



HERITAGE



THE JOHN XXIII COLLEGE
APPROACH AND THE
REMARKABLE PEOPLE IT
HAS NURTURED.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

In a world increasingly defined by technological integration, the challenge of preparing students for the Fourth Industrial Revolution has never been more pressing.

The World Economic Forum's recent white paper, *Defining Education 4.0: A Taxonomy for the Future of Learning*, highlights that for students to thrive in this rapidly evolving landscape, they must develop crucial skills such as problem-solving, collaboration, and adaptability. Central to this development are key attitudes and values—grit, a growth mindset, and initiative—that will equip them to navigate and excel in a world where the boundaries between the physical, digital, and biological realms are increasingly blurred.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution builds upon the advancements of the Third, characterised by the fusion of cutting-edge technologies that blur these traditional boundaries. Unlike the First Industrial Revolution, which mechanised production with water and steam power, or the Second, which introduced mass production through electric power, and the Third, which automated processes using electronics and information technology, this current era is marked by a convergence of physical, digital, and biological technologies.

Yet, this technological boon is accompanied by a significant concern: growing societal inequality. While those who can afford and access these advancements reap substantial benefits, the largest gains often go to innovators, shareholders, and investors, leaving many behind. This disparity underscores the need for education that not only prepares students with critical skills but also instils a commitment to justice and equality.

Our College is dedicated to nurturing students as critical thinkers, creatives, communicators, and collaborators, deeply informed by our values and pursuit of justice. It is essential that our educational approach fosters not just intellectual growth but also a sense of responsibility towards societal equity. Our commitment extends beyond academics to encompass all aspects of student development, including sport, arts and social justice. These diverse experiences are integral to developing well-rounded individuals who are both capable and compassionate.

Our belief is that excellence in academics and sports are not mutually exclusive. On the contrary, maintaining a balance between the two can enhance performance across the board. Evidence suggests that regular physical activity improves memory, concentration,

At our **Sport Awards Night**, a group of sport alumni shared their experiences and insights. Thanks to: John Townsend (Class 1978), award-winning journalist and host. Guest speaker Olympian Zoe Arancini. Alumni Panel: Grace Johnston (Class 2022) Sian Munks (Class 2017) Tom Rear (Class 2021) and Michael Reynolds (Class 2021).



Our recent **Alumni Panel** event was a goldmine of insights for Class 2024! Hot topics included navigating post-school life, balancing friendships and responsibilities, and staying motivated. Thanks to: Chloe Anning (Class 2021), Abbey Chapman (Class 2021), Luke Connelly (Class 2018), and Ben Linsten (Class 2020).

HAPPENINGS

and cognitive function, while also nurturing qualities like perseverance and teamwork. These attributes are invaluable in both academic and personal pursuits. Moreover, the joy and camaraderie of sport provides essential emotional and social benefits, reinforcing the holistic development we champion.

As we prepare our students for a future shaped by rapid technological change and evolving societal dynamics, it is vital to encourage them to embrace challenges with courage and resilience. In doing so, we not only equip them to navigate this new era but also to contribute meaningfully to a more just and equitable world.

Throughout this edition of Heritage, you will discover inspiring stories of our alumni who have distinguished themselves in sport, legal, defence, medical, and STEM-related fields. This diversity of achievement reflects our College's commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals deeply informed by our values and pursuit of justice. Additionally, we highlight the commendable efforts of our alumni who are dedicating their time and skills to volunteer work, showcasing their ongoing mission to being in the service of others.

These stories exemplify our belief that excellence across diverse fields is essential in addressing the complex challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. They also highlight how a balance of academic rigour, ethical grounding, and practical skills leads to

meaningful contributions in a rapidly evolving world.

Complementing these profiles, you will find features on our current students' engagement in extended learning opportunities, spiritual learning, and reconciliation efforts, demonstrating our ongoing cultivation of compassion, critical thinking, and integrity-driven leadership in our student body.

Also featured is an insightful discussion with respected Jesuit priest, academic, and lawyer, Fr Frank Brennan SJ AO, whom we had the honour of hosting at our College earlier in the year.

The breadth of accomplishments and compassionate community engagement celebrated in this issue underscores our College's dedication to providing a broad education. We prepare students for diverse paths in life, while fostering a commitment to service, justice and equality.



As you read, I hope you will appreciate how our strategic vision manifests in tangible outcomes and graduates who excel in their fields, contributing meaningfully to creating a more equitable society.

Daniel Mahon
College Principal

Class 2023 1st Year Reunion

Laughter, memories, and amazing vibes filled The Wembley Hotel as our Class of 2023 came together again! It was clear that the class spirit was stronger than ever! A big thank you to everyone who came out and made the night so special.





STRONGER CONNECTIONS

Over the past year, John XXIII College has continued to nurture and celebrate the connections within our alumni community. From inspiring networking events to meaningful reunions, we have come together to share achievements, stories, and the deep ties that bind us as a school family.

Reflecting on the year

Throughout the year, we organised a diverse range of events aimed at deepening relationships among our alumni and fostering connections with current students. Notable highlights include our inaugural London Connect event, reunions for the Class of 2023, and milestone celebrations for alumni marking 10, 20, 30, and 40 years from John XXIII, as well as 50 and 60-year reunions for St Louis and Loreto College graduates. We also facilitated important connections between alumni and our high-achieving students, with a Careers Conversation event for Year 9 students, where alumni shared their professional journeys, inspiring and guiding the next generation.

In an exciting new initiative, we hosted a networking event focused on industry, creating opportunities for recent graduates and seasoned professionals to engage with other alums, broaden their networks, and gain valuable insights from industry leaders. This event also welcomed our Year 12 students, who eagerly embraced the chance to participate.

Our community calendar was rich with diverse and enriching events, such as an evening with Fr Frank Brennan SJ on A Synodal Church: Responding to the

Signs of the Times, the WA launch of the Bishops' Social Justice Statement, and our weekly Community Mass, offering something for everyone in our vibrant community.

We were also thrilled to launch our Visual Arts Exhibition, opened by alum and Lester Art Prize finalist Daavid Anderson (Class 1998), who captivated the audience with his reflections. Additionally, alumni took centre stage at the sports presentation evening, with participation from Grace Johnston (Class 2022), Sian Munks (Class 2017), Tom Rear (Class 2021), and Michael Reynolds (Class 2021), showcasing the success and talent of our alumni.

Another memorable highlight was John XXIII Day, a celebration filled with enthusiasm and alumni involvement, particularly in the Ron Logan Cup football match and the Theresa Elliott Shield netball match. These events underscored the enduring connections within our community.

The networking opportunities these events offered have been invaluable. Many alumni shared how these connections opened doors for career growth and personal development. The mentorship support that our alumni provide to current students has fostered a supportive cycle, enriching everyone involved.

As we look ahead, we encourage all alums to remain engaged through our alumni portal, social media platforms, Heritage magazine and newsletters, ensuring our vibrant community thrives.

A BUSY YEAR FOR OUR ALUMNI

February

8 February: Class 2023 High Achievers Assembly
ATAR 98+

March

14 March: Men of John XXIII College
Fathering Project

April

6 April: London Alumni Connect

12 April: St Louis Class 1967 Coffee Catch-up

23 April: High Achievers Breakfast with guest
speaker Ashleigh Smith (Class 2020)

May

17 May: St Louis Class 1974 | 50 Year Reunion

June

21 June: Benjamin Monaghan & Loreto Past
Pupils' Association Awards morning tea

July

16 July: An evening with Fr Frank Brennan SJ:
A Synodal Church – Responding to the
Signs of the Times

31 July: High Achievers Breakfast with guest
speaker Jasmin Collins (Class 2020)

August

2 August: Past Staff Function

29 August: Class 2023 | 1st Year Reunion

September

5 September: Launch of the Bishops'
Social Justice Statement

12 September: Alumni Connect Networking Event
hosted by Christian Owen (Class 1991)

13 September: St Louis Class 1967
Coffee Catch-up

October

9 October: St Louis Class 1971 Lunch

11-13 October: Loreto Federation

14 October: Visual Arts Exhibition
opening with guest speaker
Daevid Anderson
(Class 1998)

15 October: Sport Awards evening,
Alumni panel:

Grace Johnston (Class 2022)

Sian Munks (Class 2017)

Tom Rear (Class 2021)

Michael Reynolds (Class 2021)

21 October: Combined Independent Girls Schools
(CIGS) Golf Day

November

1 November: All Souls Mass & Morning Tea

8 November: Alumni Mass & Morning Tea

9 November: Class 2014 | 10 Year Reunion

Class 2004 | 20 Year Reunion

Class 1994 | 30 Year Reunion

Class 1984 | 40 Year Reunion

16 November: Loreto Class 1974 | 50 Year Reunion
Evening Soiree

17 November: Loreto Class 1974 | 50 Year Reunion
Morning Walk and Breakfast

22 November: Loreto Class 1964 | 60 Year Reunion

27 November: Year 9 Careers Conversation event

December

8 December: Loreto Past Pupils' Association
Mass & Morning Tea

Recurring

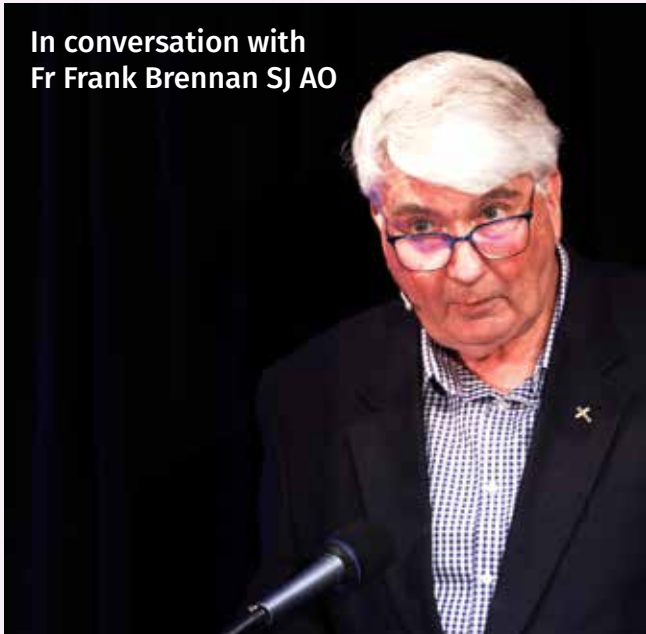
- Community Mass: Every Friday
- Mentoring in the Library
- Coaching rowing and sporting teams



Martin and Thomas Hartigan

NAVIGATING A SYNODAL CHURCH

In conversation with
Fr Frank Brennan SJ AO



The concept of a 'synodal' Church, where every voice matters, has become a topic of significant discussion within the Catholic community. Earlier this year, we had the opportunity to sit down with Father Frank Brennan SJ AO, a distinguished figure known for his roles as a Jesuit priest, law professor, and human rights lawyer.

Fr Brennan is a man of many descriptors: former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd once referred to him as 'the nation's ethical burr'. Paul Keating referred to him as 'the meddling priest', at the same time the National Trust declared him a 'living national treasure'. These varied appellations speak to Fr Brennan's impactful presence in both religious and public spheres.

This year, Fr Brennan addressed the important subject of synodality during a community event held at John XXIII College, drawing attention from Vatican reporters. Let's explore what synodality means for the future of the Catholic Church, examining its potential to reshape decision-making processes, foster greater lay participation, and address contemporary challenges facing the faith community.

Q: Fr Brennan, could you explain the concept of synodality in simple terms?

A: Synodality is about the Church moving forward together. It involves all members - from the Pope to local parishioners - journeying together, gathering, and actively participating in the Church's mission. This approach is crucial today as it helps us respond to modern challenges while ensuring that all voices are heard and valued. Communion, participation, and mission.

Q: How can a synodal approach help the Church address significant societal issues?

A: The key is attentive listening. Church leaders need to hear and consider different viewpoints, experiences, and expert opinions. This is followed by a period of discernment, where we ask, 'What is God asking of us?' Only after this process do we make decisions, with the expectation that everyone will be prepared to accept the outcome, even if they don't fully agree with every aspect.

Q: You have been vocal about women's roles in the Church. Could you elaborate on your stance?

A: I have expressed concern about the slow progress on this issue, particularly regarding women deacons. I believe we need to address this matter promptly. I've questioned why the October Synod session wasn't used to discuss this topic and share findings from Pope Francis' commissions. For a Church that aims to be inclusive and transparent, this should be a priority.

Q: What are your thoughts on the commencement address made by NFL player Harrison Butker, at Benedictine College earlier this year?

A: Well, he won't be giving a commencement speech at John XXIII College any time soon! It should not be the way you impose identity on people.

Q: How can synodality help the Church connect with young people?

A: Young people today seek to be heard and respected, not just instructed. They do not respond well to people in authority. We need to listen to their perspectives genuinely, without simply waiting for them to agree with pre-existing views. By engaging sincerely with their ideas and concerns, we can make the Church more relevant and meaningful to their lives.

Q: You spent time with our Politics and Law ATAR students during your visit. What was that experience like?

A: It was enlightening. The students asked thoughtful questions on various topics, from Australia becoming a republic to the Voice to Parliament Referendum. It demonstrated that young people are deeply engaged with both religious and social issues, which is exactly what a synodal Church requires.

Q: In your latest book, 'Lesson from Our Failure to Build A Constitutional Bridge in the 2023 Referendum', you discuss finding a 'sweet spot' for substantive change. What does this mean?

A: I believe there will come a time when Australians recognise First Australians in our constitution in a way that garners widespread agreement. However, reaching this point requires the right process. Good policy combined with good process is essential for achieving positive change.

Q: Some argue that unity on big issues like the Voice referendum is unattainable. What is your perspective?

A: I advocate for creating processes where people feel ownership of the outcomes. Even if individuals don't agree entirely with a decision, they can accept it because they were part of the journey. This involvement fosters a sense of shared responsibility for whatever the final result may be.

Q: You have mentioned the importance of focusing on what unites us. Why is language so crucial in this context?

A: Language shapes our perceptions of others and ourselves. Using respectful language helps foster a sense of belonging and equal dignity. When we communicate thoughtfully, we can acknowledge our differences while focusing on the universal truths that unite us, such as human dignity. In regard to the Voice referendum, it all comes down to language. Constitutions are words and words matter.

Q: How can information be clearly, effectively and authentically utilised and communicated in our day and age in order to make all participants feel that they have the tools to properly consider what is being asked of them?

A: In the past we have always been able to utilise the mastheads of particular newspapers we trust, or particular media outlets that we trusted. Now we have all these different bubbles around. One of the problems with social media, particularly with young people, is that they often tend to lock into and stay in their bubble. They cling to whatever validates their narrative. What we must do in terms of education is open other possibilities for people to be listening to other voices, but also finding credible sifters of information. We need to teach critical thinking skills so people can determine what is and what is not credible information, as well as balanced views. Trust is a big thing.

Q: What challenges do you foresee for human rights advocacy in the coming years and decades, particularly in light of technological advancements and changing global dynamics?

A: With Artificial Intelligence, how do I get to maintain ownership of my own work and my own intelligent discoveries? How do we ensure that we have protected

human rights through the nation-state? National borders tend to fall away with technological rises.

Q: What do you see as the main challenges in implementing a truly synodal approach in the Church?

A: A significant hurdle is the disengagement of many people, especially younger generations and families, from the Church. It's challenging to ensure all voices are heard when some are absent from the conversation. Another obstacle is the misconception that synodality equates to pure democracy within the Church. While it emphasises listening and discernment, Church leaders still bear the responsibility for final decisions.

Q: How can the Church ensure that marginalised voices are included in this process?

A: It is fundamentally about building the right relationships. We need to create an environment where everyone feels they have a place at the table and truly belong. This inclusivity must begin at the local level - in parishes and schools - to achieve genuine equality and inclusion in the broader Church.

