



Lucerna

A PUBLICATION OF THE ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE COMMUNITY

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

In the Footsteps of St Paul

In Term 4, I had the privilege of undertaking a pilgrimage through Greece and Turkey, tracing the journeys of St Paul. More than travel, it was a deeply reflective experience, an opportunity to connect Scripture with place and renew my understanding of mission and leadership within our Catholic tradition.

Visiting Philippi, Athens, Corinth and Ephesus highlighted Paul's courage, adaptability and commitment to building communities of faith. The early Church grew through relationships, resilience and thoughtful engagement with the world; qualities that continue to guide our work today.

This experience has strengthened our resolve to ensure that Identity remains central to College life. Through the restructuring of Identity, we are bringing greater coherence to liturgy, learning, pastoral care and service, ensuring our Edmund Rice mission is lived meaningfully by every boy. Above all, the pilgrimage reaffirmed our responsibility to form young men of faith, integrity and compassion.

Our Strategic Vision (2026–2030)

The implementation of the new Strategic Plan, 'Ad Proximum Saeculum' (Towards the Next Century), sets a clear direction for St Patrick's College as we approach our Centenary. Grounded in our motto, 'Luceat Lux Vestra', the plan positions the College as a 'lighthouse' for boys' education, forming graduates of character who use their gifts in service of others.

The plan is built around six priorities:

- faith and formation
- liberating learning
- a culture of care
- excellence in teaching
- strengthening community
- contemporary governance

Together, these priorities align our learning, wellbeing, partnerships and stewardship so our purpose is lived with clarity and conviction. The Strategic Plan is available on our website under the 'About' section, or via the following link: *Our Purpose and Our Strategic Plan - St Patrick's College Strathfield*

A Renewed Digital Home for Our Community

The launch of a refreshed College website: spc.nsw.edu.au offers clearer navigation and improved access to 'Learning,' 'Co-Curricular' and 'Community' information. Our Edmund Rice identity is now more visible, and the 'News and Events' hub provides easier access to updates, including Old Boys' stories.

The 'Giving' page, now located within the 'Community' section, reflects our commitment to growing philanthropy to support bursaries, particularly through the Vestra Bursary Fund, which helps ensure boys in need can access an SPC education.

Growing With Purpose

Since 2021, the College has experienced sustained enrolment growth and now serves more than 1,600 students. This growth is being carefully managed within

our long term plan, which includes a staged pathway to an enrolment ceiling of 1,790 by 2030.

A larger student population brings significant benefits: broader curriculum offerings, expanded co-curricular opportunities, increased leadership pathways and the capacity to invest in contemporary facilities that support excellence and belonging.

Curriculum breadth has grown considerably. The Scientia precinct has strengthened Technological and Applied Studies, particularly Food Technology and Hospitality. Our Vocational Education and Training (VET) offerings continue to expand, with Hospitality (Food and Beverage), Hospitality (Kitchen Operations), Construction and Entertainment now available. Increasing numbers of students are also accessing TAFE-delivered VET courses, including emerging industry aligned options such as Real Estate.

This growth is intentional and aligned with our strategic direction as we move confidently toward our Centenary.

Preparing for Our Centenary Year

Planning for our Centenary in 2028 is well underway. It is fitting that the cohort who will lead us into this milestone arrived as the "Centenary Class of 2028," and they have been encouraged to see themselves as custodians of this significant moment.

Our Centenary work honours the College's rich history, founded by the Christian Brothers, opened in 1928 with 39 students, and shaped over nearly a century by the values of the Blue, Black and Gold. A written history of the College is being prepared to capture the milestones, personalities and stories that have defined our community.

A major initiative is the establishment of a Heritage Centre at 20 Merley Road. This dedicated space will house archives, memorabilia and curated displays, offering students, Old Boys and visitors a living connection to our story. An oral history project is also underway to preserve the voices and memories of Old Boys across generations.

Planning has begun for a series of Centenary events, including celebrations of faith, community gatherings, exhibitions, reunions and signature occasions that honour our heritage while looking confidently to the future.

Those wishing to contribute; whether through donations, interviews, volunteering or artefact submissions, are invited to visit the College website and navigate to 'Community' — 'Giving,' or access the page directly here: *Giving | St Patrick's College Strathfield - St Patrick's College Strathfield*

With the strength of our community and the clarity of our mission, we step into the years ahead with purpose and pride.

Live Jesus in our hearts, Forever.

Ilaveat
Dr Vittoria Lavorato
Principal



Dr Lavorato at Ephesus, Turkey, visiting the House of Mary.



Our Strategic Plan is available via the College website.



Dr Lavorato with Year 12 students Denzel Tan & Christopher Mok at the Prefect Fundraising Auction.



The College Chapel on opening day in 1961, ahead of its 65th year and our 2028 Centenary.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH



Dr Lavorato leads the First XI onto the field before their victorious Black and Green Shield match against Trinity Grammar School.

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College Dux, Lucas Martin gives his address.



Proxime Accessit, Christopher Costa.



Dr Lavorato with High Achievers: Christopher Costa, Daniel Biasi, Jack Thompson, Lucas Martin, Anton Caruana & Awtel Haddad.



Ethan Aflak, Nicholas Macher & Joseph Rigon received State rankings.



Students who received an ATAR above 95.



Our HSC Drama OnSTAGE nominees with renowned author and Old Boy Thomas Keneally ('52), centre, alongside his grandson and fellow nominee Gus Keneally, leading playwright Stephen Sewell & their proud teacher Ms Duff.



Daniel Bechara with his Pedestrian and Traffic Light Ecosystem, selected for the SHAPE exhibition.

A TRIUMPH OF TALENT AND EXCELLENCE

The Class of 2025 has distinguished itself through exceptional achievement in the Higher School Certificate. As the College's largest graduating cohort, these young men have continued the strong academic tradition of recent years while elevating it to new heights, demonstrating excellence across a broad range of academic, creative and practical disciplines.

In recognition of these outstanding results, the College achieved a State ranking of 67th in New South Wales, a significant improvement from 89th in 2024. For a comprehensive, academically non-selective boys' school, this accomplishment is particularly noteworthy and reflects the dedication of students and staff alike.

We proudly acknowledge our Dux for 2025, Lucas Martin (99.35), and our Proxime Accessit, Christopher Costa (99.2). Eight students were recognised on the prestigious NSW HSC All-Rounders' List for achieving the highest band available in ten or more units of study. Congratulations are extended to Michael Atra, Christopher Costa, Awtel Haddad, Joshua Malone, Lucas Martin, Joseph Rigon, Dominic Short and Daniel Terrone. These

students not only excelled academically but also contributed meaningfully to the life of the College through co-curricular involvement and participation in the Faith and Justice program.

