WELCOME - The Graduating Class of 2020!
The College extends a warm welcome to the school community for the commencement of the 2013 school year.
A special welcome to all new students, staff and their families - 96 new Year 5 students, 30 new Year 6 students and 40 new students in Year 7.
The St Pius X College community welcomes you all.
The 2013 school year promises to be a most exciting and interesting one. The first day of school saw 1138 students fill the College. I was energised by the eagerness of our new students in Years 5, 6 and 7. The many new parents entering the school were impressed by the efficiency and organisation of the staff. Most impressively, the Year 12 students returned to their HSC studies intent on doing their best.

The College environment was improved in significant ways during the Christmas school vacation including the refurbishment of the entire Junior School with newly installed glass walls and colourful carpeting which complement a design that features air and light. These significant refurbishments will bring new vibrancy and flexibility to the College learning environment.

The College is excited that in 2013 we will launch our eLearning Plan, which will deliver the Lenovo ThinkPad 2 into the students’ hands. Staff were the first to receive these Windows 8 platform Personal Learning Devices. During 2013, students in Years 7 and 9 will receive these devices. Year 8 and Year 10 students will receive the ThinkPad 2 during 2014.

The 2012 Higher School Certificate results were simply outstanding. Approximately 30% of the Year 12 students achieved ATARs above 90. More than 50% of the cohort achieved an ATAR in excess of 80. In all, approximately 85% of our students qualified for entry to university. The College Dux Mark Watts gained an ATAR of 99.90, closely matched by Renzo Balboa (99.25) and Matthew Bull (99.10). These two students also achieved the prestigious Premiers All-round Achievers Award. All our Year 12 students are men of character and good values with a strong sense of community and an attitude of service. I am very confident that they will make their mark in the future. Congratulations to all in the Class of 2012.

Of course, there were many other achievements in 2012: the 75th Anniversary celebrations and our sporting, public speaking, debating and music achievements were a joy. A significant part of the development of the whole person - an outcome central to our mission.

The Social Justice initiatives of the students demonstrate our faith in action. Our partnerships with St Mary’s Bowraville, St Joseph’s Walgett, St Edmunds Wahroonga and Callan Services enrich our students and assist the growth and development of other communities. This commitment is in the best tradition of Edmund Rice and is matched by the sincere attention paid to prayer in both formal and informal liturgies. St Pius X College is committed to giving practical testimony to the message of Jesus through the care and energy it gives to all aspects of the boys’ lives.

I look forward to 2013 with great anticipation and working to develop each student in our school. I welcome everyone to the 2013 school year and I look forward to seeing you over the coming year at the events and activities we share together.

John Couani • PRINCIPAL

Schools Combine

The Sydney Town Hall was the venue for the uplifting IPSHA Performing Arts Festival held in August 2012. Our Junior Choir and musicians performed exceptionally well in front of the vast audience. The Junior Choir, who sang “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang” and “Pirate for a Day” then joined seven other schools in the Combined Schools Choir in the finale items. St Pius X instrumentalists, Ronan Apcar, Lachlan Chue, Cody Fisher-Peel, Andy Lau, Nicholas Parker, Jonathan Stewart and Oliver Stewart performed as members of the Combined Schools Orchestra, playing “A La Mariachi” and “Morning” from the Peer Gynt Suite. There’s a feather in the cap of student, Ronan Apcar, for his solo piano performance of “Advance Australia Fair”.

Congratulations to Tracey Bates, Performing Arts Coordinator and all who were involved in this musical spectacular.

ST PIUS X COLLEGE
Open Day
SUNDAY 16TH 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 - 11am / 12.45pm - Chatswood

St Pius X College thanks the many members of its own community and the wider community for the ongoing prayers and support for Liam Knight. The Liam Knight Appeal Fund, supported by the College and driven by the students and parents of Year 12, 2013 was launched in February. FULL DETAILS CAN BE FOUND ON THE COLLEGE WEBSITE.
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL IN The Class of 2012!

