



# Lucerna

A PUBLICATION OF THE ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE COMMUNITY

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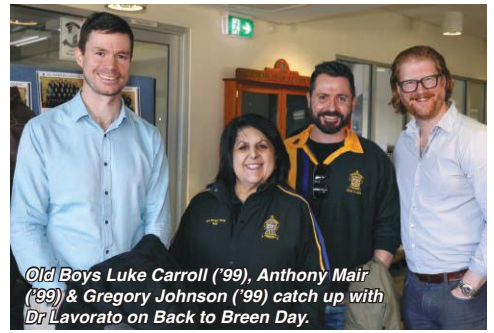




Harvey Truscott (Year 9), Dr Lavorato, Marcus Donovan (Year 6) & Archie Truscott (Year 8) leave their mark on the Aboriginal Flag for SPC Reconciliation.



The Blue, Black and Gold Dinner was a wonderful community event!



Old Boys Luke Carroll ('99), Anthony Mair ('99) & Gregory Johnson ('99) catch up with Dr Lavorato on Back to Breen Day.

# PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Since the last edition of Lucerna, the academic year has progressed significantly. I previously detailed changes to the College's pastoral structures, including the introduction of Year Coordinators for Years 5 and 6 and Assistant Year Coordinators for Years 7 and 8. The feedback from our annual AISNSW survey has been overwhelmingly positive, and we will share more insights in the 2024 Annual Report to the Community, set for publication in June 2025.

Our commitment to an Inclusive Community is fundamental to our identity. In 2024, our review of the Identity Team's efforts has led to exciting plans for 2025, notably the implementation of our Reconciliation Action Plan and enhancements to our Service-Learning program. To support this, Gillian Daley, Director of Identity, and I will welcome two new Heads of Identity: Matthew Herro, our current Year 12 Coordinator, and Brittney Fogliani, currently Social Justice Coordinator at St Dominic's Penrith. Their roles will focus on faith and social justice activities tailored to the developmental needs of our boys. We are also pleased to introduce an Aboriginal Education Worker, Kyle Wallace, who will support our First Nations students. Kyle, a proud Gomeri, Anaiwan and Gumbaynggirr man, began his role at the College in Term 4. He aims to elevate First Nations knowledge and ensure its integration into our educational framework.

Engagement with our extended community remains a priority. The Blue, Black and Gold Dinner in May was a highlight, featuring great food, music and entertainment. Rob Shehadie ('94) did a wonderful job hosting the event with his charisma and wit setting the tone for the evening. Additionally, the P&F organised a successful Trivia Night that raised over \$20,000 for the College. Events like these, along with Back to Breen Day, Grandparents' Day and Father's Day Masses and Morning Teas continue to foster connections among our students, parents and Old Boys.

In response to requests since my tenure began in 2021, the SPC Business Directory is now live. This initiative allows community members to advertise their businesses, fostering connections within our College family. For more information, please visit our website or click on the following link: <https://www.spc.nsw.edu.au/our-community/spc-business-directory/>

The directory costs \$50 per entry annually and will be updated each year.

We continue to raise funds to replace the Br Berg Scoreboard with a large LCD screen for Breen

Oval. The screen will be multi-purpose and will be a fantastic resource for a number of different activities to take place on the oval. So far we have raised over \$28,000, but we still have a fair way to go. All donations are tax-deductible and contributions of any size are welcome. To make a donation, please scan the QR code on this page. All donors will be recognised on a plaque near Breen Oval.

Co-curricular activities play a vital role in offering an holistic education. Our recent production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* engaged and motivated our students, fostering collaboration across subjects and providing opportunities for creative expression. Our music program excelled at the Australian School Band and Orchestra Festival, with the Concert Band earning a gold award, the Jazz Orchestra a silver and the College Orchestra a bronze. These fantastic results are an indication of the breadth of talent we foster here at the College.

As Term 3 concluded, we bid farewell to the Class of 2024. In my address, I shared three key pieces of advice: first, to focus on the present and future rather than dwelling on the past; second, to seize opportunities and take risks; and third, to embody the message of love and appreciation for one another as taught by Jesus. As these young men move on to the next stage of their lives, it is important for them to remember that no matter how bad things get, in time, there will be a new dawn.

In conclusion, this year has been marked by significant achievements and growth. Our commitment to faith is evident in the spiritual and community service initiatives enriching our students' lives. Our sports teams have shown exceptional skill and sportsmanship, and our co-curricular programs continue to thrive, offering diverse opportunities for students to explore their interests.

As we reflect on this year, we take pride in the holistic development of our students and the vibrant community we are building. We look forward to the future with optimism and a renewed commitment to excellence in all areas of school life.

Live Jesus in our Hearts, Forever.

**Dr Vittoria Lavorato**  
Principal



Year 12 Visual Arts' student, Dante Wong, shows off his HSC Major Work to Dr Lavorato.

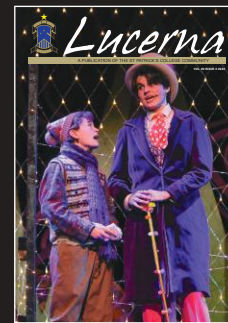


Junior School students farewell 2024 College Captain, Michael Sakr ('24), as he passes through a guard of honour.



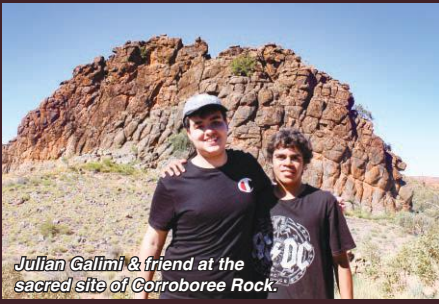
OUR DREAM FOR BREEN  
For more than 80 years, the hallowed ground of Breen Oval has been the foundation for unity, igniting College spirit and embodying the essence of the SPC Community. Our goal is to install a new state-of-the-art electronic scoreboard, a replacement of the previous Br Berg Scoreboard, which will enhance the grounds atmosphere for our players and supporters, while proudly showcasing our College pride.  
TO SUPPORT THE DREAM PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW  
FOREVER BLUE, BLACK, GOLD!

## COVER PHOTOGRAPH



Charlie Bucket aka Knox Garnett (Year 7), & Willy Wonka aka Michael Bridge (Year 11), take us to a world of 'Pure Imagination' during this year's College Musical.

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Julian Galimi & friend at the sacred site of Corroboree Rock.



Jacob Sutunc & Rowan Bleasel painting a boomerang at St Joseph's Flexi Learning Centre.



A smoking ceremony sets the tone.



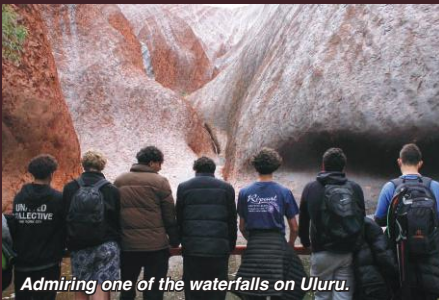
Harvey Truscott (Year 9) presents Deputy Principal, Mr Byrne with the RAP.



Final day in Alice Springs, the group farewells staff and students at St Joseph's.



Students from CBHS Lewisham perform a traditional dance.



Admiring one of the waterfalls on Uluru.



The group explores country at Kata Tjuta.



First Nations students from both schools gather in solidarity.

## ROADMAP FOR RECONCILIATION

This year, in Reconciliation Week (27 May – 3 June), we launched the St Patrick's College Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) on Breen Oval with the whole school present and our First Nations students and families front and centre. We displayed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags that each student and staff member helped create.

During the ceremony, we were blessed with a smoking ceremony and traditional dance led by students from our brother school, CBHS Lewisham. We also heard from Junior School Captain, Marcus Donovan, about his cultural heritage, from Mrs Warsop, our First Nations Facilitator, about the development of our Plan, from senior students about how we can all be involved and from Deputy Principal, Mr Byrne, about how reconciliation is needed 'now more than ever.'

