



# Lucerna

A PUBLICATION OF THE ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE COMMUNITY

VOL 27 ISSUE 2 2022



*Continuing  
Tradition*



2022 College Vice Captain, Adrian Biscotto & College Captain, Michael Bejjani are farewelled through a guard of honour.



Newly elected Social Justice Prefect, Karim Lattouf (Year 11) is congratulated by Dr Lavorato during the Prefect Investiture Assembly.



Owen Winwood-Smith (Year 5) with his grandparents during Grandparents' Day.

# PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

It has been a busy first semester at St Patrick's and now that COVID-19 is a distant memory, we have been able to enjoy an academic year without any interruptions. For example, I have experienced my first full Year 12 Graduation complete with rites of passage and the investiture of the Class of 2023 and new Student Leadership Team.

One of our key objectives for 2023 was to streamline our communication with parents and find a digital solution to sharing vital information with them. Our new TASS system has been refined and via the Parent Lounge, parents can access important documents, book interviews, update their address, medical and phone details and monitor their son's attendance. We will continue to work to make this software a bespoke product for our College.

The start of Term 4 sees the full implementation of our new St Patrick's College, Strathfield app. It can be freely downloaded from the Apple or Google store and our parents, staff and students can choose which information they wish to be alerted to. For example, you can tag Year 11 and Football if they are applicable to your son. It means you only get notified of information you wish to see. As the school day ends, students can check their phones as they leave to see any late information about training or activities, particularly useful if there is a sudden rainstorm or local parks are closed by Council.

This year we saw the return of Grandparents' Day. It was a wonderful morning and well attended by our grandparents. Grandparents play a very significant role in the development of young people that impacts them differently than a parent-child relationship, so it is important to foster this connection in ways that are accessible and safe for both. Not only are grandparents a source of wisdom for young children, but they also tend to introduce long standing family traditions and help formulate perceptions of healthy family dynamics. It was only one morning but it made a wonderful impact on our students. After all, it's not the quantity of time that matters, it's the quality which has given our young men a plethora of wisdom, learning and growth.

Another important social and religious fixture returned to the campus when we celebrated our fathers with our Fathers' Day Masses and morning tea. We very much appreciate the time taken out by fathers and grandfathers to attend. This celebration gave us reason to pause, to pray for, and to reflect on our fathers whom we honour. We celebrated, congratulated, and prayed for the men who continue to reflect the divine qualities of fatherhood as they lovingly establish, nourish, and maintain their families.

Our Class of 2022 have only just completed their HSC examinations. At their request, we moved the examinations away from the Hall to the Robson Auditorium, Duffy Music Centre and the Gymnasium so that we could minimise the noise from the building works. As these young men

move into the next stage of their lives, I ask the community to keep them in their prayers. In my address at the Graduation Assembly, I spoke to the gathering about new beginnings for Year 12. New beginnings, new journeys and definitely new challenges to explore!

As this publication goes to print, we are delighted to see the progress that has been made with our new Scientia Building. At present, windows are being installed, followed by the façade. Once at lock up stage, the internal fit-out of the spaces will commence. Given the rain events in 2022, we are about 35 days behind however, we should be able to occupy the building some time before the end of Term 1, 2023.

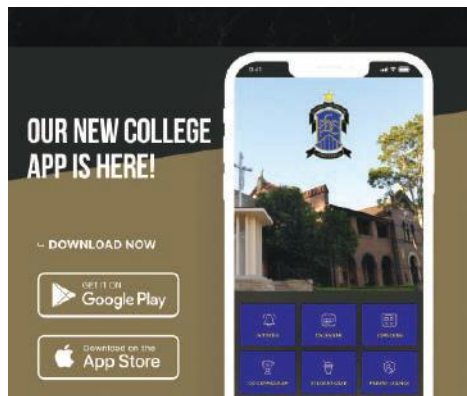
I look forward to finishing up the year and achieving all that we have set out to do in our Strategic Plan. We will be making history by having the largest cohort of Years 5 and 6 since the College's founding in 1928. Our Junior School will grow in 2023 to a population of 434 young boys drawn to us by the light our graduates shine in the community. We will continue to claim our proudest boast: A Beacon for Boys' Education.

Live Jesus in our Hearts, Forever.

**Dr Vittoria Lavorato**  
Principal



The symbol of a beacon features widely in our Strategic Plan as a powerful symbol to describe our vision and mission.



Fathers and sons share a moment during the Fathers' Day Mass.



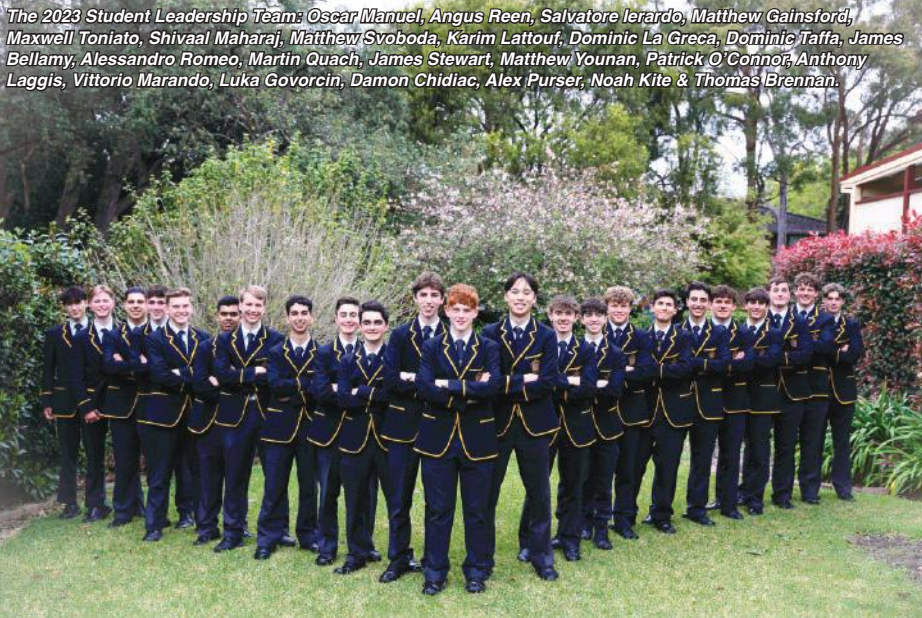
Work on the Scientia building is progressing well.

## COVER PHOTOGRAPH



Cover photo: Three generations of the McDonald family: Patrick McDonald (Year 6), Oliver Sproule (Year 5), Fred McDonald ('52), Peter McDonald ('93), Jack McDonald (Year 8), Taj McDonald (Year 7) & Ashton McDonald (Year 5) during the Class of 1952 reunion held at the College.

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*The 2023 Student Leadership Team: Oscar Manuel, Angus Reen, Salvatore Ierardo, Matthew Gainsford, Maxwell Toniato, Shivaal Maharaj, Matthew Svoboda, Karim Lattouf, Dominic La Greca, Dominic Taffa, James Bellamy, Alessandro Romeo, Martin Quach, James Stewart, Matthew Younan, Patrick O'Connor, Anthony Laggis, Vittorio Marando, Luka Govorcin, Damon Chidiac, Alex Purser, Noah Kite & Thomas Brennan.*



*The 'Passing of Symbols' from the Class of 2022 to the Class of 2023.*



*Members of the Class of 2023 during the Black Tie Liturgy.*



*Thomas Crick (Year 11) is congratulated by Mr Fox as he, and the rest of the Year 11 cohort, take their first steps as leaders of the College.*



*Oliver Wahbe, James Giardina, Zak El-Masri & Marc Bounassif wear the black ties with pride.*



*Rice House Prefect, Angus Reen receives his badge from his father.*



*Former College Principal Dr Wattam, with the 2017 Junior School Leaders: Alex Purser, Alessandro Romeo & James Bellamy.*



*Fast forward to the present, Dr Lavorato with newly elected leaders: Martin Quach (Vice Captain), Alessandro Romeo (Captain) & James Bellamy (Vice Captain).*

# CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Class of 2022 was a year group filled with amazing young men. They had incredible athletes, debaters, actors, artists, builders, leaders, and above all, some remarkable young men that I know will go out into the world and "let their light shine". For the Class of 2023, this is no easy feat to replicate. Michael Bejjani, Blake Timillero, Adrian Biscotto and their leadership team did an outstanding job leading the College in 2022. They had the respect of the staff and students, and their presence around the College was beyond impressive. On behalf of the Class of 2023, I thank you for role modelling such exceptional leadership which the student leaders of 2023 can only hope to emulate.