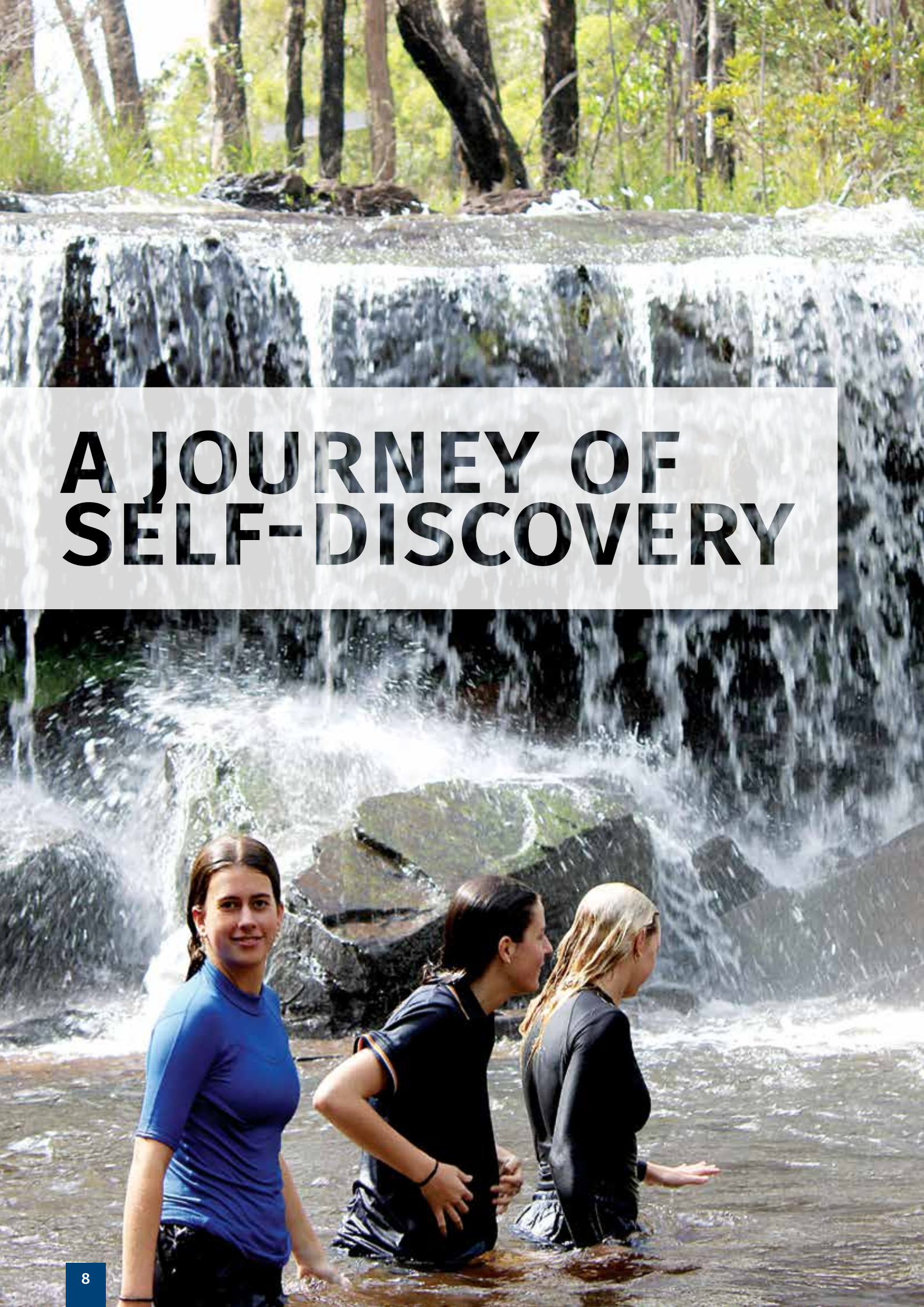
Q: What advice would you give to young Catholics navigating their faith in today's world?

A: I encourage young people to engage critically with their faith and the world around them. Don't hesitate to question, seek out different perspectives, and stand up for your beliefs. The Church needs your fresh ideas and passion. In a truly synodal Church, your voice is as valuable as anyone else's. You're not just the future of the Church - you're an integral part of its present.

The concept of a synodal Church presents both challenges and opportunities. It invites us to consider how we can ensure all voices are heard and valued. As a community, your thoughts and experiences are fundamental to this process. Consider discussing these ideas with your peers, teachers, families, or local parish members. How might a synodal approach shape the future of the Church, and what role can you play in this journey? Your engagement with these questions is an important step towards a more inclusive and responsive Church.

Watch a video of
Fr Frank's address on
this subject.



A photograph of a waterfall cascading over dark, mossy rocks in a lush green forest. The water is white and frothy as it falls. In the foreground, three young women are standing in the shallow water at the base of the waterfall. The woman on the left is wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt and is smiling towards the camera. The woman in the middle is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt and is looking towards the right. The woman on the right is wearing a black long-sleeved shirt and is looking towards the waterfall. The background is filled with tall trees and dense foliage.

A JOURNEY OF SELF-DISCOVERY

Year 11 Pilgrimage Program

In the heart of our Ignatian tradition lies a program that exemplifies the very essence of what it means to be a student at John XXIII College. The Pilgrimage Program, offered to Year 11 students, is more than just a trip—it is a journey of spiritual growth, cultural immersion, and self-discovery that resonates deeply with our Catholic values.

In July this year, 36 students and four teachers embarked on a life-changing expedition to Cape York, Far North Queensland. Split into two groups, they visited the Traditional Owners of Panamuunji, Wurrey, Melsonby and Biiba-Garr, experiencing firsthand the rich tapestry of the world's oldest living cultures.

The program offered a truly immersive experience, allowing our young pilgrims to participate in a wide range of cultural activities. These included engaging in traditional craft workshops, learning about the languages and histories of Traditional Owners, trying their hand at spear throwing and fishing, and even helping to prepare traditional Gurrma feasts. These interactive experiences provided invaluable insights into the daily lives, skills, and cultural practices of the Traditional Owners.

Student Jackson Bosnich on the program's impact:

'The Pilgrimage Program gave us opportunities to learn about and understand different cultures in an experiential and thought-provoking way, not just from textbooks or the internet.'

This approach to learning aligns with our Ignatian pedagogy, which emphasises experience, reflection, and action. Formation sessions were integrated before and after the trip. A structured reflection was conducted through a daily examen (a prayerful review of the day's



events) and personal journaling during the trip, allowing students to discern and process their experiences.

Sam Gallagher, another student, shares how this reflection process deepened his understanding:

'Everyone has a different conscience. The Pilgrimage Program teaches you to question your conscience and open your mind to different ways of thinking and more considered ways of communication.'

The Pilgrimage Program also fosters a sense of social justice and compassion, which are core tenets of our College ethos and reflect our motto, 'Seek Justice'. Student Zoe McIlree discovered that working for justice doesn't always require grand gestures: 'You don't have to be out there doing big things. It is the smallest actions that sometimes matter most.'

This realisation beautifully echoes our College mission. By challenging students to engage with communities different from their own, the program nurtures empathy and understanding, key components in our goal to form young people committed to God and the service of others.

The Pilgrimage Program also supports our commitment to reconciliation with Traditional Owners. By focusing on Australian pilgrimages, we are taking active steps towards understanding, respecting, and celebrating the rich cultural heritage of our nation's first inhabitants. This approach allows our students to engage directly with Traditional Owners, nurturing meaningful connections and promoting cultural exchange.

Sam's experience highlights the profound impact of this cultural immersion: 'The Pilgrimage Program was





a powerful way to learn traditions and knowledge that have been passed down through multiple generations. Allowing us to be welcomed into vast knowledge systems of the Traditional Owners was unique and special!

This appreciation for the cultures and knowledge systems of the Traditional Owners is a cornerstone of our reconciliation efforts. It helps our students develop a more nuanced understanding of Australia's history and the ongoing importance of Traditional Owners' perspectives in our national dialogue.

The Pilgrimage Program has also grown out of a genuine request from the Guugu Yimithirr people. Teacher Mr Jordan Webber shares, 'They have asked young people

growth and self-discovery. Removed from their familiar surroundings and routines, students often uncover new strengths and insights about themselves.

Mr Webber noticed a few significant shifts in the students throughout the program. 'The first was the gradual growth in their openness to sit down with the Traditional Owners and listen to their stories.'

'As the days went on, and as the connections with the Traditional Owners formed, our students grew in confidence and curiosity, asking questions and seeking out conversations.'

Jackson was surprised by his adaptability: 'I was surprised to discover how open I was to learning new things. I had never been camping before, so that was a major milestone. Before I left, I thought I would get tired towards the end of the trip and want to go home, but the opposite happened, and I didn't want to leave!'

Zoe's experience led her to reflect deeply on the true nature of fulfilment: 'We are all in a very privileged position here and it can be hard to see past that. In visiting these communities who have much less than we do, it really strikes you that they are almost happier and more fulfilled than us.'

Student Bianca Petsos discovered the importance of genuine listening, a skill central to both cultural exchange and personal growth: 'My biggest takeaway was the skill involved in listening. True listening requires patience and consideration. Listening further as to how the person faced by the problem would like to have their problem solved; holding space for their thoughts, feelings, needs, wants, and suggestions.'

This insight into the art of listening reflects the program's emphasis on cultural sensitivity and understanding. It embodies our Ignatian values of compassion and being people for others, encouraging students to truly engage with and understand the perspectives of those they encounter.

Zoe found that the experience boosted her confidence and openness: 'In my everyday life, I would say no to many more things than when on pilgrimage. It was more freeing to say yes to things and participate more. The Pilgrimage Program empowered me in that sense.'



to come on country to learn, and to then take their learning back home. As part of a privileged community, our students have an opportunity to listen to this call and act on it.'

One of the most impactful aspects of the Pilgrimage Program is the opportunity it provides for personal



These personal revelations align beautifully with our Ignatian spirituality, which encourages self-reflection and finding God in all things. Our pilgrims' experiences of venturing into unfamiliar territory, embracing new challenges, and discovering inner resources they didn't know they had, are all part of the transformative journey we hope to foster not only through this program, but within our entire College experience.

Bianca also found that the experience transformed her perspective on spirituality and service: 'The Pilgrimage Program showed me that we can see God in all things. Not just seeing God in the creation of nature, but also seeing God in people and within making connections and building relationships with each other. That understanding is something we should all bring back home into our everyday lives.'



As we look to the future, the Pilgrimage Program highlights our commitment to forming young people who are not only academically competent but also spiritually grounded and socially conscious. The experience embodies the Ignatian motto, *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam* – 'all for the greater glory of God'.

The life-changing impact of this program is evident in the words of our pilgrims. They return not just with memories, but with a deepened faith, a broader perspective, and a renewed commitment to justice and service. Sam Gallagher affirms, 'The Pilgrimage Program is a wonderful way to bond with other people on the trip, including the Traditional Owners we meet, plus our peers and teachers... There's a real sense of community during the pilgrimage, bringing people closer together.'

Our Pilgrimage Program is more than just an educational experience—it's a journey that shapes our students into compassionate, conscientious individuals inspired to make a positive impact in the world, all for the greater glory of God and in the spirit of true reconciliation with the Traditional Owners of Australia.

As we continue to develop and refine this program, we look forward to seeing how the insights and experiences gained by our pilgrims will ripple out into our broader College community, enriching our shared journey of faith, learning, and service.

This spread: Pippa Corry-Thomas and her patient Alimamy



VOYAGE OF COMPASSION

From building houses in Vietnam as a high school student to reconstructing a child's jaw in Sierra Leone, **Pippa Corry-Thomas's (Class 2015)** journey of service spans continents and transforms lives.

As a volunteer paediatric nurse with Mercy Ships, Pippa now finds herself aboard the Global Mercy, the world's largest civilian hospital ship, bringing hope and healing to those who need it most. She reflects:

'I never imagined that the Year 11 Pilgrimage Program would set me on this path. But here I am, using my skills to change the lives of those who need support and understanding.'

Pippa's extraordinary voyage of compassion has taken her from Vietnam to Tanzania, Cambodia, and now to the shores of Sierra Leone. It is a journey that began at John XXIII College, where the seeds of service were planted, and now continues in the state-of-the-art

operating theatres of a floating hospital, where every day brings new challenges and profound rewards.

From August 2023 to January 2024, Pippa worked as a paediatric ward nurse on the Global Mercy's maxillofacial ward, where she witnessed the incredible power of medical care. One particularly moving story involved a 10-year-old boy named Alimamy, who had



a large tumour on his jaw. 'We were able to take out the tumour and reconstruct his jaw using one of his rib bones,' Pippa recounts. 'He had a very difficult recovery, but he eventually went back home to his family and is attending school again. We have stayed in touch, and it is heartwarming to know that his quality of life has improved so significantly.'

Pippa's volunteer work has not only impacted the lives of those she serves but has also profoundly influenced her own perspective:

'Volunteering has completely changed my life. It has given me a new set of eyes on what I prioritise in my own life and has deepened my motivation to be in the service of others.'

Despite the challenges she has faced, including coming to terms with her own privilege and navigating cultural differences, Pippa remains committed to her mission of helping others. She has since returned to Mercy Ships in October this year for at least 18 months, this time based in Madagascar.

When asked what advice she would give to our current students, Pippa stresses the importance of following one's passion. 'Find your true calling and purpose, and do the things that bring you joy,' she urges, 'I want you to know that working full time and earning big bucks is not the only definition of 'success'. I have found immense fulfilment and meaning in my volunteer work; in that sense, I have achieved the greatest success I could have ever hoped for.'

Pippa attributes the College's Ignatian ethos for fostering her interest in volunteering and being in the service of others. 'The principle of being 'people for others' continues to guide my work today,' she explains. This foundation laid at John XXIII College has clearly shaped her life's trajectory and her approach to service.

'I am so grateful for the opportunities I had during my school years,' Pippa says warmly. 'The College not only provided an excellent education, but the pastoral care component was incredible, and it led me to where I am today.' From the Year 11 Pilgrimage Program to her current work with Mercy Ships, Pippa's journey illustrates the lasting impact of an education rooted in service and empathy.

When asked what advice she would give to someone considering similar volunteering in the medical field,



Pippa enthusiastically responds, 'You should do it! There is so much to gain, there is so much to learn.'

However, she issues a serious caution: 'Make sure that the organisation you are representing complements the local health care system; that it is culturally respectful and leaves the country having educated the locals to carry on the work, by giving them the tools, resources and knowledge needed. Educating the local communities about personal health care and preventative education is paramount, as is following up in the future to see how things are going.'

Pippa also asserts that volunteering isn't just about helping others; it's also an opportunity for personal growth and development. 'When you step outside of your comfort zone and immerse yourself in new environments, you learn so much about yourself and the world around you,' she says. 'It challenges you to be more compassionate, adaptable, and resourceful. These are skills that will serve you well in all aspects of life.'

Ultimately, Pippa hopes that her story will inspire others to find their own way to make a positive impact on the world. 'We all have something unique to offer,' she says. 'When we give our time and talents in service of others, we not only change their lives for the better, but we also enrich our own lives in immeasurable ways.'

Find out more about
Mercy Ships.



MOLLY'S AMAZING GAP YEAR



After graduating last year, **Molly Carr (Class 2023)** embarked on a gap year that would take her far beyond the familiar surroundings of her hometown. Inspired by her parents' travels and encouraged by their support, Molly chose to dedicate her year to volunteering across three African regions: Zanzibar (an island territory of Tanzania), Tanzania, and South Africa.



'My parents really inspired me and supported me through whatever I wanted to do for the year,' Molly explains. 'They travelled to Africa during their honeymoon, and the stories they told and the photos I've seen were so amazing, making me really want to travel there.' This familial inspiration resonated with the Ignatian values Molly had embraced at our College, particularly the call to serve others and uplift those in need. Her decision to volunteer abroad became a natural extension of these principles, allowing her to make a tangible difference in communities facing significant challenges.

In Zanzibar, Molly's passion for marine biology found its outlet in coastal and marine conservation work:

'I've always been very passionate about the ocean and marine life. I'm the happiest when I'm in the ocean and I feel a sense of duty to protect it.'

Her days were filled with conservation efforts, such as monitoring nesting turtles, allowing her to contribute to the vital preservation of marine ecosystems.



The historic Stone Town, oldest part of Zanzibar Town on the island of Unjuju

Moving inland to Arusha, Tanzania, Molly shifted gears to childcare and teaching. The transition from marine life to lively children might seem drastic, but Molly's adaptability served her well. 'I have always loved kids and the chaos that comes with them,' she reflects. 'I've got a lot of energy, which I thought would align perfectly with working in childcare.' Her experience with nine younger cousins proved helpful as she navigated the challenges of teaching children with diverse needs and learning styles.

In South Africa, Molly's journey took another turn as she focused on animal care, mainly working with dogs that had suffered abuse or neglect. 'I can be very gentle and patient,' she notes, 'which was really needed with these dogs. Many had been abused, neglected, or had spent their lives in dog fighting.' Her ability to gain the trust of these traumatised animals speaks to her empathy and dedication.

Preparing for this adventure required careful planning and research. Molly had to navigate cultural differences, health precautions, and logistical challenges. 'I needed to ensure that I had clothes that would be considered respectful,' she explains, referring to Zanzibar's predominantly Muslim culture. She also had to get numerous vaccinations and

prepare for potential health risks, demonstrating her commitment to responsible volunteering.

Throughout her journey, Molly has been documenting her experiences. 'I've been capturing my adventures through lots of photos and videos,' she shares, 'as well as writing a journal with my thoughts and feelings.' This documentation serves not only as a personal memento but also as a concrete way to share her experiences with others.

The journey has contributed to Molly's personal growth. 'I've realised how brave and independent I am,' she reflects proudly, 'leaving home to travel the world, doing the entire journey solo, as a young woman, and to countries I have never visited.' This newfound confidence and independence are clear outcomes of stepping out of her comfort zone.

Molly's time at John XXIII College played an important role in preparing her for this adventure. She credits our College with fostering qualities and skills like respect, courage, organisation, and adaptability. Specific experiences, such as the Rite Journey camp, left a lasting impression. 'We were really able to reflect on ourselves and what we wanted to accomplish in life,' Molly recalls.

Looking back on her high school years with new perspective, Molly acknowledges the privilege of her education. 'I wish I had known how lucky I was throughout my school years, and how incredible the education I received really was,' she admits. This realisation has deepened her appreciation for the opportunities she's had.

For current students considering similar volunteer work, Molly's advice is clear: 'Go for it! The things you learn and experience while volunteering will open your eyes and expand your thinking about the world, and how much people rely on the help of others to survive and thrive.'

Molly Carr's African odyssey highlights how the values instilled at John XXIII College can lead to meaningful global engagement. Her experiences in Zanzibar's coastal regions, Tanzania's vibrant communities, and South Africa's animal shelters showcase some of the diverse ways one can make a positive impact. Her story serves as a reminder of education's value, the importance of global awareness, and the change that occurs when individuals engage with the world openly and compassionately. As Molly says, 'The more people that volunteer will lead to greater, more positive change around the world.'



Strengthening bonds through charity

Showcasing exceptional compassion and community spirit, our Year 12 students participated in the World's Greatest Shave, raising an astonishing \$18,029 for the Leukaemia Foundation. This student-driven, grassroots effort, organised independently of the College, saw 39 Year 12 students and three staff members come together to shave, cut, or colour their hair in support of Australians facing blood cancer.

