

# PIUS InProfile



Welcome to our new Principal, Mr Michael Ronchetti

ST PIUS X COLLEGE  
CHATSWOOD

Autumn 2023



EDMUND RICE EDUCATION  
AUSTRALIA



## 2023 Year Theme: Listening to Learn, Learning to Listen

The College Theme 'Listening to Learn, Learning to Listen' encourages all members of the St Pius X community to be deep authentic listeners. It is a truly special quality as it allows an individual to contemplate, to be quiet, to be still. Listening renews us and brings peace. It makes us feel whole again.

Inspired by Luke 11:28 'Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and live it', we are reminded of the importance to listen attentively to the good news, so that we can have a positive influence and help build a better world. I hope that we all listen more deeply so that we can learn more authentically.

The 2023 College Captain, Eamon Boyle, outlines the foundations and motivations of the student leadership team in developing the year theme:

*The College Motto for 2023 will be, 'listening to learn, learning to listen.'*

*Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr, who is a First Nations activist and, Senior Australian of the Year 2021, advocates for Dadirri, which translates to deep listening. In Dadirri, we put aside our own thoughts, and fully concentrate on the respective person. Deep listening allows for deeper connections to be made, and through that we have the opportunity to learn so much more. Now, I am not demanding everybody to practice deep listening during every maths lesson, which you should be doing by the way, but during conversations with your friends, teachers, and family, where we can learn about their stories and experiences, allowing growth and development within ourselves.*



2023 College Captain, Eamon Boyle at the Leadership Investiture



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# Principal's Welcome



It is my great pleasure to introduce this Autumn 2023 Pius in Profile, my first such publication as Principal of the College. I have been impressed, since my arrival, with the great atmosphere and energy in the College community. So many good things happen all the time. This publication highlights some of these activities.

There are many things to celebrate. The 2022 HSC Results were outstanding. The excellent Opening Mass (celebrated by Fr David Ranson) was combined with the Academic Awards Assembly. These key events reinforced our commitment to our Faith and acknowledged our high achievers. The very popular Open Day gave us confidence that the school will attract many quality students in the future. Finally, there have been some substantial performances in the extracurricular life of the College. Such events feature throughout the following pages.

Our College student leaders, have already made their mark and provided the College Motto for 2023, which is Listening to Learn; Learning to Listen. Such a profound exhortation provides an excellent focus for our students in their learning journeys.

We have been pleased to maintain our fortnightly liturgies in the College Chapel – and these are an excellent way to proclaim that we are an authentic Catholic School. All our assemblies open with prayers from students and each Mass has the focus of a particular class. You will see this featured in the magazine.

We also make a point of maintaining our connection with the wider College community of former students, their families, and our much-valued staff. Sadly, such mentions often involve an acknowledgement of people's lives after they have passed. In this edition we particularly remember College Old Boy and Performing Arts Coordinator, Mr Anthony Timmins, and Mrs Watkins, the wife of former student Michael and member of the extended Watkins family who have made a substantial contribution to the life of the College.

Welcome to 2023 and Pius in Profile.

God Bless you all

Mr Michael Ronchetti  
PRINCIPAL

*fide et labore,*  
THROUGH FAITH AND HARD WORK



**Left** First day 2023 Student Leaders with Mr Ronchetti. **Right** Year 12 Leaders with Father Ranson at the Commencement Mass.

# High Achievers

Congratulations to the 2022 College Dux, Benjamin Cullen, with the excellent ATAR of 99.75. Twenty-five students gained ATARs above 90, with 11 of them gaining ATARs above 95, which ranks them in the highest levels in the state, especially creditable as St Pius X College is a non-selective school.

The Class of 2022 were led by Captain William Staber, with Vice Captains Benjamin Cullen and Ronan Crispe, who all achieved ATARs above 95 while performing many public duties over the year. Overall, there were three boys in the Top All Rounders List: Benjamin Cullen, Max Leo and William Staber. There were also three state rankings: Ronan Crispe was 4th in State for French Beginners and Benjamin Cullen was 5th in State for Ancient History and 18th in State for Legal Studies. In total there were 94 mentions in the Distinguished Achievers list.

## Summary of 2022 HSC Results

<b>College Dux</b>	Benjamin Cullen ATAR 99.75
<b>All Rounders (attained Band 6 in 10 or more units)</b>	Benjamin Cullen, Max Leo and William Staber
<b>ATARs above 95</b>	11
<b>ATARs over 90</b>	25
<b>Distinguished Achievers</b>	94 mentions in the Distinguished Achievers List* 48 students achieved top band in a course
<b>Special Mentions</b> <b>4th in State for French Beginners</b> <b>5th in State for Ancient History</b> <b>18th in State for Legal Studies</b> <b>Nominated for ENCORE</b> <b>Nominated for OnSTAGE</b> <b>Nominated for OnSTAGE</b>	Ronan Crispe Benjamin Cullen Benjamin Cullen Tom Livy for Music 1 William Ramsbottom for Individual and Group Drama Performances Joshua Squires, Jamie Todd and William Walsh-Penny for Group Drama Performances
<b>Courses above the State Average</b>	26

\* Includes Year 11 Mathematics Accelerants

## Benjamin Cullen – 2022 College Dux Insight

ATAR 99.75 and HSC All Rounder

St Pius X provided me with genuine relationships and mates who I cherish. I'm incredibly grateful for the unmatched passion and expertise of all my teachers. They marked countless practice papers, gave constant encouragement, and made my schooling experience so much warmer and more fulfilling. It was this supportive learning environment fostered by my peers that truly allowed me to realise my potential in the HSC.

My fondest memories include participating in the school play, 'Great Expectations', the Red Dirt Immersion to Central NSW, the Duke of Edinburgh hikes, debating every Friday night and football every Saturday.

My advice for younger students is to get involved with everything on offer. The extracurricular activities and profound experiences beyond academia are what you will remember and offer a chance to not only expand your horizons, but to make a meaningful contribution to your community. These activities will forge friendships across all year levels that will outlast your high school experience.

My main tip for getting good results is to choose subjects that you love and are passionate about. This makes it so much easier to be enthusiastic about the content you are learning and to put extra effort in.