ATAR 99.90 – College Dux Mark Watts
ATAR 99.25 – Renzo Balboa
ATAR 99.10 – Matthew Bull
2 Premiers All-round Achievers Award
113 entries in the HSC Distinguished Achievers list

Mark Watts ranked 6th in State for Modern History
Alexander Gan (Year 11 Accelerated Mathematics student) ranked 9th in State for Mathematics
Deven Rahman, shortlisted for Encore (annual concert featuring the best HSC musical performances and compositions in NSW)
The 2013 Student Leadership Team, led by Captain Billy Johnson and Vice Captains Charles Light and Luca Monk were joined by special guest NSW Minister for Transport and Member for Willoughby, the Hon. Ms Gladys Berejiklian at the Chatswood Concourse Concert Hall in Term 4 of 2012 on their commissioning and Year 12 investiture ceremony. Ms Berejiklian shared with the students some of her own insights into leadership, acknowledging the importance of schools and education and the significance of investing leadership in our students.

In his first speech as College Captain, Billy Johnson gave a lively and entertaining address, spoken with great pride and humility. He challenged all boys to make a difference with their difference, urging them to recognise the unique qualities that each individual brings to the College.

**STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM OF 2013**

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**CAPTAIN** Billy Johnson  **VICE CAPTAINS** Charles Light, Luca Monk

**PREFECTS**


**HOUSE CAPTAINS**

**BARRON:** Alexander Lewis  **PURTON:** Anthony Collum

**RICE:** William Richardson  **TREACY:** Jacob Tysoe

The College is embarking on a new direction in learning with the implementation of the Lenovo ThinkPad 2 Windows 8 tablets, which will be distributed to Years 7 and 9 during 2013. The personal learning devices will be progressively rolled out to all students in the College within the next two to three years. Aiding the College in preparing for its new phase of education in the 21st century is the newly appointed e-Learning Coordinator Mr Justin Hodges, who was previously the Director of Digital Learning at Oakhill College. We welcome him to our school.

**Pilgrimage of Grace**

From September to December 2012, a national pilgrimage took place with the relic of St Francis Xavier (1506-1552), the right forearm. The arm with which he baptised and blessed many thousands of people, the hand with which he tended and held so many sick and dying people, and the hand with which he wrote letters back to Europe reporting his adventures and the trials and triumphs of his ministry, inspiring others to be engaged in the missionary enterprise.

St Pius X College was invited by Parish Priest Fr Michael O’Toole at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Forestville, to share in this historic event. Four seniors were given the honour of carrying the relic and were joined in procession by a number of Junior School boys, all of whom represented the College with great reverence.
The highlight of the year for 16 French language students (Years 9 to 11) was an eight day International Language and Culture tour of New Caledonia in the July break. Accompanied by Mrs Manga, Ms Sumner and Mr Brannan, the boys attended daily language classes at CREIPAC language school as well as exploring and learning about the island’s culture, history and people. Ryan Peries (Year 9) said “The food, the scenery, the island’s cultural history, and the daily language classes all made the trip fantastic. My French has improved significantly, especially my vocabulary, as I was able to practise my language skills in real situations every day such as in restaurants and supermarkets.” Year 11 student Nicholas Toh commented “The trip enhanced my French and I have learnt a lot about New Caledonia and its indigenous people, the Kanaks.”

“After our daily lessons we did a number of activities including, sightseeing, snorkelling and practising our French with the locals at the markets. I really loved this trip” added Brendan Cornish (Year 10).

**TOUR DE QUEENSLAND**

Without a doubt, for some students the highlights of 2012 were the separately conducted Rugby and Football Queensland tours, held in the July school break. It was a unique opportunity to represent the College, bond with team mates, coaches and staff, develop game skills, and gain match experience playing against a wide variety of teams from other parts of Australia and the world.
In a word, the 75th Anniversary Music Concert in September was magnificent! The culmination of many weeks of rehearsals, a brilliant concert was staged by more than 350 St Pius X choristers, musicians and tutors, directed by Performing Arts Coordinator Ms Bates. The audience of 1000 was treated to a showcase of the most incredible musical talent within the College. With a terrific finale, featuring the specially formed 75th Anniversary Choir, it was the most outstanding concert and one of the highlights of the 75th Anniversary Year celebrations. Congratulations to all students, staff, tutors, musicians, parents and friends, and Ms Bates – together, you have changed the musical landscape of the College forever!

Following in Michael Hooper’s footsteps

Congratulations to Ben Collins (6 Red) who competed at the PSSA State Rugby Championships for the CIS Team. The team went through undefeated, beating Victoria in the Final 48-12. Ben was a standout player in the tournament, captaining the team in the final and gaining selection for the NSW team, our first such representative since Wallaby Michael Hooper in 2002. NSW went on to play NZ, losing a hard-fought game 19-28. Ben scored all three tries for NSW. Well done, Ben!