On Friday September 23, the Class of 2023 gathered in the College Chapel for their Transition Liturgy. This liturgy signified the 'changing of the guard', with every student receiving their black tie from Dr Lavorato and myself. The Mass was a wonderful celebration of both faith and leadership, so we must thank Ms Daley for her tireless efforts in making this rite of passage so special for the entire cohort.

Following the Transition Liturgy, the College gathered as one in the gymnasium for the Student Leadership Investiture Assembly. It was refreshing to have both parents and carers attend and present their sons with their leadership portfolios and badges for 2023. With COVID-19 restrictions preventing this

assembly in the previous two years, it was great that we could celebrate as a community and showcase our Student Leadership team for 2023.

Interestingly, our newly elected College Captain Alessandro Romeo will be the first student in St Patrick's College history to be elected as a school captain twice, being Junior School Captain in 2017 and College Captain in 2023. An impressive achievement highlighting his leadership qualities, emphasising how admired and respected Alessandro is by his teachers and peers. He will be supported by James Bellamy and Martin Quach, who are the incumbent Vice Captains for 2023. Evidently, in 2017, James was also a Junior School Vice Captain along with Alex Purser, who has been appointed Co-curricular (Sport) Prefect for 2023. It is uplifting seeing students so consistently achieving meaningful validation for their efforts within the College.

Alessandro, James, and Martin, together with the rest of the 2023 Student Leadership team, are highly capable, driven, and passionate young men. I congratulate them on this incredible achievement and know that the College is in safe hands as they lead their cohort through their last year of schooling at St Patrick's.

**Alex Fox**  
Year 12 Coordinator

"I know that for many, the COVID lockdowns and restrictions of recent years are now nothing but an unpleasant memory, yet I truly believe that they have taken a toll on the spirit of our College and our sense of community, a toll greater than we realise. On behalf of all the boys in the Class of 2023, I would like to dedicate our year to rebuilding the trust, the brotherhood, the community that we have missed during that time. Only then can we say that we truly let our light shine."

**Extract from Alessandro Romeo's maiden address to the community.**



*Alessandro Romeo makes his address.*

*SJF and SPC mingle after a game of footy.**Hangin' out on the basketball court.**Nicholas Migliorino & Eddie enjoy some team building games.**Lachlan Macher & friend taste test the 'roo tail.*

## DEEP CONNECTIONS REALISED

On 19 June, ten Year 11 students and two staff members set off to Alice Springs to embark on our immersion. Throughout the eleven-day journey, we had one week with the fellas at the St Joseph's Flexible Learning Centre, and a three-day camping trip, which included seeing the sites of Uluru, Kata Tjuta and Kings Canyon through a new lens.

In the first week we immersed ourselves in a regular school day, developing our bonds with the fellas through AFL skills in a clinic and travelling to country, where the fellas taught us about

various Dreaming stories, and the significance of different sacred sites to their culture, including the Ochre Pit and Simpson's Gap. Despite us not sharing the same culture, it heightened our appreciation and connection towards the land and our nation. On Friday we witnessed and assisted in the three-hour process of setting up fire pits to cook kangaroo tails and enjoy them, which lived up to the high expectations set.

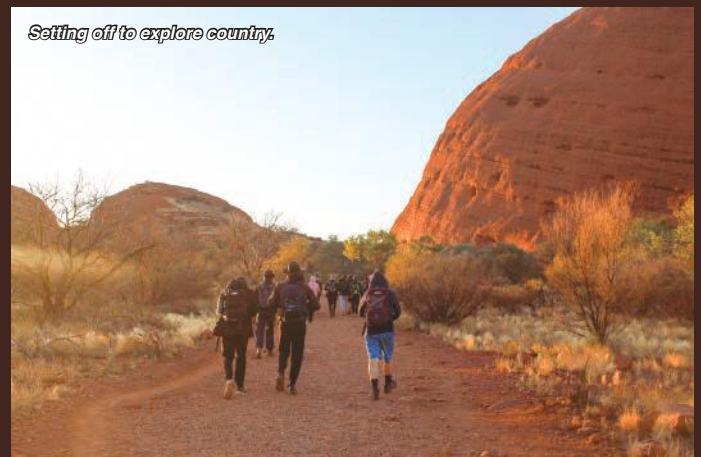
On Saturday we headed off on a 5-hour trip to our first camping site, near Uluru. Upon arrival, we had realised the pictures

on postcards had deceived us - Uluru was much larger and more spectacular than we expected, taking a total of 4 hours to walk around the 10km perimeter. For the two nights we camped, we noted how polluted and lit up Sydney is, as the whole of the Milky Way was visible from our campsite. Over the next two days, we hiked the steep paths of Kata Tjuta and Kings Canyon, which both offered priceless views.

Overall, this awakening experience drew us closer to the fellas in Alice, our First Nations brothers, and ourselves

as a group! Our connections deepened with the people of the Red Centre as well as the land, allowing each of us to grow more fully. I implore each of you reading this to not hesitate in taking the opportunity to embark on an immersion and to make the most of it, if given the chance!

**Karim Lattouf**  
Year 11 Student

*The group take in the sheer majesty of Uluru.**Setting off to explore country.*

## A FEW GOOD MEN

*Coaches James Herbertstein ('21) & Christian Habib ('21) help prepare the team for their upcoming trial.*



The College's Mock Trial team, made up of Year 10 and Year 11 students, together with their Old Boy coaches: James Herberstein ('21) and Christian Habib ('21), have had an outstanding season.

After winning all four Mock Trials, our boys advanced to the second elimination round of the Law Society of NSW's Mock Trial competition where they were pitched against Tangara School for Girls. Although they were beaten in what was a very close encounter, our team finished in the top 16 Schools across NSW. This is an outstanding achievement!

**Steven Fochesato**  
Director of Co-curricular

## BAILEY BRINGS MUSIC TO OUR EARS



*Bailey Yeates (Year 11) on the Chapel Organ.*

St Patrick's College Organ Scholar Bailey Yeates (Year 11), recently participated in the prestigious Organ Music Society of Sydney organ competition (OMSS). After performing two 'cracking' pieces, Bailey was awarded second place in the Intermediate Division, an outstanding achievement! Bailey has been invited to perform at Sydney Town Hall on 28 December for Young Organists' Day, which features winners from the organ competition. The recital begins at 12:30 PM and admission is free.

Bailey performs at our Friday morning Mass each week and is currently preparing for our Carols by Candlelight evening. In between all the special events at the College, Bailey is also kept busy as the Organ Scholar at St Paul's Church, Burwood, playing for their weekly Sunday services and special events. We are very proud of Bailey who continues to reach such high levels of excellence as a musician.

**Giselle Grapè**  
Music Teacher



*Our jubilant debating fraternity following their win in the Debate of Origin against Santa Sabina College.*



*The 10A and 10B Debating teams get ready to face off in the Grand Final!*

## SILVER-TONGUED SUPERSTARS!

This year, our debating fraternity have had a sensational season with an incredible 50 wins from five rounds across 60 debates, not including an additional two wins in the Debate of Origin! In all, 10 out of 12 teams moved into the elimination or finals rounds with six teams advancing to the quarter-finals.

Our 10 A and 10 B Debating teams won their respective semi-finals which put them in the unusual position of having to face off against each other in the Grand Final. With approximately 125 teams from 82 schools competing, to have the top two teams from one school is an amazing accomplishment and one that our boys should rightly be proud of. After a lively debate in front of a large audience it was our 10 A Debating team who claimed the CSDA Metropolitan Year 10 Championship Shield.

Congratulations are extended to all our student participants and their coaches. Their combined efforts saw St Patrick's recognised as joint Aggregate Junior Shield winners. The season was made even more enjoyable due to the fact that our boys were again able to participate in live debates, rather than via Zoom and as such, received a lot of support from their parents and peers.

**Denise Lombardo**  
MIC Public Speaking and Debating



*Dr Dean challenges our students to extend their thinking.*



## PONDERING THE BIG QUESTIONS

Recently we saw the inaugural Philosopher in Residence program at the College, where we were fortunate to host Dr Tim Dean. Dr Dean is a philosopher, writer, and speaker who has a PhD in Philosophy from the University of NSW, where he researched the evolution of morality. He has been the Science and Technology Editor at *The Conversation*; and has edited *Cosmos* and *Australian Life Scientist* magazines. Dr Dean is an Honorary Associate in the Philosophy department at the University of Sydney and is the Chief Philosopher on the faculty of The School of Life, Sydney. He also is one of the Philosophers at the Ethics Centre.