Several students also achieved exceptional individual honours at a State level. Ethan Aflak placed third in the State in Information and Digital Technology, Nicholas Macher achieved sixth in the State in Industrial Technology, and Joseph Rigon placed tenth in the State in Business Studies.

Importantly, the achievements of the Class of 2025 extended well beyond traditional academic measures, highlighting the creativity, innovation and talent of St Patrick's students in practical and performance-based disciplines.

The College celebrated an outstanding ten OnSTAGE Group Performance nominations, three OnSTAGE Individual Project nominations and two ENCORE nominations, recognising excellence in Drama and Music performances and compositions.

Additionally, nine students received nominations for SHAPE, the prestigious exhibition showcasing exemplary HSC Major Works in Design and Technology and Industrial Technology.

This included five students from Industrial Technology and four from Design and Technology, reflecting the exceptional quality of work produced under the guidance of the College's dedicated TAS teachers.

Particularly noteworthy was the achievement of Daniel Bechara, whose Major Work was selected for inclusion in SHAPE. His innovative Pedestrian and Traffic Light Ecosystem featured interconnected designs aimed at improving safety and accessibility for pedestrians and drivers, particularly the elderly and people with disabilities.

The achievements of the Class of 2025 were celebrated at the High Achievers' Assembly at the start of the school year. They are a powerful reflection of the culture of learning, perseverance and opportunity that defines St Patrick's College. More than rankings and statistics, these results demonstrate what can be achieved when young men are encouraged to challenge themselves, pursue their passions and strive for excellence in all areas of College life.

James Martin
Director of Curriculum



Owen & Declan Giles with their grandmother and mother.



Benjamin & Jonah Kalifa feel their mother's love.



Year 12 students share messages for their mothers in a variety of languages.

A CELEBRATION OF LOVE, FAITH AND FAMILY

In May, our College community gathered at Rosehill Gardens for a beautiful Mothers' Day Mass, a celebration filled with faith, gratitude and deep affection for the mothers and mother figures who shape our lives. We were honoured to welcome Father Tom Stevens from St Patrick's Catholic Parish, Mortlake, whose warmth, humour and engaging presence set a meaningful tone for the morning.

In his homily, Father Tom reflected on the evolving nature of love, sharing the story of a parishioner who, after losing her husband, spoke of learning to love him differently through each stage of their marriage. His message reminded us that love is never static; it grows, deepens and remains central in all we do. He also drew on the Gospel story of the Wedding at Cana, highlighting Mary's attentiveness in noticing the needs of others, a quiet strength so often embodied by mothers.

A particularly moving moment came when students offered prayers for their mothers

before presenting them with a rose. This was followed by a touching tribute from Year 12 students, who delivered messages of love in their family languages, including Polish, Italian, Spanish, Aramaic, Cantonese, Greek, Croatian, Filipino and Arabic, beautifully reflecting the rich cultural diversity of our College.

Another highlight was a surprise gesture for Dr Lavorato, acknowledged by College Captain Francesco Mazza for the many Mothers' Day Masses she has missed while serving school communities. The arrival of her daughter brought a touching moment of joy and gratitude.

Our choir and musicians added greatly to the celebration, and we thank them, along with Dr Taylor, for their wonderful contribution. The morning concluded with a warm and lively morning tea, shared in the autumn sunshine.

Nikki Fochesato
Community Liaison Officer



Dr Lavorato shares a special moment with her daughter.



A cuppa, good company and a lovely morning tea for our mums.



Happy faces at this year's BBG Dinner Dance.



Our wonderful P&F Executive Committee.



Year 5 dads at the Year 5 P&F Cocktail Evening.



Mr Byrne & Dr Lavorato with the lucky recipients of the BBG raffle prize.



Parents lending a hand at the Saturday BBQ.



Keeping the snags sizzling and the crowd smiling.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

The Parents' and Friends' Association began 2026 by welcoming a new Executive team, following the outstanding leadership of Elena Ierardo over the past three years. Several new members joined the committee, bringing fresh energy and ideas to the year ahead.

With a vision to leave a lasting legacy, the P&F committed 2026 fundraising efforts to the renovation of the Breen Oval Kitchen and the Year 12 Lunch Room. The College community responded with overwhelming generosity, with many families contributing to the project. As plans are finalised, the P&F looks forward to creating an exceptional space for the graduating Class of 2027 and future Year 12 students.

The year began with a warm welcome to new families at the Year 5 Morning Tea. A packed gymnasium of excited students and parents created a wonderful atmosphere, and the morning tea offered an opportunity for families to connect and form new friendships.

Following the success of the inaugural School Fee Raffle, the initiative returned with another \$10,000 prize. Congratulations to a father of a Year 6 student, who was the lucky winner of the 2026 draw.

The Year 5 Parents' Cocktail Evening at Scientia provided an

informal opportunity for families to meet their sons' teachers and specialist staff, accompanied by delicious Italian canapés from local school family business 'Miz Tutti'.

The traditional Saturday BBQs also returned in spectacular fashion, beginning with the Black and Green Shield clash against Trinity. Record sales saw the P&F restocking supplies from our much loved butcher and Old Boy, Brett McDonald ('90). While the BBQs were firing, our boys were equally impressive on the field, proudly bringing the Shield back to St Patrick's College.

This year's BBG Dinner Dance was another highlight, with Mr Byrne as Master of Ceremonies. The evening included the presentation of the major raffle prize to Mr Orlovic and special recognition of two dedicated mothers; Lina Batorilla and Belinda Barakat, whose years of service to the P&F and College community were warmly acknowledged.

The P&F now looks forward to an exciting conclusion to the year, including the return of SPC Trivia Night on 23 October, the Major Works Evening, the Father's Day Brunch and the annual Back to Breen BBQ.

Jaslyn Hewitt-Shehadie
P&F President



Fr Geoff Plant guiding our community in faith.



The congregation offers a blessing for Br Berg & Br Oakley.



Competitors take to Breen Oval for the 30th running of the Waterford Mile.



It's all smiles from the sidelines!



Mrs Sinadinos and Mr Boumelhem hot on the heels of Jake Nasr.



Our drumline drumming up the energy at half-time.

CELEBRATING OUR FOUNDER

Our community of staff and students celebrated Founder's Day on Friday 5 June with Mass, followed by a shared meal, the Waterford Mile, Staff v Students Football Match, entertainment from the College's Drumline and an early finish into the long weekend.

Our focus Touchstone this year, 'Gospel Spirituality,' shaped a Mass that celebrated the faith and trust Edmund Rice and the Christian Brothers placed in God. It honoured our Irish Catholic heritage and highlighted elements of the Edmund Rice Icon, especially the spiral, symbolising the Divine at our centre. We move outward to serve, but must return to that centre for grounding, reflection and meditation. It is the Divine that nourishes us, just as it inspired Edmund's mission.

