

PIUS InProfile



ST PIUS X COLLEGE
CHATSWOOD

Pius community rallies together during these unprecedented times.

Spring 2021



Mobilise your mate



EDMUND RICE EDUCATION
AUSTRALIA



ST PIUS X COLLEGE CHATSWOOD

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On the Cover



Hamish Sullivan of 5R watching
Friday Assembly online during
2021 Term 3 lockdown.

Photo Credit: Mrs Claire Sullivan

Vale Thomas Van Dijk

3/12/2003 – 22/8/2021

The College is currently grieving the loss on Sunday 22 August 2021, of Thomas Van Dijk.

Tom was wonderful Year 12 student with many gifts which he freely shared with our College and the wider community. Tom had many friends at all levels of the school. His great involvement in all that the College offers led to him forming close connections with many students, families and teachers.

His sudden death was made more challenging, because it was totally unexpected and unrelated to COVID-19 or any vaccinations. We pay tribute to Tom, who was an outstanding student, a gifted sportsman and an accomplished musician.

While we mourn his loss, we also celebrate his life: as a son, a brother, a friend, a team-mate, a student. Tom's family are comforted to know that even in his loss, Tom has been an organ donor, thereby saving the lives of others.



Vale Liam Vinci

1/3/2002 – 18/10/2021

The College is also grieving the loss Liam Vinci (Class of 2020) who passed away in a car accident on 18 October. Liam completed his HSC last year (2020) and was a brilliant young man who Graduated with Academic Honours First Class. He was an outstanding sportsman and represented the College with distinction in the First XI Football and in his younger years represented the school in Cricket and Rugby. He was a valued member of the Wellbeing Leadership Team and was much loved by students and staff alike. He was a true gentleman. Liam's Father Robert and older brother Alec are College Old Boys (Class of 84 and Class of 2017).

Principal's Welcome



Autumn and Winter of 2021 proved to be a time when the College community came together in a heartening manner to meet a most unexpected and challenging series of events. Term 2 had seen the normal school events such as Mother's Day, ANZAC Day, the Athletics Carnivals and the start of the busy winter round of extra-curricular activities. We were busily preparing for Term 3 and the lead up to the Year 12 Trial HSC and Graduation ceremonies.

Our sports teams had commenced their winter season with great expectations. The tours and sports competitions were ready to go for the June holidays. Then the news of another COVID-19 outbreak came out during the term holidays and by 24 June we were in Lockdown again – and this time it went for the entire term. The Lockdown caused many cancellations: in sport; performing arts; debating; public speaking; exams; graduations and awards ceremonies - but there were other things to take their place.

Once again, the College's ICT Helpdesk came to the fore and supplied the necessary technological support and every week we were able produce online assemblies and presentations which kept our community connected. As part of this connection teachers worked hard to keep their classes engaged with online learning and again the teaching community came together to support each other. Fortunately, we had already developed our skills in online presentation during the 2020 Lockdown, but once again, our lives were shaped by the daily government news conferences and the changing NESA requirements for the impending HSC.

Tragically, the life of the College took another most unexpected and devastating turn. On 22 August we were stunned and saddened to hear of the passing of a much-loved member of the senior cohort - Thomas Van Dijk. Thomas was an outstanding Year 12 student, talented in sport, music and academics. He lit up the school with his personality and passion for life. He died suddenly, in hospital in the arms of his family. His death was totally unrelated to COVID-19 or vaccinations or any of the many dramatic events that had kept us occupied as a school over the previous months. On the same day Year 12 returned to class on 18 October we were similarly shocked to hear of the accidental death of a student from 2020, Liam Vinci. Liam was similar to Thomas in many ways – a fine student and sportsman and a genuinely classy and popular young man. Both Tom and Liam passed away at a time when they had so much to look forward to. Again, we were greatly supported by the College community; the many coordinators, counsellors, teachers, parents, students and friends who came together to share and send their love and support to all of us so deeply grieving their loss.

This magazine gives some indication of the way our community has not just survived but been strengthened by the events of Terms 2 and 3 in 2021. In previous Spring editions of Pius in Profile we would have featured the leaving class of Year 12, celebrating their achievements upon graduation and their HSC successes. However, with the HSC timeframes pushed back this year we plan to produce a special edition for the Class of 2021 next term.

Finally, as we look towards the future, we are excited that we have approval to build a brand new classroom facility, aptly named the St Pius X College Learning Hub at 39-41 Anderson Street. In addition, B Wing is to be extensively renovated during Term 4. You will see that I have made an open appeal for extra funds from the entire College community as we move forward with our plans.

As we plan for the return to school, there will be new protocols and new challenges, but based on the way the College has worked over the last term we are confident that these will be met with determination, enthusiasm, skill and energy.