‘A’ Basketball Team goes undefeated

Another stellar season of Basketball recently drew to a close. We bolstered our coaching expertise with the inclusion of excellent Norths’ rep coaches, exposing all students to their sessions on a weekly basis. The ‘A’ Team worked hard throughout the winter off-season, attending weekly elite coaching sessions and further developing individual skills and team cohesion. They were rewarded with undefeated medals after tight wins against Barker and St Ignatius Colleges, and a dominant performance against St Aloysius. With a record 11 teams entered in the IPSHA Competition, we were able to give all boys the opportunity to represent SPX Basketball. Our depth was evidenced by an overall win percentage of 75% across all teams. St Pius X again had a representative at the State Championships with Oliver Jacquot making the CIS team for a second consecutive year.

Junior 4 x 100m Relay Team win Bronze at State Championships

After placing 2nd at the IPSHA meet (57.41s), the Junior Relay Team (Jack Berte, James Bragg, Kalani Lenehan and Liam Tachjian) qualified to represent CIS at the State Championships. They continued to clock PBs throughout the season and eventually took out the Bronze medal in the 4 x 100m Final at State. The boys all worked extremely hard with a specialist coach throughout their holidays and deserve praise for a fantastic result at such a competitive level.

Oliver Jacquot breaks CIS 200m record as athletes excel

Oliver Jacquot qualified for the IPSHA team as fastest runner in the 200m. At the CIS Carnival he saved energy with a clever semi-final run and then stormed down the straight to claim 1st place in a new carnival record (25.71s). This shaved 0.3s off the previous record, an awesome achievement for a talented athlete. St Pius X had a record nine athletes compete for IPSHA at the CIS Athletics Championships and a record six made it through to the CIS team for the State Carnival. Joining our Junior Relay Team and Oliver Jacquot (100m, 200m and Long Jump) were Ben Collins (Shot Put) and Jack Berte (800m).
Snowy Hike
Sixty two St Pius X Year 11 students, eight Year 11 students from Brigidine College St Ives, and 11 staff/volunteer members embarked on the Annual Snowy Hike on 6th December 2012. The expedition, which was extremely challenging both emotionally and physically, involved trekking through wilderness for seven days, camping in the pristine alpine environment on freezing cold nights, and walking 100 kilometres through a breathtaking landscape from Round Mountain to Mount Kosciuszko and Thredbo Village.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
In January, 10 Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme boys participated in an expedition hike as part of the Adventurous Journey component of their Award program. Developing skills in map and compass navigation, environmental care and campcraft, the boys travelled from Blackheath in the Blue Mountains, descending Trinity Falls into the Grose River Valley to navigate through the Blue Gum Forest, camping at Acacia Flat and Burra Korain campsites. Mr Sean Brannan, assistant Duke of Edinburgh coordinator, accompanied the students. Mrs Kara Manga is the College’s Duke of Edinburgh coordinator.

Year 7 Ski Trip
The long journey travelling by bus was justly rewarded for the 160 Year 7 students as they disembarked at Selwyn Snow fields for the annual Year 7 Ski Trip. For many of the students, this was the first time they had seen snow. Congratulations to the 10 staff members who accompanied the boys on a safe and successful trip.

MindMatters and the Warrumbungles Hike
Our thoughts and prayers are with Indigenous Discovery Ranger, Jill Norton, Chief Astronomer, Dr Fred Watson and Mayor, Peter Shinton, their families and all the people who were so badly affected by the recent severe electrical storms passing through the Warrumbungles National Park in Coonabarabran Shire. The area was subject to intense gusting winds, which resulted in a relentless fire storm that decimated all in its path.

In September 2012, as in previous years, we conducted an expedition to this region, where the above-named people had so generously been our hosts.

Our 2012 expedition was an unqualified success, with great weather, exceptional student interaction and learning across a range of disciplines in unique geological and geographical environments.
Parents cooked the BBQ lunch for everyone.
Following on from the uplifting and unforgettable 75th celebrations in the first half of 2012, the Christian Brothers Centre at Oxford Falls once again played host to some spectacular 75th end-of-year celebrations.

In September, the SPX Old Boys mass and dinner saw 300 gather to give thanks to the Christian Brothers. At the dinner, one of the Treacy Complex ovals was named Watkins Oval to honour the Watkins family and their significant contributions to the College over many years.

