

# PIUS InProfile

Spring 2025



ST PIUS X COLLEGE  
CHATSWOOD



EDMUND RICE EDUCATION  
AUSTRALIA



Liberating Education



Gospel Spirituality



Inclusive Community



Justice and Solidarity



Pius in Profile, the St Pius X College  
biannual magazine

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#### Front Page Photo

R U OK? Day with St Pius X College Old Boy,  
Michael Hooper (Class of 2009)  
and Koby Mendel (Class of 2025)



#### 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

It has been an inspiring and dynamic year at St Pius X College as we live out our 2025 guiding principle: "Unite to Ignite." This theme has shaped our learning, leadership, and community engagement throughout the year.

Our classrooms have been alive with creativity and innovation. Science Week sparked curiosity and discovery, while the Cocurricular Colour Awards celebrated student commitment beyond the classroom. We welcomed a French exchange student, enriching our cultural connections. The 2025 HSC Major Works Showcase highlighted exceptional talent across disciplines, complemented by initiatives such as Lights Camera Pius, Microfiction, and Write a Book in a Day, which nurtured emerging writers and filmmakers.

Highlights of the year include the showcase of HSC major works through Splinters, Splashes, Sounds, Stage and Stories, featuring exceptional creativity across multiple disciplines. Nine of our talented students received prestigious nominations for their outstanding projects with Anthony Parissis being Selected for inclusion into the Young Writers Showcase.

- SHAPE: Finlay Craig, Lucas Halim and Connor Jory
- ENCORE: Jorge Membrillera

- OnStage: Individual Performance: Jonty Cortis-Jones - The Lieutenant of Inishmore  
Group Performance: John Badger-Rahme, Jonty Cortis-Jones, Jason Kristianto - The Assignment
- Young Writers Showcase: Anthony Parissis and Lachlan Staber

Faith remains central to our mission. We commemorated Reconciliation Week, deepening our understanding of justice and inclusion. Our partnership with Edmund Rice Foundation Australia continues to support transformative projects. Special moments included the Father's Day Liturgy and the privilege of our musicians performing at the Canonisation Mass, a truly historic occasion.

Service has been lived out through immersions and outreach. Students participated in the Philippines Immersion and Red Dirt Immersion, building solidarity with remote and international communities. Our Junior Schools Day with St Gabriel's strengthened bonds of friendship and inclusion. Creativity also shone through our Doco in a Day winners, who captured stories of service in compelling ways.

Supporting student wellbeing remains a priority. Events such as R U OK? Day, the Year 12 Retreat, and Peer Mentoring programs fostered resilience and connection. The Year 8 Ski



R U OK? Day Assembly with St Pius X College Old Boy, Michael Hooper

Trip provided adventure and camaraderie in the snowfields.

Our athletes achieved outstanding results at the ISA Athletics Championships, and our Football teams celebrated championship victories. These successes reflect dedication and teamwork across all sporting codes.

We proudly continue to recognise individual sporting achievements, with many students earning representative honours and setting new performance standards. A highlight of the year was welcoming back Michael Hooper, whose address to the College inspired our students to strive for excellence at every level.

The Performing Arts flourished in 2025. Our Drumline made a vibrant debut at the Chatswood Fair, and ensembles impressed at the Manly Jazz Festival. The Farewell to Year 12 Twilight Concert was a fitting tribute to our senior musicians.

Students explored creativity and leadership through ArtLab, the Duke of Edinburgh Adventurous Journey Bronze Hike, and the exciting UK Football Tour, which broadened horizons and built global connections.

Our Junior School embraced learning and community spirit with events such as Night of the Notables, Day of the Disasters, and the Father's Day Liturgy and Sports Day. Visits to NSW Parliament and celebrations like Science Week, Book

Week, and Grandparent's Day Liturgy enriched the year with memorable experiences.

Community engagement remains a cornerstone of College life. The PAPA Comedy Night and P&F Trivia Night brought families together in laughter and fun, while initiatives like Year 8 Father's Day contributions reflected the spirit of care and connection that defines St Pius X College.

As we reflect on these achievements, we celebrate the dedication of our staff, the enthusiasm of our students, and the support of our families. Together, we continue to build a thriving community in the Edmund Rice tradition.

**Mr Michael Ronchetti**  
PRINCIPAL



*fide et labore,*  
THROUGH FAITH AND HARD WORK

# Good luck and Farewell Class of 2025





# 2026 College Student Leaders

Congratulations to the Student Leadership Team for 2026. Sean O'Donnell will captain the College, supported by Luke Austin and Brayzen Sargent as Vice Captains. The full Student Leadership Team for 2026 is shown below. Congratulations to all these young men.

The Prefects commenced their leadership of the College in Term 4. Their roles include providing leadership and strategic direction, coordinating events, leading the College in liturgy and prayer life, cultural activities, academic and learning activities, and sporting and extra curricular events.