The event, which took place on campus for the very first time, created an uplifting buzz of excitement and unity among the entire Year 12 cohort. The atmosphere was electric, with students cheering each other on and even taking turns operating the clippers. A professional barber, who is also a student's godfather, generously volunteered his time so everyone left with a tidy new look.

What started as a \$5,000 goal quickly escalated as the students' enthusiasm and community support grew. The target was revised to \$13,500, which was then surpassed in a very short amount of time, affirming the incredible dedication of the participants and the generosity of their supporters.

Angela Williams, one of the student organisers, emphasised the multifaceted impact of the event. 'We're not just raising funds; we're donating hair that will be used to create wigs or floating hair booms to absorb oil spills. There's a triple impact – raising funds and awareness, recycling the hair in different ways, and a conscious environmental sustainability aspect,' she explained.

For some students, like fellow organiser Jacob Davila, the cause hit close to home. Jacob shared that his grandfather was diagnosed with blood cancer two years ago, adding a personal connection to the event's significance. His involvement in the event was not just about fundraising but about making a difference in the lives of those affected by the disease.

The success of the World's Greatest Shave at the College goes beyond the impressive funds raised. It brought the already tight-knit Year 12 cohort even closer together. Jacob observed:

'We feel that the experience brought our year group even closer, as we had never done anything like that before.'

The entirely student-run nature of the event inspired greater participation and connection among the students, reinforcing the sense of camaraderie within the current Year 12 peer group.

The organisers attribute the event's effectiveness to its capacity to unite their cohort in a meaningful cause while fostering healthy and positive competition for a good reason. The potential for future events like this is not just about the funds raised but about the impact it can have on the students and the wider community.

Angela and Jacob expressed heartfelt gratitude to all donors, promoters, and supporters, including families, teachers, and even students' workplaces. 'It was amazing and heartwarming to see our College community in action, especially with such a tight timeframe to raise funds,' they said.

This inspiring initiative not only raised crucial funds for the Leukaemia Foundation but also demonstrated the power of young people to make a substantial difference in their community. Our Year 12s have set a high bar for future classes, showing that with passion, teamwork, and a worthy cause, extraordinary things can be achieved.

CELEBRATING JOHN XXIII DAY



Student band Stattik Marsh performing at the Variety Concert

A celebration of heritage and community

Each year, John XXIII College comes together to celebrate its rich history and spiritual foundation during Founders' Week, held early in Term 3. This special week acknowledges and honours the legacies of three key figures who inspire our College community: Mary Ward, founder of the Mary Ward Loreto Sisters; St Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits; and Pope St John XXIII, the namesake of our College.

Year 12 student in full flight during the Running of the Colonnades



In 2024, our College had the privilege of welcoming Loreto Sister Jwan Kada as a guest speaker. Sr Jwan shared her inspiring journey of joining the Mary Ward Sisters and her impactful work with young offenders in the juvenile prison system. She also highlighted the Mary Ward International Education Project, which supports vulnerable children in the brickfields near Kolkata, India.

The highlight of Founders' Week is the much-anticipated celebration day, traditionally held on a Friday. The day begins with a Mass for the entire

Fr Mark celebrating whole school Mass



Talent on show at The Variety Concert



school, setting a tone of reflection and gratitude. This is followed by the Year 12 Running of the Colonnades, a beloved tradition where our graduating class runs through the iconic school colonnades amidst cheers and laughter.

Primary stalls



The Year 12 colonnade running, now a hallmark of the event, dates back to around the year 2000. Though the precise origins of the run remain unclear, it has become

a cherished rite of passage for every Year 12 student, symbolising school spirit, unity, and fun as they embark on their final journey at John XXIII College. This year's Year 12 speedsters, Jasmine and Angus, claimed the coveted Golden Boot and earned their names on the honour board for their swift victory.

Afterwards, student-run stalls across both the Primary and Secondary sections of the College raised much needed funds for Mary Ward International projects and Jesuit Missions.

Another key tradition is the invitation for alumni to return to campus and engage

in friendly competition against the Year 12 students in Australian rules football, and netball. This year, the Theresa Elliott Shield in netball was fiercely contested, with our Year 12 students narrowly defeating our alumni in a 22-16 match. Meanwhile, the clash of our alumni versus the First XVIII in football proved that the old boys still have plenty of game, with our alumni emerging victorious, scoring 33 to the First XVIII's two points. It was a special moment to have Ron Logan's grandson, Simon, and his great-grandson, Miles, present the Ron Logan Cup to the triumphant alumni team.

The festivities culminate in the ever-popular Variety Concert, where students showcase their talents in a lively performance that brings our community together.

Founders' Week has a deep history at John XXIII College, evolving over the years since its inception by former Principal Mr Greg Clune (1994-2005). Its focus on Ignatian spirituality and community building has grown into a meaningful week of celebration, service, and reflection.



Camaraderie in motion: the Running of the Colonnades

Founders' Week continues to serve as a reminder of our College's enduring commitment to its spiritual heritage, and the values of service, faith, and community that unite us all.



Ron Logan Cup football match



Primary stalls

Watch video highlights of the John XXIII Day celebrations





TRUTH AND PEACE

Members of the Perth Catholic community recently gathered at John XXIII College to launch the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) Social Justice Statement for 2024-25.

The Statement, titled 'Truth and Peace - A Gospel Word in a Violent World,' addresses the urgent need for peaceful dialogue and conflict resolution in an increasingly volatile global landscape.

The choice of venue was particularly fitting. John XXIII College, named after Pope Saint John XXIII, embodies an Ignatian Catholic ethos that resonates deeply with the themes of the Statement. The College's philosophy, grounded in the spiritual exercises of Ignatius of Loyola, emphasises discernment, finding God in all things, and being contemplatives in action. Aligning closely with the Statement's call for active engagement in peace-building and truth-seeking.

Moreover, the legacy of Pope Saint John XXIII, known as the 'Good Pope' and remembered for his encyclical *Pacem in Terris* (Peace on Earth), provides a historical backdrop to the Statement's message. His emphasis on human rights, dignity, and peace echoes through the current call for justice and non-violence.

Carol Mitchell, Director of the Justice, Ecology and Development Office (JEDO) for the Catholic Archdiocese of Perth, facilitated the event. Attendees were Welcomed to Country by Aunty Sandra Harben, acknowledging the Whadjuk Noongar people as traditional custodians of the land.

Auxiliary Bishop Donald Sproxton of the Perth Archdiocese officially launched the Statement, reflecting its themes and relevance. Drawing parallels between current global conflicts and historical crises, such as the Vietnam War and the Cuban Missile Crisis, he also emphasised the Statement's core message, 'We must look to Christ to find the basis of truth.'

Bishop Sproxton highlighted the growing anxiety, particularly among youth, due to increasing global conflicts. He stressed the importance of finding alternatives to violence, stating, 'There must be, there has to be another way.' He called for a return to Gospel values of listening, negotiation, and working towards peace.

Francis Leong, Province Director for Catholic Mission in WA, shared powerful personal experiences from his time working in refugee camps in Zambia. Leong



recounted a moving story about a refugee named Roger, which exemplified the transformative power of love and understanding in conflict situations.

Initially, Leong described Roger as a ‘pest’ whom he merely tolerated. However, their relationship took a dramatic turn when their refugee camp came under attack. In a moment of extraordinary courage and compassion, Roger stepped forward and said to the attackers, ‘Don’t shoot them, shoot me.’ This selfless act not only defused the situation but also changed Leong’s perspective. Later, when asked why he was willing to sacrifice himself, Roger said to Leong, ‘I know you love me,’ further deepening the impact of his actions on Leong’s understanding of conflict and human connection.

Leong reflected on this experience, saying, ‘Roger understood. Where did he get that understanding from?’

‘Usually, the ones who push us out of our comfort zones, the ones we come into conflict with, are the ones who challenge us and help us understand.’

Through this powerful anecdote, Leong illustrated that ‘stories of sacrifice proliferate more than stories of violence,’ underlining the inherent human capacity for love and empathy even in the most challenging circumstances.

Dr Margaret Scharf OP, a Dominican Sister and academic, offered insights on the importance of ecumenical and interfaith relationships. She highlighted Jesus’ approach of one-on-one connections and asserted that ‘being truthful is about living peacefully.’ Dr Scharf also touched on contemporary issues, including concerns about the AUKUS agreement and the ethical use of Artificial Intelligence in warfare,



referencing Pope Francis’ call for reconsidering autonomous weaponry.

The Social Justice Statement delves into various aspects of peace-building and truth-telling in a world marred by violence. It draws upon Scripture, inviting readers to trust in ‘the crucified Christ, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life, and also the Prince of Peace,’ according to the foreword by Archbishop Timothy Costelloe, President of the ACBC.



The Statement encourages a ‘culture of encounter’ and commits to dialogue at both macro and micro levels. It addresses current conflicts in Ukraine and the Holy Land while also touching on historical atrocities like Auschwitz and Hiroshima. The Statement challenges readers to be true and sincere ‘peace-makers,’ echoing the Beatitudes and the teachings of influential figures like Martin Luther King Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi.

Throughout the launch event, attendees were invited to reflect on key themes and voice their thoughts or write them on a canvas display, fostering ongoing dialogue and action within the archdiocese. The gathering concluded with a collective reading of the Social Justice Statement Prayer, calling for a ‘torrent of sisterly and brotherly love’ and recognition of Christ in all human beings.

This Perth launch of the 2024-25 Social Justice Statement serves as a call to action for our local Catholic community, urging them to embody the principles of truth and peace in an increasingly complex and often violent world. As Carol Mitchell concluded, it’s a reminder to ‘think globally but act locally’ to pursue a more just and peaceful society.

Find out more about
the Social Justice
Statement here.



SPORT AT JOHN XXIII COLLEGE

At John XXIII College, sport is not just an extracurricular activity but a vital part of the educational experience. Our comprehensive sport programs are designed to nurture both body and mind, offering our students a diverse range of athletic opportunities that complement their academic pursuits.

From football to rowing and water polo, our extensive list of over 20 sports ensures that every student can find their passion. Whether you're a budding athlete or simply looking to stay active, our inclusive approach welcomes all skill levels.



Mahalia with a solid defence

What sets our College apart is our commitment to holistic development through sport. Our programs aim to enhance physical fitness, foster community connections, develop crucial life skills, build character, and even pave the way for elite athletic careers.

With a mix of interhouse competitions, interschool events, and participation in broader associations like the Associated and Catholic Colleges, Northern Associated Schools Competition, and School Sport WA, we provide multiple avenues for our students to challenge themselves and represent their school with pride.

At John XXIII College, we believe that sport is more than just games – it's a pathway to personal growth, lifelong friendships, and potentially even professional athletic careers. Join us on the field, on the court, or on the river, and discover the transformative power of sports in your educational journey.

The true essence of our sport programs is best captured through the experiences of those who are part of it every day. Our students and their families have

firsthand insights into sport's significant role in our community. We invite you to explore these personal accounts, showcasing the challenges overcome, friendships forged, and milestones reached. These testimonials provide an authentic glimpse into how sport at John XXIII College shapes character, builds resilience and creates lasting memories.

Current Parent Sue Upton

Mother of Mahalia (current student) and Harrison (past student)

The sports program at John XXIII College has had such a positive impact on both of my children. When my daughter Mahalia first moved to Perth from a small country town in Year 5, getting involved in swimming, athletics and futsal allowed her to quickly make new friends and gain confidence. She even got selected to play futsal for the WA state team in Year 6, which was an incredible experience that taught her patience, determination, and independence.

For both Mahalia and my son Harrison, having training in the morning before classes has helped them feel more alert, focused, and regulated throughout the school day. Harrison especially loved representing the school in cross-country. One of his main goals in Year 12, in addition to achieving a strong ATAR, was to win The Running of the Colonnades - which he did!

Mahalia has been named athletics champion girl in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 by participating in every event possible. She also plays cricket at an elite level outside of school, representing WA and even Australia, which the College sports program helps complement, by keeping her fit and focused, especially in the off-season.

My advice to students and families would be to try every sport, even if it's new to you. You never know where your talents may lie and it's a fantastic way to meet like-minded friends outside of your regular classes. The College sport programs provide so many wonderful opportunities for personal growth and achievement. I'm incredibly grateful for the positive impact it has had on my children.

Current Parent Stuart Reside

Sport at John XXIII College has played a significant role in my children's development. Through their involvement, they've not only improved their physical health but also learned valuable skills like teamwork

SPORT AT JOHN XXIII COLLEGE

Australian Rules Football, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Indoor Beach Volleyball, Cricket, Cross-Country Running, Floorball, Golf, Hockey, Indoor Cricket, Netball, Rowing, Rugby, Soccer, Swimming, Surfing, Tennis, Touch Football, Ultimate Frisbee, Volleyball, Water Polo

At John XXIII College, sport is an integral part of College life, complementing community sport and providing students with a wide range of benefits:

Enhance physical fitness, skill development and wellbeing

Connect with peers and the wider community

Develop lifelong skills of collaboration, commitment, time management and teamwork

Build leadership and character traits of courage, respect and integrity

Pursue a pathway to elite representation

SPORT OPPORTUNITIES COLLEGE

Interhouse Sports

Vibrant and inclusive, our Interhouse sports events are spirited competitions for both Primary and Secondary.

INTERSCHOOL

Associated and Catholic Colleges

A statewide competition of over 89 member schools. John XXIII College is currently within the competitive A Division program.

Northern Associated Schools Competition

A sub-group of the ACC offering multiple-division carnivals in a variety of summer and winter sports.

School Sport WA

Inclusive Primary and Secondary competitions. Elite athletes and staff coaches selected to represent WA at a national level.

John XXIII Netball Club

The largest member of the Perth Netball Association, John XXIII Netball Club is open to all skill levels.

John XXIII Rowing Club

Catering for a broad range of skill and ambition within the IGSSA and All Schools' competitions.

Independent Primary School Heads of Australia (IPSHA)

Competitive carnivals for independent schools across a variety of sports.

BEYOND

Sport Tours

Opportunities to represent the College nationally and internationally, coached and supported by College staff.

and leadership. The friendships they've formed through sports have been incredible to witness.

I've enjoyed watching my kids being introduced to sports progressively, seeing them expand their abilities and self-belief. Representing the college in interschool events has given them a strong sense of pride and belonging. It has been fantastic for their self-confidence and motivation.

Even in primary school, the opportunity to learn various sports, run around outside, and play with friends during sports days has had such a positive impact on their wellbeing, confidence, and focus in class. My kids love going to school on sports days!



Luke in action during NAS football

One of my favourite experiences was in early primary school days, watching the kids race around the junior oval for cross country. It's great to see them speed around the bends with determination on their faces as they push themselves to do their best. Now, as my children represent the College in interschool events, I'm amazed by the pride they have in their school and in themselves.

The quality of sport teaching has been outstanding. Mr. Williams is perfect for the younger children with his great temperament and humour. In the senior school, the staff are all so motivated and friendly. My daughter thinks they're amazing! I'm confident the school provides a balanced approach, encouraging participation and personal bests over just winning.

The sport programs truly foster a wonderful community spirit. We've made some great friends through sports events. My children also participate in club sports outside the College, often with schoolmates, so it's been a fantastic way to nurture those connections.

To prospective families, I highly recommend getting involved in sport at John XXIII College. It provides so many opportunities for growth, friendships, and

unforgettable experiences. The programs cater to all skill levels and offer something for everyone. I couldn't be happier with how sport has shaped my children's school journey.

Current Parent Jill Mustard

The many sport programs at John XXIII College provides students with the opportunity to try sports they might not otherwise experience. This exposure can spark a new interest, and if they wish, they can join a club to take the sport to the next level. It's a fantastic way for students to discover new passions and develop their skills.

Playing sport has been an excellent way for my children to get to know other students, including those outside of their immediate friendship group. All my kids have immensely enjoyed playing sport at and for the College.

What stands out for me is the sense of belonging and being part of a team that the sport programs at John XXIII College foster, regardless of the game outcome. My kids have been on both winning and losing teams at the College, but what matters most is that they're having fun and feeling connected to their teammates.

The sporting activities at John XXIII College help students develop physical skills and health, foster great friendships, and teach them teamwork and respect for others and themselves. In the more competitive level sports, the students have also learned valuable lessons in commitment, resilience, and working together as a team.

My daughter had the opportunity to go on an interstate sport tour, and she loved the experience. The teachers were incredibly committed and supportive of the team, which made the whole experience more memorable.

My advice to current or prospective students and their families who are considering participating in sport at John XXIII College is to get involved with everything you can. You might discover a new sport that you really enjoy, and even in the worst-case scenario, you'll have fun and make new friends along the way.

Current Student Luke Carrello

I have had the good fortune of being involved in many different sports at the College. I play in the First XVIII football team, where we reached the grand final in the Eagles Cup in Years 8 and 9 and emerged victorious in the one-day final in Year 10. I also participate in swimming, cross-country, athletics, and water polo.

Playing football at the College fosters a strong and positive culture among the boys. It strengthens friendships and allows us to connect with students across different year levels, providing not only diversity

but also opportunities for mentorship between older and younger students.

The College excels in offering a wide range of sports catering to all skill levels, from beginner to elite. The knowledge that you are welcomed into any sport, regardless of your stage of development, is comforting.

My motivation to participate in sport at the College stems from pure enjoyment. I value the friendships I have formed, and I feel grateful for the opportunity to play sport alongside my closest peers. While winning is rewarding, it is the memories we create together that I value most at the end of the day.

I consider myself lucky to be coached by a diverse group of individuals, each with their unique philosophies, skills, and strategies. They encourage everyone to strive for their personal best and offer a high level of support. Our coaches are an integral part of the team, giving their all just as much as the players do.

