

PIUS InProfile



Autumn 2025

**ST PIUS X COLLEGE
CHATSWOOD**

**Official opening and blessing of the new
Waterford Learning Centre**



**EDMUND RICE EDUCATION
AUSTRALIA**

2025 College theme & logo



Year 12 2025 developed this theme to align with the core values as presented in the EREA Learning statement. The foundational concept encompasses the theme from the EREA Touchstone of Inclusive Community.

The Gospel references 'Walk in the light, as He himself is in the light' calls us to recognise that we are all created in the image of God and each carry the spark of God within us. By recognising our shared sacredness and living the Gospels, we are united in fellowship and called to build a community of inclusivity. How we treat each other, is how we treat God.



2025 College Captain, Anthony Parissis



Pius in Profile, the St Pius X College
biannual magazine

Publications Team

Tony Cunneen

Tracy Bradley

Felicity Barrett

Please forward contributions to

FBarrett@stpiusx.nsw.edu.au

St Pius X College Chatswood

35 Anderson Street

Chatswood NSW 2067

Ph: (02) 9411 4733

Email: admin@stpiusx.nsw.edu.au

www.spx.nsw.edu.au

Front Page Photo

Waterford Learning Centre Official Opening
and Blessing.



Acknowledgement of Country

St Pius X College acknowledges the traditional inhabitants of the land on which the College stands, the Cammeraygal people of the Eora nation.

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Principal's Welcome

We are so proud of the Class of 2024. They were fine leaders of the College in the many areas, including academic pursuits, our spiritual life as well as the extensive cocurricular and pastoral programs. The class's many successes have been acknowledged at their Graduation, the High Achiever's Assembly and on other platforms, including this publication.

In April 2025 we celebrated the opening of the Waterford Learning Centre for Junior School classes. The Waterford name continues our acknowledgment of the work of the Blessed Edmund Rice by recognising his birthplace in Ireland. This learning space is designed to foster collaboration, curiosity, and a love for knowledge, reflecting the values of our educational mission. The Centre's blessing by the Most Reverend Anthony Randazzo DD JCL, Bishop of Broken Bay, was a moment of gratitude and dedication. The blessing recognised the importance of learning in shaping the hearts and minds of Junior School students as well as our

connections to the wider Catholic community.

The consecration of the new altar in the College Chapel, also by Bishop Randazzo, was a deeply spiritual occasion, signifying the heart of our faith community. The altar is not just a physical structure but a sacred place where we gather for prayer, reflection, and the celebration of the Eucharist. Its consecration reaffirms our commitment to nurturing the spiritual growth of our students and staff, ensuring that the chapel remains a place of peace, guidance, and connection with God.

Our annual Open Day was again a proud opportunity to showcase the many aspects of College life. Our students were our best ambassadors, displaying their great enthusiasm for their school as they guided visitors, demonstrated science experiments or performed musical numbers. It was a great occasion that represents all that is good about St Pius X College.



Oliver Twist Cast 2025

The current student leaders have been particularly effective in promoting the College Motto for 2025, which is 'Unite to Ignite!' This powerful assertion represents the strength that comes through shared purpose, underpinned by the energy necessary to see plans and ambitions through to their completion.

Our Performing Arts Department continues to shine, as demonstrated by the recent production of the beloved Dickens classic *Oliver Twist*, brought to life in May by over 50 students at the Zenith Centre in Chatswood. Meanwhile, the Music department was both entertained and inspired by legendary Australian jazz icon James Morrison. Our jazz students were privileged to take part in exclusive workshops and a masterclass led by Morrison himself, gaining invaluable insights from one of Australia's most esteemed jazz musicians. The experience was further elevated as students shared the stage with the renowned James

Morrison Quartet during an evening concert.

This magazine highlights these events as well as many impressive performances in the extracurricular life of the College. It is a celebration of our wonderful community.

Welcome to 2025 and the Autumn Pius in Profile.

God Bless you all.

Mr Michael Ronchetti
PRINCIPAL



fide et labore,
THROUGH FAITH AND HARD WORK

Celebrating Our High Achievers

Class of 2024 HSC High Achievers

The HSC Class of 2024 achieved excellent results. The Dux for the year was Cameron Masters who achieved the outstanding ATAR of 99.75. Cameron was nominated as a State All Rounder along with 8 other students – an excellent achievement which reflects the impressive quality of College education across a range of subjects. Five students achieved ATARSs above 99 and 29 students with ATARs above 90.

Overall, there were 124 mentions in the Distinguished Achievers List. The majority of subjects gained results above state averages – many well above. Other achievements of note included: Blake Markulin and Michael Krizan nominated for OnSTAGE; Daniel Formosa, Oscar Kalcher and Andrew May nominated for SHAPE in Industrial Technology and Michael Krizan nominated for Young Writer's Showcase.

Cameron Masters College Dux ATAR 99.85 and HSC All Rounder

Cameron started at the College in Year 5 in 2017 and studied Economics, English Advanced, Modern History, Studies of Religion II, Mathematics Extension 1 and Mathematics Extension 2 for the HSC.

He acknowledged the College provided him with countless opportunities to grow and develop holistically as a person and appreciated the lifelong mates he has made at school. Some of his best memories were the Snowy Hike and Tallows Retreat. His advice for success is to actively participate in the wide range of opportunities provided and put consistent effort and practice into each subject throughout the year.

Cameron is now studying a Bachelor of Actuarial Studies and Economics at UNSW.

He was awarded a College Gold for Academic Studies, represented the College in Music, and also participated in the Duke of Edinburgh Program gaining a Bronze Award. He completed the Snowy Mountains Hike and was a Peer Support Leader. Upon graduation he was awarded Academic Honours First Class and the Macquarie University Prize for Outstanding Academic Achievement.



