

# XAVIER NEWS

AUGUST 2021

PP38 1667/0037



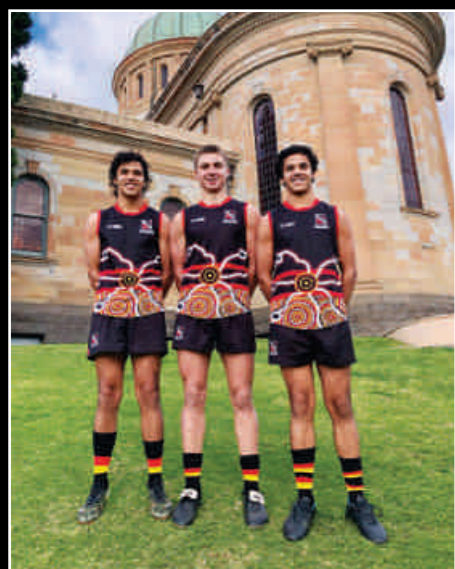




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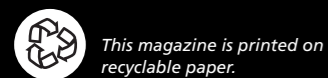
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Printer: Eastern Press  
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f i t v

## From the Editor

None of us enjoy these lockdowns but I must say I'm quite inspired having just read this edition – it is so uplifting and really makes me proud to be part of the College.

Where do I start?

The Ollie Fraser story is something else – but let's start at the very beginning with the three boys on our front cover wearing our First Nations guernseys, designed by a group of our Indigenous students. The Davey brothers were part of the design team and with them is 2021 Boarding Captain, Will Sexton. These three boys were part of our 1st XVIII team that had a memorable win at Scotch last week to position ourselves to be in a commanding position to claim Xavier's first premiership since 2003. If the final round is played on 14 August, the jumpers will be proudly worn, but COVID has its own way and we wait in the hope that we can compete in them to finish off a memorable season.

Back to Ollie Fraser – his story brings a tear to the eye! How proud must his parents have been (not to mention Tony and Janine Burgess who donated the Scholarship that brought Oliver to Xavier College) as they listened to his powerful and courageous story at our Donors and Laurels evening in the Autumn. I suggest you jump to Page 29 and then come back and enjoy the remainder of this edition.

It highlights legendary teachers in Michael Bourke and Jerry Mulcahy along with outstanding alumni who each bring a different story to the table. Performing Artist Raphael Wong embodies the resilience and persistence needed to succeed in the Arts world, while Lachlan Wilson headed to the other side of the planet to make it in American football.

Then there's Daniel Sneddon who has started up a charity in one of the most challenging environments on this earth – the Democratic Republic of Congo – and his pathway is to be much admired.

Closer to home, we talk to Sydney Captain Josh Kennedy who has had a marvellous AFL career but in the true Jesuit spirit, is looking to give back through an ambassadorship at Jesuit Social Services.

We're all extremely proud of Olympian David McNeil and his journey to Tokyo from Xavier – it's a highly interesting story.

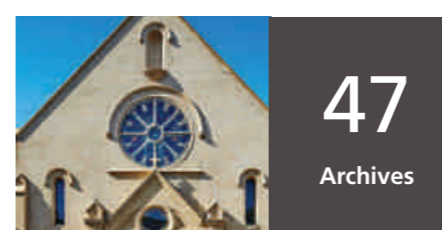
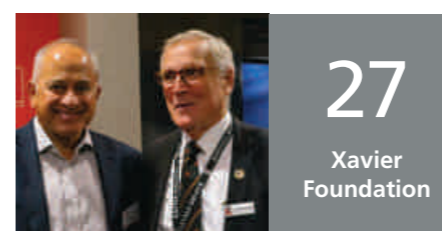
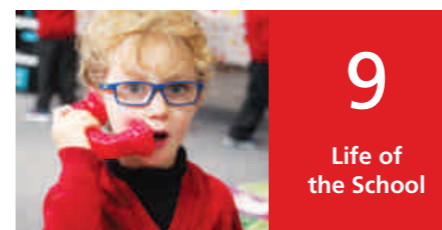
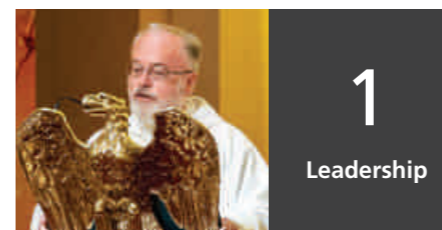
Xavier College continues to evolve and the next six years as we head to XC 150 will be really exciting. As we look forward, it's also terrific to look back and ponder the myriad of marvellous stories emanating from our community – we are so fortunate to be a part of it!

*Sursum Corda!*

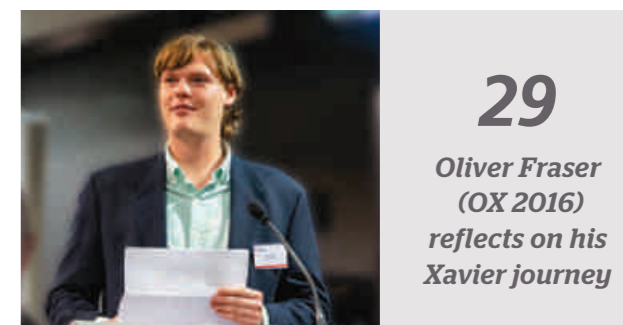
**Shane Healy and the Editorial team**

*We acknowledge and pay respect to the Traditional Owners of the lands upon which our campuses are situated.*

## Contents



## Feature Stories





# The Positive Psychology of Ignatian Spirituality



Fr Chris Middleton SJ at the ANZAC Commemorative Mass

Fr Chris Middleton SJ  
Rector

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A recent column by economist Ross Gittins had an interesting headline: *'The search for meaning doesn't lead to wealth and happiness'*. It began with an apology about any impression he may have left over the years that economics is "the be-all and end-all". He argued that we need to focus on other important dimensions of life including our physical and mental wellbeing, as well as our relationships. Interestingly, Gittins then mentioned that we should not *"allow our pursuit of material affluence to come at the expense of the moral and spiritual aspects of lives"*.

The article draws on the social commentator Hugh Mackay and his insight that the teachings of Jesus focus on 'loving action' rather than personal happiness as such:

*"According to Jesus, the life of virtue – the life of goodness – is powered by faith in something greater than ourselves (love, actually), not by dogma." Mackay says we should avoid the deadly trap of regarding faith as a pathway to personal happiness. The idea that you are entitled to happiness, or that the pursuit of personal happiness is a suitable goal for your life, is seriously misguided."*

Gittins particularly links the 'good life' to service. Economics, and many of the forces at work in our secular world, tend towards an individualism that can alienate and isolate, in contradistinction to service and a sense of the other.

The unofficial motto of Jesuit schools worldwide is that we seek to form 'men and women for and with others', and perhaps surprisingly this finds resonance in Gittins' reflection that *"our deepest satisfactions come from a sense of meaning in our lives, not from experiencing any particular emotional state like happiness or contentment."*

I am convinced that good spirituality and good psychology can and should walk hand in hand and that they can together contribute to wellbeing in a time when, like never before, issues of mental health are so prevalent among us.

May 2021 marked the beginning of an Ignatian year, the 500th anniversary of that fateful day when Ignatius the soldier was struck by a cannonball in the siege of Pamplona, so beginning his transformation into Ignatius the pilgrim. The year concludes in 2022 with the 400th anniversary of the Church's canonisation of St Ignatius and St Francis Xavier.

A myriad of books and articles are devoted to the exploration of Ignatian spirituality. In the Kairos retreat with our Senior students, I focus on six key insights of Ignatian spirituality.

*"Good spirituality and good psychology can and should walk hand in hand... they can together contribute to wellbeing in a time when, like never before, issues of mental health are so prevalent among us."*

**The first** is the necessity of being reflective in one's approach to life. In our busy world filled with white noise, finding space for reflection is important for our mental wellbeing, as well as for nurturing our spirituality. The Examen, a reflective prayer that plays a key role in Ignatian spirituality, offers a tool to structure some reflection into our lives.

**Secondly**, there is the conviction that a generous heart and a sense of service of others are keys to happiness. Ignatian service plays a big role in our formation of students at Xavier, precisely because it seeks to inculcate a sense of generous service. It helps us find what is important and to shape a disposition of gratitude in life. St Ignatius indeed made the case that a lack of a sense of gratitude *"is the cause, beginning, and origin of all sins and misfortunes"*. Generosity and service also go to a commitment to social justice, of a faith that seeks to do justice.

**Thirdly**, the Ignatian approach to life believes that God can be found in all things, which encourages a positive outlook on the world and human nature. The Ignatian approach thus values anything that is authentically human, including all religions and philosophies that seek to find meaning and provide guidelines for human living. It adopts an attitude of looking to the good first and of searching for common ground.

**Fourthly**, an Ignatian approach to spirituality affirms that faith involves both our heart and our intellect. Ignatian spirituality holds that there is no necessary conflict between faith and reason – it is possible to believe in God and to accept the theory of evolution, for example. Indeed, the history of science, and human learning in general, owes much to the contribution of the Church. To quote just one example, the author of the big bang theory, Georges Lemaitre, was a priest and a graduate of a Jesuit school.

**Fifthly**, and perhaps most challengingly for many, is the belief that developing a personal faith in Jesus is the goal of Christian life. Faith is relational in nature: we believe in someone, not in something. The person of Jesus, and the question as to who He is, is the foundational question in our faith journey. Familiarity with Jesus, through prayer and meditation, through reading the gospels and communal worship, through seeking to live out His teaching and striving for justice, is central to Christian life.

**Finally**, there is the insight that we don't live out our faith alone, but in community, in church. Human beings are communal by nature and a faith community provides the support and guidance for the individual faith journey. Church also enables the following of Christ in a corporal or community way through its works of education, health, social work and other works of service.

When I read Gittins words, or I note some of the challenges around education and wellbeing, and when I look at our world and the challenges posed to relationships, to community and to faith, then I am more convinced than ever that Ignatian spirituality has something of lasting value to offer in education and in life itself.



# Stronger Together

**William Doherty**  
Principal

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We welcome you to this publication of *Xavier News* as the world celebrates the accomplishment that is simply the holding of the XXXII Olympic Games in Tokyo. Our past year and a half has been dominated by a global pandemic that has seemingly attacked humanity itself in multiple waves, with new variants of the virus such as the most recent known as the Delta variant spiking infection levels and causing heightened disruption and anxiety. Yet through the dislocation and uncertainty, Tokyo has managed to host the 32nd Olympic Games that had already been deferred by a year from their four-year sequence.

This is, in itself, a unique outcome. Games have previously been cancelled but not postponed. Facing no doubt many difficult and agonising decisions, the call was made to reschedule the Games to no later than the summer of 2021. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Tokyo Organising Committee jointly stated that the Games could “stand as a beacon of hope to the world during these troubled times” with the Olympic flame becoming “the light at the end of the tunnel in which the world finds itself at present.”

And so it is proving. There has been joy at the accomplishment of simply hosting the event, despite the disappointment of beautifully-constructed stadiums being largely empty and unable to directly affirm the best athletes in the world performing their extraordinary feats. There has been joy on the faces of the athletes who seem to be displaying levels of gratitude, realising that there is privilege in simply being there competing in a Games that could so easily have been wiped away. For many, this may well have been their only window of time to compete on this finest of stages. Regardless of results, this feat is in itself one to savour.

Even the IOC has recognised the magnitude of the moment when, only days before the opening of the Games, it amended its famous motto ‘Faster, Higher, Stronger’ to also include the word ‘Together,’ highlighting the need for solidarity during these difficult times of the COVID pandemic. Its President Thomas Bach told a session meeting following the unanimous approval of the Olympic Charter Amendment: “We have to adapt the motto to our times ... The collaborative effort is bringing faster and better results than working in silos and protecting each silo from the progress of the other silo. This is a milestone in our development and sends a clear signal. We want to put special focus on solidarity.”

This focus on the importance of unity and solidarity is reflected in the IOC’s global campaign entitled “Stronger Together.” It has focused on the stories of athletes who have needed to keep their personal and athletic journeys

moving even when the world around them had stopped. It emphasises the belief that the world moves forward only when it moves together, underscoring what it sees as the irresistible power of the Olympic Games to unite people, communities and societies across the globe.

Whether from the Latin ‘communiter’ or the French ‘ensemble’, there is a palpable sense of strength and energy that is derived from the word ‘together.’ It seems to have a way of looking to the good and giving attention to the other, striving to bring out the best in all, regardless of creed, race or gender. Terms capable of dividing fold into thoughts centred only on uniting, on the unity of people.

None of this is, of course, foreign in our lived experience at Xavier or in the model of life well-lived in our understanding of Jesuit education. While not foreign, it is nonetheless an ongoing challenge to ensure we always seek this sense of togetherness and solidarity in our daily lives and struggles. Our ability to accompany all of our students, to be there for them in all life’s moments – academic trials and tribulations, their own Olympic moments on whatever stage is of their choosing or ability, or the dislocations and challenges of COVID – is a key element of our Xavier education where we operate with a sense of *cura personalis* in our desire to care for the entire person.

This desire has also been extended to those who have gone before us. Our Old Xaverians have many opportunities to continue to unite with peers and fellow Xaverians, through the extensive Old Xavs network of sporting groups, business networks, reunions and other touchpoints. While these are aspirationally-focussed, the same intent for accompaniment and care is extended to each and every Xaverian regardless of their past or present circumstance.

Adversity and challenge often bring out our best. So does every moment that attends to the strengthening of a culture that is centred on the truest expression of the values and ideals of an organisation. The first steps of the current Olympic Games seem a fair example, while we too have much to be proud of in how we display ongoing care for all in our Xavier Family and, not least, our ability to persevere and be resourceful, focused and aspirational for our current students during the challenges and interruptions we have experienced in our COVID world.

Enjoy all of the stories of our past and present and some glimpses into our future in this latest edition of our *Xavier News*.

