

IT'S TIME



**ARISE, FOR IT IS YOUR DUTY...
SO HAVE COURAGE AND ACT!**

SJAG SEMESTER 1, 2018 REVIEW

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SJAG SEMESTER 1, 2018 REVIEW

**arise, for it is your duty...
so have courage and act!**

THE A IN SJAG

Courage to Act - Have you got it?

BY GILLIAN DALEY
DIRECTOR OF IDENTITY

This year's College Theme is "Arise, for it is your duty. We are with you; so have courage and act!" (Ezra 10:4) There are certainly some core words to take up here - duty, courage, act. It calls all Christians to leave behind the ways that inhibit us to be our best selves and to act in accordance with our faith for all to see. We MUST stand up and do this and if we do the Spirit will gift us with courage as we act for what is right. (This is the mandate of all us and the direct call of groups in the school such as SJAG and FIAT.)

Courage is often referred to as bravery. Why would we need to be brave to be a Christian? Throughout history it has not always been easy to be a Christian because of persecution. In some parts of the world this continues today. Even in our Western world there is a form of persecution from those who don't believe but it is not always as prominent. It can even exist within our own communities and school from other Christians.

Many of us may fear that expressing our faith is not popular, not contemporary enough or not the 'done thing', but it is only us who allows this to perpetuate. We should stand up and show ourselves to be Christian in word and deed. It CAN be the 'done thing' if we all continue to act this way and be who we are called to be. It can be as simple as speaking out for the equal treatment of all people or donating needed goods or simply going to Mass even when there is other fun to be had. To be brave is often to leave behind some things we have always known or loved in order to be more fulfilled and to help the world around us. It might be going to a different parish for mass or changing the time we go, or it could be recognizing that the world is changing and therefore the issues we face are different eg climate change and increased refugee numbers. It can be embracing someone different to ourselves.

Have you ever looked around and thought "It's always the same people doing work for justice or going to mass"? Does it make you think that maybe you should also get more involved? If yes, what is it that stops you? Fear? Distractions? Time? My philosophy with time is that my little time given to these pursuits is nothing in the scheme of God's creation of the world and my life, and it can make such a big difference to another person, let alone me. In Judaism they have a very clear concept about charity - everybody is required to give alms (Tzedakah) but even if you have no money or goods to share the greatest gift you can give is your time; acts of loving kindness (Gemilut Chasidim). In Islam giving to others is a part of everyday life through Zakat and other practices especially at times of celebration; Eid. We have the same in Christianity - we are called to give alms but above all of this we are called to treat others with kindness and respect. Our one God calls us to stand up, have courage and make sure we act - talk is nothing without action.

I challenge everyone to do something different this year in terms of justice and enhancing our faith practice - get involved in an initiative that you haven't before, come to Friday morning mass if you haven't before, look for something that needs doing in your local neighbourhood, speak to someone of another faith and really listen. Some people do this day in and day out which is brilliant. Now it's time for reflection if it hasn't already taken place. Let's all set our hearts on fire, toughen up and act with goodness in the name of God and ourselves. God bless you.

I commend the following ecumenical document to your reading. While it is in the US context it is just as applicable for all people around the world. <http://www.reclaimingjesus.org/>
On a separate note, it's been a while since our last edition of It's Time so it is certainly time that we reached out again. We will publish twice a year from now on - in June and November - so keep a look out! Check out this edition for all the work going on around the College plus information about important issues. Enjoy your reading!

Experiences of Justice: The Power of Action

BY JULIAN THOMAS
YEAR 11

Social justice can be understood by three components: Awareness, Advocacy, and Action. The College theme for this year, and for this issue of the It's Time magazine, encourages us to consider the power and importance of social justice action; to be the change we would like to see in the world. Various staff members across the school have, in their time, taken part in social justice action, granting them with the insight and knowledge of what it means to live a socially just life. A few teachers were asked a series of questions: "What have you done for social justice?", "Why should everyone take part in social justice action?" and "What does social justice mean to you?" and provided answers of their experience.