Mr John Couani
PRINCIPAL

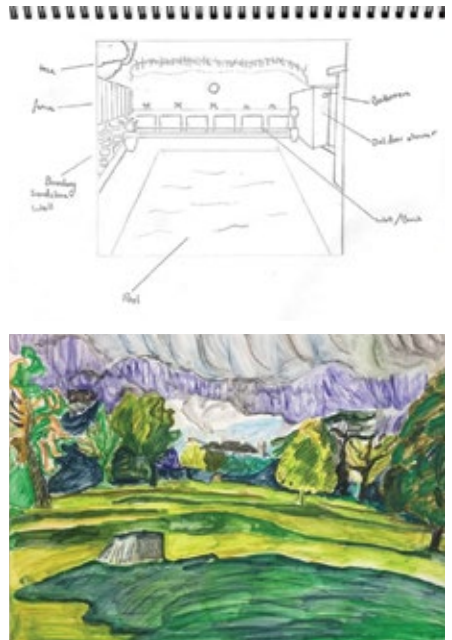
fide et labore,
THROUGH FAITH AND HARD WORK

LIBRARY TASKS + BOOK Week Comps

<p>Visit a virtual museum</p> 	<p>ooo GAME OVER</p>  <p>Review a video-game or app</p>	<p>Create a Book Trailer of your favourite book!</p> 	<p>Write a review of a TV show or movie that you've watched</p> 	<p>Create and photograph a scene that tells a story</p> 
<p>Read two online articles on a topic that interests you.</p> 	 <p>Find song lyrics that you think would be fun to analyze as a class</p>	<p>Create a Tiny World</p> 		<p>Create book poster that convinces the class to read your chosen Book.</p> 
<p>Record a 3 minute video</p> 	 <p>Write a Book Review</p>	<p>Analyse your favourite book character. Dress up as this character and enter your photo in the Book Week online parade.</p> 	 <p>Create a short trivia challenge for the class</p>	<p>Write a descriptive paragraph</p> 



For every three activities you complete you will receive an entry into the Book Week prize draw. Click on the link in each square to be taken to the activity. Look at the last slide for directions on what to do when you are finished.



Online Engagement

Geography outdoors

To get students off screens and outside, Ms Dempsey got her Year 7 and 9 Geography classes to do some line drawings outdoors. This 'perspective' style drawing is a great indicator of where students are cognitively and although appears to be a simple exercise is in fact a fascinating insight into brain plasticity - firing those neurons and making new connections.

Students can have great difficulty with 'perception of depth' when drawing but it is something that can be quickly learnt.

Students' drawings improved as their brains created new connections and started to acquire new learning.

Engaging Online Assemblies

An integral part of the College Pastoral Care Program are assemblies which are held Monday and Friday mornings most weeks during term. They are a valuable time where the College comes together to celebrate successes, stay connected as a community and participate in Pastoral Care Programs such as R U OK ? Day. These assemblies are an important time for students to feel connected with the broader St Pius X community and grow spiritually.

So, with the assistance of the College's ICT Helpdesk the College Leadership Team and Student Leadership Team creatively engaged students and the wider community with live streaming of assemblies most Fridays. Some of the more memorable assemblies included Mr Couani on the bike 'Going for Gold' at the Olympics, teachers sharing relaxation tips such as golfing and swimming and student leaders performing all sorts of weird and wonderful activities promoting wellbeing - from fishing in their pool to ribbon twirling. These well-liked and inspiring assemblies were a great motivation and bit of fun for staff and students during the lockdown.

Going For Gold – 2020 Olympics

The 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics were truly inspirational and wonderful entertainment during the stay at home orders. On July 30, students and staff wore something green or gold to support the Australian Olympic Team. The live streamed assembly saw JC and Ricky (Mr Couani and Mr Russo) becoming Roy and HG inspiring the boys with some Olympic feats and facts. Mr Couani excelled on the exercise bike whilst Mr Russo bought home Gold for St Pius X in the boxing. Year 12 student leaders also got on board showcasing some of their own Olympic lockdown potential from juggling to bench pressing.

Junior School fun

Junior School students were kept engaged online during the term with a range of fun and educational programs run by Mrs Martin. Each week students could explore the Junior School Library Libguides website which was updated weekly with fun activities, videos, and books to read. [Click here to see some examples.](#)

The weekly Home Learning and Reading PDF @St Pius X inspired the boys to read and subsequently borrow over 300 books which were posted out to students with a click and post promotion. Other activities included the CBCA Book Week quizzes and online jigsaw puzzles.

Students also completed a nature journal on their first Screen Free day and got creative with the Book Week Competition PowerPoint and Online Book Mark Competition.

Online Author Visits and Shakespeare by Zoom

Junior School students enjoyed a virtual Author talk on July 28 with Oliver Phommavanh. Year 5 read his book *Thai-riffic* in Term 2 and he has a new book out now called *Brain Freeze*. Oliver was interesting, fun and very engaging with the 226 attendees' - students and teachers enjoying the engaging online talk!

Mrs Martin's Year 6 Literacy class also participated in an online Zoom 'Spotlight on Shakespeare' incursion with the NSW State Library.

