2014, we welcomed Indigenous artist and performer Sean Ryan at the unveiling of his Reconciliation Artwork (pictured on cover) that depicts our St Pius X College identity with our Indigenous culture.

The artwork embraces our St Pius symbols and our theme for the year, Justice and Solidarity.

Mr Ryan made an inspirational and informative address to the assembled students and staff.

"This painting is an act of reconciliation – it is through our similarities that we will make inroads," Mr Ryan said.

This beautiful artwork that is now hanging in Student Reception depicts:

- + the four hands representing the Founding Fathers and Brothers and creating the crown in our College Crest
- + the four U shapes of the school houses around the central circular symbol representing the faith of the school
- + the gum leaves '*Eucalyptus paniculata*' endemic to the native custodians of this land and the 48 petals representing EREA schools and ministries
- + the five radiating lines of the Steps to Heaven that are also featured on the College Crest
- + the four EREA touchstones forming a crucifix are connected to the central symbol and form the basis of the school's ethos and values and
- + the College colours captured in pastel blue and gold.



John Couani and Leon Warren reaffirming the Mission Statement at the Commencement Mass

2013 Academic Excellence

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2013 ON THEIR OUTSTANDING HSC RESULTS.

"The Year 12 Graduating Class of 2013 has contributed some of the most extraordinary achievements to the College.

They have rewritten many parts of our record books. Their academic, artistic, sporting and cultural achievements are enormous. They will make a difference in our world. Congratulations to every student and the dedicated staff at St Pius X College, Chatswood."

JOHN COUANI, PRINCIPAL

2013 HSC HIGHLIGHTS

- 15% of students achieved an ATAR above 95
- 25% of students achieved an ATAR above 90
- 50% of students achieved an ATAR above 80
- Alexander Gan, College Dux, achieved an ATAR of 99.70
- Three students, Alexander Gan, Thomas Murphy and Edward Djizmedjian, named in the prestigious All-Round Achievers List
- Six students achieved an ATAR in excess of 99: Alexander Gan (99.70), Thomas Murphy (99.35), Edward Djizmedjian (99.35), Timothy Yee Joy (99.25), Jonathan Loong (99.15) and Steven Khor (99.15)
- 142 entries in the HSC Distinguished Achievers List
- Results above the State average in 27 courses (18 of these courses more than 4% above State average)
- In six courses, 100% of students achieved a result in the top 2 Bands
- Brian Lam (Year 11 Accelerated Mathematics Student) ranked 3rd in NSW in Mathematics
- Harrison Witsey selected for ARTEXPRESS
- Alexander Lewis shortlisted for Encore
- Robert Russo nominated for DesignTECH
- Liam Munich nominated for InTECH
- More than 80% of students (compared to 30% across the State) offered a place at University



A selection of Harrison Witsey's artwork – "Now Stopping" – a series of 25 suburban scenes painted on train tickets, selected for ARTEXPRESS



EXCELLENT NAPLAN RESULTS

In 2013, St Pius X College students in Years 5, 7 and 9 achieved excellent results in NAPLAN – the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy.

They were significantly above the State average in all areas. Most pleasing is the significant level of improvement shown by students at the College from Years 5 to 7 and from Years 7 to 9.

NAPLAN provides valuable information about student achievements in literacy and numeracy. It is used by St Pius teachers to strategically target the needs of their students with the ultimate goal of improving learning outcomes.

2014 COLLEGE LEADERSHIP & eLEARNING

Congratulations to the 2014 College Leaders

- **COLLEGE CAPTAIN:** Leon Warren
- **COLLEGE VICE CAPTAIN:** Harry Morton
- **COLLEGE VICE CAPTAIN:** Elijah Rayner

• PREFECTS

James Gibson, Nicholas Kitromilides, Ryan Leigh, Patrick McManus, Sean Reidy, Hayden Rolls, Bernard Sia, Andrew Silva and Kam Wan

• HOUSE CAPTAINS

Barron: Matthew Wong **Purton:** Danisha Ediriwira
Rice: Thomas Aposhian **Treacy:** Joseph Esposito



Year 12 Pledge of Leadership

At their Investiture at the Concourse, our seniors pledged themselves to Christian leadership of the College.

"May we be to our fellow students, men of courage and compassion – strong to stand up for that which promotes peace and justice in the classroom, on playing fields and in the school yard."



EMBEDDING eLEARNING IN 2014

A focus in 2014 will be embedding eLearning as the College continues to implement its strategic eLearning Plan to improve the educational experience for our 21st century students.

