

# It's Time 2021



Look Up, Look Out  
& Look Forward

**Its Time Lets Rejoice**

**By the 2021 Social Justice Action Group**

# Contents

<i>Contents</i> .....	2	Eden Gittany- National ERA For Change Member .....	16
<i>It's Time Editorial</i> .....	3	<i>Making a Difference</i> .....	17
Ms Gillian Daley- Director of Identity ....	3	Mr Jordan Bottalico.....	17
<i>SJAG Goals for 2020-2021</i> .....	5	<i>NAIDOC Week</i> .....	18
Paul Akle- Social Justice Prefect .....	5	George Cheaib- Co-Curricular Sport Prefect.....	18
<i>Refugee Advocacy At SPC</i> .....	6	<i>Christmas Hamper Appeal</i> .....	19
Joshua Chander- Sustainability Prefect..	6	Adrian Biscotto- College Vice Captain..	19
<i>Alice Springs Immersion</i> .....	7	<i>How can we be like Edmund Rice? .....</i>	20
Anthony Chahin- Faith Formation Prefect .....	7	Mr Matthew Herro.....	20
.....	8	<i>Hanrietta Lacks</i> .....	22
<i>Inclusivity at SPC</i> .....	9	Mrs Felicity Warsop.....	22
Francis Ters- Inclusive Community Prefect .....	9	<i>Freedom</i> .....	24
<i>Importance of Justice at the College</i> .....	10	Mr Stephen Cooper .....	24
Michael Bejjani- College Captain.....	10	<i>SOL Service</i> .....	25
<i>Joint Justice Afternoon and EREA Climate Statement</i> .....	11	Justin Sperenza – SJAG Member .....	25
Paul Akle- Social Justice Prefect .....	11	<i>Long Lasting effects of COVID 19 on Justice Work</i> .....	26
<i>COP 26</i> .....	12	Norton Brown (SJAG Member) and James Hraiki (Learning & Technology Prefect) .....	26
Daniel De Pasquale, William Chahin and Gianni Cotroneo (FIAT).....	12	<i>Indigenous Chemistry</i> .....	27
<i>Junior School Justice</i> .....	13	Joseph Tannous- Yr 11 Chemistry Student.....	27
Samuel Naccarella and Gabriel Stanton (JSJ).....	13	<i>Year 8 Science</i> .....	28
<i>28 Days For Change</i> .....	14	Jacob Tran, Christian Angilleta, Jamie Sattout and Oliver Quinn- Year 8 Science Students .....	28
Blake Timillero- College Vice Captain..	14	<i>Blankets</i> .....	29
<i>Christmas</i> .....	15		
Mrs Jessica Burgess .....	15		
<i>ERA for Change</i> .....	16		

# It's Time Editorial

Ms Gillian Daley- Director of Identity

“But I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy”

(John 16:22)

The SJAG Team have chosen a beautiful piece of stimulus for our final edition of It's Time for the year. We move into the season of joy with Advent, followed by Christmas. For most of us this is a happy time (albeit sometimes stressful), but mostly it is about celebrating the coming of Christ into the world so that eventually we may be saved. The importance of giving really comes back to this event – God gave us his only son. So, in return, we need to give of ourselves to carry on what God started.

Giving at Christmas is usually associated with presents. In many ways these are a gift of ourselves as they say something about us and the person we are giving to. However, the need to give is much greater than the material. Our time, our care and our support can be the greatest gifts we can give. They are things we can never get back and we give freely.

As well as giving to family and friends, as Christians it is important for us to give to those who we don't know but who are in great need. This is what it means to care for our neighbour. Many have had their joy taken away in this earthly life, but as the embodiment of Christ we are needed to help return it before they return to the Kingdom of God in the next life. We provide this joy through the hampers we deliver at Christmas, through the notes we write, through the time we give at aged care homes or Christmas parties for the marginalised, and so on.

Too often lately our lives have become more internalised, and the seeking of convenience has become the enemy of joy. We need to remind ourselves to look outwards, and to care for the other. Not only does this bring joy, but it enhances our lives and gives a greater sense of satisfaction and joy than we can ever get from the material.

This edition of It's Time is full of inspiration on how to support a variety of issues and organisations, helping to return their joy and/or simply learning about them in the hope we can advocate for their cause. Our Christmas and post-lockdown world is a busy one; no questioning that. But the less we do now to work for the common good and ensure the dignity of all humanity and the protection of our earth, the tougher it will become in the future and the bigger the issues will be. We need to keep things in check so they don't get out of hand. Look for some ideas on how you can play your part in bringing joy to the world.

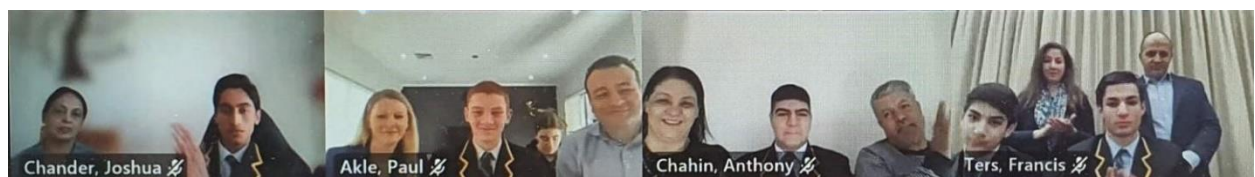
As the year concludes, I offer a very big thank you to the 2021 Identity Prefects: Harry Richardson (Social Justice Prefect), Vincent Younes (Sustainability Prefect) and Patrick Tandiono (Spirituality / Faith Formation Prefect). They put their heart and soul into

their roles this year and led some great initiatives despite the difficulties we faced. I wish the three of you well for the future and hope you continue to spread the message wherever you go.

I also welcome the new Prefects: Paul Akle (Social Justice Prefect), Joshua Chander (Sustainability Prefect), Anthony Chahin (Spirituality / Faith Formation Prefect) and Francis Ters as the newly introduced Inclusive Community Prefect. They have served SJAG well for years and will be shining lights in the year ahead.

Even in lockdown our Social Justice Co-curricular groups continued to gather online and make things happen. They have all been outstanding! The Social Justice Action Group (SJAG) is riding a wave of enthusiasm and commitment. In this magazine you can see what has been done and what is to come. Thanks to all the young men, Mrs Rodricks and Mrs Smith who lead us well and remind us to act for the good of all. The Faith In Action Team (FIAT) have also continued to model faith and action through their initiatives and gatherings thanks to Mrs Sinadinos and now Mrs Lazarou. And this year we finally cemented Junior School Justice (JSJ) who have been led by Mrs Young and now Mr Cooper, demonstrating their passion and willingness to serve. Well done to all of the boys across the College who give their time to support this area of College life, and all those boys and families who work for justice and peace in the world.

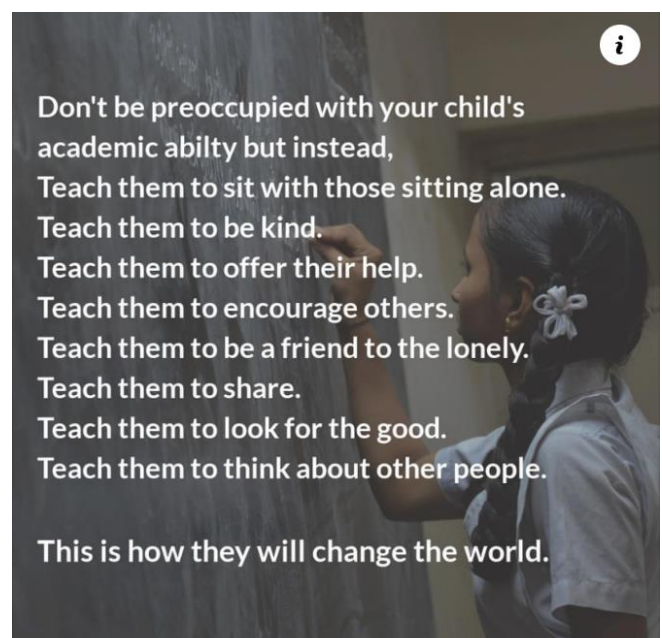
Wishing each of you a just and joyous Christmas! May Christ's blessings be upon you.