Fr Geoff Plant celebrated the Mass and, in his Homily, spoke about protecting human dignity as outlined in Pope Leo's 'Magnifica Humanitas.' He linked this to 'The Lord of the Rings,' reminding us that while we cannot change the whole world, we can transform our own sphere. We can act justly, love God and live His teachings, just as Edmund did for the poor of Waterford, the uneducated, the imprisoned and the marginalised. We were invited to consider how we, too, might help create a better world for all.

We acknowledged the Christian Brothers for whom the Houses are named and claimed our commitment to them, and we sang hymns to reflect our need for God's love and how we stand humbly before Him seeking guidance and support. After communion, we blessed the Christian Brothers who were with us, Br Brian Berg and Br Paul Oakley, which included singing The St Patrick's Breastplate for them.

Then the annual Founder's Day Touchstone Awards were presented, this year with a focus on Gospel Spirituality, looking at how these people are a living spring in the community, how they experience God in their lives and how they stand firm for what they believe in. The awards were presented to the following people for how they make others' lives better and how they shine a light for their community: Theodore Karagiannis (Stage 3), Benjamin Gan (Stage 4), Xavier Tan (Stage 5), Sebastian Aziz (Stage 6) and staff member Mrs Nikki Fochesato (Archivist & Community Liaison).

After Mass, our special guests enjoyed morning tea while the whole community gathered around Breen Oval and shared a meal. The annual Waterford Mile was run and won by Archie Ackland of Year 9, with Aidan O'Brien-Kratiuk (Year 11) and Aston Barilla (Year 6) placing second and third. We congratulate all who took part in the event which has become a long-standing tradition of the day.

Next came the Staff v Student Football Match, now in its second year. After several weeks of Year 12 House competitions, Berg House earned the right to take on the teachers. Fittingly, Br Berg led the team out through the tunnel and supported them from the sideline, celebrating with them as Berg (the students) secured a 3-2 win. Half time in the match saw the SPC Drumline showcase their skills, adding to the carnival atmosphere.

Overall, the day was about community. It is a celebration of our past, while living the charism and tradition in the present, and showcasing who we want to be into the future.

Gillian Daley
Director of Identity

WATERFORD MILESTONE



Br Berg congratulates Waterford Mile winner Archie Ackland of Berg House.

This year marks the 30th running of the Waterford Mile, now a much loved Founder's Day tradition. First introduced in 1996, it was hoped the event would grow into a lasting tradition, and three decades later, it has more than fulfilled that vision.

The inaugural race was won by Year 9 student Andrew Middleton, whose standout year in Athletics included him breaking the ISA 3000m record. This year, Archie Ackland (Year 9) adds his name to the trophy, joining his twin brother Charlie, the 2023 winner. As we celebrate thirty years, we honour all who have contributed to this enduring tradition.

PREVIOUS WINNERS OF THE WATERFORD MILE

1996	Andrew Middleton
1997	Bede Aquilina
1998	Andrew Wallace
1999	Neville Stanton
2000	Thomas Boiden
2001	Mathew English
2002	James Caristo
2003	Anthony Pulvirenti
2004	Dominic James
2005	Andrew Evans
2006	Kieran Briscoe
2007	Nicholas Dennis
2008	Not Run (rain affected track)
2009	Jake Antoun
2010	Connor Mulholland
2011	Connor Mulholland
2012	Darcy Jenson
2013	Luke Touma
2014	Daniel Calavassy
2015	Tyler Cutter
2016	Darcy Jenson
2017	Alexander Vellar
2018	Jonathan Meaker
2019	Jonathan Meaker
2020	Joe Doran
2021	Jonathan Meaker
2022	Deegan O'Brien-Kratiuk
2023	Charlie Ackland
2024	Luke Costello
2025	Jack Taylor
2026	Archie Ackland



Ethan Magee proves that even in the age of AI, the pen still has plenty to say.



Elias Cooney & Jonathan Chau-Vuu highlight the importance of learning through active investigation.



Xavier Khoury figures out a Maths problem the old fashioned way.



Ayaan Gupta, Oscar Barnes & Jacob Tran get hands-on in a STEM paper-roller-coaster challenge.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE CLASSROOM

WHY LEARNING MUST NEVER GO ON AUTOPILOT

Who is the better driver?



Driver A



Driver B

Imagine two teenagers of the same age. Both completed the same number of lessons, the same supervised hours and passed their learner's test on the same day. But once they moved onto their provisional licence, their experiences diverged. Driver A relied heavily on a self driving Tesla, allowing the car to make many decisions. Driver B drove a standard automatic, navigating traffic independently, making mistakes and learning from them.

Six months later, which driver would you trust more?

Now consider two students preparing for the HSC. Student A consistently uses AI to generate ideas, summarise content and structure responses. Student B uses AI more selectively, still grappling with difficult concepts and writing independently. Both may appear equally capable in the short term, but the real test comes when complexity increases or support is removed.

Just as a learner who relied on automation may struggle when forced to make independent decisions, students who depend too heavily on AI may find it harder to retrieve knowledge, think critically and apply learning in unfamiliar contexts. These contexts, the Trial and HSC exams, demand rapid question breakdown, sustained concentration and accurate recall without notes, devices or AI. If these cognitive processes have been repeatedly outsourced, they risk being underdeveloped when students need them most.

This presents a challenge for schools. Access to AI is no longer the debate; students already have it. The question is when AI strengthens learning and when it begins replacing the struggle, practice and cognitive effort required to build expertise.

"My biggest concern with AI in the classroom is that it makes it too easy to just skip the struggle of figuring things out.

But that struggle is the whole point of learning."

– Denzel Tan, Learning and Technology Prefect

Classrooms, homework and assessment spaces must remain limited in their use of AI, not because technology is harmful, but because learning requires effort, mistakes and independent thinking. Students cannot outsource productive struggle and still expect to develop the skills education aims to build: critical thinking, knowledge retrieval, sustained focus and clear written communication.

In 'Magnifica Humanitas: On Safeguarding the Human Person in the Time of Artificial Intelligence,' Pope Leo XIV urges society to protect human dignity and agency in an AI driven world. For education, this means ensuring technology enhances growth without eroding the judgement, interaction and cognitive effort essential for meaningful development.

AI, like calculators and search engines before it, can support learning when used intentionally. But AI is not the learning. If it substitutes the thinking required for learning, we risk diminishing opportunities for students to build resilience, creativity and independence. Education is not about short term performance; it is about developing people who can adapt and continue learning throughout life.

Because learning, like driving, is not just about reaching the destination. It is about developing the judgement and adaptability to respond when conditions change. Education should equip students with the independence and critical thinking needed to navigate life while preserving the agency at the heart of personhood.

Gillian Carpenter
Director of Innovation and Learning

LEARNING TO READ BETWEEN THE LINES

A strong focus on reading comprehension has been a key priority across Stage 3 this year, as we continue to align our teaching with the English syllabus and support students in becoming confident, capable readers.

