



ST PIUS X COLLEGE

CHATSWOOD

SPX, Old Boys Rugby & SPX Old Boys

are holding a Benefit Evening
for two of our Ex-Students:

Liam Knight & Greg Wade



**The function is on Friday 1st November 2019
7.00pm at North Sydney Leagues Club.**

Both men need ongoing care, which will be a further financial burden for them and their families.

If you or your business can support this event with donations of goods or services, please contact:

Bianca Eassey on bianca.e@aabuilding.com.au or 0414 900 606,

OR

Rick Russo on russo@stpiusxnsw.edu.au or 0418 438 325

Please see read on for Liam & Greg's journey to date

COLLEGE • 35 Anderson Street, Chatswood NSW 2067 P(02) 9411 4733 F(02) 9413 1860

TREACY COMPLEX • Dreadnought Road, Oxford Falls NSW 2100 P(02) 9451 7375

E admin@stpiusx.nsw.edu.au www.spx.nsw.edu.au

ABN 50 451 308 630



At 17 **Liam KNIGHT** was an energetic young man who loved surfing, rugby, going out with mates and mucking around the school yard. On January 12th, 2013, it all came crashing down when a gate crasher at a friend's 18th birthday party, spurred on by drugs and alcohol, pierced a 2.8 metre steel rod through Liam's skull, exiting the other side.

Liam spent twelve days in a coma, with his family not knowing what his outcome would be. Luckily Liam showed signs of improvement and then spent a further two and a half months in Royal North Shore Hospital followed by a three-and-a-half-month stint in Royal Rehab where he learnt how to walk again and began to learn how to regain his independence from this tragedy.

Liam, along with family, decided to turn this negative into a positive and use his circumstances as a catalyst to prevent further unnecessary heartbreak befalling the young people around him. They set up the White Knight Foundation which aims to help young victims of unprovoked, alcohol fuelled violent attacks and also educate students and young people about the impact these actions have on themselves and those around them. The Foundation has to date donated over \$150,000 worth of equipment and assistance to victims, their families and rehab facilities, as well as Liam speaking to over 7,000 students and organisations throughout Australia. Liam is an inspiration to many people who have had to overcome life's obstacles. He was a NSW Finalist for Young Australian of the Year in 2016 for what he gone through, and then given back to the community. Liam has also completed his Bachelor of Commerce and is currently working in Insurance after a stint in commercial Real Estate.

Liam, now 24, still suffers from disability on the left side of his body and takes medication daily to reduce the chances of any epileptic episodes from occurring. He has undergone and will continue to undergo surgery to ensure his limbs are in a functional order. Despite all this, he still keeps a very positive mindset that things will still improve and looks forward to what life brings him down the track.

Thanks for your consideration.

Greg WADE was an active, healthy and popular high-school teacher and much-admired and respected Year 12 Year Advisor. In October 2018 he was preparing to guide his students through their HSC exams but on the 26th October as Greg was riding his motorbike along River Road, Greenwich, he came off and impacted with a guard-rail. Despite wearing his helmet, Greg sustained a traumatic brain injury.

A doctor and nurse at the scene saved his life with early moments of quality care and quick thinking.

Greg was admitted to Royal North Shore Hospital, Emergency Department, then to the Intensive Care Unit in a critical condition and was intubated and immediately placed in an induced coma. Greg had sustained facial and upper-body & limb fractures and endured several operations including a stent to release pressure on his brain, a tracheostomy to support his breathing, gastrostomy to tube-feed him, and surgery to repair his fractured hand.

Three weeks after the accident Greg was stable enough to move from ICU to the Neurological Ward where he was cared for by a responsive, kind, skilled and committed team of nurses and doctors. Very slowly over the following few weeks, Greg started to emerge. His eyes occasionally opened but he stared blankly, then he started tracking movement, blinking and squinting and soon enough he was making purposeful eye-contact. On the one-month anniversary of his accident, Greg smiled. It was 6 weeks before Greg became intentionally responsive to those around him, and was considered to be out of the coma.

Just before Christmas, some nine weeks after the accident Greg took his first steps with full physical support and intervention from a team physiotherapist, nurses and walking aides.

On 2nd January 2019, Greg was considered medically stable enough to be transferred to Royal Rehab's Brain Injury Unit. At this point Greg was wheelchair-bound, he was tube-fed, his speech barely intelligible and he required round-the-clock care and support for all daily activities. The team of specialists worked collaboratively to support Greg to re-learn his basic life-skills, and also to walk and talk again. Their support and guidance were instrumental; however, Greg's grit and determination are the real hallmarks of his recovery.

His tenacity was one of the first traits that shone through as Greg re-emerged from the trauma. He continues to astound medical professionals (and his friends and family!) with his recovery, both physical and neurological and can now confidently speak and mobilise independently. The rehab process continues to be challenging, as things that he used to do easily are now a lot harder. Having patience and tolerance are skills he is honing and the progress he makes spurs him on further. Greg was discharged from Royal Rehab six-and-a-half months post-accident. He has a long journey ahead but he is feverishly working on his physical and mental recovery, with a tenacious focus on returning to independent living, driving and ultimately his truest passion – working as a teacher. Thanks for helping him, if you are able.

Please contact:

Bianca Eassey on bianca.e@aabuilding.com.au or 0414 900 606,

OR

Rick Russo on rrusso@stpiusxnsu.edu.au or 0418 438 325

“UNITY IN COMMUNITY”

Please consider buying a ticket to the evening or donating where possible.