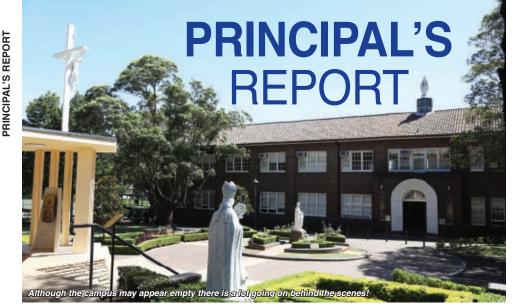


A PUBLICATION OF THE ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE COMMUNITY

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# UNITED WE STAND



I had a plan for what I would like to communicate to the members of our College community for this edition of Lucerna, but as each day has unfolded, I have had to constantly amend what constituted this editorial. Across this vast country of ours we have seen our farmers suffer crippling drought conditions that have cost them dearly, and over the previous summer we have experienced some of the worst bushfires in living history. And now we are living in a world that seems almost surreal, with COVID-19 dominating every aspect of our existence.

There are many 'firsts' that this pandemic presents to us, and in the world of education, we are challenged to respond to learning and teaching and the wellbeing of our boys in ways that many of us have previously not really ever contemplated. And what is more, this response was required within a matter of days. Our boys are now engaged in remote learning. Teachers log on to our learning management system (called Canvas) and deliver their lessons from their computers. They can interact with individuals and whole classes via video, online chat, and through voice-overs, PowerPoint, screen casting and a host of other technology-enabled means. For some it is a brave new world, and for others, it is an opportunity to engage students in new ways.

Despite the advantages that technology offers, it will never replace the value of face-to-face interaction and the community that is apparent in any school. An essential and vital ingredient in schooling is the opportunity to develop social skills, build relationships, and to learn to communicate with each other in real time, and in person. I think we will see a renaissance in the value and commodity of synchronous engagement in learning that can only be offered by attending school in person.

I am incredibly proud of our staff for the way in which they have responded to the enormous challenge of working in new ways, and with almost no preparation. Their willingness to help each other, to learn from each other, and to be generous with their resources and skills has made me so grateful for the spirit of this College and the common purpose of our work; the boys we teach. I am equally as proud of our boys who have risen to the challenge, managed their disappointments at the cancellation of nearly every event, sporting, cultural and otherwise in our calendar and for the positive mindset they have brought to a remote learning experience.

In addition to the delivery of the formal curriculum, students and staff are preparing a number of opportunities and messages to keep spirits up and to promote the wellbeing of our boys. These are especially powerful when they are delivered by the boys to their peers and they assure me that we are well-served by our young people. They give me great hope. We are so fortunate to also have the families we do in our community.

As a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition, we will not see any boys denied the continuation of their Catholic education because of the hardships that many of our families are currently facing. We will need to engage in wise stewardship of our finances in the coming months to support those families who have lost their livelihoods. While this poses a new challenge to us, I know that our community supports our efforts to look after our families, and in the spirit of Blessed Edmund we put our espoused values into action through our combined efforts to be 'other' centred.

While learning continues in new ways, it would be remiss of me not to mention our incredible HSC results from the class of 2019. This cohort produced ten boys who scored an ATAR of 99 or better, and a whopping twenty-three boys who achieved an ATAR of 95 or better. More than a third of the class of 2019 received an ATAR of 90 or more. We had boys achieve top positions in the state in Studies of Religion II (two boys), French Beginners (two boys), Construction (two boys), Italian Continuers, Italian Extension, Information Processes and Technology and Modern History. We had two hundred and thirteen mentions on the state distinguished achievers' list. I challenge our 2020 cohort to emulate these amazing results. Our Catholic, comprehensive, all-comers College continues to encourage and to achieve academic excellence; we are truly a place where we let our light shine.

By now you will no doubt have heard that my time as Principal of St Patrick's College will come to a close this year. My appointment as Executive Director of Edmund Rice Education Australia is an enormous honour and privilege, and rest assured I will continue to serve St Patrick's College, albeit in a different way. I am very fond of this College because of the people in it, and of course because of the Edmund Rice tradition it serves. I cannot imagine working in pursuit of anything more noble than this enterprise. I am humbled by your various words of congratulation and support. I take this opportunity to thank you all for your messages and emails.

I wish you all good health, especially the Old Boys in our community, and please stay safe. We will come to new realisations about what matters, what we value and the power of our relationships to heal, to help each other out, and to be grateful for each and every blessing bestowed upon us.

Live Jesus in our hearts, Forever.

Craig Wattam Principal







of Students like Baxter Gittany, Jake Quailey, Antony Di Gori & Daniele Tionville (all Year 5).

**COVER** PHOTOGRAPHS



#### COVER:

In a battle of the War Cries, the boys in <u>Crichton House get loud!</u>





# WELCOMING 2020 **IN PRAYER AND SONG**

This year's Opening Mass was focused on LOVE. As we welcomed the new Year 5 boys, we talked of how our community is all about providing a Liberating Education and to help express this more deeply our readings, prayers and hymns centred on the Prefect elected theme for 2020 - "Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." (1 John 3:18)

After listening to the readings from scripture, Dr Wattam delivered a moving and thought-provoking address on love. He reminded us that it is in every aspect of our lives and that we need to make sure we show this love to others, especially those who need it most. The community then went on to use movement, led by Year 11 Drama students, as we considered the words from the Procession of the Gifts, before moving into the remainder of the Mass.

The boys were very respectful and engaged, and they valued the importance of coming together for this occasion. They felt and exhibited a sense of togetherness and companionship, especially as we bunkered down amidst the pouring rain; a lovely backdrop showing God's presence in our lives after the summer of hardship. The celebration left everyone with a sense of pride in belonging to St Patrick's College and a feeling of positivity moving forward as one.

As is our custom now, Mass was followed by lunch and then the High Achievers' Assembly, bringing together faith and academic excellence.

**Gillian Daley Director of Identity** 



hearts out during the Mass.

Year 5 students receive their house prayer cards.

# **CELEBRATING OUTSTANDING** ACHIEVEMENT

On Friday 7 February, following the Opening College Mass, the College held its annual High Achievers' Assembly to acknowledge and celebrate the distinguished academic achievements of the HSC Class of 2019. Both the Opening College Mass and the High Achievers' Assembly were held at the Sydney Olympic Park Quaycentre in Homebush, providing much needed room and comfort to hold such big events on the same day.

