



Lucerna

A PUBLICATION OF THE ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE COMMUNITY

VOL 28 ISSUE 2 2023





Dr Lavorato offers birthday wishes to: Aidan O'Brien-Kratiuk (Year 8), Leo O'Neill (Year 7), Nathan Touma (Year 7), Alexander Pham (Year 7), Jean Paul Di Cristo (Year 7), Marcus Di Cristo (Year 7), Ryan Eagleson (Year 7) & Giordano Gallieri (Year 7).

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

As we move towards the end of the year, much has been achieved by the students and staff of St Patrick's College.

In our Strategic Plan, we state our goal of continuing to offer the boys 'Opportunities – Creating a positive inclusive culture by offering many opportunities for our students to engage in.' I am delighted to report that many exciting opportunities were there for our students and they took to them with great gusto.

In the Co-curricular (Cultural) domain, the Performing Arts provided several wonderful opportunities to showcase talent. There was a very successful production of *Shakespeare in Love*, the Performing Arts Showcase, Band Camp and we participated in the NSW Band Championships.

We celebrated our best-ever CSDA debating season. In the Grand Finals, Year 11 and Year 9 finished as runners-up, and Year 8 secured victory against Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College Kensington. In a field of 62 schools, to have the top teams across different age groups is remarkable. My proudest moment was when we secured both the Junior and Senior school divisions' prestigious Aggregate Shields. This remarkable achievement underlines our students' dedication and our excellent coaches' guidance.

The College also enjoyed a great Winter Sports Season, with success in different codes which saw a number of teams playing in the finals. For the second year in a row, the First XI Football team won the ISA Finals over at the Wanderers Complex in Blacktown and the First XV Rugby finished in the top three schools in the ISA. This augurs well for the 2024 season!

The College is committed to reestablishing its raft of intentional formation activities. During the break between Terms 2 and 3, we were proud to have students attend an immersion to Alice Springs, the World Youth Day pilgrimage in Lisbon and an immersion to Papua New Guinea. The feedback from the boys afforded these opportunities has been overwhelmingly positive, with some reporting that the experiences have changed their lives. This term, our Year 9 Drama students have struck up an online relationship with an EREA school in Sierra Leone. The boys hope to visit one day but, in the meantime, they are getting to know each other and find out all the things they have in common. These activities further highlight our strategic goal, 'Global and Local Engagement,' as we seek to provide opportunities for our boys to learn about, and connect with, other communities.

The opening of the Scientia Building has allowed us to achieve our 'Learning' goal, set out in our Strategic Plan. For 'Learning,' we are committed

to reviewing curriculum offerings so that we improve student engagement. In addition to having wonderful, state-of-the-art facilities for science, it has been a delight to see our boys undertaking studies in Food Technology (Year 9) and Hospitality (Year 11). Not only this, but Year 7 students have been undertaking 'Food and Agriculture' as a context area in Technology Mandatory. The official Blessing and Opening of the building is scheduled for late November, and we are delighted to announce that our special guest will be Professor John Mattick AO ('67), an esteemed Old Boy and recipient of the 2014 Luceat Award. Having a globally acclaimed scientist inaugurate our science labs is extremely fitting, and a huge honour.

It has also been a great semester for strengthening our strong community links. In recent months we have hosted Grandparents Day, Father's Day Masses and Back to Breen Day. The latter was attended by a strong number of Old Boys who also took the opportunity to visit our new Science and Hospitality facilities.

Finally, we had the bittersweet task of saying farewell to the Class of 2023. Bittersweet because we will miss them and at the same time, we are so proud of them as they move into the world. In my address at the Graduation Assembly, I quoted one of Robert Frost's poems: "I took the one less travelled by, And that has made all the difference." Frost's poem beautifully illustrates how our daily choices, no matter how small, can profoundly shape our lives. We encouraged our graduates to shine their light, tread the path less travelled which aligns with their Christian values, and in doing so, find their true purpose, impacting others positively. We are eagerly anticipating their HSC results and are immensely proud of the impressive practical projects they created in Visual Arts, Industrial Technology (Timber) and Design and Technology. The Drama and Music students dedicated themselves to delivering exceptional performances, with Bailey Yeates earning an Encore nomination for his performance in Music 2.

The collaborative efforts of our teachers and students, exemplify our commitment to being 'A Beacon for Boys' Education.' Our students have not only excelled academically but have also contributed to our community by sharing their spiritual, emotional, athletic, cultural and academic talents. They stand as a source of inspiration, illuminating our community from within.

Live Jesus in our Hearts, Forever.

Ilavorato

Dr Vittoria Lavorato
Principal



Miss Duff & Year 9 Drama students, connect with a school in Sierra Leone.



Dr Lavorato with members of the Class of 1988: Matt O'Grady, James Ryan, Alex Taylor, Andrew Parny, Les Taylor & Peter Kite.



Dr Lavorato gives Angus Reen's (Year 12) Industrial Technology (Timber) Major Work, a test drive.



The new facilities offered in the Scientia Building, has enriched the learning opportunities of our boys.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH



Isidore & Christian Coorey (Year 11), marvel at the Rabaul Hot Springs during the PNG Immersion.

- Facebook @stpatrickscollege
www.facebook.com/stpatrickscollege/
- Instagram @spc.strathfield
www.instagram.com/spc.strathfield/
- LinkedIn @spcstrathfield
www.linkedin.com/school/spcstrathfield/

EMPATHY FOR THE HOMELESS



Luca Bucciarelli, Terence Michael, Emilio Cotroneo, Adriano Guerrieri, Max Simon & Christian Pereira get ready to call it a night!



Patrick McDonald, Adrian Fenech, Raphael Danev & Tyson Khoury are all smiles!



All rugged up! William Chahin, Daniel De Pasquale, Ms Macolino, Kain De Lisser-Howarth & Kevin Quach.

On Friday 21 July, the annual Winter Sleepout took place at the College. For the first time, I participated, and it was heartening to see more than 200 students and staff volunteering for this meaningful experience.

The evening commenced with a presentation by some of the students in FIAT, educating us about the harsh realities of homelessness in Australia and worldwide. We heard shocking statistics and saw compelling interviews that underscored the importance of our participation in this event. One statistic that left a lasting impact, was the revelation that over 17,000 children under the age of 12 experienced homelessness on Census night in 2021. This jarring fact reshaped our perceptions and highlighted how close to home this issue truly is.