*Sursum Corda.*

“Our ability to accompany all our students, to be there for them in all life’s moments – academic trials and tribulations, their own Olympic moments on whatever stage is of their choosing or ability, or the dislocations and challenges of COVID – is a key element of our Xavier education.”







## Strengthening procedures and implementing the Master Plan

**Tony Nunan**  
Chair, Xavier College Board

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In the *Xavier News* 12 months ago, I started this column with the phrase “may we live in interesting times”. Some things never change!

As I write, we have just entered a seven-day COVID lockdown and are going back to online learning. Our teachers have had to revise their programs and begin teaching from home - all in the space of 24 hours. A big thank you must go to our teachers for adapting so quickly. Thanks also to our students and parents, who are also managing the ongoing task of adjusting from one day to the next. On the flipside, one parent remarked gleefully to me that they would not have to race all over Melbourne on Saturday morning taking sons and daughters to sport.

The Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) is the body that registers schools in Victoria. As part of their obligations, there is a requirement from Xavier College to have a Parent and Visitor Code. In conjunction with the heads of the various Parents' Associations involved with Xavier, this policy is currently under review. The Code applies to all parents and visitors to the College. For the purposes of this Code, a parent is the mother, father or a person who is legally responsible for the care of a student. A visitor to the College includes anyone visiting the College who is not a current student, employee (including contractors), volunteers or a parent. This Code is not limited to the College grounds and College hours. The Code applies to all activities and events that are related to the College and when visiting, representing, or engaging with the College, including those in an online environment. Once the draft review has been completed, it will be presented to the Xavier College Board for approval. Once these processes have been completed, this Code will appear on the College website. This policy will be reviewed on a two-year basis.

Another policy that is currently under review is the Enrolment Policy for Xavier College. Comment is currently being sought from various groups associated with the College. These discussions will culminate in the Board meeting scheduled for 3 August 2021.

By now, many of you would have seen the College's Master Plan on the website. If you have not done so, please take the time to see the exciting new proposals for the College's future. You can find the video overviews and a 3D flythrough of the Year 7 & 8 facility [xavier.vic.edu.au/strategy/masterplan](http://xavier.vic.edu.au/strategy/masterplan)

Ireland Brown Constructions are on track to complete the Manresa Project in the EHPAC by November 2021. The Manresa precinct is designed for our current Kostka Hall students who will be moving to the Senior Campus in 2022. The name 'Manresa' comes from the town in which Saint Ignatius of Loyola stopped to pray after returning from Montserrat in 1522. He read in solitude in a cave near the town for a year, which contributed to the formation of his Spiritual Exercises.

The entirely new Year 7 & 8 facility, shown in the 3D flythrough, will be completed for occupation in 2024. Currently, the architects are consulting with many members of staff to make sure it caters for all aspects of learning, quiet areas and play. After an application to the Provincial Father Quyen Vu SJ by the Xavier College Board, this complex will be now known as the Kostka Precinct.

One of the unique features of the Master Plan that may have gone unnoticed by some is a 1.6-kilometre walking track, or the “Xavier Tan”, that will encircle the entire Barkers Road complex. This track will, I believe, become an iconic area for running, walking and quiet reflection by students and staff alike.

# Building the future

**XC150**

1878 - 2028



The first key projects of the Master Plan are now well underway. The past few months have seen the design team work closely with the College to determine how the Year 7 & 8 Building and the Chapel Oval Transport Hub will meet future educational challenges while ensuring it reinforces the College's distinctive Jesuit identity and recent Strategic Plan.

The team has worked carefully to ensure the new Year 7 & 8 building complements the neighbouring Memorial Chapel. Hidden beneath a high-quality real turf playing surface, the new Transport Hub will include much-needed change facilities for nearby ovals, as well as parking and drop off areas.

The Manresa Project is starting to take shape and is progressing on program with the recent arrival on site of the timber trusses that will be a feature of the build. The builder, Ireland Brown, is progressing at pace now putting together the timber and steel trusses.

To learn more about the Master Plan, please visit [xavier.vic.edu.au/strategy/masterplan](http://xavier.vic.edu.au/strategy/masterplan)

**WATCH VIDEO**



The Manresa Project is starting to take shape



# IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Dante Reid  
College Captain

[LISTEN HERE ---->](#)

They say it takes a village to raise a child. At the heart of our village, Xavier College, are the people that create our respective experiences. Recently, I was asked what made our school so special and almost without thinking I said, "the people", thinking instantly of the students and teachers. However, upon further consideration what struck me is the number of people that create the Xavier experience. From cooks, cleaners, administration and groundsmen to IT Staff, lab technicians, coaches, Magis scholars, accountants and of course, our parents and families along with so many others. When you boil this down, all these people in our community are ultimately focused on providing us students with the best experience possible.

Throughout the rigours of school life, I think it is easy to go through the motions, not realising the magnitude of our community or believing that the world revolves around us and our busy schedules. What this year has taught me is that it is important to never lose sight of the people around us and all those that create the unique elements of the Xavier fabric, with the atmosphere and stories created in our school a testament to all those giving us the tools to wear the Red and Black.

In this first Semester, we have seen our school at its very best across the three campuses. From the generous amounts of Ignatian Service completed to the talent and effort displayed at recent music concerts and productions and of course the various successes and endeavours at sport and academic levels, the pillars of a Xavier education have been evident. Recently, we saw over thirty thousand dollars raised in our tenth annual World's Greatest Shave Campaign. Let us not forget that none of this would be possible without the sacrifices and hard work of those that make our time at the College.

As we approach the halfway mark of the year, I'm so proud of the friendly and vibrant atmosphere to which all members of our College continue to

"It is important to never lose sight of the people around us and all those that create the unique elements of the Xavier fabric."

contribute. There's been a real sense of growth and development amongst all at Xavier over this first Semester and a feeling of rhythm and friendship is at the core of this. Last year has imbued in the psyche of the school a sense of gratitude and a desire to make the most of all that is on offer. Picking up on this idea of appreciation and tying into our focus on mental health, a group of Prefects recently created an Examen video to mark the start of the Ignatian Year. It was felt that such a valuable resource emphasising elements of mindfulness and gratitude would contribute to our ongoing task of the personal and spiritual development of all.

It is with great excitement and anticipation that we look towards where the pilgrimage of 2021 will take us over the coming months. My own cohort are aiming to continue our hard work and to savour every moment spent together as the year approaches its summit. For our younger students, their challenge is to take the opportunities on offer and continue to approach each phase of Semester Two with the same energy and excitement evident thus far.

As we continue to persevere through the uncertainties that COVID presents, let us be ever mindful of 'the village' to which we belong, whilst never forgetting our duty to be men and women for others.





# Educators on a Lifelong Pilgrimage



Anne Slingo



Fr Michael Smith SJ



Julian Butler SJ

Anne Slingo  
*Religious Education Teacher*

*"Trust God from the bottom of your heart, Listen to God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go" (Proverbs 3.6)*

Writing these words in the middle of lockdown number five here in Melbourne, it is hard to believe that just a few short weeks ago, on 12 July, staff from across our three campuses were able to gather as one at the beautiful Kostka Hall Campus. Ahead of a busy Term 3, staff had the opportunity to reflect on where they are in their lives and aspirations for the future in a day of Ignatian formation centred on this year's College theme: "Pilgrims on the Earth, Pilgrims with the Lord".

A "pilgrimage" is an ancient way of travelling, where perhaps the journey might be more significant than the destination. In his autobiography, Ignatius of Loyola refers to himself as 'the pilgrim'. Members of the Xavier College community are no strangers to pilgrimage, having undertaken pilgrimages over many years in the footsteps of St Ignatius and St Francis Xavier across Europe and to Sevenhill in South Australia.

Our guest speaker, Fr Michael Smith SJ, himself a seasoned pilgrim, led us through an extended gratitude examen, where we revisited moments of our life for which we are grateful. As Fr Michael said: "The love that we have experienced in the past lasts and is, in some mysterious way, an enduring expression of God's love. It can continue to nourish us. Each of us carries in his heart an album of lovely pictures of the past". He reminded us that Ignatius emphasised gratitude which he connected with the nature of God.

We then went on to visualise our best possible future 2031 self, taking note of our family life, personal projects, physical and mental health, relationships, social life and relationship with God. For some, this was challenging, but Fr Michael, who is working towards an MA of Applied Positive Psychology, explained that clear and valued goals facilitate positive psychological functioning.

Following this, staff went on their own pilgrimage, along the beach or through the streets to gently savour the fruits of the morning. Where had Fr Michael's presentation led us? Pilgrimage is both an inner and outer journey. We took time to focus on heart, not head, to let go of what binds us, to turn towards what sets us free. The invitation to now become pilgrims gave us time to think about what had challenged us and what had resonated with us. We then gathered in small groups to reflect, journal and converse on what had come up for us during this time.

After lunch, we gathered in the Chapel to conclude the day with Mass. It was such a precious gift to be able to gather at Kostka Hall, perhaps for the last time as an entire College staff. Please pray for us as we continue to listen to one another and discern the voice of God in our mission.

## Some staff reflections on the day:

"The whole day was life giving. I greatly appreciated being given the opportunity to reconnect with my colleagues, reflect on what I am grateful for, meet new colleagues and think about the future. Celebrating Mass in the Kostka Chapel for the first and probably last time was also an experience".

"It was just enough input to be reminded of what is important in our work as Ignatian educators and to reconnect with the most important part of our vocation. I enjoyed the walk; enjoyed the conversation with colleagues; enjoyed the Mass; was challenged by the 2031 question!"

"The discussions with colleagues, the gentle and insightful leadership of Fr Michael Smith SJ in his session, the humour of the day, my walk along the beach in discussion with my fellow staff members, the gentle and inviting pace of the day. This all made an impression on me".

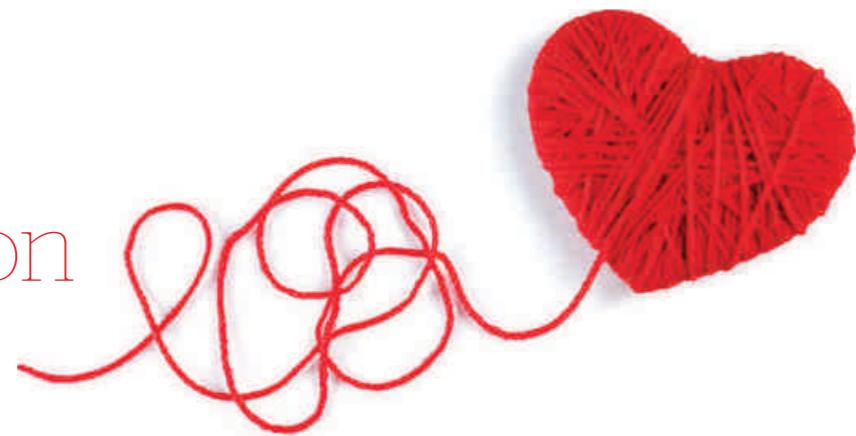
"For me the day was about hope. In a fast-moving world, it is too easy to constantly be working towards the future and get weighed down in the stress, anxiety and uncertainty of it all. It is important to take a step back, or pause for a moment, to enjoy and be grateful for the present".







## Generosity: Our Common Thread



**Luke Siniakov and Savio Nguyen**  
*Ignatian Service Prefects*

As we shiver through another winter, it's easy to forget how lucky we are to have the comfort and the warmth our homes provide. The thought of sleeping rough or living at a temporary shelter would be unimaginable for most of us. However, for more than 105,000 Australians, this thought is their reality. As we advance to a post-COVID world, a world where accommodation and services are increasing in cost, this reality is unfortunately becoming more and more likely for the vulnerable.

Through a number of initiatives, the Faith and Service Team focussed its attention on how they would be able to support those suffering from homelessness in Australia. In collaboration with the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Faith and Service team have coordinated student forums discussing volunteering opportunities such as soup van retreats.

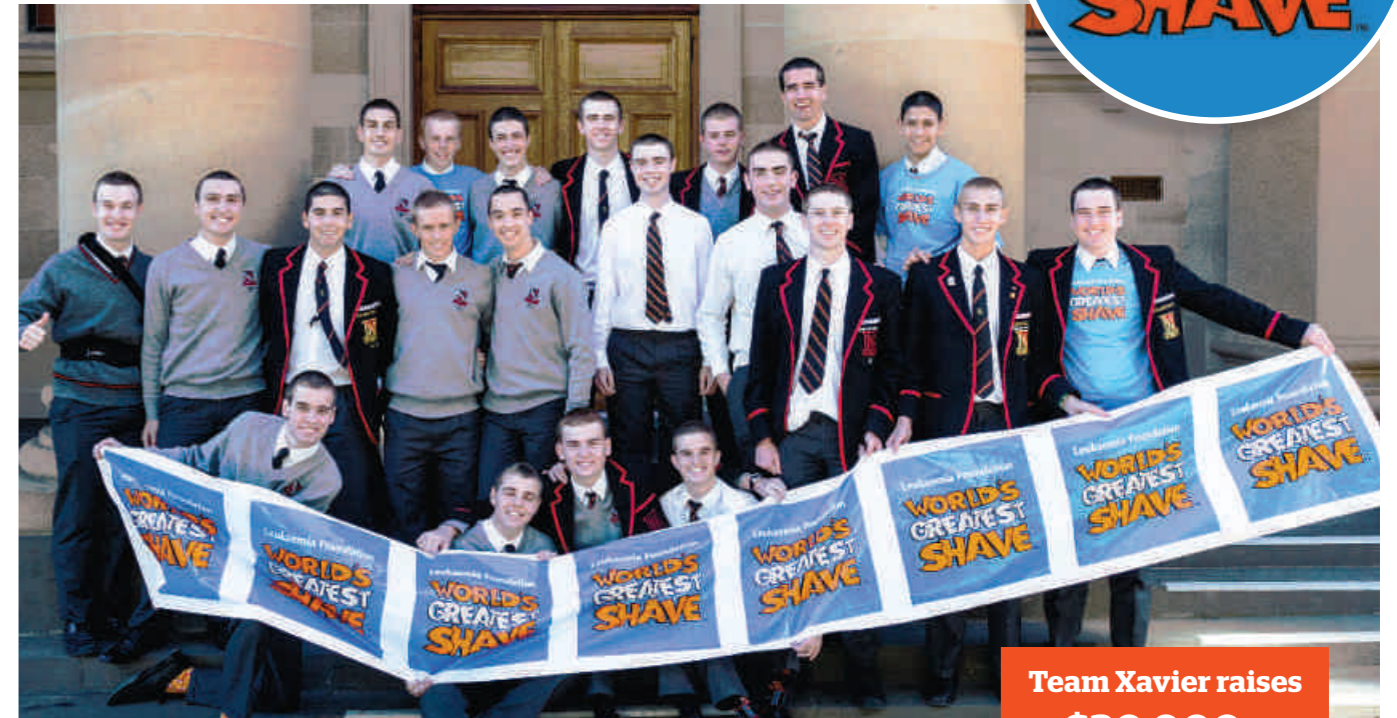
Monday afternoons have become a regular fixture for students wishing to make a tangible impact in the lives of those sleeping rough. With a little help from some more experienced hands, students spend the afternoon knitting scarves, which St Vinnie's then distribute to those who need them most.

