

To all Coaches, Managers, and the Cricket Club Committee of St Pius X College,

As the 2024–25 MWJCA Cricket Season draws to a close, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your time, effort, and unwavering commitment to our College’s cricket program.

Your passion for the game and your dedication to the development of our players—both on and off the field—have been evident throughout the season. From early morning training sessions and weekend matches to organising logistics and offering support on the sidelines, your efforts have made a lasting impact on our teams and our community.

Special thanks go to:

Coaches & Managers

- **U12 Blue** – *Coach:* Michael Quinnell | *Manager:* Therese Watson
- **U13 Black** – *Coach:* Andrew Ward | *Manager:* Andrew Spillane
- **U14/1 Green** – *Coach:* James Keeler | *Manager:* Frances-Anne Keeler
- **U14/15 Red** – *Coach:* Ryan Balboa | *Manager:* Andrew Cheah
- **U14/15 Orange** – *Coach:* Ben Serone | *Manager:* Kasey Hincksman
- **U17 Purple** – *Coach:* Anesh Naidoo | *Manager:* Bill Hartnett

We are especially grateful to **Mr Tony Carroll** and the entire **Cricket Club Committee** for their leadership, coordination, and behind-the-scenes work that ensures every season runs smoothly and successfully.

It is volunteers like you who enrich the sporting experience at St Pius X College. Thank you once again for all you do in service of our students, their teams, and our cricketing community.

MWJCA Grand Final: Wakehurst Red 5/159 def. SPX Green 9/141 by 18 runs

Despite a great effort from SPX Green unfortunately it wasn’t our day, and we went down by 18 runs in the Grand Final.

Bowling first, we got off to a decent start with very good opening spells from James Sykes (2/23) and Ali Fernandes (1/27). James took an early wicket before Wakehurst got on top. They put on 55 for the 2nd wicket in 10 overs, before Felix Keeler (1/21) snaffled a great caught & bowled to dismiss their best batsman. We battled hard but Wakehurst were up to the challenge and batted very well. We had a couple more highlights with a good run out from the boundary from Ali Fernandes, and in a great piece of captaincy

from Rory Rapa, he moved to himself to deep 4th slip & swallowed a sharp catch there next ball. Unfortunately we missed a few chances in the field, and Wakehurst finished with 5/159.

Despite losing an early wicket, our innings started promisingly. Anthony Kennedy (34), Henry Gardner (19) and Zac Chippendale (25) all batted well and after 13 overs we were 2/64 and right in the game. Unfortunately Anthony was run out in the next over pushing for a 2nd run, and from there Wakehurst wrestled their way on top. They restricted us to 34 from the next 10 overs, leaving us needing 56 off the last 7 overs. The boys made a great effort, with a few boys sacrificing their wickets for the team in the chase for quick runs. Bowen Nicey (17) and Ali Fernandes (16) pushed hard until the end, but ultimately we fell 18 runs short.

Congratulations to the boys on a great season. They played the game in the right spirit, and everyone contributed throughout the season. We fell just short at the final hurdle, but the boys have a lot to be proud of. Thanks to all the parents for their support throughout the season.

Mr James Keeler

Chase of the Season: Round 18: SPX U13 Black def Wakehurst – chasing 184!

U13 Black arrived at Lionel Watts Reserve, excited to get their game underway with Wakehurst on the synthetic field. Connor Kouga (Capitan) won the bat flip and elected to bowl first. Oscar Haigh (1/11) and Liam Gallery (0/13) opened the bowling and produced a lot of dot balls, before Oscar took the opening wicket in the fifth over with a wicket maiden. Wakehurst kept the score moving with some good cricket strokes. Gianluca Spillane (1/14) was next to strike, having the batter caught at mid-on. Connor (1/10) then took an excellent low caught and bowled just before the break to have Wakehurst 3-82 at drinks. After the break, Wakehurst continued to take advantage of the fast synthetic outfield, accelerating its run rate. U13 Black weren't able to make any further inroads with the ball but worked hard to restrict boundaries in the field. Wakehurst closed its innings at 3-183.

U13 Black opened its innings with the intent of being patient and playing good cricket strokes, as there was excellent value for shots on offer with the fast synthetic outfield. Three early wickets were lost to some short ball bowling, all hitting high on the bat and ballooning to fielders in the ring. With the score at 3-17 off four overs, Hugh Glover (40*) joined Dylan Milostic (45*) at the crease for a momentum turning 76-run partnership that steered U13 Black to 4-102 at the drinks break. Following Hugh's and Dylan's retirements, Brody Holland (17) and Gianluca Spillane (27*) then continued the momentum with a 60-run partnership. Both batters retired not out with U13 Black at 4-149 with 5 overs to go, and tension building around the ground! The runs required and

balls remaining were quickly calculated by the boys on the sideline. Hugh and Dylan returned to the crease to continue their innings. Hugh hit a glorious 6 straight down the ground off the Wakehurst spinner to ease the pressure with 15 balls remaining. U13 Black chased down an intimidating 184 runs to win with an over to spare and 3 wickets in hand. The player of the match was awarded to Dylan Milostic. It was an excellent game played in great spirit from both teams.

Matthew Hood (acting Game Day coach)