Following the presentation, all participants were served a modest dinner of soup and a bread roll. This meal aimed to replicate what an average night for a homeless person might be like, where they rely on food from shelters or kitchens. After dinner, we focused on assembling care packages which would be distributed nationwide to families in need.

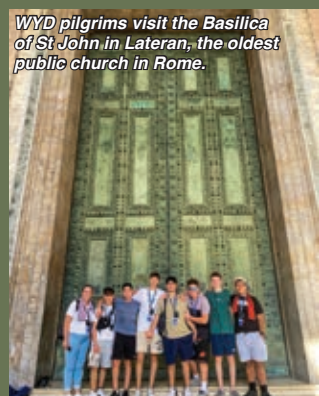
It was inspiring to witness the enthusiasm and teamwork among the students, and we managed to complete the packing faster than ever before. All packages were sent to St Vincent De Paul, along with over \$6,000 raised by those in attendance.

Before retiring for the night, Year 12 students led discussions on various aspects of homelessness, pondering our role in finding a solution and considering how homelessness fits into the broader social justice landscape. It was particularly encouraging to hear younger voices share their perspectives and explore the collective impact our community could have.

Sleeping with only cardboard and sleeping bags, we all felt the chill of the night, offering us a glimpse into the daily struggles experienced by countless individuals worldwide. When we awoke the next day we had tired eyes, but more importantly, a newfound gratitude and a deeper sense of empathy for the 122,000 Australians who have no place to call home.

Alessandro Romeo
College Captain

A SYMPHONY OF FAITH, FUN AND FRIENDSHIPS



WYD pilgrims visit the Basilica of St John in Lateran, the oldest public church in Rome.



Matthew French (College Seminarian), Sebastian El-Hachem, Anthony del Popolo & Cronun Yu (Travelling Seminarian), soak up the atmosphere.



A magical moment as Pope Francis greets the crowd.

In late July, a group of students from Year 10 and Year 11, under the supervision of Mrs El-Hachem, embarked on an extraordinary pilgrimage to World Youth Day 2023. Our ultimate destination was Lisbon, Portugal, but we began with a two-week exploration of Italy. Each day of our journey was adorned with enriching encounters and sacred sites, guiding us on a profound spiritual odyssey.

Our adventure led us through Rome, where we marvelled at the awe-inspiring Colosseum, explored the depths of the Catacombs and ventured into the heart of the Vatican, visiting treasures like the Basilica of St Paul Outside The Walls and the Vatican Museums. Each of these experiences left us breathless. We then set our course for Assisi, Siena, Florence and Padua, retracing the footsteps of beloved saints we had only known by name. It was a pilgrimage to honour their legacies. Venice, with its ethereal beauty and the magnificent Basilica of St Mark at its centre, was our next awe-inspiring destination.

Upon arriving in Portugal, the second group from SPC, led by teachers Mr Milheiro and Mr Bottalico, joined us. The atmosphere was electrifying, with hundreds of thousands of young pilgrims converging on the country, all together in the name of our faith. It was profoundly humbling to unite with so many kindred spirits on this journey—a journey of unity in purpose, faith and a shared quest for spiritual awakening.

The climactic vigil, marked by shared prayers beneath the Lisbon stars, culminated in a transformative dawn mass presided over by Pope Francis himself. Despite sweltering through a heatwave and the amalgamation of diverse cultures, the powerful spiritual connection among us was exhilarating. It was a testament to the unifying force of faith and fellowship on a global scale.

Our following days were spent in Fatima, a place for reflection. Here, we explored a small town housing an incredible Basilica dedicated to Our Lady, commemorating her apparitions to three shepherd children. The Basilica's structural and architectural grandeur was further magnified by its profound history.

From ancient basilicas to vibrant World Youth Day gatherings, our journey wasn't just a physical voyage; it was a symphony of faith, fun and friendships. I am certain that the students from SPC will hold this experience dear in their hearts and memories for years to come. We were blessed with incredible opportunities, and we hope that all young people can have the chance to participate in at least one World Youth Day in their lifetime.

Aiden Elias
Year 11 WYD Pilgrim



SPC pilgrims with those from neighbouring schools, await the Stations of the Cross.



The group sightseeing in Praça do Comércio, Lisbon.



Anthony Naim & Isaac Tannous at the Rosary Vigil of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal.



The group experiencing the wonder of King's Canyon (Watarrka).



James Kazzi, Charbel Francis & Aiden Elias rugging up for a cold sunset at Kata Tjuta and Uluru.



The SPC immersion group and St Joseph's fellas at Tippy Hill, after some bush-bashing in the Troopies.



Charbel Francis & Dion (SJCFLC Youth Worker) joining together for an activity in the Todd River.



Jack Gillies, Nicky (SJCFLC student) & Patrick Miholic grinding up their bush medicine.



Shi-lo (SJCFLC Youth Worker) teaching Daniel De Pasquale how to play the guitar.

A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

In mid-June, guided by Mr Herro and Mr Van Der Meer, a group of young men embarked on a journey from Sydney to Alice Springs for the annual Alice Springs Immersion. Our mission was to strengthen our school's connection with the St Joseph's Flexible Learning Centre, engage with the local Indigenous community and gain a profound understanding of their culture and beliefs.

During the main week of the immersion, we attended school with the students at St Joseph's and ventured out into the Indigenous community to learn about the Dreaming stories of the Arrernte people and immerse ourselves in their culture. For instance, we gathered and processed bush medicine, discovering its traditional uses for treating various ailments. We also prepared and savoured traditional Aboriginal food like kangaroo tails and unique fruits found in the bush. Learning how Indigenous people lived off the land was a fascinating lesson in sustainability and respect for the environment.

A memorable experience was our journey alongside the Caterpillar, a mountain range encircling Mparntwe with deep Dreamtime roots. We stopped at culturally significant sites like the

Clay Pans, Corroboree Rock, Emily, Simpsons and Jessie gaps, and Ormiston Gorge. Here, we marvelled at ancient cave artworks and for some, even swam in the river. The fellas' respect for their culture and eagerness to educate us left a lasting impression, making it difficult to say goodbye.

For the rest of the immersion, we camped closer to some significant cultural sites, touring Uluru and learning about this natural wonder. We watched the colours of Uluru shift at sunset and explored Kata Tjuta and Kings Canyon, both breathtaking and vital to the Pitjantjatjara peoples. Camping under the stars, sharing stories and eating smores by the campfire is an experience I will never forget.

The Alice Springs Immersion transformed us, deepening our connection to Indigenous culture, fostering an appreciation for the land and forging meaningful relationships. We extend our gratitude to Mr Herro and Mr Van Der Meer for guiding and challenging us throughout this incredible journey.