**"The Faith and Service Team focussed its attention on how they would be able to support those suffering from homelessness in Australia."**

To complement these initiatives, the Faith and Service team coordinated a donation drive, encouraging students to bring in food and household items for the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal, as well as to support the St Ignatius Parish Foodbank in Richmond.

The problem of homelessness in Australia not only affects adults, but children like our fellow Xaverian students – around 17,000 children are homeless, nearly 20% of the total homeless population. We are extending a very warm welcome to all members of the Xaverian community to join us as we strive to assist those within our own country who are still unable to receive the fundamentals to live.

# Braving a Shave for a worthy cause



**Team Xavier raises  
\$30,000+  
for Cancer  
Research & Support**

**Patrick Burnes**  
*College Prefect*

With the support of staff, students and members of our wider Xavier community, I was incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to organise the World's Greatest Shave campaign throughout May. In what was a terrific effort by students and staff of Xavier College, an incredible amount of money was raised as we once again stood in solidarity with the 110,000 Australians in the fight against blood cancer.

Run by the Leukemia Foundation, the World's Greatest Shave sees individuals dye, donate or in our case shave their hair as they raise much-needed funds to support families and research into blood cancer. This year, 27 Xaverians embodied our Ignatian spirit of being men and women for others and rose to the occasion. The individual efforts of our students were phenomenal and had a tangible impact. The \$1,274.11 raised by a single Year 12 student was enough to provide two weeks of accommodation for families needing to travel for life-saving cancer treatment. The \$2,574.05 raised by a Year 10 boy alone has funded a major blood cancer project for an entire week. Our students and one staff member spent up to five weeks fundraising and at the time of writing, Team Xavier College has raised a total \$31,940.64.

We approached the Great Shave a little differently this year. For the first time, we organised the 'Crazy Haircut', where the five students who had raised the most money by Wednesday nominated a mate to shave their hair into whatever style was chosen for them. This turned out to be a massively successful

initiative in the fundraising effort. By the end of recess, we had a Year 10, 11 and three Year 12s stuck with what I can confidently say were five of the worst haircuts to ever grace 135 Barkers Rd (and I've seen Dad's school photos from the seventies).

We were also lucky enough to hear from Jack Lloyd (OX 2011) about his diagnosis and battle with a brain tumour in Year 12. It was Jack's fight against cancer that inspired his mates to get their year level to shave their heads and raise money for cancer research. This cemented the World's Greatest Shave as an integral part of our school calendar. I couldn't be prouder or more grateful to all the boys involved and to every person within the Xavier community who donated to help end the suffering of thousands of Australians.

**WATCH VIDEO**



# Da Capo al Fine

**James de Rozario**  
*Head of Music (3 Campus)*

The Italian term *Da Capo al Fine* is used by composers and indicates to the player to go back to the beginning of the music and play to the end. It feels that this is the way the Music Department has been living in 2021. After more than a year without full ensemble rehearsals and performances, our orchestras, bands and choirs have been learning with a sense of purpose and direction.

Most of these groups are very new for 2021. Our Year 10s missed out on their first year at the Senior Campus, while our new Year 9s missed out on their final year of ensemble performances at Burke and Kostka Hall. Our Junior Ensembles have similar challenges with students joining ensembles after only beginning to play their instrument online!

It was with great excitement that on Friday 19 March, the Music Department held its first live concert in nearly 16 months. The excitement of beginning again, *da Capo*, was tinged with sadness as we realised that these concerts would be the very last of our 3 Campus Concerts, *al fine*.

The Jazz in the Rigg was held as a Jazz Concert in the EHPAC and featured 8 different groups including a Staff Band. With nearly 100 boys performing over the evening, the backstage areas were buzzing! As well as an evening of music, the concert was an assessment task for our Music Industry VET students. The students worked professionally with Mr Michael Trappett to design the sound stage and worked throughout the evening to ensure that the sound was balanced.

In May, the Senior Stage Band attended the Victoria All-State Jazz Championships at St.

Leonard's College. Held over two days, the weekend was full of vibrant performances by vocal groups and big bands. Some of the country's most exceptional jazz musicians were on board as adjudicators and clinicians, ensuring educators and students had an outstanding educational experience. After such a difficult 2020 and with performance opportunities still limited, it was a great delight to be able to attend this special event. We were thrilled to learn that Daniel Le Gall received an award for "Outstanding Soloist", one of only three students to receive this award! Our trumpet section also received an award for "Best Trumpet Section". Overall, the Band placed 3rd in their section, a remarkable achievement given that group music making has been so difficult over the last 16 months!

And so we came to our final 3 Campus Concerts. We began with our Bands Concert, which showcased groups from all three campuses and demonstrated the depth of music education that takes place during a student's musical journey through the school. The Choral Concert featured students from Year 3 – 12, each ensemble captivating audiences with their energy and enthusiasm. We then enjoyed the String & Symphony Orchestra Concert. Featuring compositions from all over the world, it was a wonderful evening of music making.

With the closure of Kostka Hall at the end of the year, I can say with great honesty that the music students have represented Saint Stanislaus Kostka with pride. While our 3 Campus Concerts have come to an end, the spirit of Kostka will remain with us through music at Xavier College.



**WATCH VIDEO**



**WATCH VIDEO**

"After more than a year without full ensemble rehearsals and performances, our orchestras, bands, and choirs have been learning with a sense of purpose and direction."



# Teacher features

## Jeremiah Mulcahy

Head of Middle Years Students, Kostka Hall Campus,  
Head of the Manresa Precinct in 2022



"I have seen some of the best teachers I could ever have hoped to observe practising their profession. Above all else, I have taught some of the most wonderful students I could ever have hoped to teach."

My name is Jeremiah Mulcahy and I am the Head of Middle Years Students at Kostka Hall, a position at which I arrived via the scenic route! I must start by saying that I am not particularly comfortable being singled out in this article and that there are more inspiring and deserving colleagues who should also be mentioned. My first teaching position was in Ireland in 1985, Sacred Heart College near Cork City, an excellent school where I worked with some outstanding teachers.

I moved to Australia in 1988 and took up a position as a teacher of History in St Aloysius College, Milson's Point in Sydney soon after. This was my first introduction to Jesuit Education. I learned a great deal from some excellent teachers there and I also learned that in a Jesuit school, high standards are the norm. While teaching in St Aloysius I was also employed as a Boarding Master at St Ignatius College, Riverview. I was immersed in Jesuit education in a very real sense.

Upon my move to Melbourne, I was lucky to be employed by Father Julian Slattey SJ at Kostka Hall in 1993. This beautiful campus has been my place of employment ever since. I have fulfilled several roles here since then, including Homeroom teacher, Humanities Coordinator, member of the Curriculum committee, Sport Coordinator, Year 7 & 8 Coordinator and now Head of Middle Years Students. Most importantly, I have been a classroom teacher of Humanities, English, Health and

Physical Education, Religious Education and, more generally, boys. Kostka Hall has been good to me in so many ways and I hope that I have reciprocated. The underlying Ignatian tenets of *cura personalis*, 'seeking the magis' and being 'men for others', have been wonderful guiding lights to follow. I have met some wonderful colleagues and I have seen some of the best teachers I could ever have hoped to observe practising their profession. Above all else, I have taught some of the most wonderful students I could ever have hoped to teach. The spirit of Kostka Hall is a generous one. The boys embody this spirit and even when matters do not go to plan, there is a feeling of great togetherness.

I hope in my new role as Head of the Manresa Precinct to bring just a fraction of this spirit with us. It will stand us in good stead for many years to come. I am looking forward to the opening and development of Manresa in 2022, it will hopefully be another exciting and successful chapter in Jesuit education at Xavier College. This new precinct will bring a new element to life at the Senior Campus and it will be our challenge to make it a meaningful and positive one. As the very first group of Year 7 and 8 students at the Senior Campus, we will make the best use of our opportunities and facilities and it is my hope that we will be great pioneers in our exciting and brand new Precinct.

## Michael Bourke

Mathematics Teacher



"I used to make a point of being first here in the morning so I could see the first boy come in. Some boys were already here for music or sport at quarter to 7. If it's good enough for them to be here, it's good enough for me. I try to be here until the very end... until the last one's gone."

As a young man in his early twenties, Michael Bourke did as many young people do and spent time travelling overseas. After finishing high school, he completed further studies and had begun work as an engineer, but there had always been a calling in the back of his mind, which he "had been fighting for a while", that this was perhaps not what he was meant to do. Travelling gave Michael some important time to reflect and when he returned to Melbourne in 1977, he joined the mathematics department at Swinburne Technical School. This began his career as an educator.

Having been taught in a Catholic boys' school, Michael knew that he would like to return to the Catholic education system. In 1990, a job opening at Xavier College caught his eye and he was invited for an interview with Paul Challis and Brendan Ellis. After gaining a second interview, this one conducted by Fr Chris Gleeson SJ, Michael was offered the job as a Mathematics teacher. He still has a vivid recollection of walking up the stairs to the main entrance on his first day. He still comes in this way each day and takes a moment to look out at the view over Melbourne.

Very quickly, Michael was earmarked by Sportsmaster Kevin O'Shaughnessy (OX 1970) to become involved in coaching AFL Football and Athletics. He began with the 6th XVIII, which despite lacking technical prowess, impressed Michael with their tenacity, showing great enthusiasm for the opportunity to compete against 3rd XVIII teams (many other schools did not have 6th sides!). He quickly understood that sport was "an integral part of Xavier life". After a couple of years with the Year 10As, Michael joined Kevin

O'Shaughnessy in coaching the 1st XVIII. In 2001, Michael led the first XVIII to three premierships in as many years, making it four from four for the College between 2000 and 2003. He notes that each team was slightly different, but they all demonstrated the same commitment and willingness to support one another on and off the field.

It is moments like these outside the classroom that Michael has missed over the past year, but educating was in many ways more important than ever. Teaching during lockdown required constantly testing new and innovative ways to keep students engaged. Michael felt that he could identify with students' struggle to remain focused: "If I'm finding it hard to teach, they're certainly finding it hard to comprehend it all". Pleasingly, over the year he has seen his students become more resilient.

A close relationship with his students is fundamental to his teaching: "I used to make a point of being first here in the morning so I could see the first boy come in. Some boys were already here for music or sport at quarter to seven. If it's good enough for them to be here, it's good enough for me. I try to be here until the very end... until the last one's gone"

After 32 years, one might be forgiven for showing not quite as much enthusiasm for the job. But Michael has an answer for this too: "Why am I still teaching at the ripe old age of 70? Because every day is magnificent".



# Returning the Medals

## 85th ANZAC Commemorative Mass



Catherine Hall  
College Archivist

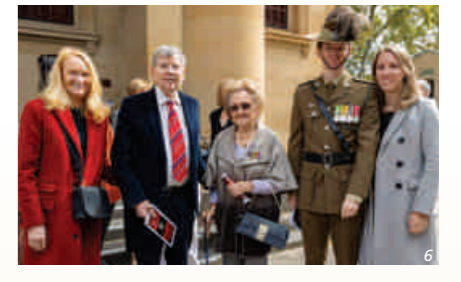


The Marsh family, holding Peter's medals and the section of his plane.

One of the most significant events in the Xavier College calendar is our ANZAC Commemorative Mass. The importance of the day cannot be understated. It gives our community the opportunity to honour the sacrifices made by those who served in war and did not return. In an uncertain year, we were very lucky to have had the opportunity to celebrate the Mass in person. This allowed us to complete the final chapter of an amazing story of service, loss and family.

On ANZAC Day 2019, a plain envelope was handed to a member of the Camberwell RSL. Inside were three World War II medals belonging to Peter Andrew Marsh (OX 1940). The Camberwell RSL Secretary contacted the Xavier Archives as he believed that Peter was an Old Xaverian and the RSL was searching for any living relatives. In January 2020, the Camberwell RSL handed the medals to the Xavier Archives for safe keeping as they had been unsuccessful in contacting any living family.

The April 2020 edition of *Xavier News* featured Peter's story and his medals and noted that Xavier did not know of any living family members.



A day after the magazine was distributed, Dermott McCarthy (OX 1946) contacted us, having read the article. Dermott and his brother Brian (OX 1947) remembered the day the news spread amongst the students that Barry Marsh's (OX 1947) older brother had been listed as Missing in Action. Dermot went on to note that Barry's descendants were living in Melbourne and that they would put us in contact with each other.