Newly appointed Identity Prefects  
2022



Harry Richardson  
Social Justice Prefect 2021





# SJAG Goals for 2020-2021

Paul Akle- Social Justice Prefect

**“At the end of the storm there’s a golden sky” – You’ll Never Walk Alone.**

This quote from a famous song sums it up perfectly. We have endured a disrupted semester and now the future is looking bright. Most of us have emerged and our lives have not changed much but that is not the case for everyone, especially those who were previously disadvantaged and marginalised, communities, decimated and livelihoods destroyed. I know this sounds very dramatic but it is indeed the reality for so many fellow human beings. Now more than ever those who are disadvantaged need our help. Over the past few months many of the initiatives that we at SPC participate in have had to be cancelled, so we need to make a concerted effort to catch up and exceed all expectations with the fundraising and collections that are coming up – lets hit the ball out of the park.

Justice at SPC comes in many forms, from Junior School Justice (JSJ), to the Faith in Action Team (FIAT) to the Social Justice Action Group (SJAG), and everything in between. Justice is at the core of the College, and it is obvious that all of us, no matter the age, are able to help one another. It is my aim for the upcoming year to get as many people as possible involved in justice at the College in any way possible. We all have time constraints but I urge every one of you to stand up and show your empathy to those people less fortunate than yourselves – I CHALLENGE YOU. Through my time here at SPC, I have been lucky enough to be part of FIAT and SJAG and to partake in many different programs which allowed me to recognise the way in which we, as the future leaders of society, are able to advocate and encourage change within the world. It is these experiences that I want the whole College to share as they have given me opportunities which will be with me for the rest of my life. Through the guidance of Ms Daley, Mrs Rodricks. Mrs Smith and others, you will learn what true commitment is.

Through the Winter Sleepout, Refugee Week, Fairtrade Fortnight, Social Justice Service, SOL Service, Lenten Appeal, Christmas Hampers and many other initiatives we are able to give back to the community and make an enormous impact on the wider community and our justice partners. Being involved in justice opportunities at SPC will not only help those in need but will also help us as develop into responsible accountable young men.

We should all be guided by Pope Francis our faith leader, ‘None of us can think we are exempt from concerns for the poor and for social justice’. We all have a level of commitment to justice but I want to make it my priority and urge every one of you to give that little bit extra during the next 12 months and beyond because if that is possible our existing initiatives will explode and your generosity and motivation will bring you satisfaction beyond your expectations. I hope to be able to connect with the people that we help so that they can explain to you first hand how your generosity can change lives. Unfortunately, sometimes we need to ‘see to believe’ and I hope that this little idea will give you all another perspective on the actual difference you are making.

‘None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful’- Mother Teresa

# Refugee Advocacy At SPC

Joshua Chander- Sustainability Prefect

Refugee Sunday celebrated on June 20 is a pivotal day in the strong humanitarian activism which surrounds the topic of the global refugee crisis. Refugee Sunday is a Christian supported and recognised asylum activism campaign which seeks out to follow the grace of Jesus' selfless and truly humane life to help and guide refugees to lives of safety and security.

At SPC, we have been truly inspired by Refugee Sunday which has led us to try and tackle humanitarian and refugee crisis issues as a school community, especially via our Social Justice Action Group, Faith In Action Team and Junior School Justice which all stand in solidarity for refugee awareness and safety. Back in June of this year, the whole College community sat in unity when listening to the heart wrenching and traumatic backstory of a refugee from Afghanistan named Zaki Haidari, who shared his personal story as a persecuted member of the Hazara Ethnic group, specifically targeted by the Taliban for their facial appearance and cultural beliefs. Zaki shared his most terrifying memories, which included the fear of beheading if found to be seeking an education in Afghanistan- a sad reality which occurred when Zaki's own father and brother fell to the hands of this same fate.

As a school, SPC was moved by Zaki's story and fuelled via our immense support and pledge for the Refugee Sunday initiative, believed that it was time to take action and stand up for refugees across the world. With the recent Kabul Refugee Crisis in Afghanistan this year, SPC decided to make a hard stand to fight for Refugee safety and asylum, especially seen through

our Director of Identity Ms Daley who set up a petition page "Recognition for Refugees & People Seeking Asylum In Australia- SPC Strathfield" which sought to fight for the safety and rights of refugees such as Zaki whom face the brutalities of being a refugee, starved of their essentials to live. Hence, SPC's involvement in initiatives such as Refugee Sunday echo the values of our College which seeks to fight for refugee freedom, safety and above all lives away from terror, violence and anguish.



# Alice Springs Immersion

Anthony Chahin- Faith Formation Prefect

Despite our flight being on Sunday 20 June, our immersion experience started much earlier in preparation and then on Saturday morning at the Concord Covid testing clinic. By 8:00 am, we were all lined up, including the teachers, and by 8:30 am, we were all leaving the clinic with slightly sore noses to help our desire to head to the Red Centre. With God on our side, we were lucky enough to leave NSW and continue with the program mostly as per scheduled. Over the course of eleven days, we experienced a cultural awakening in the heart of Australia.



Out of respect for the Elders wishes, we did not attend St Joseph's Flexi as a precautionary action for any COVID risks. However, at the start of every day we participated in online calls with the fellas where they shared Dreamtime stories relating to the sacred sites we were going to visit for the day. They told us the stories, history and Dreaming connected to the place. Thanks to the fellas, the rock paintings of Emily Gap, the water of Ellery Creek, the cracks of Uluru and the domes of Kata Tjuta came to life with stories of the giant caterpillars, Rainbow Serpent, Lungkata the greedy Lizard and more.



We traded details about how different our lives were, but also found beauty in the many things we had in common, such as interests in sport and video games. Our bond deepened in ways which didn't expect to happen over a screen. The fellas were able to make an hour call feel like 10 minutes with their personal life stories and with some of their jokes.

Swimming in sub-zero temperatures at Ellery Creek waterhole, hiking through the mountaintops of Kings Canyon, and admiring the sunrise/sunset every day at the top of ANZAC hill were just some of the many

experiences that we were fortunate enough to be granted. We also visited many other culturally significant landmarks, all of which were some of the most beautiful places that any of us had ever seen. This included the Emily and Jessie Gaps, Simpsons Gap, Standley Chasm, Corroboree Rock, the Ochre pits and many more. Each one had their own rich and unique history that spans thousands of years.

When we couldn't possibly think of anything else to see or do to make this trip better, our three-day trip to Kata Tjuta, Uluru and Kings Canyon was still yet awaiting us. After a long bus ride filled with laughter and excitement our high expectations had not been disappointed. Kata Tjuta took us all by surprise with its immense natural beauty, something that is permanently embedded in my mind. Uluru was a sight to behold, not





only due to its enormous size and sharp red colours, but also because of its sacred presence. We heard the story of how Uluru came to be, with the deadly battle between two ancestral beings: Kuniya, the sand python, and Liru, the poisonous snake. It was fascinating to hear that each crack, groove and gap had a story behind it. We truly felt its spiritual connection. For both nights, we slept outside in swags with company from the dingos, we took in the beauty of the night sky, watching the stars glimmer as they zoomed across the horizon. In the mornings, we witnessed dazzling sunrises, watching the sky being painted with orange, pink and blue colours.

The time we spent together as a group was priceless, as we grew our own understanding and connection to the land that we were so fond of. I grew a relationship with the rest of the boys that I will forever keep close to me. Right through from sunrise to sunset, we bonded and acknowledged that the land that we were so taken aback by meant so much to our Aboriginal brothers and sisters.