Miss Fisicaro:

I have always tried to live a life that incorporates some aspect of social justice. In recent years at St Patrick's College, I have joined Year 11 students at the Exodus Foundation, attended the College's Winter Sleepout, donated items of clothing to the Salvation Army and volunteered at a fun run for refugees. I also volunteer regularly for St Vincent de Paul's Night Patrol. It is very easy NOT to take part in social justice! It is hard to take action and it is often uncomfortable but there is usually a greater good that overrides this discomfort. I believe it is the selfless thing to be involved in social justice for the benefit of someone who is in need. I have known and heard of people who have less time, money or privilege than me who still put themselves out to help others, so, if they can, my attitude is, I can do it too!

For me, social justice is a mind-frame. It is being actively conscious about other peoples' lives or the effect of certain actions on other peoples' lives. Sometimes it calls for action. Sometimes it calls for putting the needs of others or of the planet before one's own needs. Sometimes it calls for speaking up at the right time, with the right information. Sometimes it requires doing nothing but listening, observing and learning. It really depends on what the need is, but all in all, it usually involves a genuine understanding and respect of the other.

Mr Viney:

I spent a gap year working for the Christian Brothers at their high school in Papua New Guinea in 1982 – a year that would change my life. In 2006 I returned to PNG and have continued to assist the Brothers in their mission work in this country. I also help remote hospitals in places like Bougainville, orphanages in Cambodia and other institutions obtain much needed medical equipment and supplies. I have been back to PNG 15 times in the last 12 years. In 2012, the St Patrick's College Library was opened at St Mary's High School, Vunakana in PNG, funded by various Lenten Appeals (2007, 2010 & 2011). In 2010 I created the PNG Immersion and I have been on 6 of the last 8 immersions. At times I travel independently to PNG as I am fluent in the local language and have a deep admiration for the people and culture.

If you live in this special country, you are indeed blessed by God. We live in relative safety, have excellent medical and health facilities, great educational environments and schools and plenty of high quality food. It would be rare to find all of these things in many countries in the world. Social Justice teaches us to give back for all of the good things we enjoy. Many people in our country do it very tough, the homeless, refugees, our indigenous brothers and sisters. Our obligation is to give back. It means giving, even if it is something only small. At times I have asked people who have access to things to assist me. Many of them do. It also means never to seek any rewards for the things that you do. Acknowledgement is fine, but rewards are not really part of it. It is about your obligation to give to those who are in need.

Continued...

Miss Tan:

I feel like I have done very little in the scheme of things, but I try to make time to volunteer because I recognise how fortunate I am and believe that action is important. Most recently, I have been able to volunteer for the Exodus Foundation, Salvation Army, and Lucas Gardens and I have enjoyed talking to the people involved with these great organisations. Talking to and working with a diverse range of people is one way to begin to understand and to learn what you can then do to help.

When I think about why we should all take part in social justice it is because I believe that there is an important difference between equality and equity. Social justice is about inclusivity; it upsets me when people believe they are entitled to certain things or make judgements about others which sets people apart as the 'other'. We need to embrace difference yet be aware that it has created divides and inequity in society. It is important to actually follow through from a mere awareness of inequity to direct action which embraces diversity and can help bridge divides. Empathy or sympathy is not enough, it's ensuring that if you do have opportunities and/or abilities that others don't, you share what you have because you recognise your own good fortune and want to give something back to the wider community. It is a huge challenge, so we should all do something. Compassion and empathy are valuable if you commit to act upon them.

Mrs Lombardo:

I was inspired to work for social justice by my Year 12 RE teacher, Dan Jiru in LA. He walked the walk and allowed my faith to come alive through service to and for others. He involved students in so many aspects of social justice work – the annual March for Hunger, the Justice Bakery which sold goods baked by Skid Row residents and working in the soup kitchens there. Here in Sydney, I was part of the inaugural Social Justice network in Parramatta diocesan schools, have assisted with Night Patrol, door knock appeals and winter sleep outs. I am also passionate about advocating for social justice through my teaching. It is important that social justice not be seen as an "add-on" but part of our core work as Christians, humans, citizens called to work for the common good and to support those on the margins in real and practical ways.