Aiden Elias
Year 11 Student



Kain De-Lisser Howarth & Daniel De Pasquale joining in with the afternoon art session.



SPC & St Joseph's fellas competing in a game of 'Box Footy'.

THE LAND OF THE UNEXPECTED

In Papua New Guinea, a land adorned with over 850 languages and approximately 1,000 distinct cultures, diversity thrives. Despite a taxing 36-hour journey marred by multiple delays and an impromptu overnight stay in an airport hotel, relief and excitement washed over us as we finally landed in Tokua (Rabaul) in the East New Britain province.

Papua New Guinea, often dubbed 'The Land of the Unexpected,' was a phrase Mr Viney reiterated throughout our adventure. The sense of gratitude was palpable as we met Br Bernard White and his students from the Edmund Rice Life Training Centre at Vuvu for the first time. His words resonated deeply: "Blessed Edmund Rice is a guiding light - follow the light in your life, not the darkness."

Our journey commenced with a day of work on the poultry farm, followed by joining the Vuvu boys in the coconut plantation. Playful chaos erupted during a spontaneous coconut fight initiated by Michael Sakr, with Ms Rocca inadvertently caught in the crossfire. Mornings brought gratitude prayers in the Chapel, while afternoons were filled with laughter at the beach, touch football, communal meals, heated card games and debriefs led by Ms Rocca.

During our immersion, we attended war memorial services, such as a visit to Rabaul (Bita Paka) War Cemetery, where we learned about Australia's involvement in WWII. Mr Menck vividly described Rabaul's history as the 'jewel of the Pacific' before the devastating '94 volcano eruption. The arduous climb up Mt Mother afforded us breathtaking views and a profound sense of the beauty surrounding us. Meeting Dame Sanra Lau, a close friend of Mr Viney, was an impactful experience. Her outpouring of love and generosity resonated deeply, leaving an indelible mark on all of us. A special mention goes to Christopher Gittani and Joel Hallifax for their show stopping karaoke skills that night!

As we prepared to leave, Luke Bromfield aptly captured our shared sentiment: "We hear so many stories about PNG, but to see it firsthand is truly inspirational." This immersion reminded us that communities built on cultural diversity foster contentment, fulfillment, and inclusion. Our connections with the Vuvu boys illustrate the power of shared experiences, with the relationships formed among the SPC students holding a special place in our hearts. We hope these bonds remain unbroken. We encourage all staff and students to consider embarking on their own immersion journey in the future; it will undoubtedly be an experience of a lifetime.

William Chahin
Year 11 Student



William Chahin & Habib Ghosn with new friend Paul, help process coconuts for copra.



Brandon, Giddley & Christian Coorey work in the ornamental garden.



Augustine & Christopher Gittani rehearse their musical item for the concert.



Our boys with their Vuvu buddies, take a breather following their hike up Mt Kombiu (Mt Mother).



All aboard the PMV! The group head off to dinner at the home of Dame Sandra Lau.



Sylvester & Simon help Patrick Doolin & Joel Hallifax get dressed in bilas.



Luke Bromfield and some local 'pikinini' celebrate together.



Year 7 students: Miguel De Nobrega, Xavier Lima & Matthew Boumelhem baking scones.



Year 9 students Thomas Boustani & Leon Boskovic, plate up their spaghetti bolognese.



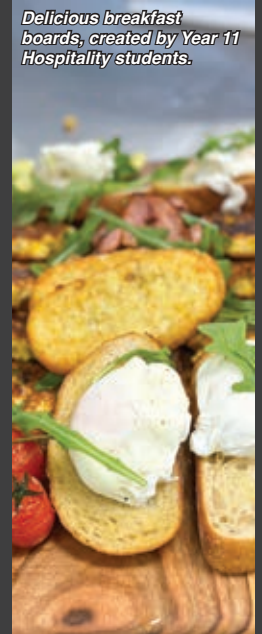
Fruit ninjas! Students in Year 9 Food Technology, prep their fruit salad.



Presentation is key, Year 11 Hospitality students dish up French Toast.



Students enjoying the space, in one of the new kitchens.



Delicious breakfast boards, created by Year 11 Hospitality students.



Michael Bartorilla (Year 9) serves up his spaghetti bolognese.



Breakfast is served! Year 11 Hospitality students, Nicholas Grieco & Marcus Semaan.



Matthew Boys (Year 11) watches Ms Tripodi demonstrate the fine art of precision cutting.

DISHING UP DELIGHTS IN THE SCIENTIA BUILDING

The inauguration of the Scientia Building, complete with state-of-the-art kitchens, marks an exciting opportunity for students of various year levels to embark on a culinary voyage.

In the realm of Food and Agriculture Technology, our Year 7 chefs, under the guidance of their dedicated teachers, are mastering the fundamental skills of food preparation. This includes safe knife handling and precise ingredient measurements. The curriculum emphasises practical proficiency as they prepare delectable dishes such as fruit salad, smoothies and spaghetti Bolognese.

Year 9 students have discovered their passion for food and nutrition through the introduction of Food Technology for Stage 5. This subject serves as a gateway for our Year 9 students to delve into vital aspects of food preparation. They have covered essential topics like proper food handling, storage and the critical significance of impeccable hygiene practices.

Over the course of the semester, Year 9 students have further honed their culinary skills, delving into subjects like Food Selection and Health, Food for Specific Needs and Food for Special Occasions. Within these courses, they've not only elevated their kitchen prowess but also broadened their culinary horizons by preparing and presenting dishes such as Sticky Thai Lettuce Cups, Spaghetti Bolognese, Southern Chicken Tacos and indulgent Crazy Shakes.

Simultaneously, our Year 11 students have been savouring a real-world taste of the hospitality industry through the VET Hospitality – Food & Beverage course, a nationally accredited Certificate II in Hospitality. This program equips budding food and beverage attendants with the skills essential for a flourishing career in the dynamic world of hospitality. Enriched by hands-on experiences in delivering exceptional customer service within various

hospitality settings, such as restaurants and cafes, Year 11 students have thrived in this wonderful Scientia space. The course, complemented by two weeks of work placement and comprehensive sessions featuring demonstrations and practical learning, has been an invaluable opportunity for our Year 11 students to flourish.

Throughout this semester, Year 11 students have acquired a diverse set of practical skills. They've become adept in precision cutting, crafting an array of sandwiches and salads, mastering the art of poaching eggs, and honing their espresso coffee-making prowess. These skills are instilling our Year 11 students with the confidence and expertise they need to shine in the hospitality industry, both inside and outside the classroom.