Surprise packages sent home

Junior School students who participated in the Premier's Reading Challenge were delighted to receive a celebratory package in their letterboxes. Mrs Martin sent out over 100 care and well-being packages to junior students to reward and award their literacy efforts. The packages included popcorn, chocolate, clapper, party popper, a bookmark and some sunflower seeds.

Inspiring video messages

As lockdown continued into August staff and students got creative in their communications and support for one another. Staff created some inspiring video messages showing them in their element around the theme of "all you need is a little bit of love and hope".

Students videoed heartfelt tributes and thanks to their dads for Father's Day.

Academic Achievements

Academic Awards - Years 7 - 10

Although we were unable to host the "Celebration of Learning" - Academic Awards Ceremony students were recognised during online Year Meetings with their Academic Awards from Semester 1, 2021. Congratulations to all the Award recipients.

There was a total of

108

Fide Award Recipients

Presented in Years 7 – 10

28

Year 7

23

Year 8

32

Year 9

25

Year 10

12

Academic Blue Colour Awards

55

Growth in Learning Awards

Presented in Years 8 – 10

38

Waterford Awards

Presented in Years 7 – 10

3

Academic Silver Colour Awards

Year 11 will be presented their Awards in Term 4.

Australian History Competition

Held in May each year all Year 10 students took part in the Australian History competition which consisted of 50 multiple choice questions. Most questions related to the provided historical sources from the Stage 5 History course. Congratulations to the following students on achieving outstanding results: High Distinctions: Zac Hollinger, Aaron Lau, Jack Lonergan and Daniel Walters. Distinctions: Nicolas Arena, Justin Boustani, Xander Buckingham, Jacob Chang, Lachlan Giang, Christian Henderson, Ethan Hernandez-Tagudin, Darcy Keenlyside, Matthew Moore, Luke Sarkissian and Venedict Valerio.

The Big Science Competition

In May, the Big Science Competition 2021 was held for all students in Years 7 - 10. The competition tests students' science knowledge, critical thinking and problem-solving ability. 17 students received High Distinctions (the top 5%) and 54 students received a Distinction (the next 15%). Certificates will be presented to students upon their return to school. Congratulations to all!

Education Perfect Science Championships

Students from Years 5-10 competed in the Education Perfect Science Championships during Science Week.

Students were encouraged to complete Science activities through the Education Perfect platform in order to gain points. In total, our students gained 25,157 points.

At the conclusion of the week-long competition, St Pius X College was placed 110th out of 2,012 schools globally; 70th in Australia (out of 1,488 schools) and 33rd in NSW (out of 434 schools).

Congratulations to all the students who participated, but in particular to Ethan Li (Yr 9) for being ranked 66th overall and gaining 10,263 points and an Elite Award. Well done also to the 3 students who gained a Bronze Award - Aiden Kiem (Yr 7), Benjamin Fogale (Yr 6) and Reilly Bois (Yr 7).

2022 College Leaders

Congratulations to the Student Leadership Team for 2022.

William Staber will captain the College supported by Ronan Crispe and Benjamin Cullen as Vice Captains. The full Student Leadership Team for 2022 are shown below. Congratulations to all these young men. We are fortunate to have such exceptional students as our school leaders - they follow a fine tradition of leadership in the College.

The Prefects will commence their leadership of the College in Term 4 and their roles are outlined below.

Captain and Two Vice Captains: Provide leadership and strategic direction, coordinating events such as our annual Founder's Day Falls Festival and the House Cup Competition.

Mission and Identity Prefects: Lead the College in Liturgy and Prayer life.

Wellbeing Prefects: Lead Wellbeing themes and events such as R U OK? Day, National Day of Action Against Violence and Bullying, International Women's Day and Wellbeing Wednesdays.

Cultural Prefects: Lead the Cultural Activities and Events of the College including Music and Performing Arts, Creative Arts, Drama, Language and Public Speaking and Debating events.

Learning Prefects: Lead our Academic and Learning Activities including celebrations of learning, Academic Awards ceremonies and participate in planning our guiding our learning and teaching, assessment and reporting plans.

Sports House Captains: Lead the College in sporting and extra curricular events including Friday Assemblies, Sports Carnivals and Events and Activity Days.



William Staber
COLLEGE CAPTAIN



Ronan Crispe
COLLEGE VICE CAPTAIN



Benjamin Cullen
COLLEGE VICE CAPTAIN

HOUSE CAPTAINS



Ethan Rossetto
BARRON



Harrison Melloy
PURTON



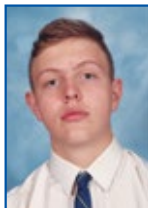
Harrison O'Brien
RICE



Oliver Aylmer
TREACY

PREFECTS

Wellbeing Prefects



Franklin Clayton



Alexander Hawkins



James Shahinian

Mission and Identity



Andrew Guerrero



Nathan McAdam

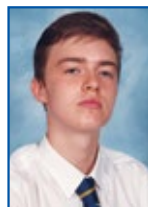


Andrew McKinnon

Cultural Prefects



Anthony Elliot



Max Leo



William Ramsbottom

Learning Prefects



Cody Choi



Elliot Cook



Christopher Zilifan

Facilities Update

B Wing Refurbishment

As part of the ongoing upgrade to the classrooms and facilities at the College, refurbishment of B Wing and the podium commenced during the recent holidays.