During the opening Liturgy of the Falls Festival on 23rd November, Dr Wayne Tinsey, Executive Director of EREA, addressed the College community and presented the College Captain, Billy Johnson, with a certificate acknowledging the positive outcome of the EREA School Renewal held in August in accrediting St Pius X College as an authentic Catholic school in the Edmund Rice Tradition.

Father Paul Finucane unveiled and blessed the 75th Anniversary quilt – a quilt of 105 blocks and 3 central panels, each one unique, made and donated by parents, friends, students and staff – a gift which tells the stories of people connected to the College. Mrs Kara Manga coordinated the group of parents and friends, who made the quilt measuring 2.5m x 3.5m, which took many hundreds of hours to complete.

The Falls Festival was declared “The Best Ever”. Eddies Entertainers from our fellow EREA School, St Edmund’s at Wahroonga performed the opening acts and special surprise guests Laurie Daley, Mario Fenech and Tommy Dean were marvellous with their wit and charm, congratulating the boys on their talent and praising the College’s social justice initiatives.

The entertainment element of the Falls Festival is a social justice initiative that is organised annually by the College’s Edmund Rice Senior Chapter, coordinated by Mr Pat Whelan. It is an afternoon of home-grown student entertainment and a fundraiser to assist the College’s continuing support of St Mary’s Bowaville, St Joseph’s Walgett and Callan Services PNG. A total of $18,462 will be distributed, helping to make a difference to these communities. It is with grateful thanks to Mr Guy Russo, Mr Emad Berro, Mr Brady, the Parents and Friends Association, ex-students and the hard-working College staff that the Falls Festival in our 75th Year was indeed the best ever!
Teachers Terrance Patterson, Robert McCreath and Mark Pawlak, each recently celebrated 35 years service at St Pius X College. Commencing in January 1978 and having held various teaching posts over the years, they have seen numerous changes at the College in the last three decades. Mr Patterson recalls “The removal of demountable classrooms and the building of the gym, canteen, music, art rooms and the TAS facilities were significant building improvements. The new sporting complex at Oxford Falls is a fantastic addition. Before Oxford Falls the school used playing fields at Lane Cove. The nickname for Lane Cove was Siberia, due to the cold wind that came from the valley in winter.”

Mr McCreath recalls “In the 70s onsite Physical Education facilities were sparse with just one basketball court and I was the only staff member teaching Years 7 to 10 PE. With the addition of the sports pavilion, cricket practice nets, the new weights and cardio room, the gym, and of course Oxford Falls, we now have magnificent facilities. With increased student numbers and adding Personal Development, Health and Welfare to the curriculum and offering it as a 2 unit HSC subject, we now have seven specialist teachers in this field.”

“My first Year 10 Commerce class in 1978 had 42 students, providing me with a very steep learning curve.” said Mr Pawlak, the current Year 10 Guidance Coordinator, who throughout his time at the College has guided well over 4500 students through various form groups. “Just some of the many positive changes over recent years (including much smaller class sizes) have been the increased level of pastoral wellbeing for our students, the increased role of Information Technology within the College, the increased opportunities for professional development for teachers and the increased number and variety of subjects now on offer to the boys. It is an endorsement of how fine the College has become with an increasing number of St Pius X Old Boys sending their sons to the College.”

Richard Shaw (SPX Graduate 2007) has recently completed a five year Optometry & Bachelor of Science Degree at UNSW. Going out of his comfort zone is what attracted Richard to join the volunteer program ONA Network, during a semester break at university. ONA is a not-for-profit trust, dedicated to improving the health of people’s eyes in Tanzania.

“For two weeks, we lived in small compounds in the middle of nowhere, sleeping in dormitories with pretty basic facilities. Each day in soaring heat, we travelled by jeep in small teams to very remote jungle villages and assessed the eye health of the local villagers – the majority of whom had not received eyesight screening for 20 years! Within each team were two local Optometrists and two unqualified volunteers like myself. The native language is Swahili (ona means “see” in Swahili) – my phrase book was all but useless as the native people spoke in their local dialect. I would nail the eye chart to a tree, administer eye drops and fit second-hand glasses to people. Due to the lack of health care however, it was often too late for some villagers, who had varying eye diseases which were irreversible.

“With no street lights, proper roads or maps, locating the villages was a challenge, and getting back to the compound before dark an even greater challenge.”

Performing a very similar role in 2012 during his final year at UNSW, Richard received a scholarship to work in WA with the Northern Eye Program, providing critical eye care to Indigenous Australians in the Kimberley region.