The loss of Peter Marsh was a defining moment in the family. His father John passed away soon after and his mother, Phyllis, never really recovered. Peter's youngest brother, Barry, married Irene Hindle in 1956 and they had four children. Their eldest, a son, was named Peter after his uncle and three daughters followed: Geraldine, Elizabeth (Liz) and Ann. The story of Uncle Peter was well known amongst the family and his medals were always thought to be missing. Research confirmed that the medals had been collected, but by whom was a mystery.

In 2019, Liz and her daughter Annie travelled to Germany to visit Peter's grave. While they were there, they met with local resident Michael Bartels in Winsen, near Hamburg. Michael had contacted the family in 2005 through the Marsh family website, which was a memorial page for Peter. Michael had found pieces of an RAF plane when walking in the forest 150km out of Winsen. When Liz and Annie met him, he noted that it was

very unusual to find bits of WWII aircraft on the ground in Germany, as the Luftwaffe actively cleaned up crash sites. Michael told of how he contacted the 97 Squadron Association to confirm that the pieces he had found were from Lancaster JB299 OF-W. He gifted the Marsh family a piece of the plane for Liz and Annie to bring back to Melbourne.

It is this piece of Lancaster JB299 OF-W, together with Peter's medals, that were blessed at the ANZAC Commemorative Mass. We welcomed members of the Marsh family back to Xavier and we were glad to have been able to complete the puzzle and return the once-missing medals to Peter's family.

1. L-R: Flag Officers LEUT William Stark RAN (OX 1977), MAJ Andrew Leong (OX 1987) and GPCAPT Frank Healy (Retd) (OX 1963). 2. L-R: Helen Doyle, Christine and John Chamberlain (OX 1961) with Principal William Doherty. 3. L-R Back: LEUT William Stark RAN (OX 1977), MAJ Andrew Leong (OX 1987) and GPCAPT Frank Healy (Retd) (OX 1963) Middle: Frs Chris Gleeson (OX 1961), Michael Head (SPC 1966), Chris Middleton and Gerry Healy (SPC 1963) SJ. Front: Dante Reid, Leo Moore, Joseph Prowse, Jude Sassi and Domenic Mazzei. 4. L-R: Bronwen Ilott, Terry (OX 1959) and Judi Rogers with the Director of Senior Campus Michael Illott. 5. L-R: CAPT Mark Johnston (Retd) (OX 1987), Isabel Abbott, Owen Johnston (Year 11), John Johnston (OX 1953), Tanja Johnston, Bernadette Whitehead and Toby Johnston (OX 2019). 6. L-R: Colleen Moore, Patrick Poppins, Lola Suttie, CAPT Lachan Poppins (OX 2003) with his wife, Cristyn Jenvey.





## Representing Culture with First Nations Design



(L-R) Eli Williams (Y11), Tex Wanganeen (Y12), Kobe Hodges (Y12), Jayden Davey (Y11), Xavier Vallejo (Y11), Alwyn Davey (Y11)

At an assembly in May, Year 11 students Eli Williams, Xavier Vallejo, Jayden Davey, Alwyn Davey, as well as Year 12 students Tex Wanganeen and Kobe Hodges presented the school with Xavier sports uniforms that they had designed. All six students spoke about the jersey's design process and its significance, summarised in the article below. Although the round of APS sport that weekend was unfortunately unable to proceed, it is hoped the jumpers will be worn in the final round of the APS season.

Across all teams and sports, Xavier College students will wear indigenous coloured socks and jerseys as a gesture from the College to show their recognition of Indigenous Australians. The school recognises our culture with six different 1st level sports wearing a jersey featuring indigenous artwork designed by us, that represents our culture.

The story behind the guernsey is an historical story about our family and culture. Before designing the uniform, we spoke to our ancestors and grandparents about what different illustrations we could use and took the time to get permission to use symbols and words from our cultural groups within the design of the guernsey. At an assembly during May, we told the story behind them, presenting the uniforms to the school and team captains.

The white lines around the jumper represent us Indigenous boys, as we all come from different communities and areas across Australia. We then meet as one in the meeting place that is represented in the middle of the jumper, with the yellow circles. The meeting place for us is this school community.

"The fact that we know our mates are supporting our communities through donning the jumper is something we find special."

On the back of the jumper, the words "Yamuru", "Larrakia", "Kokatha" and "Muralug" represent our Indigenous clan groups. Kobe resonates with Yamuru, Eli with Larrakia, Xavier with Muralug and Alwyn, Jayden and Tex coming from the Kokatha clan. For us, this is the proudest aspect of the jumpers. The fact that we know our mates are supporting our communities through donning the jumper is something we find special. Sport represents the coming together of people being active and forming relationships. This is a big part of the Indigenous culture and way of life. Six different sports will wear the jumper that we have designed, which highlights the diversity between sports but also the diversity within Indigenous society.

A few specific things to note about our design. We aim to capture the importance of land through the parallel white lines on the back of the jumper. This is land on which we stand, hunt and live. As some of you know as well, hunting is a pivotal part of Indigenous culture. This is highlighted through the crossing over of the spears. At the very top of the jumper, the Indigenous and Torres Strait flags catch the eye. These represent not only the people, but our history and identity.

# STRIVING FOR THE MAGIS

"The Magis Scholars program creates a space for developing relationships within the College community, but also what they have learnt about life through Year 12 and the transition into tertiary education."

The Magis Scholars program seeks to bring together current students with some of our most recent graduates who have achieved impressive VCE results. It's a chance for students to develop their study skills and, especially for VCE students, to further their subject specific knowledge. The program creates a space for developing relationships within the College community as the Magis scholars share their tips on study technique and content, but also what they have learnt about life through Year 12 and the transition into tertiary education. As I move around the library after school, I am regularly heartened to see Magis scholars and students engaging in relaxed conversation about navigating life as young men. It is wonderful for students to have these impressive mentors, but I think it's equally special for recent graduates to have the chance to come back and share and to remain engaged in the College community.

*Julian Butler SJ, Acting Head of Faith and Service*

In 2021, the Magis Scholars program continues to be a source of academic support for all students from Years 9-12. After the difficulties of last year, many students of all abilities have embraced the opportunity to receive assistance from our scholars in the Brennan Library. All Xaverians are not only able to improve their own academic performance but, by learning from the expertise of our past VCE Award Recipients, develop the necessary study skills for the examination period. This year, the program has had a specific focus on promoting group study and encouraging students to work with one another. This has been achieved by introducing regular seminars, where students are able to ask questions of the scholars and learn from one another within an inviting and collegiate atmosphere.

*William Stefano, Prefect for Academics and Debating*

Throughout my final year at the College, I found the practice of sharing and discussing work with friends to be beneficial not only academically but also socially. Unfortunately, the Class of 2020's ability to do this was hampered by the virus, so when given the opportunity to return to the College as a Magis Scholar this year, I was keen to get involved. One of the things I valued most about studying at Xavier was the normalcy of peer feedback and collaborative learning and while the Magis program is certainly effective in this manner as a tutoring service, I believe there is even greater benefit for the current VCE group to be derived from tutors' experiences last year. The lessons we learned in Year 12 regarding persistence, resilience and working smarter, not harder, are invaluable skills that the Magis program allows us to pass on to the current group. I encourage boys to continue coming to the library after school and asking us questions, whether academic or not, we are always happy to help.

*Jimmy Hansen (OX2020), Magis Scholar*







## Breaking the chain of COVID-19 transmission in India

Thanks to your support, Jesuit Mission and their Jesuit partners in India have established a Community Health Surveillance System to break the chain of COVID-19 transmission among migrant workers, slum and rural communities in six states, including Jharkhand state. The program commenced in June and focuses on awareness building for infection prevention as well as providing access to critical health services, the provision of emergency healthcare kits and vaccinations.

Over the next few months, the program aims to slow the spread of COVID-19 and offer life-saving support for those people most in need by providing:

- 6,000 vulnerable people infected by COVID-19 with homecare and support services, sanitisers and face masks.
- 6,000 healthcare kits with medicines to ease symptoms of COVID.
- 6,000 emergency food packages for COVID positive people and those in quarantine.
- 12,000 pamphlets and brochures to educate vulnerable communities on COVID-safe behaviour.

COVID has not only brought life to a standstill in India, it has also overwhelmed its healthcare system. In addition, a lack of testing capacity gives a misinformed picture of the humanitarian emergency unfolding there. The second wave of the pandemic has been catastrophic. Critical oxygen shortages and over 30 million COVID infections sadly means that there is little hope for the most vulnerable people.

However, thanks to your generosity, Jesuit Mission can support distressed communities in a more coordinated and effective manner, slowing the spread of the virus through containment and transforming the lives of many vulnerable families in the long run.

Sadly the Maytime Fair is cancelled this year due to COVID-19 restrictions, however, if you would like to support the many social outreaches of Jesuit Mission, you can purchase a raffle ticket at [www.jesuitmission.org.au/rafflexav](http://www.jesuitmission.org.au/rafflexav)

Your support will help those suffering the indignity of poverty and justice exacerbated by COVID.

## XAVIER IN ACTION



Boarding Parents' Getaway



Kostka Hall Mother's Day Breakfast



Kostka Hall Mini Maytime Fair



Senior Campus House Masses



Burke Hall and Kostka Hall School Life



Senior Campus Cross Country



Senior Campus Visitors



# Recognising and Celebrating the Boarding Experience

Alex Smith  
Head of Boarding

“National Boarding Week provides the opportunity for schools across the country to acknowledge and celebrate their boarding communities. Our Boarding House is at the very heart of the College and offers so much to the wider school community.”

The last 18 months have been the most unique and remarkable time in boarding. After being unable to celebrate National Boarding Week last year due to lockdown, we really wanted to add two years' worth of festivities into our special week this year. National Boarding Week provides the opportunity for schools across the country to acknowledge and celebrate their boarding communities. At Xavier we have a relatively small, yet growing, boarding community. Our Boarding House is at the very heart of the College and offers so much to the wider school community.

Boarding Captain, Will Sexton, spoke at assembly in the lead up to National Boarding Week about his experience of boarding at Xavier. He described the boarding culture and the day-to-day lives of the boarders, as well as how he found the transition from growing up on a large property in Finley and attending a small high school to life at Xavier. He also offered some advice to the day students around how boarders may be feeling in class at times and how they could be better supported.

*“Starting at a new school is challenging for everyone, but especially for boarders. I personally have come from a small country town called Finley which has a population of 1800. I've been very lucky to grow up on a farm containing 12,000 acres, which is roughly 6000 Roche ovals! Due to it being a family farm, I have had to learn how to drive tractors, trucks and motorbikes at a young age, so that I could play my role around the farm. This is the case for many boarders, so I'd encourage you all to get to know and embrace our boarders, as well as to learn about their stories growing up”.*

*“Each boarder has a unique story like this and it's the reason we are the way we are. If you know a boarder who is quiet or shy, it may be because we are out of our comfort zones and just trying to belong in a foreign environment. Please make the effort to crack through the shyness of some boarders because making friends is what makes our experience away from home so much easier”.*

During the week, lunchtime boarding tours were offered to day students and teaching and administration staff. There was overwhelming interest and participation in the tours. We had almost 300 staff and students walk through the boarding houses. Hopefully this provided some wonderful insight into the life of our boarders whilst at school.

The week concluded with a formal dinner for our boarders and staff as well as a special guest, Angus Kennedy (OX 2018). Angus (Griffith, NSW) was Captain of Boarding in 2018 and enthusiastically embraced the opportunity to speak at this dinner. He described his service work in India as well as College and university life. Angus also spoke about healthy masculinity and identified the role that all of us can play in creating a more supportive and equal society for all. It was wonderful for the boarders to have dinner in a formal setting. This is a tradition we hope to continue. The boarders were enthralled listening to Angus and we will continue to invite past boarders to address our community at these dinners.

Once again, the boarders adapted quickly to life during lockdown. The majority of boys stayed to complete their online learning from the College despite not being able to leave the grounds for the duration of the lockdown. We aimed to deliver as much academic support to these boys whilst providing socially engaging and fun activities. It is amazing to see how these boys interact with each other and staff and make the most out of challenging circumstances.



Edmund Bush



Patrick Wainwright and Mitch Loughnan

## FRANKIE'S CORNER

“  
*I love them, but I'll never understand humans. If the point of fetch is to bring the ball back, why make the balls so fun to chew?*

*It's a good thing I'm around to ponder these big questions. I think the humans might be a bit preoccupied with the exciting new buildings and spaces that are on the way. So long as the food stays yum, the pats keep coming and my boys keep smiling, I think I'll like them just fine.*





# Billionaire Boy



Laura Roso  
Production Director, Kostka Hall

Staging *Billionaire Boy* has been an incredible journey. One that will hold a special place in my heart for a long time to come. I find it quite ironic that when I chose to stage this show two years ago, I had no idea that 'toilet paper' would become such a talking point in our country.

The *Billionaire Boy* journey started in 2019 when I took a Year 5 class on an excursion to the Arts Centre. It was here we saw a professional version of this show. I walked away energised with the idea of directing this play. After many calls, emails and conversations, I am so grateful to CDP theatre producers for granting us the rights. It is a real privilege to be the first school with the honour of staging this show.

What drew me to this particular show was the fabulous comical characters and the storyline which has several important messages. The show highlights that bullying isn't acceptable and that money doesn't buy happiness. With the Kostka Hall campus closure announcement, I also like how the characters realise that when circumstance change, we can embrace them and move forward with the support of others.

Twenty-two years ago, I directed my first school production at Kostka Hall, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. This year, I was blessed to have been given the opportunity to direct the final show for the campus. I want to take a moment to thank everyone who has helped with productions at Kostka Hall over the years. Whether it's the students who have had the courage to audition and perform, the staff members who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes including the incredible production team for *Billionaire Boy*, to the many audience members who have come along to watch shows. Words cannot express how grateful I am to you.

