

PIUS In Profile



KOKODA EXPEDITION - *"Experience of a lifetime"*

The St Pius X College, Chatswood inaugural Kokoda Expedition took place in July. Thirty two students (Years 9–12), siblings, fathers and staff undertook the demanding trek and immersion and returned with memories they will savour for the rest of their lives, describing it as the "experience of a lifetime".

"At the Isurava Battlefield Memorial the words Mateship, Endurance, Courage and Sacrifice are inscribed on granite pillars. We have a new appreciation of what these values mean having walked in the footsteps of Australian soldiers, some of them the same age as our students," Expedition leader Mr Sean Brannan said.

The party undertook 10 months of solid preparation and planning to meet the rigours of the terrain, and researched the historical significance of the Track to gain a better understanding of contemporary Papua New Guinea. (continued page 10.)



PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME



Welcome to the 2014 Spring edition of "Pius in Profile". The 2014 College year has been a rich and dynamic experience for our students and this edition profiles much of the energy, activity, service and learning of the school community. Our 2014 theme from the Edmund Rice Education Australia Charter is **Justice and Solidarity** and this is reflected in the various activities represented in this edition.

This edition also highlights the growth and achievements of the Graduating Year 12 Class of 2014. Our Graduands have shown their many and varied talents and interests and they will enter the future well prepared, confident

and capable of making a difference. The College mission to educate the "whole" person – spiritually, academically, pastorally, culturally and socially – is well in evidence when scanning through their many experiences, as it is for all those in the school.

The College has undertaken the third year of satisfaction surveys conducted by MyYardstick in Melbourne and the results show high engagement and satisfaction levels for students, parents and staff. The College strives for continuous improvement.

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

Once again, I congratulate and thank all those involved in the College and especially our brilliant students.

John Couani • PRINCIPAL

DATES
*for your
diary*

Saturday 14 March 10am - 2pm

OPENDAY2015

ST PIUS X COLLEGE CHATSWOOD

★ *Christmas* ★
Twilight Concert
FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2014
All Welcome ★★

CLASS OF 2014 *Thank you and good luck*



"Fide et Labore" - *Through Faith and Hard Work*

LEADERSHIP & LEARNING

Congratulations to the College Student Leadership Team for 2015

- **COLLEGE CAPTAIN:** Fraser Toohey
- **COLLEGE VICE CAPTAIN:** James Brannan
- **COLLEGE VICE CAPTAIN:** Matthew Buskariol

• PREFECTS

Liam Carroll, Tyran Collins, Lachlan Finch, Matthew Harris, Tyler Jarvis, Benjamin John, Christopher Keyes, Ben Kinchington, Hans Lee, Francis Phillips

• HOUSE CAPTAINS

Barron: Ben Murphy

Purton: Liam Calleja

Rice: Nick McCamley

Treacy: Declan Ward

The 2015 Student Leader Investiture will take place at the Concourse on 20 October 2014.



College Portal and Technology improving accessibility and efficiency

A key focus of 2014 has been increasing the efficiency of the College's student management system and centralising all the academic results for each student.

The aim is that every student can be tracked from the time they commence at the College to when they leave at the end of Year 12.

This information will also be available to parents through the Parent Portal that is scheduled for implementation in 2015.

The Portal will improve communication between parents, staff and students and provide access to a student's results in every subject. This will allow "continuous reporting" so that parents can monitor their son's progress rather than waiting for the semester reports. Reports will also be accessible online through the Portal.

"The use of online portals and technology improves accessibility and efficiency as was demonstrated in the parent/teacher interviews that were booked online for the first time this year," Mr Alex Damo, Assistant Principal, Teaching and Learning said.

"We will continue to explore the use of technology in the classroom for Years 5-12 and our pedagogy in engaging them in learning. In 2015 Years 5-9 will no longer have a mid-year exam block as we broaden our methods of student assessment," Mr Damo said.



MATHEMATICS ACCELERANTS PROGRAM adds up

The Accelerated Mathematics program enables selected students with an aptitude for Mathematics to move one year ahead of their cohort and complete some of their HSC Mathematics in Year 11.

In recent years the College's Mathematics Accelerants have achieved excellent HSC results, particularly in Advanced Mathematics (2 Unit), notably Brian Lam (ranked 3rd in NSW in 2013) and Alex Gan (ranked 9th in NSW in 2012).

The success of the Accelerated Mathematics program at St Pius X College stems from a combination of hard work by the students who thrive on the challenge of Mathematics (and of competing with students a year older than them) and the dedication of the experienced Mathematics teaching staff.

Mathematics Extension 2 teacher Mr Brian Charlton says, "While entry to the Extension 2 course via the accelerated program is a sound path to follow, other students meeting minimum entry requirements from the conventional path to Year 11 usually perform very well in the HSC."

The Accelerated Maths program starts in Year 9 when students complete the Year 9 and 10 (Stage 5) curriculum which allows them to commence senior (Stage 6) Mathematics a year early. A large number of the Accelerated Mathematics students go on to complete Mathematics Extension 2 when they are in Year 12.



Mr Brian Charlton with Year 11 Accelerants

TEACHING AND LEARNING

St Pius scientists reach for the stars

Record numbers of science students at St Pius X College are achieving outstanding results in national forums and competitions across all year groups.