## Student Leaders for 2026



Sean O'Donnell  
COLLEGE CAPTAIN



Luke Austin  
COLLEGE VICE CAPTAIN



Brayzen Sargent  
COLLEGE VICE CAPTAIN

## House Captains



Isaac Birchall-Molloy  
BARRON



Toby Moran  
PURTON



Archer Ferguson  
RICE



James Patchett  
TREACY

## Prefects

### Wellbeing Prefects



Zach Brown



Lucas Gleeson



Joshua Sebastian



Regan Yun

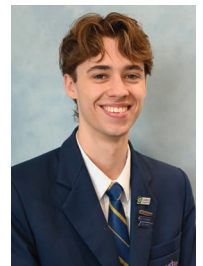
### Mission and Identity Prefects



Jack Manning-O'Donnell



Viaan Singh



Thomas Zammit

### Cultural Prefects



Jonathon Armatas



Joshua Florida



Angus Gibson

### Academic Prefects



Michael Cheah



Enzo Gambino

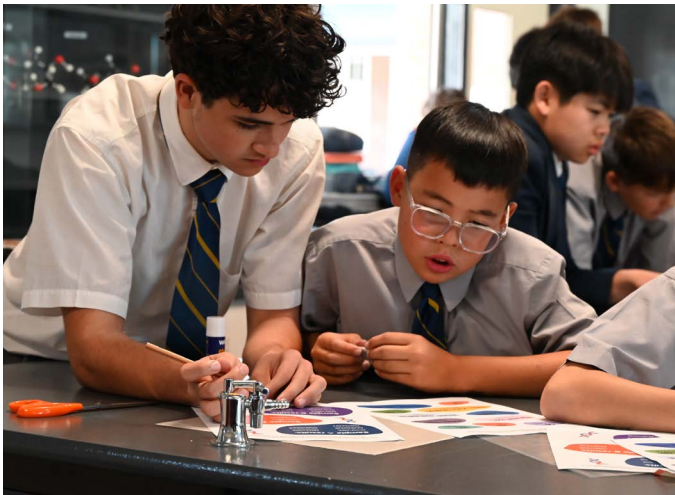


James Kevric

# Teaching and Learning

## Science Week

This year's theme, Decoding the Universe: Exploring the Unknown with Nature's Hidden Language, inspired a wave of curiosity and engagement across the campus. Students participated in a range of hands-on experiments and interactive activities designed to bring scientific concepts to life. Lunchtime events drew large crowds, offering not only educational experiences but also the excitement of lucky door prizes for participants.

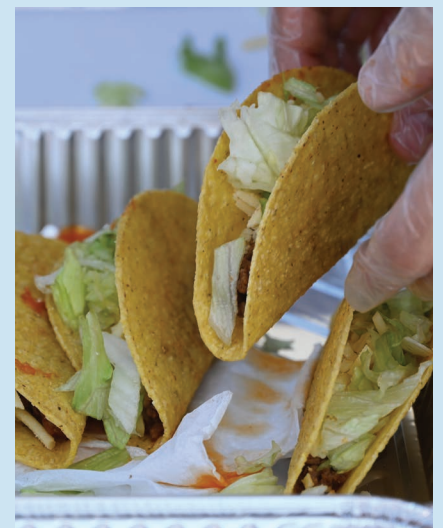


## Write a Book in A Day

We are proud to acknowledge the incredible efforts of our 7 teams from Year 7 to Year 10 who enthusiastically participated in the Write a Book in a Day challenge. This national initiative invites students to collaborate, imagine, and produce a complete book, written and illustrated, all within a single day. It's a demanding task, but one that brings out the very best in creativity, teamwork, and perseverance.

## Year 9 Commerce Market Day

Year 9 Market Day was a Great Success! Our Year 9 Commerce students brought the topic 'Running a Business' to life, running their very own food stalls during recess and lunch as part of their assessment. Weeks of planning, preparation, and teamwork paid off, resulting in a vibrant and successful Market Day enjoyed by all.



# Celebrating Success



## Celebration of Learning

Congratulations to the students across Year 7-10 who were presented with awards at the Celebration of Learning at the Concourse. During the event, the Intermediate Concert Band performed an amazing rendition of their award-winning 'Whispers of the Wind', Year 9 Drama students performed key scenes from their studies in commedia dell'arte, and Years 7-10 Visual Arts and Music works were on display through a short film. Special guest was renowned Old boy, Rodger Shanahan who spoke to the students about maintaining lifelong curiosity and a desire to learn. Well done to all the students on their achievements and results from Semester 1.

### 159 Fide Et Labore Certificates and Growth in Learning Awards

(28 Year 7, 42 Year 8, 48 Year 9, 41 Year 10)

### 2 Waterford Awards

(Year 7 – 10)

### 17 Colour Awards



## Cocurricular Colour Awards

Silver and Gold Colour Awards were presented at the Cocurricular Colour Awards Ceremony at the Concourse on 8 September with Blue Awards being presented during the semester at the College assemblies. The following awards were presented.

	Gold	Silver
Athletics	4	3
Basketball	0	9
Cricket	0	5
Cross Country	2	3
Debating	0	8
Drama	0	2
Football	2	12
Music	2	5
Rugby	7	8
Swimming	1	4
Tennis	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>59</b>



## Languages

In Term 2, we welcomed Paul Royes to the Year 9 cohort. Paul was a visiting exchange student from Versailles, Paris who enjoyed a school stay from 22 June - 7 August. The Year 9 French class were excited to have Paul at the College, and it proved to be a fun experience in the classroom with the students practicing their interacting skills in French. Mrs Matthews has introduced Paul to Vegemite on Sao Biscuits, Tim Tams, Caramello Koalas and Lamingtons. It was a great opportunity for Paul to visit the College and for cultural exchange. Interestingly, Paul was ecstatic to wear a SPX Uniform, as uniforms are not compulsory attire in French schools. We thank Patrick Cornes and his family for organising the experience, which we have so enjoyed.



# 2025 HSC MAJOR WORKS SHOWCASE

Thursday 27 August 2025

## HSC Major Works Showcase

On Thursday 27 August, the College proudly hosted the annual HSC Major Works Showcase - Splinters, Splashes, Sounds, Snaps, Stage and Stories, an evening that brought together the incredible talents of our Year 12 students across a wide range of creative disciplines.

From the intricate craftsmanship of Industrial Technology and the vibrant expressions in Visual Arts, to the evocative compositions in Music, the compelling narratives in English Extension 2 and History Extension, the dynamic performances in Drama, and the striking photographic and multimedia works, the showcase was a true celebration of imagination, skill, and dedication.

Each piece reflected months of hard work, personal growth, and artistic exploration. The quality and diversity of the works on display were nothing short of outstanding, leaving those who attended inspired and deeply impressed by the calibre of our students' achievements.



## Microfiction

In June, 40 students from the Junior and Senior School competed in the Microfiction Grand Final. With only an hour time limit, they competed to craft the best story of 100 words or less, using the unique words 'horizon' and 'linger'.

Congratulations to the following students who were awarded prizes – especially to Anthony Parissis of Year 12, who won the competition for the second time in four years!