Andrew Viney
Head of Technology and Applied Studies



Masters of melody! The Choir performs favourites from Les Misérables.



Brass brilliance: Brandon Braun (Year 8), Charbel Lahood (Year 10) & Gideon Benedict (Year 10).



Setting the rhythm. Drummers: Vincent Jimenez, Anthony del Popolo, Antonio Barbanera & Isaac Robinson.

CAN'T STOP THE MUSIC!

It has been a busy year for members of our numerous bands and orchestral ensembles. Both the Orchestra and Concert Band took to the stage at the Australian School Band and Orchestra Festival, while the Concert Band competed in the NSW State Band Championships. Our musicians also showcased their talents at various events like the Performing Arts Showcase, Graduation Assembly and Father's Day Masses. The Junior Band even had the honor of performing at the Junior School Awards Assembly.

Our Instrumental Tuition and Ensembles programs have seen a rise in participants, pushing us to achieve higher musical standards. At the State Championships, our senior students performed exceptionally, clinching a remarkable second place in their category.

The Orchestra earned a Silver Award at the ASBOF Festival, a testament to their unwavering dedication throughout the year. Their remarkable progress is underscored by their performance

of a piece by English composer Vaughan Williams.

The Jazz Orchestra made a comeback after the COVID-19 hiatus, impressing with their intricate pieces being played by relatively young musicians. Retention rates in junior groups remain strong, with more juniors participating in the Performing Arts Showcase.

Our musical journey at St Patrick's College continues with a Speech Night Performance and preparations for the annual Festival of Carols and Readings. Additionally, a number of recitals are set to take place which provide students with the chance to shine as soloists under the guidance of their tutors.

At St Patrick's College, the passion for music is palpable as melodies play on, notes continue to flow, and students grow as musicians. Music never ceases in this vibrant educational community!

David Taylor
Ensemble Coordinator



Marlow aka Michael Bridge (Year 10) & Burbage aka Matthew Gainsford (Year 12) in a conundrum.



The cast brings a young William Shakespeare's story to life!



TREADING THE BOARDS AT SPC

Returning to the Bryan Brown Theatre this year, the Performing Arts production brilliantly brought to life the play *Shakespeare in Love*. In 2023, we also unveiled the 'Old Boys – Back to the Theatre Evening,' where we welcomed back former students who had previously graced the SPC stages. It provided a chance for them to reminisce about their time in the spotlight and appreciate the talents of today's students. We eagerly anticipate the participation of this year's Year 12 students in 2024, carrying forward this emerging tradition.

Performing to sold-out houses, our students, joined by peers from Santa Sabina, Strathfield Girls High School, and MLC, skilfully brought to life a young William Shakespeare's story. They delved into themes

like writer's block, mistaken identity and love. Our actors, along with the dedicated stage crew and on-stage musicians, tirelessly immersed themselves in Shakespeare's world, interpreting the challenging yet rewarding script, revealing its comedy, romance, and subtlety. They brought sophistication to the stage through design, music and character portrayals.

Performing Arts encompasses more than just theatre and music. The arts play a fundamental role in the education of young men, offering a secure avenue for effective self-expression. Through performing, our boys learn to be brave, take risks and, as we've witnessed this year, are richly rewarded for their bravery.

Rebecca Duff
Head of Performing Arts



CSDA Champions! The 8A team are all smiles after their victory.



Members of the Debating fraternity and their supporters following their win against Santa Sabina College.

DEBATING DOUBLE-UP JUNIORS AND SENIORS WIN AGGREGATE SHIELDS!

This year's Debating season culminated at the CSDA Metropolitan Championships held at Christian Brothers' High School in Lewisham. Our boys did exceptionally well, and I was most fortunate to watch our 8A team battle it out with the girls from Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College Kensington. The standard of the debate was fantastic and both teams deserve to be acknowledged on how well they argued. In what proved to be a very close tussle, our boys were declared Champions. We congratulate the boys and their coach Ms Porter for having achieved such success, and wish them the best of luck as they now contest the CSDA NSW Championship in mid-November.

Special mention ought to go out to the members of our 11A and 9B teams who spoke so well but ultimately finished as Runners-up. These boys along with their coaches, Chris Farag ('19), Christian Bejjani ('19)

and Mr Crino, should be very proud of their achievement in having reached the Final.

The strength and depth of our Debating Program was confirmed when St Patrick's College were announced winners of both the Junior and Senior Aggregate CSDA Debating Shields. To win both shields on offer from a pool of 82 schools is simply outstanding.

Each and every member of the Debating fraternity should be extremely proud of this recognition, and I would like to thank both Mrs Lombardo and Mrs Burgess for their outstanding leadership of this activity. Well done to all!

Steven Fochesato
Director of Co-curricular



Year 8 students: Hudson Cook, Brandon Braun, Vincent Nguyen, Scott Dunlop, Xavier Tafaro & Aum Parmar enjoy the immersive experience!



Delizioso! Marco Geronimo, James Vo & Aidan Coorey of Year 10.



Ms Capobianco with Year 12 helpers: Anthony Lopizzo, Justin Speranza, Harrison White, Thomas Crick, Alessandro Salvato, Karim Lattouf & Luke Goldsmith.



The screening of 'Belli Ciao' was a big hit!

LA SERATA ITALIANA

On Friday 1 September, St Patrick's College and Santa Sabina College came together to immerse themselves in the Italian culture. Co.As.It. (the Italian Association of Assistance), supports the running of the Italian program at the College through grants provided by the Italian government. This funding allowed the Languages Faculty to explore new ways to promote and support the Italian language program at the College.

During the event, we were encouraged to embrace and appreciate Italian culture and the first way that we did this was with some delicious Italian food. Once everyone had eaten, we watched an Italian movie called *Belli Ciao* directed by Gennaro Nunziante, a comedy movie set in the Italian region of Puglia. It portrays two best friends, Pio and Amedeo, who part ways at a young age, but then find each other again later in life. This engaging movie was filled with comedy and displayed the traditional towns, and the Italian lifestyle. Overall, La Serata Italiana was an immersive and great experience for all who attended.

The night allowed students to embrace their culture or the culture that they are learning about at school. Thank you to Miss Capobianco, Ms Fiscaro, Miss Macolino, Ms Di Giovanni, Miss Saade, Miss Laoulach, Mr Graziano and Mr Herro, and everyone else who helped to run this amazing night. "Una notte da ricordare, una notte di divertimento."

