

# InProfile <sup>PIUS</sup>

Autumn 2021

*Celebrating the  
achievements  
of the extended  
College Community*



**ST PIUS X COLLEGE  
CHATSWOOD**

**Daniel O'Kelly**  
(Class of 2013):  
**His Faith  
Journey to the  
Seminary.**



*"Motivate your mate"*



EDMUND RICE EDUCATION  
AUSTRALIA





*'Motivate your mate'*

**College Captain, Liam Chang explains the 2021 Theme:**

"Better Together", Motivate your Mate!

Using the analogy of a ship sailing the high seas:

"A ship needs its crew like a school needs its students - for company, companionship, and comradery. There are hundreds of people manning the ship and everyone has a job to do and must get involved in order to prepare and maintain a seaworthy vessel. But without each crew member, the ship cannot function. There will be times when the sea is rough and stormy, and the ship looks as if it's going to sink. It's times like these where encouraging and supporting your mates and getting involved together has never been so vital – and remember: a smooth sea never made a good sailor.



So, whether that be on the field, up on stage or in the classroom – I put the challenge to you: to motivate your mates and all get involved in every aspect of the college. Because not only will getting involved make Pius BETTER TOGETHER, but the more you put in, the more you'll get out."



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## PRINCIPAL'S *Welcome*



### Welcome to the first edition of Pius in Profile for 2021.

The College has had a great start to 2021, and the Year 12 2020 gift to the College is certainly a wonderful memento to 2020 - 'The Year of COVID'.

We have learnt from the past and found that many things, such as live streaming, which were implemented out of necessity last year, have now become mainstream.

The Student leaders for 2021 have settled into their roles remarkably well – carrying on a tradition of service and leadership by example that continues to grow every year. This magazine highlights the achievements of all students in the sporting, academic and cultural spheres of endeavour.

Our profiles of former students presented in previous editions have received great support. The following pages present more stories that outline the diversity and richness of those who have gone through the College.

We have been greatly encouraged by those people who have expressed interest in donating to the College - whether through establishing scholarships, supporting our Building Fund or for some other purpose. We have not sought to be aggressive in this area of school finances but in the current climate it is a necessity, especially as the College has for decades worked hard to keep fees at an affordable level. Information on how you can donate to the College is on page 20 of this magazine.

Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss options for donation.

**John Couani**  
PRINCIPAL

*'fide et labore,*  
THROUGH FAITH AND HARD WORK



#### Class of 2020 Gift to the College

The inscription, which depicts 2020 so aptly, reads:

*"In 2020 the world experienced a pandemic called COVID-19. For the first time ever, schools were closed down and classes were taught online. Social distancing and face masks were an essential part of everyday life. This gift to the College from the HSC Class of 2020 commemorates an unprecedented time in the history of education."*

## LEADERS AND ACHIEVERS

### College Dux Riad Lahoud

ATAR 98.40

#### HSC All Rounder

- » College Gold for Academic Studies
- » Academic Honours First Class
- » Leading Opens Tennis Player
- » Edmund Rice Leadership Award
- » Member of the Academic Leadership Team
- » Represented the College in Tennis (College Gold) and Music and gained ISA representation in Tennis
- » Tennis Captain in 2020



**2021: Studying a Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Advanced Studies (Dalyell Scholar) at the University of Sydney**

## *A High Achiever's Insight*

St Pius X provided a liberating environment, ensuring the importance of strong academic results and personal wellbeing through numerous activities. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to study at the College, where the staff's leadership and extensive knowledge in all subjects, allowed me to remain confident and organised leading up to the HSC examinations. It also provided me with strong values and relationships that I will forever cherish.

My tips for getting good results and managing the HSC are to find your purpose or a goal that will keep you focused. Writing up practice responses and requesting feedback was a pivotal factor in my success. Make sure you saturate yourself in learning and develop a genuine interest, where this will assist you to stand out. Lastly, your expectations should never exceed your work ethic, so put 110% into everything in front of you, but attain a balanced lifestyle through taking up other activities such as sport.

### Summary of 2020 HSC Results

<b>College Dux</b>	Riad Lahoud ATAR 98.40
<b>All Rounders (attained Band 6 in 10 or more units)</b>	Riad Lahoud
<b>Number of students with ATARs above 95</b>	19
<b>Number of students with ATARs above 90</b>	35
<b>Distinguished Achievers</b>	68 students listed as Distinguished Achievers
	121 mentions in the Distinguished Achievers List*
<b>Special Mentions Nominated for ENCORE</b>	Kieran Zucconi
<b>Nominated for OnSTAGE</b>	Daniel Halverson and Luke Thompson
<b>Total Number of Bands 5, 6, E3 and E4</b>	475
<b>Courses above the State Average</b>	80%

\* Includes Year 11 Mathematics Accelerants

### Academic, Colour and Waterford Awards



Year 12, 2020 Academic Award Recipients



## Academic Awards Ceremony

The Academic Awards Ceremony was held at Oxford Falls on February 16 and live streamed to the wider College Community. It celebrated the High Achievers from the HSC class of 2020 as well as recognising the Years 7 to 11 Academic achievements from Semester 2, 2020.

25 of the 35 students who achieved an ATAR over 90 attended the Awards with special guest speaker 2020 College Dux Riad Lahoud. Riad addressed the College outlining the three vital components in becoming self-motivated, self-disciplined and resilient which ultimately lead to his success. They were 1) find your 'why', your purpose, a particular goal where you won't stop till you achieve 2) saturate yourself in learning and develop a genuine interest and 3) develop a program that works for you because structuring your days can improve your time management and organisation.