Dr Dean challenged our students to think critically about areas such as equality and equity, truth and certainty, the ethics of genetic modification, the ethics of robotics, the limits of tolerance, what is art? and what is the good life? He worked with students across a range of different ages and his workshops were engaging and thought provoking, resulting in some very lively conversations. A huge thank you to the Parents' and Friends' Committee for their grant that made it possible for us to host Dr Dean. It proved to be a very rewarding opportunity for students and staff.

**Janine Timillero**  
Diverse Learning Coordinator  
and Philosophy Teacher



*Our intrepid adventurers about to set off on one of their treks.*



*Sebastian El-Hachem, Antoine Zalloua, Riley Padd, Luca Triganza & Jordan Wehbe all geared up to tackle the high ropes.*

## YEAR 9 FACE NEW CHALLENGES

In Week 3 of Term 4, the Year 9 cohort travelled to Camp Somerset, located along the Colo River for four days. Being the third year of going to Somerset, the boys already knew what awaited them, from canoeing down the Hawkesbury River (the Colo was flooded) to hiking up steep mountains. We also had the opportunity to complete activities like archery and the giant ladder to grow our connection with each other. This was a truly unforgettable experience that created memories and friendships for years to come.

Upon arrival at Camp Somerset, we were split into our camp groups. We were given rucksacks and packed all our stuff needed for four days, with a weight limit of 12kg, 3L being just water. Most groups started on a 4km hike to their first campsite. As it was remote, we carried 12L of water for 2km. This was our only water until we reached our next campsite. Once we arrived in the late afternoon, we set up our tents and had some rest time until dinner.

The next two days were spent hiking. On Tuesday we did our longest hike which was 14km with a 1km incline in the first 500m and on Wednesday we did a 12km hike scaling up and down two different mountains. These two days were the most difficult ones at camp and although some of us struggled, we all helped each other whenever we could. On the last day we did a 3km hike back to base camp where we had lunch with the rest of our cohort before returning to school by coach. Instead of hiking, some groups did two 8km canoeing on the Hawkesbury River to the next campsite with all their gear.

The food we received differed exponentially from previous camps, notably with the introduction of rations. Each group was given a bag full of snacks, chocolate powder, cereal sachets and dehydrated food and the boys had the responsibility to use their rations wisely, otherwise they would run out of food for the remainder of their journey. We were also treated with food like canned beans and spaghetti, as well as other snacks like damper, made by the boys themselves. Dinners on other nights included nachos and sausages with pancakes and toast for breakfast.

Camp Somerset was a fun and enjoyable experience which took many of us outside of our comfort zones. We were eager to face new challenges like intense hiking, canoeing and team building exercises. Many boys established new friendships and overall, everyone enjoyed their final time at camp and would love to go back again if they got the chance.

**Anthony Naim and Liam Roche**  
Year 9 Students



*Moseying along the Hawkesbury River.*



*Meeting the locals!*



*Rooms with a view! The early morning sun shines on our campers.*



*Following an arduous day of trekking, our boys enjoyed gathering around the camp fire and toasting marshmallows.*



*Joseph Moubarak (Year 5) presents his erupting volcano.*



*Year 6 students: Christopher Ayoub, Cooper Hunter & Jerry Di Girolamo showcase their work.*



*Christopher Barbari (Year 6) demonstrates his bottle bowling alley to his classmates.*



*Antonio Ancona (Year 5) shows his mum the project he's been working on.*

## A CELEBRATION OF LEARNING

Our inaugural Celebration of Learning events were held in early September in the Junior School classrooms. All students were given the opportunity to present different samples of work across chosen Key Learning Areas to our parents and guests in attendance. The boys also prepared several questions beforehand for parents and guardians to ask to promote further discussion.

It was fantastic to see so many guests in attendance on both days, even if the classrooms were so full that it was difficult to move around at times! It was also incredibly pleasing to see the boys eagerly share various examples of work they had completed throughout the year. For many students, this was the first opportunity they had ever been given to invite their parents into their learning environment to showcase their work.

It was truly wonderful to watch the manner in which students took responsibility for their own expo-style presentation, not to mention the pride they demonstrated in sharing their chosen work samples. There were plenty of exploding volcanoes in some of the Year 5 classrooms, with many of the boys showcasing the natural disaster models they had created as part of their work in Science and Technology!

We look forward to continuing to provide similar engagement opportunities for parents and guardians to connect with their son's learning in the Junior School.

**Glenn Stephenson**  
Director of Junior School



*Our Year 5 students share a beautiful Mass with their grandparents.*



*Sebastian Di Martino with his proud grandparents.*



*Lucas Guindi shows his grandmother what he's working on in class.*



*Mason Coscarella with his grandparents.*



*Harlan Fernandez shows his grandparents around the College.*

## YEAR 5 WELCOME THEIR GRANDPARENTS

In July this year, our Year 5 cohort excitedly celebrated Grandparents' Day. This significant event began with a beautiful Mass in the College Chapel which was filled to capacity. This was followed by morning tea for our special guests who were treated to a surprise slideshow on the big screen of our boys with their grandparents. These images really highlighted the special relationship between grandparent and grandson.

After the delicious morning tea, our Year 5 students invited their grandparents to join them in their classroom as they proudly discussed various samples of work completed throughout the year. The boys composed a special piece of writing for their grandparents to take home and hopefully cherish!

Being able to celebrate Grandparents' Day is always an important occasion on the College calendar. We trust that those guests who were able to attend this unique opportunity thoroughly enjoyed their time at the College, as they saw first-hand the impact of the St Patrick's experience on our Year 5 boys.

**Glenn Stephenson**  
Director of Junior School



In their showstopping spooktacular, the cast embrace the wackiness in every family!



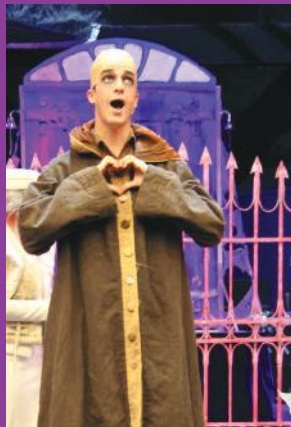
Gomez, aka Oliver Clarke (Year 12) attempts to keep a secret from Morticia, aka Bridget Kearney.



Mal, aka James Bellamy (Year 12) & Alice, aka Gabriella Gorgas, reignite their love.



Pugsley, aka Michael Bridge (Year 9) seeks advice from Grandma, aka Jake Milligan (Year 12).



Uncle Fester, aka Joseph O'Brien (Year 12) declares his love for the moon.



Love prevails for Wednesday, aka Charlotte Pugh & Lucas, aka Matthew Gainsford.

## SHOWSTOPPING SPOOKTACULAR!

Theatre has always been about coming together as a community, and this year's Performing Arts Production of *The Addams Family* did just that. Over three sold out performances, our College community laughed and delighted in the comical antics of the original spooky and kooky family. At its core the musical tells a story of love, family and identity which are all relatable themes for an angsty teenager.

The St Patrick's cast consisted of boys from all year groups, a truly inclusive and peer assisting troupe. The female leads and chorus (Ancestor Ghosts) roles where competently filled by long associated students from Santa Sabina College and Strathfield Girls High School. Every moment under the stage lights, the cast rose in confidence and demonstrated not only outstanding skills in acting, singing and playing, but a maturity and on-stage professionalism beyond their years.

At times, the production team questioned if someone had whispered the cursed "Macbeth" inside the theatre as each performance presented a new challenge with

understudies stepping in and freshly 'moon booted' actors treading the boards. The resilience of all involved and the mentality of "the show must go on" was yet another testament to the adaptability and skills of the cast. Not to be outdone, the brilliant stage crew seamlessly maneuvered sets around the stage and its wings as both the actors and musicians gave award worthy performances.

As the curtain came down on our final night, we also said farewell to a number of outstanding Year 12 actors whose many years of participation in Performing Arts Productions came to an end. Joseph O'Brien, James Mouawad, Jake Milligan and Oliver Clarke have always performed with professionalism and their talents will be missed.

A huge thank you must go to the staff who also worked tirelessly on this production; Mrs Oviach, Mr Phillipson, Dr Taylor, Mr Heffernan, Ms Benham, Ms Grapé and Mrs Doonan.

**Rebecca Duff**  
Performing Arts Faculty Leader



Scenes from the team's Grand Final performance at the Enmore Theatre.