When past students return to visit Kostka Hall, I always ask them their schooling highlight. Many respond with a production they were involved in. Productions form lasting memories and provide a chance for people to develop lifelong friendships. As the curtain closes on the final Kostka Hall production, I have comfort in knowing that the memories will last forever.

# OLIVER! JR.

## OLIVER JR. RESCHEDULED!

After some tricky scheduling around COVID restrictions, the Burke Hall Production of *Oliver! Jr.* is not far away. Keep an eye out for new performance dates and booking link!



# DONOR & LAURELS SOCIETY MASS & COCKTAIL FUNCTION



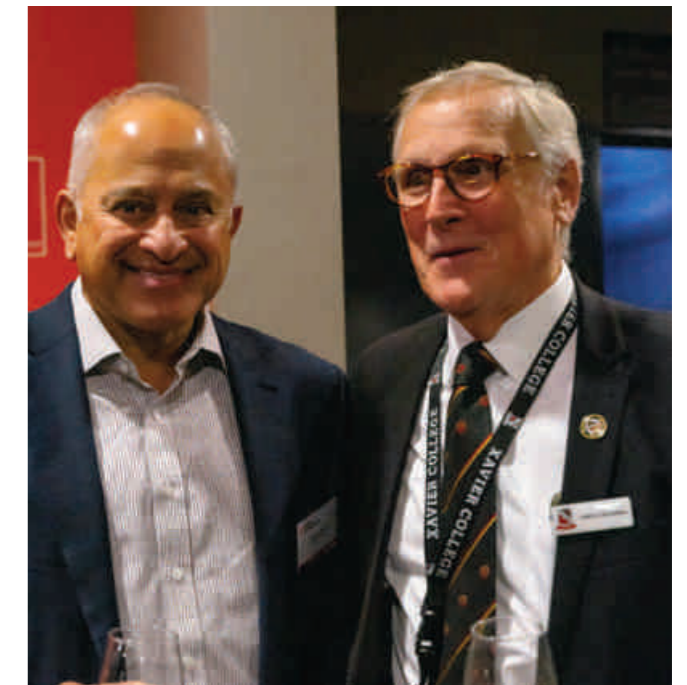
Tony Burgess, Janine Burgess and Oliver Fraser (OX 2017)



Heather Murphy, Marisa Reid and Mary-Ann Carmody



Margot Hulett and Helen Barry



David De Souza and Christopher Callinan



Terri Fraser, Brian Fraser and Bernadette Batten



Xavier College choir performing at the Foundation Mass

## Heather Murphy Foundation Administration & Finance

It was wonderful to welcome back our Donor and Laurels Society members to the College for the annual Mass and Cocktail function on 6 May. The Xavier College Memorial Chapel was bathed in colour and the students showcased their music abilities ably led by Head of Choral, Mr Nick Cowall. The service was conducted by Fr Chris Middleton SJ and Fr Gerry Healy SJ.

A string quartet of Year 11 students entertained guests as they arrived at the Eldon Hogan Performing Arts Centre for the Cocktail function. Christopher Callinan, Chair of the Foundation, welcomed guests before inviting William Doherty, Principal, to say a few words. Chris introduced guest speaker, Oliver Fraser (OX 2016), the recipient of the Benedict Burgess Memorial Boarders Scholarship, who spoke fondly of his time at Xavier and the positive impact the College had on him and his family. Oliver was joined by his parents, Terri and Brian, who made the trip from Albury, his brother Finn (OX 2019) and his girlfriend Alex Dimmatina. You can read Oliver's words in the feature article on page 29.

## INSPIRING EXCELLENCE IN 2021

Lawrence (OX 1970) and Anna O'Halloran, Patrons of the 2021 *Inspiring Excellence* Appeal wrote to the community recently inviting you to consider how you have the capacity to shape the future for generations of Xaverians to come. All donations, small and large are part of the way you can continue to be men and women for others in the Jesuit tradition.

We hope you will join them in supporting the 2021 *Inspiring Excellence* appeal and you can view their video message at [foundation.xavier.vic.edu.au](http://foundation.xavier.vic.edu.au)

## MAKING A BEQUEST

Xavier College has evolved through the immense generosity and unconditional giving of a great many selfless men and women who have donated throughout its history. A bequest to the Xavier College Foundation is an investment in our College's future and is a way to ensure that, within the spirit of excellence, we can continue to challenge our students to pursue their best, make a contribution and unlock their every potential.

If you would like to leave a bequest to the Xavier College Foundation, please contact the Foundation on +61 3 9815 4542 or email [foundation@xavier.vic.edu.au](mailto:foundation@xavier.vic.edu.au)

## STAYING IN TOUCH

Be sure to keep your details up to date to ensure you are staying in touch with all the College news and events.

Please send any changes through to [foundation@xavier.vic.edu.au](mailto:foundation@xavier.vic.edu.au)



# OLLIE FRASER

*'That moment solidified everything.*

*I was set to be a Xavier boy'*

*Oliver Fraser (OX 2016), recipient of the Benedict Burgess Memorial Boarder Scholarship, spoke recently at the annual Donors & Laurels Function, sharing his experience of an education facilitated by the generosity of others.*

"It's an amazing honour to be acknowledged and present to you today my time at Xavier College, which holds a lot of value to me. It's hard to extract the most significant parts out of what was an incredible three years. There's really so much I could talk about.

My introduction to Xavier was a little unexpected and quite abrupt. As the eldest of two boys growing up in Albury with no real connection to the school, I was quite unaware that Xavier even existed. When I was in Year 9 at the local Catholic High School, my cousin of the same age was accepted into Melbourne Grammar on a sporting scholarship and was set to start the next year. This concept to me was bizarre, the idea of him leaving to go and live at a school far away felt unnatural. This, however, started a conversation between my parents regarding the possibility of my enrolment at a Melbourne school. I vividly remember my parents' initial conversation with my brother and I explaining that if we were interested, boarding school may be an option.

From memory, I refused the offer quite abruptly. For me, boarding school was a concept I had never thought about, so I guess my initial reaction was built on apprehension and fear. My life in Albury was comfortable, routine and adequate. But upon greater reflection it was just that: Adequate. Over the next days and weeks, I thought a lot about this and deeply reflected on the position I was in. I had never really thought about my schooling prior to the possibility of it all changing. At the time, most of my friends were only planning on staying in school another year or two and then getting a trade, which was fine, but it wasn't for me. I was interested in school and was keen to learn yet because of this, I felt I was the minority.

After much consideration and reflection, I told Dad that I was keen to entertain the idea and that maybe boarding was for me. In that moment, filled with excitement, it was clear to both of us that change was imminent.

Initially, one of the challenges was the combined cost of boarding and tuition, a fee that was quite frankly out of the picture for my parents. So, naturally we began to look at our options to get me into the College. All of the scholarships were already filled or did not cater for someone entering in Year 10, so therefore our only option was a bursary. My parents began the extensive paperwork and requirements for the application which from memory was a truly massive process. Once this was complete, I had the easy task, an interview with the then Head of Campus Mr John Hickey on my initial orientation day.

As it was my first time visiting the College, I wasn't sure what to expect. Instantly, I was amazed. The sheer size and beauty of

the school was breathtaking. I must have said something right in my interview with Mr Hickey because at the end of the day, smiling, he presented my mother and father with an envelope. This moment is a memory my parents and I can both clearly recall. The bursary application had been successful. That moment solidified everything. I was set to be a Xavier boy.

There began a journey that would span the next five years of our lives. During my early years at the College, I never really appreciated the full effect of the financial support we had been granted. Obviously, I was aware that it enabled me to attend the school and for that I was grateful, but until discussing this further with my parents once I'd left the College, I realised the magnitude of the gift we had been given. It not only gave my education at Xavier the green light, but allowed Mum and Dad the ability to share in my journey. As my parents own their own business back home in Albury, the luxury of taking time off work was difficult. Driving down on a Saturday to watch me play basketball was more expensive than I at the time appreciated. But for this, I cannot thank my parents enough.

Life as a boarder is unique. It is full of extreme highs and lows, but what made it so special was that you shared the journey with your best mates. Together we navigated school, sport, a social life and adolescence. Relationships that were galvanised through 24/7 exposure to one another created opportunities for a lot of fun and enjoyment, but more seriously, gave us the ability to turn to each other for support when each of us were struggling. During my Senior year, I was lucky enough to be involved in student leadership as the Prefect of Boarding, which involved engaging with and caring for the men in the 'boardo'.

It was roughly around the end of Year 10 when my family and I found out that I had been successful in obtaining the Benedict Burgess Memorial scholarship for Years 11 and 12. It's hard to express exactly how this achievement made me feel. There was an overwhelming sense of pride, yet I also knew the quality of men who had applied for it who had missed out. I was humbled. Through the nature of the scholarship, I felt that I had a duty to continue a legacy that had been built years before my time at the College. I felt I had a connection and a purpose. To the family whose generosity enabled my experience, I am forever grateful.

My time at Xavier was filled with growth. Growth of character, confidence, education, ability and relationships. It's difficult to describe what my experience meant to me and how that experience was ultimately due to the kindness of others. I'd personally like to thank the people that give selflessly so that others can experience opportunities that they may never have thought possible, so that young men are able to be a part of far more than just an education. My time at Xavier meant the world to me and I certainly take none of it for granted and know truly how fortunate I am to have had the experience I have had. Thank you again for the chance to share my story."

"My time at Xavier was filled with growth. Growth of character, confidence, education, ability and relationships."





# OLD XAVERIANS' ASSOCIATION

Visit [xavnet.com.au](http://xavnet.com.au) for News • Events • Networking • Reunions • Mentoring



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## Flexibility and understanding in challenging times

**Davina Calhaem**, Alumni Coordinator,  
Executive Officer of the Old Xaverians' Association



Davina Calhaem

As we continue to adjust to a world of changing restrictions and snap lockdowns, organising alumni events can be more of an art than a science! Still, the Old Xaverian community has proven once again to be flexible and understanding in the circumstances. Amidst the uncertainty, a number of reunions and events have helped keep us connected.

In April, we celebrated our 85th Anzac Day Commemorative Mass, which is a particularly special occasion for many members of our Old Xaverian community. The Class of 1981 held their 40-year reunion on Friday 25 June in the Great Hall with 80 attendees. We also celebrated the inaugural Borders Reunion at the College and afterwards at the Skinny Dog Hotel and the Class of 2011's 10-year reunion at the Prince Alfred Hotel in Richmond, each cohort very much enjoying the opportunity to catch up with old friends. While it is always disappointing to postpone events, we appreciate the reunions that have gone ahead face-to-face and we look forward to the many more events that are planned for the remainder of the year.

As always, we're proud to celebrate the achievements of Old Xaverians. This edition recognises a host of sporting, artistic and humanitarian pursuits in the Old Xaverian community. As we watch the Tokyo Olympics play out, it has been particularly exciting to watch a number of Old Xavs show commitment and resilience in the face of uncertainty surrounding the games. Their participation on the world stage is a much deserved reward for effort after years of training.

With changing restrictions around social gatherings, we encourage you to visit our website [xavnet.com.au](http://xavnet.com.au) for all the latest and most up-to-date information about reunions, events and news from the Old Xavs community.

*If you wish to assist in the organisation of your reunion, a business networking or special interest event, please do not hesitate to contact Davina Calhaem [davina.m.calhaem@xavier.vic.edu.au](mailto:davina.m.calhaem@xavier.vic.edu.au)*



## AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

**Philip Alston (OX 1967) AO**  
For distinguished service to the law, particularly in the area of international human rights, and to legal education

**Rob Hulls (OX 1974) AM**  
For significant service to the people and Parliament of Victoria and to the law

**Amalia Di Iorio Angele Past Parent AM**  
For significant service to tertiary education, to skills development and to women

**Michael Sweeney (OX 1970) Past Parent OAM**  
For service to the community and to the law

## CONNECT WITH US AT XAVNET

XAVNET is home to the Old Xaverians' Association online community. Sign up now for all the latest:

- News
- Events & Reunions
- Business & Networking Opportunities

[xavnet.com.au](http://xavnet.com.au)



Class of 1981 40-Year Reunion



40-Year Reunion



Boarding Reunion



10-Year Reunion







# BACK ON TRACK

Redefining purpose with the gift of movement

David McNeill, (OX 2004)

“The destination, that personal best, was important. But the journey gave me the opportunity to really answer that question. Who do you want to be?”

WATCH VIDEO

When I left Xavier, Julian Marsh (OX 1991) took me on my first training camp to Falls Creek and became a lifelong mentor and friend. He steered me through the transition from schoolboy to senior competitor. He introduced me to leading Australian distance runners of the time and showed me what was possible in the sport.

Since then, I have had many important mentors and supporters carrying me through thick and thin. As they say, it takes a village...

When I set that goal in 2018, I had the benefit of hindsight. There had been many achievements to be proud of and grateful for. I had made it to many of the external goal posts I had set for myself. Not without extreme highs and lows, but through it all, I had grown and learnt. However, that question, “what do you want to do?”, which had first become relevant as a Year 12 student trying to decide on a university course, always had me looking to the outside.

When I run, it takes me inside myself. I am present with the now. Unimpeded by regrets of the past or worry towards the future. It has been a ritualistic part of my life. Not only a profession, but an endeavour in which I have found great meaning. The gift of movement. The magic of life-giving breath rushing in and out of my lungs. The visceral experience of seeing and connecting with some of the world's

most beautiful landscapes. Dare I say it, running has nurtured not only my physical and mental health, but my spiritual health too.

That latest goal came from the inside rather than the outside. I replaced “what do you want to do?” with “who do you want to be?”.

The act of running has given me far greater joy than any external goal posts I've reached. I am the best version of myself when I am running. I am most authentically me. To run a personal best was a goal to test my own physical, mental, and spiritual limits. To push those limits and take them further than they'd ever been. To set a new boundary for what constitutes my identity. The destination, that personal best, was important. But the journey gave me the opportunity to really answer that question. “Who do you want to be?”.