The RAP provides our College with a roadmap for engaging respectfully with First Nations stakeholders. It also helps drive reconciliation through building relationships, respect and opportunities with the community. The RAP can be found on the College's website or here: [6563-st-patricks-college-rap-hMWwFK.pdf](https://6563-st-patricks-college-rap-hMWwFK.pdf) (spc.nsw.edu.au)

As a nation, we still have much to do. It is not just about fixing problems that we were not here to cause, but about righting wrongs because we see the injustices that continue and making sure we don't cause more problems into the future.

**Gillian Daley**  
Director of Identity

## CONNECTING WITH LAND AND CULTURE

Incredibly eager, a group of ten Year 11 students and two staff members were fortunate enough to embark on an unforgettable journey to Alice Springs. With the goal of strengthening our relationship with St Joseph's Flexible Learning Centre and gaining a deeper insight into the intricacies and complexities of First Nations culture, the boys began to immerse themselves.

For the initial week of the Immersion, we spent our time interacting with the fellas at St Joseph's and began to forge some close relationships. Thanks to the incredible wisdom of John, Dion and Jake, we were able to learn so much about the rich, lively and multifaceted culture which has exceeded 60,000 years. Whether it was the making of traditional bush medicine, the preparation and eating of a kangaroo's tail, the music session run by Dion, or even the language work with Auntie, there was no doubt that the boys immediately felt welcomed and embraced by St Joseph's.

Some standout sacred sites we were fortunate enough to experience with the fellas included Simpsons and Jessie Gaps, Ormiston Gorge and Ellery Creek, as the undeniable aesthetic beauty and rich history

of these sites truly mesmerised the boys and gave them an insight into how much the land means to the Central Arrernte people.

Then we had the joy of being able to visit and experience key Aboriginal cultural sites such as Uluru, Kata Tjuta and Kings Canyon. Amazingly, due to the rare rain which happened during our bus trip, we were incredibly fortunate to witness Uluru in a unique way, appreciating its curves, crevices and magnitude, as stunning white stripes, waterfalls and unbelievable paintings elevated this experience greatly. Overall, all of these sites were indescribably unique, stunning and meaningful, further fostering our understanding of how significant the land is.

The boys extend immense gratitude to St Joseph's, Alice Springs for their welcoming nature, which allowed for the experience to be as impactful and unforgettable as it was. Additionally, it can't go without saying that this immersion experience couldn't have been half of what it was without the invaluable guidance and wisdom of Mr Fox and Mr Biviano, as the boys were able to gain a deeper understanding of not only First Nations culture, but also themselves.

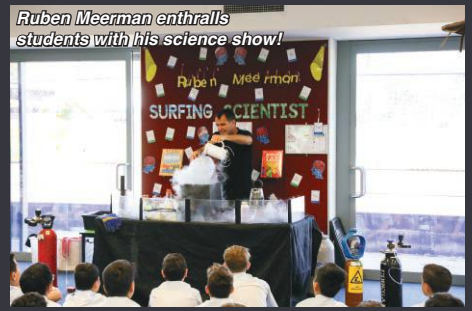
**Xavier Antunes**  
Year 11 Student



Author Mark Greenberg, with Year 6 students: Byron Stewart, Alexander Voysey & Jonathan Uditi.



Year 6 students: Michael Armano, Dion Scibetta & Andres Atilano as their favourite book characters.



Ruben Meerman enthralled students with his science show!

# CELEBRATING THE MAGIC OF READING

In the Junior School Library, our Book Week celebrations began with renowned Australian author, Morris Gleitzman, speaking to our Year 6 students. Morris shared his reading journey and encouraged the boys to read widely, he must have struck a chord with the boys as his books flew off the shelf.

Next was the Book Parade, with the theme of 'Reading is Magic', the students created some amazing costumes. The riot of colour, the characters, the music, the audience, all contributed to generate an exciting atmosphere on the back oval. The level of enthusiasm and participation was phenomenal, one of the best parades ever! Highly commended students received a copy of *Scar Town* by Tristan Bancks – The 2024

Younger Readers Book of the Year.

Finally, we wrapped the week up with a visit from one of our favourite authors, Mark Greenwood. Mark had our boys spellbound with his stories about alien abduction and about his books *Diamond Jack* and *Lassefer's Gold*; the latter being about treasure hidden deep in the Australian bush. He told the students that clues to this lost fortune were hidden in his *History Mysteries* books. Students scoured the pages looking for information to lead them in the right direction. His storytelling mesmerised his audience and encouraged many to thoroughly read the contents of his books. Who knows, someone may still discover a fabulous reef of gold, long lost in the Australian desert!

As an exclamation point to the celebrations, we had our most-loved scientist, Ruben Meerman, come and demonstrate the 'magic' of science. The boys were enthralled with Ruben's experiments, there were lasers exploding balloons within balloons, liquid nitrogen turning water into ice, and chemicals combining to combust in the library. He showed us that science can be just as captivating as a great story.

Book Week was a smashing success but remember, every week is better with a good book!

**Helen Gibson**  
Junior School Librarian



Book trivia fun in the McGlade Library!



Winners of the trivia challenge: William Ters (Year 10), Marcus Dang (Year 10), Miguel De Nobrega (Year 8) & Mason Bek (Year 8).

# BOOKISH FUN IN THE MCGLADE LIBRARY

In the Senior School, Book Week celebrations were also underway in the McGlade Library, with the theme 'Reading is Magic' proving to be both engaging and inspiring for our students.

There was a variety of activities throughout the week for boys to participate in. Students ran lively magic shows, with a winner decided by the audience. They also participated in a competitive trivia contest, testing their knowledge of popular children's books.

The highlight of the week was students engagement with the nominated books. They shared their thoughts

on which books they believed would win and had conversations about their favourite reads. By showcasing books that tied into the theme of magic and enchantment, the library encouraged students to explore the imaginative and fantastical worlds within literature.

Overall, Book Week was a great opportunity to encourage our boys to pick up a book and read for pleasure.

**Jessica Lonard**  
Head of Library & Information Services



Members of the 'Beekeepers' & 'Snazzy Studios' ready to take up the challenge.



Authors at work: Gianluca Polito (Year 7) & Sebastian Zammit (Year 7).

# BUDDING AUTHORS SPREAD JOY

In celebration of Book Week, Year 7 and Year 9 teams participated in the *Write a Book in a Day* event, where they created a complete novel in just nine hours. This challenge not only tested their storytelling skills but also supported essential research for childhood cancers.

On the event day, both teams received parameters, including specific characters, settings, and themes, all set within an Australian context. The Year 7 team, the 'Beekeepers,' approached the task with enthusiasm. They crafted a story

featuring a helicopter pilot, a window washer and a beach umbrella, set in a mine and revolving around a mysterious gift. Their book, *The Enigmatic Games*, cleverly incorporated required words like 'swept' and 'quirky.' The team's friendly demeanour ensured every member felt welcomed and valued.

The Year 9 team, 'Snazzy Studios,' embraced their challenge with equal fervour. Their story included a rap artist, a robot builder and a bull, set on the Great Barrier Reef and focused on a failed harvest. They

produced an imaginative book titled *The Great Barrier Beef*, seamlessly blending their diverse talents. Each member contributed uniquely, whether organising the structure, illustrating or enriching the narrative with creativity.

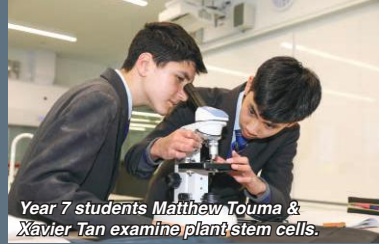
Both teams aimed their stories at children aged 10-16 in hospitals, creating engaging narratives that provided a creative escape. Their efforts not only entertained but also aimed to bring joy to young readers while supporting a meaningful cause.