Mr Herro:

My justice involvement started as a Year 11 student at SPC in 2008. I did a simple activity to tick the box for "service", however felt nothing afterwards and wanted to find a way in which I could give back. Later in the year there were two spaces available for an Edmund Rice Camp, of which I took one, and 10 years later I am still involved as a volunteer with this organisation. Along with this, I have been involved with packing shipping containers with Mr Viney to be sent to PNG; Immersion experiences to PNG in 2013 as an Old Boy and in 2015 as an SPC staff member; Christmas Hamper organisation, packing and delivery for the last 6 years with a group of friends outside of SPC; a justice based immersion-style experience in Melbourne, looking at a variety of issues which are prevalent in Australia; as well as assisting a variety of other causes and organisations with a social justice focus.

It is important for everyone to take part in social justice action because actions speak louder than words. As a Catholic community, we are brought up with teachings of other-person-centeredness and it is our duty to put these teachings into practice. Mary Mackillop said "never see a need without doing something about it" which could not ring truer with me and has become a motto for how I attempt to put words into action.

Social Justice, to me, means to "never see a need without doing something about it". As someone who is lucky enough to be brought up in Australia in a loving and caring environment, it would be easy to take this for granted. Since having my eyes opened to some of the many social justice issues that are present in society, I am blessed to have the ability to do something about them. By helping out where possible and aiming to live a life of service for others we can all play a part in fighting these issues and injustices.



SPC OLD BOYS ON EDDIE RICE CAMPS

Goals for this year

BY HARRISON ARMOUR
SOCIAL JUSTICE PREFECT

I would like to first off start my tenure as Social Justice Prefect by saying how honoured I am to be the perfect for such an important aspect of College life. To lead and be a part of SJAG, isn't to just talk about current local and world events regarding justice, it is to be of active service to those who are suffering from injustice. I am to work with Ms Daley, Director of Identity, and Mrs Rodricks in order to inspire the students of SPC to participate in Social Justice activity around the college.

SJAG had a strong term 4 with the main focus upon the Christmas Appeal and collection of donations. From visiting different classrooms around the college it is easy to see how much effort the staff and student population have put into the appeal in order to make this our best yet. Through the efforts of Sustainability Prefect, Liam Vane-Tempest, there has been the launch of College and House Crested water bottles. These water bottles serve a great purpose, in enhancing sustainability around the College with the conclusion of plastic bottles being sold around the college. I look forward to the coming year ahead when class will return late January 2018 and we will continue to build upon strong foundations of Social Justice at the College. Remember the A in SJAG is for ACTION so ACT.





Lenten Fundraising

BY HARRISON ARMOUR
SOCIAL JUSTICE PREFECT

The season of Lent has come and gone and with it the effort of the entire college community to raise funds and support for our Lenten partners. This year the college focused upon three different organisations, all who are connected to the College in their own way.

The centre of the College’s attention was the Edmund Rice Centre in Homebush, who have four priority areas of focus:

- The Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the first peoples)
- The Rights of Refugees and People seeking asylum (the last to arrive)
- The Rights of the Peoples of Oceania, especially those struggling for climate justice (the next to move)
- The Rights of the Earth (our collective home)

Our Lenten fundraising will specifically focus on the fourth point; caring for the earth, or what the Edmund Rice Centre calls eco-justice, a principle based off a charter they developed known as the Earth charter. The Earth Charter is a declaration of fundamental principles for building a just, peaceful, and sustainable global society in the 21st century. It seeks to inspire in all peoples a new sense of global interdependence and shared responsibility for the well-being of the human family and the larger living world. It is an expression of hope and a call to help create a global partnership at a critical juncture in history. The Earth Charter also connects to the Rights of the Peoples of Oceania whose lives are affected because of climate change. What we do to our earth impacts most significantly on these peoples as their homes sink into the ocean.

The College also raised funds for one of our immersion partners; St Joseph Flexible Learning Centre in Alice Springs, and for Callan Services (assisting people with disabilities) in Papua New Guinea. St Patrick’s College Strathfield has a rich history and connection with these places with an immersion to Papua New Guinea being conducted for the better part of a decade now and an exchange program with St Joseph’s, with groups of students going to and forth the last 4 to 6 years.

When the College community comes together in support of justice, great things can happen and 2018 was no different. This year the College collectively raised \$98,000 with the Junior School playing a major part, raising \$56,000. The Junior School coming together in such a way shows how strong the future is for social justice at the College.

The difference these funds will make cannot be understated. They give the Edmund Rice Centre the chance to do what they do best; Raise Awareness, Advocate and Promote Social Action. Not only that, it will allow the fellas in Alice Springs and the community in Papua New Guinea to experience some happiness as the funds raised create the chance for their quality of life to improve.