On 11 May 2021, I ran a PB over 5000m which earned me a ticket to Tokyo.

If there is a message to be had here, it is perhaps not to measure all success from the outside. Look inside too. If you know who you want to be, what you do doesn't matter so much. What you do can be anything and everything. Just be authentic. Be the best version of yourself. Seek joy, seek love, push yourself and share it.



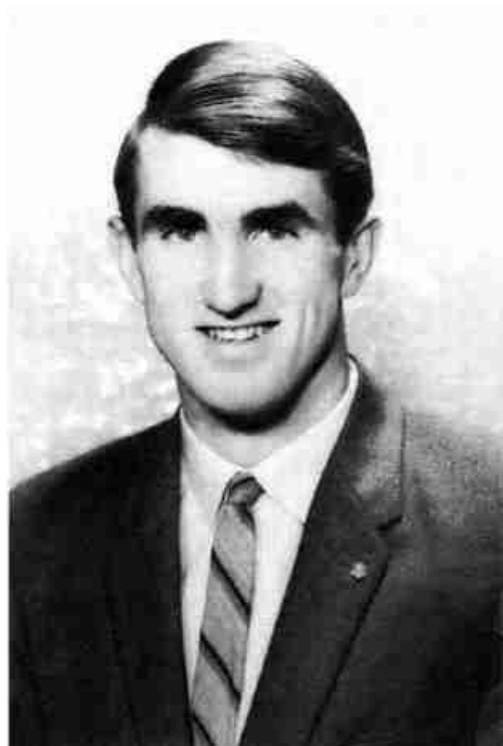
David McNeill (OX 2004) is an Australian Long-Distance Runner who has competed in two Olympics, four World Cross Country Championships, a Commonwealth Games and a World Championships. He recently competed in the Tokyo Olympics, finishing 8th in the Men's 5000m.

Sometime in 2018, after six months on the injury sidelines following the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, I decided on my next running goal. I wanted to run a personal best (PB) time on the track. At that point, it had been over six years since I last set a PB at my preferred distance of 5km, to qualify for my first Olympic Games in London. I didn't perform particularly well in London, so I was determined to go to the next Olympics and chalk up a better result. Arguably, I did that in Rio.

For many years leading up to my first Olympic Games and for many years after it, I set goals and measured success against the competition. Trying to win races. Trying to run qualifying times. Trying to earn green and gold singlets. The question preceding any goal was always: “What do you want to do?”. But late in 2018, I set a more personal goal. Not to run faster than anyone else or a particular qualifying time. Just to run faster than myself.

I am sure there is a message in that, which I hope I'll get to. My love affair with running started at Xavier. I vividly remember competing at my first APS athletic carnival in 2000 and getting tripped over and hitting the deck 100 metres into the Under-15 1500 metre event. I was devastated in a way that only comes from being so in love with something. I was too young to understand that at the time. But in the ensuing 4 years, Xavier distance coach, Tom Kelly, took me under his wing and became my first proper coach. Tom didn't attend Xavier, but he epitomised Xaverian values. He was humble, selfless, generous and portrayed the joy of doing what you love. He nurtured and helped me understand my love of running.





John Bowen, 1962 Captain of the School



Ken Roche, 1959 APS Vic Reps



Ken Roche, 1959 APS Hurdles heats

## Kostka Hall by the Decades: 1950s - 1960s

Earlier this year, we welcomed two of Kostka Hall's most distinguished alumni back to Xavier College to speak about their schooling experiences and beyond. Ken Roche AO (OX 1960) and Jack Bowen (OX 1962) were greatly influenced by their time at "Xavier by the Sea". Their experiences are in many ways unique. Collectively, the memories shared by those who walked through Kostka's gates tell a wonderful story. Fr Chris Gleeson (OX 1961) sat down with Ken and later Jack to talk about their younger years at school and life beyond.

Ken's time at Kostka started all the way back in his kindergarten years. Throughout his eight years as a student, Ken learned a great deal from Fr Mick Brady SJ and Fr Jim Pirrie SJ, as well as the many scholastics who taught at KH over those years. In particular, Jock Plunkett, though not a teacher but a lay volunteer, had an enormous influence on his athletic career. The encouragement Ken received from other Jesuits such as Tom O'Donovan, Mick O'Mahoney and John Larkin contributed to an extraordinarily successful athletic career. Ken went on to win two gold medals in the 1962 Perth and 1966 Kingston Commonwealth Games. He also represented Australia in the hurdles and relay in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. In later life, Ken was chair of Athletics Australia and was responsible for Pat Clohessy, the legendary coach, working at Xavier.

Jack's early days at Kostka were influenced by Sam Tully and Fr Mick Brady SJ. Both men took a great interest in all the boys and their sporting activities. The friendships that developed in those early years, particularly on the ovals at Kostka, still exist

**WATCH VIDEO**

today. The many scholastics that taught Jack instilled a love for the school and the work of the Jesuits. When the time came to move to the Senior Campus, Jack joined the Boarding House, which expanded his friendship with all those boys from the country. Jack's personality and his leadership qualities stood out and he went on to become Captain of the School.

You can hear from Ken and Jack's discussions with Fr Chris Gleeson SJ in the video.

# BACK TO KOSTKA DAY

**Saturday 13 November**  
**11:00am to 4:00pm**

The Kostka Hall community, past and present, are invited to join us on the Feast Day of St Stanislaus Kostka, Saturday 13 November, for our community event to commemorate our final year.

Back to Kostka Day commences with Mass in the Chapel at 11:00am. At 1:30pm a community assembly and celebration will be held in Manresa Hall, including guest speakers, a historical celebration, music and a commemoration cake for 85 years of Jesuit Education Bayside.

Throughout the day you are invited to wander through the 'Reminisce Rooms', where current students have prepared a display in the form of a photo collection, soundscape or audio-visual presentation dedicated to a particular era. Old Xaverians and families will be able to visit these rooms and meet others from that time and reminisce about their experiences at Kostka Hall. The rooms will be divided into the following eras:

2000 - 2021 ♦ 1965 - 1999 ♦ 1937 - 1965

You will also be able to take a Campus tour led by current students and, on the tour, you may come across a few 'Notable Xaverians' presented by our Year 7 students. Families are invited to bring a picnic to enjoy on the oval in the shade of our marquees.

Join us for the celebration of an era at Kostka Hall.  
Please register your intention to attend this free event  
at [trybooking.com/BTLWO](https://trybooking.com/BTLWO)





# The Ties that Bind

## Connecting Generations of Xavier College students

This year's Generations Breakfast was held at the Senior Campus in May. We were thrilled to welcome back past students and their families, honouring their intergenerational links to Xavier College. This is a wonderful way to recognise the ongoing connection of families with the College and celebrate their significant contributions to the life of the school. This year, the event was also a celebration of Kostka Hall as we approach its closure, as well as commemorating the centenary of Burke Hall.

We were lucky enough to hear from the Morrissy family about their time at Burke Hall. John (OX 1977), whose personal association with the school began in fact at Kostka Hall as a student and continues at Burke Hall as a teacher, has significant roots in the history of the College dating back to his great, great uncle who was

Captain of the school in 1887/1888. John identifies the importance of these strong foundations and enduring connections:

*"Spirit, pride, connection – something special that is not easy to define, but many feel and live it. It contributes to the sense of being a Xaverian especially when it is experienced in an atmosphere of humility and purpose".*

Attendees also heard from the Callinan family, who have been a part of the Kostka Hall community from as early as 1956. Chris (OX 1966), Peter (OX 1992), Paddy (Year 7) and cousin Sam Noonan (Year 12) spoke about their time there and expressed their appreciation for Kostka Hall staff and students that shared in their experiences. Chris' relationship with Kostka Hall as a student, parent and grandfather exemplifies the generational ties of our community:

*"When it came to my family, I always wanted my sons Pete and Mike to go to Kostka... I hoped that my grandsons would go there and am pleased that Sam and Paddy have had that opportunity. And it has been a great joy to me that Pete joined the teaching staff at Kostka – 15 years ago now – and has been part of the terrific people who have been there over the years keeping Kostka spirit alive for so many boys."*

Attendees were provided with 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Generations Badges that they can wear proudly. You can read the speakers' words and more about the day in the Generations Breakfast section of our Kostka Hall Social History Project page at [xavier.vic.edu.au/kostka-hall-social-history-project](http://xavier.vic.edu.au/kostka-hall-social-history-project)



Burley



Rogers



Walsh and Lee



DeStefanis



Plunkett



Brammall & Lally



Hennessy & Coughlan



Dalton



Wood



Cole



O'Donnell



Morrissy & Callinan

# OXA SPORT



OXA Athletic Club



OXA Football Club



OXA Hockey Club



**Christopher Worsnop**  
OXAC President

There were several important championships to close the summer season. At the Victorian Track and Field Championships the Club's athletes won eleven gold medals, ten silver medals and five bronze medals.

Once again, we have had too many individual performances to mention, but it is worth congratulating Dave McNeill on his 13:12:82 run in 5000m, which qualified him for the Olympics where he performed with distinction.

Pleasingly, eleven athletes were also selected for the Australian Championships.

The winter season has started as planned with Old Xavs again competing in the Athletics Victoria (AV) and APS Old Collegians competitions. We had nearly one third of the field at the Jamieson 5km teams' race at Scotch. We competed well at the 9km Brighton event, with Angus Dalton (OX 2020) and Aidan Jackson (OX 2013) finishing 1st and 2nd respectively. Similarly strong results were had at the Wesley 10km race around Albert Park Lake.

Anyone who can put one foot in front of the other, from weekend joggers to Olympians, is welcome at Old Xavs! Give me a call on 0403 910 183.

**Marcus Allan**  
OXFC Operations Manager

The Old Xaverians Football Club is now fielding eleven teams, having recently added another Under-23 team. As we hit the July byes, there is a possibility that nine of our sides will compete in the finals.

Our three U19 teams are travelling well and it has been encouraging to see the continued level of interest from recent graduates.

We have also received the news that Stonnington Council has agreed funding for a sweeping redevelopment of our home, Toorak Park. The ground will be reshaped, with powerful new lights installed. The old pavilions will be replaced by a spacious state-of-the-art facility, with estimated completion by Opening Day 2024.

It is forty years since the Old Xavs won its first VAFA Premier section flag. Since then, the club has won another 13 in that top tier. Restrictions permitting, on Friday 20 August we will be holding a lunch function at The Park to celebrate the achievements of all of our premiership players, with special emphasis on the 1981 triumph. We are inviting anyone interested to come along.

Check our website at [oldxavs.com.au](http://oldxavs.com.au) for details of this function and regular season updates.

**Huw Downey**  
OXHC President

It is fantastic to be back playing hockey again. We have brought back all five teams in 2021 and each team is having success. Most importantly, we have full teams taking to the pitch every week!

The 1st XI are sitting 2nd in a very competitive season. Solid weekly performances continue to showcase our junior depth in the club. The 2nd XI are having a great season as well, currently sitting 5th on the ladder and continuing to be a traditional landing spot for new players at the club. The 3rd XI are strong as usual, sitting on top of the ladder after the 8 rounds. The Womens' 1st XI have retained and recruited strongly, currently sitting 2nd on the ladder. The Masters are sitting in 6th and having a great time on chilly Monday nights, hitting goals, then sharing a beer.

John Howell (OX 2008) played in his 200th game recently, which is a major milestone for a great clubman.

Although it has been tough to maintain the same sense of community with the enforcement of distance, we can't wait to get together as a club more regularly soon.



# Manning the Mark



*"I credit where I am today to the fact that I had great mentors and role models through the school and in my own life."*



Ben Bilston-McGillen and Josh Kennedy



Despite every effort to absorb the daily experiences, it is perhaps inevitable to "take it a bit for granted". The time spent playing alongside schoolmates lasted longer for Josh than most, extending beyond his last game for the school in 2006. In his first few years after joining the club in 2010, Josh was joined by four Old Xaverians in Matthew Spangher (OX 2004), Ted Richards (OX 2000), Alex Johnson (OX 2009) and Daniel Hannebery (OX 2009). "It was nice, at one stage there were five or six of us running around".

Off the field, Josh has embodied the call for students to act in faith, for justice and with dignity, humility and respect. Acknowledging his education and upbringing, Josh felt the call to give back to others and be part of positive change.

"For me, having come through this school and being given a number of privileges in life. I credit where I am today to the fact that I had great mentors and role models through the school and in my own life".

In 2018, Josh was appointed as the inaugural ambassador of the Men's Project, a Jesuit Social Services initiative that supports boys and men to live respectful, accountable and fulfilling lives free from violence. The program uses new approaches to improve male wellbeing and helps create respectful relationships and safe communities. "Initially I was drawn to the work the Jesuit Social Services were doing in the community with at risk young men who lacked mentors and male role models in their lives".

In particular, Josh was involved in the "Man Box" program, which seeks to free young men from being boxed into certain gender roles and behaviours. "The main theme of Man Box is challenging the stereotypical ideology of the man's man". "Helping guys talk about different issues. Speaking up, being yourself and understanding that everyone is different".

Josh joined one of the next generation of Xavier footballers Ben Bilston-McGillen for a kick and a chat about his time at Xavier. "Some of my fondest football memories, including my AFL career, were out here on the Roche oval". "Whether it was playing sport or just being in the classroom... just enjoying the time that you've got together because it goes bloody quicky. It's some of the best years of your life". "Coming back here brings back memories of all of that".

**Oliver Hicks**  
Communications Coordinator

## Josh Kennedy (OX 2006) returns to Xavier a footballing legend with an eye to improving young men's wellbeing.

When COVID restrictions forced interstate clubs to train in Melbourne, Josh Kennedy (OX 2006) led his Swans teammates back to his old stomping ground. "It's special being back at the school. It was certainly a good feeling driving through the gates".