All Year 5 and 7–11 students now have Personal Learning Devices (PLDs) and Year 12 students are permitted to bring in their own devices for use in the classroom.

Mr Justin Hodges, eLearning Coordinator said "The approach of the College continues to be using technology to underpin its pedagogical framework of Understanding by Design. Essentially, eLearning is about developing deep understanding of content by students, improved literacy and communication skills and allowing for differentiated learning by students."

The College has continued to invest in more infrastructure, including new Windows 8 ultrabooks for staff, greater Wi-Fi access, improved docking for presenting from teacher and student devices,

and upgrades on our computer labs for high-end computer processing. The College has also secured new digital resources and interactive packages to accompany traditional paper texts.



LITERACY

READING REWARDS: “Reading for Pleasure” Boosts Overall Academic Performance

As evidence continues to mount that “reading for pleasure” significantly boosts academic performance, including in Mathematics, the College has been investing energy in programs that promote “reading for pleasure”.

Ms Karen Keighery, from the Senior Resources Centre said, “In 2013, highly regarded Australian authors Tohby Riddle, John Larkin and James Roy provided inspiration for students to write as well as read. Reading challenges such as the Edmund Rice Reader’s Cup and the Premier’s Reading Challenge have motivated students to read widely with record numbers of students from Years 5–7 completing the PRC. And the Pius and Mercy Book Club for Years 9–10 proved a smash success.”

In 2014 the College is maintaining the momentum with Writer’s Workshops for Primary and Secondary students with John Larkin and James Roy. Award-winning Australian author Scot Gardner will also visit to speak about his latest book.

St Pius’s most famous literary Old Boy, the renowned poet Francis Webb, will be the subject of a talk by Dr Toby Davidson, Macquarie University academic and poet. This supports the Willoughby Library’s Francis Webb Festival on 24 September where Pius students will feature in this poetry reading and celebration of the great man.

The successful Premier’s Reading Challenge will be extended to all students in Years 5 to 9 and the Edmund Rice Reading Challenge for Year 10s. And by popular demand, the Book Club will be back.

“Audiobooks are proving a boon for reluctant readers and research shows that literacy is improved by simply listening to the story. So we are adding audiobooks as well as eBooks to our collection that can be downloaded onto personal learning devices and other mobile devices,” Ms Keighery said.

James Roy Entertains and Inspires



James Roy and Year 10 Students.
Thanks to the P&F for making this visit possible.

Author Reveals his Personal Side to the Book Club



Photo: John Larkin and the Book Club. John spoke about his new book, *Pause*, and revealed that *The Shadow Girl* is being made into a movie in which he hopes to have a cameo role.

Literature Circles

Literature Circles at Pius enable gifted Year 5 students to engage with the ingenious stories composed by their prolific older peers in Mr Alex Listo's Year 8 English class.



“The boys have been studying novels of different genres with the aim of extending their literary selections. It was wonderful to see the older students mentoring, sharing and recommending their own unique tales.

Through this annual edifying experience, students are encouraged, challenged and inspired to read more widely,” Mr Listo said.



Dr Who TURNS 50

There was a huge turnout to celebrate the Day of the Doctor when the anniversary special was screened at lunchtime in the Junior Resources Centre.

MATHS, SCIENCE, ROBOTICS AND BUSINESS



ROBOTICS

*Not Just
Lego for
Big Kids*

Liam Cahill and Alex Collins competed in the National Senior Soccer Robotics competition in September. This required high-level programming and engineering skill, as the robots are required to be autonomous as they compete to move a ball into the small goal area.

"In November, eight students from the school's Robotics Program competed in the First Lego League. The boys competed in a variety of all-day challenges where they were put to the test to show off their engineering and research skills. As the theme was 'Nature's Fury', the boys presented material on earthquakes and potential solutions that could save lives. They were tested on their core values and teamwork and built and competed with a Lego robot. The boys participated with great pride, representing their College, scoring the most points in the tabletop challenges and winning a trophy for their efforts."

HARRISON GREGORIC – YEAR 8



Passion for Science

AT THE NATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE FORUM

"Kanishk Purohit and I attended a reception at Government House for all New South Wales attendees of the National Youth Science Forum. Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, the Governor of New South Wales, gave an insightful speech detailing the idea that the Indigenous Australians, who came thousands of years before us, were the true 'first scientists of Australia', with a deep understanding of their land allowing them to live off their surroundings. Professor Bashir also spoke of the significant impact Science has had on our daily lives, particularly in medical and technological fields."

