

# PIUS InProfile



ST PIUS X COLLEGE  
CHATSWOOD

*Celebrating our shared story*

**Spring 2023**



EDMUND RICE EDUCATION  
AUSTRALIA



Mr Casey, Coach of the 14A's Rugby Team



#### On the Cover

Aboriginal Dance group, Nulungu Dreaming during the Reconciliation Day Smoking Ceremony



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# Principal's Welcome



It has been a wonderful experience being a part of the College in this busy year and getting to know this warm and friendly community who have so warmly welcomed me. This Spring edition of our magazine highlights many of the different activities that make St Pius X such a vibrant, successful College in the Edmund Rice tradition. Religious Faith underpins our life here and we live it, not only through our liturgies and prayer life but also through all aspects of our curricula and co-curricular activities.

I have been greatly impressed with how well the College manages such a diverse and busy calendar of events. The co-curricular program has been full of sports, music, drama, robotics, chess and debating but to name a few. Our social justice program has featured the Red Dirt Immersion experience, R U OK? Day, volunteering at the Matthew Talbot Hostel and other charitable activities. It was wonderful to see

Year 11 student Maxwell Forbes named Northern Beaches Volunteer of the year for his work with Willoughby Library. In the sporting arena, Matthew Hunt Year 11 represented Australia at the Commonwealth Youth Games in Trinidad winning a Bronze medal in the mixed 4x400m relay and fourth in the 400m hurdles. Academically, Michael Cheah in Year 9 came first in the National History Competition and Year 6 students won the Mathematics section at the da Vinci Decathlon. Such outstanding successes are built on a foundation of effort by the whole College community.

As the Spring edition of Pius in Profile goes to print, Year 12 have completed their graduation ceremonies. We look forward to the current Year 11 student leaders taking on their leadership roles for 2024. I pay great credit to all those members of the College community who support us throughout the year: the generosity of the P & F, the spiritual leadership of Our Lady of Dolours Parish; the Old Boys who keep our traditions alive.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the outstanding commitment by our Deputy Principal, Mr Mark Casey, who retires after many years of service to Catholic education. Mark has been a great support to me as I came into a busy place. I wish him a rich and worthwhile time in his well-deserved retirement.



Mr Michael Ronchetti  
Principal  
St Pius X College

## Introducing the new St Pius X College Deputy Principal

Mrs Elizabeth Watson will commence as Deputy Principal at the beginning of Term 1, 2024. Elizabeth is a highly experienced educator who was the Deputy Principal - Teaching and Learning at Waverley College.



# Good Luck and Farewell Class of 2023





**Top left** Year 12 Graduation Mass **Top right** Ceremony of Light **Middle left** Mr Mark Casey gives the Valedictory Address **Middle right** The Year 12 cohort sing 'You Raise Me Up' to finish off the Graduation **Bottom** 2023 Major Award Recipients

# 2024 Leadership

Congratulations to the Student Leadership Team for 2024.

Quinton Crispe will captain the College, supported by Jose Monk and Liam Boswell as Vice Captains. The full Student Leadership Team for 2024 are shown below. Congratulations to all these young men. The Prefects will commence their leadership of the College in Term 4.

Their roles include providing leadership and strategic direction, coordinating events, leading the College in liturgy and prayer life, cultural activities, academic and learning activities and sporting and extra curricular events.

## Student Leaders for 2024



Quinton Crispe  
COLLEGE CAPTAIN



Jose Monk  
COLLEGE VICE CAPTAIN



Liam Boswell  
COLLEGE VICE CAPTAIN

## HOUSE CAPTAINS



Christopher Harris  
BARRON



Jake Brown  
PURTON



Luke Haldane  
RICE



Patrick Marren  
TREACY

## PREFECTS

### Wellbeing Prefects



Patrick Frost



Thomas McElvogue



Chris Mander

### Mission and Identity Prefects



Harrison Morton



Dominic Mitchell



Lenox Makarewicz

### Cultural Prefects



Michael Krizan



Samuel Cummins



Spencer Anderson

### Learning Prefects



Cooper Anderson



Fergus Fung



Maxwell Forbes

# Academic Achievements

## Academic Awards - Years 7 - 10

On 3 August the College acknowledged the outstanding academic achievements of its students at the Celebration of Learning. Held at the Concourse Chatswood, students across Years 7-10 were presented academic and growth in learning awards from Semester One 2023. Mr Billy Johnson, College Captain 2013 provided an inspiring keynote address detailing how the values of compassion and resilience, learnt at SPX, have been invaluable for him over the past decade. The Celebration of Learning also showcased other talented students who entertained the audience with films from Lights Camera Pius! Film Festival, Year 11 Drama performances, musical performances from the award-winning Middle School Concert Band, Red Dirt Immersion updates, languages videos, artworks and more. Congratulations to all those who received awards and thanks to all those who contributed to this wonderful celebration.

The following Awards were presented:

### 117 Fide Awards Recipients

(24 Year 7, 30 Year 8, 36 Year 9, 27 Year 10)

### 6 Waterford Awards (Years 7 – 10)

### 41 Growth in Learning Awards (Years 8 – 10)

### 7 Blue Academic Colour Awards

### 1 Silver Academic Colour Award

## Co-curricular Colour Awards

Silver and Gold Colour Awards were presented at the Co-curricular Colours Awards Ceremony at the Concourse on 5 September with Blue Awards presented during the term at College assemblies.