Science Coordinator Ms Judy Black said, "There are many opportunities to excel in science both in and outside the class room and at St Pius we endeavour to take advantage of any opportunity that can be offered to our science students. Increasing numbers of students are taking advantage of the programs on offer."

In 2015 a record five Year 11 St Pius X College students (Robert Morgan, Jeremy Chow, Richard Zelei, Joshua Maggiora and Harry Vinter) will take part in the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) in Canberra that will be attended by 432 students nationwide. The NYSF is a unique program that enables Year 11 students the opportunity to get a hands-on feel for careers and study options in science, engineering and technology. Students live as university students on campus, gaining an insider's perspective on campus life and experiencing real science at a range of laboratories and workshops and in the field.

During Year 12 NSYF students also have the opportunity to participate in further programs around Australia and internationally. This year Kanishk Purohit and Scott Watts (Year 12) were both invited to represent Australia as a result of their contributions to NSYF. Kanishk attended the Canada-Wide Science Fair and Scott attended the International Science Summer School in Heidelberg. They followed in the footsteps of Toby Moysa (Russia 2001),



Kanishk Purohit (Year 12) and
Scott Watts (Year 12)

Evan Williams (Russia 2001), Alexander Gough (England 2003), Patrick Collins (Russia 2008) and Stuart MacLaine (Canada 2012) who previously represented the College at International Science study programs.

The College was also represented by 14 Year 9 and 10 students at the University of Sydney's prestigious Science Gifted and Talented Science Discovery Program as a result of the students' performances in the qualifying exams.

The future of Science at the College is assured with five certificates of High Distinction being awarded at the 2014 Australian Schools Science Competition – Benjamin Lamont (Year 7), Michael Currington (Year 8), Daniel Hall (Year 8), Harrison Robson (Year 9) and Kane Eden (Year 10).



Harbour's history COMES ALIVE

On two sparkling Sydney winter days, the kind that only our Harbour can provide, Year 10 undertook their mandatory site study of Cockatoo Island for History.

The island has been a key part of Harbour life for millennia, being used for rituals by First Australians, as a recidivist convict cabbage growing hell in the 1800s and a reform school for girls, as well as being a major shipbuilding and repair shop during the World Wars. More recently it has been a film location for *Wolverine* and Angelina Jolie's to be released World War II epic *Unbroken* as well as a prime "glamping" location.

The students were challenged in the way they think about history as they moved around the island. They saw 1 metre wide solitary confinement cells where young girls would be placed for several days for "unbecoming behaviour", as well as the brutal industrial spaces and equipment that claimed men's fingers and even lives.

To give these students an opportunity to live history is crucial to their understanding of it – to confine it to the classroom is likening it to reading a brochure and saying you've taken a holiday. The students were very positive about the day, and it has enriched their understanding of Australia's part in the Industrial Revolution and World Wars.

Mrs Anne Gripton, History & Legal Studies Coordinator

"To see where the convicts lived, the way they had to carve a life out of the sandstone, gave me great insight into their hardships." (Nick Lelli, Year 10)

"I was amazed by the sheer size and scope of the machinery that the men operated, without any consideration for their safety." (Keenan Smith, Year 10)



YEAR 5 CODE BREAKERS



Congratulations to our Year 5 team who came 1st in General Knowledge and 3rd in Code Breaking in this year's *Da Vinci Decathlon*, an academic gala day strongly contested by Sydney schools. This year the theme was "Mystery and Mayhem" and the boys worked in groups to answer challenging questions in 10 discipline areas of Mathematics and Engineering, General Knowledge, Code Breaking, Creative Producers, Art and Poetry, Science, English and Cartography. The competition demands higher order thinking skills, problem solving and creativity.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

INFORMED DECISIONS

Key to future career paths

At Pius, students in Years 10-12 have many opportunities to explore career options they could be interested in pursuing once they leave school.

"There are many opportunities throughout the year for students to discover and learn about career pathways. Being informed about university and vocational study options allows students to make informed decisions in regards to their future after school," Careers Adviser Ms Donna Janes says.

This year there has been a large number of lunchtime sessions available to Years 10-12. Usually around 50 students will attend each session with faculties from the major universities as well as organisations like the Australian Defence Force. Ms Janes also offers individual appointments to assist students with career planning. At Pius, there are a number of students in Years 11 and



12 currently undertaking TAFE courses including Nursing (human services), Electrotechnology, Construction and Automotive. The students attend TAFE courses every Tuesday afternoon as part of their Preliminary or HSC courses. TAFE courses involve industry placement and practical workshops where students can make valuable contacts and get real, hands-on experience. TAFE students benefit from being "workplace ready" and the contacts made at TAFE are often the source of their first jobs.

Ms Donna Janes, Careers Adviser



Will with Pius and Mercy Book Club

The ALCHEMY of AUTHORS

The tradition of storytelling is alive and well. Modern-day authors' visits to St Pius enthrall, captivate and delight students. The most recent visit by author Will Kostakis whose book *The First Third* was short-listed for "Book of the Year" did just that. It also provided plenty of inspiration. Students in Years 8, 9 and 10 were impressed by this 25-year-old's ability to weave an entertaining story about his life as a writer and the craft of storytelling.