At the Assembly, we welcomed back the Graduates of the HSC Class of 2019 who achieved an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) of 90 and above. Each was presented with his Academic Excellence Award for Distinguished Achievement in the State

In particular, we congratulate Christopher Farag who is College Dux for 2019 having achieved an ATAR of 99.70, Joseph Haydamous as Proxime Accessit with an ATAR of 99.65 and Luke Malacco who placed third with an ATAR of 99.50. In all, we are proud to announce that ten students achieved an ATAR of 99 and above, fifty-seven students achieved an ATAR of 90 and above, thirteen students made the All-Round Achievers' List and nine students were placed on the State's Top Achievers' List in eleven subjects. This is simply outstanding!

A comprehensive publication of the HSC Class of 2019 High Achievers is available on the College website.

All assembled also congratulated Luke Philpotts and William Taylor as the successful recipients of the 2020 Br R J McDonald Teacher Scholarship and Year 11 students, Harry Richardson and Jonah Rogers as recipients of the 2020 Br McGlade Scholarships.

These young men have done themselves, their Class, their College and their families proud by their outstanding achievements. We share in their pride and congratulate each and every one of them for their hard work and determination in their academic pursuits.

Michael Cutrupi **Director of Curriculum** 



Dr Wattam with students who achieved an ATAR of 99 and above: Jeremy Ellis, Angelo Nicolas, Edward Carrall, Damian Sue, Christopher Farag, Christopher Hanzek, Joseph lannella, Joseph Haydamous & Luke Malacco.

# THE BEAT GOES ON USA MUSIC TOUR

On 3 January 2020, thirty students accompanied by Dr Wattam, Mrs Wattam and me, set off on a musical adventure which took us halfway across the globe to the West Coast of the USA. We began our journey in the city of San Francisco enjoying famous sights such as Pier 39, Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz, Big Basin Redwoods State Park and the Silicon Valley. Musical highlights included attending a performance of the musical Hamilton, playing at Mass at the Most Holy Redeemer Church and a public performance at Pier 39, which is a very popular destination in San Francisco.

Our journey led north and en route to Portland we toured the Oregon Shakespeare Festival Production Facility, a very insightful overview to all elements involved in live theatre production. Students enjoyed some downtime in the scenic surroundings of Ashland. There were a number of highlights in Portland which included participating in workshops with students at the Portland Jesuit High School, joining The Beat Goes On Marching Band for a fabulous joint concert at the Southwest Bible Church and performing both countries' National Anthems at the University of Portland Pilots Women's Basketball Game which was broadcast live. Sightseeing included a tour of the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, downtown shopping and a visit to the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry.

Upon our arrival into Seattle, we were welcomed with heavy snowfalls which, for many of the boys, was their first encounter. Memorable moments included a tour of the Boeing Factory, Museum of Flight, Seattle Underground experience and exploring Pike Place Markets. Three Musical highlights included a visit to MoPop (Museum of Popular Music), a workshop with Dr Ron Gerhardstein at Pacific Lutheran University, and a packed performance at Mercer Island High School Theatre, notably the Touring Ensemble's most spectacular performance.

The Mercer Island High School experience included students attending classes, workshopping together and performing. One very successful element of the tour was the homestay experience with students of Mercer Island High School. With countless positive stories from the boys, I dare say, they will remember this experience for many years to come. The boys very quickly settled into the way of life as a student in an American school. The hospitality afforded to





us from the whole Mercer Island School community was very humbling. It was a truly beneficial and musical experience for all students involved.

All boys should be immensely proud of the way they represented the College. Their level of professionalism and courtesy displayed was positively received and they should also be acknowledged for their high





Combined Big Band performance at Mercer Island High School.



SPC Vocal Quartet perform a song from Hamilton at the Mercer Island High School Concert.

standard of musical performance. On behalf of the group, I would like to thank both Dr Wattam and Mrs Wattam for everything they did to help make the tour such a success and to the parents who accompanied us, for all their support and assistance during our musical escapade.

Derek Rose Bandmaster

# PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION WELCOME ONE AND ALL

### "Rejoice in hope, endure in troubles and continue steadfastly in prayer"- Romans 12:12

The St Patrick's College Parents & Friends Association provides assistance to the College to promote community engagement, fundraising activities and encourage an inclusive school community by organising regular parent forums, family dinners and social justice programs. We aim to ensure everyone feels welcome in the St Patrick's College community.

The Junior School dinner held in February this year was a huge success and I'm certain most families new and existing had a great time. On 24 March the College hosted its first webinar on Cyber Safety led by Brett Lee, a Police Officer who has had extensive experience in the field of undercover internet child exploitation. It was a tremendous success with over 200 parents and carers participating in the webinar. Thank you to College Counsellor, Melissa Harkin for organising this event.

Please note, in light of our current climate, the College and the P&F Association has made the joint decision to cancel both the Mother's Day Masses and Morning Teas along with the Blue Black & Gold Dinner scheduled to take place in Term 2. During this time of uncertainty, we will endeavour to keep our College community informed with any news and <u>updates as they become available</u>.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to seeing you all very soon. Take care.

Jamey Poyaoan P&F President





P&F Executive members: Jamey Poyaoan, Catherine Doherty, Ruba Ghabar, Alison Arnold-Aurland, Jacqui Barton, Belinda Barakat & Anne Bortolussi.

**JEWS & EVENTS** 

# REMOTE LEARNING RISING TO THE CHALLENGE



Teachers at St Patrick's College have been using technology as one of many tools to support learning for a number of years. Yet we could not have foreseen anything like the rapid shift to remote learning necessitated by COVID-19. The entire community has had to build skills, adjust

expectations, rethink roles, reimagine support services and problem solve on the fly.

Our teaching staff, ably supported by Ricky Istifan our Learning Technology Integrator, and Rob Maurency, the IT Manager, delved deeper into the capacities afforded by Canvas, our Learning Management System and Microsoft Teams to enable real time web conferencing. Students have also had to adjust to learning from home, setting up workable spaces, limiting distractions and managing more independent work, all whilst physically isolated from their peers.