SCOTT WATTS – YEAR 11 2013

"Nothing could prepare Scott Watts and me for the amazing and life changing experiences we would walk away with after attending the NYSF in Canberra. We met 150 like-minded students from Australia and around the world. We attended lectures on topics such as 'Forensic decomposition', 'Climate change' and 'Genetic engineering'. We visited specialist laboratories where we had hands-on experience in our chosen fields. At a video conference with scientists at CERN, questions were asked about the latest developments in Particle Physics and about future research possibilities. The NYSF also provided great opportunities to build our own 'Science Network'. We left the NYSF with an even deeper passion for Science and Engineering, many new friends and a sense of what the future may hold for us."

KANISHK PUROHIT – YEAR 12



L-R : Kanishk and Scott

Getting Down to Business

Australian Business Week is a Year 10 student centred, cross-curricular program that involves students forming companies, collaborating in decision making, designing new products and presenting their ideas across a range of technological platforms. It is very much a "discovery learning" program.

This is the 12th year ABW has been run at St Pius and key to its success is the generosity of more than 20 external mentors (former students, parents and members of Chatswood Rotary) who share their business expertise with the students.

ABW Convenor Mr Steve Quilty said, "By the end of the week, students had acquired a valuable insight into how business works but, more importantly, they had faced real time deadlines and experienced the benefits of team collaboration."



MARKET DAYS

Year 9 Market Days have been running at St Pius for over 18 years. It is a strong 'boys education' practical activity and our students gained a good insight into running a real business, in this case food stalls.



MATHS OLYMPIANS

The College was represented at the **2013 Australasian Problem Solving Mathematical Olympiad** by 17 Year 6 students and 32 Year 8 students and they produced some fantastic results!

HEADS, HEARTS, HANDS

Head, Heart & Hands CONFERENCE

Mr Rick Russo, St Pius X College Counsellor and MindMatters Coordinator, was a guest speaker at the **Head, Heart & Hands Conference** at The King's School in October. Other guest speakers included Baroness Susan Greenfield CBE, Dr Michael Carr-Gregg, Dr Michael Kimmel and Dr Tim Hawkes.

Mr Russo presented on St Pius X College MindMatters initiatives since 2006. He outlined our positive psychology and wellbeing programs, including peer support and mentoring, using examples such as Buddies not Bullies Bushwalks, Snowy Hikes, Boxercise, engaged learning activities such as the peer mentoring canoe camps, St Edmund's Wahroonga interactions, R U OK? day and paddle boarding.



BOXERCISE for fitness, fun and positive wellbeing

Currently, over 100 students from Years 5 to 12 participate in Boxercise now in its 7th year at St Pius. Mr Rick Russo says "Boxercise offers a constructive outlet to deal with the stresses and frustrations of student life. As well, students report it helps improve their sense of wellbeing and, as a result, prepares them to deal more effectively with the day ahead with increased self-motivation, a positive attitude and concentration."

Snowy Hike Lives up to its Name

The 2013 Snowy Hike lived up to its name and reputation with a blizzard and 25 cm snow dump on Day 1 of the six day 100 km expedition hike through the alpine wilderness of the Kosciuszko National Park. The Snowy Hike, an annual tradition of the College for more than 30 years, provides students with valuable life lessons in planning and preparation, resourcefulness, teamwork, resilience and overcoming adversity in extremes.



R U OK? DAY

Destigmatising Mental Illness

The Student MindMatters Team held a big R U OK? Welcome to School and Assembly to encourage our students to offer pastoral care and wellbeing support for each other. The R U OK? Foundation is dedicated to encouraging all people to regularly and meaningfully ask 'Are you ok?' to support friends, family and colleagues who may be struggling with life.



November

A dozen staff once again sacrificed their upper lips for this worthy cause. The concept of growing a moustache is about 'changing the face of men's health'.

A key aspect of the charity is to raise awareness of men's health issues such as mental illness and prostate cancer, some of which are largely untreated by 'invincible' males.

Here at Pius, we hope to destigmatise mental illness and provide a community that is supportive and accepting of all, irrespective of their state of health.



Mr G Virgona

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Social Justice FORUM 2013

A CALL TO ACTION

"Different Threads" was the theme of the Social Justice Forum in November. A great day was spent at the Treacy Complex where students and staff enjoyed musical performances by the Students' and the Teachers' Bands, a Drum Circle and thought-provoking and challenging presentations by Edmund Rice Centre Director, Phil Glendenning, Year 12 students and NRL Legend Rhys Wesser, whose life story is powerful testimony to our school motto through "Faith and Hard Work".