Author visits are an effective strategy for teacher librarians to promote reading. "It gave me an insight into the process of writing," said a student from Year 10; "If you keep on trying you will succeed," said another. It's some measure of success that all books by Will Kostakis are on loan, but perhaps the real measure is the delight that students take from hearing contemporary story tellers like Will transform words into vivid stories.

Mrs Karen Keighery, Senior Resources Centre



JUNIOR SCHOOL

"Connects to Reading"

The Book Week Parade is one of the most eagerly anticipated events on the College calendar and once again it lived up to high expectations thanks to the ingenuity of our boys.



BOYS PREFER facts to fiction

The College's "One Stop" biography section in the Senior Resources Centre has been launched as research shows that boys prefer factual, biographical books to fiction. It has proven a hit with students keen to uncover the lives of inspirational leaders in sport, business and politics.



MISSION

Founder's Day Celebrations

"The education system formulated by the Christian Brothers is infused with the spirit of Religion; if that is missing, all else is of little worth. It is with education as with books, what matters is not the outward vesture or the binding, but the excellence of the contents – the inward heart and soul."

PRINCIPAL MR JOHN COUANI QUOTING THE COLLEGE'S FIRST HEADMASTER, BR BAPTIST QUIRK IN THE FIRST ANNUAL REPORT.

The Founder's Day Liturgy at the College on 5 May celebrated the enduring significance of our Founders, the Christian Brothers, in so many aspects of College life. Students and staff were honoured to celebrate the Feast of Blessed Edmund Rice with Br Jeffers and Br Sherrin (who recently celebrated his 60th Jubilee and who is an Old Boy of the College), NSW EREA Director Mr Jeff Croser and College Board Members Ms Jan Hunter and Mr Tony Masone.

Fr Barry presided over the Liturgy that included rousing renditions of the Edmund Rice Anthem, College Song and War Cry, the Gospel in our EREA Charter, Prayers, The Angelus devotion and the blessing of the Prayer Garden.



2014 College Captain, Leon Warren
with Br Sherrin

Edmund Rice Education

BEYOND BORDERS



Mr Couani with Pius, a student
at Br Beausang School

Principal Mr John Couani was honoured to be invited to join the inaugural Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders meeting in Nairobi in May. This project aimed to determine how best to collectively continue the Christian Brothers Mission in education across the world. Mr Couani described his time in Nairobi as "one of the most challenging and, at the same time, exhilarating immersion experiences I have ever had".

REFUGEE WEEK

Year 9 answers the call



The College answered the call from Newtown Refugee Crisis Centre for emergency food parcels and personal items for refugees who are in dire need of our support, some living below the poverty line.

"I Bless Peace"

A TRIBUTE TO ST PIUS X



On 20 August the College commemorated the 100th anniversary of the death of St Pius X. Following is an excerpt from a Tribute written by Mr Anthony Cunneen published in the Catholic Weekly.

Pope Pius X was one of the early victims of the First World War. The eruption of the vast conflict in early August 1914 placed the 79 year old Pontiff in a wretched position. He was genuinely horrified to see the Catholic communities of the Great Powers tear into battle with a ferocity not seen since The Dark Ages. When the Emperor of Austria-Hungary, the aging, venerably Catholic, Franz Joseph asked for a blessing, Pope Pius X replied: 'No! I cannot bless any army of Europe, but I bless peace.' He passed away two weeks after the outbreak of hostilities.

While, as a Pope, Pius X was conscious of the wider theological and political issues of his world, he also lived a modest personal life. Such simplicity made him a very appealing figure in a world still dominated by the trappings of nobility and aristocracy. His humble origins were proof that education and talent could lead to high office. He was genuinely popular in Australia, where such advancement from simple beginnings was seen as a model for all young people.

While we venerate Saint Pius X, the many reports of his last weeks and death as Pope, marred as they were by news from battles far and wide, lead us to the conclusion: that within the mighty power of a world-wide church, within the office of the Pope, within the tradition, within the world of the Vatican, within the Papal Chambers there was a fundamentally decent, simple man of God - a worthy example for young people to follow today.

Pope Pius X was canonised on 29 May 1954. At the time, Cardinal Gilroy of Sydney contacted the ebulliently Irish Principal of what was then called Christian Brothers Chatswood (CBC) - Br Max O'Connor. As a result of that conversation Br O'Connor took the Cardinal's suggestion and renamed the school, St Pius X College, the following day.

JUSTICE AND SOLIDARITY

Edmund Rice Society GIVING VOICE TO THE VOICELESS

The College's Edmund Rice Society (ERS) is a group of volunteer Year 5–11 students who come together to support the charism of Edmund Rice by giving practical help and hope to those in need.

The ERS supports social justice initiatives including a regular commitment to the Chatswood Blood Service, weekly singalong at the Willowood Aged Care Centre, the Junior School winter sleep-out (see page 12) and most recently dinner service at the Matthew Talbot Hostel.

"Giving an hour of you today for someone else's tomorrow"

"I became a Blood Ambassador because stored blood has saved some of my close friends and family throughout the time I have known them. This includes my grandparents, who both required blood transfusions that saved their lives. Because of a shortage of blood, one of my uncles passed away because he could not receive a transfusion. This inspired me to begin to encourage people to give blood. The process required to give blood is extremely simple and it legitimately saves lives, so give an hour of you today for someone else's tomorrow".