We are so fortunate as we operate from a core belief in the strength of our faith, the importance of community and the value of each individual. These beliefs are enabling us to maintain what St Patrick's is about as we navigate completely unfamiliar terrain. Teachers, pastoral leaders and support personnel have tried to maintain a sense of purpose, consistency, stability and connectedness with students whilst also ensuring quality learning continues. In turn, our students have endeavoured to make the best of a difficult situation by supporting their teachers and peers displaying humour and resilience as they too rise to the challenges presented to us.

#### Denise Lombardo Director of Learning and Innovation



Without a doubt, COVID-19 has impacted every aspect of our lives, particularly our education. Despite all the uncertainty, the transition to remote learning has provided much needed normality to both teachers and students whilst paving the way for innovation in learning and teaching.



For me, it also works to demonstrate the power of a collective amidst such stressful times which people have never experienced before. The move to a digital classroom has forced students and teachers to adapt to new challenges but has also provided new opportunities for meaningful learning.

Whether it be a textual analysis of Shakespeare on a conference call or discussion of Christianity on an online PowerPoint, remote learning has allowed for innovative and creative ways to engage students and provide them with the same depth of learning that they would receive in a typical school environment.

I still walk away from each lesson satisfied with what I've been taught even if it's from my laptop at home. For everyone, the shift from school to home has presented its challenges, but the involvement of countless staff has made remote learning present itself as an opportunity rather than a challenge.

#### Jeremy Short Learning and Technology Prefect



While COVID-19 is proving to be a setback in the fulfilment of a true senior year at St Patrick's, the move to remote learning has been relatively seamless. I am able to continue my learning almost as per usual, with many staff members conducting 'conference calls' on Canvas or Microsoft Teams. Through the College's established online platform, Canvas, remote learning is made smooth, with Pastoral Care Periods, Wellbeing and even Careers and Counselling services being available to students.

While remote learning is not ideal, when compared to its face-to-face counterpart, learning in a digital environment has more

benefits than I thought. For example, I have found I can focus better at home and complete my work independently while also having some time in the mornings and afternoons to exercise and relax, both integral outlets of quarantine.

In terms of the community, remote learning binds people together, almost paradoxically, because it strengthens relationships as people unite over a common difficulty. One of the more astounding effects of remote learning however, is that it makes students really appreciate normal school life.

If there is anything that is approaching a universal truth in contemporary debate, it is the fact that this virus will change the way we interact with the world for decades to come, for better, or for worse.

Luke Giacomo Social Justice Prefect

# SILVER-TONGUED ORATORS



Recently I had the honour of working with two talented Year 10 orators, Oliver Meleca and Patrick Alphonse. Apparently, a significant proportion of our population fears public speaking above all else, which goes to show how fearless these two are. While the fluency of their speeches and the level of insight they offered were similar, the content of their two speeches was very different.

Oliver's choice of topic, 'Everything Falls Apart' was described by his adjudicator as 'masterful' in construction and Patrick's focus on 'Tik Tok', brilliantly captured the universal experience of falling down the YouTube rabbit hole and the issue of procrastination.

Thank you to Mrs Lombardo, fellow coaches and most of all to the polished and professional duo of Oliver and Patrick. We hope the competition will be able to resume later in the year and thank everyone who participated or played a role in supporting the speakers.

Emily Knapman Debating and Public Speaking Coach So far this year, we have already witnessed a range of initiatives that aims to consolidate the various dimensions of student wellbeing at the College. The emergence of the COVID-19 situation has seen a raft of resources developed to ensure student resilience and connection with other members of the College community.

We aim to enliven the goals contained within our Wellbeing Framework and develop in our students a strong sense of personal identity and achievement of personal excellence in a safe and inclusive environment. Here is a snapshot of how we are fostering within our students the knowledge and skills so that they can be confident, capable and caring young men.

**Robert Simpson Director of Wellbeing** 

# **OUR FOCUS ON WELLBEING**



# SPIRITUAL

Our focus on right relationships between God, others, ourselves and our earth help us work towards developing and enhancing our Spiritual Wellbeing. Recently the College community participated in Ash Wednesday liturgies in homeroom groups and we concluded Lent with an online Easter Liturgy that saw our boys actively engage in their own space at home. Year 5 experienced their Belonging Day and Year 7 participated in their Reflection Day to help with their formation.

pating in Clean-Up Australia Day.

Students par

The introduction of the Shining Our Light Program (SOL) across Years 5, 7 and 9 to complement Social Justice Service in Year 11, has seen a broader engagement by students in connecting with our various justice partners. Despite the COVID-19 disruptions to various fundraising activities, we have continued to raise funds for our Lenten partners through the Lenten Appeal. An impressive number of our community volunteered their time for the Clean-Up Australia Day initiative while the recycling drive continues to grow.



# ACADEMIC

Across all stages of learning we have been involved in providing opportunities for student voice and participation in challenging activities that engage them intellectually. Staff and Student Leaders conducted focus group meetings seeking feedback on ways the strong relationship between student learning and wellbeing can be fostered.

The annual High Achievers' Assembly acknowledged and promoted academic excellence; several of the older Junior School classrooms have been refurbished to provide more engaging learning spaces and students have used new pages in their diary to complete the goalsetting initiative that is being conducted each term. Further to this, Year 7 participated in a Study Skills program to develop better time management skills.

STUDENT WELLBEING







# **EMOTIONAL**

Students from Year 10 & Year 5 enjay gatting to know one another during one of the Peer Support days.

Senior groups have viewed excerpts from the acclaimed 'Man Up' series and the professional organisation Batyr presented 'Look out for your mates' to Year 10 students. Part of the annual Year 8 Cyber Safety Day saw students participate in activities that examined the emotional impact of negative use of social media; Junior groups have been involved in mindfulness activities.

As the College made the swift move to remote learning, it has been paramount to remind our boys to take care of their overall wellbeing. Year Coordinators have transformed their Pastoral Care Periods to an online platform focusing on developing healthy minds and Year Ambassadors have sent positive messages in support of their peers. Ms Fisicaro created a video recording of her PCP presentation encouraging the boys to engage in an interactive Smiling Minds meditation.