A highlight of the day was Eddie's Entertainers who performed in front of a packed and appreciative audience in the concluding ceremony.

In 2013, the College community, through the Forum and other events, raised funds for St Mary's Primary School, Bowraville, St Joseph's School, Walgett, the Edmund Rice Foundation for the Philippines, the Christian Brothers Missions in Papua New Guinea and bushfire victims in Blue Mountains Grammar School (ISA school).

A major aim of the Social Justice Forum was to increase our students' awareness of the reasons they are fundraising and the direct impact their actions are having on the communities, especially the children, they are supporting.



*"Don't be a follower. Be your own leader.
Say to yourself: 'Racism stops with me'.
And then act on that."*

RHYS WESSER

*"Don't talk about people, talk with them and ...
get a human connection going because then we can
imagine what it would be like if it happened to us."*

PHIL GLENDENNING, Edmund Rice Centre Director

*"Social Justice is the action we take to care about those
who may not be able to help themselves. When we help
others, we also strengthen our own community."*

LEON WARREN, College Captain

*"Your efforts bring different threads together and
support these causes. We can make a difference.
Be impressive leaders of our society
with a social conscience."*

JIM OLSON, Deputy Principal

*"The big question is what we stand for. We stand for
peace, justice, respect and dignity. This is Faith in
Action – we need to be people of action."*

JOHN COUANI, Principal



STUDENTS TAKE STAND ON LANGUAGE

2013 Global Dignity Day was attended by Year 10 Students, Declan Ward, Joshua Maggiora, Francisco Phillips and Fraser Toohey at Parliament House, Sydney.



"When we came back we felt compelled to evoke a change after what we had experienced. As a group we wanted to stand against the poor language that discriminates against the minorities within the Pius community. Using words like 'fag' and 'retard' takes away the dignity of people who are homosexual and disabled," the Year 10 students said.

They spoke at Assembly and invited their Year 10 peers to sign a Dignity Charter.

COMMENDATIONS FOR OUR YEAR 10 STUDENTS

*"Congratulations and thank you again for your
valuable participation ... that shows maturity, courage
and leadership. I am proud to be able to report back to
the International Committee on your achievements."*

PROFESSOR JANE McADAM,
AUSTRALIAN CHAIR OF GLOBAL DIGNITY DAY

*"I am very proud of
the students of St Pius X
College for standing up
for the dignity of minorities
... please pass on my
congratulations to them.
Standing up for equality
and dignity sometimes
takes courage but that is
the lifeblood of progress
and human kindness."*

JUSTICE MICHAEL KIRBY,
FORMER HIGH COURT JUDGE

*"Our young men
highlighted our
touchstone 'Inclusive
Community' encouraging
all to let us continue to
grow, ensuring dignity and
equality for all."*

JOHN COUANI, PRINCIPAL

IMMERSIONS

Moved to Make a Difference

In November 2013, 14 Year 10 students took part in the College's Immersions Program. St Pius has ongoing, mutually rewarding partnerships with the four schools below and our students were able to immerse themselves in the reality of other communities. In every instance, they were moved outside their "comfort zones".

St Mary's Primary School, Bowraville is located 20 km inland from Macksville on the North Coast of NSW; 90% of the students are Indigenous. The boys worked as Teachers' Aides in the classroom and playground, prepared lunch one day and carried out repairs.

St Joseph's School, Walgett is situated in the far North West of NSW, a 12-hour journey by train and car; 50% of the students are Indigenous. The boys worked as Teachers' Aides and carrying out repairs.

St Edmund's, Wahroonga is an independent co-educational EREA school for students in Years 7 to 12 with a wide range of disabilities including sensory impairment, intellectual disability and autism. The boys worked as Teachers' Aides.

St Joseph's College, Geelong is our brother EREA school in Victoria.



St Edmund's, Wahroonga



St Mary's Primary, Bowraville



Mr Mark Casey, Assistant Principal Mission and Identity said, "Immersion provide a life-changing experience for our students that they will continue to reflect on for the rest of their lives."

From the range of differing circumstances, the Year 10s said that all the students they met "were just like any other school students. They loved playing handball, touch footy and talking about TV shows" and, importantly, shared the same hopes and dreams for their futures.



"We are taught about the Aboriginal culture but you only learn when you experience it first hand."

DECLAN WARD

"It was challenging how different everything was – the distance, heat, lack of technology for entertainment.

I admired the resilience of these kids in a very different upbringing ... it was inspiring to hear about how these kids wanted to improve their lives and their aspirations for the future."