B Wing is the original classroom block on Kirk Street and the classrooms will be fully refurbished to bring them in line with the contemporary style of A and C Wings. The podium and sports pavilions will also be refreshed as part of these building works. Work will continue throughout Term 4 with B Wing being sectioned off during this time.



Prayer Garden Makeover

As their parting gift to the College Year 12, 2021 have extensively made over the Prayer Garden during lockdown. This involved extending the paved area, moving the Edmund Rice statue, and putting in new plants to allow for a lighter, more sun-filled open space. During a rare visit to the College to collect resources each Year 12 student was invited to plant a plant in the garden. Many thanks to outgoing College Captain Liam Chang and Mr Russo who coordinated this.



Donations Appeal

The generosity of the extended College community allows us to continue to provide an excellent, affordable education.

The College is seeking your support in building the Learning Hub.

As you can see, it is a dynamic learning space that will greatly add to the facilities available to our student body. By keeping the same number of students in the College as we have already, the Hub will give everyone extra space.

Government funding for the project is limited and current parents are already carrying a financial burden – some are making great sacrifices in this difficult time to maintain the benefits of a Catholic Education for their sons.

Therefore, we are appealing directly to the wider College Community – Ex-students, former parents or grandparents of students, even those in the current parent body who may have access to more funds than most.

Please consider donating directly to the College Building Fund.

Your donation will help the future education of young men who will fulfil the mission of service and community based on the Catholic Faith in the Edmund Rice Tradition.

Please contact the College if you wish to discuss this matter further.

Your sincerely

Mr John Couani, Principal and

Mr Brian Populin, College Advisory Council Chair

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#)

Learning Hub



The new Learning Hub, adjacent to the Chatswood Campus is a major expansion to the College's footprint and is part of its ongoing commitment to providing a holistic, innovative and liberating education for its students.

- Building of the new brand-new purpose-built educational Learning Hub at 39-41 Anderson St Chatswood will commence in October 2021
- It is a purpose built, modern, two-level learning space that will provide 8 new classrooms that can be used as flexible indoor and outdoor learning spaces
- It will feature covered outdoor learning spaces, staff collegial spaces, a lift and ramps for disabled access and will be fully integrated to the College IT network
- The Hub has been designed to fit in with the existing heritage area of the surrounding residential streets
- Is environmentally sustainable with solar panels, grey water, natural light and air flow
- The project is estimated to cost approximately \$8m and will be ready to welcome students and staff in Term 1 2023



**For more information on the new Learning Hub
- Scan the QR code or [CLICK HERE](#)**



200 Years of Catholic Education



Top right Student representatives at the Catholic Schools 200 Year Mass at Our Lady of Dolours Chatswood. **Top left** Combined Catholic Schools Mass at St Mary's Cathedral. **Bottom** Mr Darbin and the commemorative iron artwork.

Celebrating 200 years of Catholic Education in Australia

2021 marked 200 years of Catholic education in Australia. A National Mass was celebrated simultaneously across Australia on the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians on Monday 24 May 2021. Year 12 St Pius X College students joined Year 12 Mercy College students and Years 5 & 6 students from Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Primary School in the Parish Church for Mass led by Parish Priest, Fr David Ranson. The Mass was live streamed into every classroom of the three schools to ensure that the congregation of over 2,000 could celebrate this occasion.

It was a very fitting celebration bringing together staff and students in celebration of the founders of Catholic education across the many religious orders, including Brother Ambrose Treacy, who commenced the Edmund Rice Schools in

Australia in 1869. Following on from this St Pius X College was established in 1937.

A handful of students represented St Pius X College at the St Mary's Cathedral Mass along with the Governor of New South Wales Her Excellency Hon. Margaret Beazley AC QC, NSW Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning Sarah Mitchell MLC, and Courtney Houssos MLC representing the state opposition leader, Catholic education leaders, representatives of Religious Institutes and PJPs, Catholic tertiary education, Catholic School principals and parents associations, and staff and students from the 170 Sydney Catholic Schools.

Catholic education has grown over two centuries into the largest school sector outside of government. Today Catholic

Mission and Identity

Education flourishes across Australia with over 770,000 students and over 100,000 staff.

The Chair of the Bishops Commission for Catholic Education Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP said, "From very humble beginnings with the opening of the first official Catholic school educating just 31 students located on Hunter Street in Parramatta, Catholic schools have grown to educate more than one in five Australian students, with many others attending Catholic preschools, colleges and universities."

Catholic schools can be found in most towns and suburbs, and university campuses in most capital cities, serving students from diverse backgrounds and beliefs. While they

are no longer all from poorer families, as so many were in the first century-and-a-half of Catholic education, we continue to welcome and ensure our schools are accessible to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, refugees, those with disabilities and students who are financially disadvantaged.