The College has always had a strong commitment to Social Justice and this season of Lent was no different. Thank you to the whole community for your efforts; it certainly didn’t go unnoticed.





Reconciliation Week

BY HARRISON VELLAR
YEAR 11

The College's relationship with St Joseph's Flexible Learning Centre in Alice Springs is incredibly important and cherished. Each year, members from each community have the opportunity to experience how the other lives, with the Immersion group of St Patrick's leaving for Alice Springs shortly, and the visit of the Alice Springs fellas very recently. During their short stay, the fellas got to experience a wide range of activities. From visiting an AFL Game with our St Pat's fellas, to a surf lesson in Maroubra and Go Karting, they clearly had an action-packed time in Sydney. During the week they visited a variety of classes, taking part in science experiments, drama, languages and art classes. Their involvement in community life during the time they were here has been sorely missed.

Shortly after the fellas' visit, the college community observed National Reconciliation Week, from the 27th of May until the 3rd of June. The dates that the week falls between align with significant milestones on the journey to reconciliation. Beginning with the date of the 1967 Referendum, and ending with the anniversary of the Mabo decision, Reconciliation week, and particularly this year, is a week rich with learning about the history of our nation and all of its peoples. The theme for 2018 was, "Don't keep history a mystery. Learn, Share, Grow", aimed at celebrating the forgotten stories of so many Indigenous Australians' feats.

On early Monday morning, the college prayed as a community for the cause of Reconciliation, led in prayer by Christopher Farag of year 11, in what was a moving reading. Throughout the week as well, discussions were had in homerooms across the school as facts about Aboriginal history were put in the announcements, and students were able to reflect on a personal level about what the week meant in their own lives, with a mural titled "Reconciliation is..." designed by SJAG, featuring prompt words such as "growing", "the future", and "us".

Put best in the words of Reconciliation Australia "Reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples." It is wholly our duty, and one that the College community will continue to embrace and celebrate.

Refugee Week 2018

BY MARC SALAMONE & MARCO GRASSO
YEAR 11



RefugeeWeek2018 #WithRefugees

Refugee Week is Australia's annual activity that informs the public about refugees and celebrates positive contributions made by refugees to Australia's general public. Refugee Week provides a platform where positive and accurate images of refugees can be promoted in order to create a culture of welcome throughout the country to contest with the morphed images of the media. Over the last 20 years, Refugee Week celebrations have transcended into a number of other countries.

According to the 'Refugee Week Website' the aims of Refugee Week are:

- "to educate the Australian public about who refugees are and why they have come to Australia;
- to help people understand the many challenges refugees face coming to Australia;
- to celebrate the contribution refugees make to our community;
- to focus on how the community can provide a safe and welcoming environment for refugees;
- for community groups and individuals to do something positive for refugees, asylum seekers and displaced people, within Australia but also around the world; and
- for service providers to reflect on whether they are providing the best possible services to refugees."

Refugee Week is a unique opportunity for everyone to experience and commemorate the rich diversity of refugees and asylum-seekers, and everything they contribute to our society. This is seen through theatre, music, dance, film and other events.

Please follow this link to learn more about refugees in Australia and throughout the world:

<https://www.refugeeweek.org.au/refugee-week-resources/information-on-refugees/>

Injustice on Our Streets: The Homeless of Australia & The Winter Appeal

BY CHRISTIAN BEJJANI
YEAR 11



Can you imagine what it would be like to have no place to call home and no warm bed to crawl into on a cold winter's night? But homelessness isn't just a problem in Winter. More than 105,000 Australians sleep rough each night of the year. In our world, everyone is entitled to a home where they are nourished and loved constantly, but this is not the case for so many. Statistics show that 1 in 200 people every night are homeless with 44% being women and 27% under the age of 18.

