

Spring 2020



ST PIUS X COLLEGE CHATSWOOD

35 Anderson Street

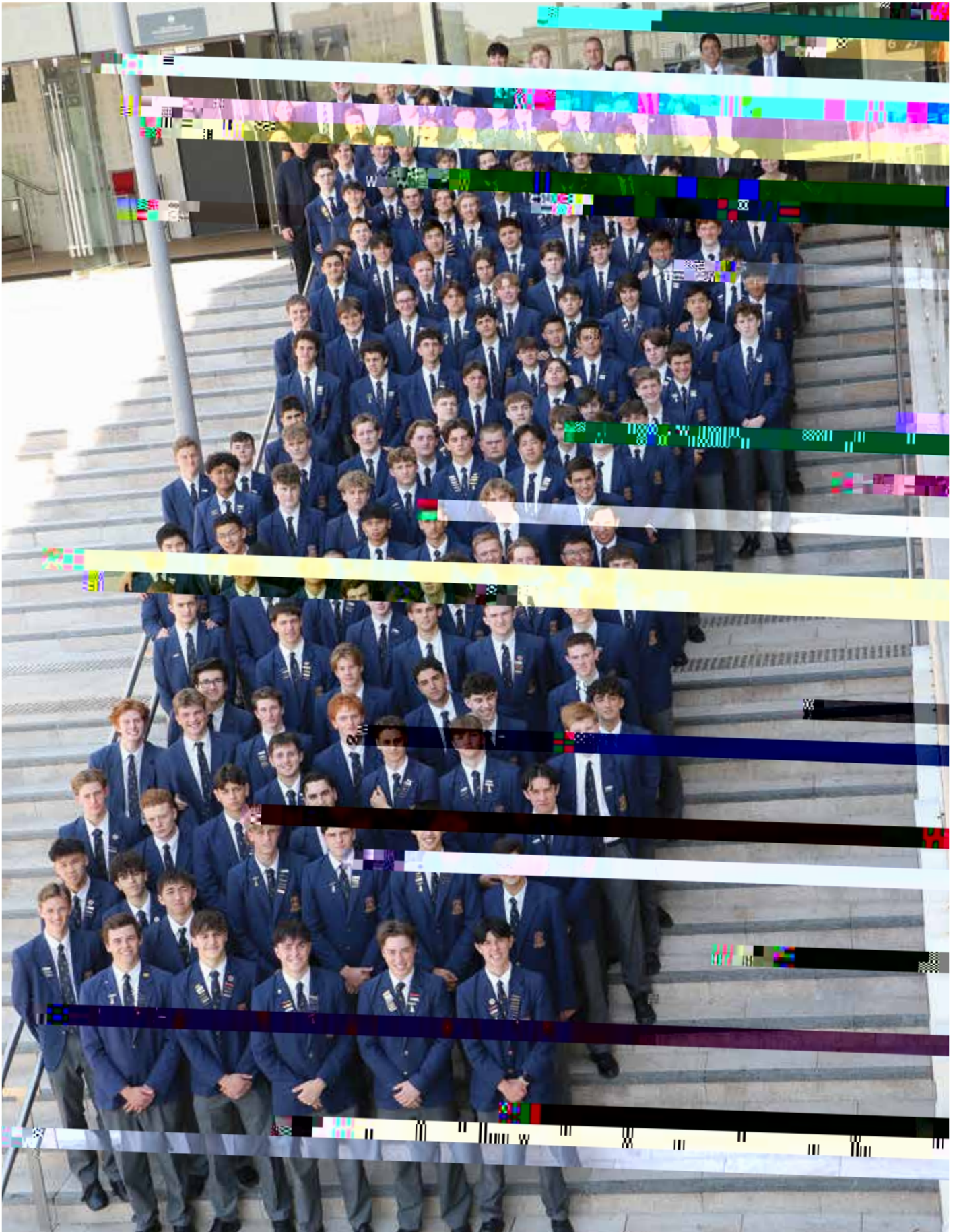
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It has been a wonderful experience being a part of the College in this busy year and getting to know this warm and friendly community who have so warmly welcomed me. This Spring edition of our magazine highlights many of the different activities that make St Pius X such a vibrant, successful College in the Edmund Rice tradition. Religious Faith underpins our life here and we live it, not only through our liturgies and prayer life but also through all aspects of our curricula and co-curricular activities.