To strengthen our approach, Stage 3 staff have undertaken targeted professional learning through Independent Schools NSW, exploring evidence-based strategies such as explicit vocabulary instruction, fluency development, and deeper comprehension practices. This has led to refined programs that encourage students not only to understand texts, but to analyse, question, and respond with insight.

A central part of this work is our commitment to high quality literature. We have expanded our resources to include rich, engaging texts such as 'Ningaloo' by

Tim Winton and 'One Small Island' by Alison Lester. These texts offer meaningful opportunities for students to explore ideas, build background knowledge, and develop stronger comprehension skills.

By embedding these texts into our English programs, students are encouraged to make connections, infer meaning, and consider author intent, skills essential for navigating increasingly complex texts.

This ongoing focus reflects our commitment to fostering a genuine love of reading while equipping students with the tools they need to read with confidence and curiosity.

Sarah Tatola
Head of Teaching and Learning (Stage 3)



Year 6 students immerse themselves in the joy of reading.



Johnathan Mok, Jack Walsh & Tristan Younan connect with 'Ningaloo.'



Ms Holzl offers guidance to Elijah Merhi.



Nathan Wong & Will Taylor arrange their 'beads.'



Xavier Brogan & Angus Doolin add the finishing touches to their totems.



Ms Daley & Ms Salloum helping to create something special.



The staff-made ceramic totem pole brightening our College landscape.

TOTEM-LY TALENTED!

Over Term 1, Year 10 Visual Arts students had the exciting opportunity to work alongside ceramic artist Lisa Holzl to create a series of ceramic totem poles. Lisa, a Marrickville based ceramicist known for her large scale, totem inspired works, brings a bold and vibrant approach to form, texture and pattern. Her practice often draws on natural sources such as seed pods, as well as the work of influential artists from across art history.

Students were tasked with designing and constructing a ceramic totem pole that paid tribute to a well known artist and their associated art movement. Artists explored included Andy Warhol, Henri Matisse, Vincent van Gogh, Salvador Dalí, Pablo Picasso and Yayoi Kusama. After researching their chosen artist, students developed designs that incorporated recognisable imagery, such as Warhol's 'Campbell's Soup Can', or distinctive stylistic features like Van Gogh's swirling brushstrokes or Kusama's polka dots.

Throughout the term, Lisa and I guided students through ceramic hand building techniques, the firing process and the complexities of underglazing. Regular critical discussions helped students refine their ideas, strengthen their visual references and consider how the arrangement of individual 'beads' contributed to the overall unity of their totem.

Lisa also facilitated two collaborative workshops for staff, who worked together to create a large scale ceramic totem pole. Staff constructed banksia seed pod forms in the first session and underglazed them in the second. This completed totem has been installed in the garden bed outside the Hickey Building.

The program offered both students and staff a valuable opportunity to learn directly from a practicing artist and to deepen their understanding of ceramic artmaking. Lisa's generous guidance and expert feedback helped build confidence and extend students' skills, laying a strong foundation for future success in Visual Arts at SPC. We thank Lisa for her time and congratulate all students and staff on the outstanding works produced this term.

Anthony Porra
Head of Visual Arts



Joshua Bennett pan fries his chicken.



Lachlan Gliddon perfects the art of making Nepalese Momos.



A recipe for success: Daniel Falvo & Xavier Maciel take note.



Joseph Morizzi & Levi Karazinov take their taste buds to Cambodia.

DISHING UP DIVERSITY

In Term 2, Year 9 Food Technology students brought culture, creativity and global awareness together through the Australian Hidden Cultures Food Expo, an assessment task that explored the role of migration in shaping Australia's diverse food landscape.

Students worked in groups as cultural research and food development teams, investigating countries including Fiji, Cambodia, Somalia, Malaysia, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Nepal and Colombia. Each group researched a country outside of their own cultural background, encouraging students to broaden their understanding of global food traditions and develop a deeper appreciation of cultures that may be less familiar to them.

As part of the task, students created A2 infographic displays, presented in the style of a food expo stall. These displays showcased each country's food story, including traditional food culture, staple ingredients, cooking methods, migration to Australia and the impact this culture has had on Australian cuisine. A key focus was food equity, with students comparing challenges experienced in their allocated country with those faced in Australia.

The practical component allowed students to bring their research to life in the kitchen. Dishes prepared included Thai Pad Thai, Nepalese Momo, Solomon Islands Fish Curry, Fijian Coconut Chicken Curry and Somali Bariis Iskukaris.

The task provided a valuable opportunity for students to step outside their comfort zone while developing research, communication and practical skills. It encouraged curiosity, cultural appreciation and a greater awareness of the challenges many communities face in accessing safe, nutritious and culturally appropriate food.

Katherine Fontana
TAS and VET Teacher



A shared mural project bringing students from both schools together.



The completed mural celebrating connection and creativity.



Our co-curricular captains standing together in unity ahead of the Reconciliation Round.



The First XV Rugby team participate in a smoking ceremony.



Marcus Donovan opening our Reconciliation Assembly with prayer.



The dancers sharing their culture with our community.



Harvey Truscott & Paul Wymarra join the dancers.



'Gimbawali' refers to the stars and night sky, acknowledging First Nations peoples as the first scientists.

GROWING OUR FIRST NATIONS STORY

There has been much happening in the First Nations space of the College's Identity in the past six months. November 2025 saw the annual visit from the mob at St Joseph's Flexi in Alice Springs. As part of their trip to Sydney, and stay with us here at SPC, the fellas teamed up with our 2025 Year 10 Visual Arts students and local artist Jason Wing to paint a mural on the side of the Hodda Building. This mural acknowledges the Wangal land on which the College is built. Currently, our Year 11 students are preparing for their Immersion to Alice Springs in July, where we will continue to strengthen the relationship that we have with the Flexi and First Nations community.

More recently, the College celebrated Reconciliation week. Our Reconciliation Assembly saw us gather to hear from some of our First Nations students; listen to story from our other speakers, including some of my experiences living in Alice Springs; and have a taste of culture with dances from the combined group of Darren and Muggera Cultural Experiences, students from

St Ignatius' College, Riverview and two of our own students, Harvey Truscott and Paul Wymarra. Each Homeroom then participated in a Yarning Circle, where discussions about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture took place. Throughout the week, the buildings at the College each received an alternate name. These names were words in the local Darug language, or key terms connected to reconciliation. For example, the Hickey Building became Garaaba, meaning 'Meeting Place.'

Our Reconciliation Round of Co-Curricular occurred a fortnight prior to this (as the closest home round of sport) and saw each team acknowledge Country before playing, with our First IV Tennis and First XI Football sharing brief ceremonies prior to playing and our First XV Rugby taking part in a smoking ceremony. The practice of smoking as a welcome, or at the beginning of an event, is an act of cleansing. It removes negative spirits and energy and prepares the recipient for the experience they are about to have.