**1st Overall – Anthony Parissis, Year 12**

**2nd Place – John Medalla, Year 11**

**3rd Place – Joshua Booth, Year 11**

**First Round Winner – Patrick Elliott, Year 12**

**Primary School Winner – Dario Leotta, Year 6**

**English Faculty Prize – Zachary Rapa, Year 10**

**Principal's Award – James Sykes, Year 8**

**Academic Prefects Prize – Rohan Chang, Year 11**

A big thank you to the P&F, whose ongoing support for prize money, makes the competition viable, and the Academic Prefects, Adam Fitzryk, Luke Mortimer, and Jimmy Furini, who organised and judged the competition alongside Mr Quilty.



## Lights, Camera, Pius! - Film Festival

The 10th annual Lights, Camera, Pius! Film Festival was a celebration of drama, action, comedy, and horror. Held once again at Hoyts Chatswood, audiences were treated to a diverse lineup of films that kept them engaged until the very last minute. Congratulations to all the talented young filmmakers and the dedicated Film Festival Committee.

# Faith and Identity



## Reconciliation Week

During National Reconciliation Week, St Pius X embarked on a journey of unity and reflection, honoring the songlines that connect us all.

We were privileged to welcome our brothers from Christian Brothers High School Lewisham, who shared their rich culture through powerful dance performances.

Our hearts were further touched by the wisdom and artistry of Uncle Gumaroy and Uncle Robert, who guided us through stories, song, and poetry.

A historic moment unfolded as we received our first Welcome to Country in 18 years, graciously led by Cammeraygal Elder Aunty Jeanie Moran.

Together, their insights and generosity enveloped our community in a spirit of hope and healing.

Let us continue to bridge the gap from now to next, from hurt to healing, and from ignorance to understanding, striving for a brighter future as one mob.



## Edmund Rice Foundation Australia

'Baba Yetu' - Following the Lord's Prayer in Swahili to honour our brothers from across the sea, the College welcomed Samuel Karanja and Jason Bongers from the Edmund Rice Foundation Australia offices in Kenya and Australia.

After Karanja's moving testimony at Assembly, students beamed with pride as they presented the growing total of donations raised so far in support of ERFA's transformational projects in Kenya.

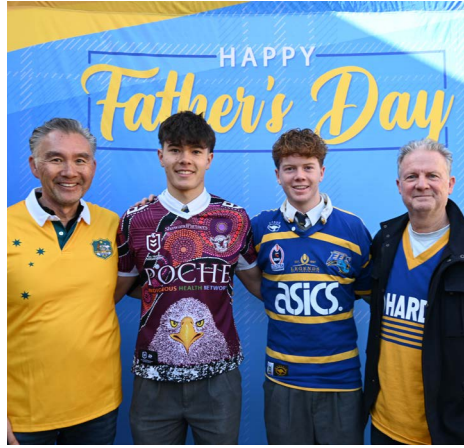
Karanja and Jason then visited Year 6, who were captivated and full of questions about their work and the daily challenges faced by their brothers and sisters in Kenya.

## Father's Day

On Friday 5 September, we celebrated Father's Day and Jersey Day, two events that highlighted the strength of our community and the value of connection.

Thank you to all the fathers, grandfathers, and significant male figures who joined us. A highlight of the day was seeing students share heartfelt moments with their loved ones, reminding us of the deep bonds that shape their lives.

We're grateful to the P&F and staff who served breakfast to over 660 guests, creating a welcoming and memorable morning.



## Canonisation of St Carlo Acutis and St Piergiorgio Frassati

'Bringing Jesus to others, no matter the cost. That is what holiness looks like in action' - Bishop Anthony Randazzo shared these inspiring words in reference to St Carlo and St Piergiorgio during the Canonisation Mass that took place at Our Lady of Dolours Chatswood.

A relic of St Piergiorgio was installed during the Mass which now completes the shrine dedicated to both these amazing saints.

As the Canonisation Youth Orchestra from St Pius X and Mercy College played beautifully alongside the parish choir, the congregation had swelled way beyond the physical limits of the church into the street.

With hearts full of joy and love, the Bishop announced to much celebration that he would formally commence Our Lady of Dolours being recognised as a Minor Basilica!

Ad maiorem Dei gloriam!



# Faith in Action Through Service

## Philippines Immersion

The 2025 St Pius X College Philippines Immersion was more than a journey, it was a pilgrimage of faith, encounter, and service. Guided by the Waterford Formation Framework, a synergy of Head, Heart and Hands in living out the Edmund Rice Charism, students from St Pius X College were invited to see the world through the eyes of others and to find Christ in every moment.

In Manila, they were warmly welcomed by the Lasallian Brothers at La Salle Green Hills, where prayer and shared learning revealed the deep kinship between the Lasallian and Edmund Rice charisms that inspire both communities. In Caloocan, the group worked alongside the Gawad Kalinga community, helping build homes and witnessing joy that blossomed from hope rather than comfort.

At St Francis Learning Center in Subic, a school dedicated to educating Indigenous Aeta children, students were

moved by the spirit of song, dance and community that radiated faith and resilience. Their final days in Bulacan, serving at St Martin de Porres Orphanage, Bethlehem House of Bread, and the Emmaus House of Apostolate, were filled with tenderness, laughter and prayer.

Each night, through reflection, students made sense of what they had seen and felt, to Cherish the relationships formed, to embrace Challenge, to be open to Change, and to keep Christ at the centre of all they do.

As Luke Austin, College Vice-Captain, reflected: 'There was song, dance, a spirit of togetherness that brings everyone closer to God, a strength of faith despite the toughest of circumstances.'

They returned home changed, not just having witnessed faith, but having lived it.





## Red Dirt Immersion

On 28 June, 49 students, 38 from St Pius X College and 11 from Christian Brothers' High School Lewisham, set off on the Red Dirt Immersion, accompanied by 7 staff. The 6-day, 1,200km journey through Central and Western NSW began in Coonabarabran and included visits to local schools and Aboriginal Land Councils, with a focus on cultural exchange and community engagement.

Students connected with communities in Coonabarabran, Baradine, and for the first time, Dubbo, where they took part

in a smoking ceremony and cultural workshops. Days were filled with learning, service, and storytelling; evenings offered time for reflection around the campfire. A standout moment was the hike to The Breadknife in the Warrumbungles.