JAMES BRANNAN

"I was surprised by the innocence of the kids, many were oblivious to the happenings and were normal children."

TYRAN COLLINS

"They were full of joy and playfulness. They are not different at all. I want to make people realise what hurtful words like 'retard' and 'spastic' mean, they are so segregating."

PATRICK SAOUMA

"From now on I do not feel awkward or uncomfortable with kids with disabilities. They are just normal teenagers living happy lives."

FRANCISCO PHILLIPS

CULTURE

A LIFELONG DREAM *becomes a reality on China Tour*

A favourite saying of mine is "life is a journey in which we are all travellers". In our tour group, we were all student travellers who took on a journey about cultural immersion and self-discovery. All the group members who took on the challenge of such a trip were suitably rewarded with a lifetime's worth of memories.

For myself, however, the tour was a lifelong dream becoming a reality. I always had a personal striving to visit the country where not only does the cradle of civilisation exist in its purest form, but furthermore encounter new experiences in a new culture. This amazing tour did that and a whole lot more!

My favourite section of the trip will always be the Forbidden City. Although each of the attractions were amazing in their own right, it was the Forbidden City which truly captured my imagination. The sheer size and architectural content of the Forbidden City and

its surrounds in Tiananmen Square brought my heritage home to me.

The Forbidden City was so well preserved and it has been kept with amazing intricacy, almost unrivalled by any other attraction we experienced on the tour.

On the tour, I stayed with many people, talked with everyone but most importantly learnt along with everyone. Learning is a process which is lifelong and always changing. For everyone on the tour, learning constantly changed and the definition of fun definitely constantly changed. But above all, the tour of China taught me that life can be a rewarding experience ... even if you find yourself in tough situations and with tough people, a smile and simple expression in another language can take you a long way.

Hans Lee, Year 10



HOUSE CUP 2013

– Victory at Last for Barron

Matthew Wong, Barron House Captain, took special pride in accepting the 2013 House Cup. It is the first time Barron has won the House Cup. The House Cup is a hard-fought competition that factors in all elements of sport, academic and cultural activities. Matthew thanked his Bears, his worthy opponents and the outgoing House Captain, Alex Lewis, for the victory.



Cultural eMagazine

"The *Cultural eMagazine* is a new initiative founded by the 2014 Cultural Prefects – made by the students, for the students! The magazine's aim is to promote and enhance the cultural aspect of the school, while also acknowledging the creative works of the students across all areas of the College. To make it easily accessible to all students and also interactive, it will be published as an eMagazine – available exclusively on the new student PLDs! We hope it provides some entertainment and information to all the students throughout the school regarding the many different cultural activities and events that are happening at St Pius."

LEON WARREN, COLLEGE CAPTAIN

SPORTS WRAP

Athletics



Congratulations to our ISA Athletics team who came 2nd in the ISA Carnival and to our Senior Athletics team who won the Senior Athletics Shield.



Congratulations to Jack Berte and Gregor Dingley who recently competed at the State Athletics Championships for CIS. Gregor placed 4th in his heat of the 100m and Jack placed 7th in the State.

Football

2013 was a year of many highlights for the SPX FC. The College shared the ISA Championship with St Patrick's College with 7 teams in the Finals and the 1st and 2nd XI winning their Grand Finals. The College had a record 360 players, 22 teams and 19 coaches for 2013 and many boys gained representative honours.



Congratulations to Lucas Rainbird (Year 6) who represented NSW in the 2013 National Football Championships. The NSW team won the Tournament.



Basketball



Daniel Young (Year 12 2013) was selected in the Under 20s NSW Basketball team for the National Championships.

Rugby

Record numbers of players took part in the 2013 Rugby season. For the first time in College history, the 1st XV were coached by an external coach, former Waratah Francis Cullimore. There were some fine performances in all grades, the highlight of the season being the U13As undefeated Premiership (picture on cover).



The 1st XV training with Michael Hooper



Congratulations to Lachlan Albert (Year 6) who was selected for the 2013 PSSA (State) Rugby Championships. The CIS team won the event and Lachlan was also selected in the NSW PSSA team to contest the National Championships.

IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN

For almost 100 seasons the A.W. Green Shield has been keenly contested by Sydney grade cricket clubs in some of the best and most competitive U16 cricket in the world. "Greenies" has been a lead into grade cricket and further representative honours for generations of NSW based Australian test, ODI and T20 players.