Outside of these major events, there is much ongoing in the First Nations space. We are growing our First Nations program with our Aboriginal Education Worker, as well as offering two First Nations bursaries per year. This program aims to strengthen the connections that we currently have with our local First Nations communities, as well as the families currently at the College. Behind Waterford House, we will be developing a sustainability and First Nations Garden, which will feature a Yarning Circle as well as native plants and bees. The plans for this garden have been in the works for a little while now, so it will be exciting to see it start coming together in the next few months.

I am proud to be part of the College and a community that celebrates our first Australians. We live in the home of the world's oldest living cultures, so it is important that we not only recognise, but celebrate that.

Matthew Herro
Head of Identity - Senior School

SCHOOL OF ROCK STRIKES A CHORD!

In May, the Bryan Brown Theatre roared to life as our College community enjoyed three sold out performances of *School of Rock*, a high energy production that showcased the extraordinary talent, commitment and spirit of our students.

Based on the much loved film, the musical follows Dewey Finn, an unlikely substitute teacher who discovers the hidden musical gifts of his students and inspires them to form a secret rock band. Our two Deweys, Sebastian Aziz and Jamie Padd, delivered bold, joyful and charismatic performances that captured the very essence of the show.

More than sixty students from SPC and our partner schools; MLC, Santa Sabina College, Strathfield Girls High School and The McDonald College, came together to create something truly special. Their collaboration was a powerful example of respectful relationships, shared purpose and a wonderful sense of community.

A standout feature of this year's production was the remarkable growth shown by our young men. Many embraced new and unfamiliar roles such as on stage, in the band, backstage or in technical and creative teams. Whether performing publicly for the first time or refining existing skills, students demonstrated resilience, discipline and a willingness to take creative risks. These experiences reflect our touchstone of 'Liberating Education', allowing students to let their light shine and express the gifts God has given them.

Our student band deserves special recognition for powering through the entire score, sustaining the show's hard rock energy with precision and passion. Behind the scenes, crews worked tirelessly to build sets and during the show deliver seamless transitions, dynamic lighting and professional quality sound, an impressive achievement that highlighted the multi talented nature of theatre.

School of Rock reminded us to celebrate individuality, listen deeply and stand up for what matters. This production was the culmination of six months of dedication from students, staff and volunteers, and we congratulate all involved on an unforgettable show that will remain a highlight of our school year.

Rebecca Duff

Head of Performing Arts | MIC Co-Curricular Theatre



The cast hit the stage, bringing a high-energy performance.



Proud to be students of Horace Green!



"You're in the band!" Dewey unearths his students' hidden talents.



Ned & Dewey in a 'Guitar Hero' showdown!



Parents take Dewey to task.



The students of Horace Green decide they are all in!



Showtime at the Palace!

THINKING BIG AT THE DA VINCI DECATHLON



Our Junior Decathlon students with their participation certificates.

Students from St Patrick's College proudly represented the College at the 2026 Da Vinci Decathlon, an academic competition that brings together schools from across the state to tackle a series of challenging, collaborative events. The Decathlon encourages students to apply creativity, critical thinking, problem solving and teamwork across disciplines such as Engineering, Science, Mathematics, Ideation, Cartography and Legacy.

Our teams achieved outstanding results. Year 5 placed 7th in Cartography, 8th in Science, 12th in English and Ideation, and 16th in Legacy. Year 6 secured equal 1st in Code Breaking and 3rd in English. Year 7 continued the College's strong tradition with 3rd in Ideation and 11th in Legacy. Year 8 excelled with 1st in Engineering, 6th in Mathematics, 9th in Cartography and 16th overall. The combined Year 9 and 10 team achieved 3rd in Science, while Year 11 earned 8th in Creative Producers, 10th in Legacy and 11th in Science.

Congratulations to all students for the enthusiastic, determined and collaborative way they represented the College. Their achievements reflect exceptional academic ability and teamwork. Sincere thanks also go to their teachers, whose guidance and commitment ensured students gained richly from this valuable experience.

Katherine Sinadinos
Interim Head of Diverse Learning



Facing King's High School's Haka with focus and respect.



The Junior team following their scrimmage against St Augustine's.

TRY-UMPHANT IN THE SOUTH ISLAND

In April, St Patrick's College set off on an unforgettable Rugby Tour to New Zealand's South Island with a combined Junior and Senior squad of 50 students. Guided by staff members Mr Simpson, Mr Chase, Mrs Tatola, Mr McCann, Mr M Tatola and Mr S Tatola, the group immersed themselves in the country's rich rugby culture and stunning landscapes. The tour focused on developing rugby skills, strengthening team bonds and offering students a meaningful cultural and personal growth experience.

The journey began in Queenstown, where the boys were immediately immersed in the region's stunning alpine scenery. A scrimmage against ISA rivals St Augustine's took place in typical New Zealand weather, with a spectacular backdrop that made the contest even more memorable. The group also enjoyed a trip up the Gondolas and a magical ride down the Luge, giving the boys a chance to take in the panoramic views from above. To help them recover from the early intensity of the tour, the boys completed a refreshing recovery session in the lake, followed by pilates style stretching that helped them reset physically and mentally before the next stage of the trip.

From there, the group travelled to Dunedin, a city steeped in sporting tradition and home to some of New Zealand's most passionate rugby communities. The Senior Team had the privilege of facing the Haka of rivals King's High School, an unforgettable moment that captured the spirit and intensity of New Zealand rugby. Meanwhile, the Junior Team took on the might of the Otago Boys' High School Under 16s, gaining valuable experience against a strong and disciplined opponent.

Away from the field, the squad visited Baldwin Street, the world's steepest street, adding a unique and memorable challenge to their travels. A major highlight of the Dunedin leg was attending the Highlanders vs Brumbies Super Rugby fixture, where, at the conclusion of the match, all families and players were invited onto the field to mingle with the athletes. The group was especially fortunate to meet Wallabies and Brumbies captain Allan Alaalatoa, who generously spent time mixing with players, families and staff.

The final leg of the tour took the group to Christchurch, where training, matches and recovery sessions continued. Both teams also took on St Bede's College, with both squads recording strong victories to finish the tour on a high note. The group had the privilege of learning a traditional Haka, an experience that deepened their appreciation for Māori culture. The city's resilience and welcoming spirit provided a fitting backdrop as the boys reflected on their growth throughout the journey, both as rugby players and as young men.

Throughout the tour, the leadership and support of the accompanying staff ensured the boys were well cared for and able to make the most of every opportunity. Their guidance helped maintain a positive, disciplined and encouraging environment, allowing students to thrive both on and off the field.