The Aboriginal culture is one that is so rich and beautiful and is something that one cannot truly grow to appreciate until you have the opportunity to respectfully interact with it and engage with First Nations peoples from local communities. For everyone of us who travelled on this immersion, our lives have been changed forever, and despite the unfortunate circumstances, the lessons that we learned, the opportunities that we were granted and every laugh that we shared together will forever remain in our hearts. *'For every inch we give the land, it returns a mile'*. We would like to thank Ms Daley for giving us this opportunity and finding every possible way to make this immersion go ahead, as well as Mr Fox and Mr Cooper for making the trip even more memorable. It was a once-in-a-lifetime adventure that I will cherish forever.





# Inclusivity at SPC

## Francis Ters- Inclusive Community Prefect

One of the four touchstones at St Patrick's College is inclusive community. At SPC, our community is accepting and welcoming, fostering right relationships and committed to the common good. Inclusivity is something we hold very dearly and try to integrate into all aspects of our life.

One major area of focus of inclusivity within the school is our call to be inclusive towards First Nations peoples. Even in 2021, there are still many issues and disadvantages that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people regularly face.

In June this year, 9 Year 11 students and I went to Alice Springs on a cultural immersion with St Joseph's Flexible Learning Centre in Alice Springs. We aimed to demonstrate inclusivity within the college by maintaining a strong relationship with the fellas. While we were unable to communicate face-to-face, we regularly jumped on zoom calls, and created diverse conversations - from discussing the complex Arrente Dreaming stories of the MacDonnell Ranges and Simpson's Gap, to hearing about how Fortnite was now an elective at St Joseph's for students to play. Many times, being inclusive to others isn't about always being of service and forcing people to do things they don't want to do, but instead just being simple - starting a conversation, asking questions, not trying to force your way into people's lives. When we're able to make those around us feel comfortable, we're including them the right way and fostering "right" relationships. It

wasn't a surprise that even on rainy days, fellas were turning up to our zoom meetings. Inclusivity can also mean taking time out of your life to discover how other people live and what customs they follow. While in the Northern Territory, we undertook a deep study of Aboriginal culture and its relationship with the land and Dreaming, visiting many sacred sites, such as Simpson's Gap in the MacDonnell ranges, and even venturing to Uluru and Kata Tjuta on Anangu Pitjantjara land. We were introduced to the many stories and customs of the Aboriginal people here, allowing us to gain a better understanding of the First Nations way of life, and become more accepting and inclusive of Aboriginal culture as a whole.

But there are more ways to be inclusive outside of SPC immersions. I strongly encourage everyone reading this to research the RAP (Reconciliation Action Plan) and identify ways in which your local community and the SPC community are attempting to bring about reconciliation, and discover ways in which you yourselves, can become more inclusive to First Nations peoples. It can be as simple as making an acknowledgement to the country during prayer or when gathering, purchasing the Aboriginal face masks to help local communities and getting involved in various community initiatives that promote RAP values.

Inclusivity also extends to other contemporary issues at the College. Being incredibly diverse, it is important that we take time to acknowledge and respect the heritage of others instead of promoting racist and prejudiced behaviour. Sometimes we do not even know we're offending others - we use slurs without thinking about what we're actually saying to, or about, other people and their identity. We must call out racist behaviour by ourselves and those we know, and should instead look for ways to embrace and celebrate our heritage and differences.

# Importance of Justice at the College

Michael Bejjani- College Captain

It is often easy to get caught up within the busyness of the everyday life at the College and push aside some pivotal aspects of life. One of these is very often justice. As I'm sure every boy is aware, the college is involved with numerous justice organisations, and actively contributes to helping those who need it the most. Not only does justice work help those in need, but it also helps individuals grow in their faith and spirituality. The justice work at the college allows for us all to be a part of and witness so many life-changing and eye-opening experiences. These experiences not only change the individual but change the community.

There is a common saying that reads,

**'justice is like a train that is nearly always late'.**

As disheartening as this may be to hear, it is a saying that holds some truth. Looking at society and the world around us, it is clear that justice, if it is served, is often too late. At times when justice is rightfully served, it is more often than not a result of society becoming aware, taking action, and finally advocating for the voiceless. This AAA (Awareness, Action, Advocacy) structure is one that probably sounds familiar to all, as it is one that is instilled within the justice work of all at the college. Through numerous events such as justice and spirituality days in which each grade participates, boys are made aware of the social justice issues around the world. We are then called to take action in order to help those who need us most. This comes in many different forms at SPC. These include

SOL service activities, helping around the school, helping around the local community, and many other different activities. We are then called to advocate for the voiceless, which is something that many boys strive to do within their everyday lives.

At St Patricks College, we are fortunate enough to be advantaged with fundamental basic freedoms like a roof over our heads, food on our tables, and water to drink. It is significant that we recognize these advantages and don't underestimate them, rather use them to help the people who aren't afforded those same privileges. Through this we are empowering ourselves, and others, to learn and grow, to be an inclusive community. A community that is grounded in justice and faith.



As we enter this time of year, I'm sure many people are excited to finally 'rejoice' as the light at the end of the tunnel seems to edge closer and closer. This time of year is one of faith, of joy, of love, of hope, and of spirit, and reminds us all of how much we have to be thankful for. Considering the year that has just passed, it may sound absurd to think that we have so much for which to be thankful, but the very fact that we have all returned to school is a celebration within itself. This year has proven to be difficult more times than it has been easy, however it is through these difficulties that we are all able to develop and learn to love all aspects of life.

# Joint Justice Afternoon and EREA Climate Statement

Paul Akle- Social Justice Prefect

The EREA Climate Crisis Statement speaks to all members of society, from large business owners and Governments to individual students and smaller community groups as we can all make a difference.

The EREA Climate Statement calls for action to be taken in all areas concerning sustainability and the environment in order to restore God's precious creations. This statement provides areas through which sustainability can be accomplished such as education, spirituality, action and reflection. An example of how sustainability can be achieved through spirituality and action is to;

**“Provide opportunities for young people to learn advocacy/peace building skills.”**

(EREA Climate Statement, 2021: 10)

In addition, EREA focuses on the role that we, as the next generation of activists, have in addressing these issues as this statement has been constructed from a group of over 1600 young people from EREA schools and various other members of our school communities.

As school students at St Patricks College, it is our responsibility to deepen our knowledge of our one common home so that we can advocate for ecological care and justice for the next generation. As stated by an EREA young person,

**“We want our children to be able to see the stars in the sky from wherever they are in the world”.**

It is our responsibility to shift the upward trends of pollution, water and food waste and the use of non-recyclable materials such as plastics. This statement therefore aims to shift attitudes and actions, to address the climate crisis and to restore harmony to God's creation.

Furthermore, the wisdom of the First Nations Peoples provides a role model to all Australians as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People show a deep understanding and respect for the land. We can emulate their connection to land and country by adopting sustainable practices.

On Wednesday the 15 September the Social Justice Action Group (SJAG), Faith In Action Team (FIAT) and Junior School Justice (JSJ) came together to discuss these issues and what this means for us as the next generation. We also discussed some of the methods we could use in our day-to-day lives which would provide a positive impact on our environment. I say 'our environment' because it is our responsibility to protect what was so generously given to us by God for his people.



# COP 26

Daniel De Pasquale, William Chahin and Gianni Cotroneo (FIAT)

The COP26 summit has been at the forefront of the world's minds as we await the decisions made by politicians that will frame the rest of our lives. The world has watched in anticipation as we listen to speeches made by world leaders like Joe Biden, Narendra Modi and other figures such as Greta Thunberg, Barak Obama and António Guterres. Perhaps the most dramatic and captivating speech was at the opening of the event when host Boris Johnson dived head first into the issue of climate change.



One of the most compelling parts of his speech was his analogy of Climate Change as a doomsday device that is ticking down, putting us in the position of safely disarming it before it detonates and destroys life as we know it. Perhaps the reason why this analogy was so effective in calling Climate change to everyone's attention was because of the extremity and severity of it, but overall, it has achieved its goal of getting everyone invested and wanting to protect our planet. There are several things that we can do as a society to protect Australia, the rest of the world, the future and the younger generations of Earth.