*Studying Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws (Dalyell Scholar) at the University of Sydney*

- College Vice Captain
- College Gold for Academic Studies
- Academic Honours First Class
- 5th in the State for Ancient History
- 18th in the State for Legal Studies
- The Br J R Killian Award for Personal Character and Influence on the Life of the College
- Edmund Rice Leadership Award
- Represented the College in Basketball, Debating (College Gold) and Football
- Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Outdoor Education Program and the Red Dirt Expedition
- Peer Support Leader, Peer Mentor, Eucharistic Minister and a Leader of the Edmund Rice Society and Student Empowerment Team





Class of 2022 at the HSC Results BBQ

## Academic Awards Ceremony

Held at Oxford Falls on February 21, the Academic Awards Assembly acknowledged the 2022 Semester 2 academic achievements and congratulated the 2022 HSC High Achievers.

Special guests on the day included Mr John and Mrs Maree Couani, Mr Brad Van Dijk (Father of Tom Van Dijk) and Mr Derald Rose (Grandfather of Tom Van Dijk). Mr Couani presented Benjamin Cullen with his Dux medallion.

Over 200 students were acknowledged for their achievements in Semester 2, 2022. The assembly was a great celebration of the quality of young men who strive to do their personal best. Congratulations to Evan Ausling, Joshua Bewley, Ethan Chow, Darcy Keenlyside, Jack Lonergan and Edward Turner who received Academic Gold Awards. The seven Academic scholarships for 2023 were also awarded by the Principal for academic excellence across the various year groups and one scholarship awarded annually for contribution to College life and being likely to enter a trade. The scholarships were presented to: Jack Lonergan, Year 12 – The Thomas Van Dijk Scholarship, John Carroll, Year 11 – The Old Boys Scholarship, Caleb Hanrahan, Year 12 – The Bergelin Trade Scholarship, Cooper Anderson, Year 11 – The Christian Brothers Academic Scholarship, Anthony Parissis, Year 10 – The Br M O'Connor Academic Scholarship, James Kevric, Year 9 – The Br B J Carter Academic Scholarship and Zachary Rapa, Year 8 – The Br V A Howard Academic Scholarship.

The following Awards for Semester 2, 2022 were presented

**Awards presented to 241 Students: 55 Year 7, 46 Year 8, 56 Year 9, 42 Year 10 and 42 Year 11**

**20 Academic Excellence, 4 Academic Honours, 5 Academic Honours First Class (Year 11)**

**61 Growth in Learning Awards (Years 7 – 10)**

**47 Waterford Awards (Years 7 – 11)**

**20 Blue Academic Colour Awards**

**6 Silver Academic Colour Awards**

**6 Gold Academic Colour Awards**

**Top** 2022 Scholarship Recipients. **Middle** Year 9 2022 Academic Award Recipients. **Bottom** Year 11 2022 Academic Award Recipients.



## Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Congratulations Jarred Lam (Class of 2022) and William Grant, Year 10 for being awarded the Bronze Award and Mitchell McGrath for achieving his Silver Award. The College has approximately 40 new registrations for the Award in 2023.

## Premier's Reading Challenge

Year 10 students, Lucas Durey, Giancarlo Vincenzo, (pictured) and Freddie Allert were awarded the prestigious Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) Medal late last year. This is the highest PRC award and recognises their outstanding commitment to reading by completing the Challenge every year from Year 3 to Year 9 (2016-2022).

Seventeen Year 7 students were also presented their Gold Premier's Reading Challenge Award in March during their year meeting. The Gold award acknowledges students who complete the challenge for 4 (non-consecutive) years.

## Wildlife Storybook writers and artists

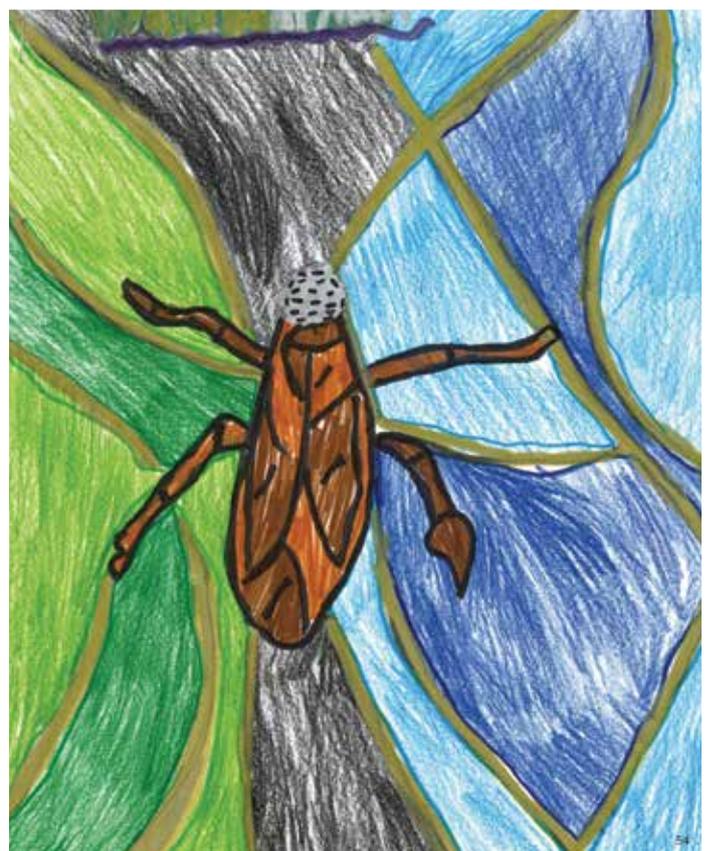
Junior School students Henry Burke, Frank Lennard, Tom Millar, Ethan Zaknich and Javien Foo wrote and/or illustrated a story and a play about the Water Boatman (aquatic insect) that was published in the Willoughby Council's annual Wildlife Storybook 2022 late last year.

The students, teachers and their families attended the official launch on 17 November 2022 hosted by Willoughby Mayor, Tanya Taylor, who said 'This special project is really quite unique because it empowers young primary school students to teach their peers about the animals, birds and bugs in their immediate natural environment, and connect them with our many and varied bushland areas.' The boys were also asked to put on a performance of Tom's play - Bill the Water Boatman with the performance being a great success.

The Wildlife Storybook is a culmination of a Council-led program that sees Willoughby primary schools visited by Bushland Education Officers to learn about the local environment and the creatures within it. The students work with their teachers to research a particular animal and share stories with their classmates. The top stories are published in the annual storybook. Tom from St Pius X College wrote an entertaining play about three Water Boatman bugs who sometimes find themselves flushed down the drain of their swimming pool home. 'It was fun to write and draw about these little creatures,' Tom said. 'I tried to make it funny but also include real facts that I researched.'

