PIUS InProfile

ST PIUS X COLLEGE
CHATSWOOD

Spring 2026
Term 2 - Term 3, 2026



For all, with all
"Put on the full armour of God" Ephesians 6:13

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
ANZAC Day Commemorations at the College



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

As we reach the midpoint of the year, we reflect with gratitude on the many experiences, achievements and moments of growth that have shaped life at St Pius X College. Guided by our 2026 theme, 'For All, With All,' our students have continued to embrace opportunities to learn, serve, lead and contribute, strengthening our community and living out the values of the Edmund Rice tradition.

Faith remains at the heart of everything we do. Throughout the year, students and staff have come together in prayer, liturgy and reflection, deepening their relationship with God and one another. We marked Reconciliation Week, encouraging a greater understanding of justice, inclusion and reconciliation, while our partnership with the Edmund Rice Foundation Australia continued to strengthen our commitment to supporting vulnerable communities. Special moments such as the Father's Day Liturgy and the contribution of our musicians to College liturgies enriched our faith life and brought our community together.

Our students' wellbeing remains a central priority. Initiatives such as R U OK? Day and the Year 12 Retreat fostered resilience, connection and belonging. Outdoor education experiences, including the Year 7 Camp and Year 8 Ski Trip, provided opportunities for students to build relationships, challenge themselves and create lasting memories.

Service and solidarity have continued to be lived out in meaningful ways. Students participated in the annual Red Dirt Immersion, developing a deeper understanding of and connection with remote Australian communities. Our Junior School's Day with St Gabriel's was another highlight, strengthening friendships and demonstrating the spirit of inclusion that is central to our College identity.

Learning and academic enrichment have remained a strong focus throughout the year. Our classrooms have been places of curiosity, innovation and creativity. Students embraced opportunities through Science Week, Literacy Week, Write a Book in a Day, Lights Camera Pius and Microfiction, developing their skills as thinkers, creators and communicators. We also celebrated Bastille Day, providing students with a vibrant cultural experience that brought language learning to life. The outstanding work of our senior students was celebrated through the HSC Major Works showcase: Splinters, Splashes, Sounds, Snaps, Stage and Stories, which highlighted exceptional achievement across a range of disciplines. We also congratulate Rhys Bourke on his nomination for ENCORE, an outstanding recognition of his talent and commitment.

The Performing Arts have flourished throughout the year, showcasing the passion and creativity of our students. Our



Jersey Day at the College

Drumline brought energy and spirit to the Chatswood Fair, while our ensembles impressed audiences at the Manly Jazz Festival. The Farewell to Year 12 Twilight Concert was a fitting celebration of our graduating musicians and their significant contribution to College life.

Students embraced leadership, creativity and personal challenge through a diverse range of cocurricular opportunities, including ArtLab, the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Adventurous Journey, and our Cocurricular Colour Awards, which recognised the commitment and dedication of students beyond the classroom.

Sport has once again been a source of great pride for the College. Our athletes achieved outstanding success at the ISA Athletics Championships, while a Football team celebrated championship victory. Across all sporting codes, students demonstrated remarkable determination, teamwork and sportsmanship. We also acknowledge the many students who earned representative honours and achieved success at regional, state and national levels.

Our Junior School continues to thrive, with students enthusiastically embracing opportunities for learning and community engagement. Highlights included Night of the Notables, Day of the Disasters, Science Week, Book Week, Sports Day, Grandparents' Day Liturgy and Father's Day Liturgy. These experiences enriched learning and strengthened the strong sense of belonging that characterises our Junior School.

Community engagement remains one of the great strengths of St Pius X College. Events such as the PAPA Comedy Night and P&F Trivia Night brought families together in a spirit of friendship and generosity, while countless other contributions throughout the year reflected the support and connectedness that underpin our community.

As we reflect on the year so far, we give thanks for the dedication of our staff, the enthusiasm and character of our students, and the unwavering support of our families. Together, we continue to build a thriving and inclusive community, living our mission of being truly For All, With All.

Mr Michael Ronchetti
PRINCIPAL



'fide et labore'
THROUGH FAITH AND HARD WORK

Good luck and Farewell Class of 2026



















2027 College Student Leaders

Congratulations to the Student Leadership Team for 2027. Mac Hillsdon will captain the College, supported by Simon Ellis and Zach Rapa as Vice Captains. The full Student Leadership Team for 2027 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 extracurricular events.

Student Leaders for 2027



Macarthur Hillsdon
COLLEGE CAPTAIN



Simon Ellis
COLLEGE VICE CAPTAIN



Zachary Rapa
COLLEGE VICE CAPTAIN

House Captains



Nathaniel Ho
BARRON



Bradley Newman
PURTON



William Asensio
RICE



Antonio Calcarao
TREACY

Prefects

Wellbeing Prefects



Boston Bannister



Samuel Bewley



Michael Chung

Mission and Identity Prefects



Daniel Down



Marko Fry



Peter Haddad

Cultural Prefects



Oliver Hartry



Alexander Parissis



Jasper Wetherill

Academic Prefects



Myles Jory



Marcus Ng



Liam Spatola

Teaching and Learning



HSC Major Works Showcase 2026

On Thursday 27 August, the College proudly hosted the 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 remarkable creativity displayed in our Visual Arts exhibitions, the craftsmanship evident in the Timber Major Works, and the innovative thinking behind the Design and Technology projects, to the elegance of our musical performances, the scholarly depth of the Extension History Major Works, and the originality and insight demonstrated in the English Extension 2 projects, each student should be immensely proud of their achievements. These works reflect not only talent and dedication, but also many months of perseverance and commitment to excellence.