The following Colour Awards were presented:

	Gold	Silver	Blue
Music	5	13	13
Drama	0	8	5
Chess	0	8	11
Debating	2	10	6
Athletics	1	7	6
Cross Country	1	1	5
Basketball	2	9	31
Cricket	4	6	34
Football	2	17	18
Rugby	4	17	30
Swimming	1	3	3
Tennis	0	6	8
Squash	0	2	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>176</b>



Top 2013 College Captain, Billy Johnson keynote address Bottom Awardees

Top Drama Silver Awardees Bottom Athletics Silver Awardees

# Teaching and Learning

## 2023 da Vinci Decathlon Winners

Congratulations to the Year 6 da Vinci Decathlon participants who won the Mathematics section of this prestigious competition in July against approximately 130 other schools across the state!

The da Vinci Decathlon saw 11 teams of St Pius X students from Years 5 to 11 compete against other high achieving schools in Sydney. The competition tests a broad range of skills at a very high standard. Teamwork is the major skill that a group needs to develop in order to complete the tasks.

Teams of eight completed timed tasks across 12 disciplines: Engineering, Mathematics, Chess, Code Breaking, Art, Poetry, Science, English, Ideation, Creative producing, Cartography and Legacy.

## Young Writer's Award

Students from the College entered the Stanton Library and North Sydney Council Annual Young Writer's Award. The Nan Manefield Young Writers Award is for young people aged 11 to 18 years and is judged in five age categories, with each category awarding a Winner (1st), Highly Commended (2nd) and Commended (3rd). Congratulations to Year 11 students who dominated the 16-18 Years section: Ethan Li was the Winner, Cameron Masters Commended and Jack Lonergan received a Merit Award.



## Microfiction Competition

As a part of Literacy week, the English Department ran a Microfiction Competition where students were invited to compose their own tiny tale of no more than 100 words, providing a great challenge for students to write in exciting, economical and engaging ways.

Congratulations to Anthony Parisis of Year 10 for winning the competition, as well as Cooper Anderson and Jack Harrison for finishing in second and third place respectively.

Rory Rapa of Year 6 deservedly won the Primary School Prize, while Daniel Staal was bestowed the Principal's Highly Commended Award as Mr Ronchetti's favourite story. Jackson Byak of Year 7, Joshua Wang of Year 8 and Louis Forbes of Year 9 were also recognised as Special Merit winners.

Thank you to the P&F who funded prizes. The four major winners received gift vouchers for Dymocks and Westfield!

An excerpt below from Anthony's story explored his unnamed protagonist's search for existential meaning and the delicate balance relationship between thinking and knowing.

*"Led by an absence of clarity, he wanders the path of discourse. Steadily. Innocently. Curiously. Though his endpoint is unknown, he remains sure of his path. He's been here before."*



**Top left** Some of the da Vinci Decathlon team **Right** Young Writer's Awardees, Ethan Li, Jack Lonergan and Cameron Masters **Bottom left** Microfiction Competition award recipients

## Australian History Competition

Congratulations to Michael Cheah of Year 9 who was recognised as the New South Wales and Australian Champion for Years 9 and 10 in the Australian History Competition. Each year over 30,000 students from across the country enter the competition which offers a Years 7/ 8 paper and a Years 9/10 paper consisting of 45 multiple choice questions broadly based on the Australian Curriculum. Michael achieved a perfect score in the Years 9/10 competition despite not having studied the Year 10 coursework yet!

Michael received a specially minted medallion, a leather-bound portfolio, and a cash prize from the competition organisers.

## Fête de la Bastille

On 31 July the College celebrated a belated “Fête de la Bastille”. The day started with an accordionist playing some musette in the school lobby followed by a “French-themed Assembly” with students recounting the story behind “La Fête Nationale” (Bastille Day), the relationship between France and Australia, the John Monash Centre in France, and the introduction of the French CLUB. Year 8 had the pleasure of having “The French Counter” for the whole day presenting a crêpes making workshop followed by the students ordering in French.

## Year 9 Market Day

Across two days in September, Year 9 Commerce students prepared a business and sold goods to learn and put into practice the principles of running a business. They had to plan and prepare to sell an innovative food offering taking into account the core business functions of marketing, human resources, finance and operations. Students undertook market research to gain insight into opportunities and consumer tastes and came up with some popular stalls including tacos, slushies, burgers, sliders, kebabs, fries, sausages and bubble tea.

Market Day is always a very popular event on the College Calendar.

*“I learned that it was fun to be creative and sell a product that you collaboratively designed. It showed me the range of challenges but also it was satisfying to see the smiles on the faces of our customers.”* **James Kevric, Shake ‘n Snag, Year 9**

**Top** Michael Cheah with Mr Ronchetti **Second** Monsieur Phaesie with French Club Students **Third** Year 8 French class making and ordering crêpes in French **Fourth** Year 9 Market Day **Bottom** Year 9 Market Day



# Mission and Identity

Affirming and celebrating Catholic Faith and Identity are core elements of St Pius X College.

Reflecting the EREA Touchstones, the College provided many practical spiritual and liturgical experiences to the College community in terms two and three. These experiences were both within the Religious Education curriculum at St Pius X College as well as a wide range of faith formation opportunities to develop the spiritual life of each student and their families. This busy program has featured events of worship, celebration and contemplation and included: Retreats; Reflection Days; Grandparents and Parent liturgies; the Feast of the Assumption Masses; Regular Chapel Masses both here and at Mercy Catholic College as well as our Year 12 Graduation Mass.

## Feast of Blessed Edmund Rice

During May the College assembled to mark the Feast Day of our patron, Blessed Edmund Rice. Edmund was a man who possessed a profound sense of the dignity of every human person and a heightened sensitivity to the poor and the marginalised. At the assembly leaders recalled the events of Edmund's life that led him to found the Christian Brothers, an organisation that lives out the Catholic faith through good works – particularly for those on the margins. Edmund's spirituality can be summed up by his two most well known quotes, each of which can be found represented in the front foyer of the College. Through each social justice outreach initiative, we attempt to be people who 'Give to the poor in handfuls!', while every prayer at the college concludes with the beautiful line that shows what we desire, 'Live Jesus in our Hearts – Forever!' Our aim is to remind ourselves of the spirituality of Blessed Edmund Rice, as well as remind us of the legacy of which we are a part.