Richard has recently moved to Far North Queensland to take up a position as an optometrist in a small business in Townsville.

To support the Red Cross Blood Donations Initiative that Edmund Rice Society senior member Charles Light initiated late last year, teachers and students were given the following statistics by Charles, aiming to encourage them to save lives.

Based on those statistics:
- More than 400 students within the College will need to receive blood at least once in their life.
- One donation of blood can save up to 3 people’s lives.
- Males aged between 16 and 24 are 4 times more likely to have a serious car accident. Blood transfusions are commonly used to keep serious car crash victims alive.
- If you are 16 or over you can donate – just pass the simple finger-prick screening test.
- Whole blood donations as well as plasma and platelet donations are used to make different blood products, which help unborn babies, burns victims, and people with cancer, leukaemia and other serious illnesses.

DONATIONS TAKE PLACE EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY FROM 3.30 TO 4.30PM AT THE CHATSWOOD RED CROSS BLOOD DONATION CENTRE.
What are you reading?

As we celebrated the 2012 National Year of Reading, we were very privileged to have some talented published authors talk to the boys. Through their enthralling stories, hilarious tales and moving insights into their lives and struggles up the literary ladder, the boys have been encouraged to experiment with their own writing skills.

John Larkin, children’s author and publisher of 25 books, including Growing Payne, Ghost Bite and winner of the 2012 Victorian Premier’s Literary Award, Shadow Girl chatted to Junior School students, Thomas, Ronan and Sachin who have each had a book published and distributed by Willoughby City Council.

American-born Australian author, Duncan Ball, who writes the children’s series “Selby” (about a talking dog) captured the boys’ attention and imagination with his deliciously disgusting stories.

International best-selling author Matthew Riley said, “The only budget constraint I have is my imagination.” Boys queued as the inspiring Matthew Riley autographed personal copies of their favourite Riley blockbuster. Graham Wilson SPX Old Boy, successful historian and publisher, returned to the College to talk to elective History students on his published novels, Bully Beef and Balderdash and Dust, Donkeys and Delusion rewrites of popular stories surrounding the Australian Imperial Forces in World War I.

Small Business Profits help others

Market Day is one of the challenging features of the Year 9 elective Commerce course, in which students, working in small groups establish and operate a small (food) business. Business plans, marketing strategies, working collaboratively in a team, negotiating with suppliers, preparing food, being OHS and security conscious, and of course keeping a close eye on the profit and loss account are some of the aspects the students master. The beneficiaries were undoubtedly the customers (students), as they eagerly purchased such hand-made culinary delights as pizza, hot dogs, burgers, nachos, cakes and spiders. This year was an outstanding success, with the hard work and generosity of the boys resulting in profits of $2000 being donated to St Mary’s School Bowraville.

In July 2012, a number of Year 10 students attended the Science and Engineering Challenge hosted by Macquarie University, and competed against eight schools in multiple challenges. The challenges varied from building bridges and earthquake-safe towers, to constructing gliders and hovercrafts and eco-friendly habitats. All the boys enjoyed the thrill of creating something scientifically unique, as evidenced by our results - SPX placed g 3rd overall to Arden College and James Ruse Agricultural High School.

Five hundred and sixty-one students from Year 7 to Year 10 entered the 2012 Australian Schools Science Competition. SPX students were awarded 5 certificates of High Distinction, 34 Certificates of Distinction, 134 Certificates of Credit and 388 Certificates for Participation.

Edward Djizmedjian (Year 11, 2012) was selected to attend the prestigious National Youth Science Forum (NYSF), which aims to inform, inspire and challenge Science students. Being part of a small group of gifted Science students selected from all over Australia and New Zealand, Edward travelled to Canberra in January and had the unique opportunity to experience the excitement of Science by taking part in the NYSF, which is the only program in Australia that offers students the chance to test-drive a wide range of universities and careers in the Sciences.

Compass Club is held Monday lunchtime in the Junior School Computer Room for students in Years 5, 6 and 7 interested in entering curriculum related competitions.
With approximately 300 Old Boys in attendance, the 75th Anniversary Old Boys Gala Dinner, held in September, was certainly a highlight of the year for the SPXOBA. Rekindling friendships from graduating classes as far back as the 1940s, to those who graduated in more recent years, the evening was a resounding success. The highlight was the official naming of Watkins Oval, recognising a family that has contributed greatly to the College over many decades. The Association thanks Mr John Couani, the Senior Executive and the Board for making this event possible. The Committee would also like to acknowledge Mr Andrew Ballesty (1985) for his invaluable efforts in making the occasion such a success.