By the time the group returned home, the boys had gained far more than rugby experience. They developed stronger teamwork, greater resilience, improved skills and a deeper appreciation for New Zealand's culture and sporting heritage. The 2026 SPC Rugby Tour will be remembered as a significant and formative chapter in the rugby journey of every student involved.

Macquire Tatola
Head of Rugby



Zane Young in full flight against Otago Boys' High School.



The forwards go to work against King's High School.



Oscar Dillon flies high to secure our lineout.



The tour squad attend Sunday morning Mass at St Joseph's Cathedral, Dunedin.



Aidan Scullion in open space, seizing an opportunity for a run-away try.



Hamish Malone skips out of the King's defense.



George Antoune powering through the defence in the game against Trinity Grammar School.



16 A player Christian Pereira, gets the kick away while airborne.



Tennis Captain Christopher Mok proudly dons his First Nations jersey.



Members of the First XV celebrate after scoring a try against St Pius X.

SPC SPIRIT ON SHOW

For the students at St Patrick's College, sport continues to be a major source of pride, with strong participation and great results across our summer sports for the 2025/26 season. From basketball courts and cricket pitches to touch football fields and baseball diamonds, our students have represented the College with passion, resilience and sportsmanship throughout the year.

The Summer Sport season provided many memorable moments, with several teams enjoying strong campaigns, highlighted by excellent individual performances and a continued commitment to improvement across all age groups. A particular highlight came from the First XI Cricket side, who were runners up in the ISA Division One competition. Additionally, we had multiple Basketball and Touch Football teams make Grand Finals and our Baseball and Golf programs continued to grow with well-deserved results. Across the season, we had fourteen students selected for representative honours in ISA teams in Basketball, Cricket, Touch Football, Swimming and Water Polo.

As we hit the halfway mark of the Winter Sport season, our students have continued to demonstrate tremendous determination and College spirit. Our Rugby, Football and Tennis teams have shown significant growth throughout recent rounds, with several sides recording impressive victories while others have displayed great resilience against strong opposition. Across all grades, coaches have praised the commitment shown at training and the willingness of students to represent their teammates and the College with pride.

In the first week of Winter Sport, we retained the Black and Green Aggregate Shield against Trinity Grammar School and a recent home round coincided with the College's Reconciliation Round initiatives, with our First XV, First XI and First IV proudly wearing First Nations jerseys and helping promote the theme of "All In" for Reconciliation. These occasions serve as an important reminder that sport provides opportunities not only for competition, but also for leadership, respect and community connection.

The College's Firsts teams continue to set a strong example for younger students, while the depth of participation across all teams remains a significant strength of SPC sport. Whether competing in ISA fixtures, representative pathways or College competitions, students have embraced the challenge of balancing academic commitments with the demands of co-curricular sport.

As the Winter season continues, we congratulate all students, coaches, staff and families for their ongoing support of SPC Sport.

Timothy Donlan
Head of Secondary Sport



Daniel Calleja with Anthony Lahood in support.



Thaleson Dominis in attack with Francesco Mazza backing up.

FROM FIRST TOUCH TO FINALS

In 2023, St Patrick's College introduced its first Touch Football teams to the ISA Summer competition. Back then, only enough boys trialled to form one Junior team and one Senior team. Just three years later, the 2025–2026 season saw the program explode to ten teams, six in the Junior School and four in the Senior School, including the Intermediate A, B and C teams and the First VI Touch Football Squad.

With the guidance of Mr Tatola, players across all teams were coached through morning and afternoon sessions that focused on skills, fitness and game awareness. Most boys had never played Touch Footy before, yet the talent and improvement shown across these early seasons was remarkable.

The First VI, coached by Mr O'Halloran for three consecutive years, faced strong competition after being promoted to ISA Division Two following back-to-back Grand Final wins. With players aged between 15 and 18, the squad built a genuine sense of brotherhood, supporting each other through big wins and the occasional close loss. Whether celebrating a teammate's first try or cheering home a full-field intercept, every game brought excitement and the loyal support of families on the sidelines.

By the end of the 2025–2026 season, all four Senior teams had reached the Semi-Finals. While the First VI, Intermediate A and Intermediate C teams bowed out in hard-fought matches, the Intermediate B team capped off the season with a well-deserved Grand Final victory.

The growth of Touch Football at SPC speaks for itself. From two teams to ten in just three years, the program has become one of the most exciting and well-supported in the ISA. This success is a testament to the culture built by the players and the dedication of coaches like Mr Tatola and Mr O'Halloran, whose commitment has shaped not only better athletes but a group of young men proud to represent their College.

To every boy who pulled on the boots this season, whether for your first game or a Grand Final, you were part of something bigger. And if the past three seasons are anything to go by, the best is still ahead.

Francesco Mazza
Touch Football Captain



Old Boys from different years enjoy a Guinness or two!



Adam Trent, Matthew Tooher & Stephen Carroll toast the Class of 1997.



Peter Khoury ('93), Matt Burnicle ('89), Adam Quinlan ('93) & Paul Munro ('93) catch up.



Bernard Kelly ('81), Paul Brooks ('84), Paul Donnellan ('74) & Tim Murphy ('73).



Charlie Burford ('61) gifts a book he co-authored to Br Brian Berg ('48).



Matt Howarth ('87) & Ray Sherry ('86) reminisce.



Old Boys from the Class of 1993 are all smiles.

OLD BOYS GATHERING AT THE MERCANTILE

Reunions may be happening across the year, but there's something special about bringing Old Boys from every decade together in one place. That's exactly what played out in May at the Mercantile Hotel in The Rocks, where the newly refurbished rooftop bar set the perfect scene for everyone to come together.

What was meant to be lunch soon stretched well into the evening for some, as conversations flowed as easily as the drinks. The rooftop buzzed with colourful characters and plenty of laughter as stories and memories were shared. It was a reminder of the enduring bonds formed at St Patrick's and the joy of reconnecting with familiar faces.

With plans already underway for our Old Boys Centenary Lunch in November 2028, there's plenty more to look forward to. And before then, make sure Back to Breen Day on Saturday 1 August is in your calendar. It's shaping up to be another fantastic gathering of the SPC community.

Greg Dening
Old Boys' Executive Officer



SHINING A LIGHT ON OPPORTUNITY

Luceat sits at the heart of St Patrick's College, inspired by our motto 'Luceat Lux Vestra' – 'Let your light shine'. It embodies the spirit of our mission: to nurture young men who grow with confidence, serve with compassion and lead with integrity.

More than a fundraising initiative, Luceat is an invitation. It calls on our community: Old Boys, families, staff and friends, to contribute to a shared vision of opportunity, excellence and care for every student who walks through our gates.

Through Luceat, every donation makes a tangible difference. Contributions support scholarships, learning programs, facilities and initiatives that empower students to thrive academically, socially and spiritually. It is a chance for each of us to let our own light shine by helping shape the future of young people in meaningful and lasting ways.