Robert Morgan, Year 11, Blood Ambassador

Parents and friends are also very welcome to donate blood at the Chatswood Donor Centre and declare they are contributing as part of the St Pius X College community.



Willowood renamed HOLLYWOOD

Willowood Aged Care Centre residents have renamed their home "Hollywood" for an hour every Monday afternoon when St Pius X College Year 11 students lead the weekly singalong accompanied by Social Justice Coordinator Mr Pat Whelan.

Willowood residents enjoy singing along to all their favourites including the "Hokey Pokey", "You Are My Sunshine", "The Two of Us" and "Auld Lang Syne".



Year 11 students at Willowood

MATTHEW TALBOT HOSTEL

Each Wednesday evening College students, staff, and parents have committed to serving guests dinner at the Matthew Talbot Hostel for Homeless Men in Woolloomooloo. The hostel provides short-term accommodation, meals and pastoral care to marginalised men in the Kings Cross/ Woolloomooloo area.



Students "Walk the Talk" during National Reconciliation Week 2014

The College continued its journey of reconciliation during National Reconciliation Week. Indigenous artist Mr Sean Ryan returned to the College to conduct a smoking ceremony, play the didgeridoo and paint ochre on the faces of the College's Ambassadors of Reconciliation, the Queensland Tour rugby squad, who toured Queensland in June wearing reconciliation jerseys featuring the artwork that Mr Ryan painted for the College.



Year 5 created "Walk the Talk" artworks using foot templates to write their own personal messages for National Reconciliation Week.

Aboriginal performance - entertaining, educational, enriching

Year 6 enjoyed a performance by Aboriginal elder Mr Fred Reid from the Daingattie tribe of north-west NSW and his two sons, Todd and Toby. They presented an entertaining, educational and enriching insight into Aboriginal history and traditions. Their performance aimed to further promote cultural understanding of the historic and contemporary struggle of Aboriginal people and their traditions in a fun and positive way – through dance, song and story.

PERFORMING ARTS

Drama arrives at St Pius with brilliant production of

HONEST IAGO

College Principal Mr John Couani said, "Drama arrived at St Pius with the brilliant production of **Honest Iago** and amazing performances by our students and teachers."

Honest Iago premiered 10-12 June, 2014. This was the first dramatic production by the College's first full-time Drama teacher, Mr Joshua Combes, a play he wrote specifically for the boys at St Pius.

Mr Combes said, "Contrary to popular belief **Honest Iago** is not a modern day retelling of Othello that Shakespeare wrote more than 400 years ago, it is a whole new monster, using some of the major themes of the tragedy to weave a dark comedic story."

Honest Iago incorporates the reality of today's teenage world of social media. "The source material of Othello is about the destructive factors of envy and jealousy. I wanted to use social media as a theatrical device because it is a rich source of enviable communication that young people use every day, sometimes without realising what motivates them to do it (i.e. posting the amazing highlights of their life for the envy of others). Social media can also be quite affirming for young people as they share their life online and receive "likes" for it. It was also the perfect platform for rumours to be broadcast from a sinister, anonymous source," Mr Combes said.

Over three nights the cast played to full houses at the Sarto Centre set up "in the round" a format that lends itself to high energy and interactive theatrical performances.

Mr Combes was full of praise for the commitment of the 23 cast and 17 crew in putting on this high-quality production. "What makes the success of **Honest Iago** even more outstanding is that none of the cast had ever been in a play before. What they were able to achieve in less than two months of rehearsals was fantastic and we are very excited about the future of drama at St Pius," Mr Combes said.

This was also the first time on the stage for St Pius X College French teacher, Ms Sarah Sumner, who starred as the hilarious and earnest Drama teacher, Miss Desmond. "It was one of the most challenging, rewarding and thrilling experiences of my life. A lot of the cast, myself included, now have a real passion for acting," Ms Sumner said.

Performing Arts Coordinator Ms Tracey Bates said planning is now underway for the 2015 College production.



"HONEST IAGO" Synopsis

Mark White, the nicest kid at St Peter's Catholic College, auditions for the role of Iago in Shakespeare's **Othello**, the school play. Iago is arguably the most evil character in western literature and nobody, least of all the director – Miss Desmond, can believe that Mark White could play such a villain. Through a series of unfortunate circumstances, Mark becomes the anonymous troll behind a fake social media profile: "Honest Iago". He uses his MASKBOOK page to manipulate perception and gain the ultimate prize. It is a darkly comic story about the destructive nature of envy which makes people competitive and drives them away from their true selves and their ability to appreciate excellence in others; artificial online friendships versus authentic offline relationships; and solidarity and resilience in the face of poor treatment.

the Voice KIDS

Chris Lanzon 'OUR VOICE'

The College is incredibly proud of Chris Lanzon (Year 8) who made it to the finals of "The Voice Kids". Chris was one of 100 kids selected for the blind auditions out of 8000 who tried out and he made it to the last six. **Congratulations Chris – you are definitely "our voice".**



ARTS & TECHNOLOGY

Splinters, Splashes and Sounds

Splinters, Splashes and Sounds is the annual showcase of the College's outstanding works of our talented HSC students in wood, design and technology, art and music.