As part of the celebrations Head of Maintenance at the College, Mr Darbin, constructed a commemorative ironwork artwork which is now proudly displayed in the main playground. We thank Mr Darbin for his hard work to prepare this piece. It is a fitting tribute to our celebrations of 200 years of Catholic education in Australia.

Winter Appeal

Each year St Pius X College, led by Year 9, collects clothing and blankets for St Vincent de Paul at Brookvale as well as non-perishable food donations for Jesuit Refugee Services, whose food bank feeds over 900 people per week. The Winter Appeal in 2021 ran for six weeks during May and June and the community were very generous in their support - living out the principles of Blessed Edmund Rice of 'giving to the poor in handfuls'.



Red Dirt Immersion



Above JB, the St Joseph's Walgett Kamilaroi language teacher provides an insightful lesson for the St Pius X College students and staff.

During the winter school holidays fifty students and staff were fortunate to take part in their annual Red Dirt Immersion tour before lockdown commenced. The group travelled to remote and rural communities of NSW to connect with schools and communities, and learn more about the country, and its Aboriginal history, heritage, and culture.

The group connected with Kamilaroi man and NPWS Discovery Ranger Brett Ashby at the Sandstone Caves and Dandry Gorge Reconciliation Sculptures in the Scrub, as well as Brad Hardy at the 40,000-year-old Brewarrina Fish Traps. The students then visited communities at St John's Baradine, St Lawrence's Coonabarabran, Coonabarabran High, St Brigid's Coonamble, St Patrick's Brewarrina and St Ignatius Bourke.

College Principal Mr John Couani, who had been on long service during the term took time out from his travels to join the group visiting St Joseph's Walgett and the Brewarrina Aboriginal Cultural Museum.

One student noted that by the end of the experience he came to appreciate that Aboriginal culture is not a linear thing; that there is so much more to it than just a sense of belief or cultural understanding. It is who Aboriginal people are as individuals and as Australians; Aboriginality is an important part of their



Above St Pius X College Year 10 students Llewyn Bourke and Jonathan Webstar with St Ignatius Parish School Bourke Kindergarten students.

identity as longest surviving and thriving culture on Earth.

Students completed the 7-day immersion with a deeper understanding of indigenous connection to land, appreciation of their cultural heritage and a renewed focus on the need for healing, reconciliation and understanding.

Pastoral Care

'R U OK? Day is Every Day'

Each year the students and staff at the College get behind R U OK? Day during September. It is a time to remember the importance of staying connected and having conversations that may help others during difficult times in their lives. The College runs extensive Pastoral Care Programs throughout the year and across all year groups to facilitate and support students and staff about the importance of checking in on your mates every day. The outgoing 2021 student leaders led an inspiring all College assembly on Friday 10 September featuring an interview with Gus Worland, Founder of Gotcha4life, a foundation working to end suicide. Mr Worland spoke to the boys about looking after one's mates and connecting with those close to them. The full assembly can be viewed [HERE](#).

James Shahinian, Alex Hawkins and Franklin Clayton also interviewed budding para-athlete Alex Noble. His

inspirational message was to extend the ideas of R U OK? Day into everyday habits. The Student Wellbeing Leaders will be using this video in form meetings to promote the initiative that every day should be R U OK? Day. The video of Alex's interview can be watched here: [HERE](#)

Jersey Day for Organ Donation

The R U OK? Assembly also featured the 2022 Wellbeing Leaders-elect introducing themselves and Jersey Day for Organ Donation which had been the previous week. Jersey Day is a time for staff and students to wear their favourite sporting jersey to encourage conversations around organ donation. This was particularly poignant this year given Year 12 student Thomas Van Dijk who recently passed away was remembered and admired as he donated his organs which saved two people.

Top right Mr Couani during the R U OK? Day online assembly. **Top left** College Captain, Liam Chang and Vice Captain, Alec Ramsbottom.

Bottom Year 11 Students and Mr Brannan with special guest speaker, Gus Worland.



Senior School House Captains and Mascots



Junior School House Captains



Sport

Athletics Carnivals

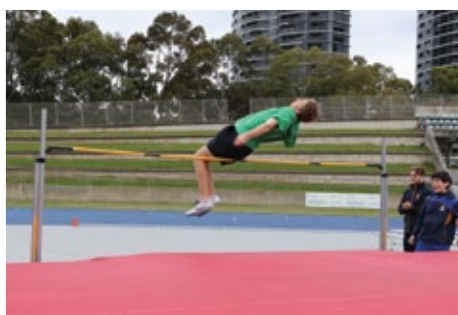
On Tuesday 8 June the College came together for the annual Senior Athletics Carnival followed by the Junior Athletics Carnival on Wednesday 9 June.

After last year's carnivals were cancelled due to COVID-19 and the 2019 Carnivals washed out, the boys were certainly ready to run, jump, and throw! Their participation was the real winner on the day. We were pleased to see the spirit and enthusiasm of every student who enjoyed being involved. Well done to our House Captains, who spurred their houses on and to all our young men who participated with gusto.