Beyond my involvement in College sport, I have played WAFL for the East Fremantle Sharks for the past two years and I am currently in their Under 19s team. I also enjoy playing water polo for the Claremont Dolphins. The College has been supportive and flexible in accommodating my commitments to external sports. They have collaborated closely with my family and I to ensure a balanced approach to my academic and sporting pursuits. Engaging in sport also helps me maintain greater focus and enhances my ability to apply myself to academic tasks.

To current or future students considering whether to participate in sport at the College, I would encourage you to take up every opportunity presented to you, especially while you are young and physically fit. Your time at the College is limited, so make the most of it.

Current Student Jenny Biddle

I have been involved in so many different sports at the College - netball, rowing, volleyball, floorball, basketball, water polo, surfing and more. It's been an amazing way to try new things, challenge myself, and stay fit.

The Gold Coast volleyball tour and competing in the School Sport WA water polo competition have been some of the highlights for me. I even got to go to Finland to represent Australia in floorball, which was an incredible experience. The College worked with me to ensure a smooth transition back to my studies and exams after the trip.

Being a part of sport at the College has benefitted me in so many ways. I've made some of my closest friendships through netball, rowing and the other teams and clubs

Ciaran running at the ACC A-Division Athletics Carnival



I've joined. This was especially helpful in Year 7 when I first started high school - joining sport right away helped me meet people and feel more comfortable and confident. I've also grown so much personally through pushing myself and learning to never give up.

My advice to any students thinking about doing sport at the College is to go for it and try everything, even if it's new to you. You might just discover a new passion. Give it a go, challenge yourself, and most importantly, have fun! The friends you'll make and the experiences you'll have are so worthwhile. It's also a great way to complement any sport you do outside of school.

Current Student Ciaran Doyle

Throughout my high school years, I have been privileged to take part in the Associated Catholic Colleges (ACC) swimming and cross-country, the athletics interschool team, as well as the summer and winter Northern Associated Schools (NAS) sport teams. I was also a part of the interschool surf team in Years 9 and 10.

Through my involvement with sport at the College, I have gained many social, academic, and personal benefits. Getting involved with various groups has expanded my social network, creating amazing connections between different year groups and boys and girls. Participating in sport has also taught me a wealth of skills, which assist in improving my overall grades particularly in Physical Education, as it helps me to understand and improve in my sporting abilities. It's not just about getting better at sport. I have learned other important life skills such as how to be organised, professional, and respectful. These skills have had a significant impact on me, as I have learned how to respond appropriately and confidently to different situations in real life.

My motivation to keep participating in sport at the College comes from knowing that many students do not have these kinds of privileges. I am very grateful and humbled that I have access to such people, knowledge, and experiences, so I plan on making the most of the



opportunities that the College offers. I also enjoy the aspect of just having fun with my mates and getting out and about.

The Physical Education staff have had the biggest impact on my sporting journey, especially our Head of Sport, Miss Jessica Pillera. When I first came to the College, I enjoyed athletics, but through Miss Pillera's dedication, I have become faster and better. This motivated me to take up athletics outside of school, where I am now competing for Western Australia in several running events.

Outside of school, I am actively involved in various sports. During the winter months, I play Australian Rules Football (AFL) for my local club, Subiaco, alongside many of my friends from John XXIII College. I also compete at a higher level for the Claremont Tigers in the West Australian Football League (WAFL). In the summer, I transition to athletics, representing the University of Western Australia (UWA) at the local club level. Additionally, I have the honour of competing for Western Australia at the state level, specialising in sprint events such as the 100m, 200m, and 400m, as well as long jump. John XXIII College has been incredibly supportive of my external sporting commitments, accommodating my training schedules and competitions to ensure that I can balance my academic and athletic pursuits effectively.

If I could give one piece of advice to my younger self or any younger students, it would be to get involved with as many sporting opportunities as possible. Even if it's not a sport you have played before, there will be so many benefits, enjoyment, and camaraderie to gain through your involvement.

Current Parent

Through her involvement in sport at John XXIII College, my child has developed invaluable qualities such as resilience, perseverance, teamwork, and patience. Being part of a team has also given her a strong sense of belonging and the opportunity to forge lifelong friendships.

Sport has had a tremendously positive impact on my child's school experience. Not only has it helped her maintain a healthy mind and body, which translates to better academic and social performance, but it has also taught her essential life skills like goal setting and planning. Additionally, the sense of camaraderie she feels with her teammates is truly special.

One of the most memorable and motivating experiences for my daughter has been hearing her peers cheer her on as she represented the College at interschool carnivals. Her success and achievements in these events have given her an immense sense of pride and confidence.

The NAS program at the College nurtures a wonderful sense of community and belonging among students and families. It promotes sportsmanship, accountability, respect, and the ability to work together as a team. As a parent, volunteering at sporting events has also been a fantastic way to meet and build relationships with other families at the school.

The College has been incredibly supportive of my daughter's participation in swimming competitions outside of school, allowing her to attend state, national, and international events while providing educational support for remote learning when necessary. The College always celebrates students' involvement and success in their external sporting endeavours, which is truly heartening.

My advice to current or prospective students and their families is to seize every opportunity to get involved in school-based sporting programs. It's an excellent way to discover new skills, find sporting passions, stay physically active, and make plenty of new friends. Embracing these opportunities can truly enrich your child's overall school experience.

Current Parent Tony Delaney

Father of Hazel and Ivy Delaney

Through their involvement in sport at John XXIII College, both of my daughters have learned and developed valuable skills like time management and organisation. Being part of team also requires making long-term commitments with both individual and shared goals,

which helps them build relationships and friendships. My oldest daughter, Hazel, has played netball with the same girls for four years. Their teamwork on the court is remarkable and has been commented on by their competitors, other coaches and families who are watching. Consistency and trust are key, and it allows them to perform better by understanding each other's strengths and weaknesses.

Sports have had a tremendously positive impact on my children's school experience. Making the A netball team and the swimming team for the carnival were significant achievements for my youngest daughter, Ivy, who is just starting out in sport. My oldest daughter, Hazel, has played in two consecutive grand finals for netball, losing one and winning one. While winning is not the most important aspect of sport, it does instil a sense of pride and teaches them to celebrate and be proud of their accomplishments. One of my daughters also participated in an interstate volleyball tour, which developed the students' independence, by making them responsible for things like their own budgeting, and food preparation – skills necessary in adult life.



Hazel competing in PNA Winter Netball

The sport programs at John XXIII College foster a strong sense of community and belonging among students and families. It brings together different friendship groups, cultures, and backgrounds, creating an environment where everyone is equal and working towards the same shared goals. For parents, it provides great opportunities to get involved in managing teams, coaching, preparing food and drinks, and transporting kids to and from games and training. This involvement helps parents feel more connected to their children's experiences.

Both of my daughters participate in sport outside of the College, and the school encourages and supports them. Hazel plays basketball, while Ivy plays Aussie Rules. The

College sport programs and external sport complement each other, allowing them to learn different skills that they can apply to enhance their overall experiences.

My advice to current or prospective students and their families considering participating in sport at John XXIII College is to give it a go. It's a fantastic way to engage in physical activity, get outdoors, and reduce screen time. Sport also fosters authentic, face-to-face social relationships, which are crucial for personal development.

Alumnus Tony Delaney

Former AFL player

During my time as a student at John XXIII College, I was heavily involved in all sports, from swimming to football to athletics. I also participated at both the interschool level and outside of school. Sports were a major part of my schooling life and a key element of the College curriculum that made me enjoy school and want to go every day.

Aside from my natural sporting ability, what kept me motivated to participate in sport at the College were the coaches and teachers. They were incredibly supportive and encouraging, always pushing me to do better and learn more.

As Sports Captain in Year 12 in 1992, I gained invaluable leadership experience, which helped shape me not just as an athlete, but also in my professional life. The responsibility of being a role model to younger students and representing the school at numerous interschool carnivals and events instilled in me a great sense of confidence, particularly through the many public speaking opportunities I had in front of the entire school.

Several coaches and support staff made a significant impact on my sporting experience at John XXIII College. Their knowledge, experience, and encouragement were unparalleled, and I aspired to be coached by them. To this day, I remember countless teaching moments, comments, advice, and wisdom they imparted, which have influenced both my personal life and professional career.

In addition to participating in sport at the College, I also played in community and club groups. The school wholeheartedly supported my involvement in outside sport. Ultimately, I went on to have a career in the AFL, which would not have been possible without the sporting opportunities and access to exceptional coaching staff that I had during my years at John XXIII College.

PURSUING THE PINNACLE

When **Genevieve Longman (Class 2012)** first tried water polo, few could have predicted that she would one day stand on an Olympic podium. Yet, in 2024, that's exactly where she found herself – receiving a silver medal and proudly standing alongside the Aussie Stingers, Australia's national women's water polo team.

Genevieve's journey to Olympic glory began with a chance encounter. 'I got involved in water polo by complete accident,' she explains. 'A friend's team needed a fill-in player one day and so I joined in.' That serendipitous moment set her on an unexpected path.

During her time at our College, Genevieve was an enthusiastic participant in various sports. 'I wasn't naturally gifted or talented in sport, but I loved it,' she recalls. This love for athletics, combined with her academic work, laid the groundwork for her future success.

Genevieve's time at our College wasn't just about sports, though. It was here that she developed the skills and mindset that would fuel her achievements in both her athletic and professional careers. 'Being inquisitive, curious, as well as loving learning and how to take on

challenges and grow as a person shaped me more than I realised at the time,' she reflects.

Her role as Sports Captain in Year 12 proved particularly influential. 'Taking on a leadership role taught me how to speak in public and gave me many opportunities as well as confidence,' Genevieve says. These skills would prove instrumental both in her position as goalkeeper for the national water polo team and in her professional life as a lawyer in the sports sector for Equestrian Australia.

Indeed, Genevieve's journey is fascinating, not just for her athletic achievements, but for how she has balanced her sporting career with her professional aspirations. 'I am very fortunate to have found a profession that combines my legal expertise with my athletic pursuits,' she notes.

This combination of law and sports was on full display during the Paris 2024 Olympics. Genevieve's legal background gave her a unique perspective on the games, helping her navigate the complex world of international sports competition while her athletic training allowed her to perform at the highest level.

The road to Paris 2024 was paved with intense preparation. 'We trained six days a week,' Genevieve shares. 'Two pool sessions totalling five hours in a pool, plus a gym session every day.' The team's training schedule intensified as the Olympics approached, with a focus on both physical conditioning and mental preparation.

'As a team, we did some deep work with a sports psychologist for six months prior to the Games,' Genevieve explains. 'We focused on defining our group identity and safeguarding wellbeing. Two core values that really stood out for us were bravery and respect. For a close-knit team, these discussions were invaluable.'

This mental and physical preparation paid off in Paris, where they surpassed all expectations. The highlight of the games for Genevieve came in a nail-biting semi-final against the USA, a team considered unbeatable at the time. 'That moment was extraordinary and surreal,' she remembers. 'Winning after a penalty shoot-out and all the emotions that came with it, sharing the moment with our families after the game, and riding the bus back to the village after. We were elated.'

The Paris Olympics offered Genevieve meaningful experiences beyond the pool as well. 'You don't normally get the chance to meet athletes from other sports,' she admits. But the Australian Olympic Athletes Services Team, which included College alum and former Olympian Eamon Sullivan (Class 2002), ensured that the

Australian area of the Olympic village was like a second home. 'I got to meet so many other athletes and there was a real sense of community during the Games,' she said. 'I got to watch the beach volleyball by the Eiffel Tower, which was amazing. The atmosphere of the whole Games was incredible, and the crowds were very invested.'

Reflecting on her very first Olympic experience, Genevieve credits part of her success to the foundations built at John XXIII College. 'The College provided me with great structure and how to manage my time well,' she says, 'which is needed to balance an athletic career, professional career, and social life.' This ability to juggle multiple responsibilities has been key to her success both in and out of the pool.

Genevieve has advice for our current students:

'Give everything a go, even if you think you're not good at it or it is too hard. Persist, work hard, and be consistent. Develop a growth mindset – that will serve you well in life.'

During her post-Olympic downtime in Perth, Genevieve visited our College, and surprised our Years 5 and 6 athletes by personally handing out their sport awards. The atmosphere was exuberant as she stepped onto campus, with students swarming around her, eager to

see her silver medal and capture photos with an Olympic champion. It was a memorable moment that bridged past and present, inspiring a new generation of young athletes and sports enthusiasts.

Genevieve Longman's evolution from an unexpected water polo player to an Olympic medalist and sports lawyer highlights the extraordinary outcomes of dedication and opportunity. While she continues to set ambitious sporting goals for the future, the path to the next Olympics in four years is not set in stone. Her recent visit to the College wasn't just a celebration of her wins; it was a meaningful reconnection to her roots and a powerful reminder of what can be accomplished through perseverance and ambition.



PACING PAST LIMITS

When you think of a marathon runner, you might picture a lean athlete with perfect form. But **Nick Ryan (Class 1996)** defies expectations. Born with cerebral palsy and given a grim prognosis that he would never walk or talk, Nick has not only walked and talked, but has thrived, carving out an impressive niche in the world of long-distance running.

Nick's story isn't just about crossing finish lines; it's about redefining boundaries. His running journey, which began with a simple health check and a high blood pressure reading, evolved from casual jogs around the park into a passion that would take him across the globe, from the streets of Boston to the deserts of Jordan. With each stride and every finish line, Nick not only conquered physical distances but also pushed the limits of what he thought possible for himself.

But Nick's true strength isn't in his legs - it's in his spirit.

'I stopped wearing a watch when I was running. I was not running to better my times. I was running to have a good time.'



This philosophy, surprising for a marathon runner, encapsulates Nick's approach to life. He is not competing against others or even himself; he's embracing the journey, and savouring every step.

Nick's marathon path began on Rottnest Island, where he has now run five times. He's since conquered iconic endurance events worldwide, including emotionally



Nick Ryan 'having a good time' on another long haul

charged post-bombing Boston, Vancouver (where he achieved his personal best), Athens, Buenos Aires, and Dublin. His most demanding race was a gruelling 56km ultra-marathon in Cape Town, South Africa. Nick recalls, 'I was pretty banged up, but after I received some medical attention, I just had to keep going, even though my eye was a bit of a mess. I had made it that far and was determined to finish.' This extraordinary feat, completed despite a serious fall at the 32km mark, exemplifies Nick's unwavering resilience.

As his knees began to protest the constant pounding, Nick adapted. He started walking more, using this time to appreciate the world around him. This shift mirrors his larger life philosophy - when one path becomes challenging, find another way to move forward and find fulfilment.

Nick's advocacy extends beyond running. Now, he uses his voice instead of his legs to inspire others. He has become a motivational speaker, sharing his experiences with students and professionals alike. His message is simple yet profound: 'Anything is achievable if you put your mind to it.'

He volunteers regularly at local schools as a youth mentor through the nationwide Raise program, serves on a diversity and inclusion committee at the government department where he works, and champions mental health awareness. His openness

about his own struggles provides a guiding light for others facing similar challenges.

Reflecting on his time at John XXIII College, Nick credits staff like Mr John O’Dea, Mr Shane Negus, Mr Mark Antulov, and Mr Ric del Pizzo for being supportive and encouraging him to push beyond perceived limitations. These mentors instilled in him the values of kindness, compassion, and perseverance - qualities that have shaped his life’s journey.

To our current students, Nick urges: ‘Don’t be afraid to be yourself. Look outside your circle of friends. You’re missing out on meaningful friendships if you don’t widen your social circle.’ He also encourages our young people to set goals (even small ones!), maintain curiosity, and remember that everyone is different and special in their own way.



Nick Ryan’s story isn’t just about overcoming cerebral palsy or running marathons. It’s about wholeheartedly accepting life, finding joy in the process rather than fixating on the destination. It’s about redefining success on your own terms and using your unique experiences to uplift others. As Nick affirms, ‘Without courage or determination, you can’t overcome adversity.’

In a world that often measures worth by conventional standards, Nick reminds us that true victory lies in living authentically, showing compassion, and recognising the inner abilities of those around us. His journey from a child not expected to walk or talk to a globe-trotting marathon runner and inspirational speaker is a powerful testament to the human spirit’s resilience and the life-changing impact of perseverance.

As we navigate our own life marathons, Nick’s story serves as a reminder: it’s not just about how fast we run or how far we go, but how fully we immerse ourselves in our experiences and lift others along the way.

RAISING THE BAR

From the springy gymnastics floor to the elastic pole vault runway, the athletic journey of **Leila Barker (Class 2023)** is a masterclass in versatility. This recent graduate has already made her mark in the world of pole vaulting, proving that sometimes, life’s detours lead to the most exciting destinations.



Leila Barker about to take flight

Leila’s path to pole vaulting stardom wasn’t a straight trajectory. Her sporting roots trace back to age four when she tumbled into gymnastics and sprinted onto the athletics scene. For a decade, she flipped and vaulted her way through competitions, even representing WA in multiple disciplines. But as fate would have it, an injury in 2019 forced her to reassess her flight plan. She reflects on her transition:

‘Retiring from gymnastics after ten years was heartbreaking. But sometimes, endings pave the way for new beginnings.’

And what a beginning it was. On her mother’s suggestion, Leila catapulted herself into pole vaulting through a talent identification program day at the Western Australian Institute of Sport (WAIS). It was love at first leap. Since then, she’s been collecting accolades and medals. Her trophy case already boasts gold from the 2022 Under 18 National and Oceania Championships, and she recently clinched bronze in the Under 20 category at the 2024 Nationals.

Leila credits much of her success to the foundation laid at our College. ‘The support and encouragement

from the College sport community was incredible,' she reminisces. 'Those early morning athletics training sessions every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday weren't just about technique or improvement. They were about building a love for sport in a fun environment.'