An important thing to think about before taking any actions is to spread awareness.

Fortunately, most people know about the current state of Climate Change and how it may affect us in the future if we do not act now. However, some people are still unaware of just how serious this issue is and so spreading statistics and information in the form of posters, word of mouth or advertisements are extremely important.

While not directly effecting climate change, another way we can care for our earth and help to sustain it is to encourage everyone to participate in Nude Food. This initiative involves people using no plastic wrap for their daily lunches but rather packing them in reusable containers or lunchbox compartments. This will greatly help our environment despite seemingly small and insignificant as, currently in NSW alone we are throwing away over 1.5 million yogurt suckers, 3 million small tubs and 11 million Ziplock bags - not to mention the cling wrap.

Finally, there are many things that we can do at home to help our earth, that are extremely simple but very effective. For one, taking shorter showers, turning the tap off while brushing your teeth and conserving water in other ways all contribute to the overall state of our environment greatly. Secondly, recycling is also very important and helps to reduce the amount of waste going landfill every year by turning it into something we can keep using again and again.

Overall, there are many ways in which we, as stewards of creation and people who will ultimately be affected by Climate Change in the near future, can help our environment, protect our land and build a better and brighter future for everyone on Earth. Remember that every little bit counts!

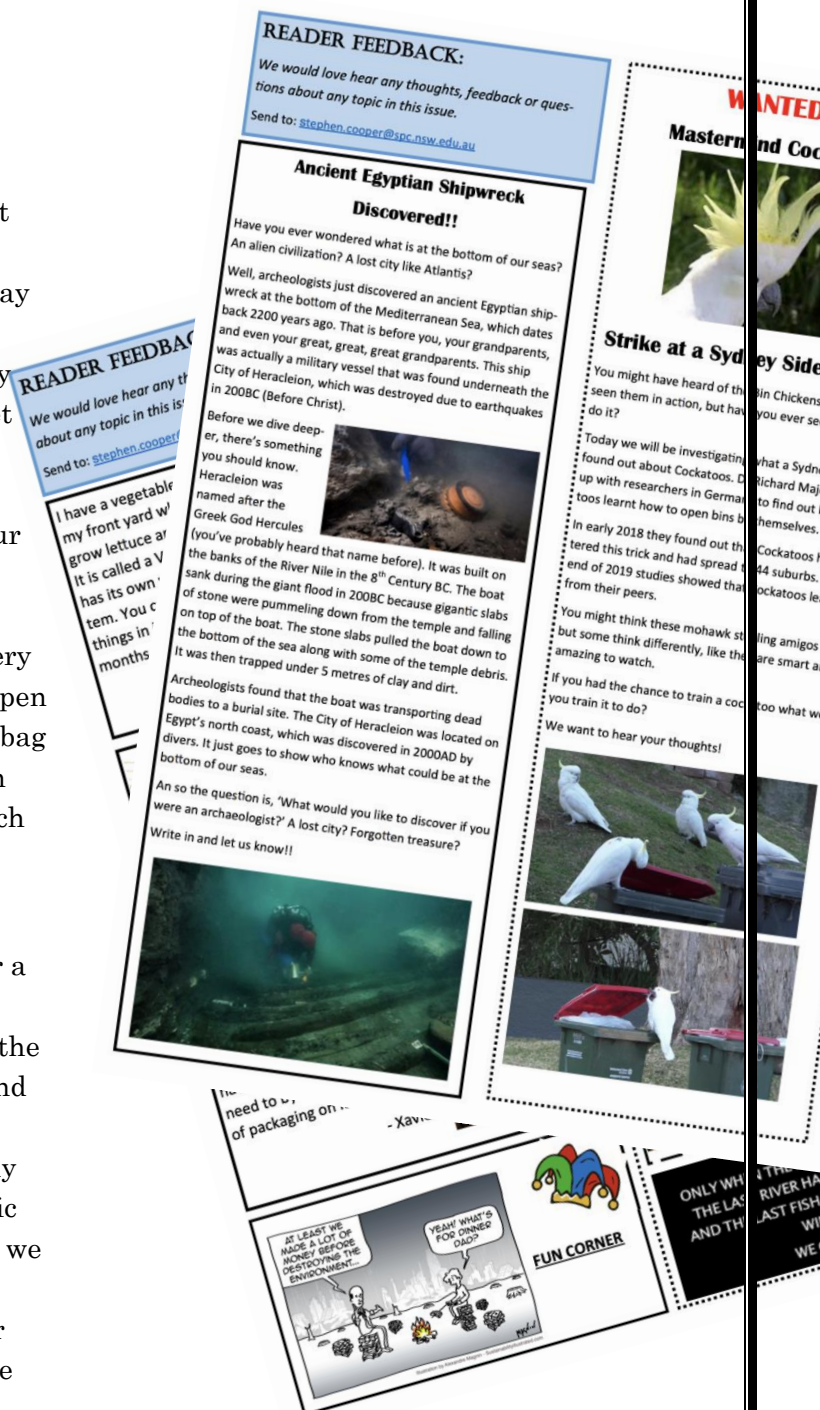
# Junior School Justice

Samuel Naccarella and Gabriel Stanton (JSJ)

The Junior School Justice group has been working on many projects this year, such as using the colour house bins for recycling, making posters, reusing tea bags for compost and art. We also began making online newsletters so Junior School students can stay sustainable during lockdown and starting to think of the idea to put compost bins in every JS classroom. When we all had our first meeting up, we thought of ideas that we could implement into the Junior School. We first made the Junior School re-aware of the colour house bins under the undercroft and in the Coghlan Building by making posters and putting them all around the school. Also, every week we all started the meeting by cutting open tea bags. We then used the tea leaves of the bag and put them in a bowl for compost and then we moved the bag itself in another bowl which would be used to make art.

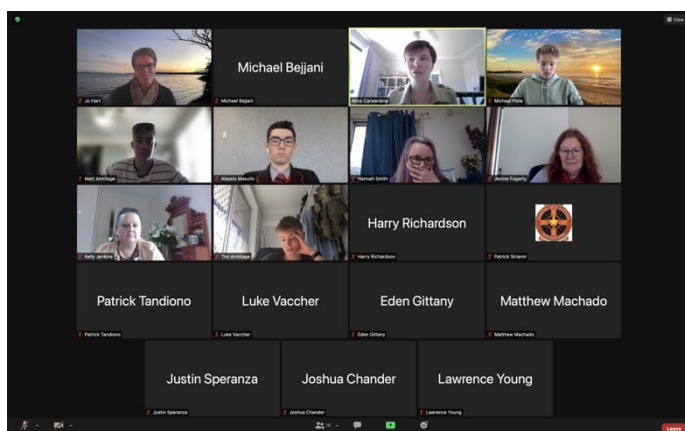
After many brainstorm sessions for what we should do next, we came up with the idea for a Junior School Newsletter. The newsletter includes jokes, cooking recipes, and informs the students who read it about environmental and social issues in an engaging and fun way. So far, we have released three issues, with many more to come. Each issue focuses on a specific theme, for example in our second newsletter we focussed on sustainability, and how to be sustainable at home during lockdown. In our most recent issue, we focused on SOL Service

and how to gain points. Each member of the Junior School Justice Team has a role to play, some of us write a paragraph on the focus for that issue and others find recipes and jokes to include in the newsletter. The overall aim of the Junior School Newsletter is to make everyone aware of the issues that are going on in society, in both the past, present, and future.



# 28 Days For Change

Blake Timillero- College Vice Captain



Edmund Rice Advocacy (ERA) For Change, is a youth advocacy network that stands for equality, human rights, and justice and solidarity with all people, and with the earth itself.