ANDRE KEW • ASPIRING MANGA



FRANCIS NAY • CLOSED FIST, OPEN BOOK



NICHOLAS MAJOR • HABITUAL



KEENAN CARBONELL
• CHAOS AND ORDER



JERRICK FANDIALAN



CONOR APCAR
• A WELL LED LIFE IN LEAD



JOSHUA RAHME



HAYDEN FALZON
• EMBERS OF IMAGINATION (FILM)



CHRISTIAN SHARPE

Christian Sharpe received a Silver Colour Award for Music in recognition of his contribution to the College Concert and Jazz bands and his success in winning the prestigious Gordon Waterhouse Memorial Scholarship.



ADAM THOMPSON • SIDE TABLE



MATTHEW OLIVER • DAY BED



TOM O'DONOVAN • HOUSE

LIVE @ THE STUDIO



Live @ the Studio is a new initiative of the performing Arts Parents Association (PAPA) in conjunction with the College Performing Arts Department.

It aims to bring to the College environment artists of the highest calibre and have them perform in an intimate "unplugged" format.

The first in the series was a fantastic afternoon of jazz featuring internationally acclaimed jazz pianist (and *St Pius Old Boy*) Mr Kevin Hunt accompanied by young double bass player Mr Phil Stack and our own Christian Sharpe (Year 12).

EISTEDDFOD WIN FOR INTERMEDIATE JAZZ BAND

The Intermediate Jazz Band won the "High School Intermediate Stage Band Section" at the McDonald's Sydney Eisteddfod held at the Concourse, Chatswood in June. The Ensemble Director is Mr Geoff Power.



MUSICIANS SHINE AT SYDNEY TOWN HALL

Junior School musicians shone at IPSHA Performing Arts Concert at Sydney Town Hall. The Junior Choir performed beautifully conducted by Ms Tracey Bates, selected Year 6 musicians played in a combined concert band, and Ms Natalie Rawle conducted the Combined Choir of over 400 students, accompanied by Ms Stella Waddington on piano and Nicholas Parker (Year 10) on djembe.



LANGUAGES & TOURS

BONJOUR New Caledonia

The New Caledonia 2014 Language Immersion Tour was a great success. Seventeen students from Years 9 to 11 enjoyed a full itinerary which allowed them to immerse themselves in the French language while taking in the breath-taking scenery and culture of our Pacific neighbours.

"During the trip, we were all able to enhance our knowledge in the French Language through chatting to the locals, asking for directions and to buy food. We improved our speaking through lessons at CREIPAC, a small French school providing the opportunity to practise the language. We also attended Mass at a cathedral in which it was all spoken in French, making it a challenge to follow the procession. My French has definitely improved after this trip, particularly my verbal skills."

ALAN DJIZMEDJIAN, YEAR 11

"We got to learn about the history and culture of the island ... we also discovered the 'Kanak' way of life and learnt about the indigenous tribes' customs and way of life during our visit to the Tjibaou Cultural Centre."

LACHLAN BENNETTS, YEAR 11

"Sunday would have had to be the highlight of the trip, where we went to Phare Amédée an island off the coastal mainland. We were here most of the day, snorkelling with fish and turtles, doing some traditional dancing, climbing the lighthouse, and enjoying a massive banquet for lunch. It was definitely my favourite day."

SCOTT TIMBRELL, YEAR 11

"Having only been studying French for two terms, I only knew the basics like 'Bonjour'. When we got some free time to explore the city, I was quite surprised to find out that a lot of the locals didn't speak English. One of my favourite experiences would have to have been when we played the traditional French game of pétanque one night after dinner. Some of the local boys asked us to play with them and we enjoyed interacting with the locals in this way. We are very grateful for the experience."

ISAAC RAYNER, YEAR 11



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**KOKODA
EXPEDITION**

The party walked in the footsteps of Maroubra Force and the 21st, 25th and 16th Brigades of the Australian Army, over the Owen Stanley Mountain Range from Owers' Corner to Kokoda and then beyond to Popondetta, Gona, Port Moresby, Bomana War Cemetery, St Joseph's Boroko, Sogeri and Gerehu.

The party visited a plaque laid 34 years ago by Kokoda veteran, Mr Bede Tongs OAM, at Eora Crossing to honour his 3rd battalion. Mr Tongs visited the College earlier in the year to speak to the boys as part of their Kokoda preparations. On the Track, the party remembered Mr Jacob DeSisto and Mr Anthony Gillespie, two ex-students of St Pius (CBC) Chatswood who were tragically killed in World War II as well as recently deceased PNG veteran and great SPX supporter David Curtin Snr.

Mr Brannan said, "To say that our group learned a lot and were changed by the experience of this expedition and immersion is an understatement. It was certainly a significant time of adversity, challenge, bonding and learning for us all – students, parents, siblings and staff – on the Track, in the towns and at Gerehu Special Education Resource Centre. We would encourage anyone to take up a similar challenge."



Mr Bede Tongs' visit to the College



Isurava Memorial

Languages students - TOP OF THE WORLD!