99.75
2024 Dux



5

ATARs over 99



29

ATARs over 90



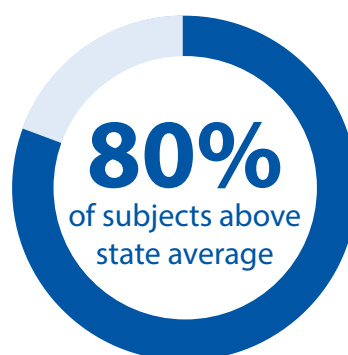
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All Rounders

THE NESA DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVERS LIST

acknowledges the students who achieved a result in the highest band for one or more courses

51
DISTINGUISHED
ACHIEVERS



128th
ranked school
in the state



3

nominations for
SHAPE for Industrial
Technology



2

nominations for
OnSTAGE for Individual
Drama Performance



1

nomination for
Young Writer's
Showcase



3

students selected for
Willoughby City Council
Smart Expressions

* Includes Year 11 Mathematics Accelerants



2024 High Achievers

HSC High Achiever's Recognition and Symposium

The College welcomed back the graduating Class of 2024 for the High Achiever's Assembly and Symposium at The Concourse in February. This was a wonderful occasion where the hard work and dedication of students across a range of academic and cocurricular subjects was on display for all to see. The Year 11 accelerant students who achieved a Band 6 were also recognised. The 2024 College Dux, Cameron Masters spoke eloquently to the current students about the work habits required to achieve their goals of success.

Following on from the assembly, Year 11 and 12 students remained for a learning symposium, where they were able to question the high achievers on what led to their success. This sharing opportunity offered invaluable insights for current senior students with practical strategies such as utilising study periods effectively, beginning the HSC journey and study habits in Year 11 and avoiding the distractions of social media.

The Class of 2024 students then joined College Principal, Mr Ronchetti and staff for morning tea at the College.

2024 Second Semester Awards Presentation

The 2024 school year at St Pius X College concluded on 5 December with a memorable celebration at the Oxford Falls campus. The entire College community, joined by special guests and distinguished alumnus including Leon Warren, came together to honour the season and recognise the remarkable achievements and efforts of the students throughout the year.



Award Winners



Front row: Ashworth Hilton, Dario Leotta, Rory Rapa

Back row: Mr M Ronchetti, Noah Safarian, James Kevric, Robert Oner, Ms Rose, Oliver Rix, Zachary Rapa, Mr Davidson

2025 Scholarship Recipients

The College formally recognised the 2025 Scholarship recipients at an assembly during March. The College Leadership Team and Ms Karrie Rose presented the scholarships.

Congratulations to the scholarship winners, who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to self-management, application to their school work, excellent independent learning, focus on their home studies and maintaining cooperative behaviour in the classroom.

The scholarships awarded went to:

The Bergelin Trade Scholarship

Oliver Rix (Year 12)

The Thomas Van Dijk Scholarship

Robert Oner (Year 12)

The Christian Brothers Academic Scholarship

James Kevric (Year 11)

The Br M M O'Connor Academic Scholarship

Zachary Rapa (Year 10)

The Br B J Carter Academic Scholarship

Noah Safarian (Year 9)

The Br V A Howard Academic Scholarship

Rory Rapa (Year 8)

Br Leary Scholarship

Dario Leotta (Year 6)

Br Quirke Scholarship

Ashworth Hilton (Year 7)



Outstanding Effort

During February, the College hosted a morning tea for the 46 students who received an 'Outstanding' average across all their Student Learning Attributes (Self-Management; Application; Independent Learning; Home Studies; and Cooperative Behaviour) for all their subjects in their 2024 Semester 2 Reports. All students should be exceptionally proud of this achievement as it acknowledges their consistent commitment to learning.

2025 College Leaders



Front row: Christian Wong, Sam Cooper, Charlie Woolf, Anthony Parissis, Lachlan Staber, Nikolai Dimantha, Ben Hillsdon
Second row: Luke Mortimer, Adam Fitzryk, James Furini, Jack Fairbanks, Ryan O'Reilly, James Terzian
Back row: Robert Oner, Jason Kristianto, Ethan Auer, Ethan Rahme, Matthew Dixon, Dominic D'Souza

2025 College Leaders

The Investiture of the Class of 2025 and Student Leadership team was held in October at The Concourse. College Captain, Anthony Parissis delivered an inspiring maiden speech, calling the cohort to 'Unite to Ignite.' Each member of the Class of 2025 was presented on stage and pledged to lead the College with dedication.

The Student Leaders were then joined by their parents on stage, where together they pledged to support both the College and one another throughout the coming year.

The new College leaders outlined their plans for the year. The leaders and their families then celebrated this important event with afternoon tea.

College Captain – Anthony Parissis

College Vice Captains – Lachlan Staber and Charlie Woolf

Barron House Captain – Nikolai Dimantha

Purton House Captain – Sam Cooper

Rice House Captain – Ben Hillsdon

Treacy House Captain – Christian Wong

Wellbeing Prefects – Jack Fairbanks, Ryan O'Reilly, James Terzian

Mission and Identity Prefects – Matthew Dixon, Dominic D'Souza, Ethan Rahme

Cultural Prefects – Ethan Auer, Jason Kristianto, Robert Oner

Learning Prefects – Adam Fitzryk, James Furini, Luke Mortimer

Constitutional Convention

College Captain Anthony Parissis spent three days in Canberra during March at the 30th National Schools Constitutional Convention. There were 119 delegates from across the nation came who together for discussions on the feasibility of Australia's system of federalism, while attempting to find solutions to vertical fiscal inequality.