The immersion invited students to reflect on Australia's rich and complex history, deepen their understanding of Indigenous culture, and grow through meaningful connection with land, people, and stories.

## Junior School's Day with St Gabriel's

On 7 August, at the Oxford Falls Campus, the Junior School welcomed some very special visitors from St Gabriel's School, who joined us for a day of sport, friendship, and fun. It was also a thrill to see Mrs Iwatani, now teaching at St Gabriel's, back with us for the day! A big thank you to our amazing teachers, coaches and to Mr Bourke for his superb organisation. Days like this remind us what community is all about.



## Doco in a Day Winners

At St Pius X College, educating young people to make a positive difference is more than a mission, it's a lived reality. This was powerfully demonstrated when students took part in Doco in a Day, a national challenge where school teams plan, film, and edit a short documentary in just one day, focusing on global justice issues.

Two College teams produced moving documentaries that explored the barriers many young people face in accessing basic education. Their work not only raised awareness but also supported the Edmund Rice Foundation, which funds education projects in East and Southern Africa, Timor-Leste, the Philippines, and Australia.

We are proud to announce that Team BEP won First Place Nationally for fundraising, earning a \$1,000 JB HiFi voucher for their outstanding efforts.



# Student Wellbeing

## RU OK? Day

On Wednesday 11 September, St Pius X College came together to mark R U OK? Day, reminding us all of the power of asking a simple but life-changing question: 'Are you OK?'

This year's theme, 'I'm here to hear,' was brought to life through a range of activities across the College. The highlight was a whole-school assembly featuring Old Boy and former Wallabies captain Michael Hooper (Class of

2009), who shared his insights on resilience, mental health, and the importance of support networks. Michael also joined Year 11 and 12 students for a Q&A session, offering wisdom on leadership and wellbeing.

Students also engaged in sessions on wellbeing and decision-making, created a gratitude board, enjoyed yellow ice blocks as a symbol of kindness, and celebrated the Peer Mentoring Program with a bowling excursion.



## Year 12 Retreat

The Year 12 Retreats offer a meaningful opportunity for our senior students to pause, reflect, and prepare for life beyond St Pius X College. Each of the three retreat experiences, while unique in format, provides a shared space for students to contemplate their personal growth and formation throughout their time at the College. These retreats invite students to deepen their connection with themselves, with others, and with their faith. We hope that every student embraces this experience with openness and gratitude, recognising it as a valuable moment of reflection and renewal on their journey.



## Peer Mentoring

Peer Mentoring is a key wellbeing program involving around 70 students, with Year 11 volunteers mentoring Year 5/6 students. Running in Term 3, it offers emotional support and friendship through activities like rock climbing, ten-pin bowling, bushwalking, and fun lunchtime games. Junior students also receive one-on-one guidance to help build self-esteem, confidence, and resilience, fostering positive connections as they prepare for high school. The program promotes fun, friendship, and an inclusive community.



## Year 8 Ski Trip

With perfect conditions and eager learners, the Year 8 three-day ski trip was a huge success. It was a fantastic opportunity to build character, develop resilience, and foster new friendships.

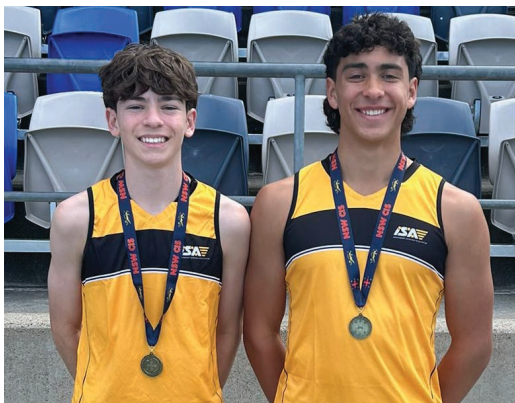
# Cocurricular – Sports

## Athletics Carnivals

Both the Senior and Junior School Athletics Carnivals were held at Homebush in June, with Treacy House claiming victory in both events. However, it was the perfect weather and enthusiastic participation from students that truly defined the success of the day.



**Alex Kim**, Year 9, won gold in the under 78kg sparring division at the Australian Open Taekwondo Championships on the Gold Coast, showcasing skill, dedication, and sportsmanship.



On Tuesday 23 September, our Pius athletes proudly represented ISA at the CIS Athletics Championships, achieving outstanding results across both track and field.

A special congratulations to **Cristiano Calcarao and James Mikan**. Cristiano broke a CIS record in the 800m (2:01.43) and also claiming gold in the 1,500m (4:23.7). While James took out 1st in Long Jump (6.10m), 1st in Triple Jump (12.53m), 3rd in 100m (11.91), and was a member of the winning relay team.



A huge congratulations to our 15A side who were crowned ISA Premiers with a dominant win in the grand final.

Over the Anzac long weekend, **Bradley Newman**, Year 10, represented at the Regional Touch Football Tournament held in Mudgee. Brad and his team had a fantastic tournament, making it all the way to the semi-finals. We wish him the best of luck as he now sets his sights on making the Nationals team in October.



## Rugby Champions

A massive congratulations to our 16B and 15A teams who finished the season as ISA Premiers. Two strong wins in the grand finals capped off an excellent season for both sides - well deserved.



## ISA Athletics Championships – Outstanding Results!

On Tuesday 16 September, our Athletics squad delivered an exceptional performance at the ISA Athletics Championships. Competing with determination, skill, and school spirit, our athletes achieved remarkable success – finishing 1st in both the Junior and Senior divisions, 2nd in the Intermediate division, and 2nd overall.