Josh, or "Junior Junior" as he is affectionately known during his time at the College, was the son and grandson of former Hawthorn Football Club greats John Kennedy Jr. and Snr. Josh started his AFL journey with the Hawks but was recruited to the Sydney Swans in 2009 where he quickly impressed as an inside midfielder.



Returning back to where it all began, Josh felt right at home inside the Kew Campus, noting that things "haven't changed too much" and that "it's pretty special the way it is".

Michael Bourke, who helped Josh both on the field as 1st XVIII Assistant Coach and in the classroom as a Maths teacher, was quick to notice his potential, at least in a sporting capacity. Michael remarks that Josh "had a man's body on him from Year 10", which allowed him to physically compete with more Senior students. The classroom activities may not have come so naturally, as Michael remarked "quadratics were real trouble for him".



# Raphael Wong (OX 2007)



## Composing Oneself in the Face of Adversity

*"It is with a heavy heart that we must postpone both seasons at The Sydney Opera House and Arts Centre Melbourne."*

My heart sank. These were the words I had been dreading since receiving an email inviting myself and the rest of the cast of *The Phantom of the Opera* to a meeting with Opera Australia Artistic Director, Lyndon Terracini. We were four days out from beginning rehearsals for this production, some 15 years since *Phantom* was last seen on Australian shores.

We were so close. So. Close.

Being cast in that show is both an honour and a testament to my musical journey since starting school life at Xavier in 2002. My first musical was *Shuffling Shoes*, written by Kostka Hall Drama Teacher, Laura Roso. From there, I had the somewhat defaulted position of Kostka Hall Choir Leader thrust upon me, being the only Year 8 in the choir, under direction of Kieran Casey.

Picking up the cello in Year 7 led to the inevitable hectic music timetable by the time I reached the Senior Campus. I still vividly recall my weekly schedule. Monday, String Quartet. Tuesday, Symphony Orchestra. Wednesday morning, Choir and lunchtime, String Orchestra. Thursday, A Cappella.

Friday, Percussion Ensemble. I certainly do not miss trying to board the #16 tram after school with a school bag and cello.

Had it not been for a music exemption, Saturdays would have been filled with tennis in the Summer and footy in the Winter. I suspect I missed my calling as a Tony Lockett-esque Full Forward, leading out of the goal square. Another lifetime (and another few inches taller) perhaps.

But it was the school musical alongside Genazzano that really opened my eyes to the performing arts. I performed in *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Oliver!* and *The Mikado*, led by a combination of teachers in Richard O'Shaughnessy (OX1990), Ben Hiscock, Andi Hamilton and Belinda Harmer. Their leadership and creativity provided the platform to which my passion grew. I was hooked.

After school, I received a Full Merit Scholarship to study Classical Voice at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music but was not accepted into the Honours course in my fourth year. Having attained my Bachelor of Music, I decided to leave early and chose to work privately with my teacher. By the end of that year, I received my first professional contract with Opera Australia in their production of *Turandot*.



**"This journey made me realise how grateful I am for those early opportunities to perform principal roles and gain such invaluable experience as a student at Xavier."**

I've been an active member of Opera Australia and Victorian Opera since then, performing various roles as a principal artist and chorus member.

All these performance opportunities in the musicals and concerts placed me in good stead for a well-rounded career in the arts industry. The busy timetable taught me how to stay organised, focused in the moment and not get too ahead of myself with the next opportunity. It also taught me not to have all my eggs in one basket and how to juggle all of those eggs without breaking them!

I didn't know it at the time, but the opportunity to play principal roles can often come few and far between in a theatre career, especially for someone who is a person of colour. It's taken 14 years to break into the commercial theatre industry with *Phantom*. This journey made me realise how grateful I am for those early opportunities to perform principle roles and gain such invaluable experience as a student at Xavier.

COVID-19 has been a blessing and a curse (mostly a curse). There is no denying that the Arts Industry has been all but decimated

and we are on our knees. But the plight of the starving artist is not a new notion. If there is anything that artists are good at, whether it be artistic or opportunistic, it's creating. 2020, and now seemingly 2021, has been a time to force open those doors and get creative.

Thanks to the lockdowns and necessary restrictions placed on singing, performance opportunities quickly shifted online. I took part in two online vocal competitions, a number of online performances and a bevy of auditions via video submission. I submitted my initial *Phantom* video audition two days before my wife, Tiffany, who I met in our school musical, gave birth to our first son, Theodore.

To put it in perspective, as I write this article, I had eight months of work wiped out last week, not to mention the 12 months of lost work from 2020. In the days since *Phantom* was postponed, I have had to plan what the next 12 months will now look like. It's daunting, but I'm buoyed by the fact that I have the necessary skills to work through this situation and find the necessary opportunities to get myself and my family through this tough time.

Naturally, living in the home of sport and being a long time Sydney Swans member, I often see similarities and take inspiration from sport and the arts. Alex Johnson (OX 2009), waited two years, 136 days between footy games with Sydney Swans. If I can take even a sliver of his resilience and work ethic, a potential 12-month postponement will pass in the blink of an eye. I look forward to treading the boards with my colleagues once again.

*Please consider donating to Support Act which provides crisis relief grants for artists, crew and music workers. [www.supportact.org.au](http://www.supportact.org.au)*

*You can read more about Raphael Wong at [raphaelwongmusic.com](http://raphaelwongmusic.com)*





## COLLEGE CONSULTS CONNECT

**Julian Butler SJ**  
Acting Head of Faith and Service

In May, we were thrilled to welcome back some 30 College Captains and members of the College Consults from 2015 to 2020. The group gathered together to share dinner and conversation. The meet-up provided the opportunity for these younger Old Xaverians to reconnect across graduating years, providing an occasion to share their post-school experiences.

Since 2015, the College has had a Consult consisting of the College Captain, along with the College Vice Captains and two or three other student leaders who assist the College leadership by providing input from a student perspective. Gathering members of these groups was a significant step in deepening engagement with these most recent Old Xaverians.

The evening included reflections of post-school journeys from Mark Burgess (OX 2016), Tom McMahon (OX 2016)

and Ned Kelliher (OX 2019). The stories opened up a discussion about ways in which the College, and particularly the Old Xaverians' Association, can help to strengthen the sense of community for recent Old Xavs. There was discussion about a variety of new ways, through online platforms and getting together around shared interests, that young Old Xavs could be assisted to come together. One of the strong themes from the evening was a desire to share in service of others, as a community of recent graduates.

The evening concluded after much conversation and with a sense of gratitude for the chance to come together, connect and share. We hope to continue the momentum of the evening with future discussions and opportunities for engagement.



## Harnessing the Power of Community Daniel Sneddon (OX 2008)

“My time in DR Congo showed me that many things that I thought arbitrary as a young person, such as ‘being a person for others’ or the rituals around showing sportsmanship, are actually critical for societal harmony.”

While working as a United Nations Volunteer in Uvira, a small city in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Daniel Sneddon (OX 2008) noticed some deficiencies in aid programme delivery. Through conversations with members of the local community, he felt that he could help address the problem in some small way. To do so, he created the *Nguvu ya Uvira* foundation, or “the power of Uvira” in Swahili.

Uvira has experienced serious violence, particularly since the first and second Congolese wars in the mid-late 1990s and early 2000s, both of which originated in the area surrounding the city. Insecurity has plagued Uvira ever since, impacting the society at all levels. More recently, while Uvira was spared from the worst in terms of case numbers, the economic toll of the COVID pandemic has been extraordinary. The closure of the international border with neighbouring Burundi cut off the city’s key supply route and main economic thoroughfare. In addition, conflict in the areas surrounding Uvira has not abated, even intensifying in recent months.

In spite of these challenges, Daniel felt strongly that because he could make a difference to the lives of others, then he should. He credits this impulse to his time as a Xavier student:

“My time in Congo showed me that many things that I thought arbitrary as a young person, such as ‘being a person for others’

or the rituals around showing sportsmanship, are actually critical for societal harmony”.

His Foundation provides a number of crucial social services within the Uvira community. Their “combat contre le kwashiorkor” food program fights malnourishment by providing children with nutritious, protein-rich porridge prepared on site. The group has saved 179 children from severe malnutrition since its inception. A critical component of this program is providing medicine and medical care to children by local doctors at a small volunteer-run clinic.

Meanwhile, the “Tournoi de basket Uvira” (Uvira Basketball Tournament) provides kids with a space free from their often-troubled surroundings, enabling them to learn mutual respect, teamwork and discipline, all while enjoying their favourite sport. Drawing upon his over 25 years of basketball playing and coaching experience, Daniel introduced a structured tournament to the local youth.

Finally, to help give Uviran women financial independence, the Foundation provides interest free microcredit loans so that they may start their own businesses. The Foundation’s most recent financial report indicates that all repayments were made within three months!

Daniel sat down with Jesuit Mission Prefect Thomas O’Brien and Ignatian Service Prefects Savio Nguyen, Luke Siniakov to talk about his work.





# Worth the Punt



“  
**One of the biggest changes he noticed was the sheer scale of American Football, rivalling even Victoria’s footy-mad culture.**  
 ”

**In moving to the States, Lachlan Wilson (OX 2016) traded kangaroo-leathered Sherrins for cowhide-leathered Wilsons, making his mark as a Punter for the University of Tulsa in US College Football Division 1 of the American Athletic Conference.**

After graduating in 2016, he was trained and advised by the team at Punt Factory, a program designed to assist young Australians in their ambitions to play American Football. His love of all things sport helped Lachlan’s transition to life in the US.

“Moving to the USA was definitely a big change from life in Australia, but being such a massive sporting hub, I found it quite easy to settle in”.

Lachlan has already made a major contribution to the “Golden Hurricanes”. During the 2020 season, Lachlan won an All-American Special Team Player of the Week, received a nomination for the Ray Guy Award for most outstanding Punter, became an Academic All-American and participated in the All-American Conference Championship Game and the Armed Forces Bowl.

One of the biggest changes he noticed was the sheer scale of American Football, rivalling even Victoria’s footy-mad culture.

“The National Football League (NFL) and College Football are huge industries - a lot larger than the AFL system”.

The standard of player treatment, even for College players, certainly matches the size of the operation.

“Here, we have full-time staff that accompany us on our chartered jet between games. It was definitely quite a step-up in the professionalism that comes with that”.

The hype surrounding Football in College towns is tied up in the pageantry, the tradition and the sense of community. Interestingly, College Football programs in many US States, particularly in the South-East, boast a larger following than the national competition.

Despite the excitement surrounding Football in Tulsa, Lachlan and his teammates must devote time to their academics, a practice that Lachlan thinks is lacking in the AFL’s treatment of their young players.

“Players are provided more opportunities to further develop their sporting skills whilst attaining a degree before going into the professional leagues”.

Once his tenure in College football has ended, Lachlan will have completed a Business Administration and Finance degree.

The Tulsa Golden Hurricanes are set to begin their season in September.





# BURKE HALL CENTENARY



The Burke Hall Memorial Chapel, donated in 1926 by Mrs. T. M. Burke, in memory of her brother Frank Brady (OX 1909).

## From the Archives

Catherine Hall  
College Archivist

As we continue to celebrate the Centenary of the Xavier Preparatory School, Burke Hall, we honour the many students that have passed through the gates on Nolan Avenue with our second photo montage.

By the mid-1970s, increasing numbers of students were putting pressure on available spaces. In 1975 boarding ceased at Burke Hall, which enabled more areas to be utilised by the whole school.

'...the major development this year has been the creation of a new School Library. The old boarders' dining room, previously a study hall, and before that the original ballroom of Studley House, has been completely refurbished. A large gathering of parents was present early in third term at the Library opening, a fitting culmination to the hopes and efforts of many.' wrote Fr Julian Slatterie SJ, Headmaster, in the 1975 *The Xaverian*.

Other landmark events include the appointment in 1992 of Mr. Paul Henderson (OX 1963), the first lay head of Burke Hall and in 2002, the first ever Xaverian girls joined the Early Years Centre.

The Xavier Preparatory School, Burke Hall continues to grow and adapt to the changing educational environment of the 21st Century. This Jesuit education provides the foundations on which our young men and women successfully construct themselves, their characters and their futures, transforming themselves into Xaverians.

### Gifts to the Archives

The Xavier College Archives would like to thank the following members of our community for their generous gifts to the College Archives. (March 2021 - May 2021)

**Bernard Curtis (OX 1950)** – 1978 Xavier College Centenary Decade Dinner.

**Carmel Knowles & Harry Hose (current BH)** – Ryan Knowles (OX 1994) poem, Frederick Knowles (OX 1932), photograph.

**Michael Andre (OX 1969)** – Crockery items with College Crest used by Jim (OX 1928), Bob (OX 1929), Ted (OX 1935) and John (OX 1936) Andre.

**Diane Lewis & Pauline Parkinson** – Blazer, cufflinks, tie pin belonging to Brian Parkinson (OX 1943).

**Jenny Richards** – Photos, scrapbooks belonging to Fr Philip Gleeson SJ (OX 1929).

**Helen Goldwater** – Uniforms and papers belonging to Basil Thomson (OX 1938) and his sons, Peter (OX 1965), John (OX 1977) and Greg (OX 1981).

**Peter Lauricella (OX 1967)** – Satchel, cap, banner, program.

**Jan Ralto** – 1938 Rowing images belonging to Douglas Hemingway (OX 1939).

**Edward Fido (OX 1965)** – *Stonyhurst College 1593 -1993* by T. E. Muir.



1984 Mr. Theo Vlahos in the new Grade 6 Classroom



2002 Burke Hall Early Years Centre opened



2008 Maths Class



2017 Burke Hall musical *The Lion King Jr.*



2019 Burke Hall students



## WEDDINGS



### Jeremy Scarmozzino (OX 2007)

After lockdown postponements, Jeremy Scarmozzino (OX 2007) married Nadine Hawa in the Xavier College Memorial Chapel on 18 April 2021 celebrated by Father Frank O'Loughlin. The Best Man was John Tornese (OX 2008), while Tim Pirera (OX 2007) and Adam Scarmozzino (OX 2009) were Groomsmen.