Science Week - Curoisity and Creativity

Held from 24–26 August, Science Week encouraged students to explore the natural world through hands-on activities. Science staff opened the laboratories at lunchtime, where students created cress-heads, examined seeds under microscopes and made seed bombs. Combining creativity and discovery, these activities highlighted the excitement of science beyond the classroom. Thank you to the Science staff for organising an engaging and educational week!





Market Day 2026 - A Huge Success

Market Day was a vibrant celebration of innovation, teamwork, and entrepreneurial spirit. On Friday 11 September, Year 9 Commerce students transformed the College grounds into a bustling marketplace, running their own food stalls during recess and lunch. After weeks of planning, students put their business skills into practice, managing budgets, promoting products and serving customers. With long queues and enthusiastic support from the College community, the day was a valuable hands-on learning experience that built confidence, teamwork and problem-solving skills.

Congratulations to all Year 9 Commerce students on a successful Market Day and for bringing their entrepreneurial ideas to life.

Write a Book in A Day 2026

In a revised format for 2026, two teams from Year 7 and Year 9 competed in the Write a Book in a Day challenge. The students who participated had taken part in a series of writing workshops in the weeks leading up to the event. So, when given their writing parameters at 8:00 am Wednesday 2 September, they were primed and raring to go.

The result was a full day of discussion, planning, writing, editing and illustrating and when the 5:00 pm deadline hit both teams had successfully completed their project. The result was two entertaining and thought provoking 5,000-word books with illustrations that will be read in hospitals around Australia, not to mention money raised for the Children with Cancer charity.



Celebrating Success



Celebration of Learning

The Celebration of Learning Assembly brought our College community together to celebrate the achievements, growth and talents of our students, recognising the hard work and dedication behind their success. Highlights included captivating performances by our Year 10 Drama and Year 9 and 10 Music students, alongside a video showcasing the diverse talents and opportunities across the College. The assembly was a proud celebration of all that our students accomplish, reminding us that success extends beyond academic results to include creativity, resilience, personal growth and the courage to embrace new challenges.



House Cup 2026 Goes Down to the Wire

First introduced in 2010, the House Cup celebrates student participation across all aspects of College life, recognising the enthusiasm, commitment and House spirit students bring to academic, cocurricular, sporting, cultural and service activities. In one of the closest finishes in House Cup history, **Rice House claimed victory with 9,588 points, just two points ahead of Treacy House (9,586). Barron House placed third (9,215), followed by Purton House (9,194).** Congratulations to Rice House on becoming the 2026 House Cup Champions, and to all students whose participation made this year such a success. We anticipate another exciting competition in 2027.

Microfiction

Congratulations to the winning stories and authors for the 2026 Microfiction Competition!

This year's competition drew over 200 total entries from across the school, with Year 12's English Extension 2 student Joshua Booth taking out first prize. There were $800 worth of prizes given out to the successful authors, with further prizes to come when the final book is published later in Term 3. This competition could not run to the same level without the generous support of the College P&F, who one again donated our prize pool. This year students were asked to write a 100-word story containing the action of beholding and the word 'portrait'.





Cocurricular Colour Awards

On Tuesday 8 September, the College celebrated the annual Cocurricular Colour Awards, recognising students for their outstanding achievement, commitment, and service across a wide range of cocurricular activities.

The ceremony honoured recipients of Silver and Gold Awards, as well as major award winners, acknowledging not only their success but also the leadership, dedication, and positive contribution they make to College life.

Congratulations to all award recipients. Your commitment and achievements have enriched the our College community, and we thank you for the example you set for others to follow.

ENCORE Nomination

Congratulations to Year 12 student **Rhys Bourke** on his nomination for ENCORE, the prestigious showcase of outstanding HSC Music performances and compositions across NSW. This achievement recognises Rhys's exceptional talent and dedication, alongside the guidance and support of our Music Department.





Lights, Camera, Pius! Film Festival

Congratulations to all our contestants at this year's 11th Annual Lights Camera Pius! Film Festival. The audience was treated to a fantastic array of imaginative films – experimental, scary, funny, questioning and wonderfully other worldly.

Well done to all involved, including our judges, contestants and Film Festival Committee – it was a brilliant celebration of creativity and filmmaking at Pius. Prizes were generously supported by the P&F who recognise the importance of encouraging film culture at the College.

YEARS 5, 6 & 7 WINNERS

- **First Prize:** Toby Chant – *Rewind*
- **Runner Up:** Rocco Guerrera – *A Day in the Life of Woody*

YEARS 8, 9 & 10 WINNERS

- **First Prize:** Jake Kiem – *The Following*
- **Runner Up:** Alex Troughton & Jensen Wang – *Hooping*

YEARS 11 & 12 WINNERS

- **First Prize:** Matthew Oppen – *My Celestial Body*
- **Runner Up:** Edward Moss – *Binary*



Touchstone Portrait Prize

2026 marks the inaugural St Pius X College Touchstone Prize, an annual celebration of student artistry inspired by the Edmund Rice Touchstones that guide our College's mission. Each year, the prize will explore a different Touchstone, inviting students to express the values of faith, inclusivity, justice and community through visual storytelling.

This year's theme, *For all with all*, reflects the solidarity at the heart of Blessed Edmund Rice's vision. Students were encouraged to portray the people around them, from friends and family to mentors and the wider community, recognising the stories, strengths and humanity of each individual. A portrait is more than an image; it is an act of recognition that says, *'I see you. You matter. Your story belongs here.'*

Across hundreds of entries, students demonstrated empathy, technical skill and a willingness to look beyond the surface, capturing not only likeness but connection, resilience and the dignity of everyday people. Their work reflects Edmund Rice's enduring call to uplift one another and build a community where every person is valued.