Many students recorded personal bests on the day, and we are proud to celebrate several ISA record-breaking performances:

**Nikolai Dimantha** – Boys 18–19 110m Hurdles (17.32 sec)

**James Mikan** – Boys 14 Long Jump (5.97m) and Boys 12–14 Triple Jump (12.19m)

**Cristiano Calcarao** – Boys 12–14 1,500m (4:23.80)

### OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL RESULTS – TOP 3 PLACINGS

**Cristiano Calcarao** – 1st 12–14 3,000m, 2nd 14 years 800m, 1st 12–14 1,500m

**Oliver Ward** – 2nd 12–13 90m Hurdles

**Liam Zoncape** – 2nd 14–15 100m Hurdles, 2nd 15 years Long Jump

**Lukas Vivot** – 2nd 16–17 110m Hurdles, equal 2nd 16 years High Jump

**Nikolai Dimantha** – 1st 18–19 110m Hurdles, 2nd 400m, 3rd 200m, 3rd 100m

**Hunter Austin** – 1st Shot Put, 2nd Javelin, 2nd Discus (14 years)

**Luke Austin** – 1st 17 years Shot Put, 2nd Discus

**Charlie Woolf** – 3rd 18–19 years Shot Put

**Christian Wong** – 3rd 18–19 years Triple Jump, 3rd Long Jump

**Maximilian Allende** – 1st 12 years 400m, 2nd 200m, 3rd 100m

**James Mikan** – 1st 14 years 100m, 1st Long Jump, 1st 12–14 Triple Jump, 2nd 200m

**James Patchett** – 1st 17 years 400m, 2nd 200m, 2nd 100m

**Rafael Gomez de Membrillera Perez** – 3rd 16 years 800m

**Tyler Jago** – 2nd 17 years 800m

**Lukas Gazey** – 3rd 13 years Long Jump

**Leon Fazzari** – 2nd 16 years 100m

**Aidan McNeilly** – 3rd 18–19 years High Jump

**Zachary Rapa** – 1st 16 years Javelin

**Ethan Leong** – 3rd Shot Put

### RELAY RESULTS

1st Junior Relay – **Parker Ball, Finn Sutherland, Patrick Butler, James Mikan**

2nd Intermediate Relay – **Leon Fazzari, Bradley Newman, Blaise O'Brien, Xavier Davidson**

2nd Senior Relay – **James Patchett, Christian Wong, Hugo Hart, Nikolai Dimantha**

A huge congratulations to all our athletes for their dedication, hard work, and teamwork. Special thanks to our coaches – Chris Zilifian, Ethan Li, Matteo Dall'Amico, Jess Johnston, Ryan Dowling, Ron Bendall, Maddison Duncombe, and Mikayla Duncombe – whose guidance and commitment were instrumental to the team's success. Finally, we extend our gratitude to Mrs Sally Richardson, Mr Scott Steinman, and Mr Matt Stearn for their support and contributions to ensuring the day ran smoothly.

# Cocurricular – Performing Arts



## Drumline at the Chatswood Fair

Our Drumline brought energy and rhythm to the heart of the community at the Chatswood Fair. With precision, passion, and infectious enthusiasm, they captivated audiences and added a dynamic pulse to the festivities. Their performance was a testament to teamwork, discipline, and the joy of sharing music in public spaces. Thanks to Mr Talati for his dedication in supporting our students in their endeavour to be the best drumline in Sydney.

Congratulations to our drumline members, Brandon Ang, Aiden Fok, Brenden Fok, Nate Linders, Joshua Perry, Samson Symeonidis, Kody Tabalon, Harry Thomas and James Ulevik.



## Manly Jazz Festival

Our Senior Jazz Band performed brilliantly at the Manly Jazz Festival on Saturday 20 September, delighting the crowd, and gaining plenty of new fans of all ages, with strong support from family and friends. Congratulations to Patrick Elliott (tenor saxophone), Robert Oner (trombone), Oliver Sudbury (guitar) and Noah Watson (trumpet) on their fabulous solos and special thanks to their ensemble director, Mr Geoff Power, for his incredible leadership of this talented bunch, and his wonderful, toe-tapping repertoire choices.

## Farewell to Year 12 Twilight Concert

The Twilight Concert held in honour of our graduating Year 12 students was nothing short of magical. The evening was filled with moving performances that reflected not only musical skill but deep emotion and camaraderie. It was a fitting tribute to the journey of our senior students, and a beautiful reminder of the role the arts play in expressing gratitude, celebration, and hope.

Congratulations to these Year 12 Performing Arts students:

John Badger-Rahme, Rory Cooper, Jonty Cortis-Jones, Finlay Craig, Patrick Elliott, Jorge Membrillera, Derek Jung, Eugene Kim, Jason Kristianto, Maxwell Lei, Robert Oner, Aiden Perez.





## NSW State Band Championships

Well done to our Intermediate Concert Band members and their ensemble director, Ms Laura Power, for their magnificent performances at the NSW State Band Championships on 24 August. Not only did the band perform with great skill and musicality, but they also represented our school with pride and professionalism.

## SPX Performing Arts 2025 – Term 2 & 3 Performances:

- **Oliver Twist production** – Zenith Theatre Week 2
- **James Morrison Workshop Day, Masterclass and Concert** – Friday 23 May
- **Chamber Music Concert ('Pius Unplugged')** – Friday 30 May
- **Intermediate Jazz Band, Sydney Eisteddfod** – Monday 2 June
- **HIGHLY COMMENDED - Senior Jazz Band, Sydney Eisteddfod** – Tuesday 3 June
- **Junior Concert Band** – Tuesday 10 June
- **3RD PLACE - Junior Jazz Band, Sydney Eisteddfod** – Tuesday 10 June
- **3RD PLACE - Intermediate Concert Band, Sydney Eisteddfod** – Wednesday 11 June
- **Rotary Music Scholarship Concert** – Thursday 12 June
- **'Sounds of Tomorrow: Elective Music Showcase'** – Monday 16 June
- **Intermediate Concert Band workshop** – Sunday 22 June
- **Intermediate Concert Band, NSW State Band Championships** – Sunday 24 August
- **Junior Jazz Band, Sydney Eisteddfod** – Tuesday 10 June
- **Intermediate Concert Band, Sydney Eisteddfod** – Wednesday 11 June
- **Intermediate Concert Band workshop** – Sunday 22 June
- **Drumline Competition** – Sunday 3 August
- **Elective Music Showcase** – Friday 8 August
- **Junior and Senior Chorale, Assumption Mass** – Friday 15 August
- **Intermediate Concert Band, NSW State Band Championships** – Sunday 24 August
- **HSC Major Works Showcase: Splinters, Splashes, Stage, Snaps, Stories and Sounds** – Wednesday 27 August
- **Junior and Senior Chorales, Fathers' Day Mass and Breakfast** – Friday 5 September
- **Farewell to Seniors Twilight Concert** – Friday 5 September
- **Drumline, Chatswood Street Fair Parade** – Saturday 6 September
- **Senior Jazz Band, Cocurricular Colour Awards Ceremony** – Monday 8 September
- **Intermediate Jazz Band, Forestville RSL Concert** – Wednesday 17 September
- **Senior Jazz Band, Manly Jazz Festival** – Saturday 20 September
- **Junior and Senior Chorales, Year 12 Graduation Mass** – Tuesday 23 September
- **Intermediate Jazz Band, Year 12 Graduation Ceremony** – Wednesday 24 September