2020 HSC High Achievers



2020 University Scholarship Achievers with Mr Couani



Mr Couani presents to 2020 College Dux Riad Lahoud



The following Awards for Semester 2, 2020 were presented

**Fide et Labore Awards were presented to 140 Students (Years 7-10):**  
30 Year 7, 35 Year 8, 41 Year 9 and 34 Year 10

**13 Academic Excellence, 8 Academic Honours, 7 Academic Honours First Class (Year 11)**

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

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

**12 Blue Academic Colour Awards**

**11 Silver Academic Colour Awards**

**4 Gold Academic Colour Awards**



2020 Scholarship Recipients



## LEADERS AND ACHIEVERS

### 2021 Student Leadership Investiture

The 2021 Leaders were formally invested in Term 4, 2020. Held in the College gymnasium it was live streamed to students and parents. Fr Jim McKeon blessed the students and College Captain, Liam Chang delivered an inspiring address and announced the Theme for 2021: "Better Together" Motivate your Mate!

The Class of 2021 received their Year 12 ties and pledged that: *"We the Seniors and Student Leaders of St Pius X College pledge ourselves on behalf of the student body to provide Christian leadership to the College Community."*

*As we prepare for the journey through 2021, we pledge to be leaders of Faith and Hard Work acting with courage, care and compassion in all our endeavours.*

*We pledge to promote justice and solidarity, inclusion for others and liberation through education in the best traditions and values of our College.*



Reciting the Leaders' Pledge at the Leaders' Investiture



College Captain Liam Chang announces the 2021 theme



Year 12 receive their ties

## 2021 College Leaders



Liam Chang  
COLLEGE CAPTAIN



Alec Ramsbottom  
COLLEGE VICE CAPTAIN



Nicholas Ward  
COLLEGE VICE CAPTAIN



James Baldock  
PREFECT  
Cultural



Matthew Brannan  
PREFECT  
Wellbeing



Douglas Daniels  
PREFECT  
Mission and Identity



Matthew Felice  
PREFECT  
Mission and Identity



Angelo Fernando  
PREFECT  
Academic



Benjamin Giles  
PREFECT  
Wellbeing



Jacob Glass  
PREFECT  
Wellbeing



Charlie Hamill  
PREFECT  
Cultural



Charlie Jackson  
PREFECT  
Academic



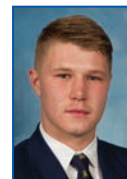
Ashley Johnson  
PREFECT  
Cultural



Liam Kinna  
PREFECT  
Cultural



Aidan Lorking  
PREFECT  
Academic



Lachlan Onslow  
PREFECT  
Mission and Identity



Patrick Moore  
BARRON HOUSE CAPTAIN



Frederick Braddock  
PURTON HOUSE CAPTAIN



Benjamin Ferguson  
RICE HOUSE CAPTAIN



Dominic Panozzo  
TREACY HOUSE CAPTAIN

*fide et labore*  
THROUGH FAITH AND HARD WORK





Entry to the Commencement Mass



The Commencement Mass was held on Tuesday 16th February at Oxford Falls



Father Jim and Mr Couani with the 2021 Eucharistic Ministers



Father Ranson at the Commencement Mass

## Commencement Mass

On Tuesday 16 February the College celebrated the beginning of its 84th year with a Commencement Mass at Oxford Falls. Our new Parish Priest, Fr David Ranson delivered a homily that has given the College great direction for the year ahead and provided the platform for the day, which was to launch, celebrate and further understand the theme for 2021, "Better Together". Fr David pointed towards the concept that as a community, we are stronger as a united

group and that each one of us has a unique part to play in making St Pius X College a great school.

## Eucharistic Minister Training

During November 2020, 14 young men from Year 10 took part in training so that they could take a leadership role in liturgical celebrations as a Eucharistic Ministers. This position of service is self-nominated rather than being selected by their peers. The training involved gaining a greater

understanding of the Eucharist and their personal call to holiness. Deacon Aldrin of OLD Parish led the participants in adoration, a quiet reflective form of prayer. The day concluded with the Year 10 young men being officially commissioned as Eucharistic Ministers with a Mass whereby each member of the team distributed the Eucharist for the first time.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE

### Give to the Poor in Handfuls

St Pius X College continues to support community organisations through its Christmas Giving program. In 2020 this was particularly relevant in the face of COVID-19.

Each Year group were designated an organisation to contribute goods to. Years 5 – 7 provided gifts for the St Mary's Bowraville community.

Year 8 provided hamper items to support Catholic Care who assist families in crisis in the Manly/ Brookvale area.

Year 9 provided toiletries for the Burdekin Association, an organisation that provides assistance to young people experiencing family difficulties but wish to continue with their education and training.

Year 10 ensured that every employee of Centacare, an organisation that provides meaningful employment for adults with severe intellectual difficulties, received a Christmas gift at their Christmas party.

Year 11 students provided over 120 "homeless hampers" for St Michael's Meals. These hampers were then delivered to the most needy of our community throughout the streets of the inner city in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Giving provides a strong sense of community and enables each year to live by the ideals of Blessed Edmund Rice to "Give to the poor in handfuls!"

### NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC Week is a time to celebrate the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nations of Australia. College Captain, Liam Chang and Prefects, James Baldock, Alec Ramsbottom and Douglas Daniels joined Junior School students in



Christmas collections ready to be sent out



Senior students worked with Junior students to create an impressive NAIDOC Poster

their classes to help prepare a NAIDOC Poster.

The College proudly celebrated its Narragunnawalli Reconciliation Action Plan at Assembly during NAIDOC week. Attended by two proud Wiradjeri women: Catholic Schools NSW State Manager Jayde Ward and Pre-Service Teacher from the University of Wollongong Riley McElhone.

The Assembly and subsequent RAP Meeting was led by students from the RAP Team: Ronan Crispe, Connor Ryan and Ashley Johnson supported by Nathan McAdam, Cavan Ryan, and Ben Cullen.