# SOCIAL

Building strong connections between students within cohorts and among the broader community has been a real focus. Year 5 students participated in both Belonging Day and Peer Support Program with Year 10 students. Year 11 students were involved as mentors at the Marie Bashir Leadership Day for local primary school students. As part of the National Day of Action against Bullying, a weeklong campaign fostering respectful relationships was organised across the College.

Our Year 12 Student Leadership Team also played host to other student leaders across Sydney at the Annual Young Leaders Afternoon Tea. The theme for the afternoon was 'Leadership through Action'. It was a fun-filled, social afternoon where the students were also given the opportunity to develop and foster positive peer relationships. Similarly, the captains from Santa Sabina College were invited to speak at a College assembly about the significance of International Women's Day, informing and educating the boys on the importance of working together in empowering girls and women in society.





More space provided for students to excersise at lunch time.

# PHYSICAL

While the Co-curricular program continues to be the primary source of physical activity for most boys, there are specific activities held within cohorts that encourage students to consider the broader aspects of physical wellbeing. For example, the Junior School trained weekly to prepare for their Lenten Fun Run while Year 12 explored concepts of masculinity in their Pastoral Care Periods and the Year 8 Camp provided an opportunity for the boys to be active in a team building environment.

Information relating to keeping fit and healthy was distributed to both the student and parent cohort during the switch to remote learning in the latter part of Term 1. This correspondence included simple tips relating hygiene, good sleeping patterns, nutrition, mental wellbeing and links to physical activities that could be done in confined spaces at home.









# JUNIORS GIVE THEIR ALL

The year started off with great promise for Junior School sport. We kicked things off with the much-anticipated House Swimming Carnival which took place at Auburn Aquatic Centre. The pool was awash with froth and foam as the juniors thundered down the pool and although no records were broken, the boys put in polished performances and there were many exciting races. Throughout the day, the boys cheered on and supported their teammates. Congratulations to Rice House, who were the eventual victors for the second year running. Can they do it again next year? Only time will tell.

Congratulations to our Swimming Age Champions:

10s Age Champion	Peter Geagea and Julius Thompson
11s Year 5 Age Champion	Alexander Kelly
11s Year 6 Age Champion	Jack Edwards
12s Age Champion	Ashton Lee

While the first half of the summer season was underway, the floodgates opened and a number of games in the Junior School were washed out. Despite this, at every opportunity the boys performed consistently across all sports. Each week, the wins were overwhelmingly in our favour and this resulted in ten different sporting teams going through to the second half of the summer season undefeated.

During Term 1, sport representative opportunities arose with the following boys being selected for inclusion into IPSHA teams:

Nicholai Kayrouz – IPSHA Tennis Ashton Lee – IPSHA Swimming Luca Tropiano – IPSHA Football Dylan La Malfa – IPSHA Football

Unfortunately, we have seen a hiatus in all sport due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This has put a dampener on what was looking like a stellar year for our Junior School athletes. It has forced the cancellation of many carnivals and representative opportunities and the postponement of many school activities like the Junior School Cross Country/Fun Run. Hopefully we will have an opportunity on the other side of this phenomenon for our boys to participate in some form of winter sport. In the meantime, stay safe, healthy and active. I look forward to seeing you all on the sports field soon.

### John Locke

Junior School Coordinator of Co-curricular

# FINDING THE BOUNDARY IN BRISBANE

Our Christian Brothers Cricket squad take some time-out during the carnival.

January marked the return of the bi-annual Christian Brothers Cricket Week held in Brisbane. Our squad performed well with losses to eventual

finalists Nudgee and Gregory Terrace offset by victories against St Patrick's Shorncliffe, St Laurence's, Brisbane and St Peter's Auckland.

There were a number of significant contributors during the carnival, with half-centuries to Seamus Meaker and Josh Lee. Archer Gray was rewarded for his economical spin bowling with selection in the Australasian Merit Team.

Rob Simpson Cricket Coach



# **SUMMER** SPORT SPLASH

Anthony Calavassy Head of Secondary Sport



#### 1st IX player Matthew Cassar is in the zone.

Our U14s bring home the Championship trophy.

## BASEBALL

Given their impressive form since the opening round, our U14 Baseball team finished the regular season as Minor Premiers and went to take on local rivals, Rosebank in the Grand Final. SPC's demonstration of excellent skill and teamwork resulted in an outstanding 15-4

Our U16 team fought hard to secure their spot in the Grand Final against a higher ranked division North Sydney Bears. The team held their own with some spectacular fielding, holding the score to a mere 7-3 in their loss to the opposition. In an act of great sportsmanship, the Captain of the North Sydney team and their club President, relinquished their win to our St Patrick's side as they felt the Championship truly belonged to us.

After a mass exodus of players from last year's 1st IX winning team, it was always going to be a development season. The final game saw us finish with a convincing 21-11 run victory, thus claiming a creditable third place on the ladder.



## BASKETBALL

If you were to judge the season solely on premierships won, it was a disappointing one for our Basketball fraternity. That said, those who regularly spectated at weekend fixtures observed our players' basic skills and general understanding of the game significantly improved during the season. In all, SPC contested eleven semi-final matches with only three teams progressing through to the Grand Final. Well done to the Open B, 17B and 15 Black teams for finishing the season as ISA Runners-up.



## SWIMMING

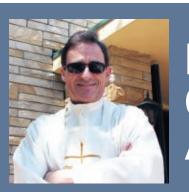
Overall, our Swimming squad should be commended for their excellent performances this season. At the Combined Christian Brothers Swimming Carnival, we won the Junior Shield, whilst placing 2nd in the Intermediate, Senior and Aggregate Shields to a strong Waverley College squad. This proved to be great preparation for us as we finished 2nd in the Aggregate Shield at the ISA Championships, a significant improvement from last year's 4th placing.





## CRICKET

All three Open Cricket sides had a wonderful season which saw us qualify for the semi-finals. After finishing the season undefeated and on top of the table, the 1st XI hosted Oakhill College on Breen Oval. Sadly, we were outplayed by a better side on the day and missed the opportunity to play in the following week's Grand Final, along with the 2nd XI and 3rd XI teams who were also defeated in their respective fixtures. Congratulations are extended to the 13A, 14A, 16 Black and 16 Gold sides for making their respective Grand Finals in the NDJCA competition, which, unfortunately were cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Special mention must go to our 16 Black team who was awarded the NDJCA Premiership after finishing first in their competition.