Copies of The Wildlife Storybook are available to purchase for \$10, or borrow, at Chatswood City Library. Alternatively, it can be downloaded for free on the Willoughby Council website under Environment/School-Programs.

**Top** Year 7 Premier's Reading Challenge Gold Awardees. **Second** Lucas Durey and Giancarlo Vincenzo. **Third** Henry Burke, Frank Lennard, Tom Millar, Ethan Zaknich and Javien Foo with Willoughby Mayor Tanya Taylor. **Bottom** Ethan Zaknich's artwork in the Wildlife Storybook.



# 2023 College Leaders

The 2023 College student leaders were invested on 24 October 2022. Special guest speaker, Assistant Police Commissioner Martin Fileman, addressed the College community focusing on three values of 'professionalism, resilience and integrity'. He also spoke about the value of 'followship', which is the extremely important to the leadership process. This is the willingness to cooperate with others to accomplish a greater common goal by being a committed team player, supportive and excelling at what you are doing without having star status.

In his leadership speech, the 2023 College Captain, Eamon Boyle outlined the year theme of 'Listening to Learn, Learning to Listen' and how this applies to every aspect of school life from faith life together, studies, sporting and cultural endeavours and especially friendships and the care and wellbeing of each other.



2023 Student Leadership Team

## 2023 College Leaders



**Eamon Boyle**  
COLLEGE CAPTAIN



**Joshua Bewley**  
COLLEGE VICE CAPTAIN



**Mitchell McGrath**  
COLLEGE VICE CAPTAIN



**William Sykes**  
WELLBEING PREFECT



**Liam Thomson**  
WELLBEING PREFECT



**Thomas Wilkins**  
WELLBEING PREFECT



**Thomas Ryan**  
MISSION AND IDENTITY  
PREFECT



**Luke Sissons**  
MISSION AND IDENTITY  
PREFECT



**Daniel Walters**  
MISSION AND IDENTITY  
PREFECT



**Henrik Hogg**  
CULTURAL PREFECT



**Aaron Lau**  
CULTURAL PREFECT



**Luke Sarkissian**  
CULTURAL PREFECT



**Xander Buckingham**  
LEARNING PREFECT



**Jamie Leong**  
LEARNING PREFECT



**Edward Turner**  
LEARNING PREFECT



**Isaac Byrne**  
BARRON  
HOUSE CAPTAIN



**William Pavely**  
PURTON  
HOUSE CAPTAIN



**Zachary Flynn**  
RICE  
HOUSE CAPTAIN



**Lucas Hamill**  
TREACY  
HOUSE CAPTAIN

*fide et labore*  
THROUGH FAITH AND HARD WORK

# Mission and Identity

## Commencement Mass

The College Commencement Mass was held on 21 February at Oxford Falls with special guests Mr Ray Paxton, EREA Interim Executive Director, Ms Sarah Gillard, Member of the School Advisory Council and P&F President, and Mr Mark Sullivan, Member of the School Advisory Council. Fr David Ranson, Parish Priest of Our Lady of Dolours presided over our celebration and provided a poignant note in relation to our theme – “To listen is to love, to love is to listen.”

The Mass not only officially started the year, but provided the backdrop to formally commission the new College Principal, Mr Michael Ronchetti. Before the entire community Mr Ronchetti confirmed that he would persistently work to ensure the faith formation, educational requirements and expectations of an EREA school leader. These statements of commitment were made before our EREA Interim Executive Director Mr Ray Paxton, Council members Mrs Sarah Gillard

and Mr Mark Sullivan, parent and teacher Mrs Joanne Schuster and College Captain Eamon Boyle. Mr Ronchetti symbolically accepted the leadership of the College community by receiving the College candle from the College Captain.

## Year 10 Eucharistic Ministers

Congratulations to the Year 10 students who completed their training to be a Eucharistic Minister late last year: Joe Lonergan, Cooper Anderson, Sam Cummins, Dominic Mitchell, Jose Monk, Riley Seeto, Lenox Makarewicz, Spencer Anderson and Liam Boswell.

## Chapel Mass

Each fortnight Year 9 Religious Education classes take turns hosting the College’s Chapel Mass. It has been great to see students from Mercy College once again joining in this celebration this year.



**Top left** Whole school Commencement Mass at Oxford Falls. **Top right** Mr Ronchetti symbolically accepts leadership by receiving the College candle. **Bottom left** Year 10 Eucharistic Ministers at the Youth Mass. **Bottom right** St Pius X and Mercy College students at Tuesday’s Chapel Mass.

## Junior School Bible Liturgy and Year 6 Commitment Pledge

On 14 March the Junior School gathered in the parish church of Our Lady of Dolours for a liturgy, asking to be guided by the values of the Gospels. The College presented to each new student a Bible as a way to inspire our Touchstone of Gospel Spirituality.

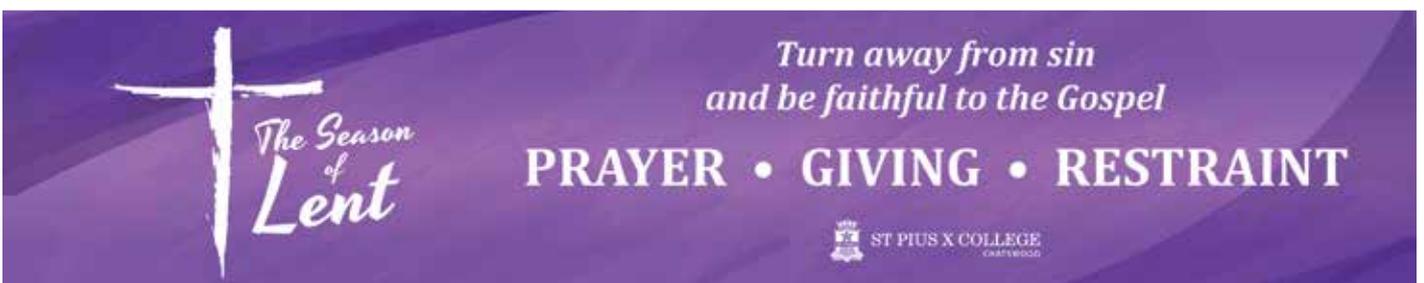
## Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday, on 22 February, marked the start of the season of Lent. As a faith community, year groups gathered in prayer and worship to acknowledge the desire to improve themselves and their relationships with others. This acknowledgement was made visible by the mark of ash on foreheads, a symbol noting that they will accept the challenges that lie ahead of them as they journey through

Lent. As Catholics we are asked to be people who are prayerful, who can be restrained through fasting and who consider the disadvantaged and marginalised through giving alms or charity.