In today's modern world, with our lives only becoming increasingly fast paced, it is imperative that we stop and recognise the little things that are taken for granted by us; but longed for by others. The annual SPC Winter Appeal saw all students, and teachers alike, bring in travel sized goods in order to create 'care packs' for the homeless of the Matt Talbot Hostel for Men and Sydney Night Patrol. The students of the Social Justice Action Group were given the responsibility of collecting and organising each item of personal hygiene; such as shampoo, body soap, tooth paste and deodorant, to later collate them into individualised packages for those sleeping rough. With this activity being a relatively new introduction to the SJAG community, it certainly put into perspective the effect that such little items can have on a person. The toiletries, even though miniature, act as a symbol of independence and hope for those who are sleeping rough. It acts as a way of making them feel as though they do have control over their own lives, they still do own something and that they don't need to put their personal health at risk due to circumstances they cannot control. In essence, the care packs created by the members of the Social Justice Action Group, with the products donated by the College community, truly exemplified that little items which are usually over looked can mean so much to one who is doing it tough every day of their lives; not being able to see the light at the end of the tunnel.



The Faith in Action Team Report

BY THE FIAT STUDENTS

The Faith In Action Team (FIAT) gather together in the Bangawarra room every Tuesday to learn about our faith and take action for everyday problems. The focus this year has been Liturgy and reaching out to members of our community. This has been done through regular nursing home visits.

We have learnt about, what a liturgy is and how to make a liturgy including all the logistical and practical elements. Currently we are making posters that advertise the strength and power of liturgy. Beautiful liturgy helps the community to worship God in a meaningful way.

One of our initiatives for FIAT is a fortnightly visit to Strathdale Nursing Home, in Strathfield. We go there to develop relationships with the residents and they enjoy having us visit. We often talk to them and sometimes we play games. Two fun activities we have done with them are balloon tennis, where you use a fly trapper and you hit balloons with it, and a quiz, where we answer questions based on movies, fairy tales and books. The FIAT group have come together many times to entertain the residents by singing our "College Anthem" and by singing "Lord I Need You" by Matt Maher. Some weeks the ladies who work there might have activities planned for us to do with the elderly people. At the moment Mr Hajjar is planning for us (the FIAT group) to find a song and learn its lyrics and then sing it to the residents. Some of the residents like singing too, one lady who doesn't speak any English sang to us in Romanian.

In FIAT we learn about our faith and we also explore practical ways to put it in action.

The Homeless Man

BY JOSEPH KARAM
YEAR 5

Last Sunday, my family and I were going to Strathfield Station to catch the train to the city. When we arrived to the train station we went to Oporto's for a snack. Just outside was a homeless man who looked really bored. We went inside for a bite to eat and about 5 minutes later a woman walked past. She happened to drop a pink beanie. Then something amazing happened. The homeless man stood up, grabbed the beanie and ran a whole block just to give the beanie back to the lady. He could have kept it and stayed warm at night, or just ignored it, like everybody else did. After that we gave \$10 to him and he really appreciated it.



SJAG 2018

WINTER SLEEP OUT

WHAT IS IT?

The college's annual winter sleep out brings members of the community together to feel what it's like to sleep rough, on one of the longest and coldest nights of the year.

DETAILS

Open to all students and staff

After school on Friday 24 August
until 8:30 am on Saturday

\$20 donation per person to be given to
homeless services

Forms available from the front office



Ecumenism: Promoting Understanding and Unity in the Church

BY JOSEPH BOUTROS
YEAR 11

Paul states in Ephesians 4:2-7: "With all humility and mildness, with patience, supporting one another in charity. Careful to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. One body and one Spirit; as you are called in one hope of your calling. One Lord, one faith, one baptism. One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in us all. But to every one of us is given grace, according to the measure of the giving of Christ."

This statement made by Paul to the Church at Ephesus emphasises the importance of unity among all believers in God; the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), because we are all granted gifts from Him. The idea of the Church being one is scattered throughout the whole of the New Testament, especially through the writings of Peter (e.g. 1 Peter 2:5) and Paul (e.g. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13), and even the words of Jesus Christ (e.g. John 17:21-23). There was great importance in a united Church, especially during times of persecution against Christians during the first centuries of the religion's development. That's why Paul stressed that the Church needs to be strong! To defend the teachings of Christ and the traditions that followed His ascension. Otherwise, the Church wouldn't be where it is today without the courage and hope shown by early Christians, and which continues today.

Pope St John Paul II probably explains most efficiently, the metaphor of the body of Christ. In his encyclical, 'That they may be one', (May 25, 1995), the former Pope expressed that "...the Church must breathe with her two lungs!", explicitly mentioning "...Byzantium and Rome", that being the Orthodox and Catholic Churches. Pope John Paul II effectively continues the idea that the Church is a body and must function together. In this analogy, the human lungs always operate together, and thus, John Paul II is saying that the Church is currently broken, and needs to unify again.