The boys should be commended for their wonderful spirit - cheering on all competitors and participating fully in all events. Thank you to Mr Stearn and Mr McBrearty for organising and running two great events and to all the staff and parents who helped support the school on the day.

Congratulations to Treacy House who are this year's winners of both the Senior and Junior Carnivals!

Stand out performance was Zach Fourie in the Shot Put (28.7m)



Zachary Davidson joins Australian Schoolboys 'A' Team

Congratulations to Year 12's Zachary Davidson who has been selected to represent Australia in the 2021 Australian Schoolboys 'A' Team.

Since 1969 the Australian Schools' Rugby Union has selected Australian Schoolboy teams to play other nations both in Australia and overseas. The title of Australian Schoolboy is synonymous with players of high rugby skill and outstanding personal character.

Zach plays scrum half in the St Pius X College 1st XV where he was co-captain in 2021. He was selected in the ISA 1st XV, playing matches against Combined High Schools and AAGPS. From these matches, Zach was selected in the NSW Schools side, however COVID-19 prevented any further games. Australian Schools Rugby Union selectors then named a two Merit Teams on Friday 10 September, where Zachary was chosen in the Australian A Team.

Zac is following in the footsteps of Luke Jones and Michael Hooper of the Class of 2009. Both boys have since represented the Wallabies with Michael Hooper now equalling George Gregan on 59 Caps as Captain. Michael represented Australian Schoolboys 'A' Team but was injured before he could be selected for the full Australian Schoolboys Team. Luke was a full Australian Schoolboys representative in 2009.

Mercy Sisters visit

Three Australian Mercy Sisters, Srs Joan Doyle, Jackie Ford and Patricia McDermott, all former teachers at Mercy College and St Pius X College Chatswood in the 1970's, together established a Mission in the shanty town of Candela, in Lima, Peru in 1994. This poor shanty town in northern Lima, Peru had no running water and sewerage, no paved roads and high levels of unemployment. Working with the local people and with the support of generous donations mainly from Australia, the Sisters were instrumental in establishing a health clinic, two childcare centres, and three Women's Houses.

The three Sisters had taught when St Pius X College and Mercy Catholic College (previously known as Catholic Girls High School, Chatswood), were under shared instruction from 1971-1983. During this time classes were mixed, and students and staff from both schools walked across Archer Street daily to attend lessons in Years 11 and 12.

All three Sisters then left Australia to work in the parish of the Australian Columban Fathers in South America. There they helped set up programs to assist local women improve their circumstances through community development. Sister Jacqueline (who had been Principal of Mercy College from 1975 to 1978) said "they entered the program because they felt they had a mission to help the marginalised". She worked first in Santiago, Chile, then moved to Lima, Peru where she was joined by the other two Mercy Sisters in Candela where they lived and worked tirelessly for almost 20 years.

The three Mercy Sisters along with Mary Rajca who is a Mission Educator for the Sisters of Mercy and former student at Mercy (1972), toured both schools in May, meeting with staff and students, sharing their stories and memories of their time in Chatswood as well as in South America. Both schools annually hold Mother's Day stalls to support the women of Candela with \$5000 being raised this year. May we learn from their wisdom.

Top Left From left Mary Rajca, Sr Joan, Sr Patricia, Sr Jacky and Lisa Kemmis from Mercy College below the "Nuns Walk" at Mercy College. **Top Right** Front Row Mary Rajca, Srs Jacky, Joan and Patricia. Back Row Lisa Kemmis, Mercy College, Tony Cunneen, St Pius X and Mercy Principal Brenda Timp. **Bottom Left** Current SPX teachers and old boys Tony Cunneen left, Ross Masters (far right) with the three Mercy sisters and St Pius X College students. The sisters taught both Tony and Ross at St Pius X during the 1970's. **Bottom Right** From left Mary Rajca, Srs Patricia, Sr Jacky and Joan in front of original Mercy entry.



College Old Boys

Gabriel Farago – Class of 1968

Gabriel is the USA Today Bestselling and Multi-Award-Winning Australian Author of the Jack Rogan Mysteries Series for the thinking reader. Born in Budapest, Gabriel grew up in post-War Europe, and after fleeing Hungary with his parents during the Revolution in 1956, he went to school in Austria before arriving in Australia as a teenager where he attended St Pius X College, Chatswood.

As a lawyer with a passion for history and archaeology, Gabriel had to wait for many years before being able to pursue another passion—writing—in earnest. However, his love of books and storytelling started long before that.

Gabriel holds degrees in literature and law, speaks several languages and takes research and authenticity very seriously.

Inquisitive by nature, he studied Egyptology and learned to read the hieroglyphs. He travels extensively and visits all the locations mentioned in his books.

There are six books in his Jack Rogan Mysteries series. While each book stands alone and can be read as such, starting with the first one - *The Empress Holds the Key* - would give you the best experience and introduction to the series. For more information on Gabriel and his books go to <https://gabrielfarago.com.au/>

Gabriel now lives in the Blue Mountains in Australia just outside Sydney, surrounded by a World Heritage National Park.