To assist in living out this message and following in the example of Blessed Edmund Rice the College supports the annual Lenten Appeal – Project Compassion, run by CARITAS. Each Tuesday to Thursday the Project Compassion boxes are taken to homerooms for collections. The funds raised will assist CARITAS to complete initiatives in developing countries so as to liberate individuals who are often lacking basic needs that we take for granted such as: education, health care, food security, employment and sanitation.

The Edmund Rice Society also contributes to raising money for Project Compassion through making and selling Pancakes every Tuesday morning as part of Lent.



**Top left** Year 5 and 6 Students receiving their Bibles. **Top right** Edmund Rice Society members supporting Project Compassion. **Middle** The College Lenten banner. **Bottom left** Receiving Ashes at the Ash Wednesday Liturgy. **Bottom right** The College Edmund Rice Society selling pancakes for Project Compassion.

# Social Justice

## Remembrance Day

The College remembers all those men and women who have served, especially those St Pius X College ex-students who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Special guests at the College's November Remembrance Day ceremony were: Major Rod White AM, Mr Jim Fitzgerald, Mr Peter Hoffman and his wife Deborah, Mr Ted Myer, Members of the De Sisto family - Mrs Maria Barrett, Mr Jon Barrett, Ms Julia Taranto and Ms Claudia Taranto as well as Mrs Barbara Brannan and her daughter Bernadette.

In addition to the College assembly, St Pius X students attended the Remembrance Day Service hosted by Chatswood RSL and supported by Willoughby Council. The Occasional Address was given by Year 5 student Rory Rapa in the Chatswood Rose Garden.

Mayor Taylor wrote: "Young Rory, delivered an amazing speech reflecting on the life and service of Lieutenant Colonel Hyacinth Ralph Honner, a distinguished Australian soldier who served during the Second World War. Rory's address was beautifully executed - both in prose and delivery. We are safe in the hands of young leaders such as Rory who will continue to express gratitude and respect for those who have served."



**Top** Special guests at the St Pius X Remembrance Day service, Old Boy Peter Hoffman (Class of 1971) and his wife Deb. **Bottom Left** Mr Sean Brannan, State MP Tim James, Father Ranson, Mercy Principal, Ms Brenda Timp and students from St Pius X College and Mercy College at the Chatswood Garden of Remembrance Day Commemoration. **Bottom Right** Year 7 gift giving in Bowraville where the student RAP team delivered gifts to the Aboriginal community of St Mary's Primary School.

## Christmas Giving

Every year during the Christmas period the College supports organisations that assist those living on the margins. Year 11 supported St Michael's Meals Homeless Hamper Initiative. Year 10 provided a wrapped present for an employee of Centacare living with an intellectual disability. Year 9 provided non-perishable food items to the Burdekin Association for at-risk youth and combating youth homelessness. Year 8 supported CatholicCare providing goods for underprivileged young families and single-parent families. Year 7 collected clothing, toys and sporting equipment for primary-aged students at St Mary's Bowraville and Years 5 & 6 collected men's toiletries for St Vincent de Paul Woy Woy.

## Bowraville Christmas Gift Delivery

The College Student Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Team travelled to St Mary's Bowraville and joined with them to celebrate their end of year Mass and deliver the Year 7 Christmas Giving gifts. They also spent time On Country with Gumbayngirr Education Officer Mark Smith, cooked lunch for the school, and spent a day in lessons and sports activities with the students of this unique and special Aboriginal community.

Thank you to Year 11 RAP Leaders: Patrick Frost, Dominic Mitchell, and Eliot Sanders, RAP team members of Sean O'Donnell, Lucas Gleeson, Sam Ferguson and Brayzen Sargent, Matari Webster, Charlie O'Donnell, Zac Rapa, and Brad Newman along with Mr Stollery and Mr Russo. This small Aboriginal community was so grateful for the visit and ongoing connection with St Pius X College.

**- GIVE TO THE POOR IN HANDFULS -  
Blessed Edmund Rice**



## The BeConnected Program

As part of the Willoughby City Council's Young Mentors Program, tech savvy students from St Pius X College have been volunteering weekly after school to assist seniors in the local community improve their digital literacy.

After the success of the program last year it has now become a permanent addition to Chatswood Library's member offerings. This year, St Pius X College students will be joined by students from Mercy College in mentoring seniors in their use of technology. It's a win-win situation as the students gain valuable teaching, communication and leadership skills while the seniors gain digital skills and new knowledge – not to mention the wonderful inter-generational connection.



## Founder's Day

The St Pius X College community gathered at the end of Term 4 at Oxford Falls to celebrate all that we value of the spirituality of Blessed Edmund Rice. Edmund had a profound concern for those who experience disadvantage – those who are on the margins of society. Whilst the College community has supported many through appeals there is still a disconnect between the lives of St Pius X students and the reality of those living on the margins. In order to better understand the experience of refugees, presenters from the Australian Refugee Council provided candid insight in to the life of a refugee. It is hoped that talking with, rather than talking to, those experiencing hardship, students are more likely to make it a reality 'to give to the poor in handfuls.'



## International Women's Day

Monday 6 March the College hosted senior students from Mercy Catholic College at the International Women's Day assembly. Both St Pius X and Mercy student leaders spoke eloquently, with the main message centred around the theme of 'embrace equity'.

Thank you very much to Lily, Molly, Liberti, Larissa and Emma from Mercy College for their commitment to women's rights and gender equality.



## Amity College Iftar Dinner

On 3 April a group of Year 11 Studies of Religion students attended the Amity College Annual Student Leaders' Iftar Dinner in Prestons. Iftar is the meal eaten after sunset to the break the fast that occurs during Ramadan.

The invitation is a symbol of friendship, with the aim of fostering understanding and social harmony amongst the community. Students met other teenagers of faith, established relationships and joined in discussions about contemporary issues. The importance of the dialogue shared cannot be underestimated as our society continues to navigate equality and justice for all regardless of race, religion, or gender.



**Top** BeConnected program at Chatswood Library. **Second** Special guests at Founder's Day, Deena Yako from Iraq, Simon Shahin from Syria, Abang Otho from South Sudan and Oliver Slewa, an Iraqi of Assyrian background. **Third** St Pius X and Mercy College Students at the International Women's Day Assembly. **Bottom** St Pius X Students at the Iftar Dinner.