NAIDOC Assembly

### Lest We Forget

Remembrance Day was commemorated on November 11 with a student led service that was streamed online. Remembrance Day is a day to mourn, a time when society stops, remembers and reflects upon the tragedy that War brings.



## Boxercise hits new heights

Record numbers of students (100 plus) are attending Boxercise every Thursday and Friday morning before school. Gaining the many physical and mental health benefits that are attached to attending a regular fitness program.

Outstanding leadership and mentoring by the Year 12 Boxercise crew of Nathan Byrne, Luka Krizan and Riley Kerlin are key to the growing numbers. Boxercise is on every Thursday and Friday mornings from 7.30 - 8.10am in the Junior School Playground for all year groups 5 - 12. It's a great way to build strength, fitness and friendship. All gear is supplied, at no cost to parents. Students are encouraged to come along and give it a go and remember HIT TO GET FIT.



Record numbers of students are attending Boxercise

and Growth Mindset (pages 30 – 33 of the Student Diary Planner), as well as run Wellbeing and mindfulness exercises.

In Year 7, 8 and 9 students begin their Wednesday mornings with Wellbeing initiatives and exercises including Mr Lacey's connection building exercises

in Year 7, Mr Virgona's Positive Educational Psychology lessons supporting Year 8 and Mr Lynch's instigating the "Burn to Learn" high energy activation session with Year 9 before morning theory lessons on their PDHPE Day.

## Peer Support

After comprehensive training during Term 4, 2020 Year 11 are now running Peer Support sessions with Year 5 and Year 7 students. Peer Support leaders meet with small groups during Term 1 and 2 to connect and support their adjustment to St Pius X and high school.



Peer Support



College Leaders running Wellbeing Wednesday activities in the Junior School

## Peer Mentoring

The Peer Mentoring Program involves the matching of Junior school students, who may be finding adjusting to school challenging, with older students who meet weekly in the playground to support their integration into life at St Pius X.

## Wellbeing Wednesdays

This new program, initiated by the Wellbeing team, sees the College Wellbeing Prefects and Student Leaders meeting with Junior classes every Wednesday during Roll Call to consider the principles of Goal Setting



Peer Mentoring



## TEACHING AND LEARNING

### Staff Updates 2021

The College welcomes the following teachers and support staff in 2021.

Mr William Perry in HSIE

Mrs Sarah Gooley in Science for Term 1

Mrs Petah Jamieson in Diverse Learning

Mr Gabriel Henao in Languages for Terms 1 - 3

Mr Nic Parton in ICT

### Careers Advisor

The College has a new Careers Advisor, Mr Joseph Madani, who replaces Ms Donna Janes. Mr Madani will be located in the newly renovated Careers Office in A Wing next to the Year 7 playground. Students can make an appointment to see Mr Madani via email and parents and students are encouraged to read the Careers Newsletter each week in the Woodchatta.



Careers Advisor Mr Joseph Madani



New Staff 2021 from left Mr William Perry, Mrs Sarah Gooley, Mrs Petah Jamieson, Mr Gabriel Henao and Mr Nic Parton



Year 11 Coordinator Ms Janelle Dempsey



Year 12 Coordinator Ms Veronica Bamber

### Senior Studies Coordinators

The College has appointed two experienced staff to the roles of Senior Studies Coordinators. Ms Janelle Dempsey is responsible for Year 11 and Ms Veronica Bamber, who takes on the role for Year 12. The Coordinators will implement a program of study skills to improve students learning including preparation for the HSC examinations. This program will be implemented through regular form meetings and study days. In addition the Coordinators' will actively monitor student progress and work to encourage and recognise student achievement through liaison with all senior teachers. The College fosters academic achievement in all years but

there is particular need to have the key ideas actively reinforced in the senior years.

### Long Serving Staff Members

The following staff were appropriately recognised at the Staff Spirituality Day at the end of Term 4, 2020 for their long service to the College.

#### 20 Years' Service

Mrs Anna Coombs

Mrs Samantha Iwatani

Mrs Deborah Muirhead

Mr Ron Noort

#### 25 Years' Service

Mr Mark Harvey



### Learning Support and Enrichment now called "Diverse Learning"

The new name "Diverse Learning" better reflects the reality that people are different and that students learn skills by a variety of means, not always at the same rate or with the same tools. The Diverse Learning team establishes and maintains timely and appropriate learning interventions for students Year 5 to Year 12.

#### St Pius X College Diverse Learning

<b>D</b>	Demonstrate the capacity to remove barriers to learning
<b>I</b>	Independent mastery of knowledge and skills
<b>V</b>	Various adjustments to teaching and learning
<b>E</b>	EREA touchstones
<b>R</b>	Respect for the individual learner
<b>S</b>	Systems of accountability and continuous improvement
<b>E</b>	Equality of access to learning opportunities

### Premier's Reading Challenge MEDALS

Evan Ausling, Zachary Hollinger, Luca Van Vuuren, Joshua Bewley and Aidan Saraceno. (pictured) have completed the Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) every year from Year 3 to Year 9. They have each logged a total of 140 books during this time. While many students start the Reading Challenge, only 1% of participants in NSW complete it. Making our recent SPX College medallists part of an elite reading group. Well done.

### Languages - Chinese New Year Festivities

The College celebrated Chinese New Year at Assembly. The Junior School also held a Lion Dance and Lantern Parade as part of the celebrations. Mandarin is taught at the College from Years 5-12 (elective from Year 9) and Chinese Club runs every Friday for Years 7-12. 2021 is the Year of the Ox. Many of the Year 6 students are oxen. Oxen are patient, calm, trustworthy and hardworking individuals, so it is a year to work hard (get things done) make things happen. Hard work will be rewarded in 2021. This is a great message to students that also aligns with the College values, by faith and hard work, *Fide et Labore*.