## Mother's Day Celebrations

The entire College participated in celebrating mothers and significant women in their lives on 12 May with a Mother's Day Liturgy followed by breakfast.

With over 700 people in attendance the day was blessed with beautiful weather and a special Liturgy. College Captain, Eamon Boyle, provided a heart-felt and moving reflection that certainly highlighted the importance of having supportive women in our lives.

## Feast of the Assumption Celebrations

The Feast of the Assumption was marked on 15 August. It was a day of holy obligation which the College celebrated with three Masses at Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Church. The core of this feast is the celebration of a the word - 'YES'. Mary's 'yes' or 'fiat' to God's call at age 14, took her on an arduous yet breathtaking adventure. This feast celebrates her being rewarded for her confident 'yes' by being assumed into Heaven both body and soul. The College extends its gratitude to Fr David Ranson and Fr Joey Frez for celebrating the Eucharist with the College.



**Left** Junior School Assumption Mass **Top right** Mother's Day celebrations **Bottom right** Feast of the Assumption Mass Booklet

## St Pius X Day

The College was closed on 28 August in a mark of respect of St Pius X. Born Giuseppe Sarto in 1835 in Northern Italy he was the second of 10 children in a poor Italian family, He was ordained a priest in 1858 and later was Bishop of Mantua and Cardinal Patriarch of Venice. Fr Sarto had a strong pastoral concern in his priestly ministries and often pawned his personal possessions to help the poor. He became Pope Pius X at age 68. His Papacy extended from 9 August 1903 to 20 August 1914 and was noteworthy for a number of achievements: codification of Canon Law, promotion of scientific study of the Bible, more modern liturgies and church music and many social justice initiatives.

Pope Pius X worked hard to prevent the First World War, proclaiming he would "Pray for Peace" rather than supporting any side.

He is often called the Pope of the Eucharist because he made Holy Communion available to younger people "at the age of reason".

Pope Pius X was canonized on 29 May 1954 and two days later at a special Mass in the local parish church the college was officially named St Pius X College.



## Youth Mass

Every fourth Sunday at 5,30pm at Our Lady of Dolours Church, St Pius X College and Mercy Catholic College students collaborate at the Youth Mass. Combined weekly chapel masses are also held on site at either school during the term. These are wonderful opportunities for the students to get together and connect within their Catholic Faith.

## Father's Day and Jersey Day

The Senior School community recognised Father's Day with Mass in Our Lady Of Dolours Parish Chatswood, celebrated by Fr David Ranson. At least two hundred dads, students, and staff enjoyed the moving liturgy honouring all who offer fatherly love. After Mass, fathers and sons were provided breakfast by the College. These celebrations coincided with the College recognising and supporting Jersey Day where students, staff and parents wore colourful jerseys to raise awareness for organ donation.



Left St Pius X Day Top right Youth Mass at Our Lady of Dolours Parish Church Bottom right Father's Day celebrations

# Social Justice

## Winter Appeal

Driven by Year 9, the appeal ran during June with goods collected and distributed to St Vincent de Paul, Brookvale and Jesuit Refugee Services, Parramatta. Students are always encouraged to consider the plight of those around them, and to act by giving to the poor in handfuls.

## Award winning BeConnected Program

Congratulations to Willoughby City Library on winning the RH Dougherty Award for Innovation in Special Events for their "Be Connected Young Mentors Program". St Pius X College Chatswood students have been participating in this wonderful program where our tech savvy students work with seniors in the community to help improve their digital literacy. 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.

## Bunnings BBQs

During the July holidays, Year 10 students continued in their volunteering program with Chatswood Parish, cooking up a storm for a range of Bunnings BBQs. The Parish extends its thanks to those involved throughout the three BBQ days that students have rostered!



## Centacare Solidarity Program

Students from Years 10 and 11 each spent a day working with Centacare Industries, a warehousing operation employing people who live with a range of Intellectual Disabilities. These students represented the College with excellence, partaking in the Life Skills and Work Skills part of the program, interacting with Centacare staff and gaining an insight into building capacity for those living with disability.

## Young Volunteer of the Year Award

Congratulations to Year 11 student Maxwell Forbes who was the recipient of the 2023 Northern Beaches NSW Young Volunteer of the Year Award.

Maxwell was nominated by Willoughby City Library where he has been actively involved in guiding children between the ages of 5 and 11 through coding projects within the Code Club. He was also a volunteer in the Digital Literacy Program that teaches patrons how to use technology more effectively.

The award was presented by Federal MP and Winter Olympian Ms Zali Stegall at a recent ceremony at Dee Why RSL.

Maxwell will now go on to represent the Northern Beaches region of youth volunteers at the upcoming State awards ceremony scheduled for December.

**Top left** St Pius X College Winter Appeal **Top right** The BeConnected Mentors **Bottom left** Year 10 and 11 students participating in the Centacare Work/Life skills program **Bottom right** Maxwell Forbes, recipient of the 2023 Northern Beaches NSW Young Volunteer of the Year Award



**Top left** Aboriginal Dance group, Nulungu Dreaming with students wearing their Indigenous Jersey's **Top right** Mr Ronchetti presenting Sam Bewley with the new jersey featuring the Cockatoos **Bottom right** Red Dirt Immersion at Fred Hollows grave

## Reconciliation

The College Assembly was the highlight of Reconciliation Week. The Aboriginal Dance group Nulungu Dreaming, lead by Jessy, provided students with an education in the traditional dances and songs from the coastal district of New South Wales. The group had the whole community captivated by their performance and stories associated with the dance. The students enjoyed the experience and were very respectful towards the performers and guests.