**Felicia Ho & Heidi Viney**  
Learning Enrichment Team

*Beckett Freeman-Sanderson (Year 7) crushes a rose petal dipped in liquid nitrogen.*



*Anyone for Bocce? Ashton Borysewicz, Luke Maronese, Cooper Hunter, Louis Gilroy & Oliver Miliuskas.*



*Year 7 students Matthew Touma & Xavier Tan examine plant stem cells.*



*The Periodic Table has never looked so tasty!*



*Learning the art of making orecchiette.*



*Harry Bugden & Max Celegon tuck in some delicious zuccherati!*



*Students show off their calcio moves!*



*Joseph Melhern, Alexander Miranda, Dimitri Staveris & Daniel Yaacoub in-action.*



*Year 9 students enjoy the creation of 'Elephant's Toothpaste.'*



*A team of Year 10 students working on a challenge in the Escape Room.*

## CELEBRATING NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK

This year's National Science Week theme, 'Species Survival – More Than Just Sustainability,' emphasised the role of science and innovation in preserving various species amid a changing world.

The week kicked off with a liquid nitrogen show. Students were mesmerised by giant clouds of fog that filled the room and were astonished to see everyday objects like balloons and flowers shatter when dipped in liquid nitrogen. This demonstration effectively illustrated complex concepts such as thermodynamics and states of matter, making them accessible and engaging for the students.

Year 7 students explored the microscopic world through pond water samples. Armed with microscopes, they discovered a plethora of organisms, including algae, protozoa and tiny invertebrates. Observing amoebas and paramecia sparked excitement, as students learned about the importance of water quality and its impact on pond ecosystems.

In a delightful fusion of chemistry and baking, students enjoyed Periodic Table Cupcakes, with each cupcake representing a different element. Labelled with elemental symbols in frosting, these treats were both visually appealing and delicious. A quiz competition tested students' knowledge of the periodic table, leading to the rapid disappearance of all 120 cupcakes in just 20 minutes!

The McGlade Library hosted a quiz designed to engage students in the lives of renowned scientists. Participants identified scientists based on photographs and learned about their significant contributions to various fields. The quiz not only deepened students' understanding of scientific discoveries but also sparked discussions on the relevance of innovation and research in everyday life.

Year 10 students participated in an immersive escape room challenge centred around wildlife conservation. After watching a video about a fictional park where mischievous monkeys deactivated the power, they had 40 minutes to restore it by completing eight science-based challenges related to conservation and species survival.

Overall, Science Week at SPC was a resounding success, fostering curiosity and excitement about science in a fun and interactive manner.

**Surekha Chander**  
Head of Science

## YEAR 8 LANGUAGES DAY

In June, our Year 8 cohort participated in Languages Day, a day dedicated to celebrating the value of other cultures and the importance of learning a language. Students engaged in a variety of activities designed to deepen their understanding of the target language and foster an appreciation for the Italian culture as well as cultures from around the world.

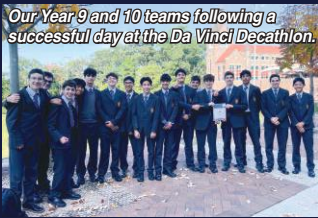
The day was filled with exciting events, including a round-robin of activities such as pasta making, calcio (soccer) and bocce (lawn bowls). Additionally, students attended sessions focusing on Italian gestures, learned the UEFA Champions song and participated in an online quiz centred on Italian culture and heritage. For Recess, students enjoyed 'zuccherati' (custard-filled doughnuts), and for lunch they were treated to delicious margherita pizza. The afternoon concluded with a gathering in the Robson Auditorium to watch an Italian film, further immersing students in the cultural experience.

In the following classroom lessons, students competed in a fun and educational competition where they guessed the teacher and matched them with their second language or mother tongue, adding another layer of cultural awareness and language learning.

The success of Languages Day was largely due to the enthusiasm and participation of the students. A heartfelt thanks goes out to all the Languages staff and our Year 10 leaders, whose dedication and hard work were instrumental in making the day run smoothly.

Overall, Languages Day was a tremendous success, leaving students with a greater appreciation for the richness of different cultures and the importance of language learning.

**Stephanie D'Arcangeli**  
Head of Languages



Our Year 9 and 10 teams following a successful day at the Da Vinci Decathlon.



Our Stage 3 teams performed exceptionally well across the disciplines.

## DA VINCI DECATHLON DISTINCTION

The Da Vinci Decathlon at Knox Grammar School is an academic competition that challenges school students across ten disciplines: Engineering, Mathematics, Code Breaking, Art and Poetry, Science, English, Ideation, Creative Producers, Cartography and Legacy. The event is inspired by Leonardo da Vinci, one of history's greatest scholars, known for his ability to integrate knowledge across various fields.

This year, our Year 10 team achieved an outstanding first place in the Ideation discipline, a particularly challenging area requiring critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity. This success is even more impressive given the competition, which included selective schools such as James Ruse Agricultural High School and Sydney Boys High.

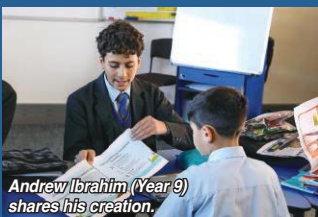
In addition to their first place in Ideation, our Year 10 team also secured 6th in Creative Producers and 11th in Mathematics, contributing to an impressive 14th place overall in the competition.

Our Year 7 team also excelled, placing 11th in Cartography and 12th in Code Breaking, while our Year 8 team earned 8th place in Creative Producers and our Year 9 team placed 14th in Legacy.

The performances of our Year 5 and 6 teams were equally impressive. Our Year 5 team secured 3rd in Ideation, 10th in Art and Poetry, 10th in Code Breaking and 14th in Science. Our Year 6 team placed 5th in Science, 8th in Cartography, 13th in English and 14th in Engineering.

All teams worked co-operatively, were highly focused, and persevered through challenging problems, while competing against over 60 schools. These achievements highlight the dedication and academic excellence that define our College. Congratulations to all participants.

**Heidi Viney and Alison Mazoudier**  
Learning Enrichment Teachers



Andrew Ibrahim (Year 9) shares his creation.



Albert Maroun (Year 6) enjoys Luca Serratore's (Year 9) picture book.

## STORIES OF FAITH

Year 9 Religious Education students created a picture book tailored for Year 6 students learning about the Sacraments of Healing. We had the choice to either draw our illustrations by hand or create them digitally, giving us ample room to express our creativity. We were then given the opportunity to present our picture books to a Junior School class.

This not only allowed us to engage with the younger students and educate them about our chosen sacrament, but also provided them with a glimpse into what we can accomplish as Year 9 Religious Education students. Visiting the Junior School class to share our projects was not only rewarding but genuinely fun for us too, the younger students even showing us a bit of what they had been studying in Religion.

**Joshua Raheb**  
Year 9 student



Lucas Shiner, Noah Alamango & Isaac Nakhle cook up Spaghetti Bolognese in Year 7 Food Technology.



Roman Petrolo (Year 10) making Chicken Tikka pies as part of his food truck fusion!

## A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

The Scientia kitchens have been getting a workout since day one of 2024, with the TAS department taking full advantage of the new building and its capabilities across all applicable courses.

Our Year 7 students undertake a semester of Food and Agriculture study with the 'Paddock to Plate' unit. Within this they have a look at the full process of how various food products are made; from the growing and harvesting, to the processing and packaging through to the sale and consumption. Students have an introduction to the kitchen where they learn about food safety and hygiene, as well as basic kitchen processes, before undertaking a variety of practical activities. I'm sure that it won't be long before they're taking charge at home and preparing dinner for the family!