The Overall Winner for this year was Jake Desertine (Year 11). The award recipients were:

YEAR 5 & 6

- **First Prize:** Toby Chant – *Designer*
- **Runner Up:** Jack Cross – *Designer*
- **Highly Commended:** Hayden Tam – *Designer*

YEAR 7

- **First Prize:** Zach Bower – *Portrait of My Parents*
- **Runner Up:** Dylan Fok – *The Dylan*
- **Highly Commended:** Ronan Orr – *Dr Karl*

YEAR 8

- **First Prize:** Phipps Lim – *Kealey Anderson*
- **Runner Up:** Quintas Liu – *K Irving*
- **Highly Commended:** Vihaan Kadam – *Concentric Voices*

YEAR 9-12

- **First Prize:** Jake Desertine – *A Braver Within*
- **Runner Up:** Nicholas Byrnes – *Poppy*
- **Highly Commended:** Alex Parissis – *Break*
- **Highly Commended:** Ejan Ahren Salcedo – *Eddie Mabo: From Law to Land, For All*

Faith and Identity



Reconciliation Week

On Wednesday 27 May, St Pius X College marked National Reconciliation Week with a special College assembly that brought our community together to reflect on the importance of understanding, respect, and unity.

A highlight of the assembly was the contribution of Uncle Gumaroy Newman and Lisa Lawrence, who shared their Aboriginal heritage through a moving smoking ceremony, traditional dance, song, and storytelling. Students also had the opportunity to participate in the cultural activities, making the experience both meaningful and memorable.

National Reconciliation Week encourages us to learn from our shared history, celebrate First Nations cultures, and work towards a more just, inclusive future.











A Special Mother's Day Celebration

We were blessed with beautiful weather as more than 1,000 mothers, grandmothers, carers, sons, and grandsons gathered at our Oxford Falls campus to celebrate Mother's Day. Led by Fr Hien, the Mass was both uplifting and reverent, with our choir and musicians providing a joyful backdrop to the occasion. A highlight of the celebration was a moving reflection from Joanna Huntley, who shared her experience of raising 5 boys and expressed her appreciation for the support provided by St Pius X College throughout her sons' journeys. A photo montage capturing the warmth, happiness, and love of the day was another memorable feature.

In his address, Mr Ronchetti reflected on the invaluable role mothers and the significant women in our lives play in shaping good, compassionate young men, encouraging students to show gratitude, kindness, and love, not only on Mother's Day, but every day.

Celebrating Father's Day at the College

On Friday 4 September, more than 700 fathers, grandfathers, and sons gathered for a special Father's Day Mass celebrating the important role fathers and father figures play in our lives. In support of Jersey Day, many attendees wore their favourite sporting jerseys, adding colour and community spirit to the occasion. Following the Mass, families enjoyed a delicious bacon and egg breakfast kindly prepared by the College P&F and staff. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this wonderful celebration of family, gratitude, and community.











Founder's Day Celebrations

Friday 8 May, we gathered at Oxford Falls to celebrate our Founder's Day Mass, a wonderful occasion centred on the Eucharist. It was particularly pleasing to see all students participate with such reverence throughout the Mass, contributing to a calm and respectful atmosphere. Our musicians and choir, as always, were outstanding, enhancing the celebration and adding to the spirit of the day. A special thank you to Ms Gabby Scanlon for her excellent organisation of her first Founder's Day Mass.

One of the highlights of the day was the outstanding leadership shown by our Year 12 Student Leaders as they hosted the lip-sync competition between the Year 12 House groups. With a wide range of talent on display, the performances provided great entertainment for all. The event generated strong House spirit, with students enthusiastically supporting one another. Congratulations to our student leaders for their energy, creativity, and commitment in making this such an enjoyable and memorable part of Founder's Day.





Faith in Action Through Service

NAIDOC Week Assembly

Our first Assembly back for Term 3 was dedicated to NAIDOC Week, providing an opportunity to pause and reflect on the theme, '50 Years of Deadly', honouring five decades of advocacy, culture, leadership and resilience among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We presented our Indigenous Touchstones, highlighting how Liberating Education, Inclusive Community, Justice and Solidarity, and Gospel Spirituality guide us in embedding reconciliation into daily College life. We also showcased significant cultural items, including the EREA Message Stick and the Yidaki gifted to the College following last year's Red Dirt Immersion, recognising the importance of cultural connection, storytelling and shared learning.

A highlight was a recap of the Red Dirt Immersion, where students visited Coonabarabran Public School for its NAIDOC celebrations and learned about the remarkable legacy of Mary Jane Cain. An Aboriginal woman who secured land at Burra Bee Dee in 1893, her legacy continues through her descendants, who still live there today.

The NAIDOC Assembly reminded us that reconciliation is not a moment, but an ongoing journey requiring listening, learning and meaningful action. As a College community, we remain committed to walking this journey with respect, courage and hope, honouring First Nations histories, cultures and contributions while working towards a more inclusive future.



NICU Father's Day Appeal

Thank you to all families who supported our Father's Day Appeal for the Royal North Shore Hospital NICU. Through the generosity of our College community, Year 9 students raised more than $1,000, received donations from local businesses and organisations, and created heartfelt cards and handmade gifts.

This outstanding effort reflects the strong spirit of service, compassion, and community within the Year 9 cohort. Well done to all involved for making a meaningful difference to families in need.