### 'An Act of Reconciliation'

In 2014, when the College reconciliation jersey was first commissioned, it included various significant totems, such as the Eucalyptus Paniculata (the Big Tree). At a 2015 ceremony run by Indigenous Leader, Caleb, the big tree became the main staging area for a flock of sulphur-crested cockatoos that dive bombed the assembly as the sounds of the didgeridoo were played. The sulphur-crested cockatoo happens to be an iconic totem of the Cammeraygal people – custodians of the land we stand on each day. It was a very moving occasion.

The cockatoo signifies the spirits of family members who have died. So in 2022 students asked Professor Foley – Indigenous Elder of the Cammeraygal people about getting permission to use the sulphur-crested cockatoo on the College reconciliation jersey.

Professor Foley gave his blessing and Sam Bewley from Year 8, who is a fantastic artist with a particular talent for drawing bird life was asked to draw some designs of cockatoos in flight and perching. The designs now have pride of place amongst the branches of the Big Tree on the back of the 1st XV Rugby Jersey. Mr Ronchetti presented Sam, with the first of the new design jerseys.

## Red Dirt Immersion

During the winter holidays 40 students from St Pius X College completed an immersion experience to Coonabarabran, Baradine, Coonamble, Walgett, Brewarrina, Bourke and Dubbo. The wider party of 80 students & staff were from Christian Brothers Lewisham, Brigidine College St Ives and Mater Maria Warriewood. They travelled to outback NSW to engage with rural and Aboriginal communities, schools and cultural sites.

*"The expedition taught us valuable lessons of the rich history of our nation and left us with a profound understanding of how we can apply the EREA touchstones across our communities and cultures."* **Nikolai Dimantha, Year 10**

*"It was a journey of self-discovery, where we formed lifelong friendships and gained a deep appreciation for the vast beauty and resilience of the Australian outback and people around us. This experience will forever hold a special place in my heart."*

**Lachlan Staber, Year 10**

# Pastoral Care

## JERSEY DAY

As a part of the Father's Day celebrations the College community wore sports jerseys in support of Organ Donation. This is an important event for the College as it commemorates Thomas Van Dijk who tragically passed away in 2021 whilst in Year 12. He directly supported organ donation.

## R U OK? DAY

Held on 15 September, students had the opportunity to write a note on who/what they are grateful for on R U OK? Day. The assembly emphasised the importance of recognising signs of depression in others and a willingness to engage in active listening in relationships with others. Year 5 students made cards for the Year 12s wishing them well in the upcoming HSC.

## Year 8 Ski Trip

One hundred and sixty Year 8 students enjoyed the week-long Ski Trip with fresh snow falling during their time at Blue Cow Ski Resort in the NSW Snowy Mountains.

## Year 12 Retreats

The retreats provide an opportunity for the senior students to reflect on their own formation and prepare for what comes after their time at St Pius X. The three retreat experiences were held at Workul Koo at Terrigal, Tallows Beach on the Central Coast and Mulgoa.

## Year 11 Retreat

Year 11 explored the "masks they wear and the choices they make as a result" on their Retreat Day. Special guest speaker, Tony Hoang, was the highlight of the day for many students. Tony has devoted his life to helping people break free from the same destructive cycle that he was once trapped in, and now seeks to make a lasting impact on this present generation who experience complex needs.

Now a husband and a father to 6 children (2 adopted), Tony continues to share his story and how God has been the spark that brought light into the darkness. Fully 'unmasked' - Tony embraces God's love for him, transforming one life at a time.



**Top left** Proudly supporting Jersey Day **Top right** Year 12 student leaders decorating the school for R U OK? Day **Bottom left** Year 8 Ski trip **Bottom right** One of the Year 12 retreats



**Left** Year 12 St Pius X and Mercy College Trivia Evening **Top** Students and staff during the Red Dirt Immersion **Bottom middle** Year 12 St Pius X v Mercy College Netball game **Bottom right** St Pius X and Mercy College Year 9 students

## Building Community Connections

Each year as part of the pastoral care program, the College works closely with other schools and organisations within our community to provide opportunities for boys to develop friendships, a care and concern for the wellbeing of others, personal responsibility, respect for diversity and the richness of backgrounds and cultures as well as a willingness to contribute positively to their communities.

Some of the combined activities students participated in across Terms 2 and 3 included the following:

### Year 12 SPX/Mercy College Trivia Night

Over 130 Year 12 students from both schools attended and raised funds for cancer research. The night was about fun and learning to socialise and interact with others. There was a lovely atmosphere and the aim was to strengthen friendships and connections into the future.

### Red Dirt Immersion

This immersion to outback NSW during the July holidays to engage with rural and Aboriginal communities, schools and cultural sites involved 80 students & staff from SPX, Christian Brothers Lewisham, Brigidine College St Ives and Mater Maria Warriewood.

### Social Justice Afternoon

During May a group of students from Years 5 to 11, as part of the Edmund Rice Society, attended a social justice evening at Mercy College. They discussed a range of topics and issues including formulating collaborative activities on how they can 'see, judge and act' on injustices within and outside their own communities.

## St Pius X v Mercy Annual Netball Game

The annual Year 12 St Pius X vs Mercy College Netball match took place on 30 August and did not disappoint! Played in great spirit at Mercy College during lunchtime, there was plenty of support for both sides, with war cries, slogans and loud cheering. It was a great event with everyone enjoying the action and the resulting draw.