NSW Theatresports Champions:  
Back: James Bellamy (Year 11), Oliver Clarke (Year 12), Joseph O'Brien (Year 12)  
Front: Matthew Gainsford (Year 11) & Jake Milligan (Year 12).



## TALENT SHINES ON STAGE

Theatresports is one of the College's newest co-curricular activities and this year, our boys have been extremely successful. Running from Year 5 through to Year 12, teams of five compete in relevant divisions against other NSW schools.

This year, we had students who were performing for the first time as well as seasoned veterans in the senior team. The senior team comprising of Year 11 and Year 12 boys; James Bellamy, Oliver Clarke, Matthew Gainsford, Jake Milligan and Joseph O'Brien, made it all the way to the Grand Final at the Enmore Theatre and took out the title of NSW Champions. They are the first St Patrick's College Theatresports team to take out this prestigious title, and we are very proud of their hard work and talent.

Congratulations to all boys on a fantastic year and we thank the coaches Ms Armanno and Mr Donohoe for their hard work.

**Rebecca Duff**  
MIC Theatresports



*Solid foundations: Nicholas Lipari (Year 11) providing another crucial bass line.*



*The Senior Brass Ensemble were in regal form.*



*Vox decentis!: The Junior Choir in fine voice.*



*Latin flare: Thomas Nethery (Year 10) adds some samba sounds on the congas!*



*Jackson Tan (Year 7) & Rowan Bleasel (Year 9) on cello.*

## EMBARKING ON A MUSICAL JOURNEY

In August, boys and their parents involved in the Co-curricular music programs gathered at Marie Bashir Public School to celebrate their talents and achievements. The Performing Arts Showcase is an opportunity for all boys in an ensemble to perform and this year marked the return of the event after a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19 and the various restrictions it brought.

Putting on a show with so many different groups and so much equipment is always a big task. Although the venue was only minutes away by foot, it still took three lorry-loads to move everything over (and back again). Many boys were exemplary in their attitude to helping and made contributions above and beyond their roles in the actual performance; from loading the lorry, setting up and packing away, to putting out chairs and helping with lights and sound, these boys embraced the spirit of the College. Many teachers also assisted on the night, staying until late to ensure everything got packed away and I thank them all for their commitment and assistance.

The performers did marvelously and rose to the occasion by playing with aplomb. Groups included the large ensembles, such as the Orchestra and Concert Band, and smaller groups, such as the saxophone and guitar ensembles. The College's Senior Drumline also performed.

When we watch performances such as these, it's easy to fall into the trap of thinking that the final, rewarding, public performance is the ultimate objective, that this is where the value is derived. But what we now know (through research, experience, and observation), is that making and learning music is so much more than this: the journey is as important as the destination. What isn't on display at the showcase are the many hours of solitary practice, the struggling to get something right, the embarrassment of making mistakes, the boring technical exercises, the urge to want to do better, the drive that makes a player keep coming back to rehearsal, the making of new friends. Of course, the final performance is important, but we stand to gain so much more from striving to get there, that this, in itself, becomes the source of value and ultimately the reward.

Next year we will do it all again, and it will be bigger and better than before. I look forward to supporting and encouraging all the boys on their journey to get there.

**David Taylor**  
Ensemble Coordinator



*The string section of the College Orchestra showed great agility in their playing.*



*Solo effort: Elijah Mannah (Year 9) providing vocals.*



*Antonio Barbanera (Year 10) did an amazing job stepping up to play the drums at the last minute!*



*Elias Alha, Zachary Toomey, Aidan Clarke, Ronan O'Neill & Rhys Burnicle support from the sidelines.*

## WINTER SPORT WRAP-UP

Well done to all players in Divisions 3, 5, 6, 7 and 9 Tennis teams who made the ISA Tennis Grand Finals held at Barker College. Congratulations to Division 6 and 9 teams on finishing as ISA Premiers.

For the first time this year, ISA Football Grand Finals were held at Western Sydney Wanderers' football grounds located in Blacktown. As usual, SPC was well represented. Congratulations to the following teams for finishing the season as ISA Premiers: First XI, Fourth XI, 15 A, 14 A, 13 A and 13 D. Well done to the Second XI, 16 B, 13 B and 13 E teams who finished the season as ISA Runners-up. It is important to note that our 13 As played our 13 Bs and the 13 Ds played our 13 Es in their respective Grand Finals which speaks volumes of the football talent we have at St Patrick's.

Rugby at the College saw many improvements. All teams had outstanding results against GPS and CAS schools during the trial period. It is with confidence that I say SPC Rugby cemented itself as the third best ISA Rugby School with outstanding results against St Pius X and Kinross at home and St Stanislaus' away. Congratulations to the First XV and 15 A teams for finishing the season as ISA Runners-up.

Having not had an Athletics season for the past two years due to COVID-19, SPC returned to the track at SOPAC to contest the ISA Championships in a very competitive field, finishing fifth overall behind winners St Pius X.



*Isaac Hopkins (Year 11) has his eye on the ball.*



*The First XI celebrate a cracking goal.*



*Fourth XI player, Gabriel Lombardo (Year 12) helps secure his team's ISA Premiership.*



*First XV player, Mitchell Woods (Year 10) sizes up the opposition.*

## INDIVIDUAL SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

The College wishes to acknowledge and congratulate the following students for their outstanding achievements in their respective sports.

### Jack Dwyer (Year 12)

Jack represented Australia as a member of the U18 Water Polo team. He wore the Green and Gold of Australia at the FINA Youth Men's World Championships, held in Belgrade, Serbia in August this year where his team placed 11th overall.

### Dylan Parks (Year 11)

Dylan represented Australia in Rock Climbing/ Bouldering as a member of the Australian Youth Team to compete in Dallas Texas at the World Youth Championships. Also wearing the Green and Gold of Australia, Dylan set a new personal best and a Youth A Australian record (Speed Discipline).

### Nicholas Macher (Year 9) and Jack Taylor (Year 9)

Nicholas and Jack represented the NSW Swim team at the 2022 Australian All Schools Swimming Championships held in Brisbane. Congratulations to Nicholas who won a bronze medal in the 400m Freestyle event and placed fourth in the 400m Individual Medley. Well done to Jack who made the finals in the 15 Years Boys 50m Freestyle event and placed fifth overall. He was then selected to compete in both NSW relay teams.

### Sebastian Lombardo (Year 8) and Luca Tropiano (Year 8)

Sebastian and Luca gained selection in the U14 NSW Metro Football Teams which competed at the National Youth Championship held at Coffs Harbour in September. A significant milestone for both Sebastian and Luca as they played against the very best U14 talent from all Australia's states and territories.

### Alex Conti (Year 10) and Mitchell Woods (Year 10)

Alex and Mitchell gained selection in the U16 NSW Waratahs Rugby team competing in the National Rugby Championships. This championship is an imperative part of the Australian pathway programs as it opens avenues for the best young stars across the country to make as strong a case as possible for advancement toward full-time professional Super Rugby squads.

### Mitchell Woods (Year 10)

As a member of the Sydney Swans AFL Academy this year, Mitchell was named in the 2022 AFL Under 16s All-Australian team. AFL great, Kevin Sheehan recently described Mitch as a "midfielder whose acceleration and power in bursts through the centre of the ground and away from stoppages was a real weapon in the Championships. He averaged 21.3 disposals (13 contested) 4.3 clearances and 4 tackles." A significant achievement for Mitchell which was made more special by being the only NSW player named in the national side.

### Anthony Calavassy Head of Secondary Sport



*Dr Lavorato welcomes members from the Class of 2010: Mitchell Lowe, Nathan Carmody, Max Duncan, Alexander Devine & Tom Honeysett.*



*Mark Lennon, Mark Bouffler, Chris MacMahon & Geoff Weaver all from the Class of 1976.*



*Mr Newman's Class of 2015 are all grown up! Mr Newman, Nicholas Vatovec, Anthony James Raheb, Sean English, Luke Newbury, Jared McLachlan, Matthew Carollo, Dominic Shade, Samuel Bechara, Josh Youssef, Thomas Clark & William Hill.*



*Familiar faces gather at Old Boys' Corner!*



*Class of 1981 comrades: Andrew Viney, Paul Conti & Scott Warr.*



*Lorenzo Fontana, Alex Bloomfield, Jake Mills & Hal Shaw check out the photo display from 2010.*



*David Criss ('81) with sons Ben ('21) & Mitchell ('10).*



## BACK WITH A VENGEANCE!

While numerous celebrations were postponed from the past two years, this year we have seen over 20 separate reunions take place in venues across Sydney. It has been wonderful to be able to get together and catch up with many of our school friends. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the leaders of their respective year groups who did all the hard work in arranging the functions and ensuring their year groups stay in touch.