# **FATHER JACK EVANS** CELEBRATING 25 YEARS AS COLLEGE CHAPLAIN

In 1995, our first lay Headmaster Mr Grahame Smollett, appointed Father Jack Evans as full-time College Chaplain. For the past twenty-five years, Father Jack has delivered his outstanding ministry to all in our community. His easy-going nature has helped him relate to the boys and his ability to take the time to get to know you, to share a laugh and a listening ear has brought many of us comfort during our personal dilemmas. Over the years, he has remained a constant and much-loved confidant and as testament to this, has celebrated countless staff and Old Boy weddings and officiated at many of our loved-one's funerals. In order to celebrate this milestone and get to know the man beneath the cloth a little better, the following list of questions was put to Father Jack. Here are his responses:

## Can you share some of your background, like your family and where you grew up?

I grew up in Caringbah, in 'THE SHIRE'! I've got four siblings, I'm the oldest. Mum was a secretary in a firm in the city that made hats and dad was an electrician.

#### What made you decide to become a Priest?

Given the rather tight Catholic culture back in the 1950s and 1960s, it was not uncommon for boys in a Catholic school to think about priesthood or becoming a religious brother. It probably sounds a bit odd these days! Our priests in our local parish were good role models as were the De La Salle Brothers who taught me. I wanted to do something with my life that involved faith and being part of people's lives. This does not mean I was a 'holy Joe' or something, far from it! Just ask my brother and sisters!

#### What was the training like?

It takes about seven years of training and study to become a priest. The first couple of years were fairly regimented; fixed times for rising and going to bed, silence from 9.30pm until after breakfast the following day, fixed times for meals, study, working in the gardens and of course prayers. In some ways it was easy as each day was virtually mapped out for you and there was always the joy of breaking some of the rules and working out ways of not getting caught! After the Second Vatican Council in the late 1960s and early 1970s however, changes started to come into effect and life became less regulated and more about personal responsibility.

## What made you decide to join the Columban Priests as opposed to a different order?

I joined St Columbans Mission Society in 1967, they had a seminary in North Turramurra. Mum used to get their magazine 'The Far East' each month and as a boy I used to read about these guys working as missionary priests in exotic places. I wanted to join a group where I would be involved in working with the church in another culture, learning other ways of being a Christian in places that practised different religions. I ended up living and working in South Korea for about nine years and loved the experience.

# What is your memory about the early years at St Patrick's and why do you think you have remained here for 25 years?

I began in a full-time capacity and was asked to teach Year 10 Religious Education. I use the word 'teach' in its broadest possible sense! I did things backwards. It was not until sometime later that it was decided I should go across the back oval and do a Graduate Diploma in Education. I was just beginning a two-year master's degree in Theology when I was asked if I could come back to St Patrick's on a part-time basis. I agreed and I am still here for better or worse! It is good being around people who, for the most part, really like and believe in what they're doing. And young people bring an energy and enthusiasm to the place.

## What is it like to be asked to celebrate at an Old Boy's wedding?

I always enjoy witnessing Old Boys' nuptials, seeing how different guys have grown and matured and what they are doing now. Surprisingly, I have learned that one of the most romantic places in Sydney where the first sparks of true love are felt is Strathfield Square bus stop! Who would have thought?

## Over the past 25 years at the College, is there a memory that stands out for you?

I have lots of memories from my time here, some sad, but most are really good. One that stands out for me occurred during my second year at St Patrick's and a week or so before the Year 12 graduation. The College campus was still divided in half by Edgar Street which was a public thoroughfare. I was at the pedestrian crossing; it was the beginning of Period 2 when everybody was settling down. A certain lady's College had obviously finished a few days earlier and a line of cars suddenly appeared and processed up Edgar Street. At this point, all the windows in the Coghlan building abruptly opened and hundreds of boys' heads leaned out. Amidst the yahooing, the boys called out to me to get names and telephone numbers, one even threw down a pad and a pen! That was the day I felt I had been accepted by the students, albeit for all the wrong reasons. Following the incident, there was disciplinary action taken by both colleges and I was asked to 'assist police with their inquiries!'

## How do you unwind? Do you have a favourite TV show, hobby, food?

I love murder mysteries of the English kind: Midsomer Murders, Agatha Christie's Miss Marple, Hercule Poirot. In terms of hobbies or activities, I like to read, sketch, walk, do Yoga, and cook (for myself, I wouldn't be game to inflict my culinary efforts on to anybody else!) My favourite cuisines are probably Korean and Thai although having said that, nothing beats a roast lamb dinner!

#### Tell us something we may not know about you.

Other than I used to play the guitar very badly, I could possibly be classified as some sort of adrenalin freak which I inherited from my father. For example, dad loved the big dippers at the showgrounds. Not that boring thing at Luna Park but the high-tech rides that twist and turn suddenly and run upside down at breakneck speed until your insides turn out! The other was taking the Manly ferry on a stormy day, sneaking off with dad without informing mum. There had to be plenty of wind and rain and rough seas where the water rushes over the bottom deck. The best bit was going past the Heads where the poor old ferry seemed to be struggling to stay upright!

## If you had not become a Priest, what do you think you would have done?

At school I thought about being a lawyer, a journalist, or a teacher. I would have also loved to have been a pilot, flying passenger airliners.

## Do you have a favourite hymn? And on the flip side of that, least favourite?

'The Lord's My Shepherd (Crimond)' is one of many I have always liked. On the dislike side, probably the ones that have stupid titles like 'Jesus wants me for a sunbeam'!

## Would you recommend the priesthood as a vocation?

These days, given the negative publicity surrounding the priesthood and its current structure, I would personally be hesitant. Nevertheless, I take my hat off to those who feel that becoming a Priest may be a way for them to live out their faith and I hope that in doing so, they will always remain open to change and the wisdom of others.



Father Jack the family man in 2009. Celebrating his parents' 60th Wedding Anniversary with siblings, Terese, Maria, Trish & Paul.