From 16 August to 12 September this year, Edmund Rice Advocacy (ERA) For Change held a '28 Days for Climate Campaign'. This campaign aimed to engage students and staff from the Edmund Rice network as well as that broader community in sustainability initiatives that help

reduce waste and energy use.

The 2021 theme was 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Promoting Sustainable change on our earth through waste and energy reduction'. Through following the principles of reducing, reusing and recycling, there are many ways that we can make much needed changes to excessive electricity use, food waste, and the presence of plastic on our earth. I believe there is often the misconception about actions having to be massive and therefore it can't be undertaken. However, this campaign focused on getting people to play their part on a smaller scale with the hope that this will contribute to something bigger.

The campaign was separated into two themes, waste, and energy. The waste component had a particular focus on student waste reduction while the energy part aimed to support schools to reduce their energy consumption. Throughout the 28 days, the themes alternated each week.

As students, this campaign was most noticeable on social media platforms such as Instagram and Twitter. Throughout the 28 days, ERA posted one important fact/stat a day and a way that we can play our part in reducing this issue. It was devastating to see some of alarming and sadly true realities of the world in which we currently live. However, as time continues to progress, there are becoming more and more ways that we can put an end to issues that are still present in society.

Overall, this is a great initiative and a wonderful opportunity for individuals and larger communities to raise awareness for very important issues in modern day society. We hope Edmund Rice Advocacy run something similar next year and that we can get as many boys as possible involved throughout the whole SPC community.





# Christmas

Mrs Jessica Burgess

I love Christmas. As the weather warms up and the days become longer, I often feel the excitement of the changing seasons like butterflies in my stomach. I love the hymns during Mass and the carols in the shopping centers. I love the lights; I love the social gatherings and anticipate these Christmas parties more than ever this year. Most of all I love the chance to relax during school holidays and spend quality time with my family. This year, I have a new kind of excitement for Christmas as my 2-year-old is now old enough to understand and share in all joy and



celebration which the season brings. Advent is the season of preparation and waiting. While a lot of our preparations for Christmas involve buying gifts for our loved ones and planning Christmas lunch, Advent offers us an opportunity to spiritually prepare for Christ's presence in the world. It is a time to also consider how we can bring a Christ-like presence to our communities, especially those who live on the margins of society.

116, 000 Australians were classified as homeless in the 2016 Census. A further breakdown of this figure shows that 44% of all people experiencing homelessness are living in dwellings which are severely crowded, 18% live in supported accommodation, 15% stay temporarily with other households and 7% sleep rough. According to the Salvation Army, the five most common reasons that cause homelessness are housing crisis (26.5%); domestic or family violence (13.7%); financial difficulties (12.2%); inadequate or inappropriate dwelling (11.1%); and transition from custodial arrangements (5.5%). Further to this, the Salvation Army have observed over the course of 2019-2020 that three in ten clients presenting as experiencing homelessness were under the age of 18, equating to approximately 85,000 children. When faced with statistics like this, it is easy to feel overwhelmed at the issue. How can I solve a problem as big as this? My proposed solution to you all is to be big-hearted this Christmas. While donating to groups like the Salvation Army does help, it is often an easy way to appease the unease we may feel when confronted with social inequities. After giving so beautifully to this year's Christmas Appeal I challenge you all to give generously wherever else you can, and to consider being charitable with your time by volunteering with organisations such as the Exodus Foundation who host a Christmas lunch for those in need.

As we all look forward to sitting down with our loved ones on Christmas day to share a meal together, and exchange gifts remember that the love that we extend to others through our generosity today will allow for families and individuals less fortunate than ourselves to experience a similar joy on December 25. The hampers that we make allow families to share a Christmas meal together, and the gifts we pick out and wrap give a child the thrill of opening a present that is just for them. If you choose to volunteer your time, you are choosing to be family for someone who may be otherwise alone on Christmas day.

Every year as Christmas day winds down, a part of me wishes that every day could be Christmas. That every day we could spend quality time with our loved ones, eating good food and shower them with generosity. Just as I long for an eternal Christmas, those experiencing homelessness long for generosity, care and connection all year round. If you are moved this Christmas to be Christ-like, this is a great way to begin a new liturgical year. But I challenge you to remain Christ-like once the lights are taken down, the decorations packed away and the Michael Bublé Christmas album retired for the year because our most vulnerable people don't just need us on Christmas day, they need us every day.

# ERA for Change

## Eden Gittany- National ERA For Change Member

Edmund Rice Advocacy (ERA) For Change, is a youth advocacy network, that stands for equality, human rights, and justice and solidarity with all people and the earth itself. Drawing upon the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. they aim to work alongside Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders, Edmund Rice International, The Edmund Rice Centre, and other Edmund Rice networks around the world in advocating for a more just and peaceful world.

During the remote learning period I was fortunate enough to be nominated for a potential role as part of the ERA for Change Executive Leadership team for EREA schools across Australia. After putting forward my application outlining what I am passionate about and how I want to make a difference, I wasn't really expecting that email back saying I got the role a couple weeks later. Although I wasn't expecting this, I believe everyone is given an opportunity to make a change. This is not just my opportunity, but the school's as a whole. We are now able to take our



school-based and local initiatives to the next level and upgrade them to state and even nationwide.

Nearing the end of remote learning, Friday 15 October saw my first meeting with the members of the Executive Leadership Group, with members from all around Australia including NSW, Western Australia, South Australia, Queensland and Victoria. It was quite daunting yet thrilling to know that people across Australia share the same passion. The first meeting was mainly just an introduction into how things work and getting to know one another and understanding what the group aspires to accomplish in the busy year ahead with regard to advocacy and making a difference.

After all this, it was quite evident that there are many issues not only in Australia but around the world that urgently need to be addressed. Some of these issues we spoke of as a group were, Climate change and sustainability, refugees and human dignity, Covid-19 and vaccine inequalities and human rights advocacy, all of which we are quite familiar with at St Patrick's and I believe able to help make a change.

Each year the ERA for Change group holds a launch day, where it aims to connect students and teachers in our national network to facilitate advocacy-based conversations. The theme,

### "How to be a Change Maker"

very fittingly summarized the key takeaway from the day. Participants attend different workshops to develop their advocacy skills and knowledge to become change makers. Schools from all across Australia attended this year's Launch Day, even a couple from overseas and now we are in the planning for the Launch Day to kick off 2022.

I am very grateful to have this role, however it is not just me rather the school as a whole that is a part of this, and I am merely acting as a bridge to get all your fantastic advocacy ideas that take place in school, and lift them to a state and possibly a national level.

# Making a Difference

Mr Jordan Bottalico

Elon Musk, Jeffrey Bezos, and Richard Branson are all names that you have no doubt heard many times during 2021, mostly for spending millions upon millions of dollars to get themselves into space. Jeffrey Bezos alone, spent \$5.5 billion to fund his trip to the stars, and while Richard Branson didn't go as high, he still spent a casual \$600 million. We may have looked on with awe and amazement at these feats of science and technology and may have even thought that one day space travel will be as common as flying overseas. When put under the lens of social justice, however, this becomes a little less magnificent. Think of the good that could have been done if that money was distributed to causes supporting people in need. Think of how these individuals could have bettered the world with their resources rather than having a billionaire space race to feed their own individualistic desires. In the world we live in today there are so many people with the means to make a difference, yet it is often everyday ordinary people who create change.

For example, very few people would have heard the names Justine and Daniel Flynn, the wife and husband co-founders of 'Thankyou,' a company that has raised \$17 million dollars since 2008 by donating all funds raised from their products to their charity partners around the world. You can buy their body products and snacks in most Australian supermarkets today.

Blake Mycoskie is another name you would not have heard of. After traveling to Argentina in 2006, Blake was shocked by how many children living in poverty did not have shoes. This inspired him to start TOMS (Tomorrow-shoes), a company that for every pair of shoes they sold would donate a pair to children in poverty.

Over 10 years, his team developed relationships with over 200 non-governmental and humanitarian organizations in 80 countries worldwide allowing the company to donate nearly 100 million pairs of shoes.