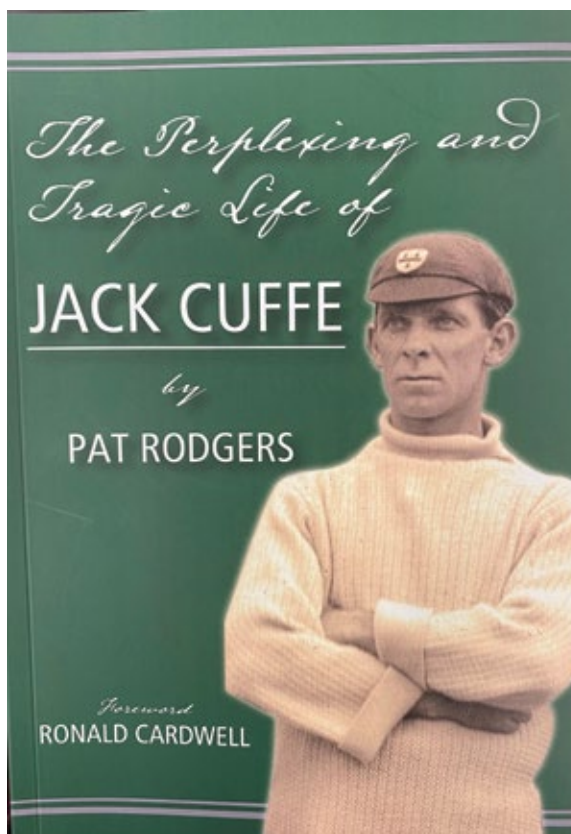
Vale Br John May S.J. 10/8/1929 – 18/8/2021

Brother John May was the first St Pius X Old Boy (Class of 1942) to take a vocation as a brother. John joined the Jesuit Order and had the distinction of having operated the Order's Sevenhill Winery in the Clare Valley, South Australia, as its Chief Winemaker.

"John is the most renowned Brother in the history of the Australian Province. Formidable, disciplined, hospitable, generous, and compassionate, he was known as 'hefty' in his prime because of his physical strength and toughness. He was a model of fidelity to his religious duties. Along with his deep faith, it was his engagement with the local community in the Clare Valley that was most important to him."
(Justin Glynn SJ and Chris Horvat SJ, 27 August 2021)

John died peacefully in Lane Cove and will be buried at the Sevenhill Winery where he was very much at home.

John's sister Joan MacDonald's sons attended SPX through the 1970s, hailing from Killarney Heights.

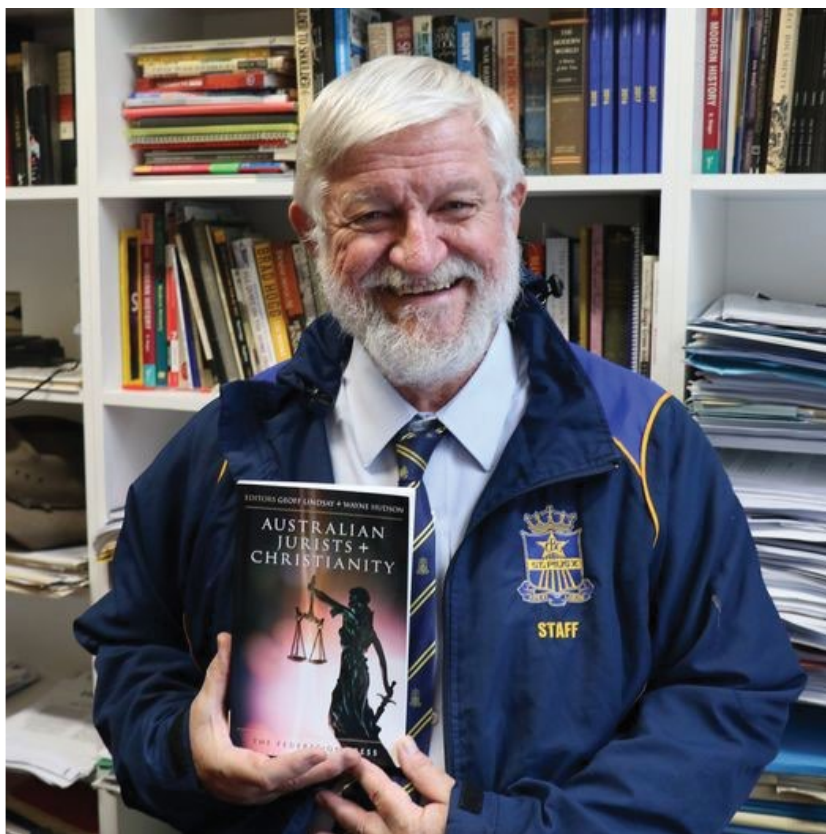


The Perplexing and Tragic Life of Jack Cuffe by Pat Rodgers

St Pius X College History Coordinator Pat Rodgers successfully published his first book this year titled *The Perplexing and Tragic Life of Jack Cuffe*. Twenty two year old Jack Cuffe was living in Sydney in 1903 when he made a strange decision. Having only been married for less than a year during which he had become a father, he abandoned his young wife and six-week-old daughter to pursue a cricket career in England.