Wishing you happiness and prosperity in the Year of the Ox.

祝你 新年快乐 恭喜发财

### CANVAS

CANVAS is an on line Learning Management System that is being phased in by the College to facilitate and support student learning. It enables the sharing of class materials and a range of other activities online. Teachers use CANVAS to communicate course materials and set work and students can upload their work in return.



Lion Dance

By the end of 2022, all academic courses will be delivered to students using this platform.

In addition to academic courses, CANVAS can also be utilised for Wellbeing, Cocurricular and Social Justice activities within the College.

This platform also allows parents to observe their son's activities.

### Enrichment Program

The College caters for the full range of student ability and actively develops and implements programs that enable each boy to fulfil his potential. The College has recently implemented an Enrichment Program which aims to recognise talented students and foster strategies to help them develop. Enrichment tasks are optional but provide extension opportunities within the current classroom environment.



Premier's Reading Challenge MEDALS Evan Ausling, Zachary Hollinger, Luca Van Vuuren, Joshua Bewley and Aidan Saraceno



## FACILITIES UPDATE

### Developing spaces and places to learn in the 21st century

This is an exciting time for the College community with staff and students now enjoying the extensive improvements to the College facilities that have been undertaken over the last 18 months. C Wing was extensively refurbished in early 2020 and A Wing has now also been completely refurbished.

These upgrades are part of the College's commitment to providing a holistic, innovative and liberating education for its students. It is important that the College campuses continue to develop in a manner that serves the needs of the evolving learning community; that they enable contemporary teaching and learning experiences that are relevant, authentic and creative and align with the Catholic traditions of a proud Edmund Rice school.

The next stage of the Master Plan is for B Wing to be renovated at the end of this year, bringing it in line with A and C Wing renovations.

The plans for the new College Learning Hub at 39-41 Anderson St are progressing well with provisional development approval (DA) being granted by Willoughby Council. The College is working towards having the new facility up and running in 2023.

### A Wing Renovations

A Wing which comprises 10 classrooms including 3 science laboratories and two offices was completely renovated during the last summer holidays to provide light, space, air conditioning, environmental considerations and versatility. This major refurbishment reflects the latest research showing the value of dynamic, flexible spaces



Plans for the new College Learning Hub at 39-41 Anderson Street are progressing well



A wing was completely renovated during the summer holidays



Dynamic, flexible spaces promote positive learning experiences

in promoting positive learning experiences.

The project was completed on time and within budget. In total the cost of

approx. \$2m has been covered within the College Building Fund.



### New signage

Inspired by the Student Reconciliation Action Plan Team leadership new signage has been installed around the College to acknowledge the First Nation's custodianship of the land on which the College stands.

The Assembly podium acknowledges that St Pius X College stands on Cammeraygal land as a permanent Acknowledgement of Country, and the Junior School playground features the EREA Indigenous Touchstone symbols along with the College Commitment Statement.

**"We the students of St Pius X College acknowledge the Cammeraygal people as the traditional owners of the land on which we stand. We recognise the knowledge and wisdom of their leaders, past, present and emerging."**

Large House banners were also installed on the B wing facade and free standing versions created to display at assemblies and events.

### New Digital Music Room

E1 has become a dedicated Digital Music Room featuring 32 Keyboards for Junior and Senior lessons.



New Digital Music Room



New House Banners on B wing facade



The Assembly podium signage acknowledges St Pius X College stands on Cammeraygal land



New free standing House Banners for events



New Science cabinet in A Wing



EREA Indigenous Touchstone symbols in Junior School



SPORT AND CO-CURRICULAR

Swimming

Purton took out the House Championship in the Senior Swimming Carnival held in February, with Barron winning the Junior School Carnival. The College currently has some extraordinary swimmers with many previous records being broken!

Congratulations to Nicholas Gladen, Year 9 who qualified for the 2021 Australian Age Swimming Championships to be held on the Gold Coast on 5-12 April 2021. Nicholas has qualified for 50m and 100m Freestyle and 100m Backstroke. He has been breaking all the school records previously set by Matthew McCloghry, who was placed fourth in the Nationals behind Ian Thorpe. Congratulations also to Cameron Gartner, Year 6 who personally attained 10% of the points earned by Barron House at the Junior Swimming carnival. Finally, well done to the Ferguson Brothers - Archer, Ben and Sam, who have also been smashing records.



House Captains encouraging the students at the swimming carnival



Senior Swimming Champions



Cameron Gartner Year 6



Nicholas Gladen of Year 9 qualified for the 2021 Australian Age Swimming Championships



Barron House wins the Junior School Trophy



Year 12's get into the action for Purton House



The Ferguson Brothers (from left) Sam, Archer and Ben also smashing Swimming records



## NSW All Schools Athletics Record Broken

Congratulations to Dominic Panozzo of Year 12 who broke the NSW All Schools 400m Hurdles record. His time of 53.06 was a PB of almost two seconds. The previous record was 53.50. What a wonderful achievement!

## Rising Gymnast

John Carroll (Year 9) is a highly accomplished gymnast who will be competing in the NSW Gymnastics Trials & Championships over the next few months in the Level 8 category. John is shooting for a spot on the NSW Senior Men's Team to represent the State at the Australian National Gymnastics Championships on the Gold Coast in May. John has been competing at the top level of the sport since 2017, and has medalled in numerous State and National competitions at Junior levels along the way. John competes in the Men's Artistic Gymnastics format, which requires him to perform on all six apparatus – floor, high bar, parallel bars, pommel, rings and vault. John's dream is to represent Australia on the international stage and with his current development trajectory this could happen next year. One of John's biggest fans is his older brother, Declan (Year 10)!