Kristian Mattson and Simon Nadile
Year 9 Italian students

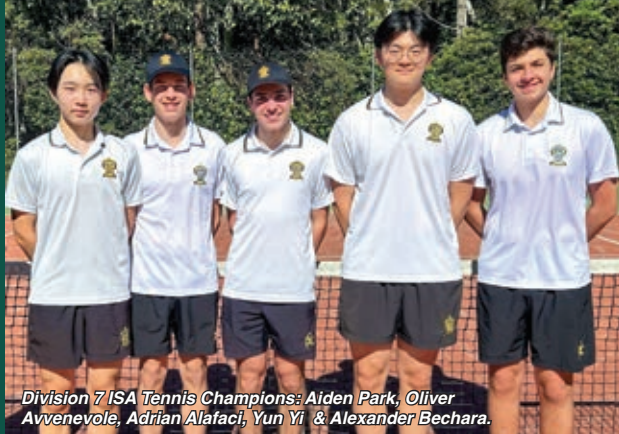


A great night was had by all!

WINTER SPORT WRAP-UP

The 2023 Winter Sports Season has ended, allowing us to celebrate some great achievements in various sports.

In ISA Tennis, our students demonstrated commitment, sportsmanship and skill, with significant successes across different age groups. The Division 7 team's Grand Final victory crowned them ISA Premiers. The promising performance of our Junior players bodes well for the future. Notably, Lucas Martin and Nikolai Kayrouz earned ISA Representative selections, reflecting our tennis talent.



Division 7 ISA Tennis Champions: Aiden Park, Oliver Avvenevole, Adrian Alafaci, Yun Yi & Alexander Bechara.



Rob Cadisal (Year 12) ready to strike.



A jubilant First XI Football team, following their thrilling win against Oakhill College thereby clinching the ISA Premiership Shield.



Finlay Muir (Year 7) of the undefeated ISA Premiership winning team, the 13 As, is on the ball.

In Football, our teams shone. The 13 As became undefeated ISA Premiers, scoring 92 goals while conceding just seven. The 14 Cs were undefeated, securing the Premiership with 54 goals and two conceded and the 16 Cs went through the season without conceding a single goal. The Second XI became undefeated ISA Premiers, and the First XI won their ISA Grand Final in a thrilling penalty shootout against Oakhill College.

Several students received recognition in Football, with 10 players selected to represent in the ISA competition. A special mention must be made of Alessandro Romeo and Joseph Hatem who each earned spots in the NSW CIS team. Alessandro made history by also being selected in the NSW Schoolboys team, the first in 26 years.

The Rugby season unfolded with 18 teams taking to the field. Special commendations were awarded to the 14 B team for their outstanding performance as ISA Runners Up. Ten students represented the College at ISA level. The First XV's impressive 55-17 win against St Stanislaus' College was a highlight as was the electrifying atmosphere of Back to Breen Day when the Old Boys gathered to support the First XV in their bid for the ISA Division One Rugby Shield. Although victory eluded them, the spirit and pride on display was fantastic.



The First XV Rugby team are all smiles, after their win against St Gregory's College in the Indigenous Sports' Round.



14 B player, Ruben Rochester (Year 8) in action. The team finished as ISA Runners Up.



Alexander Brunner (Year 9) airborne!



Joseph Showah (Year 7) charges home!

Athletics showcased significant improvement, with several personal bests. St Patrick's College finished third in the Junior, Senior and Aggregate competitions.

This season has illustrated the dedication and talent of our athletes. Their commitment and sportsmanship make us proud and we anticipate the challenges and triumphs of the upcoming season.

Anthony Calavassy
Head of Secondary Sport

OLD BOYS



Luke starting out his career, working for Steele Sports.

LUKE BARRY-DONNELLAN ('08)

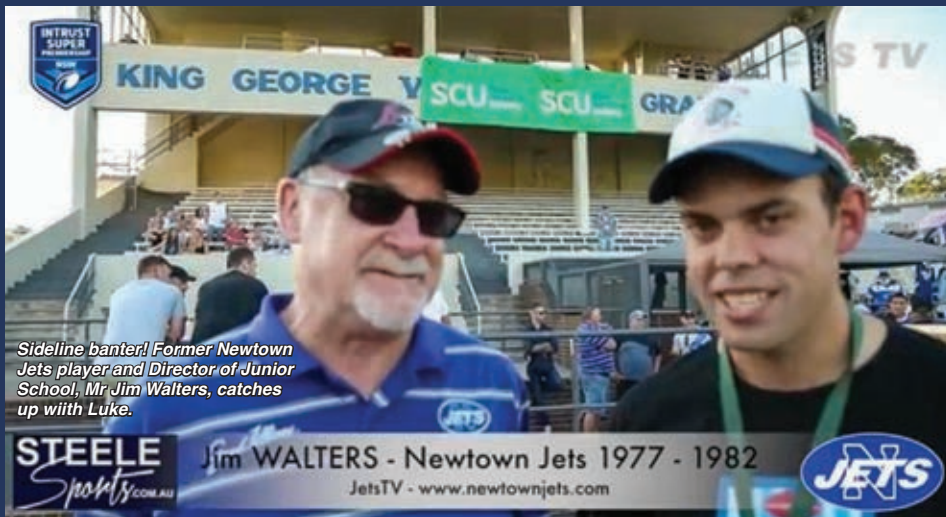
My journey at SPC, both as a student and staff member, has been an amazing experience, gifting me with numerous life lessons and cherished memories.

In terms of personal growth and character development, my experience playing Rugby at the College played a pivotal role and fostered friendships that I continue to cherish. Participating in the Prep A Canberra Tour in 2002 stands out as a significant memory, marking the early stages of my commentary career. Wearing the black jersey in 2008 as part of the First XV, especially alongside some of my closest friends, remains a golden highlight.

SPC was home to many influential teachers. Mr Andrew Gillies had immense faith in my abilities as a junior, guiding me throughout my time at the College. Mr Bruce Hopkins and Mr Mark Newbury ignited my passion for teaching while Mr Rob Simpson was a constant

source of support during my formative years. From a rugby perspective, Mr Paul Hardwick's guidance while in the First XV instilled confidence in my abilities as a player, which was pivotal to my post-school career and my journey in commentary.