Anthony met parliamentary representatives, including the Honourable Paul Fletcher MP member for Bradfield, the Honourable Senator Fatima Payman and Foreign Affairs Minister, Penny Wong. He also attended afternoon tea at Government House, meeting with Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC, Governor General of Australia (pictured right).



Teaching and Learning



Staff for 2025

The College was delighted to welcome the following new staff in 2025.

Tayla Bird, Junior School teacher 5 Blue

Daniel Burton, Leader of Learning - Student Engagement, Enrichment & Diversity

Steven Callow, RE teacher

Thomas Cummins, IT team

Jean-Pierre Dumas, HSIE teacher

Marielle Flores, Counsellor

Mark Halsted, Legal/Business Studies and History teacher

James Lane, English teacher

Christopher Nouragas, Leader of Learning Junior School and teacher 6 Green

Rebecca Matthews, French and English teacher

Dominic McGeekie, Year 8 Pastoral Leader, PDHPE and Science teacher

Daniel Mifsud, Leader of Learning - PDHPE

Georgia Mutch, IT team

Flynn O'Byrne, Maintenance team at Oxford Falls

Leisa O'Connor, Teachers Aide, Junior School

Favio Owenbridge, Maths teacher

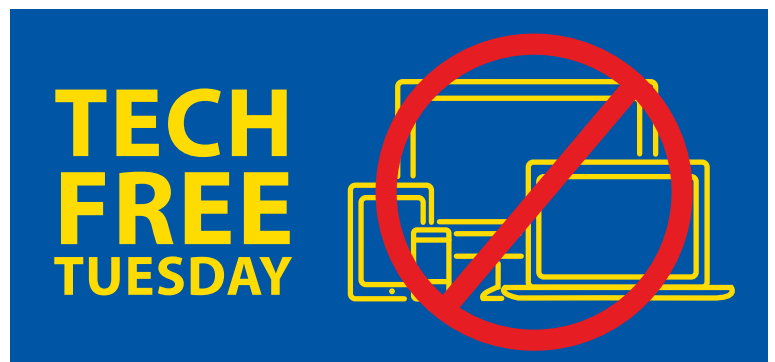
Sophie Parkes, Clinical Psychologist

Keith Thomas, History teacher



Student Engagement, Enrichment & Diversity

Diverse Learning has been renamed to SEED - Student Engagement, Enrichment & Diversity. This faculty supports students across Years 5-12 with a broad range of learning needs, ensuring every student has access to the right tools, strategies, and programs to reach their full potential. SEED encompasses tailored support for students with additional learning needs, high-potential and gifted education, and English as an additional language.



Tech Free Tuesday

Tuesdays in the Senior Library are now a device-free zone for students in Years 7-10. Carving out a tech-free space, even for a few hours, can have profound effects on wellbeing and productivity. Library staff will be on hand to help students use the Library without their PLD.

da Vinci Decathlon

On 8 March, a team of Year 11 students attended the Regional da Vinci Finals at Knox Grammar. The students were dedicated and enthusiastic members of the da Vinci Club, and represented the College with distinction. They achieved 1st place in Legacy (general knowledge), 2nd place in Cartography (geography) and 2nd place in Poetry and Art.

The team consisted of Oliver Butler, Michael Cheah, Enzo Gambino, Aiden Kiem, Aiden Lindsay, Alexander Tharakan, Thomas Wong and Kieran Yu.

Then during May students from Years 5-10 further represented the College at the da Vinci Decathlon, again at Knox Grammar. Students competed in teams of eight across 10 disciplines: engineering, mathematics and chess, code breaking, art and poetry, science, English, ideation, creative producers, cartography and legacy.

A special mention to Year 5 da Vinci, who placed 3rd in the ideation category.

Every member of the St Pius X team were great ambassadors for the program and are to be congratulated on their achievements.



Year 12 Area

With the Junior School moving into the Waterford Learning Centre the classrooms at top of the SPX wing have now been fully renovated and are dedicated to Year 12.

The Year 12 space will enable students to tackle the most important year of their schooling journey.

This area now features modern facilities, including new lockers, upgraded air conditioning for comfort, and the latest technology to enhance the student experience.



Maths Olympiad

Each year the College participates in the Maths Olympiad Competition. This inter-school competition is designed to challenge and extend high potential/high achieving students in Years 5, 6, 7 and 8.

It provides an opportunity for students from around Australia and New Zealand to compete as part of a team, while striving for individual excellence. It is a prestigious and highly regarded competition that builds that further develops the students' knowledge, skills, and achievements in problem solving.

Faith and Identity

New College Altar

On 8 April the Most Reverend Anthony Randazzo, Bishop of Broken Bay, celebrated Mass with us, blessed our new College Altar, and officially opened and blessed the new Waterford Learning Centre.

The College was honoured to share this significant milestone with many special guests, including several Christian Brothers and ex-Principals.

The consecration of the new altar in the College Chapel was a deeply spiritual occasion, signifying the heart of our faith community. The altar is not just a physical structure but a sacred place where we gather for prayer, reflection, and the celebration of the Eucharist. Its consecration reaffirms our commitment to nurturing the spiritual growth of our students and staff, ensuring that the chapel remains a place of peace, guidance, and connection with God.



Blessing of the Waterford Learning Centre





Photo by Guy Wilkinson courtesy of TKD Architects



Waterford Learning Centre

The Waterford Learning Centre, named in honour of Blessed Edmund Rice's birthplace in Ireland, symbolises our commitment to academic excellence, inclusivity, and lifelong learning. This space is designed to foster collaboration, curiosity, and a love for knowledge, reflecting the values of our educational mission. Its blessing is a moment of gratitude and dedication, recognising the importance of learning in shaping the hearts and minds of Junior School students.

Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice (1762–1844) was an Irish Catholic businessman and educator who founded the Christian Brothers and the Presentation Brothers, religious institutes dedicated to providing education to impoverished children.

Born in Callan, Ireland, Rice worked in his uncle's shipping business in Waterford, eventually taking over and becoming wealthy. After the death of his wife in 1789, he experienced profound grief, leading him to seek new meaning through prayer and reflection. Inspired by his infant daughter he

used his personal funds to transform a disused stable into a school for poor boys in Waterford. The school, later known as Mount Sion, provided education, food, clothing, and spiritual formation.

Rice died in 1844 and was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1996. His educational legacy continues globally, with over 170,000 students educated in the Edmund Rice tradition across more than 20 countries. In Australia, 55 Catholic schools in the Edmund Rice tradition educate 41,000 students across 16 dioceses.

Waterford is where Edmund Rice's vision for educating the poor and providing them with opportunities took root. He established schools, a bakery, and a tailor shop to support the poor and those in need. His actions in Waterford set the foundation for the Christian Brothers, a religious congregation he later founded, which continues to provide education and support to children worldwide.



Commencement Mass

On 12 February the College gathered at our Oxford Falls campus to celebrate the Commencement Mass. The Christian Brothers Centre was beautifully transformed into a sacred space, creating a respectful and reverent atmosphere for our Eucharistic celebration. In his homily, Fr Ranson encouraged us to unite in solidarity with the call of the Year of Jubilee, inspiring transformation that brings hope and strength to our community.

At the conclusion of Mass, 32 Eucharistic Ministers were badged as custodians of our faith and traditions for the next two years.



Junior School Bible Liturgy and Year 6 Commitment Pledge

In April the Junior School gathered for a liturgy, asking to be guided by the values of the Gospels, and as such it allowed the College to present to each new student a Bible as a way to animate our Touchstone of Gospel Spirituality.



Founder's Week

Each year, Founder's Week is a time that the St Pius X community celebrates its identity and mission as a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice tradition. Founder's Week celebrates where we have come from in order to know where we are going. The Founder's Day Mass was held at Oxford Falls in May and was celebrated by Fr David Ranson, Vicar General for the Diocese of Broken Bay.

Mother's Day

Over 1,200 mothers, grandmothers, sons and grandsons celebrated Mother's Day at Oxford Falls during May with a Mass followed by the Biggest Morning Tea fundraiser.

Students participated with sincerity and pride, offering prayers, reflections, and songs that spoke deeply to the love and sacrifices made by the women who guide and nurture them every day.

We thank God for those women who hold us and feed us, who care for us and kiss away our pain. We pray that our lives may reflect the love they show us, and that they are pleased to be called our mums.



Faith in Action Through Service

Ungana Kuwasha: Lenten Appeal

After Mr Petrie and Mr Balboa's visit to Africa last year the College has been raising funds this year to directly support the work of the Edmund Rice Centre in Nairobi.

The College Lenten Fundraising initiative provides life-changing support for children with disabilities and their families in Nairobi's informal settlements.

Every donation raised helps provide:

- Essential learning materials and school supplies
- Nutritious meals for students
- Funding for support workers and therapists
- The development of new classroom spaces and facilities



The Lenten appeal is still open and donations can be made by visiting the College website.



ANZAC Day

Upon students' return for Term 2 the College gathered for a solemn and meaningful ANZAC Day Assembly to honour those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country.

St Pius X College students also attended the Chatswood and Willoughby Anzac Day dawn services on Anzac Day itself laying wreaths, whilst other senior students participated in the Anzac Day March in the city. They proudly represented the College on this significant day which commemorates an important part of our nation's history.

Lent

The 40 days of Lent between Ash Wednesday and Easter is a time of reflection, repentance and spiritual growth. The College commenced this sacred time with the ancient tradition of cooking pancakes the day before Lent, known as Shrove Tuesday. Following this, on 5 March staff and students joined Christians around the world to observe Ash Wednesday.

Throughout the Lenten period the College practiced PRAYER, GIVING AND RESTRAINT. This included sacrifices such as abstaining from meat in the Canteen on Fridays and giving to those in need through the Lenten Appeal program Ungana Kuwasha.

The local Catholic community commenced Holy Week with Palm Sunday and a Youth Mass before a moving dramatisation of the Stations of the Cross to all students.



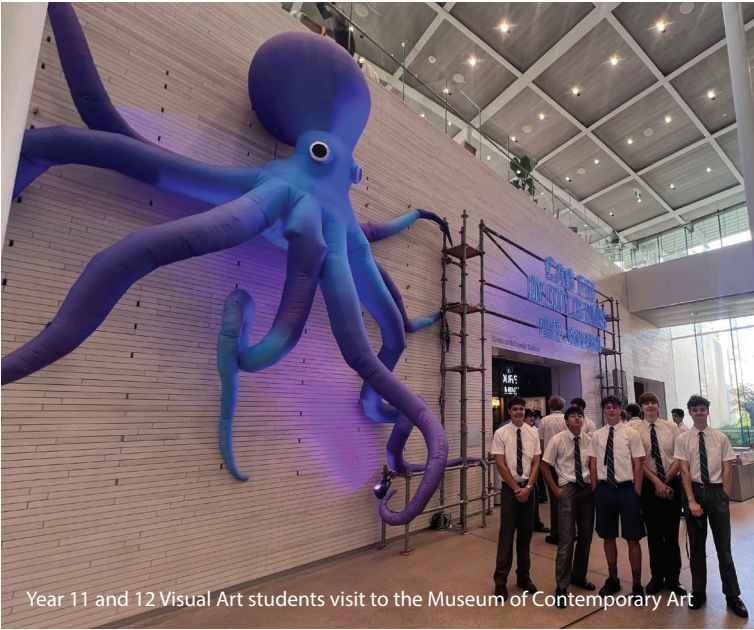
College Snapshots



Waterford Learning Centre Open Classroom Photo by Guy Wilkinson, courtesy of TKD Architects



ANZAC Day Assembly at the College



Year 11 and 12 Visual Art students visit to the Museum of Contemporary Art



Founders Day at Oxford Falls



Student Wellbeing



Harmony Week

During March the College celebrated Australia's rich cultural diversity, centered around the theme: 'Harmony – we all have a role to play!' Staff and students proudly shared their cultural backgrounds through traditional dress and language presentations.