## Squash

Squash is now a Saturday competition sport with the College participating in the NSW Pennants both the Winter and Summer competitions.

Two SPX teams made and won the summer finals played at Thornleigh Squash Courts in December.



Squash Champions: Cameron Smith, James Regan, Dantae Raic and Christian Robson



Dominic Panozzo broke the NSW All Schools 400m Hurdles record



John Carroll (Year 9) is a highly accomplished gymnast

## ISA Champion - St Pius X College Principal Mr John Couani

St Pius X College Principal John Couani was presented with a Lifetime Membership Award by the ISA (Independent Sporting Association) last term. This award acknowledged Mr Couani's outstanding service and support of the ISA. Principal Couani can be found most Saturdays encouraging SPX and other ISA school students at sporting events across the state. It is a wonderful achievement and well deserved recognition of the many hours Mr Couani spends in genuine support of all students on and off the field.



Principal John Couani with his Lifetime Membership Award



Alex Hart and Nathan Byrne Year 12 State Sailing

## State Sailing

Year 12's, Alex Hart and Nathan Byrne are currently competing in the NSW State Sailing Championships. They both sail a 29er which is 2 handed skiff sailing boat. Each round sees 43 boats competing across 8 races and the competition is strong from the likes of the NSW Institute of Sport and the Australia Sailing teams. Congratulations to Alex whose team recently placed 6th overall and Nathan's team who finished 16th overall and 1st in the Mixed Division.



## COCURRICULAR AND PASTORAL CARE

### Building Resilience – GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Reece Williams from Year 12 is completing his Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Unable to use the Snowy Hike which was cancelled due to COVID-19 for his adventurous journey he didn't give up and organised his own. He put out the word to some mates and formed a strong group to undertake the journey in the Snowy Mountains during the holidays.

The weather was not in their favour and rain, wind and sub-zero temperatures forced many challenges and ultimately brought their journey to a premature end after two exhausting days and one long night. Although the result of the hike was disappointing, showing true resilience, Reece is already planning his next adventurous journey.

### Pastoral Care Camps and Retreats

The Pastoral Care program at St Pius X is focused on supporting every student to thrive, flourish, learn and grow to be their best as they make their journey through the College. That sense of journey, identity and connection is supported through the Pastoral Care themes for each year group and integrated into the Camps and Retreats program. These include:

**Year 5 Milson Island. Theme: Being Part of a Community "From Little Things Big Things Grow" Mk 4:30**

As a formative experience Year 5 students share 3 days of fun foundational experiences and activities designed to set the groundwork for the cohort as a team.

**Year 6 Camp Toukley. Theme: Friendship and Respect: "Come and See" Jn 1:35**

The Camp integrates new members



Reece Williams Year 12 completing his Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. in the Snowy Mountains

of the cohort with a sense of growth and respect for the other in the context of camp challenges and shared experiences as they prepare for transition to high school.

**Year 7 Great Aussie Bush Camp.**

**Theme: Belonging to a Team: "Good Soil" Lk 8 :1**

Integrating a spirit of camaraderie and adventurous journey, this camp lays the bedrock for cohesion and teamwork which will carry the cohort from Year 7 to Year 12 and beyond.

**Year 8 Ski Expedition. Theme:**

**Challenge, Choice and Resilience: "Know your value" Mt 6:25**

A Growth Mindset and experience in taking on the challenges of the "ski expedition" builds shared experiences that are fondly remembered by generations of SPX students.

**Year 9 Rites of Passage Camp. Theme: Respectful Men of Honour: "Go and do likewise" Lk 10:25**

Integrating a sense of developing responsibility, the Year 9 Camps explore the imperatives of listening to the story of others, being men of action, and celebrating the sense of our shared values and principles through the EREA touchstones.

**Year 10 Immersions and Red Dirt.**

**Theme: Skills for life: "You did for me" Mt 25:40**

Year 10 hone their sense of responsibility, identity and service to others through initiatives such as Community (Edmund Rice) Service Hours and Immersions. This consolidates the principle of going out to the other, to see, listen and serve rather than judge.

**Year 11 Snowy Hike. Theme:**

**"Developing leaders": Lk 19:12**

This voluntary activity is a longstanding tradition at the College. Covering 100 km's over 6 days students carry their shelter, food and clothing. This develops teamwork, resilience, inter-reliance and sharing of the skills necessary to overcome adversity across the group.

**Year 12 Retreats: Theme: Meeting the future: "Go make a difference" The Great Commission Mt 28:16**

After completing their Trial HSC examinations the Year 12 Retreat is a time for students to reflect on their formative time, growth and learning journey at St Pius X. They consider the great gifts, shared experiences and connections with family, school and friends which stand them in good stead for the great journey and exciting challenges ahead of them.



### The dramatic threat of Climate Change

The Drama Department will work with professional writer/actor Tom Mesker (NIDA, atyp, Belvoir) to create an original production that will explore the real threat of Climate Change in 2021.

This production will be filmed at the College and will include music by SPX students, as well as art students who will help with the set design, pre-production and the look of the film. Over 30 students have expressed an interest in being involved including as actors, costume and set designers, musicians, scriptwriters, editors, film makers and production managers. Filming will take place in April with the Premiere planned for May.

### Live Performances

Singing is back with limited numbers and all ensembles are back face to face including Drama. A live concert is planned for end of Term 1 with one family member per student able to attend in person. It will be live streamed to the Community.

### Photographic and Digital Media Big Day Out

Twelve kilometres of walking and hundreds of photographs later Year 10 students were thrilled to at last exercise their photographic skills in exciting locations late last year.