This vision provided through scripture and the writing of other prominent Christian figures still has great relevance today. Ecumenism is the idea of Churches uniting together without the formal calling of conversion. The biggest recognition of this was by the Second Vatican Council, in the encyclical on Church unity. Organisations such as the World Council of Churches were established, encouraging prayers of peace and unity among Christian denominations, as well as holding meetings with Christian leaders.

Ecumenism and interfaith dialogue are important in the present day as it is what will keep the Christian message alive. The Christian message of justice and peace must be a constant in the world to uphold these core values and without cooperation, understanding, and most importantly, unity among the churches, this message cannot be championed and promoted. I implore anyone who calls themselves a Christian to listen to those of different faiths and try and learn as it is only through ecumenical discussion that unity, and eventually justice can be achieved.

Learn more at: <http://www.ncca.org.au/>





Sustainable Gardening

"TO WALK IN NATURE IS WITNESS A THOUSAND MIRACLES"

BY JOSHUA VEIDREYAKI
YEAR 11

Environmental sustainability can be defined as responsible interactions with the environment to avoid depletion or degradation of natural resources and allow for long term environmental quality. In St Patricks College, practicing environmental sustainability helps ensure that the needs of today's population are going to be met but without the cost of jeopardizing the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

To contribute to a sustainable world, the college has seen the development of the St Francis of Assisi Sustainability Gardens, 'Return and Earn' recycling bins in Houses, and new water fountains and reusable drink bottles, all facilitating a sustainable push in our community.

The garden was introduced as a way for St Pats to start our own way as a community to contribute to the new era of making our world a more sustainable place and an environmentally friendly world. The garden includes, fruit and veggies, hearty herbs and also some floral plants including Australian native flora. Not only does it contribute to a sustainable world, but it also reinforces the humble bonds between the students and the environment. The school intends to create an understanding of a sustainable life for all. The fruit and vegetables grown will be used at the College and also sold to staff and the community of St Patrick's. Scripture states, "The heavens are the Lord's heavens, but the earth he has given to human beings." (Psalm 115:16), reinforcing that it is our God-given duty to protect the world.

The Return and Earn bins are House co-ordinated recycling bins placed outside the new Bangawarra Room to help push an environmentally sustainable SPC. For each piece of recycling that is put into each colour-house bin points will be added to the colour-house which will go towards the College Cup. This creates a way for the students of SPC to give back with rewards, though keeping in mind that it is more important to just do what is right than seek recognition or reward.

Clean Up Australia Day

BY SEBASTIANO MONTESANO
YEAR 12

'Clean Up Australia Day is an event that occurs once a year in March with the goal of empowering Australians to clean up and conserve the environment. It was originally created by Ian Kiernan, who in 1989 organised a Clean Up Sydney Harbour Day which received a huge response of more than 40 000 people willing to help clean up the harbour. The next year, Clean Up Australia Day was born as Ian believed that if the Harbour could be cleaned up, then the whole nation could be influenced to clean up their surrounding area. The First Clean Up Australia Day had 300,000 participants (which has increased over time), influencing more people to clean up their environment.

Every year St Patrick's hosts Clean Up Australia Day at school on the Friday and then on Sunday when those from SJAG and any other volunteer of the St Patrick's community come and help clean up the surrounding environment/ streets of the school. This is done to raise awareness of the importance of Clean Up Australia Day; to keep the environment clean as it should be taken care of because we use it on a day-to-day basis.



Social Justice Pathways

BY GEORGE PACHOS
AND JEREMY SHORT
YEAR 10

In Year 8 and 9, I was a member of FIAT (the Faith in Action Team), which influenced me to join the SJAG team at the end of Year 9 last year. I would like to talk about and reflect on the many things that I had done as part of the Faith in Action Team which led me to joining SJAG. Term 1 kicked off with highlighting the importance and significance of Lent to the St Patrick's Community, which culminated in the creation of a video shown at Assembly. The Faith in Action Team also contributed to the efforts of Earth Hour, which has become a worldwide event. In Term 2, we reflected on the events of the year so far with the creation of a prayer tree. This was also created to help both our group and the wider community understand the issues in the world and have God help us fix them. In Term 3, most of our efforts went to assisting the SJAG team with the creation of the new sustainability gardens that are now thriving across the school. I am very honored to have been in the Faith in Action Team last year and will take the experience that I have garnered with me to the SJAG Team for the future.