Selection in a Green Shield squad is an achievement in itself. The 2013/14 season saw SPX Cricket provide eight players to some of Sydney's leading grade cricket clubs. Congratulations to Matthew Kennedy, Christian King, Harry Heaney, Ned McDermott Healey, Max Magee, Nick Onslow, Michael Roberts and Joe Unwin. James Kennedy ('08) coached his club's Greenie squad.

SPX Cricket Convener, Mr David Reay, said "To have this many SPX players selected at this level is outstanding. It is testament to the competitiveness, commitment and tenacity of these players."

ST PIUS VICTORY AT CHRISTIAN BROTHERS CRICKET WEEK 2014

St Pius won the Cup at the 37th CBCW in Brisbane. 20 EREA schools from Australia and New Zealand participated in some hard fought cricket, playing six matches in seven days in Queensland's January temperatures.



Congratulations to Danisha Ediriwira on his selection in the 2014 Christian Brothers Australasian combined team.



<https://twitter.com/SPXJuniorSport>
<https://twitter.com/SPXSeniorSport>

END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATIONS & CHRISTMAS GIVING

Christmas Twilight Concert – BEST EVER

The Christmas Twilight Concert and the Junior School Prize Giving were the main focus of the co-curricular Music program at the end of 2013.

The College is known in the wider community for its musical excellence and in 2014 there will be 20 ensembles including choirs, concert and jazz bands, string ensembles, guitar and percussion and, orchestra.

"We set the bar very high, with all ensembles performing challenging repertoire. The calibre of students who participate in our program is certainly rising to and meeting this on a weekly basis," Performing Arts Coordinator Ms Tracey Bates said.

Ms Bates said, "The Twilight Concert (and particularly the carol singing at the end) was one of the best we have ever had. It is a tribute to all the students in Years 5 and 6 that they participate and perform with such enthusiasm in the massed choirs, which have become a highlight of the Junior School Prize Giving and Concert."



Christmas Giving Tree



The annual Christmas Giving Tree was piled high thanks to the generosity of College families and Year 7 who led this College initiative. Gifts were sent to children in Bowraville and Walgett.

Vinnies Hampers

Thank you to Year 9 for leading the annual St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal.



"Believe in yourselves and leave the rest to God" – Junior School Prize Giving

The Junior School Prize Giving at Oxford Falls celebrated individual academic and co-curricular achievements as well as commemorating the significant and poignant occasion for every Year 6 student, and his parents – the completion of his primary school days.

Mr Tim Long, Head of Junior School, invoked the words of William Butler Yeats to describe the College's culture of learning saying, "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."

College Principal John Couani said, "Boys' education is all about engendering a sense of belonging, a sense of achievement and pride in themselves and their College." He thanked the parents for entrusting their sons' education to the College and acknowledged their generosity to the College and to the broader community.

Congratulating the Year 6 students, Mr Long concluded by telling the boys to "Believe in yourselves and leave the rest to God".



COMMUNITY

LIAM KNIGHT onwardsupwards

This time last year our College community was devastated following the shocking and senseless incident that left Liam Knight fighting for his life. Our prayers were answered when Liam returned to the College, completed his HSC, graduated and has gotten on with his life refusing to be defined by what happened to him.

Liam leaves the College with our very best wishes and secure in the knowledge that he continues to inspire every member of the St Pius X College community.

Liam has been offered a place to study Commerce at the Australian Catholic University. He has deferred his studies for 2014 to concentrate on his rehabilitation.

Good Luck Liam.

LIAM KNIGHT BENEFIT DINNER

The Liam Knight Benefit Dinner in September saw a "full house" of 350 parents and staff, SPX Old Boys, sponsors, community leaders and business people rally together in our unified expression of support for Liam. It was a truly inspirational gathering. The spirit was overwhelming.

With the help of our MC for the evening, Jason Morrison from Radio 2UE, Karl Stefanovic from Channel 9 and



Rob McElhone, our Auctioneer from Ray White Chatswood and continuing support – the College has raised \$170,000 for the overall Appeal. Add to this the \$50,000 donation from BGC Partners, and the Appeal has raised \$220,000.

I offer our deepest appreciation to all our sponsors and community partners for their generosity. This has been magnificent and in the true spirit of St Pius X College!

John Couani, Principal



THE HONOURABLE John Howard VISITS COLLEGE

In 2013, the College was honoured to have former Prime Minister, Mr John Howard, speak to Economics, Business Studies, Legal Studies and History students from both Mercy and St Pius X Colleges.