ANZAC Day: Honouring Service and Sacrifice

Our College community came together to commemorate ANZAC Day, reflecting on the courage, service, resilience, and sacrifice of those who have served our nation. The day provided an opportunity to remember the enduring values of mateship, respect, and commitment to others.

Representing St Pius X College, 3 Year 12 students attended the Dawn Service at the Chatswood Garden of Remembrance, where they laid a wreath in honour of those who have served, particularly members of our College community. They also attended a commemorative service at Club Willoughby, laying a second wreath and listening to reflections on the significance of ANZAC Day.

Their participation was a meaningful way to honour the ANZAC legacy and demonstrate the values of service and remembrance. Lest we forget.

Red Dirt Immersion

The 2026 Red Dirt Immersion allowed our students to challenge themselves, visit schools, connect with local Aboriginal communities and explore significant Indigenous sites. Through shared experiences, including Mass at Coonabarabran and walks in nature, the students built new friendships and gained valuable time for reflection and personal growth. The students are to be commended for their respectful behaviour, resilience and positive attitudes throughout the experience. Thank you to Mr Di Sano, Mr Kovacic, Mr Balboa, Mr Cummins, Mr Dalton and Mr Serone for their dedication and support.





Doco in a Day

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.

Student Wellbeing

R U OK? Day

On Wednesday 9 September, the College marked R U OK? Day, an important reminder of the value of checking in on those around us. Our student leaders did an outstanding job leading the College assembly, sharing the day's message with confidence, maturity, and compassion.

R U OK? Day encourages us to look out for one another, start meaningful conversations, and offer support when it is needed. It reinforces the importance of creating a community where every student feels valued, connected, and comfortable seeking help.

A special thank you to Mr Ticli, Mr Gillogly, our Year 12 student leaders, and SRC representatives for their leadership and enthusiasm in marking this occasion. Thank you also for the icy blocks enjoyed at morning tea, which added to the positive spirit of the day.



Year 7 Pastoral Camp

On Wednesday 16 September Year 7 went on a trip to Camp Somerset. All the experiences were amazing and the landscape was breath-taking. The leaders provided insight into the land on which we were staying and the why we were doing each activity. The campsites were nestled in the middle of the bushes, nourishing us in a detox from our usual busy and city-filled lives. We all needed this amazing break, and the activities were interesting and exciting.

My personal, and most of my group's favourite activity, was 'Base 7'. It was fun and exciting to try and sneak up on Mr Ticli and take the red flag from underneath him. All the other activities were still so impressive, and the scenery added to the experience once again. One of the other things that was so good about the experience was the fact that the food was so good. Usually in a school camp the food is not amazing, but this time it was far above average. All of these factors led into an experience that provided the perfect mix for all the groups to get closer and make new friends. I am sure that we would all be very happy to go again in Year 9!

Orson Narby - Year 7 student





Year 12 Retreats

Following their Trial HSC exams, our Year 12 students took part in retreats at Mulgoa, Workul Koo in Terrigal, and Tallow Beach. Over three days, they had the opportunity to strengthen friendships, reflect on their journey, deepen their faith, and recharge before the final months of their schooling.

The retreats were a valuable experience, providing time for connection, reflection, and preparation as the students look ahead to graduation and the HSC.









Year 8 Ski Trip

Looking back on our Year 8 Ski Camp, I realise it was about more than just skiing. It brought us closer as a year group, helped us build new friendships, and taught us important lessons about resilience, teamwork, and stepping outside our comfort zones. We created memories that we'll never forget, and no matter who we were before camp, we now all share something special. Ski Camp has given us a connection that will always be part of our Year 8 journey.