## Year 9 Respectful Relationship Workshop

Year 9 Mercy and St Pius X students joined together at Oxford Falls in September to consider, listen and learn deeply about 'Respect in Relationships'. They heard from Luke Cullen from "LIVIN" wellbeing group about mental fitness, then Senior Constable Lynda Hart about respect in law enforcement and social institutions and finally Mr Gillogly about respect at a social emotional and moral level. The student groups and leaders then developed an action plan for Respect for the Mercy and St Pius X Year 12 Class of 2026!

## Ugandan Visitors

On 21 September Years 7 and 9 students from St Pius X and Mercy College heard from a Ugandan couple Teddi and Morris Mukasa who were forced to flee their homeland, leaving behind their five young children.

The couple shared their inspirational story with the respective year groups explaining about their lives growing up in Uganda and now the challenges of settling in Australia as refugees, particularly as they wait for their children to join them here.

# Sport



**Top left** House Representatives with the Athletics Trophy **Top right** Nicholas Gladen **Bottom left** Matthew Hunt **Bottom right** Squash

## Senior Athletics Carnival

Congratulations to Treacy House who won the Athletics Carnival followed by Purton, Rice and Barron Houses.

## Nicholas Gladen - Swim Champion

Nicholas Gladen, Year 11, is the U16 Australian National Age Champion for 100m Backstroke where he achieved GOLD. This is the first time in 22 years that a student at St Pius X has achieved this status in Australian swimming.

Since then Nicholas has gone on to compete in the All School Championships in August and achieved Silver in 100m Backstroke and Bronze in 50m Backstroke and then competed in the School Sport Australia Championships and achieved Bronze in the 100m Backstroke.

## Matthew Hunt - Athletics Champion

Year 11 Athlete, Matt Hunt represented Australia at the Youth Commonwealth Games in Trinidad and Tobago in August in both the 400m mens hurdles and the 4 x 100 mixed relay. He placed fourth in the 400m hurdles 0.01 seconds behind the bronze medal before securing a bronze medal for Australia in the 4x100 mixed relay!

## Squash

Four Teams made the finals with two teams placing 2nd and two teams 3rd. Congratulations to:

SPX 3 Michel Krizan & Max Spurr- 2nd place in Div 2

SPX 8 Jake Desertine & Gavin Bae - 2nd place in Div 5

SPX 5 Liam Tumulty & Cameron Giang – 3rd place in Div 4

and SPX 9 Jakobe Kum & Sachin Windsor – 3rd place in Div 9.

## House Cup

The House Cup acknowledges participation in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities across the College. Points are awarded for involvement in events and activities such as Debating, Music, Drama, Boxercise, Robotics, Sports, the Edmund Rice Society, Immersions, Athletics, drama productions, Film Festival, Premiers Reading Challenge, Open Day, Student Empowerment and Wellbeing Teams. The 2023 winner, with 37,855 points, was PURTON House.

## ISA and CIS Athletics

Forty Eight students attended the ISA Athletics Carnival at Homebush in September with 21 going on to qualify for the next level - the NSW CIS Athletics Championships which was held on 19 September.

Congratulations to the Senior team who gained 1st Place at the ISA Carnival! The Juniors and Intermediate teams placed 3rd with the combined SPX team coming 2nd overall.

Congratulations to all the students who competed at the CIS Championships with Benjamin Fogale placing 4th in the 1500m and 5th in the 800m. Luke Austin placed 3rd in Shot Put with a PB of 12.11m, Dylan Turnell placed 3rd in Triple Jump, James Patchett 3rd in 100m, 200m PB and 400m. The Opens Relay team took 2nd place with Matteo Dall'Amico, Matthew Hunt, James Patchett and Finley Peake.

## Football Finalists

Congratulations to our 3rd XI, 4th XI, 16A, 14A and 14C Football teams who made the ISA Grand finals.

## Representative Players

**Congratulations to the following ISA Rugby representatives:**

Opens: Zachary Flynn, Callum Mahura, William Pavely, Cooper Gillard and Alex Young.

Under 16's: Dylan Tait, Archie Harris, Kobi Mendel, Cooper Battiston, Charlie Woolf, Jack Brown, James Griffith, Patrick Marren and Nikolai Dimantha.

**Congratulations to the following ISA Football representatives:**

Jack Nercessian, Michael Whitehead, Reef Farias, Ryan Jom, Riley Watt and Jasper Lindsell.

Marco Balverde was selected in the North Coast Football Representative side (Equivalent to ISA).

**Top** House and Vice Captains with Purton winning the House Cup  
**Second** St Pius X ISA Representatives **Third** CIS Athletics Championship Opens Relay team 2nd place! - Matteo Dall'Amico, Matthew Hunt, James Patchett and Finley Peake **Bottom** ISA Rugby and Football Representatives



# Co-Curricular

## Robotics Club

The Robotics Club continues to expand in popularity with students learning to understand existing technologies and being empowered to engage with emerging ones as well.

The Year 6 program has grown to 45 students and they continue to work through skills with the EV3 Lego platform.

The Year 5 program commences in Term 4.

Year 7 teams have been developing their skills with Python as they apply their new knowledge to navigating lego- based soccer robots.

The older students have been working on Arduino based projects, delivery drones, Mars rovers and a Boston dynamics inspired robotic dog.

## Outdoor Education

June saw the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award students undertaking two adventurous journey hikes as part of achieving their Award. The first hike took place on 3/4 June with 27 Year 9 students hiking 30km from Hornsby to Cowan. Then again on 17/18 June the group hiked 25km from Mt Kuring-Gai to Cowan via Brooklyn, camping overnight at Brooklyn Dam. Congratulations to all the boys who have now completed this component for their Bronze Award.

## Duke of Edinburgh Awardees

Four students were presented with their Duke of Edinburgh Awards during the past two terms. Adam Fitzryk from Year 10, Ronald Holmes and Cameron Masters from Year 11 completed their Bronze Awards and Benjamin Woollard of Year 12 completed his Silver Award.