One of my most memorable moments with Jack was when I secretly arranged for his parents to attend the Mother's Day Mass in 2005. When it came to the part where the boys put their hands on their mothers' heads to bless them, from a back corner of the gymnasium I invited his parents to come forward to be blessed by Jack. To say he was gob smacked would be a gross understatement!

- Mr Grahame Smollett



South Korea 1976.



HE IS A GOOD MAN AND A TYPICAL COLUMBAN, MORE INTERESTED IN THE SPIRIT OF THE LAW RATHER THAN ITS LETTER. **MR GRAHAME SMOLLETT** 



to Yung Sun Po Parish in 1983.

With former Headmaster Mr Grahame Smollett, Edmund

Rice Assembly 1996.

**IF ALL PARISHES** HAD A FATHER JACK, SUNDAY MASS WOULD BE A FULL HOUSE. – MR STEVEN FOCHESATO

Christmas 1980.



Founder's Day 1997.



66 HE IS A MAN WHO IS A LIVING **EXPRESSION OF OUR** FAITH: INCLUSIVE, COMPASSIONATE, REALISTIC. HUMOROUS AND HUMBLE. **MS GILLIAN DALEY** 



Receiving a gift in1998 in recognition of his 25 years



**66 FATHER JACK IS AN** INSTITUTION AT ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE. HE IS DEARLY LOVED AND COMMANDS ENORMOUS RESPECT. JACK'S HUMANITY AND HUMILITY COMBINE TO MAKE THE ORDINARINESS OF THE MAN. EXTRAORDINARY. - DR CRAIG WATTAM



Delivering his homily during the 2010 Easter Liturgy.

## THE UNCONVENTIONAL, BUT AUTHENTIC FATHER JACK



(College Captain) & Ms Daley.

After 20 years of working and developing a great friendship with Father Jack, I have had the privilege of seeing the impact he has on staff, students and parents. Over the years, he has shared his story and his family with us and has continued to be an ever-present source of goodness and peace. From Retreats to Masses and morning teas, Father Jack's presence and wisdom are evident, it is hard to miss the smiles on people's faces when Father Jack walks in the room.

I, like so many, love him to pieces although at times he can drive me insane! Rarely does he follow the script; each major Mass is like watching Strictly Ballroom where he dances to his own steps. He can be unconventional, but is authentic and one of the people, no airs, or graces. While he may be the king of 'winging it', when he delivers a homily, there is always a gem in what he says.

Long may he stay!

Gillian Daley **Director of Identity** 

# **SPRINGING INTO** NEW TERRITORY

Since his appointment in 2014, SPC Old Boy Matthew Herro ('09) has worked as a TAS teacher at his alma mater. During this time, Matthew's care for his students has been apparent as has his connectedness with the mission, vision and values of the College. In 2019, Matthew was appointed Justice and Peace Coordinator, a pivotal role helping to oversee the College's Service-Learning programs and implementing justice and peace across the curriculum and co-curriculum.

At the start of this year, Matthew took on a temporary teaching position at our brother school, St Joseph's Catholic Flexible Learning Centre in Alice Springs. St Joseph's, an EREA school which comes under the arm of Youth+, supports young people's re-engagement in education. Since 2013, St Patrick's has sent a group of Year 11 students on Immersion to the small school and community of St Joseph's and in turn, we have hosted their students. Our two schools have formed a relationship built on understanding and respect and we hope that this will continue in the future. Here, Matthew shares his experience with us:

### Why did you decide to go to Alice Springs and take on this position?

Since working with Aboriginal communities through the Edmund Rice Camps and spending time at the school and community in Walgett, northern NSW, I have had an interest in doing a stint working in a similar environment. After visiting St Joseph's with SPC as a part of the 2018 Immersion to Alice Springs, I thought this would be a great way to make this dream a reality as well as strengthen the relationship between 'St Pat's' and 'St Joey's.'

#### What does a 'typical' day look like?

Our day starts at 8:30am with a staff briefing and check in, before heading out to pick up the Young People for their 10.00am start. After breakfast, the first learning block begins at 10.30am and runs until 12:15pm. We then gather for a community meeting, followed by lunch until 1.10pm. The afternoon learning block runs until 2.45pm at which point we drop the Young People home. We then participate in a staff debriefing from 3.40pm-4.00pm, and then it is home time!

## What are the biggest differences in your day to day life back home, compared to what you are experiencing now?

It would be the local atmosphere and landscape. I walk 30 minutes to work each day passing part of the McDonnell Range, across the Todd River, through the town centre and across the railway. At the end of March, the average day's temperature was still well into the 30's! Even though there is no hustle and bustle of the big city, there are enough things to do without having to spread yourself too thinly trying to do everything.

## What has been the biggest challenge for you as a teacher?

It is definitely the pace of the learning. I knew that things would be much slower and at a lower level than I am used to, but at the end of Term 1 I still feel like I am having to adjust to this.

#### What are your students like?

There is a great mix of students in the Senior Class. Many are pretty quiet (especially when we're all together), but there are a few great characters in the mix. Teaching both males and females has been an interesting change too, experiencing some of the sass that a few of the ladies have to offer as well as the cheeky behaviours of some of the fellas.

#### What resources do you feel are lacking at St Joseph's?

Resources to improve the home lives of the Young People are severely lacking. One of the biggest challenges we face is the backgrounds that our students are from, whether it be an overcrowded home, an empty fridge or lack of access to transport. None of our students has a computer at home or home internet access and often arrive to school in the same clothes each day.

#### How can the SPC community continue to help schools like St Joseph's?

By continuing to strengthen our relationship with not only St Joseph's and Alice Springs, but our local Aboriginal communities as well. Whilst the Northern Territory has the highest percentage of Aboriginal population, NSW is home to the most Aboriginal People with many of those living in Western Sydney, just 30 minutes down the M4.

### Would you say this experience has changed you at all?

I am not sure if I would say changed, particularly at this stage, however I would say that it has helped me understand and contextualise a lot of things. It is one thing to hear about an issue or a situation, but it is another to live amongst it or visit it each day.

## Would you recommend this experience to others seeking to broaden their horizons? If so, what qualities should they possess?

I would definitely recommend this experience. Whilst being significantly removed from friends, family and your 'usual' life can be challenging, the positives make it all worthwhile. You need to bring an open mind and a preparedness to learn. Teaching skills would be handy, however be prepared to learn at least as much as you plan to teach.