Fair Trade Fortnight

FAIRTRADE AUSTRALIA RAISES AWARENESS FOR THE NEEDS OF PRODUCERS & FARMERS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

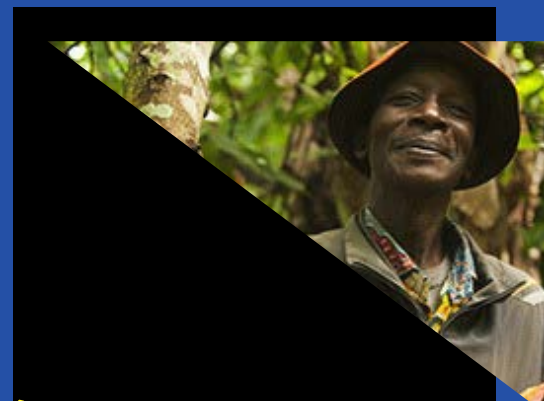
BY LUKE PHILPOTTS
YEAR 11

Another SJAG initiative for this year was Fair Trade Fortnight. Fairtrade Australia produce a wide range of products such as tea, coffee, hot chocolate, sporting balls, and uniforms. The aim of Fair Trade Australia is to raise awareness for the cause and to persuade policymakers to change the unfair trade system which we tend to take advantage of unknowingly every day through household items.

To get involved in this cause Ms Rodricks, Social Justice Prefect Eoin O'Sullivan, Marc Salamone, Joshua Veidreyaki, Christian Bejjani and I took part in opening a hot chocolate stall in the Powell Pavilion every morning for two weeks. After 2 weeks, we managed to raise over \$500 for Fair Trade Australia. The Fair Trade Hot Chocolate stall will take place once again in 2018 during Fair Trade Fortnight from the 3 August to 16 August. Look out for this initiative and the opportunity to purchase Fair Trade products!



FAIRTRADE
INTERNATIONAL



Injustice in North Korea

BY JORDAN TANTI & CHRSTIAN GUARNA
YEAR 11 & YEAR 12

On the 12th of June 2018, world leaders Kim Jong Un and Donald Trump met for a summit in Singapore, where the topic of denuclearisation was discussed. The following occurred as a result of the meeting:

- The United States and North Korea have committed to establishing a new relationship in accordance with the interests of the populace of each country so that there is peace.

- USA and North Korea will both join efforts in building a lasting and stable peace regime on the Korean Peninsula.
- Reaffirming the April 27, 2018 Panmunjom Declaration, North Korea are committed to the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.
- USA and North Korea commit to recovering the remains of prisoners of war and those missing in action, including the immediate repatriation of those already identified

Despite their strong focus on denuclearisation, President Trump managed to bring up the issue of human rights with the North Korean dictator. A year-long UN investigation resulted in a 400-page report detailing five decades of atrocities.

"[The crimes] entail extermination, murder, enslavement, torture, imprisonment, rape, forced abortions and other sexual violence, persecution on political, religious, racial and gender grounds, the forcible transfer of populations, the enforced disappearance of persons and the inhumane act of knowingly causing prolonged starvation. Crimes against humanity are ongoing in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea because of the policies, institutions and patterns of impunity that lie at their heart remain in place."

This quote is from the UN investigation, detailing the issues of injustice in North Korea.

Despite a recent ray of hope in the realm of political and diplomatic relations, it is important to never forget about the people suffering in North Korea. Injustice is rife in the country, with many people fleeing or attempting to flee every year. It is important to listen to their stories, find out what it's really like in a country which suppresses your rights and where there is no justice. Never forget the victims of injustice.

You can learn more about the situation in North Korea at these links:

<https://www.libertyinnorthkorea.org/learn-nk-challenges/>
https://www.ted.com/talks/hyeonsoo_lee_my_escape_from_north_korea
https://www.ted.com/talks/suki_kim_this_is_what_it_s_like_to_go_undercover_in_north_korea