I have been greatly impressed with how well the College manages such a diverse and busy calendar of events. The co-curricular program has been full of sports, music, drama, robotics, chess and debating but to name a few. Our social justice program has featured the Red Dirt Immersion experience, R U OK? Day, volunteering at the Matthew Talbot Hostel and other charitable activities. It was wonderful to see





Top left Year 12 Graduation Mass **Top right** Ceremony of Light **Middle left** Mr Mark Casey gives the Valedictory Address **Middle right** The Year 12 cohort sing 'You Raise Me Up' to finish off the Graduation **Bottom** 2023 Major Award Recipients

Academic Awards - Years 7 - 10

On 3 August the College acknowledged the outstanding academic achievements of its students at the Celebration of Learning. Held at the Concourse Chatswood, students across Years 7-10 were presented academic and growth in learning awards from Semester One 2023. Mr Billy Johnson, College Captain 2013 provided an inspiring keynote address detailing how the values of compassion and resilience, learnt at SPX, have been invaluable for him over the past decade. The Celebration of Learning also showcased other talented students who entertained the audience with films from Lights Camera Pius! Film Festival, Year 11 Drama performances, musical performances from the award-winning Middle School Concert Band, Red Dirt Immersion updates, languages videos, artworks and more. Congratulations to all those who received awards and thanks to all those who contributed to this wonderful celebration.

The following Awards were presented:

117 Fide Awards Recipients

(24 Year 7, 30 Year 8, 36 Year 9, 27 Year 10)

6 Waterford Awards (Years 7 – 10)

41 Growth in Learning Awards (Years 8 – 10)

7 Blue Academic Colour Awards

1 Silver Academic Colour Award



Top 2013 College Captain, Billy Johnson keynote address Bottom Awardees

Co-curricular Colour Awards

Silver and Gold Colour Awards were presented at the Co-curricular Colours Awards Ceremony at the Concourse on 5 September with Blue Awards presented during the term at College assemblies.

The following Colour Awards were presented:

	Gold	Silver	Blue
Music	5	13	13
Drama	0	8	5
Chess	0	8	11
Debating	2	10	6
Athletics	1	7	6
Cross Country	1	1	5
Basketball	2	9	31
Cricket	4	6	34
Football	2	17	18
Rugby	4	17	30
Swimming	1	3	3
Tennis	0	6	8
Squash	0	2	6
TOTAL	22	107	176



Top Drama Silver Awardees Bottom Athletics Silver Awardees

Australian History Competition

Congratulations to Michael Cheah of Year 9 who was recognised as the New South Wales and Australian Champion for Years 9 and 10 in the Australian History Competition. Each year over 30,000 students from across the country enter the competition which offers a Years 7/8 paper and a Years 9/10 paper consisting of 45 multiple choice questions broadly based on the Australian Curriculum. Michael achieved a perfect score in the Years 9/10 competition despite not having studied the Year 10 coursework yet!

Michael received a specially minted medallion, a leather-bound portfolio, and a cash prize from the competition organisers.

Fête de la Bastille

On 31 July the College celebrated a belated "Fête de la Bastille". The day started with an accordionist playing some musette in the school lobby followed by a "French-themed Assembly" with students recounting the story behind "La Fête Nationale" (Bastille Day), the relationship between France and Australia, the John Monash Centre in France, and the introduction of the French CLUB. Year 8 had the pleasure of having "The French Counter" for the whole day presenting a crêpes making workshop followed by the students ordering in French.