The Year 9 Food Technology elective looks at food selection and health, where students investigate the nutritional aspects of food and the benefits of healthy eating. The 'Food for Special Occasions' unit sees the boys design their own large-scale event where they create a website to advertise their event, produce a menu that must be inclusive to those with dietary requirements and then select and cook a dish from the menu.

This year sees the Food Technology elective run in Year 10 for the first time, where these students build on skills covered last year and take things up a notch. Looking at food trends, as well as food service and catering, students had to create a food truck concept which fit one of the following themes: flavour fusions, modernised comfort foods, functional foods or low-waste menus. Students created their own marketing campaigns, including a scale model of the truck, a menu and their own recipes. Finishing the year with the 'Food in Australia' unit, students looked at how to integrate native ingredients into current food trends in society.

As TAS at SPC continues to expand, it is exciting to see the students getting behind the variety of electives on offer and picking up practical skills that they can take with them beyond the classroom.

**Matthew Herro**  
Acting Head of TAS



Brandon Law, Isaac Nigro & Justin Hortinela work on their vessels.



Ceramic artist, Ms Standen, provides some hands-on guidance.

## MOULDING MASTERPIECES

Last term, we ran an in-College ceramic workshop for our Year 10 Visual Arts' elective students. Challenged by the notion of 'form vs function' these boys had previously designed their own ceramic vessel and pre-planned the making methodology.

Under the mentorship of contemporary ceramic artist Alexandra Standen and their classroom teachers, our students spent a day in the studio improving their artmaking practice and working to construct their classical Greek inspired forms.

Ms Standen is a highly skilled ceramist and known nationally and internationally for her large hand-made vessels, and it was great to have her on hand to guide our boys.

**Ruben Fela**  
Visual Arts Teacher



The Guitar Ensemble entertains.



The College Choir belt out one of the numbers in their 'feel good' medley.



Nicholas Shaw (Year 5) plays the low notes.



Turning brass into class, Brandon Braun (Year 9).



The Saxophone Ensemble bring the good vibes.



Musicians: Isaac Edmonds (Year 12), Henry O'Reilly (Year 12) & Christopher Mok (Year 10) with the ASBOF awards.

# SPC STRIKES A CHORD

In August, we proudly hosted the annual Performing Arts Showcase at the Marie Bashir School. This event was a spectacular celebration of our students' musical talents, featuring dynamic pieces like 'High Adventure' and the brooding first movement of Mozart's Symphony No. 25. The evening truly belonged to our boys, whose performances highlighted their dedication and the invaluable support of our committed music tutors.

Following the showcase, our senior music ensembles participated in the Australian Schools Band and Orchestra Festival (ASBOF) at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. The day began with the Concert Band competing in the Graham Lloyd Secondary School Concert Band Event. They performed exceptionally well and, for the first time, earned a Gold award! Their performance placed them among bands from prestigious schools such as Barker, Abbotsleigh, SCEGGS Darlinghurst, and The Scots College.

In their debut performance, our newly formed Jazz Orchestra took the stage and delivered an impressive showing, achieving a well-deserved Silver award. Later that evening, our College Orchestra performed in the Richard Gill Secondary School Orchestra Premier Event. Although the adjudication awarded them a Bronze, their musicianship and dedication were nothing short of outstanding.

Learning an instrument is a journey that demands resilience, patience, and passion. We are incredibly proud of each student for their dedication and the progress they've made. A heartfelt thank you to our wonderful parents for their ongoing support in every aspect of our musical program—their encouragement is invaluable.

**Dr David Taylor**  
Ensemble Coordinator



Charlie, aka Knox Garnett (Year 7), waxes lyrical to the candy store owner, aka Michael Bridge (Year 11).



Charlie's family stay in the loop with the latest 'golden ticket' news.



Willy Wonka, aka Michael Bridge (Year 11), invites the golden ticket holders on a chocolate adventure.



Oompa Loompas: The original masters of mischief!



Violet Beauregarde's father, aka Benjamin Chase (Year 12), tries to keep up with his 'Queen of Pop' daughter!



The cast and crew of Charlie and the Chocolate factory.

## A WORLD OF PURE IMAGINATION BROUGHT TO LIFE

Our Performing Arts production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* delighted a sold-out audience for the first time in over a decade.

Since its initial publication in England in 1964, this timeless tale has evolved through various adaptations, captivating audiences across generations. What makes this story endure? It's not merely about a fantastical world of chocolate and strawberry lemon pies. At its core, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* resonates because it celebrates belief in miracles and the profound power of goodness. As a theatrical piece, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* thrives because it

invites audiences to suspend disbelief, embrace their uniqueness and embark on a journey into a realm of 'pure imagination'.

For over six months, everyone involved in the production, from dedicated band members to our talented cast and crew, poured their time, love and energy into bringing this vision to life on stage. Their commitment and skill deserve commendation.

The Performing Arts production embodies the touchstone of 'Inclusive Community' with students from Years 7 to 12, collaborating seamlessly as one cohesive team. Each participant contributed to crafting

something they could be proud of, showcasing the transformative magic of the Arts. We are grateful for our ongoing partnership with neighbouring girls' schools, Strathfield Girls High School and Santa Sabina College. It was a privilege to welcome these talented young ladies onto our stage.

From humble beginnings, we created something extraordinary, an achievement we are immensely proud of and hope that this resonated with all who attended.

**Rebecca Duff**  
Head of Performing Arts



Aidan Moussa (Year 9), Aiden Amiouni (Year 5), Lucas Asfour (Year 5) & Michael Serraglio (Year 5) prepare care packs.



A lesson in gratitude for Year 5 students: Christian Skocir, Sebastian Sauran & Dylan Chan.



Year 8 students: Ryan Stanmore, Raphael Danev, Tyson Khoury, Leo O'Neill & Patrick McDonald settle down for the night.



John Aoun, Alessandro Asprea, Miguel De Nobrega, Nathan Touma, Zac Bromfield, Benjamin Prichard & Nathan Wong huddle up.



Ms Lonard & Ms Daley with members of SJAG, sort through donations.

# STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH THOSE IN NEED

In August, our College hosted its 11th Annual Winter Sleep Out, a valuable opportunity for boys to learn about and empathise with the homeless. Over 200 boys and staff participated, highlighting the importance of this event. Organised by the members of SJAG, the program began with an insightful discussion led by Ms Daley, addressing common myths surrounding homelessness in Australia. This set the stage for a night of engaging education and understanding.

Participants shared a simple meal of soup and a single bread roll, replicating an average night on the streets. They then formed a production line to assemble care packs from toiletries collected during the Winter Appeal, which will be distributed to rough sleepers. The night continued with a session led by the Identity Prefects, exploring practical ways to help alleviate homelessness, including volunteering and having conversations about the issue.

In addition to the Winter Sleep Out, we acknowledge everyone who contributed to this year's St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. The generosity displayed by the St Patrick's College community was truly overwhelming, as the Bangawarra Room (justice centre) overflowed with donations. These contributions make a significant difference in the lives of some of the most vulnerable members of our society, especially in light of increasing homelessness and cost-of-living pressures. This year, donations were delivered to St Vincent de Paul Night Patrol, the House of Welcome, Jesuit Refugee Services and a domestic violence shelter.

Together, these efforts uphold the dignity of all people and reflect our Christian calling to support those in need. Both are invaluable to gain insight into another person's life and stand in solidarity with those who are less fortunate.

**Thomas Coorey**  
Social Justice Prefect



Members of the 'desk building' task-force with two of the desks.

## DESKS FOR STUDENTS IN PNG

During the mid-year break, Mr Viney, along with a team of our Year 12 students and staff, answered the call to provide desks for schools in Papua New Guinea's Kerema area. With the support of Tongue and Groove, a flooring company in Sydney, they turned excess wood into desks for 300 students in need.

By repurposing materials and giving their time, this team not only prevented waste but also provided students in PNG with a proper environment in which to learn. This is service in action, selflessly working for the common good. We are proud of their efforts and wish to thank Tongue and Groove for supplying the timber and playing their part in making this dream a reality. This initiative showcased sustainable practice and care for the other.