Will Orth - Year 8 student

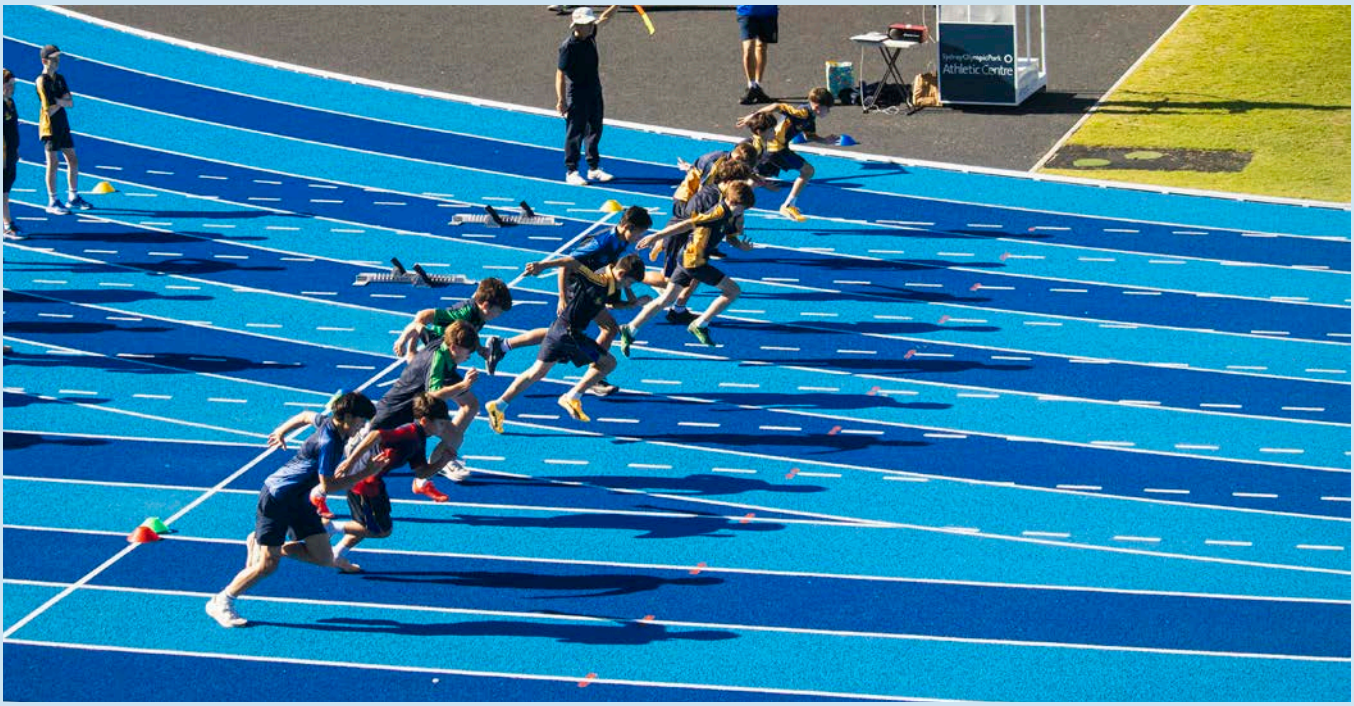
Cocurricular – Sports

College Athletics Carnivals Celebrate Participation and House Spirit

Our Senior and Junior School Athletics Carnivals were fantastic celebrations of participation, House spirit, and community. Students embraced the opportunity to compete, support their peers, and proudly represent their Houses, creating a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere across both events.

A highlight of both carnivals was the strong level of participation, with all students giving their best effort regardless of experience or results. The encouragement, sportsmanship, and enthusiasm on display reflected the strong sense of belonging that exists within our College.

Congratulations to all students for their efforts, and thank you to the staff who helped make both carnivals such a success. The events were a wonderful showcase of the spirit and character of the St Pius X community.







ISA U17 Cricket Invitational XI Selections

The College would like to congratulate Charlie Chippendale (Year 11), Darcy Horstead (Year 11), Eddie Stearn (Year 11), and Archie Wragge (Year 10), who have all been selected in the ISA U17 Invitational XI. Additional congratulations to Darcy Horstead who was elected Captain for the team. Further congratulations to Oliver Battersby (Year 9), who has been selected as a shadow player. It is an outstanding acknowledgement of these talented cricketers.



ISA Athletics Carnival Success

The ISA Athletics Carnival showcased weeks of dedicated training, with our athletes demonstrating determination, resilience and sportsmanship against strong competition. While we did not secure the overall championship, our Junior Team achieved an outstanding result, claiming the Division 1 title. Across all age groups, students showed great commitment on the track, in the field and in supporting their teammates, reflecting the spirit of St Pius X College. Thank you to our coaches, Miss Gilbert, Mr Steimann, Mrs Lee, Mr Stearn and ex-students Ethan Li, Christian Wong, Matteo Dall'Amico and Chris Zilifian, for their dedication and encouragement throughout the season. Congratulations to all our athletes on their efforts and to our Junior Team on their remarkable divisional victory. We look forward to building on this success in the years ahead.

Three Proud SPX Representatives

Lachie, Noah and Nate proudly represented CIS at the NSWPSSA Rugby Championships in Mudgee. This marks the first time St Pius X has had 3 students selected in the same CIS Junior School Rugby team, a wonderful achievement for both the students and our Rugby program. CIS went on to win the championship outright, their first title since 2018. We are incredibly proud of Lachie, Noah and Nate for the way they competed, the commitment they showed throughout the carnival, and the manner in which they represented the College. They were outstanding ambassadors for St Pius X and our Rugby program, and should be extremely proud of their success.





ISA Tennis

What an incredible achievement for our SPX Division 1 Tennis Team. The team competed in the ISA Final against Oakhill at the Blacktown Tennis Centre. Finishing as runners-up, they represented SPX with pride, commitment and determination.

Congratulations to all the players on a fantastic season. You've made the whole SPX community proud!

College Snapshots


Big Band Bonanza


Boxercise Club



Year 6 Kaleidoscope Science Session


Year 8 Bridge Making


Year 12 Shirt Signing



Presentation of Flags by MP Nicolette Boele



Chinese Club Mochi Making



Winter Appeal Car Packing



Maths Drop-In



'Bullying No Way' Poster Competition Winners



Year 12 vs Staff Basketball Game

Cocurricular – Performing Arts



Drumline at the Chatswood Fair

Congratulations to our College Drumline, led by Dr JB Smith, who proudly represented the College and broader OLD Parish community at the Chatswood Spring Fair Parade on Saturday 5 September. The Drumline brought wonderful energy and excitement to the parade and did a fantastic job representing SPX within the wider Chatswood community. Thank you to Dr Smith for his leadership of the ensemble, and congratulations to all our Drumline students for their enthusiasm, musicianship and professionalism at this iconic community event.

Farewell to Seniors Twilight Concert

On Friday 4 September, the College held a wonderful Farewell to Seniors Twilight Concert. The concert featured performances from across our ensemble program, alongside several of our talented Year 12 HSC Music students as soloists. A highlight was PAPA's farewell to our graduating Year 12 Performing Arts students, recognising their contribution to Music and Drama throughout their time at SPX, as well as the touching reflection by outgoing PAPA parent, Jana Gibson, mother of Angus, Year 12. We are incredibly proud of these students' achievements and grateful for the talent, leadership and enthusiasm they have shared with our community. Thank you to Mr Saar, Ensemble Program Coordinator, for his assistance in planning the concert, and to our PAPA committee and volunteers for their ongoing support and for providing the BBQ and refreshments for our performers.