After a couple of false starts, our Old Boys' Luncheon took place in March and those who had purchased pre-pandemic tickets were finally able to come together and enjoy the company of other Old Boys. Planning is now underway for next year's event with details to follow through the Old Boys website and email distribution.

Back to Breen Day was held in August and with so many students, parents and Old Boy supporters gathering around the College grounds, it was a wonderful celebration of community and sport. Spectators were initially treated to a resounding 7 – 0 victory by the First XI Football team in their Semi-Final match against Redlands. Not long afterwards, we were all treated to a spectacular performance by our First XV in their comfortable 52 – 0 win over Kinross Woleroi School.

During the day, it was extremely pleasing to see so many Old Boys

reconnect with each other on the sidelines. In particular, the College hosted three reunion groups with the Classes of: 1981, 2010 and 2015 all lapping up the atmosphere before moving their celebrations offsite. Next year, Back to Breen Day will be held at the College on Saturday 19 August and as the new Scientia Building will be open, it will be an opportunity to see the new building and enjoy the sporting action from a different perspective.

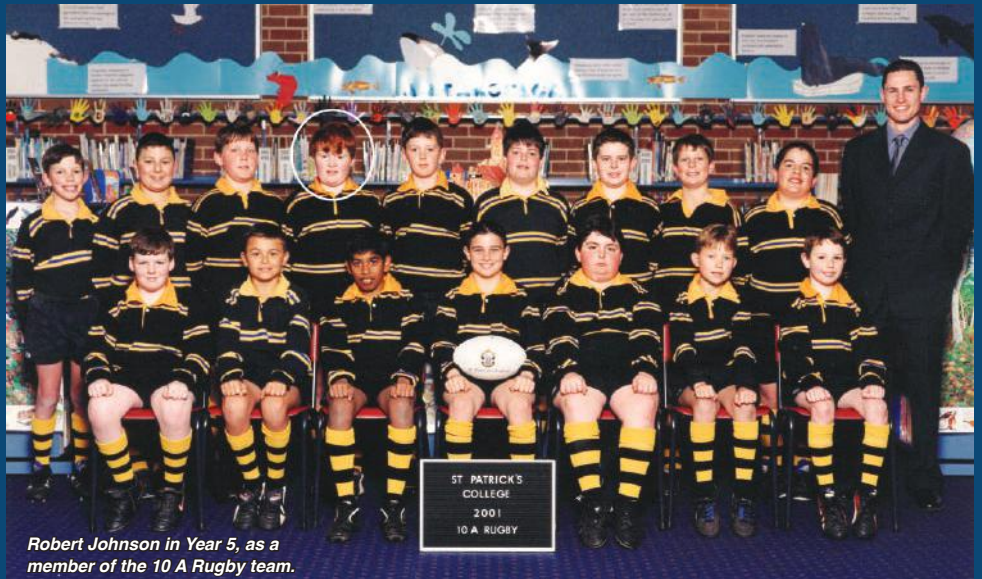
In early October, we invited Old Boys to the Mercantile Hotel for a catch up in the Rocks. We thought the first Thursday in Daylight Savings would be a good opportunity to drop in and hopefully start a tradition. That being said, plans are in place for the same to reoccur on Thursday 5 October 2023 so please help us spread the word. It's a great opportunity to catch up in an informal setting and enjoy some early springtime ambience.

In closing, our Vestra Bursary Fund continues to grow and helps give young men an opportunity of a St Patrick's College education. Please help us continue this work by making a tax-deductible donation at <https://oldboys.spc.nsw.edu.au/#vestrabursary>.

**Greg Dening**  
Old Boys' Executive Officer



*Robert Johnson ('08) today, Author, actor and all-round nice guy!*



*Robert Johnson in Year 5, as a member of the 10 A Rugby team.*

# BEING PART OF THE BIGGER STORY



*Ready to give it his all at the Senior Athletics Carnival.*



*2008 College Vice Captains, Luke Barry-Donnellan & Robert Johnson shake the hands of incoming 2009 Vice Captains, Michael Moussa & Marcus Jelacic.*

The following is an extract of an address given by Old Boy and former College Vice Captain, Robert Johnson ('08). Earlier in the year, Robert was invited back to the College during a Staff Development Day to share his reminiscences about his school years and the way in which his teachers impacted him. Robert's genuine and engaging nature served to highlight the importance of good teaching and the positive affect it can have on a young man's life.

"I was a student here from 2001-2008; my twin brothers Greg and Michael were here from 1992-1999. And I thought they were the coolest. I still think they're cool but less so. They were excellent students, College Prefects, Music Captain and Vice Captain, they did Debating, they were in Concert Band, Jazz Band, Musicals, Drama Productions, and they played Basketball and Rugby.

My earliest memories of this place are coming to their soirees in the original Duffy Music Centre in the mid-90s, and watching them play Rugby on No 2 Oval. So I knew this place through the experiences of my brothers. The way I just described them makes them sound like insufferable over-achievers, and they probably were but they never seemed that way to me. It didn't feel like they were weirdly over-involved, or too big for their boots, or showing off. Rather, it was just normal to be involved in the life of the school as deeply and passionately as they were. They were also 6'4" red-headed twins, so they stood out.

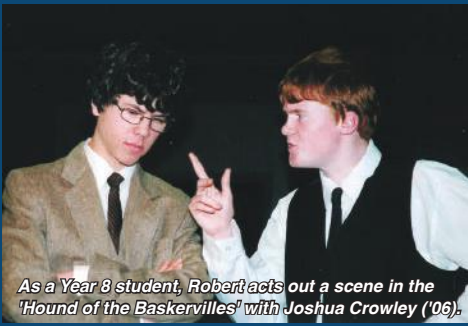
I arrived as a student in my blue cap and shorts on an extremely rainy morning in 2001: I was ready. I was going to walk in the big scary inspiring footsteps of my brothers. I was so convinced of my brothers' legacy that I was just waiting for them to be randomly brought up in conversation by teachers or older students. It's possible I was just a bit of a weird kid, but from day dot I had in my head that I was going to continue their story. I was going to be involved in the same things they were. I was extremely proud of them, and I'd observed how much satisfaction they got out of their lives here and wanted the same for myself.

I signed up for every co-curricular I could: Rugby, Cricket, Debating, Musical, Drama, Band. This culminated in being stood up at Assembly in Year 7 by Mr Fochesato, where he read out all of the co-curriculars I was doing and got everyone to clap. I found it extremely exciting and validating, but I was a big nerd who was following my brothers' story. What I hadn't realised yet was how much support and encouragement I was

going to receive from my teachers and peers. I was glad and sort of mystified when I realised that somehow this co-curricular thing was cool and I was receiving positive recognition for it.

For me, one of the pillars of SPC is a culture of getting amongst it, and that doesn't necessarily mean succeeding with flying colours or winning at all costs. Some things stick, and some don't. But you try. I played four seasons of Cricket and finished with 2 wickets, a few flukey catches and a high score of 11. Though I will add that that 11 was match-saving and featured two glorious boundaries. I also spent the first half of Year 11 trying to make it as an Advanced Mathematics student. When I made the decision to drop Maths entirely for the HSC, my teacher Mr Burns, who was famously a man of few words, simply said: "I think that would be wise." It was the happiest day of my life.

When I was in Year 12, I was honoured to place first in the State in the NSW Schools Writing Competition, which I was very chuffed about. The main thing that sticks in my mind is my



As a Year 8 student, Robert acts out a scene in the 'Hound of the Baskervilles' with Joshua Crowley ('06).



Performing in 'Wasps' with Matthew Hadchiti ('10).



Robert with fellow Year 12 debaters: Patrick Foulkes & Dominic O'ner.



A gifted musician, Robert playing the tuba in the College Concert Band.



Relaxing with friends.



At the end of his SPC journey, Robert receives his graduation certificate from Principal, Brian Roberts.



Robert performs his 'swan song' at the 2008 Speech Night.

conversation with Mr Hirst, my English teacher who told me I had placed first, shook my hand and said "Congratulations, you deserve it." I continue to write; I've written for the stage, I've published short stories, and of all my experiences professionally as a writer, that interaction is still something I think about. That stuff sticks.