**Gillian Daley**  
Director of Identity



Mr Luke Tobin from Catholic Mission conducts an exercise with the boys.



Communities 4 Communities founder and Old Boy, Mr Lance Brooks ('79), inspires the boys.

## YEAR 10 JUSTICE AND ADVOCACY FORUM

In August, Year 10 boys engaged in their Justice and Advocacy Forum. Throughout the day, we heard from a variety of guest speakers from different organisations, with an aim of preparing us for Social Justice Service in Years 11 and 12, and for life beyond school.

At the start of the day, the cohort gathered in the Robson Auditorium to hear from guest speaker Aloi' Latukefu, the Executive Director of the Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Engagement, as well as the Year 12 Social Justice Prefects. This was a great experience for the boys which opened our eyes to the importance of Social Justice especially in Years 11 and 12.

Later in the day, the cohort split into different groups to hear from guest speakers from different charities and organisations including the House of Welcome, St Mercurious Charity, Catholic Mission and St Vincent De Paul to name a few. This was extremely engaging for us, as we learnt about the different

organisations and many of us left the sessions feeling inspired to contribute to these charities and organisations.

At the end of the day, we returned to the Robson Auditorium to hear a presentation from Mr Biviano and Year 11 student Matthew Badran about the Alice Springs Immersion. The Immersion is one of the great Social Justice opportunities provided to Year 11 next year and the presentation certainly got the boys feeling excited to take on the challenge and experience what the immersion has to offer.

Finally, to finish the day off, all of Year 10 attended a short liturgy in the College Chapel, giving all of us time to reflect on the day's events and on the importance of Social Justice. Overall, it was an amazing day for the boys and by the end of the day we all had a greater understanding of Social Justice and our role in working for it.

**Adrian Alafaci**  
Year 10 Student



The group observe the impact of rising sea-levels.



Soaking up the scenery.

# LEARNING TO BE GOOD ECOLOGICAL NEIGHBOURS

During the Term 3 holidays, 21 students from Years 10 and 11, alongside Ms Daley, Mr Porra and Mr Graziano, embarked on an environmental immersion to the third-largest Fijian island of Taveuni. Across our ten-day stay on the 'Garden Island' we engaged in several activities which allowed us to appreciate both the natural beauty of the island and the lifestyles of the Fijian people. Whether it be hiking up picturesque mountains, swimming around rushing waterfalls, snorkelling in the beautiful Rainbow Reef, sharing meals with the locals, or just playing rugby with the Fijians, these activities helped us to enjoy and become immersed within Fijian culture.

However, the more we got to see of the Fijian culture and lifestyle, the more we experienced first-hand the effects of climate change on the Pacific islands. On Taveuni, sea level is projected to rise 8–18 cm by 2030, and 41–88 cm by 2090. While this may seem a while off, there have already been clear impacts on the island. Many locals have had to relocate paths, roads and in some cases entire villages away from the ocean due to the rapid increase in sea levels. Furthermore, the reefs and beaches of Taveuni have become polluted with trash, leaving a stain on the beautiful landscape of the island.

By making small changes in the way we live, such as recycling and reducing waste, we can help make a difference to preserve the oceans and protect the lifestyles of all peoples in the Pacific, including the Taveuni people.

**Rory Salakas**  
Year 11 Student



Collecting rubbish from the beaches.



Traveling the traditional way.



Taking shelter from the rain with friends.



Taking a break between time zones!



Helping the locals to prepare the 'lovo.'



Jack McDonald (Year 10) charms the local school children.



The group get a taste of Fijian culture and customs.



A labour of love for the local nurse.



*Noah Hurtado (Year 9) makes a forehand shot.*



*Stuck in the mud! Xavier Kenniff & Riley Padd of Year 11.*



*Owen Leung (Year 9) takes a serve.*

## FACING CHALLENGES AND TRIUMPHS TOGETHER

So far, this year has been one of tremendous growth, filled with valuable lessons and moments of triumph for all involved in sport at SPC. Each challenge, no matter how daunting, became an opportunity to learn and adapt. With every setback, new strategies were discovered, fostering resilience and strength. Triumphs were celebrated not just as victories, but as symbols of perseverance, teamwork and dedication. Looking back, it's clear that the journey has been as rewarding as the outcomes, making this season a defining chapter of progress and personal development.

In Rugby, the trial period presented memorable challenges, particularly highlighted by the thrilling victory of our 16 As, who secured a dramatic win against Barker with a last-minute penalty kick, despite the pouring rain. Visits to Knox, Barker and Cranbrook saw many younger teams achieving well-deserved victories, showcasing their growing potential. The 13 As had an exceptional season, going undefeated throughout both the Trials and ISA season, setting a stellar example. Although the ISA season yielded mixed results, it provided all teams with valuable insights and clear goals for improvement, paving the way for even greater success ahead.

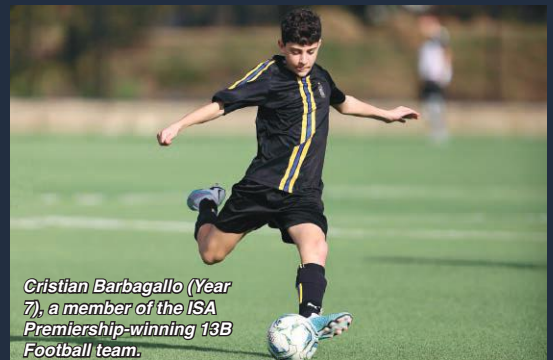
The Football season was filled with outstanding achievements, especially from our 13 B and 13 E teams, both of whom finished their seasons as undefeated ISA Premiers, scoring an impressive 48 goals and conceding only four. The 14 D team also had an outstanding run, finishing the season undefeated with just one goal conceded. Our 15 B team emerged as undefeated ISA Premiers, excelling in a field filled with A teams, netting 59 goals while conceding only two. Both the 15 C and 15 D teams also remained unbeaten, conceding just four goals each. The 16 As were relentless, concluding their season as ISA Premiers and Minor Premiers. Special congratulations go to Sebastian Lombardo, Jake Nasr, Samuel Pilarinos, and Liam La Rossa for their selection in the U 16s ISA Football Team, and to Habib Ghosn for making the Opens ISA Football Team. A special mention goes to Deegan O'Brien-Kratiuk, who was selected but had to withdraw due to injury.

The First XI Football season ended on a heartbreaking note as they were eliminated in the semi-finals against St Pius X. Despite their strong efforts and determination, the team fell just short of reaching the Final, capping off a challenging finish to an otherwise stellar season—a testament to the talent and dedication of all our teams!

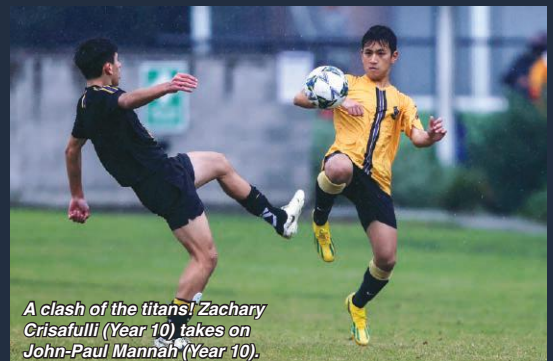
In Tennis, the season was defined by commitment, resilience and remarkable achievements. Our Second IV and Division 10 teams secured runner-up titles, showcasing exceptional teamwork. Individual success was highlighted by Lucas Martin's selection to the ISA Representative Team. Despite facing challenges such as rain, injuries and illness, our teams remained competitive and determined. Our junior players made significant progress, hinting at a bright future ahead. We also bid farewell to our Year 12 players, whose contributions have profoundly impacted the Tennis program.