During a surf trip to Bali in 2015, Alex Schulze and Andrew Cooper decided to create 4Ocean, a company that would hire boat captains and fisherman in communities heavily impacted by plastic pollution as full-time, professional clean-up crew members to recover plastic and other harmful debris from the ocean, rivers and coastlines. The company then aims to repurpose the plastic and rubbish collected into innovative products such as their bracelets which are sold online.

Finally, in 2014, in a garage in Brisbane, two twenty-year-old mates, Nic Marchesi and Lucas Patchett decided to install a couple of washing machines and dryers in the back of their old van. They then visited parks around Brisbane to wash and dry the clothes of the homeless for free in an attempt to improve hygiene and restore some dignity to those on the margins. Their company, known as Orange Sky, now has 39 services across the country and now also includes shower services. The company website claims that its greatest accomplishment is that volunteers have engaged in 242,817 hours of conversations to date, helping to challenge the perception of homelessness.

The past two years have been a time of great struggle for many and great success for few. As members of the SPC community we are fortunate and lucky to have influence and power to make change. In this time, while so many people are still recovering from the hardships of the past 24 months, we should feel called as people of fortune to spread joy to those struggling. We do not need billions of dollars to make change, we only need an idea and the support of our community. We have ingrained the values of the gospels and the notion of service and inclusive community that should persuade us to rejoice with all people. So, what idea will you have that will bring joy to the world and make a difference?



# NAIDOC Week

George Cheaib- Co-Curricular  
Sport Prefect

NAIDOC Week is a national week of celebration that recognises and acknowledges the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. NAIDOC week 2021 was celebrated from the 4th – 11th July.



NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. Its origins can be traced to the emergence of Aboriginal groups in the 1920's which sought to increase awareness in the wider community of the status and treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. NAIDOC is not only celebrated in Indigenous communities but by Australians from all aspects of life.

The week provides an excellent opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. At St Patrick's we have proudly taken part in various activities and initiatives that have further deepened the knowledge of many in the College community about the significance of NAIDOC Week. Some of these include displaying the National NAIDOC Poster in different areas of the school, the creation of art to represent the 2020 theme

and research into the traditional Indigenous owners of various students' areas.

The theme for NAIDOC Week this year is "Heal country!". This year's theme invites the nation to embrace First Nations' cultural knowledge and understanding of Country as part of Australia's national heritage and equally respect the culture and values of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders as they do the cultures and values of all Australians.

The theme also seeks substantive reform – something generations of our Elders and communities have been advocating, marching and fighting for, for many years. Healing Country means finally resolving many of the outstanding injustices which impact on the lives of our people. It is about hearing and actioning the aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples which are the conclusion of generations of consultation and discussions among our nations on a range of issues and grievances. NAIDOC week is a time to remember, embrace and reconcile the rich history of the traditional custodians of the place we now call home and the very grounds on which our College lies.



# Christmas Hamper Appeal

Adrian Biscotto- College Vice  
Captain

When we think about Christmas, we think about a time of rejoicing in the company of family. With Christmas around the corner, preparations for many of us are now underway with gifts, dinners and decorations soon being at the forefront of our minds. However, there are many people this Christmas that will be unable to celebrate such a great time of the year. Hence, it is important that in this upcoming liturgical season of Advent, we also remember the true meaning of Christmas; giving.



While we have all felt the impacts of the recent Covid-19 outbreak, Australia's homeless population has been experiencing it the worst, with many shelters and food banks being closed down. According to the Salvation

Army, homelessness during 2021 has increased by 15%. For this reason, the college community will be embarking on its annual Christmas hamper appeal to aid the less-fortunate.

The annual Christmas hamper appeal is a way, we are able to give back to those who aren't as fortunate as us. It is especially necessary this year that we give to those who aren't in the best situations, so that they can feel the sense of the Christmas spirit.

The hampers will be given to individuals and families struggling during the Christmas period. As a community we will be donating gift cards, food items, toys and toiletries, while actively being involved in the hamper collection are all ways SPC can work together to give back to people struggling during this difficult year. In the end, this may help society's marginalised groups celebrate this season of Christmas in a more fulfilling and festive manner and bring joy to their lives. The hamper collection is a clear representation of how the SPC community as a collective, can live out our Christian values of generosity and alms-giving.



We thank you for all your help, and we wish you all a safe and happy holiday break!

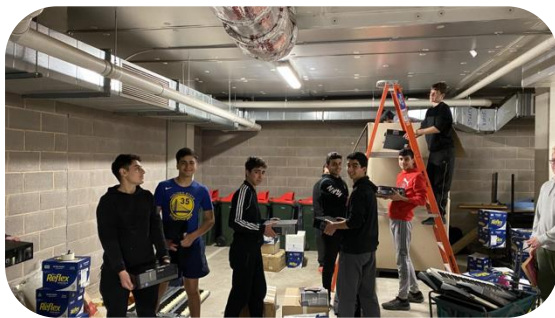
# How can we be like Edmund Rice?

Mr Matthew Herro

Coming to St Pat's, we know the story of Edmund. For some of us this may just be that he "started a school"; however, Edmund did much, much more than that. Yes, he did open a school for the street kids of the city. He saw their inability to read and write, their lack of education and employment, the violence and abuse in their family lives. He saw this cycle of poverty and decided to do something about it.

Edmund recognised that it's difficult to learn when you couldn't eat, so he had a bakehouse on the school grounds to make sure that the students were fed. He employed a tailor to make each student a new suit so that nobody could tell which youth were poor and which were wealthier. He also visited families who were living in the slums of Waterford, outside the city walls. He walked with condemned prisoners to the gallows as they had chosen him to accompany them in their final hours. Edmund was someone who saw the inherent dignity in every person that he encountered and responded to it with love.

Much like Edmund was inspired by Jesus, we should look to be inspired by the ministry of Edmund in what we do. Now, I'm not suggesting that you need to go and start a school or go and visit prisoners in Goulburn's Supermax, but what I am suggesting is that you should make the most of opportunities that are presented to you. We're quite lucky here at SPC that we have so many avenues to involve ourselves in justice initiatives built into our culture, however, do we fully engage ourselves in these?



At the beginning of every year we fundraise for one of our charity partners during the Lenten Appeal, but do all of us give without expecting anything in return? Do we take some time to understand where this money is going and how it will assist our partner for that year? Each cohort has their own charity focus. Do we all get to know something about our focus place or organisation or are we just

bringing something in because we were told to bring something in? The same goes for the blankets and toiletries in the winter appeal.

Sometimes these things may seem like an extra responsibility or something else that we have to do, but we are luckily enough to be in a position where we can do something. Shouldn't we make the most of that? If we were the person in need, wouldn't we appreciate someone giving of themselves to help us?



Now I've mentioned some of the initiatives that St Pat's has in place to help us do this, but you don't have to limit yourself to these. You could start with small things – noticing somebody sitting on their own and stopping to talk to them or invite them to join you; calling out a friend when they say something inappropriate; or even seeing a piece of rubbish and picking it up on the way past. Do what you can to work see a need and act.



Edmund Rice said to

**“Have courage, the good seed  
will grow.”**

Now, you probably won't save the whole world on your first day, but by doing what you can and taking action, be assured that you can nurture and nourish that good seed, making a positive impact on others,

setting a good example and being proud of yourself for seeing a need and doing something about it.

How we walk with the  
broken speaks louder than  
how we sit with the great.

# Henrietta Lacks

Mrs Felicity Warsop

Henrietta Lacks – the woman whose ‘immortal cells’ have been the foundation of research into creating life saving medicines for the ‘lucky’ who can afford it.



On October 13 2021, Dr Tedros of the World Health Organisation (WHO) honoured the late Henrietta Lacks with a WHO Director-General’s award, recognising the world-changing legacy of this African-American woman who died of cervical cancer, 70 years ago, on 4 October, 1951.