Mr Howard spoke about Micro-Economic Reform, the Restructuring of the Australian Economy and the move towards Free Trade. Mr Howard was Australia's Treasurer 1977–1983 and Prime Minister 1996–2007 and was able to give his wisdom and insight on the period being studied. Mr Howard also fielded a series of questions ranging from Tariff Reform and Financial Deregulation through to Australia's handling of refugees.



"Give to the Poor in Handfuls" EDMUND RICE

Project Compassion 2014 carries Jesus' commitment to all for a life of abundance: "I have come so that they may have life and have it the full." When reflecting on this verse, Pope Francis said: "Men and women all desire a full and beautiful life ... a life that is not threatened but can grow and mature to its fullness." Once again Pius families will open their generous hearts over the seven weeks of this significant annual Lenten Appeal to help those who lack basic human rights – food, water, shelter, healthcare and education.

Mr A Listo – Project Compassion Convenor



EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS



At the 2013 Farewell Mass eight Year 10 students were commissioned as Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. We congratulate and thank Matthew Buskariol, Liam Carroll, Hans Lee, Joshua Maggiora, Aaron Parker, Anthony Saba, James Saouma and Patrick Saouma as they take on this important liturgical role in our College, and their Parish community.

Remembrance Day 2013

The weather forced us indoors, but the Remembrance Day Ceremony for 2013 was particularly moving for the College community. We were greatly honoured to welcome Old Boys and their families – some whose connections extend back to the first day the College opened in 1937.



As is tradition, the Act of Remembrance was the centrepiece of the Ceremony. It was a time of great solemnity as we recalled the many lives lost in conflict and the great sense of service and sacrifice of those who went to defend their country – and the loved ones they left behind.



The guests were greatly moved, especially the sisters of Jacob De Sisto ('40). Jacob was just 19 when he was killed in 1944 charging uphill at entrenched Japanese machinegun positions at the battle of Artillery Hill on Bougainville on the Numa Numa Trail. It was his first action.

This photo of Margaret, his older sister (in the foreground,) who received the telegram telling of Jacob's death, and her sister Ella shows why even after so long a time we should commemorate these things.

Mr A Cunneen

KOKODA EXPEDITION 2014

The inaugural College Kokoda Expedition will take place in June. "In trekking Kokoda we will also be reflecting on the ultimate sacrifice made by such very young men as Jacob De Sisto and their families" said Mr Sean Brannan, Kokoda Expedition Coordinator.

SPX Old Boys 2013

Our collective faith was truly tested when Liam Knight suffered a horrific injury last year. The OBA has been privileged to be part of the Benefit Dinner and ongoing community support for Liam who continues to amaze all with his confidence and positive demeanour.

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Congratulations to **Jeannine Biviano ('82) – 2013 Telstra NSW Business Woman of the Year.**

SPX was co-educational in Years 11 and 12 during the 70s and 80s when Jeannine attended the College.



Congratulations to **Michael Hooper ('09) – 2013 John Eales Medal Winner**

The John Eales Medal is the highest individual honour a Wallaby can win. Michael dominated the voting for this Award, an outstanding achievement.



Getty Images

OBA Support for Scholarships & Sporting Clubs

The OBA is proud to provide scholarships to one Year 11 boy and one Year 12 boy, funding their tuition for the year, a program the OBA is hoping to expand in coming years.

The OBA also proudly funds various sporting clubs across SPX, including sporting tours, as well as assisting the pursuit of individual excellence.

A major source of funding comes from the home game winter season BBQs – thanks to the OBA Committee and volunteers.

Brothers Rugby Club Sydney – SPX Old Boys Rugby

Brothers First Grade completed a third Grand Final victory in three years. Overall, the club finished 2nd in the club championship. Brothers also finished in the top 10 clubs in the overall Sydney Suburban Rugby Club Championship.



Vinnie Byrne ('00) holds aloft the Barraclough Cup 2013



Barraclough Cup Champions 2013 – Brothers 34 defeated Forest 10

David Bullard ('82)

President, SPX Old Boys Association
president@oldboys.spx.nsw.edu.au

VALE PAT REILLY



"Pat Reilly was a valued member of the College community - good company, a genuine character and a good friend. His passing was a sad day for the College community. The College extends its condolences to his family and many friends."

JOHN COUANI, PRINCIPAL



Tribute to Pat Reilly

(SPX CLASS OF 1970)

The passing of one of our College's best known Old Boys, Willoughby City Council Mayor, Pat Reilly, has been well documented. The "colourful Mayor" was truly "one of a kind", "a true Australian character" and "a legend in his own time." He was a generous man with a big heart and a commitment to serving his community, and was very aware of his civic duty which he always upheld to the best of his ability.