For all our teams, one of the most rewarding aspects of the season was the incredible bonds formed during Saturdays spent together. The shared experiences, challenges and triumphs on the field brought everyone closer, fostering friendships and camaraderie that extend beyond the game. These connections, built through dedication and teamwork, will undoubtedly endure long after the season concludes.

**Samuel Boggs**  
Head of Secondary Sport



*Cristian Barbagallo (Year 7), a member of the ISA Premiership-winning 13B Football team.*



*A clash of the titans! Zachary Crisafulli (Year 10) takes on John-Paul Mannah (Year 10).*



*Powerful run by William Malone (Year 7), a key player in the undefeated 13A Rugby team.*



*16 A Rugby players, Marcos Hasham (Year 10) & Leonardo Russo (Year 10) on the attack.*

The College Chapel packed to the rafters during our Grandparents' Day Mass.



Peter Barbanera with sons Dante (Year 7) & Antonio (Year 12).



Bradley Charlwood enjoys a hug from son Zach (Year 7).



Old Boy, David Simon ('93) with sons Max (Year 8) & Joshua (Year 11).



Zac Boscutti (Year 5) with his proud grandparents.



William Plant (Year 5) shows his grandparents what he's been up to.

## CELEBRATING COMMUNITY

Events like our Fathers' and Grandparents' Days highlight the significance of community and the vital roles that family members play in the lives of our students. These gatherings serve as a reminder of the connections that nurture and shape us.

In August, we were delighted to welcome the grandparents of our Year 5 students. The joy on the boys' faces was unmistakable as they proudly escorted their loved ones during Mass. After the service, everyone enjoyed a leisurely break with a 'cuppa' and morning tea at the Scientia Plaza. The morning concluded with classroom visits, where the bonds between grandsons and their grandparents were beautiful to witness. We extend our thanks to all the grandparents for their pivotal role in the lives of these young men. Their presence and support are integral to shaping the individuals they are becoming.

In September, we turned our attention to fathers as we celebrated the essence of fatherhood. A beautiful Mass, concelebrated by Father John Hayes from St Martha's Parish and our own Father Jack, set the tone. Father Hayes beautifully illustrated the father-child relationship with the analogy of a pot filled with love and hope, emphasising that such a foundation makes relationships stronger. The choir and band enhanced the occasion, especially with their touching rendition of the Beatles' 'Beautiful Boy,' which complemented a slideshow featuring fathers and their sons. Following the Mass, our wonderful P&F prepared a delicious morning tea which was enjoyed by all.

These events remind us that community is built on the connections we share with family and friends. As we celebrate these moments, we recognise how vital these relationships are in guiding our students on their journey toward becoming compassionate and responsible individuals.

**Nikki Fochesato**  
Community Liaison Officer



All glammed up! Jacquie Signorelli, Maria Marando, Simone & Joe Tropiano, Frank & Nicole Garzaniti, Sandy & Gino Vaccaro, John & Susie Alafaci, Sandra & John Chidiac.



Alison Dinham, Jo Fague & Jason Auland catch up.



Rachel Debeck, Dione Fague, Andrew Noyes & Anne Wheeler are all smiles.



Rob Shehadie & Tony Gerônimo share a moment!



Julia Gittany, Belinda Barakat, Angela & Nick Shehadie all ready to enjoy the evening.

## BUILDING BONDS AND CREATING JOY

In May, our community came together for the highly anticipated Blue, Black and Gold Dinner at the stunning Le Montage, and it exceeded all expectations. The evening was a resounding success, filled with delicious food, fantastic music and wonderful company.

The event was expertly hosted by the incomparable Rob Shehadie ('94), who kicked things off with a hilarious comedy act that had everyone in stitches. Rob's wit and charm set the perfect tone for the night, and we are deeply grateful for his generosity in volunteering his time to make the event such a triumph.

Throughout the evening, the room buzzed with laughter, lively conversation and a palpable sense of joy. Guests enjoyed a sumptuous meal and danced to great music, creating memories that will last a lifetime. The spirit of our community shone brightly, making the night truly unforgettable.

Then, on Friday 13 September, we gathered again for the 'spooktacular' P&F Annual Trivia Fundraiser, which turned out to be another fantastic event. It was a night of friendly competition and community celebration, where parents dressed up, strengthened old friendships and formed new ones through the fun of trivia.

A huge thank you to everyone who participated; whether you bought raffle tickets, took part in the silent auction, or simply joined us for the fun and games. Your support helped make the night a huge success, and we are thrilled to announce that we raised over \$23,400! These funds will go towards the purchase of a brand-new electronic scoreboard for Breen Oval, benefiting the entire school community. This achievement wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of our sponsors and donors.

Thank you all for your continued support of St Patrick's College. We look forward to seeing you at our next event!

**Elena Ierardo**  
P&F President



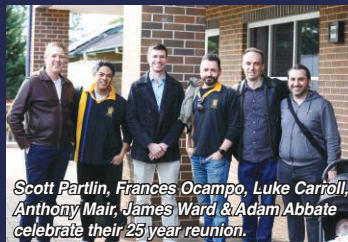
*John Ballesty (63) shares some wisdom with the First XV before their match against Oakhill College.*



*Catching up in the stands, Br Brian Berg (48) & Fabian Gleeson (74).*



*Thomas Brooks, Rory Brunton, James Clark, Matthew Whelan, Malachy O'Brien & Max Smith from the Class of 2019.*



*Scott Partlin, Frances Ocampo, Luke Carroll, Anthony Mair, James Ward & Adam Abbate celebrate their 25 year reunion.*



*Peter Chakty (14) & Daniel Caltabiano (14) soak up the atmosphere.*



## BACK TO BREEN DAY

Following on from the success of the Old Boys Luncheon in March, it was wonderful to see so many familiar faces from our Old Boys' community come together for the Back to Breen Day celebrations in August. Whether strolling around the new Scientia building, enjoying refreshments upstairs in the Crichton building or indulging in a treat from Rob Shehadie's ('94) Mr Whippy van, there were Old Boys catching up all around the College campus. The Classes of 1999, 2014 and 2019 were especially well represented, soaking up the atmosphere before heading to their reunions.

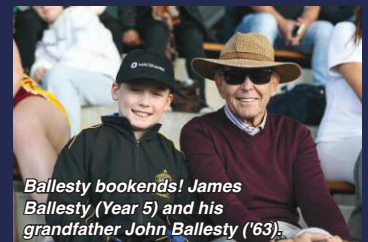
We were thrilled to have Old Boy and former Wallaby Fly Half, John Ballesty ('63), along with his former Rugby League coach, Br Brian Berg ('48), join us. John Ballesty was a standout Rugby League player during his time at the College, serving as First XII Captain in his final year and also being the College Captain in 1963. He presented jerseys to the First and Second XV Rugby teams and inspired the boys with a pep talk before they faced Oakhill College. Although the game ended in a disappointing loss, the boys were uplifted by the enthusiastic support from the sidelines. As always, the day highlighted the strong community spirit our College is known for.

Please mark your calendars for next year's Old Boys' Luncheon, scheduled for Friday 14 March 2025.

**Greg Dening ('81)**  
Old Boys' Executive Officer



*Old mates from the Class of 2014: Xavier Rego, Daniel Calavassy & Stephen Chu.*



*Ballesty bookends! James Ballesty (Year 5) and his grandfather John Ballesty (63).*



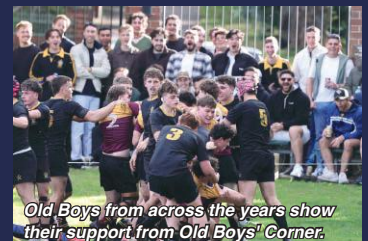
*Last year's graduates, Nicholas Migliorino & Damon Chidiac.*



*Dr Lavorato welcomes Sam Calcapietro, Jack Kearny & Andrea Menniti from the Class of 2014.*



*Five years on for members of the Class of 2019: Christian Semaan, Dylan Nguyen, Luca Donovan, Vince Pirina, Adrian Guisti, Anthony Sarcasmo Gerdes & Mark Herro.*



*Old Boys from across the years show their support from Old Boys' Corner.*



*Old Boys' Executive Officer, Greg Dening (81) accompanies Chris Ferris (70) in the College vestibule.*



*Chris Ferris (70) engages with Year 9 Science students during his visit.*

## FERRIS FAMILY FOOTSEPS

We were delighted to welcome back Old Boy Chris Ferris ('70) to the College in early September. Chris's father, John ('41), and uncle, Peter ('48), both attended the College during its fledgling years, and his brothers, Anthony ('71) and James ('86) and cousins also came here. Currently, his nephew Zachary Ferris, is in Year 12.