Manly Jazz Festival

The St Pius X College Senior Jazz Band lit up the stage at the 2026 Manly Jazz Festival in outstanding style, delivering a memorable performance that showcased the College's rich musical tradition. Under the expert direction of Mr Geoff Power, the band entertained a large crowd and continued a legacy that has produced many distinguished St Pius X musicians, including Kevin Hunt, Nick Jeffries, Mark Egger, Herbie Timmins and John Hunt. Despite challenging windy conditions, the students performed with confidence and professionalism.

Supported by Ms Laura Power behind the scenes, the band maintained its energy and composure throughout the set, earning enthusiastic applause from the appreciative audience. Highlights included a stirring performance of Louis Armstrong's *What a Wonderful World* and a powerful rendition of *MacArthur Park*. The occasion provided an opportunity to farewell the band's Year 12 members in their final performance as students before their graduation.







Performing Arts Cultural Tour

In July, 28 Music and Drama students from Years 9-12 embarked on the inaugural Performing Arts Cultural Tour, exploring London, Stratford-upon-Avon, Vienna and Salzburg. The tour offered an amazing blend of artistic inspiration, cultural immersion and personal growth, with opportunities to experience world-class performances and explore some of Europe's most significant cultural landmarks.

Students enjoyed West End productions of *Beetlejuice, Les Misérables, Hamilton* and *Hadestown*, and well-known plays, *A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Mouse Trap* and *War Horse*. They also enjoyed an orchestral performance at Vienna's magnificent Musikverein, and a pipe organ recital in Salzburg Cathedral. Alongside professional drama workshops, the students toured iconic venues, including Shakespeare's Globe Theatre and the Royal Albert Hall.

Beyond the stage, students explored historic cities, picturesque villages and landmarks across England, Austria and Germany. Highlights included a London scavenger hunt culminating in a surprise ride on the London Eye, and a visit to the Warner Bros. Harry Potter Studio Tour. Navigating unfamiliar cities and embracing new experiences also encouraged students to develop independence, resilience and teamwork.

The tour was an outstanding success, with students representing the College with enthusiasm, maturity and curiosity. Despite a packed itinerary and London's summer heatwave, they remained positive and resilient, embracing new experiences, respecting other cultures and strengthening friendships. Thank you to our tour leaders, Mrs Westhoff, Mr Saar and Mr Stearn who helped make this tour such a memorable experience.

Cocurricular

Bastille Day

The College celebrated a belated Bastille Day on Wednesday 12 August. Bonne Fête Nationale!

The College foyer was filled with the sounds of an accordion welcoming students as they arrived for the day. A sea of red, white and blue set the scene for a wonderful celebration of French culture.

Throughout the day, students studying French participated in French-speaking crêpe workshops and enjoyed friendly games of pétanque. This much-loved annual tradition is always a highlight of the school calendar.





Duke of Edinburgh

Over the King's Birthday long weekend, 47 Year 9 and 10 students undertook the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver Adventurous Journey in Namadgi National Park in the ACT. Led by Outward Bound Australia, the three-day experience challenged students to hike up to 10 km while carrying their own provisions and cooking equipment, navigating remote terrain and temperatures as low as 0°C. Beyond the physical challenge, the journey encouraged independence, resilience and teamwork, allowing students to build friendships and learn valuable outdoor skills. Thank you to Mrs Gunns, Ms Ramsey, Ms Doyle and Mr Munday for their assistance and support for this memorable experience.







China Tour

During the Term 3 school holidays, 24 students and 3 staff members had the privilege of participating in the College's Language and Cultural Tour to China, an experience that reflects our commitment to providing authentic global learning opportunities.

For our students, the tour offered an invaluable chance to immerse themselves in a culture renowned for its rich history, traditions and global significance. The group visited many of China's most iconic landmarks, including the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, the Great Wall, the Terracotta Warriors, and the vibrant cities of Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai. These experiences were both memorable and inspiring.

A particular highlight of the tour was the 3 days spent at the Beijing Chinese Language and Culture College. During this time, students participated in intensive language classes and hands-on cultural activities such as calligraphy and clay sculpture. Living on a university campus and interacting with students from around the world provided a unique insight into student life in another country and broadened their understanding of different cultures and perspectives.

The tour was a wonderful experience for everyone involved. I would especially like to commend our students for the outstanding behaviour, respect and maturity they demonstrated throughout the trip. Their positive engagement with every opportunity, their interactions with local people, and the courtesy they showed to staff were exemplary. They were outstanding ambassadors for St Pius X College and a credit to both their families and our College community.

Junior School

Year 5 Night of the Notables and Year 6 Day of the Disasters

Congratulations to our Junior School students on their exceptional presentations at the Year 5 Night of the Notables and Year 6 Day of the Disasters.

On Tuesday 15 September, Year 5 students impressed the school community with engaging, well-researched portrayals of notable Indigenous figures. All of their presentations demonstrated a strong understanding of their chosen individuals, alongside creativity, confidence and excellent communication skills.

The following day, Year 6 students captivated parents and families with their informative disaster displays. Exploring real-world events such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, cyclones, tsunamis and bushfires, students demonstrated thorough research, thoughtful analysis and a strong understanding of these natural disasters.

Both events highlighted our students' enthusiasm, curiosity and dedication to learning. Thank you to Mrs Greenwood, Head of Junior School, and all teachers involved for their commitment to helping students bring their learning to life.

We also extend our sincere thanks to the parents and families who attended and supported their sons throughout the process.