During treatment, samples of her tumour were taken, and labelled as HeLa, as was the protocol – using the first two letters of each of the patient’s names to protect their identity. That “HeLa” cell line became a scientific breakthrough: the first immortal line of human cells to divide indefinitely in a laboratory. The cells were mass produced, for profit, without recognition to her family. Over 50,000,000 metric tonnes of HeLa cells have been distributed around the world, the subjects of over 75,000 studies.

HeLa cells have allowed for immeasurable scientific breakthroughs such as the human papillomavirus (HPV) and polio vaccines, drugs for HIV, cancers, Leukaemia, research into IVF, Parkinson’s disease, and most recently, critical COVID-19 research. Shockingly, the global scientific community once hid Henrietta Lacks’ name, race and her real story; a historic wrong that today’s recognition seeks to heal.

“In honouring Henrietta Lacks, WHO acknowledges the importance of reckoning with past scientific injustices, and advancing racial equity in health and science,” said Dr Tedros. “It’s also an opportunity to recognize women - particularly women of colour - who have made incredible but often unseen contributions to medical science.”

Scientific Research into medicines and treatments is life changing, life-saving but not if it’s not accessible to all. Whilst researchers work tirelessly to develop medicines and treatments for diseases that can ultimately protect everyone, where do they come from and who gets to access them?

Here are some disturbing statistics from WHO regarding the injustice experienced by marginalised woman of our world.

Women of colour continue to be disproportionately affected by cervical cancer.

Studies reveal that woman of African descent are dying of cervical cancer at several times the rate of white women, while 19 of the 20 countries with the highest cervical cancer burdens are in Africa.

Access to the HPV vaccine, which protects against a variety of cancers, including cervical and prostate cancer is severely limited to those who can afford it, also supply constraints and high prices still prevent adequate doses from reaching girls in low-and-middle income countries.

As of 2020, less than 25% of low-income countries and less than 30% of lower-middle-income countries had access to the HPV vaccine through their national immunization programmes, compared with more than 85% of high-income countries.

“It is unacceptable that access to the lifesaving HPV vaccine can be shaped by your race, ethnicity or where you happen to be born,” said Dr Princess Nothemba Simelela,

“The fight to eliminate cervical cancer is part of the larger fight for human rights,” said Dr Groesbeck Parham, “Henrietta’s immortal cells are calling our attention to the millions of young women in low-income countries who still continue to die from cervical cancer because they cannot access and afford to purchase the life-saving medicines, technologies and medical procedures that are readily available in high-income countries. We can build upon Henrietta’s legacy by ensuring equitable access to advances in cancer prevention and treatment for all people.”

If you are curious and want to know more, please read Rebecca Skloot’s incredible book, ‘The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks’.





# Freedom

Mr Stephen Cooper

FREEDOM!!! Yes, I'M OUTTA HERE!! Straight out the door, into the car (no more walking), bumper to bumper, red lights, traffic jams, queues, frustration!! It's so good to be free!!

It is undeniable that the Lockdowns and restrictions on gatherings caused extreme amounts of stress and pain for many people, and I don't wish to undermine their impact on individuals. However, it was interesting to see the reactions to 'Freedom Day'. Some people were out partying like New Years Eve, like we'd won the war, like we'd made it to Ace in a handball game in the Junior School yard.

In giving we receive:

In giving up our freedoms, we have allowed others to have theirs through reducing the spread of the virus. Those people with weak immune systems, the elderly, the healthcare workers, our neighbours. They have been afforded a greater opportunity to live freely through our actions. At home in Sydney, by everyone giving up some of our freedom there are countless stories of what was received. Connecting with family members, discovering the neighbourhood by going for walks/ rides, board games, care packs, cleaner air, gardening... By giving up some freedoms, we have also gained life.

The Year 11 Alice Springs immersion in June departed just as the Delta wave was beginning in the Eastern Suburbs. We managed to get to Alice Springs but gave up some of our experience by not visiting the Flexi Learning Centre and local communities in person. By giving up this experience

(freedom), meant that the communities had gained safety and reduced their COVID risk. Whilst disappointing, we then focused on the many other things that we could do.

Perspective:

Ultimately, we still have many freedoms by simple fact of the society in which we live. We have access to healthcare, education, technology, food, water and shelter. It is not hard to think of people in parts the world who never to get to enjoy these freedoms by the rules and attitudes around them; women, the poor, minority cultures or religions, skin colour, the marginalised. People face far greater troubles every day, much greater than missing a few weekends of sport.

With great freedom comes great responsibility (or something like that):

I am grateful for the freedoms that I can enjoy. Love, family, laughter, friendship. I must likewise honour these by being a good husband, father, friend, teacher. We have the example of Jesus and in turn Edmund Rice. In the last Friday morning liturgy, Fr Jack shared his thoughts on the parable of giving. In this, the rich gave a little of the money they had left over, while the poor woman also gave only a little money, but it was all that she had. So how much is enough? As people with a great deal, how much more can we give? It might feel uncomfortable, but could we give it to allow others to thrive, or even just survive?

To Rejoice or not to Rejoice:

So yes, it is definitely time to rejoice! We should rejoice in our freedoms and the feelings that they give us. But what is freedom if we can't share it? Sometimes that might mean giving up a little, even if it is uncomfortable.

# SOL Service

Justin Sperenza – SJAG Member

SOL service, or Shining Our Light, is a community service that is based on a point system with each year group having a required number of points. The points are associated with either the activity or hours spent. SOL service faced many challenges this year with the initiative being forced to adapt to lockdown. This saw a reduced number of points required and other activities such as visits to nursing homes and the disabled impossible. However, despite these challenges SOL service continued.

I found when undergoing SOL service, I was struck with a deep level of joy. In a world full of instant gratification, a deeper sense of joy comes as a breath of fresh air. At the same time I was extremely challenged. SOL service forced me to have a greater level of generosity. Not simply donating parents' money to the Lenten Appeal but going beyond that. Donating something, that is invaluable, both my time and energy. To be honest, this causes a certain level of hurt when doing these tasks and self-denial, making it even more valuable. As Mother Teresa said,



**“Love must be real, it must cost – it must hurt, it must empty us of ourselves.”**



However, despite all these things, SOL service is not about the person doing the service, but the receiver. The very essence of SOL is Christian service. To love one another and serve beyond themselves as Christ did, healing the sick, forgiving the sinners and emptying himself on the cross. When this service is done, it not only enriches the lives of the committer but most importantly the person in need. For example, elderly people in nursing homes given hope through a letter of kindness they received. As well, acting for the benefit of the Earth and in turn the most vulnerable which inhabit it. Each person has both an obligation and duty, not a burden, to serve. Who are we helping? The analogy that St Paul used comes to great relevance. “The Church and Humanity is like a body, if one part of it suffers it all suffers, if one is healed it all is healed. We then care for another, more intimately, not only simply due to a mundane duty but a deep brotherly love.” This service, knowingly or not, through our care and love recentres Christ, the source of all love. This makes you become more like him, humbler, caring, kind, compassionate, forgiving and giving. This then, gets

rid of pride and ego and replaces it with a heroic love of God and one's neighbour.

In summary, although SOL service forced us to face some challenges, it continued to both joyfully enrich and challenge the individual. It also created room for a heroic love of God and brotherly love for one's neighbour, enriching and easing their lives, and sparking necessary change.