She also acknowledges the influence of specific staff members. 'Miss Jessica Pillera and Ms Sara Kononen had the most positive attitudes and were our trackside cheerleaders. Ms Rita de Faria, Assistant Deputy Principal for me in Years 11 and 12, was very accommodating to my sporting commitments. She supported me through the most stressful years of high school.'

But school wasn't just about sport. Leila enthusiastically recounts the rites of passage that marked her final year. 'The events throughout Year 12 - Manresa, the 'walk-on' at the athletics carnival, the Running of The Colonnades, Valete, Graduation Night - these are some of my favourite memories. They celebrated our achievements, brought our cohort closer together, and made Year 12 a year I will never forget.'

When she's not defying gravity, Leila is hitting the books at the University of Western Australia (UWA), pursuing a degree in Sport and Exercise Science. She is also paying it forward, coaching young athletes here at our College and at UWA Little Athletics.

Balancing elite sport, academics, coaching, and a social life isn't easy, but Leila credits her time at John XXIII College for equipping her with the necessary skills. 'Time management is crucial,' she reflects. 'As a student-athlete, you learn to make every minute count.'

Leila's coach, James Fitzpatrick, who oversees her training at WAIS, speaks highly of her character and dedication: 'Leila is quietly determined. She is not just a participant but a collaborator in our mission. Her work ethic is exemplary in how she applies herself to training and learning, and she can communicate clearly if she needs additional information or clarification.'

Fitzpatrick, the architect behind WA's top pole vaulters, including Paris 2024 Olympic Gold medallist Nina Kennedy, has been instrumental in Leila's ascent. He notes that Leila's background in both gymnastics and athletics have given her an ideal combination of skills for pole vaulting; blending speed, power, and aerial prowess. Her current personal best stands at 3.90 metres, with her sights set on reaching the minimum 4-metre mark required for a WAIS scholarship.

Leila's advice to aspiring athletes is refreshingly straightforward. 'Stay focused on what you want, have fun, and don't be afraid to try new things. You never know where it might lead you.' She adds with emphasis,

'And squeeze every drop of opportunity from your school years. You only get to experience school once in your lifetime, so enjoy it while it lasts.'

Leila Barker's ascent continues, propelled by the enduring spirit of John XXIII College. Her blend of athletic talent and academic drive pushes her to new heights in every aspect of life. Leila's journey from gymnast to pole vault standout demonstrates how determination, adaptability, and strong support can turn potential into achievement. As she sets her sights on higher goals, Leila's story continues to inspire others to pursue their own personal bests.

HUMBLE STROKES, HISTORIC SWIMS

At just 20 years old, **Callum Hughes (Class 2021)** has quietly etched his name in the record books. This unassuming young athlete has become the youngest to conquer the Australian Triple Crown and the Australian Grand Slam of marathon swimming. It is an extraordinary achievement that few outside of the open-water swimming pool fully appreciate, but it is one that speaks volumes about Callum's dedication and connection to the sea.

The Australian Triple Crown is a formidable challenge that requires swimmers to complete three intense marathon swims: the 25km Port to Pub in Western Australia, the 34km Derwent River Big Swim in Tasmania, and the 27km Palm Beach to Shelley Beach Marathon in New South Wales. As if this weren't daunting enough, the Australian Grand Slam ups the ante by adding a fourth event - the 20km Swim Around Keppel in Queensland. By mastering all four swims, Callum has demonstrated not only exceptional endurance but also remarkable skill and mental toughness.

'I loved swimming and have always been good at it, but I didn't like racing or doing competitions,' Callum admits. 'When I found my coach, Claire Evans, I realised that open-water marathon swimming allowed me to challenge myself without the pressure of racing others or focusing on times.'

Despite his incredible feats, Callum remains grounded and humble. He is quick to credit his success to the support of his family, coach, and the tight-knit open-water swimming community. Callum's appreciation for his support network reinforces the importance of teamwork, even in a seemingly solitary pursuit like open-water swimming. His ability to balance record-breaking achievements with humility is admirable, demonstrating that true success is not just about personal accolades but also about recognising and valuing the contributions of those who help you along the way.

Training for long-distance swimming and open-water marathons is not for the faint-hearted. Still, Callum approaches it with calm, determination, and an unshakeable focus. 'Endurance training is very different from speed training,' he explains. 'It's about regularity, pacing yourself, and a long game.' His regimen includes long swims, strength and conditioning exercises, and mental preparation to manage the solitude and physical strain of open-water swimming.

When he is out in the open water, Callum finds his happy place. 'You are alone in the water, but I feel completely in my element. I love the ocean and appreciate the marine life within it.'

Callum has faced significant physical and mental challenges on his journey but tackles them with the remarkable resilience of someone far beyond his years. 'It's very much a mental test as a physical one,' he admits. 'Without the right mindset, it's very difficult to persevere and complete such long distances. You must also be extremely organised and trust in your support crew.' Even when faced with setbacks, such as contracting COVID-19 just a week before the 25km Port to Pub swim in WA, Callum's ocean confidence and his support crew helped him power through to victory.

Callum's mother, Cheryl Hughes, provides insight into the emotional journey of supporting her son's pursuit of his swimming dreams. 'When he glides through the water, he makes it look effortless,' she says. 'But it has taken incredible effort and commitment to achieve what he has.'

Coach Claire Evans, the guiding force behind Callum's success, marvels at his exceptional qualities. 'He has a tremendous, smooth, and efficient stroke,' she praises. 'His focus when racing and training is very strong and stable. To be mentally that strong at such a young age is quite unusual and phenomenal.' Callum's achievements underscore his remarkable abilities: he has set a new record for the fastest anticlockwise circumnavigation of Great Keppel Island in Queensland and is also the youngest person ever to complete this gruelling swim.

Callum Hughes swims in the Port to Pub event off Fremantle



While pursuing his own swimming goals and academic interests, Callum is also sharing his knowledge and skills with the next generation. As a swim instructor at Bold Park Aquatic, his commitment to teaching demonstrates the value he places on contributing to the swim community and nurturing future swimmers.

Looking ahead, Callum considers the possibility of dipping his toes into international waters and achieving new milestones. For now, though, he remains committed to his university studies in Marine Biology, eager to deepen his understanding of the ocean. He plans to continue balancing his academic and swimming pursuits, using each to enhance his knowledge and appreciation of the other.

He speaks fondly of his time at John XXIII College, where our dedicated teachers nurtured his love for learning. 'Biology and marine science were my favourite subjects,' he recalls. 'They sparked my interest to study Marine Biology at uni. And I always had a knack for languages. I really enjoyed Japanese with Sensei Aghdasi.'

To our current students, Callum urges: 'Go and try new things out. You never know what will happen. I never thought of open water swimming as my thing, but look where I am now.' He encourages students to embrace the present, cherish the moments that make up their high school years, and find the courage to pursue their passions, no matter how unconventional they seem. His words are a gentle reminder that sometimes, the most extraordinary journeys begin with a single step into the unknown.

Callum Hughes may not seek the spotlight, but his accomplishments speak for themselves. His conquests in the water have caught the attention of swimmers, young and old, showing them what is possible with patience, rigorous training, and a clear goal.

Callum's story illustrates how focused dedication can lead to phenomenal outcomes, even in a pursuit as demanding as open-water swimming. His systematic and persistent approach, largely away from the public eye, stands as proof of how dedication and hard work can lead to success.

AT THE TOP OF HER GAME

In the high-impact world of Australian Rules Football, **Lisa Webb (nee Hughes) (Class 2001)** stands out not just for her transition from player to coach, but for her philosophy that blends athletic excellence with personal growth. As the current coach of the Fremantle Dockers AFL women's team, Lisa is helping to redefine what it means to guide and support in professional sport, emphasising the importance of authenticity, resilience, and holistic wellbeing.

A John XXIII College graduate, Lisa's journey began with a deep-rooted passion for sport that flourished during her school days. 'I was heavily involved in sports at school - athletics, cross-country, soccer, just about anything sporty. I made so many meaningful connections and built relationships and friendships through sport,' she reminisces.

This early love for athletics led Lisa to pursue a Sports Science degree at ECU Mount Lawley and Joondalup, followed by a Diploma in Education. Her subsequent teaching career, spanning over a decade at institutions like Newman College and Caulfield Grammar, laid the groundwork for her future role as a mentor and leader.

Lisa's perspective on coaching is shaped by her experiences as both an educator and a player. Her stint as a player with the Fremantle Dockers in 2017 and 2018 provided invaluable insights that now inform her coaching style. 'Playing at that level was an incredible, once-in-a-lifetime experience. The connections I built through playing football were pivotal to my role as a coach,' Lisa explains.



Lisa victorious in her playing days



Through the big sticks

With a coaching style deeply influenced by her playing experience, Lisa focuses on building meaningful relationships with players. ‘I understand the many challenges for them, and I understand their purpose and their goals. There is mutual trust,’ she says. Lisa stresses the importance of a holistic approach to player development, ensuring that ‘players are balanced in all aspects of their lives, on and off the field. We make sure their off-field dynamics are supported and balanced, that they develop respectful relationships, and bring their best self, in their attitude, energy and effort.’ This philosophy extends beyond the field, recognising that a player’s personal life significantly impacts their on-field performance.

Lisa’s coaching ethos is also influenced by her personal life, particularly motherhood. ‘Wanting to have a family was always a big priority for me, and timing and age were also factors,’ she shares. Balancing the demands of motherhood with a

high-pressure coaching career has been a challenge that Lisa navigates with courage, describing it as ‘forever evolving’ and ‘intensely demanding.’

Her experiences as a mother, including raising a child with additional needs, have added depth to her coaching perspective. ‘My son was born deaf and that also influenced my decision and timing about having another child,’ Lisa reveals. ‘It has come with its own set of hurdles and was a big adjustment.’ These personal challenges have enhanced her empathy and understanding of the diverse obstacles her players might face off the field.

Lisa’s advice to our aspiring athletes and students reflects her life experiences:

‘Don’t sweat the small stuff! Making sure you are authentic and true to yourself is the biggest piece of advice that I can give; one that I believe will hold you longer in life than anything else.’

She encourages embracing challenges as learning opportunities and persevering through setbacks, drawing from her own path of pursuing a career in women’s football at a time when opportunities were limited.

Amid the growing prominence of AFLW, Lisa Webb’s approach to coaching – one that values personal development and a well-rounded growth mindset – sets a benchmark in the sport. Her progression from a sport-loving high school student to educator, to an AFLW coach and mother demonstrates the value of staying true to one’s passions while adapting to life’s various roles and responsibilities with agility and courage.



The coach in her happy place

THE RIPPLE EFFECT

Eamon Sullivan OLY (Class 2002) has sliced through challenges both in and out of the pool. Known for his Olympic medals and world records in swimming, Eamon recently transitioned into a role that embodies the spirit of giving back – a value that resonates strongly with the Ignatian ethos of John XXIII College.

At the Paris 2024 Olympics, Eamon took on a new challenge as an athlete liaison with the Australian Athlete Services Team. 'It was almost like being a concierge for the athletes,' he explains. Working alongside former Olympians like Beki Smith and Julia Bell, Eamon's role was to ensure that current athletes had everything they needed to perform at their best.

This position allowed Eamon to share his wealth of experience with a new generation of Olympians. 'It was a nice way to be at the Olympics for other people and not for myself, which was very rewarding,' he reflects. His presence provided invaluable support, especially for smaller teams such as the volleyball players and the rock climbers; athletes that didn't have extensive support staff. 'I made sure I connected with them, went to their games, and made sure they felt part of the national team.'

Eamon's role at Paris 2024 not only allowed him to support current athletes but also provided an opportunity to connect with a fellow John XXIII College alumna, Genevieve Longman (Class of 2012), a member of the Australian women's water polo team.

John XXIII College takes immense pride in seeing two of its alumni at the Olympic Games, albeit in very different capacities. This chance encounter brought together two generations of the John XXIII College community on the world stage: Eamon, representing the wisdom and experience gained from multiple Olympic Games, now in a supportive role; and Genevieve, representing the youthful energy and fresh perspective of a first-time Olympian. Their interaction at Paris 2024 beautifully exemplifies the diverse paths our alumni take, while showcasing how the Olympic spirit can bridge generations and roles within the sporting community.



Genevieve highlights Eamon's significant role in boosting morale and unity among the Australian Olympians. 'One of my favourite memories from the Olympic Village was when Eamon would lead the 'clap-out and the clap-in', whenever a team was leaving to go to a game or returning from a game,' recalls Genevieve. 'Athletes would form a tunnel and would cheer as you left and cheer as you came in. You really felt that connection and that you were part of something grand and meaningful.'

Eamon's experience as a former Olympian allowed him to connect with athletes across various disciplines, fostering a sense of camaraderie that transcended individual sports. His efforts contributed to a unified and positive environment, where every Australian Olympian felt part of something greater than their individual pursuits. This interaction exemplifies how Eamon's role extended beyond just logistical support, encompassing emotional and motivational aspects that are crucial for athletes performing at the highest level.

Beyond the Olympic Village, Eamon's dedication to nurturing athletic excellence continues. He sits on the board of the WA Olympic Fundraising Committee, playing a vital role in raising funds to send West Australian athletes to the Games. This behind-the-scenes work ensures that local talent can shine on the world stage, extending Eamon's influence from grassroots funding to elite competition.

Eamon's commitment to service and community aligns well with the values we cherish at our College. Our institution has long emphasised the importance of giving back and making a positive impact in the world. This ethos of community service and personal growth is central to the John XXIII experience, shaping the character of our students in various ways.

While academic excellence is one path to success, we recognise that each student's journey is unique. Eamon's story is a testament to this diversity of experience. He shares that he may not have been the most academically inclined student during his time here, but our College's emphasis on hands-on learning and practical skills resonated with him. This approach often uncovers hidden talents and passions in students, setting them on unexpected career paths.

For Eamon, one subject, in particular, shaped his future in an unforeseen way. 'Home Economics was my favourite subject at school,' he recalls. 'That started my love of food and probably led me down the hospitality path.' This early exposure to cooking back in 1998, where the first dish he ever made was beef stroganoff, planted the seeds for his post-swimming career.



Eamon takes on the role of mentor at the 2024 Paris Olympics

As his competitive swimming career drew to a close, Eamon found himself naturally gravitating towards the hospitality industry. The discipline, attention to detail, and teamwork skills honed during his years as an elite athlete proved invaluable in his new ventures. Today, Eamon is a successful restaurateur who runs several hospitality businesses in Western Australia. His ventures include beachside icon Bib and Tucker in North Fremantle and Goody Twos, a Japanese-inspired cocktail and whiskey bar in Perth CBD.

In addition to hospitality, Eamon owns two local glazing businesses. He cites that the early COVID days made him reassess his business goals, particularly in terms of work-life balance. This evolution from athlete to entrepreneur showcases Eamon's adaptability and drive to achieve.

The competitive spirit that propelled Eamon to Olympic glory hasn't faded; it has simply found a new arena.

'For me, that competitiveness has transferred from swimming to business. I aim to make sure the businesses are performing at a high level at all times.'

This mindset demonstrates how the multitude of lessons learned in sports can be applied to various aspects of life and career. Drawing parallels between his sporting and business careers, Eamon says:

'I am also a big advocate of learning from your mistakes. That's basically what sport is... you don't just get good overnight – you learn from your mistakes and opportunities, and you improve.'

His advice to our students? 'You can do whatever you want to do, you just have to be prepared for failure,' he says. 'Passion can take you a long way. You have to get past the gatekeeper which is your own self-belief. A lot of people doubt themselves and don't believe they can get there. As an athlete, you have to back yourself in everything you do. When you are really focused on achieving something you must prioritise it and make it happen.'

Eamon's journey has also taught him the importance of wellbeing and a healthy work-life balance, lessons he is eager to share with today's students. 'I try to focus on self-care when I can,' he explains. 'I make sure that I get enough sleep, meditate, as well as go to the gym about four or five times a week. Staying healthy and maintaining energy levels is important. Your brain does slow down when you don't eat well or exercise, and you don't feel healthy. It becomes harder to maintain motivation and push through.'

From the classroom to the Olympic podium, and now to the bustling kitchens of Perth, Eamon Sullivan's journey embodies the transformative power of education and community. His story isn't just about personal achievement, but about coming full circle – applying the skills and values he has developed throughout his life to fuel his success and, in turn, giving back to nurture the next generation of dreamers and doers.



OUR GOLDEN ETH-LETES

In a world grappling with complex moral dilemmas, five students have proven that ethical reasoning is not just an academic exercise—it's a powerful tool for shaping our future. Armed with nothing but their minds and a passion for justice, our Senior Ethics Team has outthought, outargued, and outshone competitors from across the globe, clinching gold in the Australasian division and bronze in the international division of the 2024 Ethics Olympiad.

This isn't just a tale of medals and accolades. It is a story of intellectual growth, moral courage, and the power of respectful dialogue in an increasingly polarised world. This journey reveals how today's classroom debates can transform into tomorrow's solutions for our most pressing societal challenges.

The brainchild of former teacher and Churchill Fellow, Matthew Wills, and inspired by the International Ethics Bowl in the United States, the Ethics Olympiad is not your typical academic competition. In this arena, the battlefield is nuanced, and victory springs from the ability to weave empathy, critical thinking, and multiple perspectives into a tapestry of ethical reasoning. It is a place where thoughtful dialogue trumps debate, and

where understanding diverse viewpoints is as crucial as defending one's own.

Unlike traditional debates, the Ethics Olympiad allows participants, affectionately dubbed 'eth-letes,' to take any position they believe is ethically sound. These eth-letes train diligently, not in physical prowess, but in excellence of ethical thinking. They work collaboratively, both within their own teams and with teams from other schools, to tackle difficult ethical questions and arrive at the best possible answers.