## Senior School Chess

St Pius X Chess players represented the College with 12 teams across 3 Divisions – Seniors, Intermediates and Juniors, in the NSW Junior Chess League – Secondary Schools Competition – Metropolitan North 2023.

Congratulations to the following teams that finished the season with a top 3 place in their Divisions:

3rd – SPX A SN1 - Ned Turner, Andre Mury (C), Chris Elliot, Luca Vincenzo, Xander Buckingham.

2nd – SPX C SN3 - Cooper Anderson, Spencer Anderson (C), Ethan Li, James Kassis.

3rd – SPX D JN3 - Rayan Alexander, Cruz Arapoc (C), Gavin Bae, Lucas Chong.

3rd – SPX A JR5 - Mac Hillsdon, Jayden Law (C), Lachlan O'Neill, Oscar Roberts.

2nd – SPX B JN6 - Brandon Ang (C), Artem Komarov, Justin Meza, Chris Yastreboff.



**Top left** Junior School Robotics **Top right** Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Hike **Bottom left** Cameron Masters and Adam Fitzryk with their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Awards **Bottom right** Senior School Chess Club

# Performing and Visual Arts

## Eisteddfod Winners

Congratulations to the following Bands and Ensembles who placed in the Sydney Eisteddfod, held at The Concourse in June:

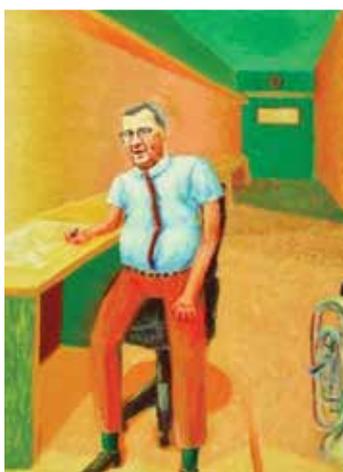
Senior Jazz Ensemble – First place, conducted by Mr Geoff Power, in the Premier Section of the competition.

Middle School Concert Band – First place, conducted by Miss Laura Power, in the Secondary Senior Novice Band section.

Junior Jazz Ensemble - Third place, conducted by Mr Geoff Power, in the Secondary School Novice Stage Band section.

## Lights Camera Pius! Short Film Festival

Lights Camera Pius! Film Festival has become an institution at St Pius X College. The festival is open to students from all years and features short films in any genre, including animation. This year the St Pius X community were treated with the first screening in a professional theatre. Boys watched the creative works of their classmates in comfort at the Westfield Hoyts Extreme Theatre. There were many varied offerings from zombie movies, lego car chases, bike thief chases and some whodunit stories. A Batman remake by Freddie Johnston and Alex Regan, which was both humorous and action-packed, won the Year 12 category. A film noir murder mystery by seasoned filmmaker Michael Krizan won the Years 9 and 10 category and a comedic drama from Jayden Kwok in Year 6 took out the prize for Years 6-9. Jayden's film called "Day in the Life of a St Pius T-Rex" impressed our judges, Mr Dan Quilty, Ms Emma Fryar and College Captain Eamon Boyle, with its imaginative storyline.



## Young Archie Honourable Mentions

The Young Archies is a portrait competition run by the Art Gallery of NSW that accompanies the Archibald Prize every year. Finn McLean (Year 10) and Fergus Fung (Year 11) were selected for Honourable Mentions this year. Fergus entered a portrait of Mr Anthony Timmins, ('Asking Mr Timmins') – a much-loved teacher and Music Coordinator who passed away last year. Finn's watercolour artwork, 'Armchair Expert', is a portrait of his sporting enthusiast dad.

There were more than 3,400 entries this year from which there were 70 finalists and 20 honourable mentions. That is a significant achievement for the boys. Their works were displayed at the SH Ervin Gallery from May to July 2023 alongside the Salon des Refusés Archibald Prize selection of works.

## Farewell Year 12 Twilight Concert

The Twilight Concert was a fitting farewell to the Year 12 students who have supported and contributed to the Performing Arts Program at the College. Their dedication, talent and hard work has enriched both music and drama within our community and the College will be forever grateful to all our students for the opportunity to share in their talents. The college is incredibly proud of all their accomplishments, and we have no doubt that they will continue to achieve greatness in their artistic journeys.

**Top left** Junior School Jazz Ensemble **Top right** Light Camera Pius! Film Festival **Bottom left** 'Asking Mr Timmins' by Fergus Fung **Bottom middle** 'Armchair Expert' by Finn McLean **Bottom right** Year 12 Farewell Concert



# Junior School

## Dance Showcase at Oxford Falls

On the last day of Term 2, Oxford Falls came alive with an awe-inspiring display of dance as the four Colour Houses competed for the prestigious 2023 RedEd Championship. It was a fantastic exhibition of talent and creativity with congratulations going to Barron House for securing the RedEd championship.

## da Vinci Decathlon WINNERS!

Congratulations to the Year 6 da Vinci Decathlon participants who won the Mathematics competition of this prestigious competition in July against approximately 130 other schools across the state!

## Junior Athletics Carnival

Held at Homebush on 7 June, it was a great day with Treacy House in 1st place.

## Grandparents Day Liturgy and Walk-a-thon

On 10 August the Junior School celebrated the light of wisdom, love, kindness and faith that Grandparents and Wisdom Figures gift to the lives of our students.

It was also a glorious day for the annual Walk-a-thon. The Junior School completed the Walk-a-thon to raise money for a World Vision child from Zambia. Money also goes to our partner schools St Mary's Bowraville and St Joseph's Walgett.