Year 9 Markarky

Armstrong and celebrating Catholic Faith and Identity are core elements of St Pius X College.

Reflecting the EREA Touchstones, the College provided many practical spiritual and liturgical experiences to the College community in terms two and three. These experiences were both within the Religious Education curriculum at St Pius X College as well as a wide range of faith formation opportunities to develop the spiritual life of each student and their families. This busy program has featured events of worship, celebration and contemplation and included: Retreats; Reflection Days; Grandparents and Parent liturgies; the Feast of the Assumption Masses; Regular Chapel Masses both here and at Mercy Catholic College as well as our Year 12 Graduation Mass.

Feast of Blessed Edmund Rice

During May the College assembled to mark the Feast Day of our patron, Blessed Edmund Rice. Edmund was a man who possessed a profound sense of the dignity of every human person and a heightened sensitivity to the poor and the marginalised. At the assembly leaders recalled the events of Edmund's life that led him to found the Christian Brothers, an organisation that lives out the Catholic faith through good works – particularly for those on the margins. Edmund's spirituality can be summed up by his two most well known quotes, each of which can be found represented in the front foyer of the College. Through each social justice outreach initiative, we attempt to be people who 'Give to the poor in handfuls!'; while every prayer at the college concludes with the beautiful line that shows what we desire, 'Live Jesus in our Hearts – Forever!' Our aim is to remind ourselves of the spirituality of Blessed Edmund Rice, as well as remind us of the legacy of which we are a part.



Mother's Day Celebrations

The entire College participated in celebrating mothers and significant women in their lives on 12 May with a Mother's Day Liturgy followed by breakfast.

With over 700 people in attendance the day was blessed with beautiful weather and a special Liturgy. College Captain, Eamon Boyle, provided a heart-felt and moving reflection that certainly highlighted the importance of having supportive women in our lives.

Feast of the Assumption Celebrations

The Feast of the Assumption was marked on 15 August. It was a day of holy obligation which the College celebrated with three Masses at Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Church. The core of this feast is the celebration of a the word - 'YES: Mary's 'yes' or 'at' to God's call at age 14, took her on an arduous yet breathtaking adventure. This feast celebrates her being rewarded for her consent 'yes' by being assumed into Heaven both body and soul. The College extends its gratitude to Fr David Ranson and Fr Joey Frez for celebrating the Eucharist with the College.



Left Junior School Assumption Mass Top right Mother's Day celebrations Bottom right Feast of the Assumption Mass Booklet