The night also marked the official unveiling of the new Oxford Falls car park entrance, which has the College crest and name on the wall, framed attractively by a sandstone pillar at each end. This wall was donated to the College by the SPXOBA to mark the College’s 75th Anniversary.

The SPXOBA was able to continue its Scholarship Program in 2012 by awarding one scholarship place for a Year 11 boy and one for a Year 12 boy. This is an ongoing program which we are pleased to be able to offer.

The SPXOBA financially assisted a number of other boys in their quest for excellence in pursuits ranging from sporting to academic, including College Captain Stuart Maclaine who attended the international Youth Science Forum in Canada. We also assisted both the Rugby Football tours to Queensland in July.

OLD BOYS SPORT

Two thousand and twelve will be remembered in many ways at SPX; however I can’t recall a finer time in SPX’s history.

On 5 June 2012 Michael Hooper (2009) became the 859th Wallaby making his debut off the bench against Scotland in Newcastle in atrocious conditions. With an injury to incumbent Captain and No.7 David Pocock, Michael became a regular in the latter part of the domestic international season and on the European Spring Tour.

At the 2012 Boxing Day Test, Jackson Bird became the 431st Australian to be presented with the Baggy Green Cap. Jackson is enjoying great success on the field and we hope to see him bowl Australia to many future victories. We also must acknowledge that Jackson went on to complete his schooling at Riverview, yet we still proudly claim him as one of our own.

Brothers Rugby also enjoyed a very successful year in 2012, winning first grade for the second year running, winning the Divisional Club Championship for the second year running and finishing 2nd in the NSW Suburban Club Championship (all suburban clubs across the Sydney Metropolitan area). Other highlights; 2nd grade runners up (7-8 in the Grand Final), our first colts team since 1975 to be runners up (29-34), outscoring the opposition 5 tries to 4, and a Semi-Final appearance by 4th grade. Overall, one of the club’s most successful years.


David Bullard (82)
President SPX OBA & Brothers Rugby
info@oldboys.spx.nsw.edu.au

St Joseph’s special visit to Sydney

In August 2012, Year 5 and 6 students from St Joseph’s Walgett made their bi-annual trip to Sydney, and we were honoured that they spent one of their busy days with our junior students at Oxford Falls. St Joseph’s students performed an Indigenous dance, and in a highly symbolic gesture, presented us with a beautiful cross, hand painted by one of the Elders. All the children joined in a range of sporting activities, followed by a presentation to each visitor of an SPX rugby jersey. Everyone eagerly tucked into a lovely barbeque lunch, cooked and served by the Year 10 Edmund Rice Society students. St Pius X also presented St Joseph’s with 25,000 Coles Sporting Vouchers, donated by the College community, diligently collected and counted by Year 7.
To showcase the exceptional talents of the departing Year 12 Visual Art, Music, and Design and Technology students, the annual Splinters Splashes and Sounds evening is held in August.

In 2012, the parents and friends of the students are treated to a wonderful exhibition of the students' finest works. The evening concludes with the HSC Music students' first public performance of their Core Compositions.

HSC MUSIC 2012 ACHIEVEMENTS:
Music Extension: Michael Brady and Deven Rahman – Extension 4 achieved the top band for extension music.
Music 2: Michael Brady and Renzo Balboa – Band 5 (both got 89, missing Band 6 by 1 mark) Deven Rahman – Band 6, Encore nomination for his Core Composition
Music 1: James Quick and Christian Tsamouras – Band 5

Parents & Friends
FAREWELL ROB MORTON

The College’s P&F is a vibrant and dynamic group, and it was with sadness at the AGM that we accepted Mr Rob Morton’s resignation as P&F President after three years of outstanding service to the College community.

The P&F holds wonderful gatherings and functions throughout the school year, such as the P&F Commencement Mass and BBQ, New Parents Cocktail Party, Trivia Nights, and Father’s Day Breakfast and Mother’s Day Muffins Morning Tea. Under Mr Morton’s leadership, the stewardship of the financial contribution of parents has been very prudent and clear, with significant financial assistance in 2012 towards the new school bus, purchase of equipment at Oxford Falls, physical education and exercise equipment for the Sarto Centre Gym, new lockers for the 2013 Year 12, the prayer garden and the refurbishment of the staff room.