This was one of several strange decisions and events in Cuffe's life which ended in tragedy in 1931. The story of his successful cricket career as a first class player for Worcestershire and as a well respected coach and umpire is told in this book. This is one part in an attempt to explain the actions of a troubled man who married three times and had six children, served in the First World War One, travelled to India and led a restless life searching for meaning and happiness.

St Pius X College History Coordinator, Pat Rodgers, came across a reference to this fascinating character by chance and pursued the story which has now been produced in *The Perplexing and Tragic Life of Jack Cuffe*. Hopefully now Cuffe is not merely a footnote in history. The book is available [HERE](#)



Australian Jurists and Christianity feature article on Edith Cowan (1861-1932) by Tony Cunneen

Congratulations also to St Pius X College teacher and historian Mr Tony Cunneen who is one of the contributors to a new book called *Australian Jurists and Christianity*. The book features a collection of essays, which explore the connection between Australian Jurists and Christianity. People profiled include Eddie Mabo, Edith Cowan and Michael Kirby AC CMG. Tony's work highlights Edith Cowan (1861-1932) whose image is on our \$50 note. She overcame personal tragedy to be elected as the first woman in parliament in Australia and only the second in the British Empire. She was also one of the first women magistrates in Australia and a tireless advocate of women's health and wellbeing issues.

The book examines the role of Christian ideas in shaping the behaviour of many people associated with Australian judicial office throughout our history. The book is available [HERE](#)



The Ashes' 140 Years of Rivalry, Rituals and Respect

St Pius X College Old Boy Martin Lenahan (Class of 83) has recently published a new book called 'The Ashes' 140 Years of Rivalry, Rituals and Respect.

Martin is a senior journalist at NRL.com and has written other books including Baggy Green Legends and 110 Years of Rugby League. Full details can be found [HERE](#)

Our College Community

Staff Retirements

2021 will see the retirement of some of the College's long term staff. Their contribution to the College will be recognised in greater detail in the 2021 Collegian, however, we wish them all the best on their future endeavours and will be forever grateful for their service and commitment to the College.

Ms Judy Black will retire after 28 years at St Pius X. Judy started in November 1993 and has been a Science Teacher, Year Coordinator, Science Studies Coordinator and most recently Staff Services & Compliance Coordinator.

Mr Mark Anderson will retire after 35 years at the College. He commenced as a Visual Arts Teacher in January 1986 going on to become the Visual Arts Studies Coordinator in 1994.

Ms Annie Bryant has taught at the College for 19 years commencing in 2002 as a Visual Arts Teacher.

Mr Tim Long will take a period of Long Service Leave in 2022 before moving back to where his career began many years ago – as a classroom teacher closer to home in the second half of next year. Tim was the first lay leader of the Junior School in 2005 and has served the College well for 17 years.

Mr Michael Auer commenced at the college in 2004 as a TAS Teacher.

Mr Tom Garvey was a student of St Pius X College (Class of 1974) and commenced work at the College in January 2017. He teaches Maths, and is a keen musician.

Brother Carl Sherrin was a student at St Pius X from 1st to 5th Year – leaving in 1953. He joined the Brothers January 1954 and trained first at the Juniorate at Strathfield and Novitiate at Minto. He taught in Queensland then across New South Wales including appointments at Manly, Goulburn, Strathfield, Waverly, Lewisham and in New Guinea. From 2007 to 2010 he taught poor students in Hilongas on the island of Leyte in the Philippines. He formalised the archives at St Pius X College, starting in August 2013, working through until the present day.

Staff Service Awards

Congratulation to the following staff for their long service:

Mr Stuart Spedding - TAS Teacher 20 years full time

Mr Geoffrey Power - Ensemble Director 20 years part time

Mr Philip Stollery - Maths and RE Teacher and Year 9 Coordinator 20 years full time

Ms Jane Higgins - Finance Officer 20 years part time

Well-being bags for Year 12

Thanks to Mrs Joe McCarthy, (College Psychologist and Counsellor) and her three boys, who had lots of fun putting together the Well-being bags for Year 12 students for Click and Collect Day.

Each student was greeted with a goody bag full of well-being items.

The Well-being bags were to provide the young men with additional strength, hope and courage for the upcoming trials and HSC.

We are with you all the way Year 12!
Better Together!



Vale Helen Buckley

Helen Buckley was employed at the College between September 1985 and April 2011. She taught Music, History, General Studies and RE. She was involved in Athletics, Chess and Music.



Invest in their Future

Help support the future of the College and its students by making a donation today. 100% of your donation is directed to the intended cause and donations over \$2 to the Building Fund and the St Pius X College Scholarship Fund are tax deductible.

You can choose to donate to a specific area, 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 Mr Nick Carson on (02) 9411 4733 or click on or scan the QR code.



ST PIUS X COLLEGE
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