Peer Support

This important Pastoral Care program has been taking place during Term 1 with Year 11 peer support leaders meeting weekly in groups of 8-12 students from Year 5 and 7.

These weekly meetings consist of students working together on set activities that are designed to help the younger students build self-awareness, create friendships and foster a greater school connection.

Ceroc Dance

During Term 3, Year 9 students took part in the Ceroc Dance workshop at Oxford Falls with students from Brigidine College St Ives. After introductions and switching partners a few times everyone got into the swing of it and had a great time.



SchoolTV free online resource for parents

The College has a dedicated SchoolTV webpage that features an extensive range of wellbeing resources for parents. This includes interviews with leading youth wellbeing experts and researchers from around the world offering hours of relevant and practical information. spx.nsw.schooltv.me

International Women's Day

During March a special assembly was held for International Women's Day with guest speaker Dr Toner Stevenson. Students then broke up into year groups to explore the achievements and challenges of women in society on a deeper level, with many writing letters to a female in their lives who they admire.

Student leaders also had the opportunity to visit girls' schools throughout the week to hear first-hand how they celebrate this important day and what we can learn as a community from others.

St Pius X students also took their International Women's Day celebrations beyond the confines of the college, with 4 Year 11 students and Mr Gillogly (Assistant Principal, Pastoral Care) marching through the streets of Chatswood alongside Willoughby Mayor and members from the Willoughby Council. The students then continued their activism by joining the group at the Dougherty Community Centre, where they listened to talks from activists, police officers, and council workers on the importance of gender equality and the ongoing efforts to achieve it.



Year 7 Great Aussie Bush Camp

Year 7 attended Great Aussie Bush Camp in Tea Gardens during March. This 2-night, 3-day experience provided the cohort the opportunity to make new friends, develop leadership and teamwork, overcome fear and adversity as they push outside their comfort zones all whilst having a lot of fun! This further cemented their pastoral year theme of 'belonging to a community'.



Year 9 Camps

The Year 9 'Rites of Passage' Homeroom camps took place last October at the Workul Koo Retreat Centre, Wamberal. The objective was to engage with the pastoral care theme of Respectful Men of Honour and Gospel Spirituality: 'Go and do likewise' (The Good Samaritan).

Students embraced the outdoors with surf sessions, connecting with nature through bushwalks and invigorating ice baths all whilst enjoying a memorable bonding experience with their peers.



Cocurricular – Sports

Swimming Carnivals

The Junior and Senior School swimming carnivals took place at Macquarie University Aquatic Centre during February.

Rice won the Senior carnival and Barron the Junior School carnival.

Junior Age Champions

- 10 Christian Tully
- 11 Emilio Calcarao
- 12 Harrison Ng

Senior Swimming Age Champions

- 12 Fletcher Steele
- 13 Benjamin Crichton
- 14 Jack Dunk
- 15 Luca McCarthy
- 16 Jayden Law
- 17 Archer Ferguson
- Opens Derek Jung



Sydney FC Partnership

The College has teamed up with Sydney FC. This partnership provides our students with amazing opportunities for top-tier training and a chance to learn from the professionals. Sydney FC, our local A-League club, is the most successful team in the history of the A-League Mens competition, winning 4 Premierships and 5 championships.

The partnership will help to develop the College football program and establish a link with Sydney FC. It includes morning football coaching for Senior PDHPE at Oxford Falls and Junior Sport, help support the delivery of Football PASS and offer excursions and game day tickets.

2024 House Cup Winner

Congratulations to Treacy House, winner of the House Cup for 2024 with 2,256 points.



Swimming Success

Congratulations to the SPX swimmers who competed at the ISA Swimming Carnival at SOPAC in March. There were some fantastic performances including the junior team placing 3rd. The intermediate team came 8th and the senior team 6th resulting in the College placing 8th overall and maintaining its Division 1 status.

Sporting Success



Basketball Champions

Six teams made the ISA season finals for Basketball in March. The 6ths basketball team won their grand final game, becoming ISA Premiers. The other teams of 13C, 15D, 15E, 17B, 4th V and 7th V were unlucky to go down in closely fought games, in some very hot conditions.



Cricket

Congratulations to the St Pius X College X Green U14's Cricket Team who played in the Manly Warringah Junior Cricket Association (MWJCA) season finals.

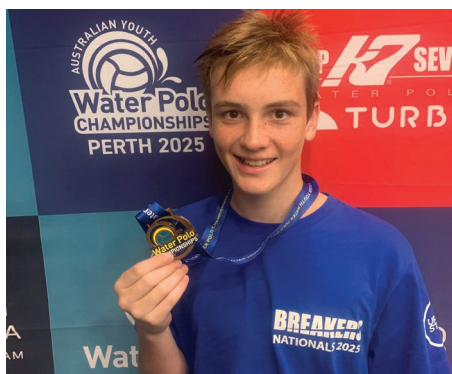
Just 19 runs short of the win the team played an outstanding game and were very proud runners up!

Qld Football Tournament

The 1st XI Football team defeated Amity College 6-0 in the NSW CIS Cup before travelling to the Gold Coast in the first week of the April holidays to play in The Southport School Tournament. After two early losses the team went on to win 4 games, including defeating Sydney rival St Aloysius' College 3-0 in the Plate Final.