Another big highlight and a glimpse of things to come was in Year 7 religion, when we were given a group assignment to provide a brief history of Edmund Rice. Most groups did posters or short speeches, but I took it upon myself to write a 20-minute play featuring a time-traveling Edmund Rice (played by me) who took the other group members on a journey through history to all of the major points in his life. My uncle had briefly trained to be a priest, so I borrowed his old cassock and folded up paper to be a collar and did an outrageous Irish accent. It was pretty over the top, but we were a hit. While unnecessarily long and not always historically accurate, the fact my group had done something unapologetically different was celebrated. My teacher Mr O'Donnell told me afterwards that it was the best fake Irish accent he'd ever heard, which is on my CV actually.

What I loved about being here is that there were opportunities to express yourself, and that those who expressed themselves were commended for it. I felt at my freest here when I was being encouraged to be myself.

Ms Daley is case in point when it comes to inspirational teachers. She was my religion

teacher in Year 8 and is one of the best teachers I've ever had. One of the things that made her one of my favourite teachers was her clear passion for what she was teaching. She was energised and excited about what she was teaching, and that captured my imagination as well, even if she wasn't always convinced that that was the case. She also recruited me back into the Night Patrol fold in 2016, so her influence is wide-reaching.

One of our topics for HSC religion was Peace, and one of the concepts was Inner Peace. An idea that struck me then, but continues to gain more and more meaning for me, was that if every person on earth was able to find peace within themselves, there would be world peace. I thought that was deeply profound. I still bring that concept up to Ms Daley sometimes, usually as a joke even though I don't think it's silly at all - classic deflection. And I'm in danger of drawing far too long a bow here, but that idea of each individual contributing their very particular personal element to the benefit of a larger culture also applies to that powerful, supportive sense of community that I've been talking about. I also feel like I've given an analogy for communism but that wasn't my intention.

So what is my point? That's a good question. I'm 31, I graduated 14 years ago, but my experience as a student here is still one I walk around with and refer back to. What I learnt about community, following your passions, and working hard, but not even in a weird clichéd Dead Poets Society

way - they were lessons I picked up indirectly, just by being involved. Just by responding pretty naturally to the opportunities that were presented to me. This was never a place where you would expect to be shut down if you were passionate about something, and that is still how I live my life. I studied to be a journalist, then switched to acting, and am currently seriously considering taking the rest of the year off to work on my own writing project - that might sound crazy, or like I've made a series of increasingly ill-informed career choices, but what I see when I look at that trajectory is that most times when I come to a hinge point in my life and am feeling pulled in a certain direction, I tend to follow it. And I genuinely don't believe that would be as strong an instinct for me if it hadn't been so nurtured by the teachers and the community of St Pat's.

So 14 years have passed, the students are different, a lot of the staff is different, the world is different, but I think there would still be a lot of boys here who are living in their own bigger stories like I was, hoping to tap into some small part of the legacy of this place like I was, and who will go forward in their lives but carry that magic whatever-it-is with them. And maybe come back and try to make a point of it to a group of teachers years later. I'm really grateful for this place and the passionate people who make it what it is, and you are all part of that, and I hope you think that's pretty cool. Because it is. What you're doing really matters."

# MANENTI SPORTING SUCCESS



John Manenti ('88) (back, centre) celebrates with his team.

We congratulate **John Manenti ('88)**, Head Coach of the Australian Men's Rugby 7's team. Recently, John's side capped off a remarkable turnaround to seal Australia's maiden men's title. John took over the men's

program just over a year ago and has now guided a squad who were labelled "a bunch of misfits" to winning the World Series Sevens tournament for the first time in its 23-year-old history!



Harry Manenti ('18) is awarded Tasmanian Player of the Year.

After a breakout season playing Cricket in Tasmania, John's son **Harry Manenti ('18)** was awarded Tasmanian Player of the Year for the 2021/22 season. His highlight was a rare feat of

100 runs and 10 wickets in the same match. During the European summer, Harry was selected in the Italian National Team and played six T20 internationals and five One Day internationals. Harry scored a Century in an inaugural victory over Hong Kong for the Italians.



Ben Manenti ('14) making his South Australian Sheffield Shield debut.

Not to be outdone, Harry's older brother **Ben Manenti ('14)** made his One Day Cup debut for South Australia. Batting with the tail, Ben top scored with 60 runs off 45 balls and claimed two wickets including that of current test opening batsman, Usman Khawaja. Ben's efforts saw him awarded Man of the Match for his performance. Following this, Ben made his first-class debut for South Australia v Tasmania in the Sheffield Shield Match at Adelaide Oval. During the match he fought hard to keep his side in the game with scores of 59 runs in the first innings and 85 not out in the second. Ben also claimed two wickets in the first

innings, one of those being former Australian Captain, Tim Paine and a further wicket in the second innings. Unfortunately, Ben's 144 runs weren't enough for South Australia to win the game, but he becomes one of only a handful of players to score a half century in both innings of their Shield Debut. According to the record books, Ben is also our first official First-Class cricketer since Ernie Crossan ('33).

In years to come no doubt we will hear more about the exploits of this sporting family, especially given that John's youngest son, **Louis Manenti** has just graduated from SPC. As a player in the First XI Cricket team, Louis has proven to be a handy spin bowler and strong with the bat. Louis is now coaching Cricket at the College as he pursues a Rugby career after a successful season playing in the First XV. Watch this space!

# OLD BOYS REPRESENT WITH DISTINCTION

It is with great pleasure that we share news of the following Old Boys and wish them well in their endeavours. Congratulations to:



Joshua Maree ('13)

Adam Doueihi ('16)

**Joshua Maree ('13)** and **Adam Doueihi ('16)** for being selected to represent Lebanon in the Cedars squad currently taking part in the Rugby League World Cup campaign.



Mark Nawaqanitawase ('18) as a player in the College's First XV.

**Mark Nawaqanitawase ('18)** who, following a successful campaign with both Australia A and the Waratahs, was named in the Australia squad for the 2022 Autumn internationals series. Mark joins the ranks of other Old Boy Wallabies, **John Ballesty ('63)** and **Michael Foley ('84)**.

**Alexander del Popolo ('21)** who represented Australia in Javelin at the Pacific Mini Games held in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. Alex threw a two-metre personal best at the games with a distance of 59.53 metres and placed 5th overall in the Men's 800g Javelin event. What a wonderful achievement!



Alexander del Popolo ('21) in-action.

# OLD BOYS GIVE BACK

At St Patrick's we are often reaching out to Old Boys, whether it's as co-curricular coaches, as various committee members or to simply share their infinite wisdom, our Old Boys are always happy to help. There is something special about seeing a familiar face walk the corridors again, interacting with students and their former teachers. That enduring sense of connection and belonging is what our community is all about and we are all blessed to be a part of it. Recently, we welcomed back to the College the following Old Boys who graciously gave us their time and expertise.



*Dr Lavorato, Br Berg ('48) & Year 12 Berg House Prefect, Lachlan Barton at the Mass.*

**Br Brian Berg ('48)** attended our Founder's Day Mass in July, and as part of proceedings we looked at footage of him being interviewed by three of our Year 12 students when they were in Year 7. Br Berg who, in November this year will celebrate his 90th birthday, was again interviewed by the same three boys about his time as a schoolboy, teacher, Sportsmaster and Deputy Headmaster of the College. Hearing from Br Berg highlighted the purpose of the day which was to give thanks to the many Christian Brothers who worked tirelessly to provide a quality education for our youth.



*Paul Wright ('04) shared with Year 11 his insights on good leadership.*

As is tradition, in the lead up to our Year 11 students voting for their 2023 Student Leadership Team, a number of guest speakers shared their insights on leadership. Former College Captain **Paul Wright ('04)** talked to the boys about his experience and offered some advice about picking the right leader. While at SPC, Paul was a stellar student, great sportsman and brilliant debater, and upon graduating won a slew of awards in recognition of his achievements. For the HSC, Paul came first in the State in Studies of Religion 2 Unit and fifth in the State in Economics, making him equal Dux of the College (with Adrian Nicholas). Paul also spoke about his career as a lawyer and leading a team in various projects he has worked on.



*As a First XI player, Shannon Cole dazzled on the pitch in 2002.*

Halfway through the Winter Sport Season, Football Development Officer, Brian McCarthy organised for former A-League Football star **Shannon Cole ('02)** to talk to our footballers about improving their mindset for sustained success, not only on the pitch but also in life. Having achieved so much in his football career, Shannon made the transition from player to coach and is now a consultant at Athlete2Business, helping to match pro-athletes with employment opportunities. It was great for our boys to hear about Shannon's passion for football and how he turned his love of the game into a successful career.