Grandparents' Day and Dance Showcase

Grandparents' Day was once again a highlight of the Junior School calendar, with more than 200 grandparents and special friends joining us at Oxford Falls for a wonderful day of celebration. Students proudly took to the stage for the annual Dance Showcase, delighting the audience with their enthusiasm, energy, and House spirit. Congratulations to Purton House on winning this year's competition. Thank you to the RedEd team and Junior School staff for helping make the day such a memorable success.







Father and Son Sports Day

The annual Junior School Father and Son Sports Day was another wonderful community event, with families enjoying an afternoon of sport, fun, and connection at Oxford Falls. A highlight of the day was the Falls Gift relay race, which provided plenty of excitement and friendly competition. Congratulations to Mike and Jack Cross, who successfully defended their 2025 title and capped off an impressive undefeated Falls Gift record as Jack completes his final year in the Junior School. Thank you to all families who participated and helped make the day such a success.

Book Week Parade

Our Junior School came alive during this year's Book Week Parade, as students celebrated the theme *A Symphony of Stories* by bringing their favourite book characters to life. Students showcased incredible creativity and enthusiasm through their costumes, supported by the wonderful efforts of parents and family members behind the scenes. It was also fantastic to welcome so many families to the parade and share in the celebration. The day was a joyful reminder of the power of stories, imagination, and the lifelong love of reading that Book Week inspires.



Junior School Sporting Highlights



Year 6 students **Nate Fifita, Noah Fifita, Jack Cross** and **Lachlan Doyle** were selected in the IPSHA 30-man squad for CIS Rugby Trials.



Year 6 students **Noah Fifita** and **Tommy Cross** earned a place on the IPSHA 20-man squad for CIS Rugby League Trials in April.



Oscar Bevinetto (Year 6) was selected to represent IPSHA at the CIS Football Championships in June.



Lachlan Swadling from Year 6 was selected to represent IPSHA in the CIS Cross-Country Championships.

Our Inclusive Community



2026 Rugby Gala Dinner

The SPX Rugby community gathered at Dockside Darling Harbour on Saturday 1 August for the 2026 SPX Rugby Gala Dinner. Bringing together 150 guests, including players from Years 5–12, families, staff, coaches and supporters, the evening celebrated the College's Rugby program and the strong community behind it. Thanks to the generosity of sponsors, prize donors, auction participants and attendees, the event raised a net profit of more than $14,000 to support future Rugby initiatives and opportunities.

Our Rugby Supporters Club President, Ted Webster welcomed guests and acknowledged the invaluable contributions of families, volunteers and sponsors. Director of Rugby, Mike Cross also highlighted the College's partnership with Trytime Rugby, emphasising the program's commitment to developing players' skills alongside resilience, discipline, leadership and respect. A highlight of the evening was a fireside chat featuring former Wallaby Cameron Shepherd and former Ireland international Keith Gleeson. Sharing insights from their professional careers, both guests reflected on leadership, overcoming challenges and the lessons rugby teaches on and off the field. The evening also featured an exciting live auction hosted by Jason Kazanis of Event Auctioneers, proudly sponsored by Belle Property Lane Cove, followed by live entertainment from Dow Jones and the All Ordinaries.

We thank all the sponsors, prize donors, volunteers and attendees whose generosity and support made the Gala Dinner such a success, strengthening our community, and creating opportunities for current and future players.

P&F Trivia Night

The P&F Trivia Night was a fantastic evening of fun, laughter, and friendly competition, bringing together parents, friends, and members of the St Pius X community.

A sincere thank you to the P&F Committee for their hard work in organising such a successful event, and to the staff who generously supported the evening. While the teachers' team fell just short of victory, they remained competitive throughout the night and contributed to the great atmosphere.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the night such an enjoyable celebration of our College community.





PAPA Comedy Night

The PAPA community came together for the third annual PAPA Comedy Night, welcoming more than 130 attendees and supporters for an evening of laughter and fundraising. Featuring comedians Tommy Dean, Fiona Cox and Bruce Griffiths, alongside SPX parent and MC Simon Kennedy, the event was a wonderful success, surpassing the previous year's ticket sales by 50.

A special thank you to the PAPA team and Comedy Night sub-committee members Sylvia Ulevik, Jana Gibson, Simon Kennedy, John Moran and Sandra Quan for their efforts in bringing another memorable night to life. We also extend our gratitude to the volunteers, donors and supporters whose generosity made the event possible, and especially to Jana Gibson for her enthusiastic contribution to the PAPA committee over the past few years.

James Fellowship

During the September school holidays, Mr Lacey, Mr Mifsud and Mr McGeekie travelled to the UK as part of the James Fellowship Program. The study tour focused on learning from schools, universities and Professional Academies that are widely recognised for their strong sports programs, particularly in football and rugby.

The aim of the visit was to explore how these organisations support students to achieve success in both sport and academics while also promoting wellbeing. Throughout the trip, the team met with teachers, coaches and sport development staff to exchange ideas and learn about different approaches to student learning and athlete development.

The group visited a number of well-known institutions in the UK, including Cardiff Metropolitan University, Whitgift School, Millfield School, King's College School, Coleg y Cymoedd and the Brighton & Hove Albion Football Academy. These visits provided valuable insights into areas such as student development, coaching practices, strength and conditioning, talent identification and the role of sport within education.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the tour was seeing these programs in action and speaking directly with staff and students. These experiences highlighted the value of collaboration, ongoing learning and innovation in creating positive outcomes for young people. The knowledge and ideas gained from the study tour will help shape future PDHPE and sporting opportunities at our school. We look forward to applying what we have learned to further enhance student experiences, both in the classroom and in sport.