Photographic and Digital Media Big Day Out



The Drama Department will be exploring the real threat of Climate Change in 2021



Senior Concert Band playing at the Academic Awards Ceremony



Senior Concert Band playing at the Academic Awards Assembly

### Smart Expressions

Jack Connaghan and Liam Benson Year 12 2020 have had their HSC photographs selected to show in Willoughby Council's "Smart Expressions 2021". The Exhibition is on 3- 28 March at The Concourse.



Jack Connaghan and his HSC 2020 photos - 'The Unpredictable Year' features on the Exhibition invitation



Performing Arts staff perform at the Commencement Mass



Liam Benson - 'First Of The Roll' HSC 2020 photos



## COMMUNITY

### EREA Leadership

The College had the opportunity to thank and farewell outgoing EREA staff and welcome the new leaders for 2021 during an Assembly last December. Dr Wayne Tinsey who has been the Executive Director of EREA since 2007 retires and Dr Craig Wattam will take over as Executive Director from 2021. Also welcomed were retiring Director

of Stewardship, Mr Geoff Doyle and Ms Jennifer Scott who will be the new Director of Stewardship in 2021.

*Photo (from left):* EREA Mr Geoff Doyle, Dr Craig Wattam, Miss Jennifer Scott and Principal John Couani, with Dr Wayne Tinsey (seated)



## VALE



### GREG GROWDEN

Greg Growden was an iconic rugby journalist who worked at the Sydney Morning Herald from the late 1970s when he joined the paper as a cadet. Greg 's son Angus (Class of 2018) attended the College. Greg joined the SPX Kokoda Trek with his son and presented to students on several occasions to talk about his writing. He was an accomplished journalist and prolific author. In 2018 Greg dedicated his book, *The Wallabies at War*, to Head of Junior School, Mr Tim Long, who helped him on the College Kokoda Trek.

### BROTHER FRANCIS MYRON BYRNE

Brother Francis Myron Byrne was Principal at the College from 1983 to 1985. During that time he was known for his passion for music and performance. He made a point of teaching songs to the entire school, which they then performed on stage at the Opera House.



### NEELTJE ANDERSON

Former staff member Mrs Neeltje Anderson and mother of Visual Art Coordinator, Mr Mark Anderson. Neeltje was a long-term employee at the College. She started work here in 1964 and, apart from a break of 18 months, worked at the College in a variety of positions through to her retirement in 1999. A charming and gentle soul, her kind words and endless grace made St Pius X College a better place.



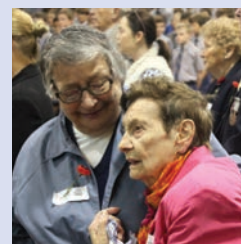
### RAFFAELA (ELA) EVA TARANTO (NEE DE SISTO) (25 Dec 1938 – 23 Jan 2021)

Ela was the younger sister of Jacob De Sisto. Ex student killed in action in World War Two attacking enemy machine-gun positions on Bougainville in December 1944. Photo is of Ela supporting her sister Margaret.



### KEVIN SHANAHAN (13 May 1932 - 11 February 2021)

Kevin Shanahan was father of Mark, Class of 1977, Pauline, combined Class of 1979 and Rodger, Class of 1982. His son, Rodger has recently spoken at College Academic Assemblies having served as a Colonel in the Australian Defence Force, was Australia's Military Attache to the United Arab Emirates and is currently a Lowy Institute spokesman for Middle Eastern Affairs.



### DR TONY WILLIAMS

Dr Williams and his wife Mary-Rose Williams were active supporters of OLD Parish. Dr Williams was recognised as a Knight of the Order of St Gregory one of Australia's highest Catholic Awards. Their sons Anthony (Class of 1982), Matt (1988), and Justin (1994) are proud old boys while their Grandsons Daniel (2008) and Tom DeBlare (2011) also attended the College.





Students welcome new Mercy College Principal, Ms Brenda Timp

## New Principals at OLD Primary and Mercy College

Mr Marco Ianni has been appointed Principal of Our Lady of Dolours Primary School from 2021. He comes from the same Italian village as the De Sisto family (page 18).

Mercy College also welcomes a new College Principal in 2021, Ms Brenda Timp. Ms Timp previously worked as Assistant Principal at Mater Maria Catholic College in Warriewood and brings with her more than 20 years of professional experience in Catholic Schools.

## Performing Arts Parents Association (PAPA)

There is a new PAPA Committee with Michelle Godfrey as President. Gabe Donlevy Vice President, Dominic Arena Treasurer and Danielle Butler Secretary. New Committee members are Carmel Daniels, Tom Booth and Daniela Righi.

Thanks go to the outgoing Committee members for their extraordinary and wonderful contribution. Mrs Odette Shahady – President; Mrs Barbara Turner – Secretary and Mrs Ute Appenzeller – Treasurer.

### New P&F Committee FOR 2021

**President** - Sarah Gillard

**Vice President** - Angelo Guerrera

**Secretary** - Renee Sullivan

**Treasurer** - Thomas Lau

**Social Coordinators** -

Louise Johnston & Rossana Bennett

**Communications Coordinator** -

Julie Charlton

**Class Parent Coordinator** -

Braelen Zwart



Top from left: Sarah Gillard, Rosanna Bennett, Renee Sullivan, Thomas Lau.

Bottom row from left: Braelen Zwart, Julie Charlton, Louise Johnson, Angelo Guerrera.

## St Pius X Parent and Friends Association

The P&F Association contributes significantly to the welfare of the College Community including its many sports, arts and cocurricular activities. All parents are automatically members of the P&F and are welcome to attend meetings, events and volunteer when they can. This is a great way to meet the school community and teaching staff, and to make friends. So please get involved today.

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, have a say in what's happening.