## Book Week Parade

Held during August the ever popular book parade was held in the College gym with parents attending. The winner was Chris Van Dyke as the Invisible Man, with runners up Lachlan Yu as a Tree and Jayden Kwok dressed as Shakespeare. A special group award went to the 5 Crayons.

## Father's Day Liturgy and Sports Day

Four hundred dads, special guests, students, and staff joined together in the celebrations at Oxford Falls on 31 August for a moving liturgy honouring all who offer fatherly love followed by an afternoon of sport, and friendly competition.



**Top** Barron House Dance Showcase Winners **Second** Year 6 da Vinci Decathlon Winners **Third** Junior School House and Vice Captains **Fourth** Grandparents Day Liturgy **Fifth** Junior School Book Parade **Bottom** Fathers Day celebrations at Oxford Falls

# Staff Announcements



## Retirement of College Deputy Principal, Mr Mark Casey

After many years of outstanding service to Catholic education, our College Deputy Principal, Mr Mark Casey will retire at the end of 2023. This was a very difficult decision for Mark because of his love and affection for the St Pius X College community.

Mark arrived at the College in 2011 as Head of Mission & Identity and was appointed Deputy Principal of the College in 2016. He has been a highly valued member of the College Leadership Team, a loyal Deputy and an effective Acting Principal on occasion. College Principal, Mr Michael Ronchetti wrote: "I personally owe Mark a debt of gratitude for the manner in which he has supported me during my transition to the College. Mark has been invaluable during this time. Mark has always been energetic and committed to his Catholic Faith."

Mark's passion outside of the classroom has been as a coach, particularly in Rugby, in which he has great knowledge and experience. The role of Deputy Principal is particularly demanding, and Mark has always been fair, honest and authentic in his dealings with all members of the College community. He will be greatly missed.

## New Assistant Principal Co-curricular

Congratulations to Mr Matthew Stearn who has been appointed to the newly created leadership position Assistant Principal Co-curricular. The role of Senior Sports Master has been incorporated into this significant role along with the oversight of all co-curricular activities. Mr Stearn will commence in the role from the beginning of Term 4 2023.

## New Staff

The College welcomed the following new staff:

**Mr Daniel Petrie**, Assistant Principal: Mission and Identity

**Mr Anthony Tassone**, HSIE

**Mr Rob McEnallay**, PDHPE

**Mr Nicholas Westhoff**, Library and English

**Mr Scott McGaw**, ICT

**Mr Petar Pasatovic**, Maintenance

**Mr Luke Calder**, Apprentice Greenkeeper at Oxford Falls

**Ms Danielle Winning**, Senior Strength & Conditioning Coach

**Mr Lucas Lung**, Casual Strength & Conditioning Coach

**Mr Brett Kaplan**, Casual Strength & Conditioning Coach

## Retirements and Farewells

**Thanks, farewell and good luck to the following staff:**

**Ms Ewa Dmitrewicz**, Senior Resource Center, departs after 20 years of service to spend time with her family.

**Ms Peggy Mak**, Senior Resource Center, is leaving after 13 years at the College to spend time with family.

**Mr Justin Varjavandi**, Science Teacher, Assistant Science Coordinator and Winter Squash Convenor is retiring after 3 years at the College.

**Ms Marilyn McHugh** has worked in administration roles across numerous departments over 6 years.

**Mr Alex Listo**, English Teacher is departing after 20 years' of service at the College to pursue a doctoral Research Fellowship. He has taught English to the highest level and been active in many extra curricula programs including Debating, Rugby, Athletics, Cricket and Tennis. He made a point of always making visiting teams feel welcome.



# College Old Boys

## New Committee and President

**President:** Barry Wong, Class of 1968

**Vice President:** David Bullard, Class of 1982

**Secretary:** Peter Fossey, Class of 1976/77

**Treasurer:** John Reid, Class of 1968

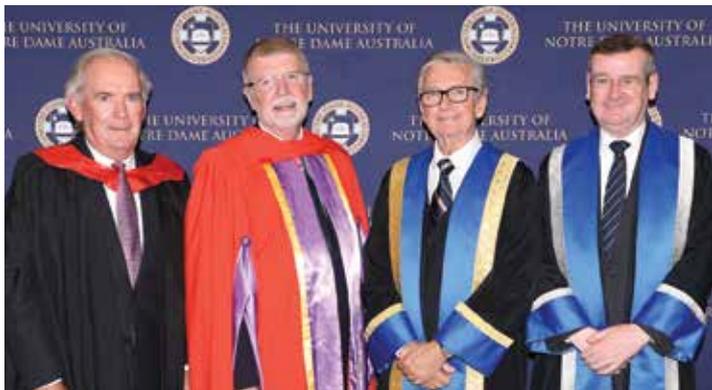
**General Committee:** Anthony Watkins, Class of 2003, Trent Willoughby, Class of 2003 and Jeff Clarke, Class of 1986

**College Liaison Officer:** Sean Brannan, Class of 1986

## Honorary Doctorate for John Watkins, Class of 1973

A Doctor of Education was conferred on Dr Watkins by the University of Notre Dame in recognition of his outstanding contribution to health, education and the Catholic community. Dr Watkins, Class of 1973, was a secondary school teacher before being elected to the NSW State Parliament in 1995.

He held the positions of Minister for Finance, Police, State Development, Education and Training, Corrective Services, Fair Trading, Sport and Recreation, and also served as Deputy Premier in the NSW Labor Government.



St Pius X Old Boy, Dr John Watkins, Second from the left

## Old Boys' Dinner

On 8 September the SPX Old Boys' Annual Dinner featured over 100 participants with large contingents of the 2022, 1982 and 1986 cohorts in attendance. The Awards of the first College Captain James Crawford Biggs AM were presented after being donated back to the College by his family for the archives.