Congratulations to our Sporting Heroes



Jack Treder, Year 8, was part of the team which won the Water Polo NSW MU14As Summer Metro Grand-Final. They then attended the 2025 Australian Youth Water Polo Championships in Perth attaining a Bronze medal.



Harrison Ng Year 6, and Andrew He and Harry Kerr from Year 5 represented the College at the IPSHA Carnival last term. Harrison placed 4th in Freestyle and 2nd in Butterfly 13yrs, Harry came 1st in Butterfly 11yrs and Andrew came 1st in Breaststroke 11yrs.



Cristiano Calcarao, Year 8, competed at the Australian All Schools Athletics Championships in Queensland in December. He received two gold medals winning both the U14 800m and 1500m races with a PB in the 1500m.



James Mikan, Year 8, competed at the Australian (Nationals) Junior Track and Field Championships in Perth in April. James won Gold in the Long Jump with a jump of 6.36m and Bronze in the Triple Jump with a jump of 12.51m.



Hunter Austin, Year 8, who competed at the Australian All Schools Athletics Championships in Queensland in December. He competed in the U14 shot put, placing 6th with a season best of 14.91m.



Year 9 students Xavier Davidson and Bradley Newman played rugby in the Pacifica Cup tournament in late November. They represented Fiji and also experienced the Fijian culture.



Oliver Mackinlay, Year 6, was selected in the CIS AFL team last term.



Emilio Calcarao, Year 6, was selected to represent IPSHA at the CIS Cross Country Championships to be held in June at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre.



Kobi Mendel, Year 12, 2025, was selected in the U/17 Waratahs.

Cocurricular – Performing Arts & Drama



Oliver Twist

Congratulations to the cast, musicians and crew (over 50 students) and staff, who brought the beloved Dickens classic *Oliver Twist* to life in May at the Zenith Centre. They entertained audiences over 4 shows to resounding applause and accolades. The production was a triumph of creativity and dedication, with stunning performances transporting the audiences to the gritty streets of Victorian London.

It was wonderful to have talented students from Mercy College and Loreto Normanhurst joining in the production. Their enthusiasm and performances added an extra layer of depth and vibrancy to the production, showcasing the power of collaboration and shared passion for the arts.

Christmas Twilight Concert

Held 22 November against the backdrop of a golden evening sky, this magical event showcased the incredible talents of our College community through heartfelt carols, captivating musical performances, and an abundance of festive spirit. Many thanks go to the dedicated staff and talented students who made this unforgettable celebration possible.



James Morrison

Legendary Australian jazz icon James Morrison worked with jazz ensemble students on 23 May, followed by a masterclass with his quartet after school. The day culminated in a special concert that evening, where James performed with the College jazz ensembles as well as his own quartet and the College concert bands also showcased their talents.



Cocurricular Clubs



New Cocurricular Club - ART LAB

The College introduced a new cocurricular club in 2025.

ARTLAB is for students in Years 8-11 who want to enjoy and extend their art making skills in a welcoming and creative environment.

The group fosters artistic growth, encourages critical thinking, and builds confidence in expressing individual creativity whilst cultivating a sense of community and inspiration.

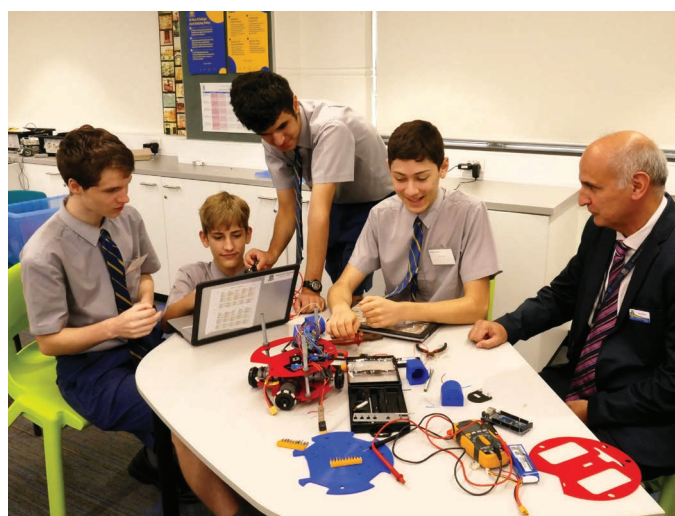
Students have been developing their tonal drawing skills and screen-printing logos.

Jake from Year 9 said 'I enjoy ARTLAB because I get to learn new skills and develop my artistic techniques. I like how Fergus Fung (Old Boy HSC 2024) comes in and teaches how to sketch and many more techniques. I also like working on art projects like big drawing and paintings.



Boxercise

Boxercise runs every Thursday morning before school from 7:30 am and is available to all year groups at no cost. The program, now in its 15th year of operation at the College, is focussed on enhancing fitness levels, strength and a general sense of well-being.



Robotics

The ever-popular Robotics Club sees more than 120 students from across all year groups come together after school to share their passion for mechatronics and coding. Skill development is a key focus of the Club with students learning problem solving, planning, management, costing, teamwork, competitive strategy, and resilience.



Snowy Hike

The Snowy Hike, a College tradition, has been taking place since 1983 and is a great rite of passage for Year 11 students. In total they cover approximately 100km over 5 days.

The 2024 Year 11 Snowy Hike which took place late November was another great success with 62 students, 6 staff and 3 Old boys completing the 5-day hike from Round Mountain to Thredbo via Mt Jagungal and Mt Kosciusko.

The students embraced the challenging conditions and were a credit to all.

This transformative experience will stay with them forever, etched in their memories as a defining moment of personal growth.