### Key Event Dates

**Cocktail Party** - 26th March

**Teacher's Breakfast** - 19th April

**Mother's Day Breakfast** - 7th May

**Trivia Night** - 14th August

**Father's Day Breakfast** - 3rd September

### P&F Meetings

Term 1 1st March

Term 2 3rd May

Term 3 9th August

Term 4 AGM 25th October



## COLLEGE OLD BOYS



Chris Myrick with a Murray Cod from the Murrumbidgee River. The lines between Chris' work and his passion for fishing are often blurred.

### Professor Christopher A Myrick

(Class of 1987)

Department of Fish, Wildlife,  
and Conservation Biology  
University of Colorado USA

Chris Myrick graduated from St Pius X College in 1987 and lives in America. He visited Australia in 2018 and caught up with a number of his friends from his time at the college.

Chris says the Snowy Mountain hike still remains one of his favourite memories of his times in Australia.

Chris said of his career:  
*I have been enjoying a really neat career - I took my love of fish and biology (Mr. McGinnity would likely call it an obsession) and found a job where I could immerse myself in teaching about fish, doing research on fish, and generally avoiding what I like to call "the real world"...all the while interacting with people who also share an interest in fisheries conservation and management. Colorado is a great place to work... The really good*

*thing about the position is that I get to teach about fish - I would have never thought I'd enjoy teaching, but I had an opportunity to help teach a senior-level fish ecology course when I was still an undergraduate at University of California, Berkeley and discovered that I not only had an aptitude for teaching, but that it was also more thrilling than even fisheries research. These days I'm forced to teach online because we are under a stay-at-home order, and I fear I might be doing my worst teaching ever, mainly because I don't have the luxury of being able to interact with my students in realtime and also I've had to drop all of the hands-on exercises and excursions that would normally be underway in my Aquaculture and Fish Physiology courses.*

## Reunion Classes of 1955, 56 and 57

The Classes of 1955, 56 and 57 held a combined Reunion at the Greengate Hotel in February. Around 70 Old Boys attended including Bishop Peter Ingham, the 1956 College Captain - Mr Michael Flannagan and the 1957 College Captain - Mr John Mulally.

College Principal Mr John Couani represented the College.

Thanks to Mr Bill Sutton who organised the event. It is wonderful to see these ex-students, who have made significant contributions to the community through Religious life, the Law, Industry, Commerce, Retail and all walks of life keep in touch.



## INVEST IN THEIR FUTURE

Your donation will support young men to achieve their full potential.

Donations to the Scholarship and Building Funds are tax deductible.

Full details are available at [www.spx.nsw.edu.au](http://www.spx.nsw.edu.au)

Faith Excellence Respect Opportunity







David Greco appearing with Pinchgut Opera



David Greco (centre, in brown suit) showing a lot of style as Birdboot

## Dr David Greco

(Class of 1999)

### From St Pius X to the international music scene.

David Greco (Class of 1999) was the middle of three brothers who attended the College (the others being Anthony 1996 and Matthew 2004). David was a talented student, vocalist and actor who has gone on to great success as a performer. He sung on many occasions at the College and played the role of Birdboot in *The Real Inspector Hound* with great style in 1998. Graduating with an impressive TER (now known as the ATAR) of over 97, provided the opportunity for him to study in a variety of professions but he followed his passion for music and performance and went on to study at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. He does not regret his decision.

David has sung on some of the finest stages across Europe and has appeared as a principal in the world's most exciting opera festivals including Festival Aix-en Provence and Glyndebourne Festival Opera.

In 2014, he became the first Australian appointed to a position

with the Sistine Chapel Choir in the Vatican, Rome.

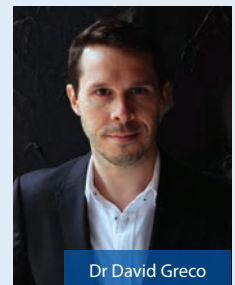
David regularly appears as a soloist with Australia's finest ensembles and orchestras, such as the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, Australian Chamber Orchestra and most recently with the Sydney Symphony in their Helpmann Award-winning concerts of Bach's cantata for bass, *Ich habe genug*. In 2017, he was a principal artist with Opera Australia, appearing in *The Eighth Wonder* and *The Love of Three Oranges*, and received critical acclaim for his appearance as Seneca in Pinchgut Opera's production of *The Coronation of Poppea*.

David's solo recordings include *Poems of Love & War*, and in 2019, his first recital album, presenting works by J S Bach, with the Netherlands-based Luthers Bach Ensemble on the European label Brilliant Classics.

David is an active researcher into historical performance of 19th-Century voice and recently received

his doctorate in this field from the University of Melbourne. His PhD led to the first Australian recording of the historically informed performance of Schubert's songs cycles *Winterreise* and *Die schöne Müllerin* on the ABC Classic label - the latter receiving an ARIA nomination for Best Classical Album in 2020.

David recalls his time at the College very fondly. In his own words it 'served him perfectly'. He appreciated the ethos and the supportive community, as well as the opportunity to appear on stage. The experience of acting in the *Hound* helped him to find his 'theatrical feet' and contributed to his movement into the field of Opera which combines both acting and musical performance. David's brother Matthew has also gone on to become a professional musician, also continuing his love of music into his career.



Dr David Greco





Alex working as a reporter with Channel 7 Brisbane



Alex playing Violin at the Anniversary Mass



Alex on the Snowy Mountains Hike in 2012

### Alex Lewis (Class of 2013)

Alex Lewis has just been employed as an on-air reporter with Channel 7 in Brisbane. Alex arrived at the College in Year 7 in 2008 and was highly involved in College life. He particularly recalls Year 11 English and the topic 'The Beat Generation' with the works of Kerouac and Ginsberg amongst others. His main interest throughout his time here was in Music. He was a very talented violin player and played in a number of string groups including the excellent String Quartet. He also performed with the choir. His other activities were debating and one season in the Third XV Rugby where he fondly recalls the one tackle he managed to make in Bathurst. One of his most memorable events was the Snowy Mountains Hike in 2012. He loves the mountains and cross country skiing was a great interest outside the school life.