# Student Wellbeing



**Top left** Year 5 Camp. **Top right** Year 7 Camp. **Bottom left** Year 6 Canberra trip. **Bottom right** Year 9 Ceroc Dance Workshop with Year 9 Brigidine College.

## Year 5 Camp to Milson Island

Year 5 enjoyed magnificent weather on their three-day camp to Milson Island in March. Accessible only by boat in the middle of the Hawkesbury River, Milson Island's recreational program provides students with opportunities to enjoy team-building activities including archery, raft-building, canoeing, fire starting and damper cooking whilst making new friends and forming lasting bonds with their classmates.

## Year 6 Excursion to Canberra

Year 6 students enjoyed a return to Australia's capital, Canberra where they learnt about the nation's history, government, and culture. The tour included visits to Parliament House, the Australian War Memorial, the National Museum of Australia, the Mint, Questacon, and the Australian Institute of Sport. The tour was an enriching experience that complemented the students' HSIE studies.

## Year 7 Great Aussie Bush Camp

Year 7 Pastoral Care Camp took place during March at the Great Aussie Bush Camp, Tea Gardens. It was a positive time of team connection and challenge experiences had by all on the flying fox, sea kayaks, climbing, raft building, archery, survivor and ropes activities.

## Year 9 Ceroc Dance Workshop

After the success of the Year 9 Pastoral Care Camps which focused on the year theme of being "Respectful Men of Honour" Year 9 hosted Brigidine College St Ives at the Oxford Falls Campus on 18 November for an afternoon of Ceroc dancing.

The nervous energy of learning new dance skills and making social connections culminated in an animated and well supported dance off. The students enjoyed making new friends, listening to others, and interacted positively throughout this enjoyable event.



**Top left** Kobie the St Pius X Support Dog. **Top right** Peer Support Program. **Bottom left** Year 11 Alcohol Awareness Program. **Bottom right** Snowy Hike.

## School Support Dog

The Counselling Team have introduced a School Support Dog into the College 1-2 days per week on a trial basis. The Support Dog has been specifically trained and accredited to provide Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) within the school.

Research indicates the many benefits to therapy dogs in school settings in supporting students' well-being, promoting a sense of belonging, reducing stress and anxiety, and even facilitating learning.

Kobie is an 18-month-old Labrador retriever cross English Spaniel, owned by College Counsellor, Ms McCarthy. He will attend the College each Monday, be housed in the Counselling area and kept on a lead at all times. Kobie has been a great success so far and we look forward to seeing the positive outcomes.

## Smashed Australia Alcohol Awareness

Year 9 and 10 students participated in an Alcohol Awareness presentation in March. The fun and lively performance highlighted some of the risks associated with alcohol and provided the opportunity for open discussion.

## Year 11 Snowy Hike

Sixty staff and students attended the annual College Year 11 Snowy Hike, trekking 100 km through the NSW Alpine region during December last year.

They camped out in some spectacular places, crossed rivers and climbed mountains. A challenging but wonderful journey for all. The trip is the culmination of months of training and preparation as well as close liaison with the National Parks and other bodies. The hikers encountered some trying weather on Mt Twynam with the wind chill of -6 C knocking tents about but were rewarded with a spectacular sunrise the following morning.

## Peer Support Program

An integral part of the Pastoral Care program at the College, Peer Support sees highly trained Year 11 students running weekly small group meetings with students from Years 5 and 7, during Term 1. These sessions develop strong, ongoing and supportive relationships that enable students to become more connected, empowered and resilient in their new school environment.

# Sport Success

## Swimming Carnivals

Congratulations to Treacy House who won both the Senior and Junior School Swimming carnivals this year!

The Senior School Age champions were U12 – Gavin Bae, U13 – Luca McCarthy, U14 – Jayden Law, U15 – Archer Ferguson, U16 – Derek Jung, U17 – Nicholas Gladen and Opens – Aaron Lau. Well Done.

A special mention for Nicholas Gladen – Year 11 who broke four long standing St Pius X records this year : the 50 Freestyle (record from 2001), 50 Breaststroke (record from 1997), 50 Backstroke (record from 2016), and 50 Fly (record 2000).

## Summer Sports Results

### Basketball

The end of season Basketball saw six St Pius X teams in the finals with the 14C, 15A and Open F teams taking home the championships on the day.

Congratulations to: 14Cs coached by Mr Matthew Wall, 15As coached by Mr Jack Garrett and the Open F coached by Mr Paul Ticli.

Runners Up: 13 Development coached by Mr Ryan Johnson, 15D coached Mr James Miller, Open C coached by Mr Fernando Mendez.

### Cricket

The U14 Division 1 and U13 Division 2 Cricket teams won their MWJCA Premierships.

### Tennis

NTSA Tennis saw 15 teams make the finals and 10 of those teams placing first in their divisions.

Well done to SPX 3, SPX 8, SPX 10, SPX 12, SPX 13, SPX 18, SPX 20, SPX 23, SPX 26 and SPX 27 Tennis Teams.

### Squash

Summer squash saw two teams finishing second in their division.

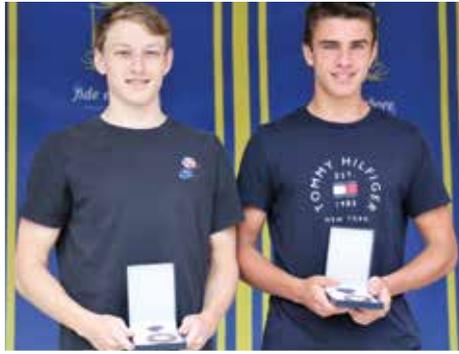
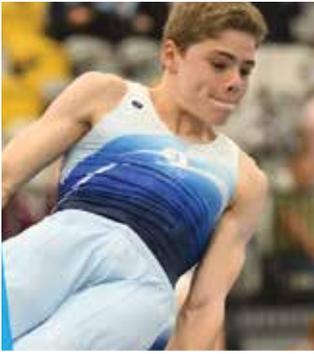
Congratulations to Liam Spatola and Cameron Giang in SPX 7 in Division 6 and Max Spurr and Matthew Yee in SPX 4 in Division 4!

## Triumphant Junior Softball Team!

Congratulations to the Junior Softball team on winning the season, Term 4 2022.