2022 students enjoying their first Old Boy's Dinner

## Vale

### Dr James Crawford Biggs AM, D.Phil, MBBS, FRACP, FRCPA Class of 1948

23/11/31 – 22/04/23

James was the first College Captain listed on the College honour board (in main foyer) where he is also recognised as the 1st XV Rugby and 1st XI Cricket Captain in his Class of 1948. James went on to have a long career practising medicine and is survived by a large extended family including his son, Michael and daughters Susan, Carolyn and Katie.

James was an energetic, 'larger than life positive personality' who went on to have a long and distinguished career as a physician of great renown, leading Haematology in both St Vincent's and Mater hospitals. He also reached out in social justice and medicine to share his great intellect, skills, and sense of humanity to positively affect the lives of many people throughout the Pacific and Asia.

The concelebrants, Fr Jim Carty and Fr Phil Linder, are good friends of St Pius X. In a great mark of respect St Pius X was represented at the funeral by 2023 College Captain Eamon Boyle and Vice Captains Josh Bewley and Mitch McGrath, for which Dr Biggs' son Michael and daughters Susan and Carolyn Biggs expressed their gratitude.

### Anthony Mustaca OAM and Knight of the Republic of Italy

01/09/1944 – 11/06/2023

College Old Boy, Anthony Mustaca, was former Councilor and Deputy Mayor of Willoughby. Born in Casignana, Calabria, Italy on 1 September 1944, Anthony emigrated to Australia in 1956. His services to the community were recognised in the awarding of an OAM and Knighthood of the Republic of Italy!

He is survived by his loving wife Heather, 6 daughters, and many grandchildren, one of whom, Maximus, follows a long list of many close friends and relatives, including Anthony, to have attended St Pius X College.

## Bill James Fellowship

Donations to the College are always welcome. They come in a number of forms including scholarships, direct tax deductions to the Building Fund or in other cases such as the James Fellowship as tied grants for a specific purpose. Bill James, Class of 1968, went on to a highly successful career in travel with the European Tour Operation Top Deck, which at one time employed several St Pius X Old Boys, and then the successful Flight Centre business. He has also been a great supporter of our Kokoda Track Expeditions.

Bill realises the great benefits of travel and immersion in other places as a way of learning and expanding people's understanding of the world. To this end he has established the James Fellowship which provides an opportunity for teachers at the College to travel and experience firsthand aspects of teaching in new and stimulating environments.

In 2023 four teachers were able to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity during the midyear break.

History Coordinator, Mr Pat Rodgers, travelled to the battlefields of Europe to tour firsthand the sites of so many battles in the First World War. He was able to walk about the sites at Villers Bretonneux and Ypres. The First World War is a key part of the Modern History Syllabus at many stages and the experience really brought home to him the immense scale of the tragedy of these battles.

Year 12 Coordinator and Science teacher, Mr Paul Ticli, travelled to the Northern Territory and had a five-day immersion experience based on the Larapinta Trail. Indigenous Australian Geographic guides gave him firsthand engagements with a profound landscape, that held significance to Indigenous Peoples as well as Curriculum based Science covering Habitats, Ecology, Plate Tectonics, Evolution and Natural Selection.

Art Coordinator, Ms Frances Doyle and Science teacher, Ms Denise Ramsey had a remarkably different experience in that they were able to take part in the Harvard University Project Zero Program. This inspirational program investigated learning, understanding, critical thinking and creativity while paying attention to issues of equity and inclusion. These are all key elements of our core business of facilitating student learning at the College. Their experience made them aware of new teaching strategies but also energised them through the process of engaging with such a high-quality program.

All four teachers presented the outcomes of their experiences to staff. The well-received presentations encouraged other staff to seek out their own opportunities to learn through experience.



**Top** Mr Pat Rodgers **Middle** Mr Paul Ticli  
**Bottom** Ms Denise Ramsey and Ms Frances Doyle

## Support the College

Please consider investing in the future of the College in a practical manner through a donation of some form. You can choose to donate to a specific area such as the scholarship or building funds, create your own package as Bill James has or let us decide where it's most needed. For further information or to discuss how you can help the boys and the College please contact the Business Manager or Mr Tony Cunneen on (02) 9411 4733.



# HSC Major Works

Splinters, Splashes, Sounds, Stage, Snaps and Stories

The Showcase of the 2023 HSC works – Splinters, Splashes, Sounds, Stage, Snaps and Stories were on display at the College during August and can also be viewed online at [spx.nsw.edu.au/hsc-major-works-2023](http://spx.nsw.edu.au/hsc-major-works-2023).

The showcase features the majors works from Design and Technology, Industrial Technology, Visual Arts, Drama, Music, Photography, Video and Digital Imaging and History Extension.



Scan the QR Code to view the College HSC Major works online.



**Christian Graffeo - Industrial Technology**

Entrance table made out of Tasmanian Oak



**Zavier Domenici - Music 1**

'Juicebox', Guitar



**Ruben Atamian - Design and Technology**

Metallic LED P-Plate holder



**Tony Kero - History Extension**

Women in the Croatian War of Independence



**Anton Langreiter - Visual Arts**

'Lockdown Yearning', Sculpture

A series of oceanic landscapes sculpted and painted on concrete over a wooden base



**Sean Balaji - Drama**

'Reuben' from Reuben Guthrie



**Caleb Hanrahan and Jonathon Webster - Photography, Video and Digital Imaging**

'atonia'

## HSC Nomination

Congratulations to Caleb Hanrahan for his individual Drama piece entitled "Death of England" which has been nominated for possible inclusion in 2023 HSC Showcase season as part of OnSTAGE.



**ST PIUS X COLLEGE**  
CHATSWOOD

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