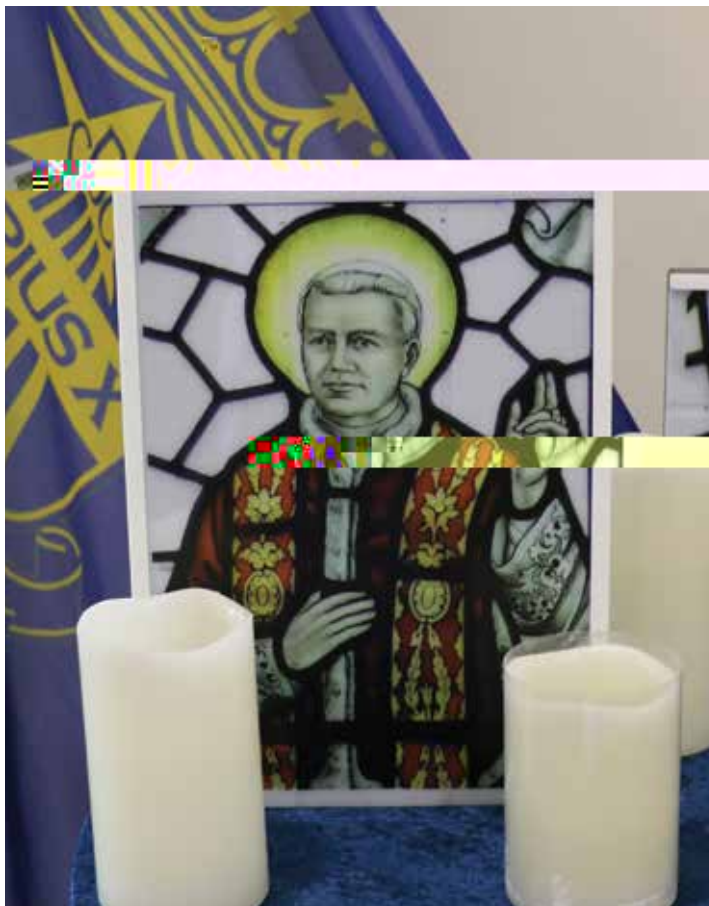
St Pius X Day

The College was closed on 28 August in a mark of respect of St Pius X. Born Giuseppe Sarto in 1835 in Northern Italy he was the second of 10 children in a poor Italian family, He was ordained a priest in 1858 and later was Bishop of Mantua and Cardinal Patriarch of Venice. Fr Sarto had a strong pastoral concern in his priestly ministries and often pawned his personal possessions to help the poor. He became Pope Pius X at age 68. His Papacy extended from 9 August 1903 to 20 August 1914 and was noteworthy for a number of achievements: codification of Canon Law, promotion of scientific study of the Bible, more modern liturgies and church music and many social justice initiatives.

Pope Pius X worked hard to prevent the First World War, proclaiming he would "Pray for Peace" rather than supporting any side.

He is often called the Pope of the Eucharist because he made Holy Communion available to younger people "at the age of reason".

Pope Pius X was canonized on 29 May 1954 and two days later at a special Mass in the local parish church the college was officially named St Pius X College.



Youth Mass

Every fourth Sunday at 5,30pm at Our Lady of Dolours Church, St Pius X College and Mercy Catholic College students collaborate at the Youth Mass. Combined weekly chapel masses are also held on site at either school during the term. These are wonderful opportunities for the students to get together and connect within their Catholic Faith.

Father's Day and Jersey Day

The Senior School community recognised Father's Day with Mass in Our Lady Of Dolours Parish Chatswood, celebrated by Fr David Ranson. At least two hundred dads, students, and staff enjoyed the moving liturgy honouring all who offer fatherly love. After Mass, fathers and sons were provided breakfast by the College. These celebrations coincided with the College recognising and supporting Jersey Day where students, staff and parents wore colourful jerseys to raise awareness for organ donation.



Left St Pius X Day Top right Youth Mass at Our Lady of Dolours Parish Church Bottom right Father's Day celebrations

Winter Appeal

Driven by Year 9, the appeal ran during June with goods collected and distributed to St Vincent de Paul, Brookvale and Jesuit Refugee Services, Parramatta. Students are always encouraged to consider the plight of those around them, and to act by giving to the poor in handfuls.

Award winning BeConnected Program

Congratulations to Willoughby City Library on winning the RH Dougherty Award for Innovation in Special Events for their "Be Connected Young Mentors Program". St Pius X College Chatswood students have been participating in this wonderful program where our tech savvy students work with seniors in the community to help improve their digital literacy. It's a win-win situation as the students gain valuable teaching, communication and leadership skills while the seniors gain digital skills and new knowledge. Not to mention the wonderful inter-generational connection.

Bunnings BBQs

During the July holidays, Year 10 students continued in their volunteering program with Chatswood Parish, cooking up a storm for a range of Bunnings BBQs. The Parish extends its thanks to those involved throughout the three BBQ days that students have rostered!