Initially I lacked clarity about my aspirations post SPC. Broadcast media seemed limited to print, radio, and television at the time, and I questioned if I had what it took to succeed in this field. Consequently, I studied Exercise Science at ACU Strathfield, but deferred for a semester due to uncertainty. With advice from a family member, I persevered and completed my degree, along with a Diploma of Education, allowing me to become a PDHPE teacher. I spent half a year working in the Junior School at SPC and then joined Parramatta Marist High School, where I've served as a PDHPE Teacher and Year Coordinator for seven years.



Sideline banter! Former Newtown Jets player and Director of Junior School, Mr Jim Walters, catches up with Luke.

STEELE Sports **Jim WALTERS - Newtown Jets 1977 - 1982**
JETS TV - www.newtownjets.com



Luke on the bench, ready to transition from commentator to player!

My journey into broadcasting, particularly game-calling was a long-held dream. I admired iconic commentators like Ray Warren, Gordon Bray, and Warren Smith. Before school, I would meticulously gather statistics and players' names from rugby magazines. I loved imitating my commentary heroes, reciting their famous moments in the playground to the amusement of students and teachers.

My commentary journey began while playing for West Harbour. When substituted, I would rush to the ground announcer's microphone, commenting on the rest of the match. This habit continued at St Patrick's Rugby Club, where I started calling games on YouTube during the infancy of online streaming, all from the bench. I was even excited to announce my entry onto the field!

My broadcasting career took a more serious turn when I had the chance to call games for the Newtown Jets through an online radio company. This opportunity arose through a conversation on Facebook, providing me with the basic skills to call play-by-play. The online streaming industry gained momentum, especially during the first wave of COVID-19, leading to opportunities to broadcast community sports. Three years later, and with determination, I now serve as the lead commentator for the Shute Shield with Stan Sport and 9Gem.

To the boys of today, I want to stress that I am incredibly fortunate to call Rugby and make a living from it. However, my journey wouldn't have been possible without the relationships formed at SPC and through Rugby. My school and the Rugby Club have played a pivotal role in my current position. Rugby is a sport that brings people together, creating a unique sense of community. I've always felt like part of a larger family.

For the boys at the College aspiring to enter broadcasting, I advise you to practice and develop your skills. Seize every opportunity to learn and get involved. The online streaming sports industry is expanding, and there are ample opportunities. Invest in broadening your vocabulary; as a commentator, you are a storyteller. Be a student of the game, mastering everything about the players, teams and history. Lastly, and most importantly, savour your time at the College. My enthusiasm and passion for calling Rugby stem from my fond memories from my school days.

CALL IT!

PATRICK FOULKES ('08)

During my time at SPC, I was involved in a variety of co-curricular activities, including Rugby (though I wasn't particularly gifted), Cricket, Debating and the Performing Arts. I'm still excited to share my charge-down try story against Stannies! However, if I had to pick, debating and performing in drama productions, probably consumed most of my time. I even convinced my classmates to continue their drama studies, ensuring we had Year 11 and Year 12 drama classes, which was not common at the time. My apologies to anyone who had to sit through my soliloquies during the drama productions!

In Year 12, I was the wicketkeeper in the mighty Second XI Cricket team, which clinched the ISA Premiership in a thrilling Final in Bathurst, thanks to our head coach, Mr Justin Newman. Unfortunately, we lost in the CSDA Debating Semi Finals. You win some, you lose some!

Looking back, it's challenging to pinpoint specific experiences that shaped me into the person I am today, as there were countless memories over eight years. However, the friendships I formed with my classmates and teammates played a significant role in my development. Meeting Old Boys in peculiar places, like a hostel in Paris or at Rome Airport's baggage carousel, always brought back fond memories.

I connected strongly with two teachers during my time at SPC. Ms Gillian Daley, my Studies of Religion teacher, was a great source of inspiration. Her Year 12 class was my favourite. It was a blend of friendly yet competitive students who pushed each other academically. Ms Daley guided us expertly through the HSC challenges, making it a memorable and enjoyable experience. Mr Michael Robson, my Year 12 English teacher and Debating Master, helped me understand teamwork, tight deadlines and guided me towards a career in media.

Upon leaving SPC, I ventured into the media field, pursuing a journalism degree at UNSW. After gaining experience at ABC Radio during work experience, I developed a passion for broadcasting. This path led me to sports journalism, working as a producer at ABC Grandstand, focusing on the NRL and Cricket. I got the chance to work alongside renowned broadcasters, including Jim Maxwell. My role involved running a radio studio, editing packages, writing scripts and interviewing players. Occasionally, I had the opportunity to try my hand at sideline commentary.

In 2014, I joined Rugby Australia's media team, which was a rewarding and challenging experience. This role exposed me to the highs and lows of the game, teaching me valuable lessons, both personally and professionally. As major sports leagues moved into streaming, I found myself back on the microphone, covering various rugby events, including Super Rugby, the National Rugby Championship, Super W, Sevens tournaments, Junior Wallabies matches and a World Cup qualifier between the Cook Islands and Hong Kong.

In 2020, I transitioned to the NSW Government, working as a Media Manager in the infrastructure and construction sector. I am fortunate to stay connected with the sports I love by commentating the Shute Shield matches on Saturday afternoons with Stan Sport.

A message for today's boys: You get out of life what you put into it. Embrace your time at SPC wholeheartedly and immerse yourself in everything the school offers, whether it's academics, sports, or the creative arts.

Nikki Fochesato
College Archivist/Community Liaison Officer



Patrick, all ready for the action!



Patrick interviews a Waratahs player.



Patrick with Australian Rugby Union player, Sharni Williams.

Old Boy and former First XV player, Adam Doueihl ('16), offers some pre-match advice to members of the First XV team.



Simon (Year 11) & Tyson (Year 7) enjoy the day with their grandfather and father, Old Boy, Jason Khoury ('87).



Some colourful characters from across the years.



BACK TO BREEN DAY

This year's Back to Breen Day was held on Saturday 19 August. It was a great opportunity for Old Boys to revisit their school grounds and reconnect with the vibrant SPC spirit by supporting the boys in their Rugby games on Breen Oval. This year, the First XV took on the mite of St Augustine's College, with the ISA Division One Rugby Shield in contention.

Before the game kicked off, we had the pleasure of welcoming Old Boy and former First XV player Adam Doueihl ('16). Since leaving SPC, Adam has made his mark in the world of Rugby League, currently donning the jersey for the Wests Tigers. He addressed the young players before the match, generously sharing words of wisdom and inspiration.