Our Senior Ethics Team, comprised of **Gemma Bailey, Meg Cleary, Meg Derbyshire, Asha Paton, and Sky Pineda Beasley**, has been competing together since Year 7. Now in their final year of schooling, their journey culminated in this impressive achievement, marking the end of an era for these dedicated students.

Preparation for the Ethics Olympiad is rigorous and intellectually stimulating. Aside from thoroughly analysing case studies many months ahead, our teams participate in training clinics and workshops featuring lectures and Q&A sessions with a distinguished collection of academics and ethics professors from

prominent educational institutions around the world. These include Harvard University, The New School for Social Research in New York, and the Ethics Centre in Sydney. This high-level engagement provides our students with unparalleled exposure to pioneering ethical thought and debate.

Daisy Farley, the Head of our Magis Program, has been coaching the Senior Ethics Team throughout their secondary journey. She reflects on their growth: 'They have all come through the Magis Program. The team knows each other very well, and it works in their favour. What these girls have learned along the way will certainly benefit their tertiary studies and the careers that they choose.'

The Ethics Olympiad is just one facet of the College's Magis Program, which provides extended learning opportunities for gifted and talented students. Such initiatives align perfectly with our College Strategic Plan to inspire educational excellence by nurturing and challenging our students.

Ms Farley explains: 'The different and unique nature of the Ethics Olympiad is about having respectful conversations and considering all points of view on some very challenging and difficult social issues. At the end of the day, the victorious teams are the ones who considered the most perspectives, spoke the most respectfully, and addressed each question in the most insightful, thoughtful, and intelligent way.'

Participating in the Ethics Olympiad has far-reaching benefits for the students. Ms Farley notes: 'The experience has helped them grow as human beings; in confidence and interpersonal skills such as communication, creativity, respect, patience and teamwork. The importance of studying ethics today cannot be overstated - and this competition plays an essential role. It's about critical thinking, discerning information, and gaining social perspective – all through a lens of morality.'

Student Asha Paton shares her thoughts on the experience: 'Ethics Olympiad is one of the best competitions I've taken part in during my time at the College and as a member of the Magis Program. Not only does it complement the curriculum we study, particularly in Religious Education, but moreover, it furthers your knowledge on the application of different ethical frameworks and social issues facing the world

today. The format of the competition as a discussion rather than a debate provides this optimal space for learning without becoming too adversarial, which is a unique feature of the Ethics Olympiad.'

As our Senior Ethics Team prepared for their graduation, they did not rest on their laurels. Instead, they took on the role of mentors, working with our Junior Ethics Team ahead of their competition in Term 4. This act of stewardship embodied the Ignatian values instilled by our College, ensuring that the legacy of ethical reasoning and respectful discourse continues within our community. The senior team's guidance has set a strong foundation for our younger teams of ethical thinkers.



The team competing in the 2024 Ethics Olympiad

The Ethics Olympiad success is more than just a competition win; it is an excellent example of our Magis program's effectiveness and our College's dedication to shaping well-rounded, critically thinking individuals who are prepared to navigate the complex ethical landscape of our modern world.



TACKLING THE LAW

When most people think of sport, they envision athletes, coaches, nail-biting competition, and die-hard fans. But behind the scenes, there's a whole different game being played - one that requires a sharp mind, quick thinking, and an intimate knowledge of the law. Enter **Kate McGurk (Class 2007)**, lawyer and current Head of Risk and Legal at the Fremantle Dockers.

Kate's path to sports law was pretty much a straight shot. 'I made that choice with head rather than heart,' she admits, reflecting on her decision to pursue a double degree in Law and Commerce. Little did she know that this decision would lead her to a career that perfectly blends her lifelong passion for sport with her legal acumen.

Her journey reads like a sport fan's dream career path: from organisations like the WA Football Commission and the WA Cricket Association Tribunal to a boutique sports law firm in Melbourne, and finally landing at one of Australia's top sports law practices, Lander and Rogers. In addition to this impressive resume, Kate still cut her teeth on commercial law, building a solid foundation that would bolster her expertise in the fast-paced world of sport.

Now, as the sole legal expert for the Fremantle Dockers, Kate finds herself at the centre of a dynamic and multi-faceted professional sport brand. She isn't just watching from the sidelines – she is calling the legal plays that keep one of AFL's biggest teams on track. 'There is never a dull moment,' she says, her days filled with everything from sponsorship agreements and contract negotiations to conduct management and concussion management - a topic that has been making headlines in recent years and changing the face of professional contact sport.

Along with her extensive legal experience, Kate brings a unique perspective to her role, one shaped by her experiences at John XXIII College:

'The concept of being in the service of others... has really stuck with me after all these years. Being kind and compassionate was always instilled in our College community.'

This ethos of giving back is evident in her work, whether she's advocating for athletes' rights or teaching yoga to Dockers' staff during lunch breaks every Tuesday.

Within the Dockers' 'family', Kate's connection to her alma mater continues. She works alongside fellow College alumna Lisa Webb (née Hughes, Class 2001), who coaches the Dockers' women's team. This collaboration highlights the enduring network of our graduates in various professional fields.

Kate's journey through her school years was marked by vibrant experiences that continue to resonate in her professional life. 'The musicals were THE highlight for me,' she enthuses. 'They were just so much fun to be a part of.' She speaks with evident warmth as she recalls her drama teacher, Mr George Tsakisiris, who clearly left a lasting impression.

Her interests, however, extended well beyond the footlights. 'Mr Jim Fitzpatrick was my Politics and Law teacher, Homeroom teacher, and House coordinator,' she shares, underlining the multifaceted roles our educators play in shaping students' lives.

As house captain of Koolyangarra, Kate was an active force in school life, from the annual John XXIII Day celebrations to the adrenaline-pumping sports carnivals. Her sport involvement also extended to playing netball, umpiring duties, and even coaching younger secondary students, foreshadowing her future in sport leadership. These experiences, she notes, helped shape her sense of community and service, values she carries into her professional life today.

For secondary and tertiary students eyeing a career in law, particularly sports law, Kate offers a reality check. 'It's not like it is on TV,' she cautions. Her advice? Do your homework and do it well. 'Get to know what the real, day-to-day detail of being a lawyer involves,' she urges. 'Do not pursue law just because you are argumentative!' She also emphasises the importance of self-care and a healthy work-life balance in what is commonly considered a high-pressure profession.

Kate's journey has taught her valuable lessons about maintaining a healthy and balanced work culture, an insight she's eager to share with aspiring lawyers. 'It is important to set boundaries in your professional life so you do not overload yourself,' she advises. Drawing from her own experiences, Kate stresses the importance of clear communication within your workplace, especially about workload and deadlines.

She does concede, however, that setting and adhering to boundaries is a skill honed through time and experience. 'When you are younger, you are more likely to say yes to everything and you want to impress your superiors,' she reflects. This understanding has shaped her approach to mentoring.

During her time in commercial practice, Kate made it a priority to guide students and junior lawyers in a mentorship role. 'I would ask them to communicate their understanding of their workload and deadlines to me, facilitating open and clear communication.' This proactive approach not only fosters a healthier work environment but also helps nurture individual and collective wellbeing.

Kate leaves us with a thought-provoking reflection: 'I wish I made fewer decisions with my head and not with my heart.' She elaborates, her words carrying the weight of hard-earned insight and a touch of nostalgia, 'I made decisions based on what I thought other people expected of me. I wish I spent more time exploring my creativity as opposed to logic.'

This candid admission from a successful professional offers a poignant reminder of the balance between ambition and personal fulfilment. Kate's journey, while impressive, highlights the often-overlooked importance of nurturing one's creative side and following genuine passions.

'Don't get me wrong,' she adds, 'I love my job and working in this industry. But I sometimes wonder about the creative pursuits I set aside in favour of what seemed like the 'right' path.'

Her words offer valuable guidance to students, encouraging them to explore diverse paths and embrace their unique interests alongside traditional career options. Kate's experience suggests that while academic achievement and career focus are important, they shouldn't come at the expense of personal interests and creative exploration.

'If I could talk to my younger self,' McGurk muses, 'I'd say it's okay to colour outside the lines sometimes. Your passion might just lead you to a career you never even knew existed.'

Kate's career exemplifies how aligning professional skills with personal passions can forge a fulfilling path. Her role at the intersection of sport and law isn't just a job—it's the realisation of a vision she has pursued since her days at John XXIII College.

'I love that sport brings people together in a positive, healthy environment,' Kate reflects, echoing the community-minded spirit instilled during her school years. As she continues to navigate the ever-evolving world of sports law, Kate embodies a crucial lesson: success comes not just from knowing the legal playbook, but from understanding when to push forward and when to pause for breath.



A night of reconnection and professional growth

We were thrilled to host the inaugural John XXIII College Alumni Networking Connect event. This gathering, held at the offices of Corrs Chambers Westgarth, was hosted by **Christian Owen (Class 1991)**, Partner in Charge and Deputy Chair of the College Council. Alumni from diverse industries and graduating years ranging from 1972 to 2023 gathered together. Additionally, several current Year 12 students attended, providing a unique opportunity to connect across generations.

The aim of the event was to create a platform where alumni and students could engage in meaningful professional networking, gaining insights from each other while reinforcing the value of the John XXIII College community. The transition from student life to the professional world can be daunting, but with strong alumni networks, graduates have access to a support system filled with mentors, peers, and advisors who understand their journeys. As Christian and our

speakers shared, building a professional network is a skill that can unlock opportunities, offer guidance, and establish lasting professional relationships.

The evening emphasised how alumni networks serve not only as a place to gain career advice but also strengthen the sense of community among graduates. Alumni and students alike left the event with new connections, valuable advice, and a greater appreciation for the John XXIII College network.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Christian Owen for his generous support and for hosting this special event. We are excited to continue this initiative, with plans to host two Alumni Networking Connect events per year. While each session may be held within a specific industry, all alumni are welcome to join. If you are interested in hosting or would like to attend future events, please contact us at alumni@johnxxiii.edu.au.



High Achievers' Breakfasts

High Achievers' Breakfasts are held twice a year to celebrate our students' outstanding academic achievements across all subjects from the previous semester. An alumnus is invited as a guest speaker to share their experiences and insights, providing inspiration and guidance to our current high achievers.



Ashleigh Smith talking at the High Achievers' Breakfast

Semester One: Ashleigh Smith

Alumna **Ashleigh Smith (Class 2020)**, in her fourth year of Law and International Relations at Curtin University, shared valuable perspectives from her post-graduation journey. Ashleigh emphasised balancing academics with personal growth and community involvement, offering four key pieces of advice:

- Cultivate positive relationships in school and the wider community
- Prioritise wellbeing and set study boundaries
- Set realistic, achievable goals
- Acknowledge and celebrate personal achievements

Ashleigh encouraged our students to fully engage in school life and extracurricular activities. Her experiences, including work at a boutique law firm and international opportunities in Japan and Singapore, showcased the diverse paths available to our graduates.



Jasmin Collins with Vice Principal Shani Andrews and Principal Daniel Mahon

Semester Two: Jasmin Collins

Jasmin Collins (Class 2020), now in her fourth year of medical school at Curtin University, offered insights on transitioning from high school to university. As a 'lifer' who attended the College from Kindergarten through to Year 12, Jasmin stressed the importance of:

- Intrinsic motivation
- Avoiding constant peer comparison
- Embracing unique personal drivers
- Viewing knowledge gaps as growth opportunities

Jasmin highlighted the significance of a balanced life, sharing how she channels her competitive spirit into rowing while pursuing medical studies.

Her involvement in various medicine-related clubs exemplifies her commitment to a well-rounded education and personal growth.

Both alumni provided our high achievers with fresh perspectives on academic success and personal development, offering practical strategies for their final years of school and beyond.

The continued involvement of alums like Ashleigh and Jasmin in events such as the High Achiever's Breakfasts exemplifies the strong and meaningful alumni community at our College. Their willingness to return and share their experiences demonstrates the lasting connection our graduates maintain with their alma mater. Our vibrant alumni network inspires current students and provides valuable mentorship and networking opportunities, enriching the educational experience for all. The success and engagement of our alumni reflect the enduring impact of a John XXIII College education and the lifelong bonds formed within our community.

CLEARED FOR TAKEOFF

When **Harrison Upton (Class 2023)** graduated high school, he decided his next uniform would come with wings. This John XXIII College alumnus has traded textbooks for jet engines, embarking on a gap year with the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).



'Don't take 12 weeks of school holidays for granted!' Harrison remarks, now stationed near Wagga Wagga with the RAAF's No 1 Recruit Training Unit (1RTU). It is a world away from high school, but Harrison's thoughtful responses convey his genuine appreciation for his new path.

Since his enlistment in March 2024, Harrison's days are filled with comprehensive technical training, to become an aircraft support technician at an operational base.

'I have always had a fascination with planes, military aircraft in particular. Now I'm learning how to keep them airworthy.'

The training is intense, pushing recruits to their limits. 'I was surprised at how long I could stay awake,' Harrison reveals, recalling a particularly gruelling 24-hour exercise designed to simulate real-world scenarios. 'It was challenging but exhilarating.'

The camaraderie forged during these trials is something Harrison deeply values. 'The bonds I have formed here are unique,' he says. 'We've been through some pretty unusual and tough experiences together. You can't help but develop a strong sense of trust and teamwork to get you through.'



This team spirit isn't new to Harrison. His time at John XXIII College fostered this mindset, particularly through sport. 'There was a fantastic sporting culture at the College,' he reminisces. 'I even achieved my goal to win the Running of the Colonnades in Year 12!'

When not immersed in training, Harrison and his fellow recruits make the most of their downtime. 'We often go camping, play footy or squash, and hit the gym to stay fit,' he shares. But it's more than just leisure activities



for Harrison. These moments of respite from the rigorous training schedule have become the foundation for deep, lasting friendships. The bonds formed through shared experiences both on and off duty have become one of the most valuable aspects of Harrison's gap year.

This experience has broadened Harrison's horizons. As for the future? Harrison is keeping his options as open as the sky he works under. University may beckon, with technical engineering piquing his interest. 'I am passionate about understanding the mechanics behind complex systems,' he explains.

'My time in the RAAF has given me hands-on experience with cutting-edge technology, which has really reinforced my interest in technical engineering. At the same time, I am also considering staying in the Air Force. It's great to have options.'



To current students dreaming of similar high-flying pursuits, Harrison enthusiastically urges them to give the Air Force gap year program a go. 'The time frame is perfect - long enough to get a real taste, but short enough that you're not committing a huge chunk of your life. Plus, it looks pretty impressive on a resume.'

The gap year programs offered by the Australian Defence Forces are highly respected by employers, who often value the maturity, resilience, and leadership qualities developed during military training and service, even if brief. The structured environment and high standards of the defence forces instil a strong work ethic and attention to detail that translate well to civilian careers. Additionally, the security clearances and specialised training received can open doors in sectors like aerospace, engineering, and government services.



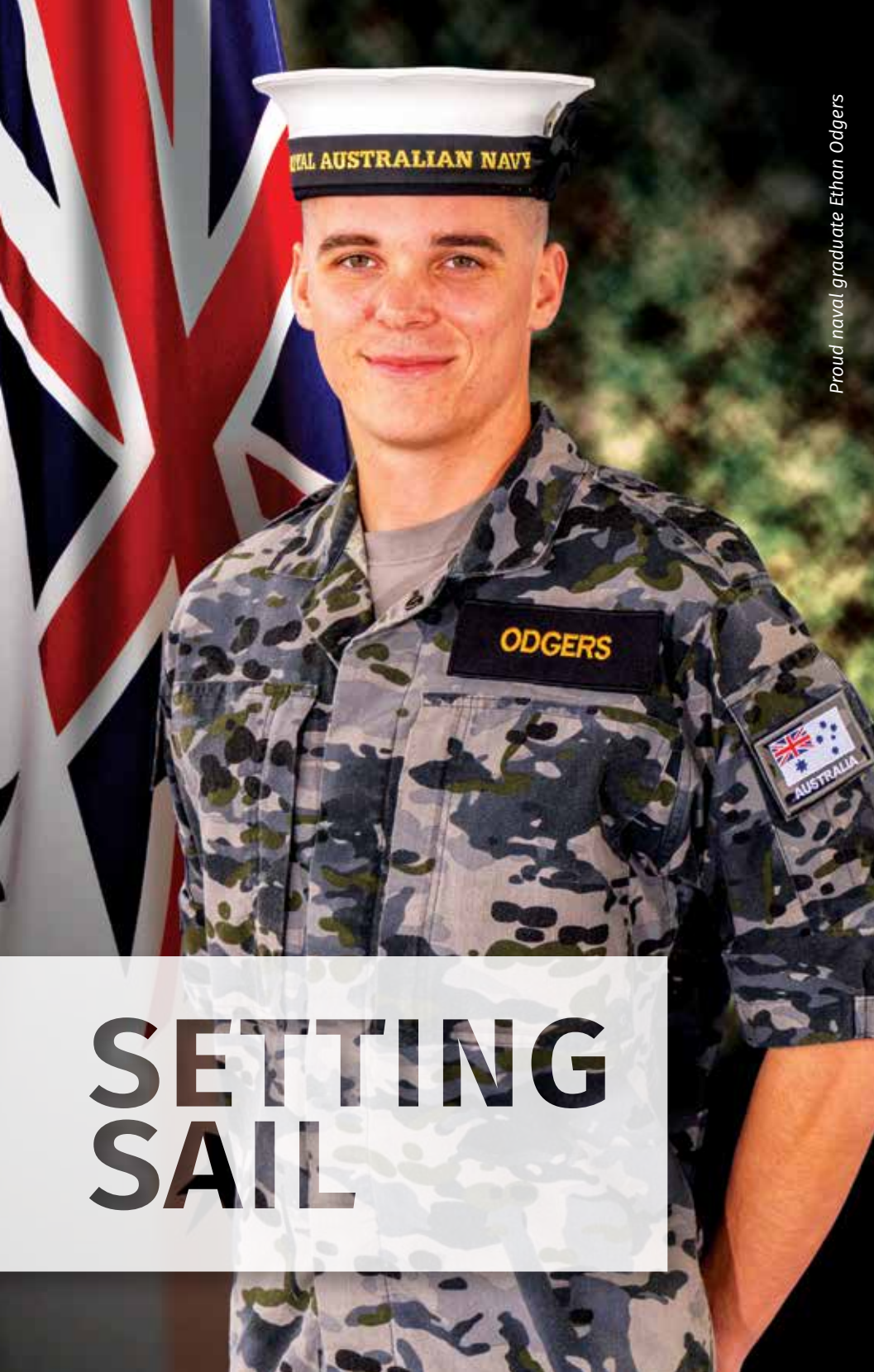
As our conversation concludes, Harrison imparts one final piece of advice to our current students:

'Once you leave school, you face real adult challenges. So make the most of your time now!'