*Brian McCarthy (Football Development Officer), Shannon Cole ('02) & Steven Fochesato (Director of Co-curricular).*



*Augustine Murphy ('18) inspires Year 10 student, Nicholas Hatem.*

**Augustine Murphy ('18)** returned to the College for a mentoring session with Year 10 student Nicholas Hatem. Nicholas has an acquired a brain injury following heart failure and several strokes and having also acquired a brain injury, Augustine was able to share with him his own health journey. As a student, Augustine suffered from epilepsy and by the time he was in Year 7, had undergone three brain operations to try and stop the multiple seizures he was having daily. Fortunately, the last operation was successful, with the trade-off being that Augustine could no longer fully use his right arm and leg. Determined not to let this hold him back, Augustine pursued his dream to become a footballer and represents Australia as a Pararoo (Australian Football team for athletes with cerebral palsy, acquired brain injury or symptoms acquired from a stroke). No doubt sharing his story helped inspire Nicholas to achieve his own goals, whatever they may be.



*Augustine Murphy ('18) playing for the Pararoos.*

**Nikki Fochesato**  
Community Liaison Officer/Archivist

# ACCLAIM FOR THOMAS KENEALLY'S NEW BOOK



We are delighted to learn that renowned Old Boy author, Thomas Keneally ('52) has recently been awarded the ARA Historical Novel Prize for his new book, *Corporal Hitler's Pistol*. The book, which is set in 1933, explores the impacts of the traumas of the interwar period on rural Australian communities and explores the relationships between black and white Australians. Upon receiving the award, Mr Keneally made the decision to generously share his prize money with other authors on the longlist, in recognition of how hard it is to make a living as an author.

Over the years, Mr Keneally has won or been shortlisted for countless literary awards and continues to shine as a brilliant novelist. Mr Keneally is a proud Old Boy who, for a number of years, has supported and encouraged the literary pursuits of our students through the Thomas Keneally Writing Awards.



# OLD BOYS HONoured

We wish to congratulate the following Old Boys who were honoured in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours list for their outstanding achievement and service.

**Dr Dan White ('71)**, former executive director of Sydney Catholic Schools, received a Medal of the Order of Australia for his contribution to Catholic education for over four decades.

**John Dasey ('55)**, St Vincent de Paul volunteer, received a Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the community through a range of roles.

**Sean Kearns ('91)**, Assistant Commissioner Regional Operations at NSW State Emergency Service, received the Emergency Services Medal for his work in leading the NSW SES strategy and response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The College is always interested to hear about Old Boys who receive recognition for service to the community. Please contact the Community Liaison Officer at: [nikki.fochesato@spc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:nikki.fochesato@spc.nsw.edu.au).

# MONS. JOHN USHER CELEBRATES MILESTONE

We congratulate Mons. John Usher ('57) who recently celebrated his 50th Jubilee of priestly ordination as a Sydney Archdiocesan priest.

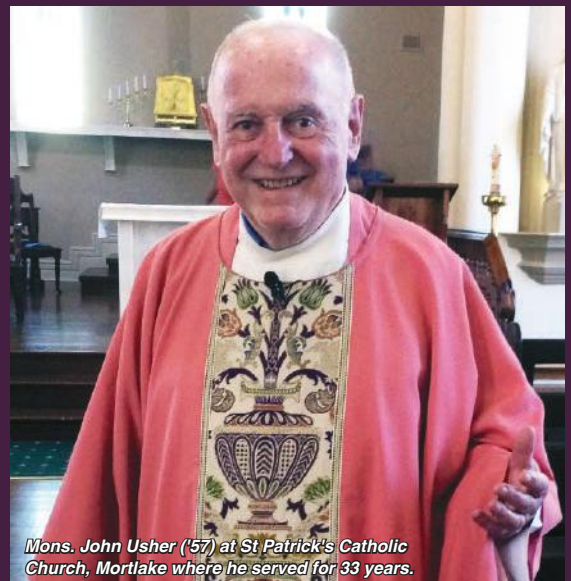
After graduating from SPC in 1957, Mons. Usher pursued tertiary studies in commerce and accounting. At the age of 25 however, he decided on a career change and entered the seminary in Springwood and Manly before being ordained in 1972. A couple of years later, the Archbishop of Sydney, Cardinal Freeman, persuaded Mons. Usher to return to university and undertake further studies in Social Work.

In 1999, Mons. Usher was appointed Director of Centacare (Catholic Care), a position he held for 25 years. On retiring from Centacare, he spent 33 years at St Patrick's Parish, Mortlake and, at the same time, became the Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Sydney. Mons. Usher's skills in social welfare were recognised by the NSW Government when appointed in August 1991 as Chairman of a Ministerial Review Committee dealing with children in long term institutional residential care.

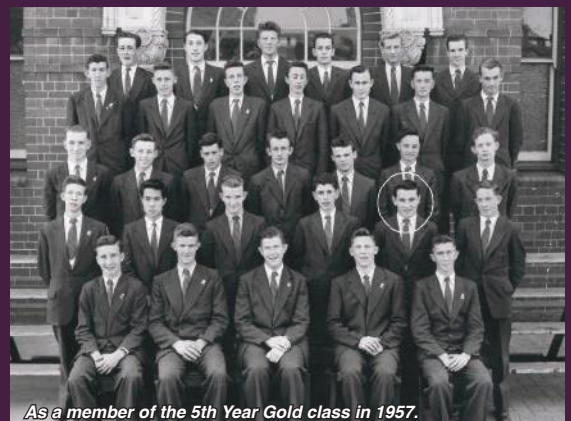
In 2003, the College recognised Mons. Usher's achievements and awarded him with the Luceat Award. Upon accepting the award, Mons. Usher said "It was the relationship between the values of home and the values of the Catholic education of this College that provided me with the most important preparation for life in my case. In fact, it was basically a spiritual preparation. It was an experience of God." A year later, Mons. Usher received an OAM and in 2009, became a Prelate of Honour.

In recognition of his 50th Jubilee, the St Patrick's parish newsletter said the following about Mons. Usher; "he was best known as a good bloke who could engage with all people, young and old, rich and poor. As Parish Priest of Mortlake, he exercised his pastoral ministry with love, great care, and diligence. His love of life and people, together with his strong sense of social justice and inclusion made him a friend and priest to all."

By all accounts, Mons. John Usher is a man of kindness who continues to let his light shine brightly.



Mons. John Usher ('57) at St Patrick's Catholic Church, Mortlake where he served for 33 years.



As a member of the 5th Year Gold class in 1957.



Club Captain, Paul Ragonese ('12) (front, centre) celebrates with his undefeated First Grade team.

## A SENSATIONAL SEASON FOR SPFC

What a season 2022 has turned out to be! After a disrupted start due to the rain, all our teams were raring to get stuck into the season ahead. In 2022 SPFC fielded seven teams comprising of a Super League squad of two teams, two All-Age teams, a 21s team, an Over 35s team and our very popular Women's team.

A big thank you must go to our hardworking SPFC Committee and the individual team managers and coaches who managed to do what all SPFC teams do, give it their all, wear the jersey with pride and bring home some trophies!

A special mention must go to Nass Martino and Lorenzo Galasso ('12) who guided our undefeated First Grade side to Premiers and winners of the 1st Grade Grand Final! This team which only lost one game in two seasons gained promotion to the NWSF Premier League. What an unbelievable effort!

As a committee, we are most proud of the amount of charity work the Club continues to undertake. Firstly, in January, at our annual Lambert Park charity game we raised \$5,000 for Beyond Blue and \$6,000 for White Ribbon at our Women's Round during the season. A huge thank you to Mark Liberatore ('06), Roberto Bonserio ('09) and the girls for putting on such a great event.

A final shout out goes to our much-loved President Anthony Bonaccorso ('13) who will be stepping down from his role at the end of the formalities. Thank you for all the work you've done over the past few years. You've guided us through some tough times such as COVID, and have brought the Club through to the other side in great shape.

As a Club we're always trying to grow and improve and we invite you to like our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/stpatricksfootballclub> and ask you to reach out for any opportunities to play or get involved.

We are looking forward to seeing more Old Boys and fresh faces around the Club in 2023!

**Nick de Lutiis**  
Vice President ('12)



We did it! Nick de Lutiis ('12) (Vice President), Nass Martino (Head Coach) & Anthony Bonaccorso ('13) (Club President) with the NWSF Super League Premiers Shield & Championship Shield.



Angus Brunton ('17) pushes into the Waverley defence with Nick Toms ('17) & Adam Brooks ('21) in support.