A wonderful start to the day captured during Matthew's walk to work.

# A NEW ORGAN FOR THE CHAPEL

For centuries, the common accompaniment to church music has been the organ and in the past 50 years we have seen a succession of instruments inhabit the choir loft of our Chapel. Among those were American models from Allen, Conn, and, most recently, the Ahlborn-Galanti which reached the end of its serviceable life after having graced the <u>Chapel choir</u> loft for a quarter of a century.

Former Deputy Headmaster Mr Michael Robson conducted a comprehensive search for a suitable replacement, and the decision was to install a Johannus (model D470) organ which was manufactured and shipped from the Netherlands. It boasts three manuals (keyboards) with pedalboard and sixty-five speaking stops which are adaptable to four different characteristic organ styles. Thus, the new organ has the facility to replicate stop sounds found in a cathedral or church in Britain, France or in the North German style commonly used by organists such as J S Bach.

Proud benefactor Mr Robson with

the new Johannus D470, prior to its installation in the choir loft.

The purchase of a new organ was made possible by the significant donation of Mr Michael Robson and we thank him for his generosity. Mr Robson has been a long-standing supporter of the College and particularly of the arts and debating. Mr Robson attends all of our musical soirees and is always encouraging of our boys' musical talents. Without the very significant injection of funds from Mr Robson, the purchase and installation of this magnificent new instrument would not have been possible.

We look forward to the time when we can all gather in the Chapel for a concert to hear the new organ being played and equally as importantly, publicly acknowledge and thank Mr Robson for his donation to the faith and musical life of our College.

# HELPING OUR VULNERABLE YOUTH

We are proud to announce that Old Boy Adrian Rumore ('76) was awarded an OAM for services to homeless youth and physiotherapy in this year's Australia Day Honours List.

For over 30 years, Adrian has been board director, active member and supporter of Raw Potential, a social support service available to vulnerable and 'at risk' youth in the Canberra Region. This local charity provides afterhours pro-active outreach services to vulnerable youth on a nonjudgmental basis. With an ever-growing demand for services, Adrian implores other Old Boys living in the Canberra region to support this local charity. For more information please head to the website at: https://rawpotential.com.au/

We congratulate Adrian for his continued dedication to this cause and on receiving this wonderful accolade.





# VALE

Our thoughts and prayers go to the families and friends of the following members of our community:

Brian Pettit ('51 College Captain)

David Cole ('53)

Donald Jacobs ('55)

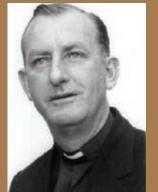
Father Barry Nobbs ('55)

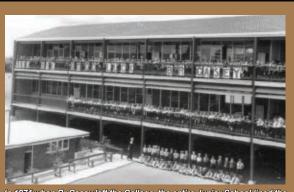
Troy Stapylton ('92)

Raymond Malkoun ('01)

Marcus Byrne ('17)

Tom Casey (SPC Headmaster 1967-1974)





In 1974 when Br Casey left the College, the entire Junior School lined the balconies of the newly constructed Raymer building to say goodbye.

# VALE THOMAS CASEY SPC HEADMASTER 1967-1974

Tom Casey, former Christian Brother and SPC headmaster sadly passed away last November. Once described by Br McGlade as 'a progressive headmaster', Tom Casey achieved much in his eight years here. By the end of 1974 he had completed several building projects which included the Science Block (Hodda building), the three-storey Administration Centre (Hanrahan building), TAS building (the old Crichton building) and the Junior School building (Raymer building).

In addition to reshaping the College, Tom Casey implemented other changes to both the curriculum and co-curricular program. For example, Gymnastics was added to the PE program and students were encouraged to participate in Drama and Music lessons (first band is formed in 1974). He also introduced the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Chess Club and Basketball as a competitive sport. For the seniors, a black tie with the College Crest was introduced and a separate Graduation ceremony inaugurated for Year 12 school leavers.

As a community, we pray and give thanks to Tom Casey for his significant contribution to St Patrick's College. Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him.

# OLD BOYS' LUNCHEON POSTPONED

This year, tickets to the Old Boys' annual scheduled date of Friday 20 March. With a great line-up of guests set to entertain, it was a great disappointment when we were forced to postpone the lunch at short notice due to the outbreak of COVID-19.

Our panel of guests was to be interviewed by Pat Galloway ('98) Senior Sports Ante Milicic ('91) Manager of the Australian Matildas, John Manenti ('88) Coach of the ('93) CEO of Wheelchair NSW.

We appreciate everyone's patience while we organise a later date for the lunch to be held and will of course keep you posted once this information comes to hand.

Greg Dening ('81) Old Boys' Executive Officer

## **REACHING OUT**

In this current environment, with many Old Boys isolated from family and friends, it is so important for our community to reach out and connect with one another.

I have heard some great stories about members of our community helping out others who are in need of assistance. These include Zoom conferences, setting up Facebook groups and just picking up the phone. In most cases simply chatting to someone and swapping stories can be enough to lift the spirits of someone who may be struggling.



## **PROVIDING AN** EDUCATION FOR ALL Edmund Rice used his position of advantage to

fund the education of those less fortunate than

# **DONATED** ITEMS

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# **SPFC KICKING** GOALS

What a year 2020 has turned out to was looking extremely promising with individual member numbers rising and the introduction of another All-Age team, taking the club's total number to five.

I would like to thank all our sponsors who have stuck with us through these difficult times and assure them that we will continue our commitment to them.

On an exciting note, next year SPFC will be celebrating 20 years as a club and launching some great initiatives for the 2021 season! In the meantime, stay safe and look after each other.

Nick de Lutiis ('12) SPFC Vice President

If you have registered on the Old Boys' website you may login and enter the name of an Old Boy in the top right-hand box 'Search for a member'. If the person is registered, you will be given the option 'Send user email.' This is a great first point of contact.

Thank you to all those Old boys who are checking in with one another. Always remember the power of kindness and the positive impact it can have on our Old Boys community.

Greg Dening ('81) Old Boys' Executive Officer

himself. The order of Christian Brothers he founded was committed to providing education to those who were unable to afford it. Colleges such as St Patrick's were established to provide affordable and quality education to the broadest range of people.