Given his composure and insightful reflections, it is clear that Harrison's gap year has been more than just a detour – it has been a transformative journey of personal and professional growth.

From John XXIII College to the hangars of the RAAF, Harrison Upton's story demonstrates how embracing new challenges can propel one's potential to new heights. As he continues to navigate the complexities of aircraft maintenance, Harrison is simultaneously exploring diverse career runways. Whether his future lies in university lecture halls or aircraft hangars, one thing is certain – this alum's adventure is just beginning to take flight.





Proud naval graduate Ethan Odgers

SETTING SAIL

For **Ethan Odgers (Class 2019)**, joining the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) has been a life-changing experience filled with challenges overcome, skills gained, and a deep sense of purpose discovered. At a young age, Ethan was drawn to the Navy by the allure of ocean travel. 'I have always loved the water and being on boats, so I was automatically drawn to the Navy,' Ethan reflects. 'I was also interested in the Australian Defence Forces (ADF) because I would get paid to study, travel, play sports, and meet so many interesting people from all over the country.'

However, it was the rigorous training and education he received at the RAN Recruit School that truly transformed Ethan. From seamanship to survival skills, combat first aid to weapons handling, Ethan has gained a versatile toolkit that will serve him well throughout his life and career. 'The ADF offers excellent training, and I am extremely lucky to be getting trained by the greatest mentors,' he notes.

'There is no doubt that what I have learned will be extremely useful, even after my time at the ADF comes to an end.'

The training journey was not always easy, but Ethan found empowerment in the bonds of camaraderie he formed with his 59 fellow recruits and the staunch support of his family. 'During recruit school, there were some very tough times, however, what got me through was all my mates I had around me; I was so fortunate to meet such amazing people with similar goals and become part of a team.' Seeing the pride and admiration on his family's faces as they watched him graduate on May 17, 2024, was the ultimate reward for his perseverance and hard work.

Ethan's impressive actions and behaviour during his training did not go unnoticed. Leading Seaman Renee Schulz, an Instructor at RAN Recruit School who oversaw Ethan's 10-week program, speaks highly of his abilities and character. 'Ethan displayed several great qualities and traits that held him in a great position for his training to become a sailor,' she notes. 'He is a fantastic leader and excels in a fast-paced and high-pressure environment.' This aptitude for guiding others

and his ability to thrive under pressure bodes well for Ethan's future in the Navy. Leading Seaman Schulz adds, 'Through his time during recruit school, he learnt to adapt his leadership qualities and build on the foundations to be an effective communicator to me, other staff, and his cohort of recruits.' These talents were not only recognised by his instructors but also formally acknowledged at his graduation, where Ethan received two awards.

Of the six awards presented on graduation day, Ethan received two prestigious honours: Sports Person of the Intake and Recruit of the Intake. Commander Ben J McGrath's citation for the first award praised Ethan as 'a highly capable and enthusiastic individual who has excelled during all physical pursuits.' For the second award, Commander McGrath commended Ethan for his 'exemplary performance and outstanding attitude during training,' noting his 'teamwork, initiative and leadership in all aspects of training.'

Now, as he serves his country, Ethan is filled with a profound sense of meaning and self-worth. 'Being in the Navy, I feel an incredible sense of duty and fulfilment in serving and protecting our nation and its people.' He plans to continue pursuing his interests in

engineering as a Marine Technician at HMAS Cerberus, working his way up and even earning his ship diving qualification. The people he has encountered along the way have left an enduring influence, motivating Ethan to excel. 'Everyone I have met during my time in the Navy has had an enormous impact on me. The leadership and staff inspire and connect with everyone, nurturing them to achieve their absolute best.'

Looking back, Ethan appreciates the strong foundation his school years provided. 'I do miss my school days, and you do not realise just how much until after they are over. I am still in contact with many people from high school and we will remain lifelong friends. Overall, John XXIII College was an extremely positive experience for me.'

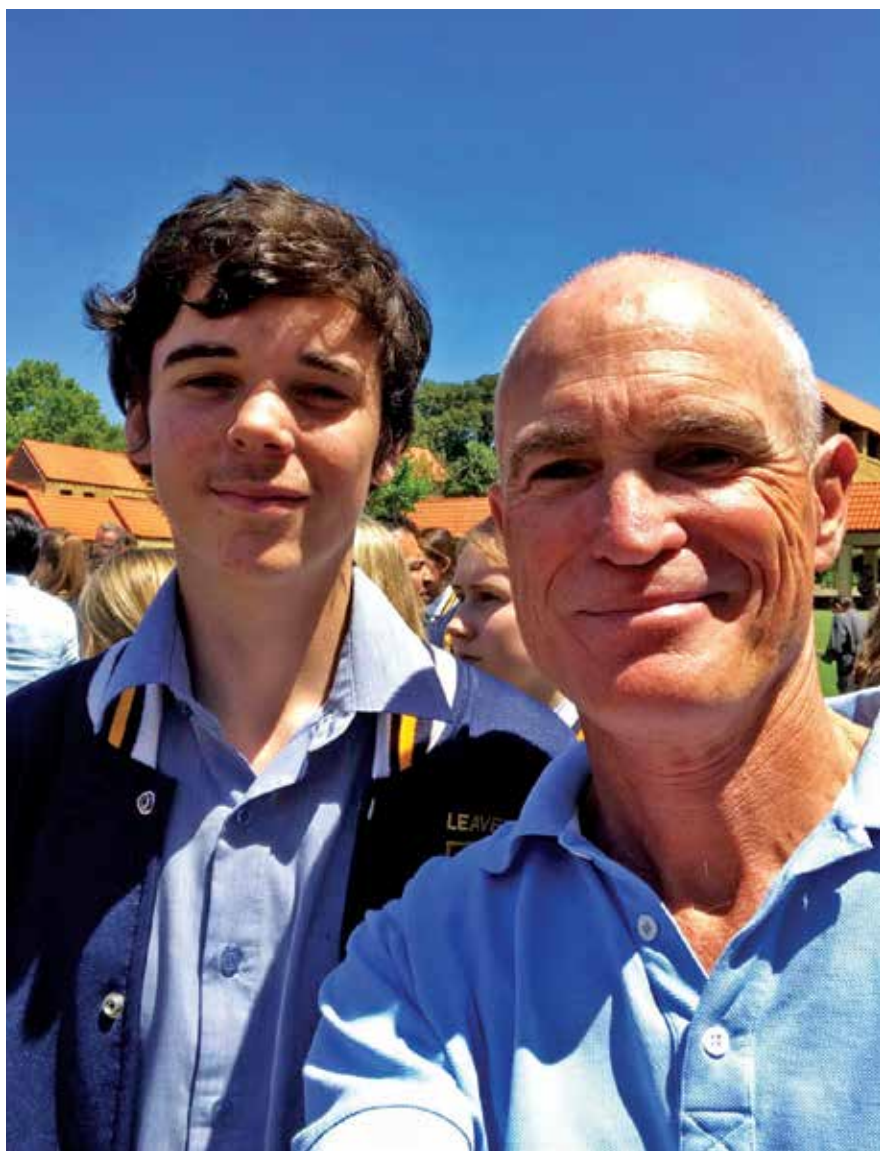
Ethan's advice to our current students considering a similar path?

'Do not be afraid to put your hand up and try new things. Volunteering and testing the waters has gotten me extremely far and I plan to explore all possibilities for the rest of my career.'

He encourages those unsure about a profession in the military to consider the ADF's gap year programs to gain invaluable experience without a long-term commitment. 'Think of it as a try-before-you-buy opportunity,' he explains, 'You get to experience things like ride in helicopters, conduct boarding parties, work on engines, participate in warfare exercises, and so much more.'

Ethan's story is one of growth, service, and confidently embracing new horizons. With his naval career just beginning, Ethan shares his aspirations with genuine excitement: 'It's only been a short time, but I can already tell you this is the right vocation for me. The opportunities are endless, and I am looking forward to seeing where this journey will take me. Whether it's advancing in my technical skills, taking on leadership roles, or serving on different vessels, I'm ready for whatever challenges come my way!'

Ethan with his dad at John XXIII College





LEADING FROM THE HEART

At the nexus of Australia's defence and national security sector, John XXIII College alumnus **David Barter (Class 1998)** is shaping the nation's future. As Market Director for the Australian Defence and National Security portfolio at Beca, a professional services firm specialising in engineering and advisory, David oversees the critical projects and programs that keep Australia's defences robust and ready.

One of Beca's key responsibilities is the maintenance of all 28 Australian airfields for the Royal Australian Air Force. This crucial task involves mobilising specialist engineers to each base, ensuring that the airfields are operationally optimal and ready at all times. It is a role that demands precision, foresight, and a deep understanding of engineering and strategic defence needs.

David's journey to this position, while focused, has been marked by significant milestones and learning experiences. 'The College equipped me with more than just academic knowledge,' David reflects. 'It fostered a love of lifelong learning.' This mindset for continuous growth has guided David through an impressive and fulfilling professional life.

After graduating with university degrees in Engineering and Science, David's career took an unexpected but welcome turn. He found himself in Kuwait, assessing war claims for the United Nations Compensation Commission. This early international exposure became the foundation for his global perspective, a crucial asset in today's interconnected landscape.

Following his time in Kuwait, David gained valuable experience at URS, an international engineering firm. Almost a decade later, he felt drawn to work for an Australian-based and people-centred company. His expertise in infrastructure and strategic planning caught the eye of Craig Lee, who recognised David's potential and brought him over to Beca.

Now, David leads a team dedicated to strengthening Australia's defence capabilities. In this role, he balances the technical demands of large-scale projects with the nuanced diplomacy required in matters of national security. David cites Craig as not only his former boss but a mentor who supported and challenged him. Craig later interviewed David on his podcast, 'Conversations with Craig', where they discussed David's career journey, leadership, and insights into the defence industry.

Throughout his career, David has faced and overcome significant challenges. He navigated the turbulence of the global financial crisis, adapting to rapidly changing economic conditions. More recently, he led his team through the unprecedented disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic, swiftly implementing solutions to ensure continuity in critical defence projects. The problem-solving skills and adaptability David developed over time proved particularly valuable as he tackled these complex situations.

David's leadership philosophy is deeply rooted in the values he acquired during his time at John XXIII College.

'Being in the service of others, respect, dignity – these aren't just religious concepts. They're fundamental values to live your life by.'

This ethos guides his decision-making, even leading him to consult with an extended performance coach on ethical considerations alongside business strategy.

When asked about what makes a good leader, David's response is insightful: 'A good leader is someone who can cultivate accountability, freedom, and ownership within teams to deliver exceptional results and exceed expectations,' David explains. 'Importantly, a good leader can articulate a shared vision and has the ability to bring the right people along to execute that vision.'

While David's career centres around civil engineering, he credits the College's diverse curriculum for setting him up for success. 'I really enjoyed all the STEM subjects, especially chemistry and electronics with Mr Brad Watson, but I also loved English with Mrs Gill Swan,' he explains. This multidisciplinary foundation has proven invaluable in a role that requires technical acumen, agile thinking, and strong communication skills.

David's time at the College is marked by a variety of memorable experiences. He vividly recalls the walks through Bold Park with Mr Drew Jago. 'We weren't just looking at plants; we were appreciating the environment and learning about sustainability,' David reflects. His passion for sailing was guided by Ms Angela Shaw. Music camps at New Norcia provided opportunities for creativity and camaraderie. The Year 6 camp at Rottnest Island also stands out as a time of freedom, exploration, and bonding with his peers. These diverse co-curricular activities contributed to a well-rounded education that David values to this day.

Drawing from his wealth of experience, David shares valuable insights with our community. He advises, 'Seek

David believes a good leader can articulate a shared vision



out the sweet spot where your passions align with marketable skills and societal needs. That's the space where you'll thrive.' This guiding principle has been a constant throughout his journey, from his formative years to his current role navigating the intricacies of defence contracts.

In closing, David emphasises the importance of seizing the moment: 'The opportunities available to you during your school years are unparalleled. Embrace them, explore them, and let them shape your path forward.'

As he looks ahead, David remains committed to addressing global challenges like climate change and fostering reconciliation. His career, a testament to the power of a strong educational foundation, exemplifies a life built on purpose and continuous learning. In his leadership role, David Barter constructs more than just defences – he forges connections between disciplines, unites people, and shapes visions of a more secure future. Through his dedication to service, ethical leadership and innovative problem-solving, David demonstrates how a lifetime of meaningful engagement can translate individual passion into national impact.

**Hear David's interview
on *Conversations with
Craig*: Apple Podcasts**



**Watch David's interview
on *Conversations with
Craig*: YouTube**



IN THE CYBER TRENCHES

In the pressure-cooker world of cybersecurity, where digital threats loom large and corporate reputations hang in the balance, you might expect to find tech wizards with computer science degrees manning the front lines. However, **Megan Lane (Class 2010)**, Director of Strategic Communications at CyberCX, Australia's leading cybersecurity firm, took a path that initially seemed unconventional. Yet, in retrospect, her journey to this role makes perfect sense.

Megan's journey began not in server rooms, but behind-the-scenes of both state and federal political machines. Initially pursuing a Bachelor of Economics at the Australian National University, inspired by her high school economics teacher, Ms Maria Lantzke, Megan soon shifted focus to a Bachelor of Asia Pacific Security. She extended her learning to include political lobbying and campaign management, preparing her for her eventual leap into politics.

Her entry into politics was not without challenges. 'I was often the youngest person in the room, by at least 10 years, and the only woman,' Megan recalls. But this didn't deter her. In fact, it made her more determined than ever. From running election campaigns for Alannah

MacTiernan, Mark McGowan and the ACT Labor Party in her twenties, to serving as press secretary for the then Shadow-Treasurer Jim Chalmers, Megan built a solid reputation as a formidable political operative.

Yet, Megan's rapid ascent in politics was also marked by persistent gender-based hurdles, even as recent as the 2010s. This bias extended beyond mere attitudes and into practical obstacles. 'The all-male Australian Labor Party national data team never took my reporting requests seriously,' Megan reveals. Undeterred, she took matters into her own hands. 'I learnt how to code myself so I could do my own data reporting for the party,' she explains. This unexpected turn showcased Megan's determination and adaptability, traits that would later serve her well in her current role.

Unlike her experiences in politics, Megan finds her current role virtually free from gender-based challenges. She notes that working in the private sector is a 'breath of fresh air', with CyberCX championing 'collaboration and innovation.'

Despite its rewards, the demanding nature of politics eventually led Megan to reconsider her professional path. 'Working in politics involved 14-hour days and

strange working hours,' Megan reflects. 'You can only maintain that kind of work-life balance for so long.' After the current Federal Government won their election, Megan felt she had personally and professionally achieved what she set out to accomplish in the public sector and decided it was time for a change.

So how does one go from crafting political messaging to managing cybersecurity crises? For Megan, it was about recognising transferable skills and seizing unexpected opportunities. Her connection to technology wasn't entirely new. During Years 11 and 12 at John XXIII College, Megan worked in the school's ICT department over holiday breaks, assisting with maintenance projects. This early exposure to tech operations, combined with her self-taught coding skills, would prove valuable in her future career pivot.

Additionally, Megan's political experience has been indispensable in her current role. In both fields, situations can change rapidly, requiring a quick-thinking, reactive mind - a skill Megan honed during her political career. The intensity and emotional nature of political campaigns, with their highs of wins and lows of losses, prepared her for dealing with clients affected by cybercrime. Her expertise in media relations, cultivated during her political career, is particularly important, with strong relationships and crisis communication skills giving her a decisive edge when managing high-profile cybersecurity threats.

'Tech is so interesting, but I lacked formal training,' Megan admits. 'It seemed the place to be, but almost impossible to get into without a science or technology background.' Yet, in the wake of high-profile cyber-attacks like the Medibank and Optus breaches, Megan saw a critical gap: the need for crisis communications experts who understood the unique challenges of large-scale, corporate, cybersecurity incidents.

At CyberCX, Megan now leads crisis communications and manages media and government relations. Her political background has been instrumental in navigating the fast-paced, complex world of cyber crises. 'The toughest thing to do is educate clients not to offer premature reassurances to their stakeholders, or make promises, as facts can change suddenly,' Megan explains.

'You need to get comfortable with discomfort, but with speed. You have to lean into the ambiguity.'

Megan's transition into cybersecurity has opened her eyes to the stark realities of digital threats. 'The organised criminal element is pervasive - it's

everywhere,' she says. 'They are crafty, but they are also small businesses that care about ROI, brand, and reputation. Cybercrime is just business deals for them, negotiating financial outcomes; it is not personal at all.'