# Cocurricular

## ArtLab

Congratulations to Ms Donna Janes on the successful conclusion of our inaugural cocurricular ArtLab program.

On 24 September, students proudly exhibited their artworks, with many appreciative parents and family members attending for a viewing, afternoon tea, and certificate presentation. A special thank you to Fergus Fung (Class of 2024), who has worked with the group over the past two terms, generously sharing his skills and creative advice. Fergus has become a much-valued and popular mentor among the students.



## Duke of Edinburgh Adventurous Journey - Bronze Hike

On Saturday and Sunday 30 and 31 August, 44 students and staff hiked the 23km from Mt Kuring-Gai to Cowan via Berowra and Brooklyn. The students camped at Brooklyn Dam and practiced their bushcraft and navigation skills as part of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. Congratulations to our Year 9 and 10 students who completed this hike.

A special thank you to Mr Naidoo and Mr Munday as well as Old Boy Jack Schyvens for their time and assistance with this hike. A big thank you also goes to our Year 11 helpers: Michael Cheah, Dan Carroll, Evan Littler and James Mooney.



## UK Football Tour

During the Term 3 holidays, 22 students and three staff members embarked on the inaugural UK Football Tour - an unforgettable experience that combined elite football training, cultural exploration, and personal growth.

Students had the privilege of training at world-class facilities, including Tottenham Hotspur, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Wigan Athletic, and the home of England's national teams, St George's Park.

The group also attended several high-profile matches, witnessing Spurs vs Wolves, Manchester United vs Sunderland, Charlton vs Blackburn, and Chelsea Women vs Manchester United - featuring Australian stars Sam Kerr and Ellie Carpenter. A particular highlight was the League One fixture between Salford City FC, a club famously associated with David Beckham, and their local rivals.

Our touring team played three competitive fixtures against Brentwood, John Taylor, and fellow Edmund Rice school St Ambrose, each providing a valuable and enjoyable challenge for our students.

Beyond the pitch, the tour offered a rich cultural program. Students explored iconic football landmarks such as Old Trafford, Anfield, Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, Stamford Bridge, and the National Football Museum. They also enjoyed sightseeing in London - visiting Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, the London Eye, and London Bridge - and took part in a walking tour and attended church during their stay in Manchester, undeterred by the classic English weather.

The UK Football Tour was an outstanding success, providing students with an appreciation of football culture, valuable life lessons, and lifelong friendships.

A sincere thank you to staff members Mr Lacey, Mr Yue, and Mr Ronchetti for their dedication, planning, and commitment in making this memorable experience possible.

# Junior School

## Night of the Notables

On 16 September, families and friends enjoyed a night of history, creativity and community as our Year 5 students presented their Night of the Notables in the Waterford Learning Centre.



## Day of the Disasters

From tsunamis and landslides to earthquakes, bushfires, floods, and volcanoes, on 17 September, our Year 6 students brought the power of nature to life in their Day of the Disasters presentations. The models were extraordinary, and the depth of knowledge and confidence on display left the hundreds of parents and special visitors deeply impressed. A huge congratulations to Year 6 - you reminded us all of the wonder, force, and beauty of our world, and showcased your learning in truly remarkable ways.

## Father's Day Liturgy and Sports Day

The Junior School kicked off this year's Father's Day celebrations in style. Fathers, grandfathers, and father figures joined students and staff at the Oxford Falls Campus for a heartfelt liturgy, honouring those who offer fatherly love and support. The celebrations continued with an afternoon of sport and friendly competition, a fantastic way to start the Father's Day weekend.



## NSW Parliament Visit

On 12 September, College Captain Anthony Parissis and our Year 6 Class Captains were special guests at the NSW Parliament, invited by MP Tim James to celebrate student leadership. The occasion provided a wonderful opportunity for our young leaders to connect with peers from schools across the Willoughby electorate and to gain insight into leadership in action. Students also enjoyed a guided tour of both the Upper and Lower Houses, as well as the historic Diamond Room - the Parliament's library, rich with information about its history and traditions.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS!

Science Week sparked imaginations with a dramatic meteorite 'landing' at the WLC. The event generated excitement across the Junior School and even gained **international media attention**.

Early on Monday 25 August, staff discovered a meteorite had crash-landed at the back of the school, an unexpected sight that quickly became the talk of the college. Willoughby Fire Station crew ensured the area was safe and answered students' many questions.

Some may suspect the timing was a little too perfect, right at the start of Science Week. But for students, the excitement was very real (at least for a little while). The event inspired imaginative writing, scientific inquiry, and maths lessons exploring size, weight, and trajectory.

A stellar start to Science Week, and a reminder that great learning often begins with a little mystery.



## Book Week

The Junior School, held on 20 August, celebrated Book Week with the annual Book Week Parade. There were some incredibly clever and creative costumes on display, what a wonderful way to celebrate the joy of reading.



## Grandparent's Day Liturgy

On 14 August, at the Oxford Falls Campus, the Junior School honoured Grandparents and Wisdom Figures, gathering together for a heartfelt liturgy and a delightful morning tea.