Top left St Pius X College Winter Appeal **Top right** The BeConnected Mentors **Bottom left** Year 10 and 11 students participating in the Centacare Work/Life skills program **Bottom right** Maxwell Forbes, recipient of the 2023 Northern Beaches NSW Young Volunteer of the Year Award

Centacare Solidarity Program

Students from Years 10 and 11 each spent a day working with Centacare Industries, a warehousing operation employing people who live with a range of Intellectual Disabilities. These students represented the College with excellence, partaking in the Life Skills and Work Skills part of the program, interacting with Centacare staff and gaining an insight into building capacity for those living with disability.

Young Volunteer of the Year Award

Congratulations to Year 11 student Maxwell Forbes who was the recipient of the 2023 Northern Beaches NSW Young Volunteer of the Year Award.

Maxwell was nominated by Willoughby City Library where he has been actively involved in guiding children between the ages of 5 and 11 through coding projects within the Code Club. He was also a volunteer in the Digital Literacy Program that teaches patrons how to use technology more effectively.

The award was presented by Federal MP and Winter Olympian Ms Zali Stegall at a recent ceremony at Dee Why RSL.

Maxwell will now go on to represent the Northern Beaches region of youth volunteers at the upcoming State awards ceremony scheduled for December.

Reconciliation

The College Assembly was the highlight of Reconciliation Week. The Aboriginal Dance group Nulungu Dreaming,

JERSEY DAY

As a part of the Father's Day celebrations the College community wore sports jerseys in support of Organ Donation. This is an important event for the College as it commemorates Thomas Van Dijk who tragically passed away in 2021 whilst in Year 12. He directly supported organ donation.

R U OK? DAY

Held on 15 September, students had the opportunity to write a note on who/what they are grateful for on R U OK? Day. The assembly emphasised the importance of recognising signs of depression in others and a willingness to engage in active listening in relationships with others. Year 5 students made cards for the Year 12s wishing them well in the upcoming HSC.

Year 8 Ski Trip

One hundred and sixty Year 8 students enjoyed the week-long Ski Trip with fresh snow falling during their time at Blue Cow Ski Resort in the NSW Snowy Mountains.

Year 12 Retreats



Top left Proudly supporting Jersey Day **Top right** Year 12 student leaders decorating the school for R U OK? Day **Bottom left** Year 8 Ski trip **Bottom right** One of the Year 12 retreats

Building Community Connections

Each year as part of the pastoral care program, the College works closely with other schools and organisations within



Senior Athletics Carnival

Congratulations to Treacy House who won the Athletics

Robotics Club

The Robotics Club continues to expand in popularity with students learning to understand existing technologies and being empowered to engage with emerging ones as well.

The Year 6 program has grown to 45 students and they continue to work through skills with the EV3 Lego platform.

The Year 5 program commences in Term 4.

Year 7 teams have been developing their skills with Python as they apply their new knowledge to navigating lego- based soccer robots.

The older students have been working on Arduino based projects, delivery drones, Mars rovers and a Boston dynamics inspired robotic dog.

Outdoor Education

June saw the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award students undertaking two adventurous journey hikes as part of achieving their Award. The first hike took place on 3/4 June with 27 Year 9 students hiking 30km from Hornsby to Cowan. Then again on 17/18 June the group hiked 25km from Mt Kuring-Gai to Cowan via Brooklyn, camping overnight at Brooklyn Dam. Congratulations to all the boys who have now completed this component for their Bronze Award.



Top left Junior School Robotics **Top right** Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Hike **Bottom left** Cameron Masters and Adam Fitzryk with their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Awards **Bottom right** Senior School Chess Club

Duke of Edinburgh Awardees

Four students were presented with their Duke of Edinburgh Awards during the past two terms. Adam Fitzryk from Year 10, Ronald Holmes and Cameron Masters from Year 11 completed their Bronze Awards and Benjamin Woollard of Year 12 completed his Silver Award.

Senior School Chess

St Pius X Chess players represented the College with 12 teams across 3 Divisions – Seniors, Intermediates and Juniors, in the NSW Junior Chess League – Secondary Schools Competition – Metropolitan North 2023.