St Pius X College Languages students performed brilliantly in the World Challenge. Special congratulations to **Gold Award winners Willem Ma (for Chinese)** and **Alan Djizmedjian (for French)** who placed in the top 2% of the world. More than 300,000 students worldwide entered this competition.

Overall, St Pius ranked 35th in the world (out of 809 schools) and 7th in NSW (out of 48 schools) for Chinese.

ST PIUS X COLLEGE MindMatters PROGRAM *features on ABC News*

The College's comprehensive MindMatters program was put under the lens by ABC News in July. ABC journalist Rebecca Barrett spent a morning interviewing students, College Principal Mr John Couani and College Counsellor Mr Rick Russo and filming early morning Boxercise and a Year 5 Class on resilience led by senior students.

MindMatters has been running at the College since 2006. In 2011, the College received a National Recognition Award as one of 18 schools across Australia successfully implementing a whole-school approach to improving mental health and wellbeing over an extended period of time.

MindMatters focuses on developing connectedness, participation and positive self-esteem in an atmosphere of safety and trust that promotes help-seeking behaviour.

MindMatters includes activities and events such as peer support and mentoring (bushwalks, hikes, rock climbing, canoe trips and paddle boarding, Boxercise, RUOK? Day, National Day Against Bullying), class room activities and online learning modules.

Mr Russo said that MindMatters has led to a changed culture at the College with a greater sense of connectedness amongst students, who are more inclusive and tolerant, and with a greater respect for diversity. "Importantly, there is a greater acceptance that every person's mental health and well-being is important. More students are self-referring by seeking counselling and co-referring/reaching out to their mates. Help-seeking skills of all students have significantly improved and senior students have embraced the 'MindMatters' philosophy as mentors to 'at risk' younger students and are actively involved in student empowerment projects."

www.spx.nsw.edu.au/news-events/



ABC filming Mr Rick Russo



Anti-bullying and Harmony day "selfie"



Peer Support



*"Hard work and sacrifice
are the keys to success"*

**ANDREW "JOEY" JOHNS
TELLS YEAR 9 PIUS STUDENTS**

Andrew "Joey" Johns told Year 9 he wasn't comfortable in his own skin when he was their age. "If there is one thing in life I could change, I would go and seek help because I was really struggling. That time in my life could have been so much better if I could have gone to someone I trusted," the Rugby League "Immortal" told Year 9 students.

Joey struggled for years before being diagnosed with bipolar disorder. He told the boys mental illness can be hard for people to understand because it can't be seen like a broken arm or leg.

"If you are struggling go to someone you feel comfortable with and say 'I'm struggling and I need help'", adding that one in five people suffer from depression.

He told the boys that they would have to make big choices and they would have to make the right ones – "Sometimes the right decisions are the hardest".

"Work out what you love doing and focus your energies into that. But the big thing is hard work and sacrifice. The most successful people I know work the hardest."

Joey surprised the boys by telling them he was not on any social media, that he wished he had put more energy into his studies at high school, that his career highlights were winning Rugby League competitions (not being named an Immortal) and that his greatest achievement was becoming a father.

CAMPS CAMPS CAMPS

A young boy is shown from the chest up, wearing a bright red helmet with ventilation holes and a yellow shirt. He is smiling and looking slightly to his right. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage.

A group of children and adults are on a boat. In the foreground, a young boy in a blue shirt is smiling and giving a thumbs up. Behind him, other children are also smiling and giving thumbs up. Two adults, a man in a red shirt and a woman in a red shirt, are standing in the background. The boat has a white railing and a life preserver is visible. The background shows a body of water and hills.



**Patrick Moore and
Matthew Brannan**
Year 5



COMMUNITY

Parents & Friends NEWS

The St Pius X College Parents & Friends Association acts as a liaison between parents and the College, assists the College with financial support for special projects or unforeseen events, and provides social opportunities for parents and friends.

We are a vibrant and busy group of people who believe that an active P&F contributes to the development of a great learning and growing environment for our young men.

Our website is becoming increasingly important as a focal point for news and information, including parent-related event invitations, sporting information including a stream for wet weather affecting weekend sports, and also when the P&F conducts its various Committee and General Meetings throughout the year.

The most significant events that are supported by the P&F include the Welcome Cocktail Party, the Trivia Night and Mothers' and Fathers' Day events.

<http://pandf.spx.nsw.edu.au/>

 @SPXpandf

Steve Johnson,
Secretary



A record 300 parents attended the memorable P&F Cocktail Party thanks to the efforts of the P&F.



Trivia Night - a great fundraiser with \$25,000 raised to support College clubs.

Mothers' Day

The College held two beautiful gatherings to honour all our mothers and grandmothers. More than 150 mothers and families gathered in the Sarto Centre for a Liturgy before muffins and morning tea. Then the Junior School Mothers Mass was held - a very moving occasion.



A beautiful rendition of "Unwritten" by our Vocal Ensemble.



Fathers' Day

The College was in action early for the Fathers' Day breakfast. Dads and their sons enjoyed live music, espresso coffee, bacon and egg rolls, muffins and juice.



The highly competitive father/son sports day at Oxford Falls.