Pat graduated from St Pius X in 1970 and originally worked in marketing, before successfully running for the Middle Cove Ward on Willoughby Council in 1987. From this time forward, he dedicated himself to the people of Willoughby. Pat was elected to the position of Mayor in 1997, a post that he held until his death on 20 January. Pat was Australia's longest consecutive serving Mayor, having held the post for 17 years. He ran twice for State Parliament, losing by fewer than 150 votes in 2003.

Over the years, Pat remained keenly interested in all things related to St Pius X College and was a great supporter of everything Blue 'n Gold. I know that he had very fond memories of his formative years spent at the College. He visited the College regularly, most recently to introduce his nephew, author Matthew Reilly, to the students.

He regularly attended Old Boys functions and he made a determined effort to attend the Old Boys annual dinner each September. Pat would arrive about two hours after it started, stay for half an hour, have five minutes on the microphone, put a bottle of wine or two on each table and then rush off to his next function of the night. A former player, he also remained interested in the state of play with the Old Boys Rugby Club, Brothers Rugby Club (CBOB's).



Pat Reilly, Year 12, 1970

On Tuesday, 28 January, a befitting memorial and Requiem Mass was attended by his many friends from the College community. St Pius X Year 12 students acted as ushers to the many dignitaries and then formed a guard of honour as the funeral procession pulled away from the church. The boys simply and beautifully honoured Pat's memory and finally marked Pat's association publicly with the school that he loved.



Pat with his nephew, author Matthew Reilly



The guard of honour by St Pius boys

Pat has left a legacy in so many ways but none more so than the makeup, social fabric and character of our local community, through his service in promoting cultural diversity, harmony and cohesion.

His memory will be treasured by many but also collectively by the inclusive community that he helped to shape. The thoughts and prayers of the St Pius X College community are with Pat's wife, Beth, and his daughter, Sophie.

Farewell Pat, old mate, may you rest in peace and perpetual light shine upon your soul. I hope to see you and Elvis crooning one day beyond the pearly gates, no doubt you would have organised the gig, because that's the "wonder of you!"

Adrian Brannan
College Captain 1990



Adrian and Pat

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

“Honest Iago”

PREMIERES AT ST PIUS IN JUNE

The College is delighted to welcome its first full-time Drama teacher in 2014, Mr Joshua Combes. He brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the position. Mr Combes is so passionate about Drama that he decided to write a play specifically for the boys of St Pius.

Mr Combes said, “Honest Iago is specifically a boy’s play, with only one female role. We want to establish Drama at the College as a boy’s endeavour.”

“Honest Iago” is a modern day take on *Othello*, incorporating the reality of today’s teenage world of social media and bullying. It focuses on the destructive nature of envy that makes people competitive and drives them away from their true selves and their ability to appreciate excellence in others.



“Honest Iago” WILL BE PRESENTED **10-12 JUNE** IN THE **SARTO CENTRE**

SPX P&F Association

For more information • <http://pandf.spx.nsw.edu.au/>

The St Pius X P&F Committee is a dedicated and hard-working group of people who make a significant contribution to the quality of College life for our young men and their parents and carers.

In 2013, the P & F assisted in the funding of important College projects including:

- Lighting and presentation upgrades in class hallways to showcase the boys' artworks
- The purchase of a replacement kiln
- Improvements to walkways at the Oxford Falls campus
- Critical safety equipment for the Snowy Mountain Hike and other outdoor activities.

In 2014, the P&F will be holding a number of College social events including the Mothers' Day Liturgy & Morning Tea, Fathers' Day Breakfast and Trivia Night.



ST PIUS X COLLEGE Open Day

SATURDAY 22ND MARCH • 10AM - 2PM

Meet the Principal, staff and students at our Chatswood and Oxford Falls campuses

- School tours, exhibitions, band performances, BBQ
- Principal's Welcome - 12 noon - Chatswood

Enrolling for Years 5, 6 and 7, 2016 from 3rd March, 2014.
Applications close 30th April 2014.



35 Anderson Street
Chatswood NSW 2067
PH 9411 4733

Treacy Education Complex
1 Dreadnought Road
Oxford Falls NSW 2100



www.spx.nsw.edu.au

Smart Expressions at the Concourse Art Space

Artworks by 2013 Year 12 students Joseph Witsey, Liam Munich, Smith McEwan and Joshua Bilson will be on display **26 March – 13 April** at the Concourse.



Painting by Smith McEwan