## A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH

2022 was a fantastic season for St Patrick's Rugby Club. We returned to Division One of the NSW Suburban Rugby Union and proved that we are once again a force at the top level of amateur Rugby Union in the State. SPRC finished fifth out of ten clubs in the Club Championship, which is a commendable result in our return to the top division. This year we boasted some of the best playing numbers in the entire competition with over 150 registered players. We fielded five Senior Men's teams and an U21 Colts team each week.

Undoubtedly, one of the major highlights of the season was the success of our Women's 7s team, who had their inaugural season. Our Women's team played their first ever match in torrential rain at Hudson Park, securing a famous win over Petersham. The ladies also competed in their first tournament with aplomb and bigger and better things are on the horizon in 2023.

We were pleased to have our top three Grades and Colts qualify for semi-finals. Unfortunately, our 1st Grade and 3rd Grade teams bowed out in the first week of finals against strong Mosman teams. The second week of finals was action packed for SPRC. Heartbreak ensued for our Colts who were eliminated after a 17-All draw with Waverley who progressed as they finished higher on the ladder by one point. At the other end of the spectrum, our 2nd Grade enjoyed the elation of a last gasp victory over Hunters Hill as a pinpoint drop goal sailed between the posts after the full-time siren.

Unfortunately, our 2nd Grade side went down in the Grand Final 41-13 against the eventual and deserving premiers Waverley. This side was coached by Steve Nicholls ('89) and David Walsh ('89 and featured a tremendous number of Old Boys from Trent Moran ('04) to Adam Brooks ('21).

Off the field, the Club also had a successful year including a number of memorable and enjoyable social events. A real highlight was our Charity Day when we raised over \$16,000 for the Trish MS Research Foundation.

St Patrick's Rugby Club is in a great space at the moment. We are hungry for more success and need the help of the Old Boys' network. If you are interested in playing, coaching, managing, sponsoring or volunteering please get in touch by email: [Secretary@sprc.com.au](mailto:Secretary@sprc.com.au). 2023 will be our 60th year and promises to be one of our best yet.

For a video of our season's highlights, please follow this link: [https://youtu.be/8fj1\\_zG7Dxs](https://youtu.be/8fj1_zG7Dxs)

**Tim Skinner ('13)**  
SPRC Secretary



Alex Skinner ('17) cuts through the line.



The Class of 1952 as special guests at the College Assembly.



Fred McDonald speaks to the boys about life 'back in the day'.



Dr Lavorato with some of our special guests. Back: John Roddy, Paul Grew, John Donnelly Front: Paul Crittenden, Fred McDonald, Terry Chadwick, Denis Kearney & Tom Keneally.



Enjoying lunch in the 'fruit salad room!'



Sharing a joke with students working on their timber projects.



The group are joined by current SPC teachers, Andrew Viney ('81) & Heidi Viney who are nephew & niece of former classmate David Viney ('52).

## CLASS OF 1952 STILL GOING STRONG

In June, members from the Class of 1952 were welcomed back to the College as they celebrated their 70-year reunion. As special guests at our Assembly, we were privileged to hear from Fred McDonald who recalled what the world and school life was like 'back in the day.' Both Fred's and fellow classmate, Thomas Keneally's grandchildren were in attendance as they are current students at the College, a poignant reminder of the strong family ties which exist here.

At the end of Assembly, our boys joined our visitors in a rousing rendition of the College War Cry which shook the rafters of the Gymnasium. It was then off to Mass in the Chapel followed by lunch in the 'fruit salad room', aka Coghlan 1.

During their visit, it was obvious that in the 70 years since leaving SPC, these Old Boys remain steadfastly proud of their alma mater and that the friendships forged in the corridors and classrooms back then have stood the test of time.

## MEMORIES SHARED FOR THE CLASS OF 1956 AND 1957

In July, 14 Octogenarians braved the mounting enemies of age, sickness, distance and cold weather to enjoy a lunch and mateship. Sadly, more classmates had passed away and 13 others made their apologies, mostly due to poor health. However, for those who could attend, the get together was very enjoyable and memories aplenty were shared. The group is very much looking forward to their next reunion in two years, their 68th. Hang in there, fellas!



## A DOUBLE CELEBRATION FOR THE CLASS OF 1960



After two years of COVID-19 lockdowns, the Class of 1960 were finally able to celebrate their 60-year reunion. One of their former teachers, Br Dan Stewart was also in attendance and as his 90th birthday was in 2020, he too enjoyed the belated celebration.



*Craig Emerson ('72) with special guest Dr Lavorato.*

## A GREAT TURNOUT FOR THE CLASS OF 1972

In October, the Class of 1972 gathered for lunch at the Kirribilli Club to celebrate their 50-year reunion. It was great to see so many former classmates in attendance, with some having travelled great distances to be there.

Former Labor Party politician, Craig Emerson emceed the event and College Principal Dr Lavorato, was invited as special guest. During her address, Dr Lavorato painted a picture of life in the 1970s drawing on her own childhood experiences. She then went on to entertain the group with snippets of information taken from their school records such as Michael Kerr being awarded 'First neatest boy!' when he was in 4th Class Gold and Glenn Cruise who, along with his brother Anthony, won a Business Award for organising a Billy Cart Raffle in 1964!

The reunion committee must be congratulated on their work in tracking down former class members and ensuring such a large turnout. Everyone had a great time and vowed to catch-up more often, with discussions already under way for the 55-year reunion.



*Jan Pulanco, Anthony Vecchio, Raymond Chiu & Jason Mimo catch up.*



*Matthew Reardon, Matthew Gavan & Gabriele Ulacco reminisce.*

## CLASS OF 2002 TWENTY YEARS ON

In September, approximately 50 classmates from 2002 gathered to celebrate and revive memories from their 'salad days'. The group enjoyed watching the NRL Finals, while recalling their own experiences of playing footy on Breen Oval. A highlight of the evening was watching a slideshow that juxtaposed pictures from Year 12 with present day milestones.

The boys enjoyed the company of their former Year 7 and Year 12 Year Master Mr Michael Hollis and were astounded to learn he was just 23 when he oversaw their transition into high school! Those gathered also took a moment to remember the lives of their classmates who are no longer with us, Chris Stewart, Chris Hurley and Adrian Ryan.

## FORTHCOMING REUNION

To stay informed about reunions, please log on to the Old Boys' website: <https://oldboys.spc.nsw.edu.au/> and check out the 'News & Events' section.

### CLASS OF 1962 REUNION

**Date:** Friday 16 June 2023  
**Venue:** Ryde Parramatta Golf Club  
**Time:** From 6:00 PM  
**Contact:** Merv Jones  
**M:** 0413 278 774  
**E:** jonesmerv@hotmail.com

If you need help planning a reunion, please reach out to Old Boys Executive Officer, Greg Denning at: [greg.denning@spc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:greg.denning@spc.nsw.edu.au).

## VALE

### GEORGE CHMIELEWSKI SPC OLD BOY 1963 SPC TEACHER 1971-2013



Our thoughts and prayers go to the family and friends of Old Boy George Chmielewski ('63) who sadly passed away in July. For over 40 years, Mr Chmielewski taught in the Junior School and Maths Departments and his impact goes back generations with many of our fathers and grandfathers being taught by him. He is remembered

in many ways, but some include his generosity by paying the school fees of families in trouble and the extra support he gave struggling students throughout their schooling. May he rest easy in grace and love.

- John Freeman ('41)
- John Forbes ('47)
- Donald Featherstone ('48)
- Brian Walsh ('48)
- Br Anthony Atkinson ('50)
- John Gough ('53)
- Gary Czinner ('56)
- Anthony Griffiths ('56/'57)
- Chanel Cobley-Finch ('57)
- Tony Hayes ('60)
- Bernard Foulkes ('64)
- John Tanna ('65)
- Bradley Murphy ('77)
- William (Bill) Watkins ('82)
- Christian Jackson ('91)

Frances Long  
(former staff member at SPC who worked in Book Hire 1988-2011)

Catherine Sinnadurai  
(former teacher at SPC 2009-2021)

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.*

## DONATED ITEMS

The College wishes to acknowledge the following benefactors for their donations:

**Donald Featherstone ('48)**  
(posthumously)

Middle School report and newspaper clippings and photographs relating to the 1944 class reunions organised by Br Marzorini

**Andrew Walsh ('94)**  
Year 12 Jersey

**John Fardy ('72)**  
Rugby Union and Cross Country pennants

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](mailto:nikki.fochesato@spc.nsw.edu.au).

**LUCEAT LUX VESTRA**  
*"Let your light shine"*



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Founded 1928  
A Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition



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