The turnout for Back to Breen Day was very impressive, with a multitude of Old Boys congregating along the side-lines and a particularly animated gathering at Old Boys' Corner! Many were curious to explore the College's latest addition, the Scientia Building, and marvelled at the state-of-the-art facilities. In particular, it was wonderful to see members of the Class of 1988 soaking up the atmosphere while enjoying some afternoon tea. They then embarked on their 30-year reunion celebrations in the city.

As the sun dipped below the horizon, the day's festivities came to a close. Despite St Augustine's getting the better of us on the day, the boys in black gave it everything. It's this sporting spirit that helped infuse our community with a sense of pride and togetherness.

Greg Dening
Old Boys' Liaison Officer



Robust support at Old Boys' Corner!



Part of the on-field action against St Augustine's College.



Anna, Paul, John & Rubyna enjoy a tour around the College.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

St Patrick's College recently received a message from a teacher who once graced its halls. It's a story that spans decades and underscores the lasting connections formed at the College.

During 1970-71, St Patrick's welcomed Paul Whalen, a visiting high school teacher from Canada. Those years marked a pivotal highlight in his early career, where he taught the boys Ancient History and Latin. Alongside his teaching commitments, he was also appointed as one of our first Basketball coaches.

Regrettably, in 1972, Paul had to return to Canada to complete his teaching certification, which curtailed his time at the College. However, he always looked back fondly on his teaching experience at St Patrick's and the remarkable students he had the privilege to educate.

Fast forward to the present day. Paul's son, John, has been residing in Perth with his wife Rubyna for several years. After more than five decades, Paul and his wife Anna decided to make a sentimental journey back to Australia to visit them. It was a poignant trip, steeped in nostalgia and fond memories.

Paul reached out to the College with a heartwarming request. He expressed his desire to revisit the campus, reconnect with any of his past students and relive the memories. One such student was Jim Neville, who served as the College Captain in 1970.

Our Old Boys' Liaison Officer, Greg Dening, played a pivotal role in reuniting Jim and Paul. Initially, the reconnection began through email, and after some organising, the group embarked on a special tour around the College. As they strolled through the campus, they shared laughter and reminiscences, embracing the cherished moments of their past while also marvelling at the new school buildings and the many transformations that had taken place.

During the rest of his stay in Sydney, Paul and his wife also caught up with other members of the Class of 1970: Gerald Gleeson, Mark Macaulay, Anthony MacArthur, Bernard Curran, Michael Hayes, Michael Bellemore and Bob Watson. It's a testament to the profound impact that the College has, not just on its students, but also its dedicated teachers, and the connections formed between them.

Nikki Fochesato
Archivist/Community Liaison Officer



Paul Whalen models an SPC supporters jacket gifted to him by Old Boy and former 1970 College Captain, Jim Neville.



Cheeky juniors c. 1970's!

HELP US TELL THE STORY

At the College, we are keen to gather narratives from our Old Boys about their days at school. These reminiscences and anecdotes play a pivotal role in painting a vivid portrayal of the St Patrick's College student experience throughout the years. Whether a teacher ignited your passion, or you hold cherished memories of fellow students, these stories are invaluable.

Many Old Boys have ventured into various domains, achieving success both in their personal and professional lives. At times, particular decisions or life perspectives may have been shaped by classroom lessons or experiences on the sports field. These are precisely the stories we are eager to uncover.

With our 100th Anniversary approaching in 2028, we aim to compile these tales as part of the St Patrick's College historical narrative. If you would like to contribute, please reach out to our Archivist, Nikki Fochesato at nikki.fochesato@spc.nsw.edu.au. Your stories enrich our legacy!



TRIPLE HONOURS FOR THE MATTICK FAMILY

We are proud to announce the remarkable achievement of one of our esteemed Old Boys, Professor Richard Mattick ('73). In the 2023 King's Birthday Honours List, Professor Mattick was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia in the General Division (AM). This accolade recognises his outstanding contributions to the fields of drug and alcohol research, education and social policy, as well as his noteworthy service to medical organisations.

What makes this achievement even more exceptional, is that, as far as we know, it marks the first time in the College's history that three brothers have all been recipients of this prestigious award. Indeed, Richard's older brothers John ('67) and Peter ('69) have also been recognised for their remarkable contributions in various domains.

In 2001, Professor John Mattick received this distinguished recognition for his invaluable work in molecular biology, genetics and biotechnology, particularly for his role in establishing and administering research institutes. His contributions have left an indelible mark on these fields.

In 2014, Mr Peter Mattick was honoured for his significant service to the community. His philanthropic endeavours and charitable work in the realms of business and commerce have made a profound difference. Through his dedication, he has positively influenced the lives of many.

The Mattick brothers' legacy strongly upholds the College's motto, "Let Your Light Shine." They serve as a perpetual source of pride and inspiration, for current students and Old Boys alike.

Nikki Fochesato
Archivist/Community Liaison Officer

DONATED ITEMS

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

Michael Viney ('53) (posthumously)
Framed 1953 MCC Cricket
Champions Pennant

Tony Swift ('65)
First XV Jersey (the first year Rugby
Union was played in the College)

Philip Rider ('59)
Old School Reports from the 1950s

Peter Johnson ('75)
Various items from his mother's estate,
including memorabilia relating to Brother Crichton
and Brother Doran

If there are any other members of the community who wish to donate an item to the College's archives, please contact Nikki Fochesato on 9763 1000 or email: nikki.fochesato@spc.nsw.edu.au.

A SPECIAL MEMENTO

In 1970, Queen Elizabeth II visited Australia to commemorate Captain James Cook's historic voyage to Botany Bay. A plaque along the southern shores of Botany Bay marks her visit.

On that memorable day, representatives from high schools across the Sydney Metropolitan area, gathered at James Cook High School to meet the Queen and the Royal family. College Captain Jim Neville ('70) represented SPC and had the honour of meeting the Queen and shaking her hand.

In remembrance of this special occasion, the Queen presented each representative with a commemorative medallion which Jim has generously donated to the College's Archives.



Jim Neville ('70) with grandsons: Matthew (Year 10), Lucas (Year 8) & James Burnicle (Year 5) proudly displays his medal.

UNCOVERING OUR UNSUNG HEROES

Many Old Boys are making exceptional contributions beyond their professional responsibilities, generously sharing their time and expertise for the betterment of society.

If you know of someone who you feel is making a notable impact in the public domain, we would be delighted to learn more about them.

Please get in touch by sending an email to our College Archivist at: nikki.fochesato@spc.nsw.edu.au.