The P&F has also given financial assistance to high-achieving students representing the College in national science forums, sporting events and music performances, as well as to academic high achievers. The leadership Mr Morton has shown in coordinating the P&F Clubs has delivered incredible benefits to the boys. Mr Morton also gave recognition and support to the staff of the school as well as many hours of enthusiastic service.

Mr Philip Morgan-Giles generously agreed to care-take the role as Interim President until the next P&F Meeting early in 2013.

Heroes, Villains and Champions

A not-to-be-missed event on the Junior School calendar is Book Week, finishing with a grand Book Week Parade staged in nearby Beauchamp Park.

The theme for Book Week 2012 was ‘Champions Read’, providing plenty of scope for imaginative costumes – from students and staff.
ST MARY’S PRIMARY SCHOOL BOWRAVille is 20 kilometres inland from Macksville on the north coast of NSW. The school population is made up of 90% Indigenous students, whose backgrounds and lifestyles are less fortunate than ours. The staff led by Principal Claire Mellon, provides an amazing level of education that goes well beyond the classroom. Immersion student James Gibson recounts “The immersion to St Mary’s was one of the most rewarding and life-changing experiences of my life. To see the sweetest smile from a small child that lives a life full of struggles is so emotionally powerful.”

ST JOSEPH’S WALGett, led by Principal Helen Cooney, is a small primary school ten hours drive north-west of Chatswood, situated just south of Lightning Ridge. The visit in November was the College’s inaugural immersion experience with our fellow Christian Brothers school, with which we have had a long and significant relationship.

Immersion student Leon Warren said “I have had a brief glimpse into the lives of those that live and work in the harsh Australian outback – the relentless heat and extreme distances have really put my life into prospective. I am humbled by this immersion experience.”

These immersion experiences are a truly wonderful opportunity for our young men in Year 10 to understand and learn first-hand much of the struggles the children and their families face from life in the bush. These experiences will stay with our boys forever, and as St Pius X College continues to strengthen its relationship with both schools, our students will become even more committed to supporting both school communities with our annual fundraising efforts such as the Junior School walk-a-thon and the Falls Festival and collecting Coles Sporting Vouchers, which we know have a positive impact on them and us.

World Vision Sponsorship: Continuing our sponsorship of 13-year-old Vipin Singh Ramadhar and his family in India.

St Joseph’s Primary School, Walgett: To help purchase four large tents to protect the students from the harsh sun while they hold their swimming and athletics carnivals.

St Mary’s Bowraville: To aid the continuation of their nutrition program, providing students with in-school breakfasts and lunches.

St Edmund’s Wahroonga: Funds towards maintaining up-to-date electronic learning programs for the vision, hearing and intellectually impaired students.
**Student News • IN-BRIEF**

**Thomas Wong, (Year 5, 2012)** was SPX’s winner of the 2012 Willoughby Council Wildlife Story Book competition. Thomas’s book *Harry the Huntsman Spider* has been published and is available in more than 20 local and school libraries throughout Willoughby.

**Ben Collins (Year 6, 2012)** gained selection in the NSW PSSA Rugby Team which won the National Championships. Ben was further recognised by his selection into the NSW Primary Schools Rugby Team.

**Congratulations to the too numerous to mention music students who gained excellent results in their AMEB examinations during 2012.**

**Thomas Kosutar (Year 10, 2012)** was selected to participate in the Kizuna Program in Japan in December. Thomas was one of only 20 successful students selected from 1500 Australian students.

**John El-Alam (Year 10, 2012)** achieved a High Distinction in International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS), which brings together the best and the brightest ICAS senior students from across NSW and the ACT.

**Josiah Lising’s (Year 8, 2012)** beautiful artistic impression of the angel coming to Mary asking her to be the mother of God was the image used on the College’s 2012 Christmas cards.

**Mark Brackenrig (Year 12, 2012)** was selected into the Extended Training Squad for the 2012 FIFA Futsal World Cup. Mark was the youngest member of the squad.

**Alexander Lewis and Thomas Clarke (Year 11, 2012)** and **Alistar and Joseph Siokos (Year 6, 2012)** performed in the final concert of the year with the Australian Youth Choir at Sydney Town Hall. They sang with Bruce Woodley (founding member of The Seekers), singing his song “I am Australian”.