While St Patrick's fees represent great value and a wonderful opportunity for many young men from different backgrounds, the reality is that there are some who are unable to consider St Patrick's as an option due to financial constraints. The Brothers, mindful of the mission of Edmund Rice, made places available for these young men at a reduced cost or at no cost at all to their families.

The Old Boys, in conjunction with the College, launched the Vestra Bursary Fund in July 2015. It was established to allow the College Community to participate in the Bursary program



The St Patrick's Rugby Club was all geared up and set to tackle the 2020 season before the spectre of COVID-19 descended upon us. On our last training night, before the Government restrictions, over seventy players turned up for training and the Club was entertaining a group of players touring from Fiji.

In the week prior to this, a squad of thirty players toured Armidale playing three games in the famous black jersey. With the main trials just about to begin, over forty-five Colts, all young men from the College from 2017 to 2019 had signed up for the season.

With Rugby now suspended until June or July, the St Patrick's Rugby Club will remain ready and organised in the hope the season kicks off eventually. To the Class of 2020, our thoughts are with you and we hope and pray that you get some games in your final year at the College.

Lastly, I would like to thank our loyal sponsors for sticking with us and to AV Components for the work they have done in our Clubhouse. To all St Patrick's families, stay safe during these unprecedented times.

David Walsh ('89) President SPRC



Shaun Marsh ('15) makes ground and is backed up by Albert Jenson ('14), James Dillon ('14), Zac Palmes ('16) & Lawrence Abood ('13) during the Armidale Tour.

and to be a part of the tradition of Edmund Rice. Tax deductible contributions made to the Fund are used to pay the educational expenses of bursary students attending St Patrick's.

The selection of suitable candidates who could benefit from this program is done in a structured way to achieve positive outcomes. Supporting the Bursary Fund is a great way for Old Boys to reflect on the benefit that they have gained from St Patrick's and to give something back.

If you are interested in helping those less fortunate to be educated at the College, please donate at: https://www.bpoint.com.au/payments/edgarst

Matthew Fehon ('87) President Old Boys' Association

The College wishes to thank the following Old Boys for their generous donations: Tony Larkin ('72) First XV Rugby Jersey

Michael Roy ('65) Unknown

Andrew Walsh ('94) Basketball singlet, Basketball Coach polo shirt and silver goblet Mark McNamara ('77) First XV Rugby Jersey and First V Basketball singlet Martin Ferguson ('71) Graduation certificate from the Class of 1971 Brian Keneally ('58) 1958 Eisteddfod Trophy 'Open Instrumental' and 4 textbooks/encyclopedias A booklet entitled 'Politeness For Boys' and his Rugby League Jersey 1961 Hiking Logbook complete with photographs.

If there are any other Old Boys 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.

# OLD BOYS CATCH UP







The Class of 1965 enjoyed each other's company at their annual reunion in Novembe



## CLASS OF 1959 CELEBRATES 60 YEARS

In October of last year, twenty-seven Old Boys from the Class of 1959 and three guests gathered for lunch at the Royal Automobile Club of Australia in Sydney to celebrate their 60th Anniversary.

The gathering was lively and animated and there was the usual non recognition of some faces due to the fluctuation of time. Old Boy Fr Pat Hurley said grace, Br Kevin McDonnell who taught us Chemistry in 4th and 5th years gave an overview of the Christian Brothers in the 21st century and Greg Dening ('81) outlined the current development of the SPC Old Boys' Association.

The celebrations were organised by John Burford, who also took on the role of MC, John Malone, Michael O'Hara, Bruce McHugh and Bob O'Hara. In proposing a toast to the College, John Burford noted a positive culture within the senior ranks of the current students at SPC which he witnessed during his attendance at the last 'Back to Breen Day' in August 2019. All in all, it was a fabulous celebration!



## OLD BOY WEDDING

Congratulations to Old Boy Max Adoncello ('13) and his gorgeous bride Zonna Stehlin, who tied the knot in the College Chapel earlier this year.



# **UPCOMING** REUNIONS

Please note: At the time of publication, the following reunions are planned. However, as rules and guidelines continue to emerge during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is advisable to register on the Old Boys' website at: *https://oldboys.spc.nsw.edu.au/* where updates will be posted.

## CLASS OF 1990 - 30 YEAR REUNION

All are encouraged to attend the College's Back to Breen Day beginning with Mass in the College Chapel at 12.30pm.

Date:	Saturday 8 August 2020
Time:	From 12.30pm at the College Chapel
Venue:	The Locker Room, 15 Olympic Park Boulevard,
	Sydney Olympic Park
Time:	5.30pm
Contact:	Paul McLeay
	E: paulmcleay@gmail.com

## CLASS OF 1995 - 25 YEAR REUNION

Date:	Saturday 15 August 2020
Details:	ТВА
Contact:	Shaun Cousins
	E: Shaun.r.cousins@gmail.com

## CLASS OF 2000 - 20 YEAR REUNION

Saturday 31 August 2020 TBA
https://www.facebook.com/groups/2418060388460104/ Luke Phillips E: luke.phillips@nudebynature.com.au

## CLASS OF 1970 - 50 YEAR REUNION

Date: Venue: Time: Contact:	Saturday 5 September 2020 Angel Hotel, 125 Pitt Street, Sydney 7.00pm-10.30pm Jim Neville E: jneville@practical.net.au
Contact:	

## CLASS OF 1980 - 40 YEAR REUNION

Date:	Saturday 7 November 2020
Venue:	Criterion Hotel, 260 Pitt St, Sydney
Time:	7.00pm
Contact:	Peter Doyle
	E: doylep@ozemail.com.au

## CLASS OF 1960 - 60 YEAR REUNION

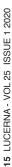
 Date:
 Tuesday 10 November 2020

 Venue:
 City Tattersalls Club, 181 Elizabeth Street, Sydney

 Time:
 12.00pm

 Contact:
 Paul Ballesty

 E: ballo@tpg.com.au







ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE

Francis Street Strathfield NSW 2135 02 9763 1000 spc@spc.nsw.edu.au www.spc.nsw.edu.au

Founded 1928 A Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition



EDMUND RICE EDUCATION AUSTRALIA

# LUCEAT LUX VESTRA

"Let your light shine"