Luke Forwood - *Pride of Pius*

Year 7 student Luke Forwood and his ten-year-old sister Charlotte have raised more than \$122,000 for the Kids Cancer Project to support research into childhood cancers that are difficult to cure. Their little brother, three-year-old Nicholas, is undergoing treatment at Westmead Children's Hospital for Neuroblastoma, a rare form of cancer. To support Nicholas, Luke and Charlotte had their heads shaved and have become the Project's most successful family fundraisers.

Luke and Charlotte have now been nominated for Pride of Australia in the Young Leaders' Category.

Principal Mr John Couani said, "The College is very proud of Luke for his courage in continuing to make a positive difference to the lives of other children at a difficult time for him and his own family."



To support Luke and Charlotte go to

<https://give.everydayhero.com/au/luke-charlotte-forwood>

WORLD CUP FOOTBALL at PIUS!

St Pius X College stamped itself as a strong football school in holding its World Cup Football luncheon at Doltone House. We were privileged to have the Socceroos' head coach, Ange Postecoglou, as the guest of honour, along with former Socceroos Mark Bosnich and Brett Emerton, and Fox Sport's Andy Harper completing an all-star panel. The sell-out luncheon saw over 200 guests enjoying canapés on Jones Bay Wharf, followed by a sumptuous three-course meal inside. Channel Ten's Mel McLaughlin was our fabulous MC, interviewing all guests individually and then coordinating the Q&A forum.



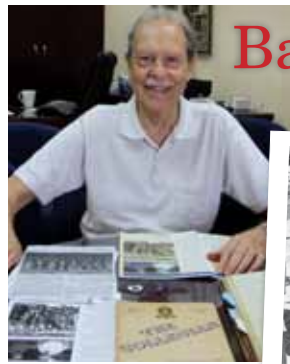
It was very special to hear Ange's thoughts about his new look Socceroos team, the quality of the A-League, and scouting programs for developing players. Bossa reflected on his time at Manchester United and the pressure of World Cup competition, while Brett Emerton shared his thoughts on his career - from juniors in Sydney's western suburbs to becoming a Socceroo and Blackburn Rovers player. Andy Harper

felt Australian players had nothing to lose and much to prove wearing the "green and gold" in Brazil in June, and in the forthcoming Asian Cup in Australia in January 2015. "It was like they were chatting in my lounge room," suggested one excited guest.

Our hard-working Football Club committee was thrilled with the success of our inaugural World Cup Football Luncheon, with all profits further supporting our quality football program.

Mrs Donna Patterson, President, Football Club

The College would like to recognise with deep appreciation the efforts of Mrs Donna Patterson and congratulate her as she steps down from the Presidency of the SPX Football Club.



Barry Wollaston
(SPX48)



(left) Barry marching in the St Patrick's Day Parade and back at the College (far left)

Mr Barry Wollaston returned to the College to present his Prefect badge and enamel badge from his College hat to the archives. Mr Wollaston was a member of the first Leaving Class of the (then) Christian Brothers' College, Chatswood.

Mr Wollaston shared many happy and amusing reminiscences of his time at the College, describing the College grounds and surrounds 70 years ago and the characters of Chatswood during the 1940s, as well as telling stories of his and his fellow students' escapades.



Rugby Club Dinner

Thanks to all who made the Rugby Club Dinner a great success again this year. One hundred and ninety parents, friends and supporters attended the "sold out" event. Guest speakers included Wallabies Captain, SPX Old Boy Michael Hooper, Bob Dwyer, Michael Cheika and Richard Hooper and MC Rod Kafer. Thanks to all who donated and bought the fantastic live and silent auction items.

The College congratulates and acknowledges with gratitude Mr Liam Ward who has been Rugby Club President for the last three years.

Vale



Mr David Curtin

The College was greatly saddened to hear of the passing of Mr David Curtin, father of Br David Curtin.

Mr Curtin has been a very significant benefactor and supporter of the College as well as a wide range of local charities. His son, David, now a Christian Brother, attended the College and Mr Curtin was the

inaugural President of the Parents & Friends Association when it started in the 1960s.

Mr Curtin was a truly philanthropic individual. He donated money to a wide range of causes, including the establishment of a number of scholarships here at the College. The Curtin Scholarship is just one example of his generosity in assisting students in need. Mr Curtin was responsible for the donation of the clock tower in the school yard and assisted the school in many charitable works.

The College honoured the Curtin family with the dedication of the Curtin Room in the Christian Brothers Centre at Oxford Falls.

Mr Curtin was a man of great natural dignity who commanded respect without any pretensions or sense of self-importance – perhaps his period of active service in New Guinea with the 2/7th Cavalry Regiment in the Second World War gave him a sense of proportion in his life. His wife, Mollie, was a hard worker in our Library for many years.

The College offers its sincere sympathy to all his family. Vale Mr David Curtin – one of the finest of men.

*May perpetual light shine upon him,
may he rest in peace.*

Mrs Pat McFadyen

Mrs McFadyen was the Secretary to the Principal at the College from 1981 to 1991 and was a much loved member of staff. Her son, Manus, attended the College.

"No light shone brighter"

SPORTS WRAP

Sport at St Pius X College really does move from strength to strength. Specialist coaching programs across a range of sports are giving our boys a real boost in performance and confidence at all levels. The pedigree of our sportsmen at the College is obvious and recent Old Boys have shown that Pius boys can compete on any international stage. As we look back on the winter season, our focus is now on preparing for the summer sports and aiming for excellence in all we do.