**Old Boy Gregory Roger Shannon** was awarded the Medal in the Order of Australia (OAM) in the New Year Honours. Greg served in Vietnam as a Platoon Commander and later in the Regular Army, and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. The OAM was for services to the building and construction industry through vocational training and education.

**Old Boy Kevin Roberts** (former 1st XI Cricket Captain and 1990 College Vice-Captain) was elected to the Board of Cricket Australia. He was a NSW first-class cricketer and built a career with Adidas.

**Ex-student Joe Moore (2009)** was placed 4th in the finals of Australia’s Got Talent 2012. Now managed by Glenn Wheatley (John Farnham’s Manager), we are sure to see more of this talented singer/songwriter.

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### Students receive prestigious awards

The College congratulates two of our Year 12, 2012 students on each receiving a prestigious community service award.

**James Camilleri (Vice-Captain 2012)** received the Certificate of Commendation for Service to the Community, nominated by The Order of Australia Association, New South Wales. This is one of the most prestigious awards that can be received by a student. Amongst James’s achievements have been receiving the Ryde Young Citizen of the Year Award 2011 and the Ryde Young Volunteer of the Year Award 2012. At a State function held at Government House in November, the Governor of NSW, Professor Marie Bashir, AV CVO, presented James with the Certificate of Commendation and a medallion.

**Dylan Finch (Year 2012)** received the Community Young Person of the Year Award for the North Sydney local electorate. The award was presented by Mr Joe Hockey, Member for North Sydney and Shadow Treasurer, to Dylan for his service to the community, particularly in community radio.

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### BroVember

The male staff at the College were supported by their colleagues, their partners, the Year 11 MindMatters representatives and many boys during the Movember Fundraiser. The Year 11 MindMatters representatives supplied fake moustaches to students (who were forbidden to grow the real thing) in exchange for a donation and a photograph that was displayed in the school reception rolling images gallery. The community effort resulted in $2600 being raised for the Prostate Cancer and Mental Health appeal.
During 2012, students learning a language (Mandarin, French or Italian) participated in the Language Perfect World Championships. St Pius X Language students posted strong results, achieving a global ranking of 302 out of the 802 participating schools. Of the 504 participating Australian schools, SPX achieved a ranking of 197 and in NSW were positioned 19th out of 39 schools. The Language students were involved in many out-of-classroom learning experiences to enhance their cultural and language skills – a popular activity is the end-of-year Christmas lunches of authentic Chinese, French and Italian food!

The ICAS English Senior Writing Competition assesses a student’s ability to write an extended response to a given task. The competition targets gifted and talented English students – 11 SPX students received Distinctions and 64 Credits.

Combine the language of Shakespeare, the comedic talent of a versatile actor and the physical experience of the Sydney Theatre Company and you have a wonderful story entitled “Fools Island”. Year 7 and 8 students thoroughly enjoyed their trip to the Sydney Theatre Company, where this 90-minute one-man theatrical show merged brilliantly classic Shakespeare with the tomfoolery of the Marx Brothers.

These four students were part of a 24 Senior student team from Years 7 and 8 at St Pius X College, who entered into the Australasian Problem Solving Mathematical Olympiad. All students participated in five challenges held during five lunch times between the months of May to September in 2012.

These four students were our highest achievers, from Year 7 William Maniatis (in front), and from Year 8

Onwards and Upwards

There was standing room only in the gym as proud parents gathered for the keenly awaited Year 6 Graduation and Academic Awards night at the end of the school year. Reaching this important milestone in their school life is something to be celebrated and Junior School memories were reflected upon in word, verse and film. Principal Mr John Couani presented the Academic Awards and Graduation Certificates. Isaac Fong was the recipient of the Br R B Quirke Scholarship for Year 7, 2013. The boys sang as a year group for their parents, before being joined by the Year 5 boys in a rousing finale.

Earlier in the evening, Year 5 students were presented with their end-of-year Academic Awards. Matthew Crotty was the recipient of the inaugural Br P A Leary Scholarship for Year 6, 2013.

Student Eucharistic Ministers

In November 2012, Father Paul Finucane of Our Lady of Dolours Parish spent the day with eight Year 10 students, who have taken on the important liturgical role of Eucharistic Ministers. The boys are a very impressive, committed and mature-minded group of young men, who were formally commissioned as Liturgy Leaders at the Year 10 Graduation Mass in December.

Parents’ thank you for entrusting your sons into our care and thank you boys for your enthusiasm, hard work, good nature and smiles throughout the year.