**Top** U13 Gold Cricket Team. **Second** Basketball Champions. **Third** Cricket Champions. **Fourth Left** Cameron Giang and Liam Spatola. **Fourth Right** Matthew Yee and Max Spurr. **Bottom** The overall winning Junior Softball team with their coach, Mrs Jenny Williams.



**Top Left** Australian Gymnastic Representative, John Carroll. **Top Middle** Record Breaking Swimming Champion, Nicholas Gladen and Hurdles Champion, Matthew Hunt. **Top Right** Ms Leisa Proc with the St Pius X ISA Swimming Squad. **Bottom Left** Cristiano Calcarao. **Bottom Middle** James Sykes. **Bottom Right** Cavan Ryan, Jacob Magner and Nicholas Gladen.

## Sporting Champions

### Gymnastics

Congratulations to John Carroll, Year 11, and Connor Lynch, Year 12, who competed at the Gymnastics NSW Senior State Championships in March and will now represent NSW at the Australian Gymnastics Championships in May on the Gold Coast. John placed 2nd overall with a 1st in Floor, 1st in Parallel Bars, 2nd in Rings, 3rd in Vault and 3rd in High Bar and will compete in Level 9 and Connor will represent the Level 7 Open NSW state team. John also represented a 5 strong Australian Team at the International Junior Gymnastics title in Austria last November. John did himself and his team proud, finishing 13th Overall and ranking 1st of our Australian representatives.

### Athletics Record

Congratulations to Matthew Hunt of Year 11 who broke the NSW State record in the U17 300m hurdles during the NSW Little Athletics State Championship (held 18-19 March). The new record he set was 36.86 seconds, beating the previous record of 37.14 seconds which was held for 6 years.

### Backstroke Record

Congratulations to Nicholas Gladen Year 11 who broke the ISA U17, 50m Backstroke record.

### NSW CIS and All-Schools Combined Triathlon

On 24 February at Sydney International Regatta Centre the SPX Senior 1 Triathlon team beat Knox Grammar and Riverview to take 1st Place in the NSW CIS Schools Triathlon Team Relay event and 2nd overall to Trinity Catholic College - Goulburn in the NSW All-Schools Event. The team including

Nicholas Gladen (Swim), Jacob Magner (Run) and lead by Cavan Ryan (Bike) were outstanding in their pursuit of excellence but also spent the day encouraging the younger members of the largest contingent of St Pius X Triathletes to enter the event.

### St Pius X Swim Team Success

On 25 February the St Pius X Senior Swimming Squad competed at the 38th Annual Christian Brothers' Carnival. The Seniors took out the Shield and the squad came 2nd overall. The St Pius X Senior School Swimming Squad then went on to compete at the ISA Swimming Carnival held at SOPAC in March with the senior team finishing third behind Chevalier and Oakhill. Champion swimmer Nicholas Gladen broke the U17, 50m Backstroke record. St Pius X finished 4th out of 9 schools overall.

### Athletics and Basketball Star

Congratulations to Year 6 Cristiano Calcarao who won the 12yrs 3000m IPSHA Cross Country event on 1 April at the King's School, Parramatta. Cristiano also recently competed in the NSW Junior Athletics Championships placing 2nd in the U13 1500m with a PB of 4:15.13. He came within 0.06s of winning this event. He won the U13 800m event with another personal best of 2:15.93. He has now qualified for the Australian Junior Athletics Championships in mid-April in Queensland. A tremendous achievement and we wish Cristiano the very best at the next championships. Cristiano has also been selected to represent CIS at the NSWPSA Boys Basketball Championships in Tamworth in late May.

### NSW State Primary Cricket

Congratulations to James Sykes, Year 6, who has been selected in the NSW PSSA Cricket team that will compete in the State Championship in June in Darwin.

# Performing and Visual Arts

## The 39 Steps

The 2023 St Pius X Drama production showcased at The Zenith Theatre, Chatswood over two nights 4 and 6 April. Over 30 members of cast and crew put on two exceptional performances in conjunction with key actors from Mercy College. The stage production was directed by Ms Penny Lindley and produced by Mrs Emma Fryar, with collaboration from the Music Department.

Originally conceived as a book by John Buchan, *The 39 Steps* was made into a hit British thriller by Alfred Hitchcock. The play tells the story of Richard Hannay, a man who becomes embroiled in a conspiracy involving spies and murder. The play was a fast-paced, action-packed adventure that kept the audience on the edge of their seats. The style of the play allowed for broad and exaggerated characterisations, outrageous accents, and creative stagecraft. It encouraged students to explore their own creativity.

The cast and crew were amazing, enthusiastic, supportive of each other throughout and willing to try different ways of performing their characters. The sheer joy in the room during rehearsals was a testament to their love of drama and theatre.

The musicians were the final piece in the puzzle and their contribution was immense. Under the clear and dedicated direction of Mr Stephen Cummins, the Musical Director, the music brought all of the Hitchcockian elements together.

The production was dedicated to the memory of the wonderful, talented and kind Mr Anthony Timmins, Head of CAPA at St Pius X College from 2020-2022 who was taken from us far too soon. He shared Ms Lindley's vision and passion for this show and was no doubt smiling down on everyone, tapping along and laughing at the gags!

The College thanks all the students who volunteered, parents for their support, the Donlevy family who went above and beyond in their practical help and finally the Director, Ms Penny Lindley, the Producer, Mrs Emma Fryar and Music Director, Mr Stephen Cummins.





## Christmas Twilight Concert

Held on Friday 18 November, the Christmas Twilight Concert was dedicated to recently deceased Performing Arts Coordinator, Mr Anthony Timmins. Student leader and Performing Arts student, Luke Sarkissian, paid tribute to Mr Timmins and the Performing Arts staff played a moving rendition of the Irish Blessing.

The evening included performances from singers, bands, guitars, strings, actors, and culminated with all the performers and audience joining together for carol singing.

The end of year Twilight Concert is a long standing tradition at the College and on occasion students leave the concert to get on the bus to the Snowy mountains hike – a truly well rounded education.



Staff playing a rendition of the Irish Blessing in memory of their friend and colleague, Mr Anthony Timmins(RIP)

## Smart Expressions Exhibition at the Concourse Chatswood

College Old Boys (Class of 2022) Charlie Zwart, Peter Nastys, Aram Zarigian and Leo Blane were at the opening of Smart Expressions at Art Space on the Concourse in March where their HSC artworks were on display. Smart Expressions is an exhibition of local high schools' HSC works with artworks exhibited at Art Space and also in the entrance to the library at Chatswood. Willoughby Mayor Tanya Taylor opened the exhibition and commended all the students on the quality and creativity of their artworks. It was notable that many of the students, including some of the St Pius X boys have chosen careers in art and design fields.