For students eyeing careers in cybersecurity, Megan offers an encouraging perspective:

'So much of cyber is not technical, and you do not need a computer science degree to do many jobs within that industry. You need agile and creative thinking.'

With the industry facing a projected shortfall of 30,000 professionals in the next few years, opportunities abound for those willing to think innovatively.

Megan credits her time at John XXIII College for shaping her mission-driven approach and supporting her ambitions, even when they led her interstate. She fondly remembers teachers like Ms Sarah Den Haan, whose approach to teaching offered 'a wonderful glimmer of what the real world looked like.'

Megan with CyberCX's Executive Director of Corporate Affairs Jordan Newnham



As Megan spearheads communications in the rapidly evolving domain of cybersecurity, she and her team at CyberCX remain committed to staying ahead of the curve. 'We're constantly monitoring the latest developments in the cybersecurity landscape,' Megan notes. 'Our ultimate goal is to make cyber safe and boring again.' This mission drives Megan and her colleagues to continually innovate and adapt swiftly, ensuring they're always primed to tackle the next digital challenge.

Megan's story reminds us that in confronting 21st-century challenges, the most powerful firewall might just be a mindset unafraid to explore new frontiers - a mindset she continues to embody in her work every day.



LAUNCHED BY CURIOSITY

When **Xavier Orr (Class 2003)** was learning about information technology and electronics at John XXIII College, few could have predicted that his path would lead to the moon. Yet, two decades later, Xavier's brainchild, Advanced Navigation, has made history as the first Australian company to reach our celestial neighbour.

Xavier's passion for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robotics began right here at John XXIII College. 'A lot of the IT knowledge I learned at school was very valuable,' Xavier reflects. 'I was very interested in programming, as were a lot of my friends.' His time in STEM-related subjects became the catalyst for Xavier's future endeavours, with memories both informative and amusing.

He fondly remembers Chemistry classes with Mr Reg Reberger. 'I'll always remember the time when

everyone's hands turned purple after passing around a certain compound that wasn't supposed to be touched,' Xavier recalls with a chuckle. This hands-on (and inadvertently colour-changing) approach to learning extended to his other classes as well. Xavier also highlights the interactive style of his Physics teacher, Mr Peter Samuel, as particularly impactful.

But it wasn't just the classroom experiences that shaped Xavier. A memorable Year 10 outdoor education camp in Dwellingup left a lasting impression. 'It was rough and ready, with camping, hiking, and challenging adventures,' Xavier reminisces. This experience sparked an appreciation for the outdoors, influencing him to this day. 'I still love doing big hikes, like the Sydney to Newcastle Great North Walk,' he shares, highlighting how

the College's holistic approach to education nurtured his academic interests and his personal passions.

Post-graduation, Xavier's thirst for knowledge led him to the University of Western Australia, where he intended to pursue a double degree in Mechatronic Engineering and Computer Science. However, due to an enrolment mix-up, he found himself undertaking two separate degrees instead. Xavier cautions: 'Always double-check your enrolment details. If you don't want to be at university for eight years straight, make sure you're enrolled in a double degree program!'

Despite the extended timeline, Xavier made the most of his university experience. Surrounded by like-minded peers from his high school days, he found himself at the intersection of ambition and opportunity. Xavier's entrepreneurial spark ignited during his university thesis on AI-based inertial navigation. Instead of finalising a Ph.D., he chose to commercialise his thesis-ideas, giving birth to Advanced Navigation. The company specialises in AI-driven inertial navigation systems and robotics for industrial and tactical applications across land, sea, air, and space.

Initially operating out of a Subiaco garage, the company now has Australian research, development, and manufacturing facilities across the country, and counts brands like Google, Boeing, CSIRO, Apple, and General Motors as clients. 'Every robot needs a navigation system,' Xavier explains. 'The AI component allowed it to increase performance accuracy beyond previous limits.'

Advanced Navigation's innovative technology has catapulted the company to remarkable heights. In 2022, Xavier and his business partner and company co-founder, Chris Shaw, won two awards at the Sydney Young Entrepreneur Awards.

But perhaps the company's crowning achievement came when their technology was utilised by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in a moon landing, making Advanced Navigation the first Australian company to reach the lunar surface.

'Having our products on the NASA moon landing was the most exciting project we've worked on so far!'

But the company's reach extends beyond space exploration. In a surprising application, Advanced Navigation provides the onscreen telemetry for the planes that compete in the Red Bull Air Races, showcasing the versatility of their technology.

Xavier's role as CEO has pushed him beyond his comfort zone, particularly in the realm of public speaking. 'I considered myself to be really bad at it,' Xavier admits. 'But I came to learn that when you get to leadership level, public speaking is expected of you.' To improve his skills, Xavier was tutored by a communications professor at Stanford University. Recognising that not everyone has access to such resources, Xavier recommends Toastmasters as an accessible alternative for those looking to bolster their public speaking abilities.

Xavier's advice to our current students eyeing similar paths in AI and robotics is straightforward: 'Time is very short, take a leap. Even if you are uncomfortable, you should push yourself.'

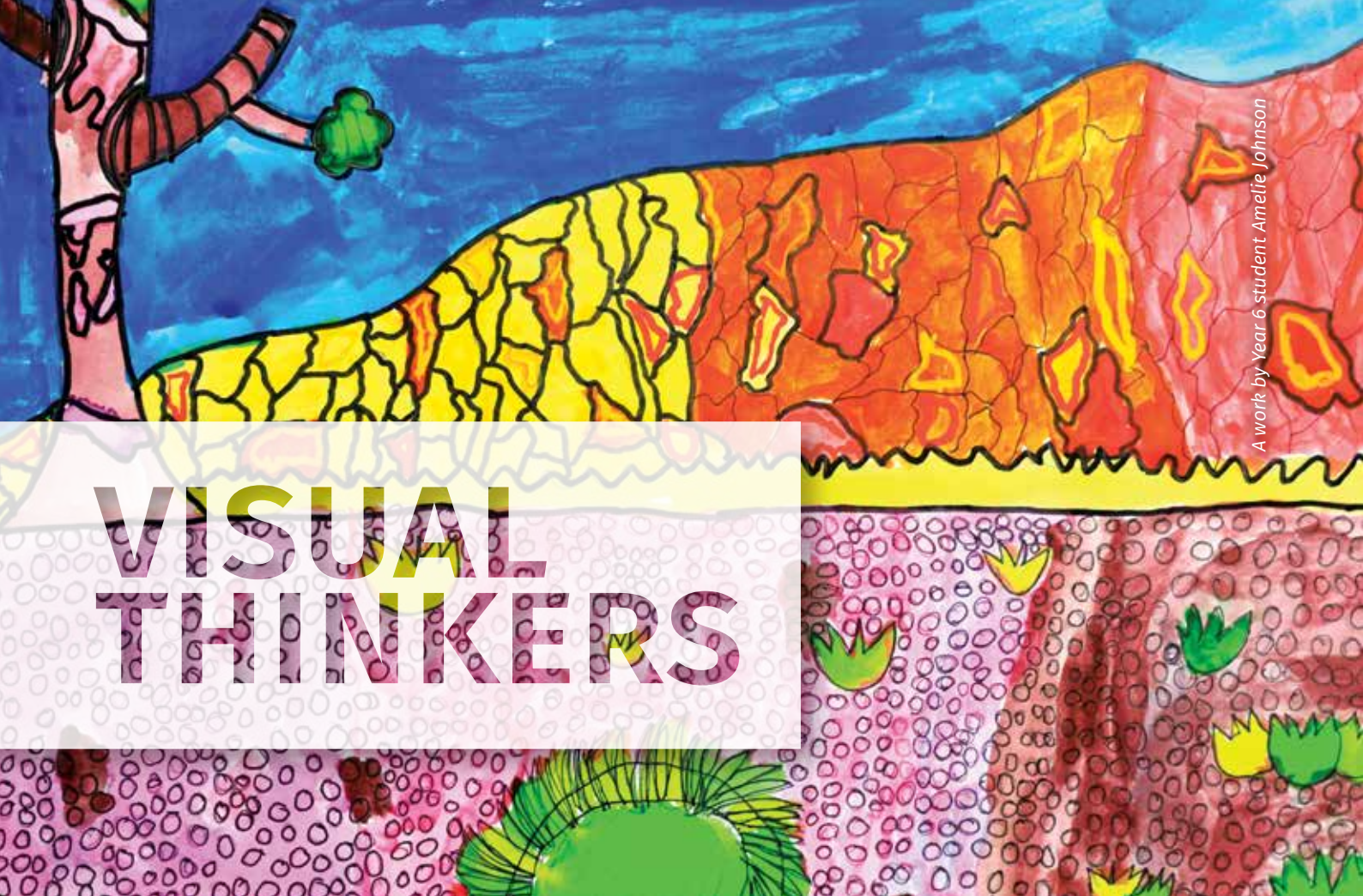
For those interested in STEM careers, he emphasises the importance of aligning high school studies with university pathways. 'Identify your areas of interest,' he advises.

'Absorb as much as you can and engage in extracurricular activities that add value to your coursework, like working on side projects related to your interests.'

As Xavier transitions out of his CEO role this year, he reflects on the demands of the position and the importance of balance. With big roles come big sacrifices, and Xavier found himself working 14-hour days at the helm of the company. His decision to step down is partly motivated by a desire to spend more precious, quality time with his young family, including his baby, and his ailing father who is also a St Louis old boy.

Despite this transition, new challenges in the AI space are always on Xavier's mind. 'I'm keeping my options open and I'm eager to launch new ventures,' he says, hinting at exciting innovations to come.

Xavier Orr's journey is not just a success story; it's a testament to the places curiosity can lead. From tinkering with programming at John XXIII College to navigating lunar landings, Xavier's path reminds us that education is not about predicting the future, but about equipping students with the tools to shape it. As Xavier explores new frontiers in AI, he exemplifies how innovation thrives at the intersection of diverse experiences. His journey challenges current students to consider: could today's classroom experiment or team challenge spark tomorrow's world-changing discovery?



A work by Year 6 student Amelie Johnson

VISUAL THINKERS

Visual Arts Exhibition

Our annual Visual Arts Exhibition presented a compelling display of student creativity. Alumnus and artist **Daavid Anderson (Class 1998)** opened the event, emphasising the value of artistic pursuits in personal and professional growth. Year 12 General and ATAR Visual Arts students' works formed the exhibition's centerpiece, displaying

a range of expressions from paintings to multimedia installations. Each piece reflected our students' engagement with complex ideas and technical proficiency. The Visual Arts Department commends all participating students and thanks the staff for their guidance, resulting in an exhibition of exceptional quality.

2024 Visual Arts Award Winners

Sister Theresa Elliott Encouragement Award	Miriam Sekendy (Year 7)
John XXIII College Staff Award	Bianca Petsos (Year 11)
2024 College Art Competition	Elizabeth Levey (Year 10)
Loreto Sisters' Award	Isabelle Counsel (Year 11)
Arlene Nedeljkovic Rising Star Award	Vivien Barrett-Lennard (Year 9)
Principal's Award	Chloe Stokes (Year 12)

Media Night

Following the exhibition opening, Media Night featured a captivating array of student-produced short films to an engaged audience, underscoring the remarkable filmmaking talent within our school community. The evening culminated in an awards ceremony, recognising

outstanding achievements across various categories of cinematic creation. These accolades celebrated our students' dedication to their craft and their ability to craft compelling narratives.

Principal Daniel Mahon; Visual Arts Teachers Kiri Moore, Sarah Larsen, and Angie Bollam; alumnus Daevid Anderson



2024 Media Award Winners

Best Art Direction in a Short Film	<i>...And There Was A Cowboy</i>	Kate Shirley (Year 12)
Best Cinematography in a Short Film	<i>Atlas</i>	Ollie Krieger (Year 12)
Best Editing in a Short Film	<i>The Rockers</i>	Jackson Tout (Year 12)
Best Sound Design in a Short Film	<i>The Rockers</i>	Jackson Tout (Year 12)
Best Short Film	<i>The Rockers</i>	Jackson Tout (Year 12)
People's Choice Award (TIED)	<i>Beyond</i>	Henry Gooch (Year 11)
People's Choice Award (TIED)	<i>Atlas</i>	Ollie Krieger (Year 12)

A monochrome painting by Year 4 student Althea Middleton



A joyous portrait by Year 11 student Isabelle Counsel



Both events provided valuable platforms for our students to exhibit their talents and for the community to appreciate their hard work. As the night concluded, it left a lasting impression on attendees, reinforcing the vital role of arts education in nurturing future creative thinkers and innovators.

Living in the echoes of history

Chas O'Malley (St Louis Class 1953), a former student and staff member of the historic St Louis School, now enjoys his retirement at St Louis Estate, where the past and present intertwine.

Situated on the very grounds that once housed the prestigious boys' school, the estate carries the weight of a rich history, with trees standing tall as silent witnesses to the evolution of this cherished location. 'It feels like a walk down memory lane,' Chas reflects, gazing at the ancient gum trees and towering pines, some of which were planted as tributes to key figures in the school's history.

St Louis School, established in 1938, was the vision of Archbishop Prendiville, who sought to bring a Jesuit education to Perth. Up until then, most Catholic boys' schools were run by the Christian Brothers or the Marist



Chas O'Malley at his retirement community, built on the site of the St Louis School he attended

Brothers, making St Louis School unique. The school served generations of boys, from primary school right through to secondary years. Chas recalls how Archbishop Prendiville himself was memorialised on the grounds with a plaque at the base of one of the gum trees.

While St Louis School stood proud for decades, the mid-1970s brought significant changes. In 1977, the school merged with Loreto Convent to form John XXIII College, combining the rich Jesuit traditions of St Louis with Loreto's values of nurturing students in faith and learning.

Chas was teaching at the time of the merger, a period of mixed emotions as new traditions formed while old ones were cherished. The transition was not without challenges, but it ultimately brought together the best of both educational traditions.

The pine tree planted to mark the 1938 opening of the St Louis School



The St. Louis Retirement Estate opened in 1988



Today, St Louis Estate carries forward the legacy of this historical site. Residents like Chas, who have deep connections to the land, find comfort in the estate's continued homage to the past. The pine tree, which was planted by the Mayor of Claremont as a commemoration, and the plaques placed at significant spots around the estate keep the memory of St Louis School alive. It's a place where history is not only remembered but lived every day.

As Chas walks through the estate, he sees reminders of his youth and the years he spent both as a student

Chas stands with the towering eucalypt planted in 1938



Chas standing in front of Hinemoa Homestead, which was acquired by St. Louis School in the 1930s.



and teacher at St Louis. For him, the merging of St Louis with Loreto to create John XXIII College wasn't just an institutional change but a reflection of the evolving community values. 'It was all about compromise and finding a way forward,' he says, 'and it worked out perfectly.'

After his teaching career, Chas embarked on a new chapter that kept him connected to the world of education. For 30 years, he worked selling textbooks and encyclopedias, a role that allowed him to continue supporting learning institutions.

Now a vibrant retirement community, St Louis Estate remains a place of reflection, where memories of the past harmonise with the peaceful present. For Chas and many other residents, the estate offers more than just a place to live—it's a home rooted in history, continuing the legacy of St Louis School while embracing the future.



STAYING IN TOUCH

Are your contact details up to date?

Please take the time to ensure we have your most up-to-date details.

Help find lost Alumni

As part of our efforts to stay in touch with our extended College family, we are always looking to expand our Alumni database. Can you help?

alumni.johnxxiii.edu.au/#missingmembers

This page lists all those people in your year group for whom we don't have current contact details. If you can help us get in touch with any of these Alumni, just click on the word 'lost' under their name. You can also click on other options at the top of the page to broaden your search for other missing Alumni.








To update your details online visit
alumni.johnxxiii.edu.au

1. Login
2. Under the top navigation select 'Your Account' and click 'Update Your Details'
3. Enter your updated contact information and then click 'Save'.

Alternatively, contact the Alumni Office with your updated details:

- 08 9383 0520
- alumni@johnxxiii.edu.au

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SAVE THE DATES

Event	Date	Venue	Registration
Alumni Mass	8 November, 8am	John XXIII College Chapel	Not required
Class 1984: 40 Year Reunion	9 November, 5:00pm–7:30pm	John XXIII College	
Class 1994: 30 Year Reunion	9 November, 5:00pm–7:30pm	John XXIII College	
Class 2004: 20 Year Reunion	9 November, 5:00pm–7:30pm	John XXIII College	
Class 2014: 10 Year Reunion	9 November, 5:00pm–7:30pm	John XXIII College	
Loreto Class 1974: 50 Year Reunion Evening Soiree	Saturday 16 November, 6:30pm	17 McKenna Glen, Mount Claremont	For registration/payment, email Shelley Hatton: shelleyhatton57@gmail.com
Loreto Class 1974: 50 Year Reunion Morning Walk and Breakfast	Sunday 17 November, 8:00am	Meet on the lawn next to the Teebox Cafe, 30 Lapsley Road, Claremont	For registration/payment, email Shelley Hatton: shelleyhatton57@gmail.com
Loreto Class 1964: 60 Year Reunion	22 November, 5pm–8pm	Dalkeith Bowling Club, Jutland Parade Dalkeith	
Alumni Careers Conversation event with Year 9 students	27 November, 8:15am	John XXIII College	
Loreto Past Pupils Annual Mass	8 December, 9:30am	John XXIII College Chapel	Not required
St Louis Class 1975 50 year reunion	30 October 2025		Tickets available soon



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This year's College Christmas cards featuring student artwork: Claire Sweet, Year 10 (Standing); Ravi Spiccia, Kindergarten (Left); Elizabeth Cawley, Year 5 (Centre); Harvey Knox, Year 2 (Right).