Mr R Lacey • Football Development Covenor







Old Boys' Association (OBA)

Matthew Hunt (Class of 2024)



St Pius X College proudly congratulates Matthew Hunt on his outstanding achievement of representing Australia in the 400m Hurdles at the 2026 Commonwealth Games. Matthew's selection to compete at one of the world's premier sporting events is a testament to his dedication, perseverance, and athletic excellence. His journey from the SPX athletics track to the international stage serves as an inspiration to current students and the wider SPX community.

We are incredibly proud of Matthew's accomplishments and commend him for the commitment and determination that have led to this remarkable milestone. We wish him every success in his future sporting endeavours and look forward to following his continued achievements. Congratulations, Matt, on this exceptional achievement and for representing Australia and the SPX community with pride.



Joe Colgan (Class of 2021)

Joe Colgan made his debut for NSW 1st XI Cricket against Victoria at Junction Oval Melbourne. Joe was an outstanding cricketer throughout the grades at SPX.

In his first NSW 1st XI match he batted well early only to lose his wicket to no less a bowler than Scott Boland before taking several outstanding catches in the outfield, including that of Glenn Maxwell, to secure the win for NSW!

Congratulations Joe. Keep up the hard work, and best wishes throughout the Summer of Cricket. We look forward to supporting you as you continue the proud tradition of SPX cricket excellence exemplified at NSW level by players including Kevin Roberts (SPX 1990),Timm van der Gugten who represented Holland at international level and Jackson Bird who attended St Pius X in his primary years!

Professor Simon Darcy AM (Class of 1981)



Congratulations to Professor Simon Darcy AM on being appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the 2026 King's Birthday Honours.

Professor Simon Darcy has been recognised for his distinguished service to tertiary education, inclusion, and accessible environments. His career has been dedicated to advancing the rights of all people to participate fully in their communities, with a particular focus on developing inclusive organisational approaches for marginalised groups. A valued member of the sport management academic community, Simon's research, leadership, and advocacy have made a significant contribution to creating more inclusive organisations, experiences, and opportunities across sport, events, tourism, and society more broadly.

We extend our sincere congratulations to Simon on this well deserved recognition.



James Dorizas (Class of 2010)

Congratulations to James Dorizas, who proudly represented Greece in their Rugby Europe Conference match against Kosovo.

James spent much of his time at St Pius X playing rugby, developing his skills under the guidance of Mr Pawlak and Mr Russo. After moving to Spain in 2021 and playing semi-professional rugby for a club in Barcelona, he earned the opportunity to represent Greece through his Greek heritage. With the Greek national rugby team rebuilding after many years without international competition, James had the honour of representing the side in their first World Rugby-recognised fixture against Kosovo. Selected at No. 8, he helped Greece dominate with a 65–0 victory, crossing for two tries in a memorable and successful debut.

We are incredibly proud of James and congratulate him on his success.

VALE

Andrew 'Big Andy' Cansdell

1969 - 2026



It is with great sadness we share the news that Andrew passed with his family by his side on Tuesday 11 August.

'Big Andy' played more than a 100 games for Brothers from the late 90's to the early 10's across all grades and was a member of the Premiership Winning 2010 Feisty 4ths Nicholson Cup Team. A team of close mates.

Andy lost his 18 month battle with pancreatic cancer but not without putting up a valiant and courageous fight. Andrew is survived by his wife Liz and children Eloise, Ben and Cameron who we send our deepest sympathies and condolences.

RIP Andrew







Terry 'Woody' Woodward

1950 - 2026

It is with great sadness that Brothers Rugby Club Sydney acknowledges the passing of club great, Terry 'Woody' Woodward. Terry passed away on Wednesday 20 May 2026 at the age of 76, surrounded by the love of his family after a courageous battle with complications following surgery.

A proud Brother and larger-than-life character, Terry played for the club (then CBOB's) from 1967 to 1974, making more than 150 appearances and leaving an unforgettable mark both on and off the field. Woody served on the club committee, including several years as Social Secretary, and was famously one of the club's great raffle sellers during the Friday night meat raffles at Dockers Pub, a vital part of keeping district clubs alive in those days. Among his many achievements, Terry was selected in the U20 Gordon Northern Districts representative side that toured Canberra in 1970 and proudly captained the 1973 Blunt Cup side, the 'Chisholm Chokos'.

Beyond rugby, Terry built a successful career in the insurance industry and dedicated countless hours to volunteering in Western Australia, including supporting blind golfers as a caddy and delivering meals through Meals on Wheels.

Terry is survived by his wife of 51 years, Nola, daughters Melinda and Alison, and their extended families.

A celebration of Terry's life was held on 5 of June at Fremantle Cemetery's West Chapel.

On behalf of everyone at Brothers Rugby Club Sydney, we extend our heartfelt condolences to the Woodward family and all who knew and loved Woody.

Once a Brother, always a Brother. RIP Terry.

Join our Facebook Group

The SPX Chatswood Old Boys' Facebook Group is a fantastic platform for staying connected with classmates and keeping up with all the latest news.

SHAPING YOUNG MEN OF CHARACTER & LEADERSHIP



At St Pius X College, we empower young men to grow with confidence, integrity and ambition. Our **holistic approach to education** nurtures academic excellence, personal growth and a strong sense of responsibility to others.

Through outstanding **learning opportunities, cocurricular experiences and authentic leadership pathways**, your son will be equipped with the skills, values and courage to lead with purpose and succeed in an ever-changing world.

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