A SMALL CLUB WITH BIG DREAMS

In 2023, St Patrick's Junior Rugby Club celebrated remarkable success, with four teams making it to the Grand Finals. Our U14s claimed the Premiership, while the U10s and U12s shared the top honour as joint premiers. The U13s finished as admirable runners-up.

We are dedicated to nurturing rugby enthusiasts from U6 to U16. Pre-season skill sessions commence on February 4, 2024 at Hudson Park and are open to all, with no obligation to join.

Looking ahead to 2024, we plan to expand our teams in all age groups and introduce girls Rugby 7s teams. If you, your children, grandchildren or friends seek fun, skill development and lasting friendships in a family-friendly environment, visit us at: www.spjrc.org or contact Joe Abraham on 0407 910 510 for details.

Joe Abraham ('77)
SPJRC President



WEARING THE JERSEY WITH PRIDE

The 2023 season was a tremendous success for SPFC. With a strong preseason behind us, seven teams, including two teams in the Premier League Squad, All Age, 16s, over 35s and two Women's teams, all entering the season with enthusiasm.

Our gratitude extends to the dedicated SPFC Committee, individual team managers and coaches for their hard work. They upheld the SPFC spirit by wearing the jersey with pride and their efforts brought home several trophies.

A special mention goes to Roberto Bonserio ('09) and Steve Calderan, who guided our First-Grade team to a Grand Final in our debut year in the Premier League. Remarkably, they went nine games undefeated to reach this milestone. Another great achievement was our new U16 team, crowned Premiers and Grand Final winners in their first year.

What fills us with pride is our commitment to charity work. In January, our Annual Lambert Park Charity game raised funds for Beyond Blue and White Ribbon. A special thanks must go to Mark Liberatore ('06), Roberto Bonserio ('09) and the girls for putting on the event.

A special acknowledgment goes to our dedicated President Frank Parisi ('87) who, in his first year, expanded the Club by adding two teams and guiding us towards a brighter future. Thank you!

As we strive for continuous improvement, we invite you to follow our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/stpatricksfotballclub> and explore opportunities to play or engage with the Club.

We look forward to welcoming more Old Boys and newcomers to the Club in 2024. See you all then!

Nick de Lutiis ('12)
SPFC Vice President



IT'S ONWARDS AND UPWARDS FOR SPRC!

The 2023 season was a particularly successful one for the St Patrick's Rugby Club. We consistently fielded more than seven teams which included four Open Men's Grade teams, two Under 21 Colts teams and a Women's 7s side team. We were delighted to welcome over 170 registered players during the season, a testament to our growing influence among the Old Boys network and the wider Strathfield community.

The standout highlight was undoubtedly our Colts I team, who demonstrated their mettle by securing the title of undefeated Minor Premiers during the regular season. Although the premiership victory eluded these young talents, their remarkable journey made it an outstanding year.

For the past five years, our Colts team has been bolstered by the participation of recent Old Boys, who have enjoyed playing Rugby beyond school. As we set our sights on 2024, preparations are already in motion. We're eager to welcome new and returning players, coaches, managers and volunteers to join our Rugby family. If you're interested in being part of our club, please don't hesitate to reach out to Tim Skinner ('13) at: secretary@sprc.com.au.

Tim Skinner ('13)
SPRC Secretary



OLD BOY FOLLOWS IN FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

We are extremely proud of Old Boy John McCarthy ('11) who has been appointed as a Grade 1 Rugby Referee. In July, John officiated his inaugural First Grade Shute Shield match and in doing so, follows in the footsteps of his father, Old Boy John McCarthy ('79), also a Grade 1 Rugby Referee.

John began his refereeing odyssey at the Old Boys Rugby Club and has since commanded games across the rugby spectrum, from grassroots suburban rugby to the grand stages of Super Rugby.

Beyond his accomplishments on the rugby field, John brings his talents to our College community as an accomplished Junior School teacher. We are privileged to have such a multi-talented individual in our midst!





Members of the Class of 1949, meet for an impromptu catch-up.



Class of 1962 enjoy their reunion, with special guest, Br Berg.



It was a great turnout for the Class of 1978 reunion.



The Class of 1993, celebrate 30 years since leaving SPC.



Time flies! Some younger faces from the Class of 2008.

RECENT REUNIONS

We have received reports that the following year groups have reunited in recent months: 1962, 1978, 1988, 1993, 2013 and 2008. Eight members from the Class of 1949 got together for an impromptu catch-up which is quite impressive given that most are in their 90s! Great to see the SPC spirit is still alive and well!



FORTHCOMING REUNIONS

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

CLASS OF 1963 (1961 INTERMEDIATE) – 60 YEAR REUNION

Date: Thursday 9 May 2024
Venue: Kirribilli Club, 11 Harbourview Cres, Lavender Bay
Time: 12:00 PM
Lunch: 1:00 PM
Contact: Peter Bosci
 E: peterbosci@hotmail.com

VALE

Our thoughts and prayers go to the families and friends of the following Old Boys and former staff members:

Br 'Ted' Brydon Walker ('46)

Kevin Firman ('70)

John Quinlan ('77)

Paul Cundy ('78)

David Donnan ('80)

Martin Tonitto ('98)

Dean Mascarello ('08)

Patricia Johnson

Mrs Johnson ran the Senior Canteen for almost 20 years between 1975-1994

Marion McCormack

Ms McCormack was the College Receptionist for 22 years between 1993-2015

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

SUPPORT FOR A HOME-GROWN WALLABY



A special moment! Mark Nawaqanitawase ('18) is congratulated by a number of supporters including Old Boys from the Class of 2015: Liam Corry, Shaun Marsh & Nicholas Vatovec.

In September, Old Boy Mark Nawaqanitawase ('18) represented Australia in the Rugby World Cup Campaign in Paris.

A number of Old Boys from different year groups were present, having travelled all the way to France to witness the thrilling World Cup action. Fresh from the excitement of the fourth pool game, in which Australia secured a resounding victory against Portugal, Mark Nawaqanitawase seized a special moment. Amidst the cheers and celebrations, Mark spotted some familiar faces in the crowd. In a heartwarming turn of events, these Old Boys made their way down to the sidelines to congratulate Mark.

This spontaneous reunion on the international stage, beautifully exemplifies the unwavering support Old Boys give to one another. No doubt the sight of Mark, adorned in the green and gold of the Australian team, was a source of immense pride to all those who witnessed it.

We wish to thank and acknowledge Rugby Australia; more specifically Nick Holland, for capturing this special moment.

Nikki Fochesato
 Archivist/Community Liaison Officer

LUCEAT LUX VESTRA
"Let your light shine"



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