Outdoor Ed

During March students undertaking their Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award hiked approximately 40km over 3 days in Glenbrook National Park. Cliff climbs, river navigation, bush camping and extreme weather provided an opportunity for the students to put into practice the skills required for this prestigious Award.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Congratulations to Year 12 students, Fred Shelton and Hamish Turner and Year 11 students James Mooney, Lucas Mackenzie and Michael Cheah who were presented their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Awards. The students have committed their time every week to develop a Skill, participate in Physical Activity, complete voluntary Service in their community and participate in Outdoor expeditions. St Pius X College is proud to offer students from Years 9-12 access to participate in the internationally recognised Duke of Edinburgh Award program.



Junior School

Chess Champion

Congratulations to Mason Tay who was awarded a partial chess scholarship from the prestigious Sydney Academy of Chess! After a competitive selection process, Mason was recognised for his outstanding potential and dedication to the game.

As part of the scholarship, Mason will receive a range of exciting benefits to support his chess development, including regular mentoring sessions with top coaches, free entry to ACF and FIDE-rated tournaments, and access to group coaching both online and in-person.

Additionally, Mason will be invited to attend holiday clinics for intensive training, receive valuable chess books and software, and get tournament mentoring to help him excel in competitions.



Year 6 Canberra Trip

Year 6 experienced an enriching 3-day educational tour of Canberra, with students immersing themselves in Australia's history, culture, and government. Visits to the Australian War Memorial, National Gallery of Australia, National Arboretum, Questacon, Australian Institute of Sport, Parliament House, and the Election Centre provided students with a deeper understanding of the nation's heritage and civic responsibilities. Beyond the educational opportunities, the tour fostered bonding, laughter, and lasting memories among friends, enriching students' knowledge and promoting independence and teamwork.



Year 6, 2024 Graduation

Students, parents and staff were transported to the docks at Waterford to celebrate Year 6 students graduating from the Junior School.

The graduating students walked over the symbolic Waterford bridge and rang the bell acknowledging the move onwards in their St Pius X journey.



Year 5 Camp

Year 5 students had an unforgettable experience at Point Wolstoncroft, filled with adventure, teamwork, and new friendships. Over 3 days, they embraced exciting challenges, including rock climbing, orienteering, archery, and kayaking. Each activity encouraged students to step outside their comfort zones, building resilience and confidence along the way.

The camp was a valuable opportunity for students to develop independence and strengthen friendships. They supported and encouraged one another, demonstrating teamwork and perseverance throughout the experience.

Armidale Rugby Tour

During April, the Prep 1sts rugby squad competed in the largest U12 rugby tournament in Australia. Over 60 teams from across the country participated with sportsmanship, camaraderie, and support of each other.



Book Launch

Willoughby City Council proudly launched the 14th annual Wildlife Storybook late November which features stories, poetry, and artwork created by talented Year 5 students. The storybook, shines a spotlight on the essential biodiversity role played by small bush creatures in the local ecosystem. Congratulations to talented Year 5 authors and illustrators Vincenzo, Cristian, Max and Jacob who were presented with their awards by Mayor Taylor.



Garden Club

The Garden Club has a wonderful new home at the Waterford Learning Centre, giving all Junior School students the opportunity to observe and enjoy the growing process up close.

After a productive term of planting and nurturing their crops, Garden Club members celebrated the fruits of their labour at the end of Term 1. They harvested fresh, homegrown produce including lettuce, parsley, basil, and garlic leaves. These were combined with store-bought vegetables such as cucumber, carrots, and capsicum to create a vibrant, flavourful salad.

Our Inclusive Community

2025 P&F Cocktail Party

A truly memorable evening, bringing together over 350 parents, staff, and friends from across our vibrant College community.

A highlight was live music provided by Mr Stephen Cummins and Mr Max Lenton (Old Boy, 2024), whose performance added a unique and enjoyable touch to the evening.



Open Day

Another amazing Open Day was held during March. The College welcomed over 1,000 guests whilst showcasing the wonderful staff, students, parents and community of St Pius X College. The outstanding young men of the College were enthusiastic tour guides and assisted staff and visitors superbly on the day.

Visitors enjoyed performances from our many music ensembles. The P&F also put on a sausage sizzle and coffee cart, slushies and cake stall. Staff and students welcomed guests and spoke about our strong and inclusive community.





Pope Francis

We join the global Catholic community in mourning the loss of Pope Francis who was born to eternal life on 21 April, 2025. A beacon of light, renewal and unconditional love, Pope Francis leaves a legacy that has captured the hearts of all.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Giovanni and Antonietta Ronchetti

We extend our heartfelt condolences to our College Principal, Mr. Ronchetti, on the passing of his parents in late April. The funeral service was held on 6 May at St Brigid's Church in Marrickville. A small group of students and staff attended to represent the College community and offer their support.

Jason McGrath

Class of 1987, passed away on 10 January, 2025. Our thoughts, prayers and deepest condolences are extended to his family and friends including wife Kate, siblings Johnny and Rachel McGrath-Taudien, sister in law Janie, Dad John McGrath Snr and Mum.

Fr Michael O'Toole

Fr Michael O'Toole, former Parish Priest of Our Lady of Dolours in Chatswood, passed away on 25 November 2024 at the age of 77. A memorial Mass was held on 5 December at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Forestville, presided over by Bishop Anthony Randazzo. The homily was delivered by Fr David Ranson, current Parish Priest of Our Lady of Dolours and Vicar General of the Diocese.