Congratulations to the following teams that finished the season with a top 3 place in their Divisions:

3rd – SPX A SN1 - Ned Turner, Andre Mury (C), Chris Elliot, Luca Vincenzo, Xander Buckingham.

2nd – SPX C SN3 - Cooper Anderson, Spencer Anderson (C), Ethan Li, James Kassis.

3rd – SPX D JN3 - Rayan Alexander, Cruz Arapoc (C), Gavin Bae, Lucas Chong.

3rd – SPX A JR5 - Mac Hillsdon, Jayden Law (C), Lachlan O'Neill, Oscar Roberts.

2nd – SPX B JN6 - Brandon Ang (C), Artem Komarov, Justin Meza, Chris Yastrebo .

Eisteddfod Winners

Congratulations to the following Bands and Ensembles who placed in the Sydney Eisteddfod, held at The Concourse in June:

Senior Jazz Ensemble – First place, conducted by Mr Geo Power, in the Premier Section of the competition.

Middle School Concert Band – First place, conducted by Miss Laura Power, in the Secondary Senior Novice Band section.

Junior Jazz Ensemble - Third place, conducted by Mr Geo Power, in the Secondary School Novice Stage Band section.

Lights Camera Pius! Short Film Festival

Lights Camera Pius! Film Festival has become an institution at St Pius X College. The festival is open to students from all years and features short films in any genre, including animation. This year the St Pius X community were treated with the first screening in a professional theatre. Boys watched the creative works of their classmates in comfort at the Westfield Hoyts Extreme Theatre. There were many varied offerings from zombie movies, lego car chases, bike thief chases and some whodunit stories. A Batman remake by Freddie Johnston and Alex Regan, which was both humorous and action-packed, won the Year 12 category. A film noir murder mystery by seasoned filmmaker Michael Krizan won the Years 9 and 10 category and a comedic drama from Jayden Kwok in Year 6 took out the prize for Years 6-9. Jayden's film called "Day in the Life of a St Pius T-Rex" impressed our judges, Mr Dan Quilty, Ms Emma Fryar and College Captain Eamon Boyle, with its imaginative storyline.

Young Archie Honourable Mentions

The Young Archies is a portrait competition run by the Art Gallery of NSW that accompanies the Archibald Prize every year. Finn McLean (Year 10) and Fergus Fung (Year 11) were selected for Honourable Mentions this year. Fergus entered a portrait of Mr Anthony Timmins, ('Asking Mr Timmins') – a much-loved teacher and Music Coordinator who passed away last year. Finn's watercolour artwork, 'Armchair Expert', is a portrait of his sporting enthusiast dad.

There were more than 3,400 entries this year from which there were 70 finalists and 20 honourable mentions. That is a significant achievement for the boys. Their works were displayed at the SH Ervin Gallery from May to July 2023 alongside the Salon des Refusés Archibald Prize selection of works.

Farewell Year 12 Twilight Concert

The Twilight Concert was a fitting farewell to the Year 12 students who have supported and contributed. That

Retirement of College Deputy Principal, Mr Mark Casey

After many years of outstanding service to Catholic education, our College Deputy Principal, Mr Mark Casey will retire at the end of 2023. This was a very difficult decision for Mark because of his love and affection for the St Pius X College community.

Mark arrived at the College in 2011 as Head of Mission & Identity and was appointed Deputy Principal of the College in 2016. He has been a highly valued member of the College Leadership Team, a loyal Deputy and an effective Acting Principal on occasion. College Principal, Mr Michael Ronchetti wrote: "I personally owe Mark a debt of gratitude for the manner in which he has supported me during my transition to the College. Mark has been invaluable during this time. Mark has always been energetic and committed to his Catholic Faith."

Mark's passion outside of the classroom has been as a coach, particularly in Rugby, in which he has great knowledge and experience. The role of Deputy Principal is particularly demanding, and Mark has always been fair, honest and authentic in his dealings with all members of the College community. He will be greatly missed.