## Junior Sporting Highlights

- **Nate Fafita** Year 5, CIS Rugby selection, competed at NSWPSA.
- **Christian Castorina** Year 6, IPSHA Football selection, competed at CIS.
- **Joshua Hallett** Year 6, CIS Football selection, competed at NSWPSA.
- **Jack Cross** Year 5, IPSHA, 200m, 100m and long jump winner. CIS 100m and long jump winner and 3rd in 200m. NSWPSA long jump winner. Jack is off to Nationals.
- **Tommy Kay** Year 5, discus and shot put winner IPSHA and CIS. NSWPSA 3rd shot put. Tommy is off to Nationals.
- **Xander Connor** Year 5, CIS 10th place in the U11s high jump.
- **Oliver Mackinlay** Year 6, was selected in the CIS AFL.
- **Emilio Calcarao** Year 6, was selected to represent IPSHA in the U11's age group at the CIS Cross Country Championships on the 12 June.
- **Harrison Ng** Year 6, **Andrew He** Year 5, and **Harry Kerr** Year 5 were part of the team that represented SPX at the IPSHA Carnival last term. Harrison finished 4th in Freestyle and Second in Butterfly 13-13yrs, Andrew finished 1st in Breaststroke 11yrs and Harry finished 1st in Butterfly 11yrs.

# Our Inclusive Community

## PAPA Comedy Night

On Saturday night, 20 September, the Sarto Centre was transformed into a lively comedy club for PAPA's second annual Comedy Night. A record number of guests enjoyed an evening of laughter at this popular fundraising event.

St Pius X parent and PAPA Committee member Simon Kennedy hosted the night, joined by professional comedians Peter Berner, Jackie Loeb, and Michael Cho.

Thanks to the incredible support of our community, over \$2,400 was raised to help upgrade the school's sound and stage equipment.



## P&F Trivia Night

On Saturday 30 August, the annual P&F Trivia Night brought our community together for an unforgettable evening of fun, laughter, and friendly competition. The night was filled with surprising answers, clever questions, and plenty of light-hearted moments. It was truly heartwarming to see so many families and friends connect and enjoy each other's company.



## Year 8 Father's Day Contributions

In a heartfelt initiative this Father's Day, Year 8 student, Conor Barry, and his mother, Michelle, delivered gift bags to dads who have babies in the NICU at Royal North Shore Hospital (RNSH), creating unforgettable moments of kindness and connection. Each bag was filled with handmade cards, treats and creative gifts - including 3D printed keyrings, bookmarks, mugs, books and more.

All of these gifts were raised through Year 8 student contributions, along with local business support. The involvement from local business came about due to students and parents reaching out for support for this worthy cause.

One dad was so moved he offered to support future community projects at RNSH, while another was brought to tears by the gesture. The experience gave students a powerful glimpse into the realities faced by these families, including one dad juggling work and hospital visits to and from the Central Coast.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed. Your generosity made a real difference - and showed how far compassion can go.

## 2025 Rugby Golf Day

The 2025 Rugby Golf Day was a fantastic occasion for our College community to come together in support of Rugby. Players enjoyed a competitive round of golf before gathering for dinner, sharing stories and plenty of laughs. In true Rugby spirit, the weather even threw in a brief hail shower towards the end, just to keep us on our toes! Despite that, the day was a great success, raising important funds to strengthen our Rugby program and provide opportunities for our players.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and also the SPX Rugby Club for making this event possible. We look forward to doing it all again next year.



## 2025 Rugby Gala Dinner

The 2025 Rugby Gala Dinner was a true celebration of our SPX Rugby community, bringing together families, alumni, and supporters for an evening of connection and celebration. Guests enjoyed a superb dinner, engaging conversations, and plenty of laughter as we reflected on the successes of Rugby at St Pius X College.

A highlight of the night was our MC, Chloe Dalton OAM one of Australia's most inspiring triple-sport athletes. Chloe's energy and insights set the tone for the evening, as she shared her journey from Olympic gold in Rugby 7s to professional basketball and AFLW. Chloe was joined by keynote speaker Owen Finegan, Wallabies legend and 1999 Rugby World Cup Champion, who captivated the room with stories from his playing days and his current role as CEO of The Kids' Cancer Project. Their conversation reminded us of the values Rugby instills and the impact it can have beyond the field.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, the Gala Dinner raised significant funds to support player development and resources for the College Rugby program. A huge thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to making this event such a success.

# Old Boys' Association News

## Order of Australia Honours - Tom Rogers (Class of 1979)

It is with great pride that we congratulate SPX Old Boy Tom Rogers (Class of 1979) on being appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for distinguished service to public administration, recognised in this year's King's Honours List.

Tom currently serves as a Distinguished Advisor at the ANU National Security College. He is best known for his decade-long tenure (2014–2024) as Australian Electoral Commissioner, the longest in the AEC's history. Under his leadership, the Commission successfully delivered the 2016, 2019, and 2022 federal elections, multiple by-elections, nationwide boundary redistributions, and Australia's first referendum in nearly 25 years, cementing the AEC's reputation as one of the nation's most trusted public agencies.

His career includes senior roles at the Australian Institute of Police Management, the Australian Defence Force, and Raytheon Australia, where he led the major security readiness program for the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

Tom's appointment as an AO recognises his outstanding contribution to Australia's democratic system and public administration.

Congratulations, Tom, an exceptional and well-deserved honour.



## Brothers Rugby Club Annual Lunch

Brothers Rugby Club (formerly CBOBS) held its annual rugby lunch at L'Aqua at Darling Harbour on 1 August with guest speaker the well-known Wallaby (and son of a former CBOBS player) Garrick Morgan.

As part of the lunch the education scholarships awarded by the club were presented by Garrick Morgan. Current students at Australian Catholic University, Notre Dame University and Champion College who play for the club are eligible.

One scholarship, known as the Mark Egger scholarship after a member of the Class of 1982 who played for the club along with his brothers, is awarded to an ex-student of St Pius X College Chatswood currently playing for the club. This year's award went to Ryan Johnsun, who is in his second year of playing for the club.

We look forward to all ex-students of St Pius X joining Brothers Rugby to play for us in Season 2026.