Members of our community can choose where their support goes, whether to the Building Fund, Vestra Bursaries or by leaving a bequest. Supporting the Vestra Bursary Fund allows Old Boys to reflect on the opportunities they received and pass that gift forward, with all tax deductible donations directly assisting students in need. Contributing to the Building Fund helps us create modern, dynamic learning environments, ensuring our facilities keep pace with the needs of today's learners, from major upgrades to essential spaces like the College Gymnasium and Swimming Pool.

To learn more or make a contribution, please visit the 'Giving' page on the College website and choose how you would like to make an impact. *Giving | St Patrick's College Strathfield - St Patrick's College Strathfield*





A fresh group of Old Boys join the Colts.



'100-Game Club.' Old Boy fathers and sons: Paul Donnellan ('74) 240, Michael Donnellan ('07) 153, David Nelson ('00) 212, Michael Nelson ('69) 207, John Murphy ('02) 104 & Tim Murphy ('73) 125.

A BELTER OF A SEASON

The 2026 season is well underway and it's already shaping up to be a belter. A big pre season highlight was our trip to the Nation's Capital, where more than 70 players from our Men's and Women's teams travelled to Canberra for trials against Easts ACT.

At the halfway mark, we sit second in the Club Championship with only six points off the lead, and all teams performing strongly. We've also welcomed a wave of new Old Boys into the club, many of whom have slotted straight into our Colts side. This year we were thrilled to appoint Michael Shannon as Head Coach. After nine years coaching at SPC, it's been fantastic to see him reconnect with so many Old Boys.

2026 will be our final season at Hudson Park for now, with renovations scheduled under the Western Sydney Infrastructure Grants Program. We'll keep members and supporters updated as we work with the College and Strathfield Council toward returning in 2028.

With challenges ahead this season and next, we'd love more hands either on or off the field. If you're keen to get involved, please email: president@sprc.com.au and follow us on Instagram @sprc_1964 for updates.

Tim Skinner ('13)
SPRC President

RISING STARS

The 2026 rugby season is well underway, and it has been wonderful to see our St Patrick's Junior Rugby Club teams growing in confidence, skill and teamwork each week. From our youngest players to our older age groups, all teams are proudly representing the values of our club on and off the field.

We extend our thanks to the dedicated student volunteers who support home games by setting up fields, running the BBQ and canteen, and assisting with game day operations. Their efforts help create a welcoming community atmosphere.

Recently, several St Patrick's students represented the West Harbour District and other districts at the NSW Junior Rugby Union State Championships. They played with pride, passion and excellent sportsmanship, and we congratulate them on their achievements.

Representative rugby offers players the chance to challenge themselves and grow, and we look forward to watching all our juniors continue to thrive throughout the season.

Joe Abraham ('77)
SPJRC President



SPC First XI with SPFC ahead of the Founder's Cup.



Tyron Garzaniti with his eye on the ball while Old Boys, Deegan O'Brien-Kratiuk ('25) & Rowan Bleasel ('25) are ready to contest.

25 YEARS AND STILL KICKING GOALS!

The 2026 football season has kicked off in impressive style for St Patrick's FC. Now past the halfway point, it's clear that this milestone year, our 25th anniversary, highlights just how far the club has come since its founding in 2001.

With most players returning from last season, our second year in the Canterbury Association is proving the strength of the club's recent development. Record player numbers and a new home ground at Mason Park have helped all teams sit inside the top four of their competitions. Two squads remain undefeated, while All-Age 8, Over 35s and the All-Age Sunday Division 1 teams are all leading their respective tables. There's still a long road ahead, but hopes are high for silverware across the board.

A highlight of the season so far was the annual SPC First XI v SPFC Old Boys match. Congratulations to the First XI for reclaiming the trophy after two years in Old Boys hands, a promising sign for future talent feeding into the club.

Off the field, our 25th anniversary is a moment to honour the founders, committee members and players who built the strong culture we enjoy today. This year, long time contributors Mark Liberatore and Matthew Nigro were inducted as Life Members, an honour well deserved. We also proudly recognised 30 players for 10 and 20 year service, reflecting the loyalty, tradition and lifelong friendships that define St Patrick's FC.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us in this special season. We look forward to finishing strongly and pushing for the championship. For any information about the club, please feel free to reach out via: Team@stpatricksfootballclub.com.

Frank Parisi ('88)
SPFC President

VALE

Our thoughts and prayers go to the families and friends of the following Old Boys:

Thomas 'Peter' Bennett ('53)
Peter English ('58)
Andrew Madden ('02)

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.



Old Boys giving back, offering guidance and insight at our Careers Evening.

OPENING DOORS TO THE FUTURE

St Patrick's College, proudly welcomed back its Old Boys for the 2026 Careers Information Evening on Tuesday 5 May. More than 30 career fields were represented, giving students rare access to firsthand insight into life beyond school. Across three sessions, they met Old Boys working in medicine, law, engineering, finance, business, media, construction, the trades and emerging industries such as cyber security and digital marketing.

The evening showcased the wide range of pathways available, reminding students that success can come through university study, vocational training or entrepreneurship. Each Old Boy shared a personal journey shaped by resilience, hard work and a willingness to seize opportunity.

Students also received honest reflections on challenges, career changes and the importance of adaptability in a rapidly evolving workforce. A consistent message throughout the night was the value of pursuing meaningful work and aligning career choices with personal interests and strengths.

The College extends its sincere thanks to the Old Boys who generously gave their time. Their guidance and openness reflect the enduring spirit of the St Patrick's community. The Careers Information Evening remains a cornerstone event, strengthening connections between past and present students while helping young men make informed decisions about their futures.

Joanne Cupac
Head of Careers



Paul Turley as a member of the First XV Rugby team.



Paul was a talented swimmer during his SPC days.



Paul delivering a powerful message to the boys.



Mr Simpson & Paul Turley with student pledges.

OLD BOY GIVES LESSONS IN ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESILIENCE

Recently our senior students heard a powerful and deeply personal presentation from Old Boy Paul Turley ('00), who returned to the College to deliver his 'Take 4' talks on accountability, resilience and honest self reflection. Paul spoke openly about the choices he made as a young man, including the devastating decision to drink and drive, an action that resulted in the death of another man and led to Paul serving a prison sentence. He did not shy away from the lifelong consequences of this tragedy, expressing profound remorse for the impact on his victim's family, his own family and especially his mother.

Despite the heaviness of his story, Paul's message was ultimately one of responsibility and hope. He reminded students that while mistakes cannot be undone, what matters is the decision to grow from them. Reflecting on his time at the College, he shared that although he excelled as an athlete in the First XV and in swimming, he privately struggled with challenges he felt unable to talk about. He urged students to seek support rather than remain silent, emphasising that bottling up problems can lead to destructive choices.