New Assistant Principal Co-curricular

Congratulations to Mr Matthew Stearn who has been

New Committee and President

President: Barry Wong, Class of 1968

Vice President: David Bullard, Class of 1982

Secretary: Peter Fossey, Class of 1976/77

Treasurer: John Reid, Class of 1968

General Committee: Anthony Watkins, Class of 2003,
Trent Willoughby, Class of 2003 and Je Clarke, Class of 1986

College Liaison Officer: Sean Brannan, Class of 1986

Honorary Doctorate for John Watkins, Class of 1973

A Doctor of Education was conferred on Dr Watkins by the University of Notre Dame in recognition of his outstanding contribution to health, education and the Catholic community.

Dr Watkins, Class of 1973, was a secondary school teacher before being elected to the NSW State Parliament in 1995.

He held the positions of Minister for Finance, Police, State Development, Education and Training, Corrective Services, Fair Trading, Sport and Recreation, and also served as Deputy Premier in the NSW Labor Government.

Old Boys' Dinner

On 8 September the SPX Old Boys' Annual Dinner featured over 100 participants with large contingents of the 2022, 1982 and 1986 cohorts in attendance. The Awards of the first College Captain James Crawford Biggs AM were presented after being donated back to the College by his family for the archives.

**Dr James Crawford Biggs AM,
D.Phil, MBBS, FRACP, FRCPA
Class of 1948**

Bill James Fellowship

Donations to the College are always welcome. They come in a number of forms including scholarships, direct tax deductions to the Building Fund or in other cases such as the James Fellowship as tied grants for a specific purpose. Bill James, Class of 1968, went on to a highly successful career in travel with the European Tour Operation Top Deck, which at one time employed several St Pius X Old Boys, and then the successful Flight Centre business. He has also been a great supporter of our Kokoda Track Expeditions.

Bill realises the great benefits of travel and immersion in other places as a way of learning and expanding people's understanding of the world. To this end he has established the James Fellowship which provides an opportunity for teachers at the College to travel and experience firsthand aspects of teaching in new and stimulating environments.

In 2023 four teachers were able to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity during the midyear break.

History Coordinator, Mr Pat Rodgers, travelled to the battlefields of Europe to tour firsthand the sites of so many battles in the First World War. He was able to walk about the sites at Villers Bretonneux and Ypres. The First World War is a key part of the Modern History Syllabus at many stages and the experience really brought home to him the immense scale of the tragedy of these battles.

Year 12 Coordinator and Science teacher, Mr Paul Ticli, travelled to the Northern Territory and had a five-day immersion experience based on the Larapinta Trail. Indigenous Australian Geographic guides gave him firsthand engagements with a profound landscape, that held significance to Indigenous Peoples as well as Curriculum based Science covering Habitats, Ecology, Plate Tectonics, Evolution and Natural Selection.

Art Coordinator, Ms Frances Doyle and Science teacher, Ms Denise Ramsey had a remarkably different experience in that they were able to take part in the Harvard University Project Zero Program. This inspirational program investigated learning, understanding, critical thinking and creativity while paying attention to issues of equity and inclusion. These are all key elements of our core business of facilitating student learning at the College. Their experience made them aware of new teaching strategies but also energised them through the process of engaging with such a high-quality program.

All four teachers presented the outcomes of their experiences to staff. The well-received presentations encouraged other staff to seek out their own opportunities to learn through experience.



Top Mr Pat Rodgers **Middle** Mr Paul Ticli
Bottom Ms Denise Ramsey and Ms Frances Doyle

Please consider investing in the future of the College in a practical manner through a donation of some form. You can choose to donate to a specific area such as the scholarship or building funds, create your own package as Bill James has or let us decide where it's most needed. For further information or to discuss how you can help the boys and the College please contact the Business Manager or Mr Tony Cunneen on (02) 9411 4733.