## 40 Year Reunion for the Class of 1985

On 18 October 2025, the Class of 1985 celebrated their 40 Year Reunion at The Great Northern Hotel, Chatswood. The evening began with a casual 4pm catch-up in the Beer Garden before moving to the newly renovated upstairs function room for the main event at 7pm.

After a year of preparation, updating contact details, boosting our Facebook page (St Pius X Chatswood – 1985), and tracking down classmates, we were thrilled to have 107 attendees register. And yes, girls were included! Although the co-educational HSC program between St Pius X and the Catholic Girls High School (now Mercy College) officially ended in 1983, the 1985 cohorts remained closely connected, sharing activities and even their Year 12 Formal. That bond has continued through their 20th, 30th, and now 40th reunions.

The night brought together first-time attendees, former student leaders, and many familiar faces. We were honoured to be joined by two former teachers, Geoff Taylor and Bronwyn Hession, who helped spark many memories and stories.

A moment was also taken to remember the seven classmates and staff member Bryan Hoy who have passed away, gone too soon, but warmly remembered.



## Bill James Fellowship

Our Leader of Learning, Drama, Ms Penny Lindley, and Leader of Learning, Performing Arts, Ms Annabel Westhoff had a fabulous time touring London, Stratford-upon-Avon, Vienna, Salzburg, and Prague as recipients of the 2025 James Fellowship for professional development.

They immersed themselves in plays and musicals on London's West End including Cabaret, Mrs Warren's Profession, Hadestown, London Road, The Great Gatsby musical, The Other Woman, as well as Romeo and Juliet at The Globe and a fleeting visit to Oxford on their return from Stratford-upon-Avon. In Austria, they attended classical music concerts, enjoyed street performances, and visited an art exhibition at the Albertina featuring works by Picasso, Renoir, Monet, and Kandinsky.

They also took part in The Sound of Music tour, visited the fairy-tale medieval city of Cezky-Krumlov in the Czech Republic, experienced a jazz riverboat cruise in Prague, and numerous cathedrals and churches - fully immersing themselves in the cultural magic Europe has to offer - all with the goal of determining what experiences would best suit the Performing Arts students.

## Facebook Group

The Old Boys' Association Facebook Group has reached a significant milestone with over 2,200 members! It's a fantastic platform for staying connected with classmates and keeping up with all the latest news.

Join the SPX Chatswood Old Boys' Facebook group.



SPX Chatswood Old Boys

# VALE

## Linwood 'Lin' Smith (Class of 1979)

1962 - 2025

Lin sadly passed away in May this year after an illness. Lin was a supporter of SPX throughout his life and could be seen at the BBQ helping out on rugby home games, whilst watching his son Sam play rugby. A fine rugby player himself, Lin played in the 1st XV in 1979 and then went on to play rugby with the Old Boys at Brothers Rugby Club.

## Brother Edmund John Griffith

1932 - 2025

Old Boys from the 1980s and many other connections may remember Br John Griffith who taught Mathematics and RE at the College in that era. Br Griffith was also a student of the College in its very early days. His father served in the Royal Australian Navy, and he could recall the chaotic night in May - June 1942 when 3 Japanese Midget Submarines entered Sydney Harbour.

More recently Br Griffith served quietly and humbly as the College Archivist.

## Brother Bob 'Wallaby' Wallace cfc, AM

1937 - 2025

Old Boy of Christian Brothers High School Lewisham and 1960s Staff Member of St Pius X College Chatswood

Br Robert "Bob" Wallace is remembered as a towering figure in Australian Schoolboys Rugby Union, yet it was his brief tenure at St Pius X College in the 1960s that first sparked his passion for coaching. This early experience set him on a path to a distinguished career in education, later serving as Headmaster of St Edmund's College Canberra and then Waverley College, where he became its longest-serving Headmaster.

Br Wallace's rugby legacy is legendary. He managed and mentored the famed 1977 Australian Schoolboys Rugby Union Team—the Invincibles—which included future stars such as Gary, Glen and Mark Ella, Wally Lewis, Tony Melrose, Michael Hawker, Michael O'Connor, Tony D'Arcy and Chris Roche. His decades of service to the Australian Rugby Union, from ACT delegate in 1971 to President in 1992, were recognised with his appointment as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM).

A man of intellect and dry humour, Bob was a Sydney University graduate who joined the Christian Brothers after his younger brother. Former St Pius X Principal Br Michael Walsh recalled his versatility—Bob held a pilot's licence and maintained a strong interest in aeronautics, often promoting Air Cadets in the schools he led.

Above all, Br Wallace is remembered for his loyalty, his advocacy for those at the margins, and his unwavering belief in honour, competition and sportsmanship. His impact across education and sport remains enduring and deeply felt.

# Outstanding HSC 2025 Nominations



## Young Writers Showcase

Congratulations to our incredible Year 12 students, **Anthony Parissis** and **Lachlan Staber**, who have both been nominated for possible inclusion in the Young Writers Showcase 2025 for their outstanding HSC English Extension 2 Major Works.

Anthony, who has recently been **SELECTED** for inclusion, was recognised for his short fiction piece, "The delicate art of a funeral zeibeikiko," while Lachlan received his nomination for his critical response essay, "The Script of the Nation: A Metamodern Lens over 21st Century American Political Rhetoric."



## SHAPE

Congratulations to the three Industrial Technology, Timber students have been nominated for possible inclusion in the HSC Showcase - SHAPE, **Finlay Craig**, **Lucas Halim** and **Connor Jory**.

This is a prestigious event that showcases outstanding projects from students who have completed their HSC in Design and Technology, Industrial Technology, and Textiles and Design.



## ENCORE

Congratulations to Year 12's **Jorge Membrillera** who has been nominated for possible inclusion in ENCORE 2025.

ENCORE presents a selection of outstanding major works by HSC Music students in NSW including performance and musicology.



## OnSTAGE

Congratulations to Year 12 student, **Jonty Cortis-Jones** on his nomination for both Individual Performance and Group Performance, alongside **John Badger-Rahme** and **Jason Kristianto**, for OnSTAGE, NESAs showcase of exemplary HSC Drama works.

This recognition is a testament to their talent, dedication, and hard work.