# Teaching and Learning

## New Staff

Following a significant number of retirements and movement last year, we are delighted to introduce our new staff for 2023.

**Mr Phillip Arthur**, Science

**Ms Stefania Baguely**, English

**Ms Raelene Boyle**, Junior School Teacher and Diverse Learning

**Ms Vanessa Burke**, Junior School Teacher

**Mr Tak Chan**, Mathematics

**Mr Stephen Davidson**, Curriculum Administration Coordinator, English and RE

**Mr Dallas Davies**, HSIE

**Ms Jessica Hillard**, HSIE

**Mr Justin Gates**, TAS

**Mr Brendan Jones**, Performing Arts

**Ms Beryl Li**, Languages

**Mr Anesh Naidoo**, Science

**Mr Michael Ronchetti**, Principal

**Ms Jennifer Walsh**, CANVAS Coordinator and TAS

**Ms Annabel Westhoff**, Performing Arts Coordinator

**Mr Wayne Wheatley**, Human Resources and Compliance Manager and RE

**Ms Elodie Westhoff**, Junior Drama Ensemble Director



## Other changes and responsibilities

We also congratulate our current staff who are taking on positions of responsibility or new roles in 2023:

**Stuart Munday**, Maintenance Manager

**Ben Ryan**, Junior School Sports Coordinator

**Sarah Panozzo**, Assistant Registrar

**Lisa Sutton**, College Advisory Council Secretary

**Georgia Florida**, Student Reception

**Emma Centofanti**, Assistant Accountant

## Retirements

We farewell the following staff who retired at the end of 2022 after significant time working at the College. We wish them all the best in their retirement.

**Mrs Melissa King**, Registrar, worked at the College for 29 years.

**Mrs Julie Collings**, Mathematics Teacher, 13 years at the College.

**Mr John Couani**, College Principal for 12 years.

**Mr Greg Bell**, Curriculum Administration and Knowledge Management Coordinator and Mathematics Teacher, 9 years at the College.

**Mr David Webster**, English Coordinator, 9 years at the College.



## Diverse Learning

The Diverse Learning department is a Year 5-12 faculty that oversees students with diverse learning needs, ranging from specific programs for support, to gifted and talented, and English as an additional language. These programs enable a personal freedom and confidence to aspire to and achieve excellence.

## Science Club

Is on again this year during lunch, every second Thursday and is primarily for Year 7 and 8 students who have a keen interest in Science. The main goals of Science Club are to provide an opportunity for students to learn more advanced Science, do fun experiments and activities and discover their favourite branch of Science.

## Chinese Club and Lunar New Year Celebrations

The Year of the Rabbit was welcomed in with great enthusiasm with Chinese traditions in the Junior School during February. Celebrations included a song sung in Chinese by several students before the invited Chinese dragon blessed the classrooms. The dragon, which is an essential symbol of Chinese culture, symbolises good luck, prosperity, and happiness. The dragon made its way through to the junior classrooms accompanied by traditional Chinese music. Blessing and bringing good luck to students and teachers alike. It was an unforgettable experience for all who participated and for those of us in the audience.

Chinese Club runs every Wednesday Day 3 and Thursday Day 9 in D1 from 1.00 pm and is open to Year 7 – 12. Term 1, the focus was on Chinese arts and crafts.

## Robotics Club

Robotics is a dynamic club where more than 90 Year 5 – 12 students come together after school to share their passion for mechatronics and coding. Skill development is a key focus with students learning problem solving, planning, management, costing, teamwork, competitive strategy, and resilience. 2022 projects included a first-person view drone, a functional artificial arm built only with LEGO, robots for RoboCup 2023, various Arduino projects and a Boston Dynamics inspired robotic dog.

The Year 5 Introductory program, offered in Term 4, had over 30 participants. With some new changes to the software being introduced by LEGO posing new challenges for the boys and their coaches.

Year 6 students have been focusing on coding and construction of EV3 robots. These skills were then put in place in the Term 4 internal FLL competition.

Year 7 students completed programming of their EV3 LEGO robots using Python. Year 9 and 10 iSTEM students also used this time to work on their class-based projects.



**Top** Diverse Learning team. **Second** Science Club. **Third** Chinese Club members celebrating Lunar New Year. **Bottom** Junior Robotics Club members.

# College Old Boys



**Left** Carolyn and Michael Watkins (SPX1970). **Right** Peter and Alan Watkins at the opening of Watkins Oval, Oxford Falls.

## Mrs Carolyn Watkins 19 October 1955 – 5 March 2023

The College extends its deepest condolences to the extended Watkins family on the passing of Carolyn Watkins on Sunday 5 March 2023. Her children and grandchildren were with her at the end of her long illness. A celebration of her life was held at Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church, Hunters Hill, 10 March 2023. The Watkins family are an integral part of the St Pius X College spiritual community.

Carolyn was the wife of Michael Watkins (Class of 1970), an old boy, past President of the P&F and Treasurer of the Old Boys Association. He was a much-valued member of the Association and great company at their many social events. He sadly passed away ten years ago. One of his last public outings was a farewell visit to the College.

Carolyn attended Mercy Catholic College and was a teacher at Our Lady of Dolours Primary School Chatswood for many years. Carolyn and Michael Watkins were parents to Kylie, Craig, Peter and Nicole. Both sons attended St Pius X. Peter (Class of 2001) was College Vice-Captain. Sadly, their other son Craig (1998) passed away on his sixteenth birthday while a student at St Pius X, having coped with muscular dystrophy all his life. His family shared in Craig's struggle and bore his death with great courage. The lift near A Wing was constructed by the students raising the money via a walkathon so Craig could stay at St Pius X instead of having to leave due to difficulty of accessing classroom and facilities. Before the lift was constructed Craig was carried by his classmates to the higher levels of the school. There was never any difficulty in finding boys to complete this task. The lift continues to provide

educational opportunities to the higher levels of A Wing long after Craig's passing. At Craig's funeral his classmates lined Kirk and Anderson Streets and said 'Goodbye' as the hearse passed by.

He was greatly valued and greatly missed.