P&F Update

The 2025 P&F Executive Committee Members are:

- President – Eoin Geaney
- Vice President & Class Parent Coordinator – Melinda Zanello
- Secretary – Sonya Sancanin
- Assistant Secretary – Claire Martyn
- Treasurer – Donovan Odendaal
- Social Coordinator(s) – Daphne Bewley, Mikey Koruga, Suzanne Kwan

Thanks goes to the 2024 P&F Executive Committee members, Louise Johnston, Renee Sullivan, Rossana Bennett, and Barnaby Rands, who have retired from the committee this year after many years of outstanding service.

How P&F Levies Are Making a Difference

The P&F levies are used to support and enhance student experience at St Pius X. Key initiatives funded through your levies include:

- Increased funding for year group social events to foster connection and community
- Additional funding for SPX clubs and cocurricular program activities
- Subsidised entry fees for the Cocktail Party and Trivia Night
- Funding the upgrade of water bubblers at the Chatswood Campus

We thank all families for their ongoing support, which enables us to continue making a positive impact across the school.



Old Boys Association (OBA)

Dedicated Volunteers

Each winter Old Boys volunteer at the BBQ at Chaplin Oval during the rugby and soccer home games to raise funds for crucial school initiatives, including scholarships, sports, and more. The Old Boys also provide complimentary sandwiches at the BBQ for match officials, including umpires, coaches, and student helpers.

Scholarship – Investing in Future Leaders

The OBA proudly funds a scholarship that fully covers tuition fees for Year 11 and Year 12 for a deserving student. The scholarship is awarded to an all-rounder who demonstrates strong academic performance, leadership qualities, character, cocurricular involvement, and financial need.

The OBA also contributed \$2,000 to support this year's rugby tours. This support helped our young athletes gain valuable experience, fostering teamwork and sportsmanship.

Old Boys inspire and empower

The OBA is presenting a series of forums whereby old boys present their personal insights and reflections to inspire and empower current Year 12 students as they head off into the world beyond school.

On 21 May Justin Williams from the Class of 1994 spoke to the cohort about his life after school, when he entered the financial markets and forged a career shaped by circumstance rather than passion. A deep-rooted passion for health and wellness eventually led him to pivot careers later in life and he now runs a strength and mentoring facility.

Justin, a father of two teenagers credits perseverance, purpose, and a willingness to chase dreams as the driving forces behind his journey and encouraged the cohort to do the same.

Business Networking Group

In January a group from the Class of 2020 gathered with several senior Old Boys to explore potential career paths in banking and finance. Discussions covered a range of topics, including navigating common challenges, avoiding potential pitfalls, and adopting proactive strategies for career development and progression. The evening fostered meaningful connections and valuable knowledge-sharing, reinforcing the strength of the SPX Old Boys network.



Old Boys Gala

It was a fantastic day at Oxford Falls on Sunday 11 March as the St Pius X College community came together for the annual Old Boys Gala Day.

In Basketball, the Old Boys secured a hard-fought 75-65 victory, pulling ahead in the final quarter. On the Football field, they also claimed a 3-1 win. However, in Touch Football current students came out on top.



Annual Dinner

6 September saw an intimate turnout at the Annual Old Boys Association Dinner. This created a relaxed atmosphere, allowing everyone to connect and engage in meaningful conversations. The Class of 2023 had an especially enjoyable time.

Reunions and Get togethers

Class of 1974 – 50 year reunion held in September.

Class of 1984 – held at the Mosman Hotel in October.

Class of 1968 – held at the Northern Hotel in November.

Class of 1994 – 30 year reunion held in December at the Willoughby Hotel.

Australia Day Honours

Former student from the Class of 1989, Paul Begaud was awarded an OAM on Australia Day, for service to the music industry as a songwriter and producer.

Paul is a fabulous musician and a very talented performer. Images from his time at the College are on display in the foyer showcasing his energy and talent. He has composed and produced some very successful music for many top name artists in Australia and internationally as well as his own hits.



SPX in action: Angela Reeves, Slade Jensen, Chris Egger, Craig Ross, Chris Hunt on keyboards, Simon Fishburn, Paul Begaud, David Lickorish, Lisa Morgan and Sarah MacDonald. Picture: SHANE FRENCH

Old Boys Sporting Success

Tom Hunt (Class of 2020), Matt Hunt (Class of 2024) (pictured) and Dominic Panozzo (Class 2021) competed at the Australian Athletic Championships in Perth earlier this year.

Tom (Opens) and Matt (U20) successfully defended their respective National 400m Hurdles titles with Dominic also placing an impressive 7th in the 400m Opens hurdles.

Nathaniel Panozzo (Class of 2017), captained the St Pius X 1st XV before moving to Italy for 4 years and playing with the Petrarca Club from Padova.

Nathaniel played for the Italy U20s in the 6 Nations competition, and represented Italy in the Italy 'Emerging' rugby team at the senior level. Now back in Sydney, he is studying at Sydney University and has been named the Sydney University 1st Grade Captain 2025.

Oliver Aylmer (Class of 2022), has been selected in the 32-man Australian U20s squad for the upcoming Rugby Championships in South Africa and the World U20s in Italy.





INVEST IN THEIR FUTURE

A classroom is more than a place to learn —
it's where ideas spark, friendships grow, and futures begin.

At St Pius X College, students take their first steps toward becoming the leaders and changemakers of tomorrow. To support their journey, we are continuously transforming our classrooms into modern, vibrant, and inspiring spaces where every student can thrive.

Your gift will help us to continue to invest into bringing these spaces to life.
By supporting our Building Fund, you are investing in the environment where young minds grow and futures are built.

Scan the QR Code or visit **spx.nsw.edu.au** to make your contribution.



ST PIUS X COLLEGE
CHATSWOOD

St Pius X College Chatswood

35 Anderson Street, Chatswood NSW 2067
Ph: (02) 9411 4733 | Email: admin@stpiusx.nsw.edu.au
www.spx.nsw.edu.au