Now living in Luxembourg, Chris reached out during a visit to Australia, eager to reconnect with a place that holds deep significance for his family. He has shown great interest in the College through our publications and his family has sponsored the Ferris Prize for Science, awarded at Speech Night, for many years.

While at the College, both his father and uncle were accomplished athletes, singers and scholars. Old Boys' Executive Officer Greg Dening and I interviewed Chris about his time as a student, and he also shared fascinating insights about the school during his father's era. We are fortunate to have recorded these valuable memories.

Eager to see the new Scientia Building, which he

had heard about, Chris was graciously invited by our Head of Science, Mrs Chander, to visit Ms Tssemelis's Year 9 Chemistry class. He enjoyed engaging with the students and appreciated the stunning views from the top of the building. Walking through the vestibule, he was pleased to see both his uncle Peter's name (1948 Brewer Prize for Study and Sport) and his own name (1971 Football Captain) on the honour board.

Like many Old Boys who return after many years, Chris noted how much the campus has changed with new buildings, yet he found nostalgia in familiar places like the original school building, now known as the Hickey Building and the Chapel.

We are grateful to Chris for taking time out of his busy schedule to visit us and for maintaining such a strong connection to the College, a place that continues to thrive thanks in part, to the legacy of families like the Ferris family.

**Nikki Fochesato**  
Archivist / Community Liaison Officer

# LESSONS FROM THE CLASS OF 1949



*Old Boys from the Leaving Classes of 1948 and 1949: Br Brian Berg, Reg Maher, Laurie Glendenning, Don McBean, Terry O'Brien & Ron Natoli.*

Recently, I was fortunate enough to spend the morning with members of the Classes of 1948 and 1949 and their families. What an extraordinary group of men! They are in their 90s who look back on their time at SPC as a highlight, something that set them up for the wonderful lives they have had. They were so grateful that we hosted them and loved having a look at the changes in the College. They were full of life, happy and engaged in everything.

What struck me most about these men was their commitment to social justice issues and financially supporting worthwhile causes. They talked about the vision of Blessed Edmund Rice and how his goal was to educate the poor and marginalised. They talked about supporting refugees in detention, walking with our First Nations peoples and caring for those who have little. They have been doing this since the liberating education they received here. They have never forgotten the lessons they were taught to be Christ for others.

While many would say these men deserve to rest and allow others to take up the cause, they power on. They see the value of volunteering and helping their fellow human beings. They advocate to make things right. They get it! We have much to learn from their passion and commitment to service and justice. We need our young to step up and ensure that what these men fought for will continue.

What a legacy they leave! What an inspiration they are! Live Jesus in our hearts, forever.

**Gillian Daley**  
Director of Identity

# JOHN BROGDEN'S ('86) STORIES OF SOLACE AND HOPE



*Wellbeing team members attend the 'Profiles in Hope' book launch: Rana Salloum, Christabel Mascarenhas, Samantha Donnelly, Dr Lavorato, John Brogden ('86), Alex Sinadinis & Rob Simpson.*

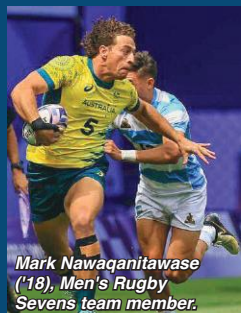
In August, members of the College's Wellbeing Team had the opportunity to hear from John Brogden ('86) and notable Australians at the launch of his new book *Profiles in Hope*. At the College, we are committed to the wellbeing of every student. We understand that depression is a serious issue that can affect anyone, including our students. The intention of the book is to inspire hope for those who are experiencing or have experienced challenges in life. It's important to know that help is available and that no one has to face their struggles alone.

As the former Lifeline Australia Chair and previously, Leader of the NSW Opposition, John Brogden has openly shared his journey through depression. His story is a powerful reminder that mental illness can affect anyone, regardless of their success or status. John's advocacy has helped change the conversation around mental health, encouraging more people to seek help and support. Familiar names such as James Packer, Jacqui Lambie, Tom Boyd, Layne Beachley, Preston Campbell and Ian Thorpe, provide powerful and deeply personal accounts of their struggles with depression.

Lifeline Australia is a national charity providing 24/7 crisis support. They offer confidential support through phone calls, online chats and text messages. During the keynote speeches it was amazing to learn that only two weeks ago the organisation answered close to 4,000 calls in a single day.

So, if you are feeling overwhelmed, stressed, or depressed, please remember that you are not alone. Together, we can continue to provide a supportive environment where everyone feels safe and valued.

**Robert Simpson**  
Director of Senior School



*Mark Nawaqanitawase ('18), Men's Rugby Sevens team member.*



*John Manenti ('88) Men's Rugby Sevens coach.*



*Se-bom Lee ('18), a member of the Australian Swim Squad.*



*Chris Ius ('17), member of the Australian Track and Field Team.*



*Ben Weekes ('02), Australian Wheelchair Tennis player.*

# OLD BOYS REPRESENT WITH PRIDE!

We are thrilled to announce that five of our Old Boys have travelled to Paris to compete in this year's Olympic Games.

Mark Nawaqanitawase ('18), a talented rugby player and former Wallaby, was part of the Men's Rugby Sevens team, coached by another distinguished Old Boy and rugby legend, John Manenti ('88).

Champion swimmer and two-time Olympian Se-Bom Lee ('18) participated in the 200m backstroke, while Chris Ius ('17) competed in the 4 x 100m Men's Relay team.

Ben Weekes ('02), a wheelchair tennis player, made his sixth appearance at the Paralympic Games; a remarkable achievement that showcases his dedication and perseverance.

We are incredibly proud of these athletes, who have illuminated the world stage by representing our country at the highest level.



Winners are grinners! The Over 35 Division 5 team win their first premiership.



The Robertson Cup returns home!



## SPFC KEEP THE BALL ROLLING

The 2024 season wrapped up with SPFC securing more silverware, ending a challenging year on a high note. Persistent wet weather disrupted our schedule, leading to numerous game cancellations, often just before or even during matches. Despite these hurdles, we concluded the season strongly.

Our Premier League First Grade squad experienced significant turnover in players and coaching staff at the start of the season, affecting momentum due to the integration of new players and long-term injuries. However, through determination and hard work, the squad turned their season around, achieving notable results that set a strong foundation for next year.

Special thanks to Dom Arcella, who took on the head coach role in the second half of the season despite being sidelined by injury earlier in the year. Senior players like Will Donato ('06) and Sam Donato ('09), Giacomo Di Mento, and Ben Cortese ('13) stepped up to mentor younger teammates, showcasing their commitment.

Our Premier League Reserve Grade team embodied the club's culture, often stepping up to assist First Grade and playing multiple games in a weekend. Young talents like Zach Doulin excelled, playing as goalkeeper for both Reserve and First Grade.

The Reserve Grade team benefited from our Under 18s, with seven players promoted to the Premier League, gaining invaluable experience. Our All Age team faced tough competition and was impacted by weather, with six games washed out.