Watkins Oval, at Oxford Falls is named in honour of the Watkins family who have had a much wider connection to the College than Carolyn's immediate family. The grandmother Julie worked in the front office and their grandfather Pierre was the last groundsman at the old Chaplin Oval – which was the College's home grounds before the Treacy Centre was established in 1992. Other connections abound. The oldest Watkins sibling, Alan, graduated from the College in 1969. Another Watkins brother-in-law, John, was College Vice Captain in 1973. He was an outstanding sportsman and went on to become a teacher before moving into politics and becoming Deputy Premier of New South Wales. He hosted many College events and visits during his time in politics.

Carolyn Watkins had a life mixed with great joy and tragedy. We acknowledge her wonderful family. They made a deep impression on all who were privileged to know them. They are a part of the heritage of the life of the College and Catholic community in general – other Watkins siblings, including Peter, Catherine and Barbara have gone into successful careers in education. We are proud to say they are a part of our community. We honour their contribution and hold their memory sacred here at the College.

May Carolyn Watkins Rest in Peace, and may her family find comfort in the memory of the life she gave to others.

**Tony Cunneen (Class of 1971)**

## Mr Anthony Timmins 31 March 1967 – 17 October 2022

It was with deep sadness that the College woke to the tragic news that Mr Anthony Timmins, Performing Arts Coordinator, suffered a serious medical episode and as a result passed away on Monday morning, 17 October 2022.

Anthony was a most loving and dedicated husband to Catherine, and father to Bridget and Daniel. The Timmins family have had a long connection with the College and the local community.

Anthony's incredible talent as a musician, and his expertise as a College leader will be sorely missed. We have certainly lost an extraordinary teacher, leader and friend. Anthony was an Old Boy of the Class of 1984. He was College Vice-Captain and a fine all-rounder – good at academics, sport and music. He served as a member of College staff, a Band Conductor and teacher, from 1989 until 1995. He returned as the Music Coordinator from 2003 until 2007. Anthony again rejoined the College in 2020 as Performing Arts Coordinator.

The news of his passing brought much sadness to the College as well as the many other bands and schools for which he worked.

Anthony was a fine man, a wonderful musician and a loyal friend. His loss was keenly felt by many people.



**Anthony TIMMINS**

Enrolled in Year 5, 1977. Anthony comes at the end of a long line of Timminses at Pius. His election to the position of Vice-Captain is a testimony of the regard he's held in by Staff and peers. Anthony's a many talented lad: his sporting prowess was evidenced in his playing in the Senior Rugby this year. He is ever the gentleman. He may study Arts at University.



Old Boys Gala Day Football Teams.



Old Boys Gala Day Basketball Teams.

## Old Boys Gala Day

The Annual Old Boys vs Open students Gala Day was conducted Sunday 26 March at Oxford Falls.

The Old Boys Won the Trophy over the 2023 Open Students 2 rubbers to 1 tie!

The 1st XI football took on the star studded Old Boys XI of Mr Quilty's past captains led by Sevan Hanimyan (Class of 1995). The Old Boys prevailed 3-0 courtesy of 2 goals to Claudio Rossano, and 1 goal to Oscar Martin whom, Mr Quilty reports, are the two highest SPX goal scorers ever.

In Basketball the newly appointed SPX Convenor Danny

Garrett led his Old Boys team to an 86-62 point win over the students in which Liam Calleja, Nick Biefeld, Matt Watts, James Shahinian and James Brannan showed their experience and class and shared the court with Billy Sykes, Isaac Byrne, Tom Dixon, Nick Schuster, Jake Brown and Charlie Arena.

The points were shared in the Rubgy as both teams were unable to play on the day. The Open Rugby Squad 1st XV were at a pre-season camp at Workul Koo on the Central Coast while the Brothers Rugby Old Boy Club were on a country tour in preparation for their NSW Suburban Rugby season.

The day culminated with a shared BBQ hosted by SPX Old Boys Association President Jeff Clarke (Class of 1986).

# Inclusive Community

## Parents and Friends Association

The St Pius X College P&F Association contributes significantly to the welfare of the College community including its many sports, arts and co-curricular activities. All parents are automatically members of the P&F and are welcome to attend meetings, events and volunteer when they can. The P&F provides parents with opportunities to be involved in College activities; be informed about school policies and procedures; have a say in the acquisition of equipment and resources aimed at improving the educational environment for students, educators and families; and generally, be involved in what's happening.

## New P&F Committee for 2023

**Presidents** Sarah Gillard and Eoin Geaney

**Vice President** James Makarewicz

**Treasurer** Cathy Thomson

**Secretary** Sonya Sancanin

**Assistant Secretary** Renee Sullivan

**Social Coordinators** Louise Johnston & Rossana Bennett

**Communications Coordinator** Luana Sandrone

**Class Parent Coordinator** Rachel Mensforth

## Key P&F Dates

P&F Meetings	Social Event Dates
Term 2 - 8 May	12 May - Mother's Day Breakfast
Term 3 - 14 August	17 July - Staff Thank You Breakfast
Term 4 AGM - 30 October	12 August - Trivia Night
	1 September - Father's Day Breakfast



**Top Right** Some of the P&F helpers during Open Day. **Bottom Left** P&F helpers at Founder's Day. **Bottom Right** P&F Cocktail Party.

## Vale

### Nick Kalocsay (Class of 2013)

Passed away on Monday 16 December 2022 after a battle with cancer.

### Ben Castles (Class of 1991)

After leaving St Pius X Ben studied in London and had a very successful career in Merchant Banking and Stockbroking. Ben leaves his wife, Sarah and two sons, Joshua and Leo.

### Bernard Colantoni (Class of 1968)

Bernard will always be remembered as a kind, generous, intelligent and witty style-master. He leaves behind his wife Melanie and three daughters, Chloe, Anouk and Hannah.

# Open Day

What an amazing Open Day! The sun was shining, the College was looking its pristine best and students and staff welcomed over 1300 guests showcasing what is the wonderful community and school of St Pius X College. The outstanding young men of St Pius X conducted tours and assisted staff and visitors superbly on the day.

The new College Principal, Mr Michael Ronchetti, addressed visitors, musical performances entertained, sports stars showcased their talents, artists created masterpieces, the P&F fuelled students and guests with a sausage sizzle and cold drinks, and fun displays in science and robotics kept all engaged.





1. Mr Ronchetti presenting ISA Basketball Certificates. 2. Lunar New Year Celebrations. 3. Junior Swimming Carnival winners, Treacy House. 4. Peer Support. 5. Snowy Hike. 6. Senior Swimming Carnival.



**ST PIUS X COLLEGE**  
CHATSWOOD

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