Mr Matt Stearn, Sportsmaster Senior School

Congratulations to the College's Representative players and athletes and Premiership Teams

Basketball (CIS)

Michael Fakhoury (Year 6) CIS, NSW Under 12s



Willoughby Hay



Michael Fakhoury

Football (CIS)

Willoughby Hay (Year 6). The CIS team won the PSSA Tournament (State All Schools) as joint winners.

Cross Country (ISA):

James Bragg (Year 7 who has also gained selection into the NSW CIS squad competing in the NSW All Schools Cross Country), Miguel Ribas (Year 7), Luis Jerusalem (Year 8), Charlie Hammond (Year 8), Griffin Kirwan (Year 8), Benjamin O'Hehir (Year 9) and Sean Gillott (Year 10)

Orienteering

Toben Wilson (Year 11) has been selected in the NSW orienteering team competing at the National Schools Championship in Western Australia. Toben came 1st in the bush event and 2nd in the combined sprint in the recent NSW Schools Orienteering Championship.

Rugby (ISA)

Alex Ironside (Year 12, 2nd XV), Fraser Toohey (Year 11, 1st XV), Matthew Kennedy (Year 10, U16)

Rugby (CIS)

Gregor and Stuart Dingley (Year 6) selected in team for PSSA (state championships)



Gregor Dingley



Stuart Dingley

Swimming (ISA)

(pictured): Callum Aikin (Year 10), Matt Sutton (Year 10), Jordan Smith (Year 10), Jesse Kerlin (Year 9) and Jack McCutcheon (Year 11)



Tennis (ISA)

Michael Jordan (Year 12) and Daniel Filipe (Year 11)

Tennis

ISA Tennis Premiers – Division 3 (pictured), Divisions 7 and 10



Rugby Ambassadors for Reconciliation

The Opens Rugby Tour to Queensland wore the Reconciliation Jersey.

"This jersey is an opportunity to show people we are serious about embracing reconciliation. The boys who are wearing this jersey are our ambassadors. They have an opportunity to 'walk the talk' in the name of St Pius X College. Everything they do can be an act of reconciliation," Mr Matt Stearn, Senior School Sportsmaster, said.



Fraser Toohey



Alex Ironside



Football Champions

1st XI Football (pictured) are the CIS Cup Champions following on from their success at the international High Energy Youth Tournament in Brisbane. St Pius conceded only a single goal in their eight matches played. This is the first time in 10 years that St Pius X College has brought home the trophy from the Queensland Tour. Joseph Esposito (Year 12) was named in the All Stars team. The College came 2nd in the ISA Schools Championship and five teams are the ISA Premiers (13A, 15B, 15C, 16B, 4ths).

FROM OXFORD FALLS TO THE WORLD STAGE

Michael Hooper (SPX 2009), Wallabies Captain

Michael has been in fine form for the Waratahs this season, captaining the team to its first Super 15 victory and recently being named the Waratahs Players' Player of the Year (Matthew Burke Cup) for the second year in a row – only the second player to win it back to back.

Michael became a Wallaby last season, was named Wallabies Vice-Captain and then rewarded for his outstanding play and leadership by being named Wallabies Captain. He is the youngest captain since 1961 and has accrued 33 caps to date.



Michael wore a SPX cap for his victory lap after captaining the Waratahs to Super 15 victory.

Josh Duinker (SPX 2007), Sydney Kings

Sydney Kings has announced the signing of power forward/centre Josh Duinker for the next two National Basketball League (NBL) seasons. Josh at age 25 who stands 211cm (6'11") has played in Europe for the past two years in the professional Spanish league and for the Dutch in the 2014 Eurochallenge tournament. With dual Australian-Dutch citizenship Josh has also played in the Dutch National team. Previously he spent four years at NCAA Division One School Richmond University in the United States. Josh has returned to the College to train our basketballers and will be attending an assembly later in the year.



Luke Jones (SPX 2009), Wallaby

Luke Jones has been the main stay in the Melbourne Rebels Super 15 side. Luke also represented the Australian U20s and recently debuted as a Wallaby joining his former classmate Michael Hooper.



Luke Jones with St Pius students last year

Timm van der Gugten (SPX 2008), International Cricketer

Timm van der Gugten has been making a name for himself on the State and International cricket scene. Timm has represented NSW and Holland at cricket and taken up a contract with Tasmania. He also had the great honour of being part of the Dutch side that beat England in the recent 20/20 World Cup.

Anthony Collum (SPX 2013), Athletics

Anthony was selected to represent Australia at the World Junior Championships in Oregon, USA. Anthony was a relay member of the formidable Australian Junior Athletics team aptly known as The Spark. Anthony was selected to run the last (anchor) leg of the 4x100m relay Final. The former Purton House/Athletics Captain holds many SPX records and has recently run a new personal best of 10.61 for the 100m. Anthony has brought his experience and success back to the College, training athletes in the lead-up to the ISA carnival.



Daniel Young (SPX 2013), Basketball

Daniel represented NSW in the U20s Basketball Team at the National Championships, winning bronze, and has recently left for Baker University in Kansas on a basketball scholarship.