In terms of silverware, our Over 35 Division 5 team finished first in the Premiership but narrowly lost the Grand Final 1-0. The Over 35 Division 4 team achieved the double, winning both the Premiership and Grand Final under Captain Matty Nigro ('96).

Looking ahead to 2025, discussions with St Patrick's College on our junior pathway program are promising. Thank you to our board and committee members for their support. As always, it's an honour to serve as President of St Patrick's Football Club.

**Frank Parisi ('88)**  
SPFC President



The Lebanese Touch Football World Cup team.

## FLYING THE FLAG FOR LEBANON

Old Boys Adam Boumelhem ('16), Ryan Goss ('11) and Jason Stanton ('93) represented Lebanon at the Touch Football World Cup held in Nottingham, England, in July. Forty nations competed in the six-day tournament. Led by captain Jason Stanton, the team secured a bronze medal after a 10-8 victory over the Cook Islands, with Australia and New Zealand taking gold and silver, respectively.

Each player proudly honoured their Lebanese heritage, with Ryan playing in memory of his Lebanese grandmother. Adam demonstrated great grit by competing despite an injury throughout the tournament, and Ryan received the Coaches Award. We commend these athletes for their accomplishments and wish them the best of luck in potentially representing Lebanon in the next Touch Football World Cup, to be held in New Zealand in 2028.



## DOING GREAT THINGS ON & OFF THE FIELD

The 2024 season at SPRC has been busy and rewarding. We fielded five Open Age Men's teams, an U21 Colts team and a Women's 10s team each week. This achievement reflects the hard work of our dedicated volunteers, coaches and supporters; thank you all for your invaluable contributions!

The highlight of the season was our Colts winning the 2024 Robertson Cup Premiership, both Major and Minor. Over the past six years, our Colts program has been one of the most successful in Subbies Rugby, featuring Old Boys from various graduating classes. The Grand Final at Concord Oval was a fantastic event, culminating in a 31-5 victory over the University of NSW and bringing the Robertson Cup back to Hudson Park for the third time since 2018. St Pat's continues to be a welcoming club for graduating Old Boys, balancing competitiveness with a vibrant social scene.

Off the field, our annual charity day was a significant highlight. In 2024, we raised funds for Heart of the Nation, an organisation started by Greg Page, the original Yellow Wiggle. We raised over \$7,000 for AED installations across Australia, featuring a CPR and AED demonstration at Hudson Park.

As we wrap up the season, our Men's and Women's teams recently competed in the Byron Bay 7s tournament a great time was enjoyed by all, both on and off the field! We're always seeking new players, coaches, and supporters; if you're interested, please contact Tim Skinner at [president@sprc.com.au](mailto:president@sprc.com.au) for sponsorship opportunities as well.

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



The Grand Finalist Under 13s team, coached by Paul Gliddon ('95).



## JUNIOR CLUB CONTINUES TO GROW

The St Patrick's Junior Rugby Club had a successful year, fielding teams in U6/7s, U8s, U11s, U13s, U14s and U15s. Three senior teams made the finals, with two finishing as runners-up, marking the second consecutive year this achievement has occurred.

We registered U11s, U14s and U15s teams for the Sydney Juniors Spring 7s competition, our first entry into this event, enhancing our players' skills and rugby IQ. Of our 99 registered players, 38 are linked to St Pat's, reflecting a strong community spirit.

Several boys represented West Harbour and Sydney Uni in the State Championships, showcasing their talent. For 2025, we aim to field teams from U6s to U16s and encourage more girls to join.

The Club operates thanks to dedicated volunteer parents and coaches, with special thanks to our sponsors, including Steve Whelan ('93) from The Mercantile Hotel and Michael Murphy from McGrath Strathfield. Pre-season training begins Sunday 2 February at 8:30 AM, open to all interested players.

SPJRC is a family club with a welcoming culture. We invite everyone to come and see what makes us special!

**Joe Abraham ('77)**  
SPJRC President

# RECENT REUNIONS



Class of 1964 had their 60-year reunion in October.



The Class of 1994 share some stories during their 30-year reunion.



A great turnout for the Class of 1974, who celebrated their Golden Jubilee.



Longtime friends Michael Bellemore ('70), John Sidoti ('70), Jim Neville ('70), Chris Ferris ('70) & Gerard Neville ('64) raised a toast to their alma mater during a recent reunion in Shanghai.



Smiling faces from the Class of 1979.

# FORTHCOMING REUNIONS

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 2004 – 20 YEAR REUNION

**Date:** Saturday 30 November 2024  
**Venue:** Horse & Jockey Hotel, 70 Parramatta Rd, Homebush  
**Time:** 3:00 PM  
**Contact:** Rev de Silva  
**M:** 0423 774 488

## CLASS OF 1984 – 40 YEAR REUNION

**Date:** Saturday 7 December 2024  
**Venue:** The Oxford Hotel (upstairs), 195 Victoria Rd, Drummoyne  
**Time:** 7:30 PM  
**Cost:** \$50:00  
**Contact:** Paul Brooks  
**E:** paulvbrooks@bigpond.com

## CLASS OF 1975 – 50 YEAR REUNION

**Date:** Saturday 15 November 2025  
**Venue:** Massey Park Golf Club, 1 Ian Pde, Concord  
**Time:** 5:00 PM  
**Contact:** Paul Rumore  
**E:** paulrum57@gmail.com  
**M:** 0418 208 887

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).

# HELP US TELL THE STORY



At the College, we're keen to gather narratives from our Old Boys about their days at school. These reminiscences and anecdotes play a pivotal role in painting a vivid portrayal of the St Patrick's College student experience throughout the years. Whether a teacher ignited your passion, or you hold cherished memories of fellow students, these stories are invaluable. Many Old Boys have ventured into various domains, achieving success both in their personal and professional lives. At times, particular decisions or life perspectives may have been shaped by classroom lessons or experiences on the sports field. These are precisely the stories we are eager to uncover. With our 100th Anniversary approaching in 2028, we aim to compile these tales as part of the St Patrick's College historical narrative. If you would like to contribute, please reach out to our Archivist, Nikki Fochesato at [nikki.fochesato@spc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:nikki.fochesato@spc.nsw.edu.au). Your stories enrich our legacy!

# VALE

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

- |                        |                                       |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| John Bingham ('49)     | Justin Taylor ('76)                   |
| Ian Henry ('56)        | Scott MacDonald ('78)                 |
| Graham Moar ('57)      | Slaiman Herro ('79)                   |
| Barry Wooldridge ('59) | Brendan Cleary ('89)                  |
| Robert Reynolds ('60)  | Angelo Moschella ('93)                |
| John Sampson ('61)     | Br Peter Hancock (former SPC teacher) |
| Peter McKee ('65)      |                                       |

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

## MONSIGNOR JOHN USHER ('57)

We were saddened to hear that Old Boy Monsignor John Usher ('57), passed away on 20 September 2024. A priest in the Sydney Archdiocese for over 50 years, Mons. Usher graduated from SPC and pursued tertiary studies in commerce and accounting. At the age of 25 however, he made the decision to take up a religious vocation.

After being ordained in 1972, Mons. Usher pursued further studies in Social Work, later becoming Director of Centacare for 25 years. He served 33 years at St Patrick's Parish, Mortlake, and was Chancellor of the Archdiocese. Recognised for his contributions, he received the Luceat Award, an OAM and became a Prelate of Honour.

Mons. Usher was known for his kindness, social justice advocacy and ability to connect with all.

# DONATED ITEMS

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



**Matthew Williams ('77)**  
 First V Basketball singlet, 16 A Rugby jersey, Athletics shorts, school tie and various ribbons, music book and documents from the 1960s and 1970s



**Mark Burgess ('69)**  
 2 x green Athletics singlets, Rugby League jersey, senior school felt hat and other items including past editions of POST

**Peter Manenti ('58)**

Several school certificates and Lumens

**Gordon Johnstone ('52)**  
 MCC Pennant

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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A Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition



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