After school Alex continued, his love of the mountains by spending several months with his close friend Max Enthoven (SPX 2013) working in Kareela Restaurant in Thredbo throughout the winter. After travels overseas Alex settled into studying

journalism at UTS. He also had internships at 2GB and the North Shore Times and one at Channel 7 in Sydney led to him being offered work at that broadcaster as their Social Media Producer and a Producer with Weekend Sunrise in 2016. It was hard to balance studies with work, especially when one Friday afternoon he was unexpectedly offered work as a regional reporter in Queensland with the Seven Network. It was a great opportunity but he had to be ready to go the following Monday!

Alex 'took the plunge', and went to Mackay, up in the Tropics between Cairns and Rockhampton, in crocodile country – a far cry from Sydney and the Snowy Mountains. It was a big decision forcing him to balance work with finishing his degree at the Open University. After six months he moved to the Gold Coast and then in December 2020

the Seven Network moved him to Brisbane where he reports on all manner of things including crime, councils, state politics and natural disasters.

Alex is one of a number of ex-students who entered journalism and broadcasting including Ben Fordham (SPX Primary School) and Michael Pachi (SPX 1990) at Radio 2GB, Paul Kelly (SPX 1964) and Greg Sheridan (SPX 1974) at *The Australian*, Andrew Jackson (SPX 2017) News Foxtel, Andrew Prentice (SPX 2000) at *Daily Mail Sport*, Hans Lee (SPX 2015) at Reuters, Matt Connellan (SPX 2008) at SBS and Mark Fenton Jones (SPX 1971) previously at the *Financial Review*.

### RECOGNISING COLLEGE OLD BOYS

Tony Cunneen, Head of Publications at the College, interviewed and recorded these College Old Boy stories. If you are an Old Boy and interested in sharing your story please contact Tony Cunneen at the College:

Email [TCunneen@stpiousx.nsw.edu.au](mailto:TCunneen@stpiousx.nsw.edu.au)  
Phone 02 9411 4733





Daniel at the Seminary Open Day

## Daniel O'Kelly (Class of 2013)

Daniel has been on quite a journey since graduating from the College in 2013. He completed a double degree: Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering/ Bachelor of Commerce at The University of NSW in 2019. He won a scholarship with Transport for NSW (TfNSW) and worked across the Transport Cluster from 2015 to 2019 as a scholar and in 2020 as a graduate. His roles included working as a Mechanical Engineer, Tunnel Technology, Motorways - Roads and Maritime Services (4 years). As part of his Engineering Degree he wrote a thesis on Road Tunnel Ventilation linked to his work in Tunnel Technology on the North Connex tunnel in Sydney's north.

Daniel has also been on a fascinating Faith journey. He had been involved in his local Parish at Ryde-Gladesville, leading the music ministry for the 6pm Mass each week as well as youth ministry groups. Daniel wrote:

*I'll be honest, my faith dwindled for a number of years, especially around the 3-year mark at university. I had reached a low point but this was also the point at which I experienced a profound re-*

*conversion whereby the faith and my relationship with God became personal and meaningful. It is hard to express this with words, and it's certainly not something that can be found in a textbook, but this particular experience changed everything in my life. I was eager to learn more about the Catholic faith, to deepen my relationship with God and eventually discern where God is calling me. For so long I had imagined the future might look like: graduate university, get a job, get married, buy a house, have children, etc. However, one day in my final year of university I realised that at the end of my degree I could do anything; and someone asked me the question well what do you think God has planned for your life? And so I asked the question and at least 20 people asked me similar questions like "Have you thought about the priesthood?" . . . At the same time, the Archdiocese of Sydney was setting up its first House of Discernment, called Sumner House (located in Lidcombe, NSW). It was a house for young men to live in community and discern where God is calling them in their Vocation, whether it be marriage, priesthood or religious life. I entered the House*



Daniel O'Kelly Engineer



Daniel in 2012 as a Eucharistic Minister, Front row, Second from Right

*in September 2019 and lived with eight brothers. The house provided support in terms of formation, brotherhood and fostering our identity as men of God to gain the freedom to choose the next step in responding to God's call. I applied for the Seminary in November 2020 after discerning that my best bet is that God is calling me to be a priest, still open to wherever God may lead me in the future.*

*I am very grateful for the education that I received at St Pius X as it has shaped who I am today and laid the foundation for my life: **Fide et Labore**. It's heartening that there are good young men graduating into the world having received such an important and fruitful formation.*

Michael Rodgers, who is in the seminary with Daniel is the nephew of Mr Pat Rodgers, History Coordinator at the College.

Daniel was a fine young man at school – a real asset to the College. We wish him every success for the future.

Tony Cunneen





**ST PIUS X COLLEGE**  
CHATSWOOD

# thrive

## Why boys thrive at St Pius X College

### Faith

Faith is an integral and active part of everyday College life and provides students with purpose and meaning.

### Excellence

We understand every student is unique and recognise the potential in everyone. Celebrating difference, we actively promote and support the pursuit of knowledge, a love of learning and a commitment to personal achievement.

### Respect

We teach our boys to respect themselves and each other. We foster and support student wellbeing through programs and activities that build resilience, respect, friendships and self confidence.

### Opportunity

We provide opportunities to create experiences. Boys are encouraged to try new activities, find their passion and make new friends by getting involved in the many activities, programs and opportunities on offer at the College.

### Compassion

We provide boys with opportunities and experiences that develop compassion and consideration of others in their community.

### Community

Students become part of a supportive and welcoming community and learn the value of this.

[www.spx.nsw.edu.au](http://www.spx.nsw.edu.au)