Paul's 'Take 4' framework: Legacy, Improvement, Support and Time, encourages young people to consider the impact of their actions, strive for growth, ask for help and recognise that change takes patience. Now a father, author, endurance athlete and founder of 'What4.Org Ltd,' Paul dedicates his life to promoting safer decision making. His honesty and courage left a lasting impression on our students, offering both a warning and an inspiring reminder that one moment does not have to define a lifetime.

Robert Simpson
Director of Senior School

RECENT REUNION



In November, members of the Class of 1961 gathered at the View Hotel in North Sydney.

DONATED ITEMS

The College wishes to thank the following benefactors for their generous donations:

Nathan Sullivan ('08)
Long-sleeved Cricket jersey and Basketball singlet

Paul Gliddon ('95)
An assortment of keepsakes including a 1996 First XV South African Rugby Tour key ring, gift card to the Gliddon family given at the end of their association to SPC and an enrolment application receipt signed by Br Greening

Edmund Byron ('51)
Certificates, Athletics pennant and Br Crichton memorabilia



Class of 1970
A painting titled 'Unreliable Memories of the 409' by John Blyth, accompanied by Michael Hayes' poem 'Signalling the Driver,' (displayed on a plaque) which reflects on the old 409 school bus route

If there are any other members of the community who wish to donate an item to the College's archives, please contact Nikki Fochesato on 9763 1000 or email nikki.fochesato@spc.nsw.edu.au.



Christopher with some locals during his 2018 Immersion to PNG.



Treating a patient at the free wound clinic in Busua, Ghana.



Volunteering on the maternity ward in a hospital in Busua, Ghana.



Christopher shares moments of joy during his travels in Africa.

THE GOOD DOCTOR

When Old Boy, Dr Christopher Farag ('19) graduated from St Patrick's College as Dux, he left with not only a strong academic foundation but also a deep sense of purpose shaped by the staff who guided him throughout his schooling. In 2025, he completed his Doctor of Medicine at Western Sydney University with Distinction and was named AMA (NSW) Medical Student of the Year, an honour recognising academic excellence, leadership, compassion and service.

This commitment to service has extended far beyond the classroom. Across two separate trips to Africa, Christopher has travelled through Ghana, Tanzania and Zambia, where he has provided financial support to vulnerable communities, offered hands on medical assistance, taught in local schools and delivered practical aid to families and villages. These experiences have deepened his belief in service and strengthened his commitment to making a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

His journey of compassion began much earlier. His mother believes that Christopher's desire to help others was profoundly shaped by the immersion trip to Papua New Guinea that St Patrick's encouraged the boys to undertake. It was a life changing experience. He returned home with little more than the clothes on his back, having chosen to leave his luggage and belongings behind for those who needed them more. Many of the boys made the same decision. The trip instilled in him a lasting sense of gratitude, humility and responsibility to serve; values that continue to guide him today.

Christopher's story was recently featured in 'The NSW Doctor,' the official publication of the Australian Medical Association (AMA). In the article, he reflects on the early lessons of his internship and explains that he is discovering how medicine is shaped just as much by quiet human moments as by major clinical decisions. The AMA piece recounts an experience from his first weeks on the job, when he treated an emergency patient whose physical symptoms concealed deeper emotional pain. Seeing the same man later, healthy, smiling and eager to shake his hand, left a lasting impression on Christopher and highlighted the importance of presence, empathy and attentive listening.

As he shared in the AMA feature, the encounter reminded him that a doctor's impact often comes from noticing the small things and being willing to sit with a patient's humanity. Despite his academic success, he remains grounded in his approach to medicine. "More than anything, I want to become a good doctor," he says in the article. "You don't have to know everything. You just have to care, be curious and be willing to learn."

Christopher's achievements continue to inspire his family, especially his younger brother Matthew, currently in Year 8 at St Patrick's. His mother hopes his journey will motivate many students. "The foundation built at St Patrick's is something he will always value and never forget."

Nikki Fochesato
Community Liaison Officer

FORTHCOMING REUNIONS

To stay up to date with upcoming reunions, please visit the Old Boys' website at <https://oldboys.spc.nsw.edu.au> and check out the 'News & Events' section.

If you'd like assistance organising a reunion, please contact the Old Boys' Executive Officer, Greg Denning, at greg.denning@spc.nsw.edu.au.

CLASS OF 1956/57 – 70 YEAR REUNION

Date: Monday 7 September 2026
Venue: Evening Star Hotel Bistro, Surry Hills
Time: From 11:30 AM
Contact: Rod Cooper
E: fishingcouple67@gmail.com
M: 0429 611 806

CLASS OF 1971 - 55 YEAR REUNION

Date: Wednesday 14 October 2026
Venue: The York Club, Sydney
Time: 6:00 PM
Contact: Phil Holder
M: 0411 028 745
E: philbeth@bigpond.com

CLASS OF 1976 – 50 YEAR REUNION

Date: Saturday 24 October 2026
Venue: TBA
Time: TBA
Contact: Mark Lennon
M: 0427 231 800
E: mlennon2@bigpond.net.au

CLASS OF 1986 – 40 YEAR REUNION

Date: Saturday 31 October 2026
Venue: The Dicks Hotel, Balmain
Time: 7:00 PM
Cost: \$50.00
Contact: Frank Stillone
M: 0416 009 731

CLASS OF 1991 – 35 YEAR REUNION

Date: Saturday 14 November 2026
Venue: Drummoyne Sailing Club
Time: 7:00 PM-12:00 AM
Cost: \$115 (drinks not inclusive)
Contact: Mark Velayuthen
M: 0427 988 919
E: mvelayut@its.jnj.com
Dom Losurdo
M: 0411 879 398
E: domenic.losurdo@stamfordcapital.com.au
Luke Herro
M: 0414 465 779
E: lherro@bigpond.net.au

Reunions for the following year groups are scheduled for Saturday 1 August, coinciding with the College's annual Back to Breen Day celebrations. Old Boys are invited to gather at the College from 2:30 PM, ahead of the First XV Rugby match which kicks off at 3:15 PM. After the match, reunion groups will be bussed to The Mercantile Irish Pub to continue the celebrations.

CLASS OF 2001 – 25 YEAR REUNION

Date: Saturday 1 August 2026
Venue: The Mercantile Irish Pub, The Rocks
Time: From 2:30 PM (At the College)
6:00 PM (at The Mercantile)
Contact: Luke Bramble
M: 0411 104 131
E: nug_et@yahoo.com.au

CLASS OF 1981 – 45 YEAR REUNION

Date: Saturday 1 August 2026
Venue: The Mercantile Irish Pub, The Rocks
Time: From 2:30 PM (At the College)
6:00 PM (at The Mercantile)
Contact: Greg Denning
M: 0410 708 850
E: greg.denning@spc.nsw.edu.au

LUCEAT LUX VESTRA
"Let your light shine"



ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE

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A Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition



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