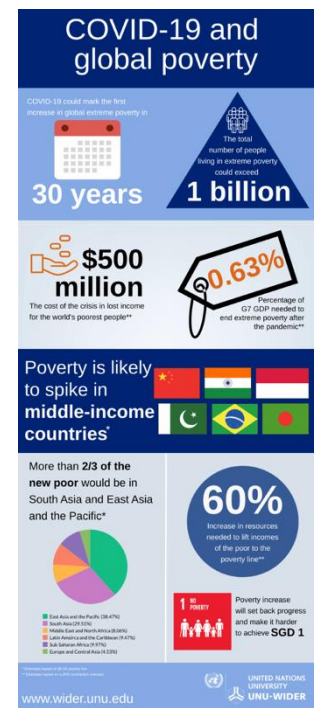
# Long Lasting effects of COVID 19 on Justice Work

Norton Brown (SJAG Member) and James Hraiki (Learning & Technology Prefect)

The COVID-19 virus has exposed, fed off and increased existing inequalities of wealth, gender and race. The social, political and economic disruptions created by the pandemic are severe, and addressing them is pivotal to ensuring a recovery in these aspects. However, our efforts to address these issues are being heavily impacted by the inevitable struggle to return to a sense of normality post-lockdown. This is caused by the current Covid-19 restrictions and health orders which have made it harder for individuals and social justice groups to perform justice work throughout our communities.

The Covid-19 Pandemic has led to an increase in poverty and world hunger throughout the developing and developed world, with the United Nations stating that Covid-19 has led to the first extreme rise in global poverty in a generation, with an additional 119-124 million people being pushed back into extreme poverty in 2020. This increase is predicted to cause the UN to miss its sustainability goal of 0% poverty by 2030. The Global pandemic has exacerbated world hunger, with an additional 70-161 million people worldwide expected to have experienced hunger as a result of the pandemic. This has induced a rise, by almost 200 million, in people who will be undernourished, increasing from 650 million in 2019 to 720-811 million people in 2020. However, arguably the most alarming of these statistics involves the impact that the pandemic will have on child malnutrition, with 22% of children under 5 having their growth stunted due to a lack of nutrition. Clearly, the pandemic has brought about and amplified many detrimental societal issues, highlighting the need for increased justice work to be undertaken.

Looking back at the past year, one that was dominated once again by the COVID-19 pandemic, we can see it not only as a health crisis but also as a human rights and justice crisis. In a sense, the pandemic has been a catalyst for transformation, forcing justice institutions to adapt to changing circumstances in order to carry out their work. The Social Justice Action Group at St Patrick's College is one such organisation that has had to undergo change and adapt to effectively operate under the constricting grip of the pandemic. One of the most limiting aspects of this change in circumstances was the nation-wide lockdown, which saw the return of online learning and diminished the opportunity for face-to-face interaction. Thus begged the question: How do you put the 'A' (Action) in 'SJAG' when one cannot leave their home? Well for one, SJAG has taken advantage of the existing online learning infrastructure at St Patrick's College, that is, the teams meeting software, allowing for meetings to ensue within the confines of each member's own home. This has diminished the impact of the pandemic in limiting interpersonal communication in allowing for the planning and administration of SJAG to proceed under different circumstances. However, this does not entirely solve the issue of not being readily able to perform physical feats of social justice in the wider community. The best that SJAG can do is to prepare in advance, using the tools at our current disposal, and be ready to act swiftly in the community once restrictions further ease.





# Indigenous Chemistry

Joseph Tannous- Yr 11 Chemistry Student

Indigenous knowledge, also known as traditional knowledge, includes know-how, practices, skills and innovations. It can be found in a wide variety of contexts, such as agricultural, scientific, technical, ecological and medicinal fields, as well as biodiversity-related knowledge. It is intertwined with cultural and social practice and Indigenous language.

Through an investigative process involving observations and trial and error applications, Indigenous Australians were able to identify and utilise the chemical and physical properties of materials for a variety of purposes. While they did not use the terms 'acid' and 'base', their use of plants and other natural substances demonstrated their understanding of the properties of these compounds. Subsequent chemical analysis by pharmacologists has identified the active ingredients in Australian plants used by Indigenous peoples. While not all Indigenous medicines have been investigated, many have contributed to the development of modern pharmaceuticals widely used today. For example, the pharmacological analysis of the corkwood tree (*Duboisia myoporoides*), used by Aboriginal groups as a narcotic and poison, led to the discovery of a drug that controls pupil dilation and which is widely used in eye surgery.

In the Year 11 and Year 12 Chemistry syllabus, we study a range of different topics associated with chemicals and substances, and the forces and processes that affect and form them. One of the more interesting topics that initially is often overlooked, is how Indigenous culture has influenced a number of practices associated with detoxification,

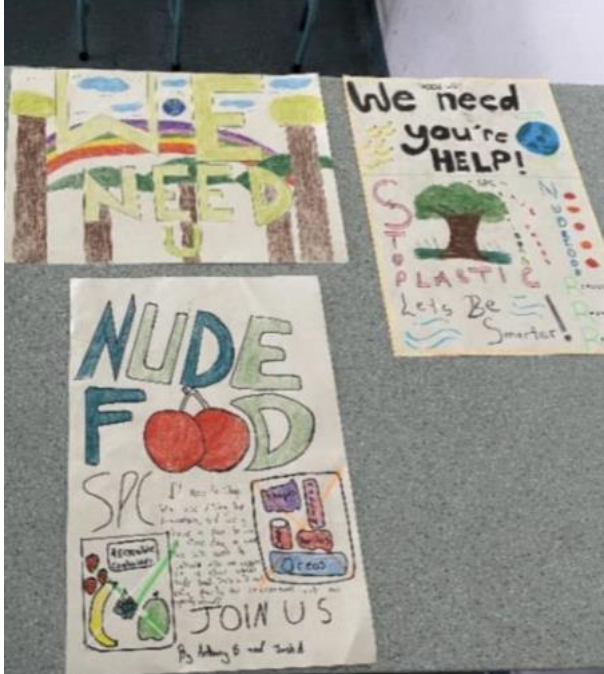
preservation and fermentation in Australia.

In the Year 11 course, we looked at an Indigenous process known as leaching, used to detoxify cycad fruits to be consumed for sustenance. This process dates back thousands of years and although it is no longer used in modern detoxification processes, it still served as a base for these new processes to be developed. Leaching today usually involves placing an object, such as an artefact recovered from a shipwreck, in a container of water. This essentially proves how these Indigenous peoples have been crucial to developing modern every day scientific processes that allow us to cultivate and detoxify native plants as their practices are still used even today. Aboriginal peoples have lived in the midst of the natural environment for thousands of years and in many regions continue to do so. Over generations, Aboriginal peoples have investigated, developed and exploited hundreds of native plant species for food and medicinal purposes; however, there is still much to learn from First Nations peoples' pharmaceuticals and their use of natural materials.



# Year 8 Science

Jacob Tran, Christian Angilleta, Jamie Sattout and Oliver Quinn-  
Year 8 Science Students



Throughout the past two weeks, Year 8 Science 3 have been studying our environment. During this topic we mainly focused on Recycling, and the destruction of our habitat. We broke down many significant points, subsequently elaborating our understanding on how we can be more sustainable in our environment. As a class we completed two posters. These taught us about how we can be more sustainable within our environment, by analysing key features to form a success plan for SPC. These posters presented the message that as human beings we have the responsibility to save our earth from being polluted and destroyed. In our first poster we showed how we as humans are destroying the

habitats of various animals. In this poster we were able to decipher how our various actions around the world have an impact on animals and their habitats. We revealed the actions that can destroy animal habitats. An example of the destruction is logging. We also made posters which revealed ideas on how we can counter pollution and start our path towards a better future. An idea that we can use to work towards a better future is being able to reuse, reduce and recycle. In class we have dug deeper into this topic, learning about the impacts of our actions such as crop planting, logging, fragmentation, urbanisation, mining, dam building, and pollution. As Year 8 Science 3 we have learnt about the various impacts of our actions towards animal habitats and hope to change our ways in the future to help the common good.





# Blankets

This year, boys and members of the community knitted and crochet squares for the winter appeal. The blankets will be donated to one of our charity partners. We will be continuing in future, starting in term 1 so please speak to Ms Smith to find out more and get involved.







# 2021 It's Time

“But I will see you again and  
you will rejoice, and no one  
will take your joy”  
(John 16:22)

Have a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year