## BIRTHS



Joshua John Batten

### Andrew Batten (OX 2007)

Andrew Batten (OX 2007) and Jessica Beaconsfield a healthy son, Joshua John Batten born 15 June, 2021. A very welcome brother, to big sister Charlotte.



Rafaela Hilton

### Ben Hilton (OX 2004)

Ben Hilton (OX 2004) and his wife Angela now live in London and have welcomed their first child Rafaela Guimaraes Alves Hilton born Wednesday 10 February 2021.

## OBITUARIES

### Byrne, John Henry (OX 1964)

Died 3 April 2021, son of John McCartin Byrne (OX 1930) and Shelia Byrne (both dec), brother of Peter (OX 1954) (dec) and David (OX 1957), nephew of John Austin O'Halloran (OX 1937).

### Cameron, William Charles (Grandfather)

Died 22 April 2021, brother of Mary, Helen and Dan (all dec), father of Hugh, Sarah (past parent) and Lachlan, father-in-law of Dan Hess (OX 1980), grandfather of Charlie (OX 2009), Matthew (OX 2013) and Jamie (OX 2016) Hess.

### Clark, Howard William (OX 1954)

Died 25 December 2019, husband of Judy, father of John (OX 1978), Joanne, Darren (OX 1981), Howard (OX 1985), Judy and Fiona.

### Collins, James (OX 1955)

Died 5 July 2021 husband of Mary Anne, father of Claire Collins (current parent), father-in-law of Chris Pakes, grandfather of Gus (Year 9), Kit and James Pakes, father of Tom (OX 1988), father-in law of Sarah, grandfather of Amelia, Jack and Alice Collins. James was the father of Anne Collins, father-in-law of Mark, grandfather of Anton, Rory and Eli Lieberman, father of Lucy, father-in-law of Dave, grandfather of Tom, Ned, Henry and Elly Hegan, father of Caroline, father-in-law of Martin, grandfather of Maggie, Bea and Joe Tuffy Inness.

### Cooney, Elizabeth Lillian (Past Parent)

Died 6 March 2021, wife of Barney (dec), mother of Sean (OX 1980), Justin (OX 1984) Jerome (OX 1989) and Megan.

### Cumberlidge, Ross Brian (Parent)

Died 27 May 2021, husband of Bernie, father of Shannon, Zac and Josh (Year 11).

### Doig, Andrew (OX 1987)

Died 15 April 2021 in Germany, son of Ronald and Carmel (both dec), husband of Andrea, father of Madeleine, brother of Louise and Heather, Meredith and Chris.

### Drake, James (Jim) (OX 1949)

Died 24 March 2021, husband of Jacqui (dec) father of Julianna, Michael, Samantha (dec), Tiffany, Jane and Philippa, brother of John.

### Ellwood, Nicholas William (Parent)

Died 3 May 2021, husband of Caroline Boileau, father of Max (OX 2017) and Harry (Yr 12).

### Fanning, Timothy James (Jim) (OX 1966)

Died 8 July 2021, husband of Marie, father of Louise, John and Jennifer, son of Jim and Mavis (dec), brother of Larry (OX 1964), Tom (OX 1971), Rob (OX 1973) and John (OX 1975).

### Feely, Denis Patrick (OX 1956)

Died 20 May 2021, grandson of Thomas Feely (OX 1885), son of John and Veronica (dec), husband of Jan, father of Jane, Anna and Eliza, brother of Anthony (OX 1954) (dec), Virginia, Julia, Michael (OX 1961) (dec) and Tim (OX 1964). Denis was the cousin of Garry (OX 1956) and Fr Michael Eather (OX 1954) (dec), Andrew (OX 1960) (dec) and Simon Feely (OX 1964).

### Forrest, Patricia (Past Parent)

Died 18 March 2021, wife of Michael (OX 1938) (dec), mother of Susan and Michael (OX 1979), mother-in-law of Michael Harker, aunt of Bernadette Batten (staff member Senior Campus), grandmother of five.

### Foulis, James (OX 1959)

Died 10 May, much loved by many.

### Galbraith, John (OX 1957, Past Staff, Past Parent)

Please see extended obituary on the next page.

### Heath, Margaret (Past Parent)

Died 7 May 2021, daughter of Thomas Moloney, wife of Leon (dec), mother of Jack (OX 1977), Anna, Bill (OX 1980 past parent), mother-in-law of Catherine Dooley, grandmother of Tom Dooley-Heath (OX 2020), mother of James (OX 1983) and Richmond (OX 1988).

### Heerey, Peter Cadden AM QC (Past Parent)

Died 1 May 2021, husband of Sally, father of Ed (OX 1987), Charlie (OX 1989) and Tom (OX 1989), father-in-law of Mim, Anna and Jen, grandfather of Emma, Conor, Sass, Gus, Nick and Nevie.

### Hess, Marjorie (Past Parent)

Died 8 March 2021, wife of Pat (dec), mother of Paula, Margaret, Barbara, Nicole, Emma and Eris (OX 1990).

### Holdsworth, Anthony (Past Parent)

Died 20 June 2021, husband of Shona, father of Ashlin, Jack (OX 2019) and Emily.

### Holland, Marie Veronica (Past Parent)

Died 23 May 2021, wife of Jack (dec), mother of Peter (OX 1967), Christopher (OX 1970) and Tony (OX 1972), mother-in-law of Deborah (past parent), grandmother of Christopher (OX 2003), aunt of Brendan Sweeney (OX 1968) (dec), Mark Sweeney (OX 1968), Michael Keane (OX 1968), John Keane (OX 1972) and David Keane (OX 1974).

### Kennedy, John Anthony (OX 1980 and Past Parent)

Died 7 April 2021, son of John and Bev (dec), partner of Sarah Kendall, father of Angus (OX 2014), Patrick (OX 2015) Alex and Dominic (OX 2017), brother of Damien (OX 1981), Justin (OX 1985) and Julian (OX 1992).

### Kearney, Patrick (Simon) (OX 1958)

Died 28 May 2021, son of Patrick (OX 1929) and Lorna (dec), husband of Jennifer, father of Richard (OX 1990), father-in-law of Prau, grandfather of Simon, father of Chree, father-in-law of Steven Dickinson, grandfather of Jade, Ryder and Mikayla, father of Liana, father-in-law of Andrew Hunt. Simon was the grandfather of Kyen and Devan, father of Tara, father-in-law of Ross Macdonald.

### Knott, Timothy James (Past Parent)

Died 11 March 2021, wife of Anne (nee Johnston), father of Roger (OX 1987), father-in-law of Georgie, grandfather of Ollie (OX 2016), Charlie (OX 2019) and Chloe Knott, father of Lisa Knott, father-in-law of Luke Brown, grandfather of Eloise, Archer and Barnaby Brown, father of Matthew (OX 1994), father-in-law of Catriona Banks, grandfather of Sophie Knott, father of Christopher (OX 1996), brother-in-law of Nikki (dec) and Peter Johnston (OX 1959). Timothy was the uncle of Lara, Annalise, Michael (OX 1991) and Nina Johnston, brother-in-law of Barbara and Bill Flynn (OX 1960) (dec), uncle of Kate, Johnny (OX 1989), Dan (OX 1993), Pat (OX 1997), Anna and Sara Flynn. Timothy was the brother-in-law of Alan Johnston (OX 1962) and Liz, uncle of Christian (OX 1992), Eliza, David and Simon Johnston, brother-in-law of Cathy and Geoff Ockleshaw, uncle of Timothy (OX 1993), Nicholas (OX 1994), Peter (OX 1997) and Meg Ockleshaw.

### Leahy, William (Bill) Mathew (OX 1945)

Died 17 May 2021, son of William Leahy and Annie Hogan, husband of Myra (dec) and Maureen, father of Matt, Monica (dec), Anne-Maree de Bruyne, Paul, Tim, John, Liz Glazebrook, Danny, Brian and Kate Lee and their partners, grandfather of 27 and great grandfather of 7.5.

### Lefebvre, Bryan (OX 1949)

Died 15 April 2021, grandson of Albert (OX 1880), great-nephew of Reginald (OX 1883) and Augustus (OX 1889), son of Charles and Mary (both dec), husband of Gillian, father of Mandy, Sally, Philip, Andrew, Stephen, Chris and Tanya, brother of Leon (OX 1944) (dec) and Michael (OX 1947) (dec), uncle of Mark (OX 1974) (dec), Tim (OX 1978), Brett (OX 1974), Michael (OX 1972) and Paul (OX 1981) Lefebvre.

### Lefebvre, Michael (OX 1947)

Died 24 April 2021, grandson of Albert (OX 1880), great-nephew of Reginald (XC 1883) and Augustus (1889), son of Charles and Mary (both dec), husband of Pamela (dec), father of Michael (OX 1972), father-in-law of Jennifer, grandfather of Christopher (OX 2004), father of Brett (OX 1974), Janine (dec), Martina and Paul (OX 1981), father-in-law of Cath, grandfather of Sam (OX 2011), Nick (OX 2014) and Ben (OX 2017). Michael was the brother of Leon (OX 1944) (dec), Bryan (OX 1949) (dec) and Lynette and uncle of Mark (OX 1974) (dec) and Tim (OX 1978) Lefebvre.

### Loftus-Hills, John Gregory (OX 1960)

Died 26 May 2021, son of Kelvin (OX 1926) and Ethel (both dec), brother of Jasper (OX 1965) (dec), Jeremy (OX 1965), Jennifer and Michael, father of Emma, Mandy and Tiffany, grandfather of Thomas Hart (OX 2016). John was the nephew of Geoffrey (OX 1926) (dec), cousin of Geoffrey (OX 1958) and uncle of Patrick (OX 1984), Michael (OX 1989), Christopher (OX 1993) and David (OX 1995) Loftus-Hills.

### Lynch, John Dominic (OX 1963)

Died 25 May in Vanuatu, son of Greg and Pat, husband of Andy (dec), brother of Denis (OX 1963), Jeremy (OX 1963 BH), Brendan and Greg.

### Maguire, Michael (Mick) Anthony (1964)

Died 9 March 2021, son of William and Veronica (both dec), brother of Laurence (OX 1955) (dec) and Trish.

### Manning, Max (Past Parent)

Died 14 June 2021, husband of Mary, father of Joanna, Tom (OX 1981), Angela and Georgina.

### McKay, Noel (OX 1953)

Died 4 July, 2020, son of Reginald and Bonny (both dec), brother of Les (dec), Bonita (dec) Marceline, Warwick (OX 1952) (dec), Reg (OX 1958) and Peter (dec), uncle of Stephanie, Fiona, Christopher, Steven, Scott, Grant, Mitchell and Markus.

### Murphy, Brendan Herbert (OX 1946)

Died 19 April, son of Thomas (OX 1881, Dux of School) and Victoria (both dec), brother of Isla, Leonard, Hubert, Helen, Maud, Justin, Dorothy, Alison and Enid (all dec), uncle of Bill Neal (OX 1977) and Thomas Neal (OX 1984) (dec).

### O'Loughlen, Hugh (OX1964)

Died on the Gold Coast 23 February 2021, son of Sir Colman (OX 1932) and Lady Margaret O'Loughlen, brother of Michael (OX 1962), Bryan (OX 1962) (dec), Ross (OX 1965) and Janet Gibson (dec) (past parent), grandson of Henry Ross (OX 1906) and Doris O'Loughlen, brother-in-law of Greg Gibson (OX 1958) (dec), the great nephew of Sir Michael O'Loughlen (OX 1883), nephew of Ross O'Loughlen (OX 1931), Frank (OX 1925), Roger (OX 1927) and Brendan O'Halloran (OX 1930). Hugh was the uncle of Hugh (OX 1986), David (OX 1990) and Rory O'Loughlen (OX 1993) and Michael Gibson (OX 1988).

### Paterson, Matt (Past Staff)

Please see extended obituary on the next page.

### Pezzimenti, Aurelio (Past Parent)

Died 12 June 2021, husband of Norina, father of Joseph (OX 1996), Angela and Louise, father-in-law of Laurie and Emanuele Raffaele.

### Pirera, Marian (Past Parent)

Died 25 March 2021, wife of Antonio, mother

of Lawrence, Gerard (OX 1977), Carolyn and Bernadette, mother-in-law of Frances and Herb, grandmother of Matthew (OX 2004), Michael (OX 2005), Timothy (OX 2007), Christopher, Steven (OX 2010), Rachael and Robert, great grandmother to Henry, Katarina, Raine, Isla and Ryder.

### Renouf, Moira (Past Parent)

Died 23 March 2021, wife of Luan (dec), mother of Paul (OX 1964) (dec) and Mark (OX 1964), mother-in-law of Susan (past parent), grandmother of Simon (OX 1995) and David (OX 1997).

### Rosewarne, Gary (Past Staff)

Please see extended obituary on the next page.

### Schlicht, Norma Gabrielle (Past Parent)

Died 6 July 2021, wife of David (OX 1941) (dec), sister-in-law of Theo (OX 1930) (dec) and Peter (OX 1940) (dec), mother of Anthony (OX 1975), mother-in-law of Katrina, mother of Stephen (OX 1979), mother-in-law of Bronwyn Conroy Morgan, grandmother of Xavier Morgan Schlicht (OX 2018) and Stephanie Morgan Schlicht (BH 2002), mother of Christopher (OX 1984), mother-in-law of Bronwen Dennis, grandmother of Adam (OX 2016) and Theo (Year 9).

### Silvagni, Sergio (Grandfather)

Died 15 July 2021, husband of Rita, father of Michelle, Danielle, Lisa and Stephen (past parent), father-in-law of Jo, grandfather of Jack (OX 2015), Ben (OX 2018) and Tom (OX 2020)

### Stewart, Robert (Bob) OAM (Grandfather)

Please see extended obituary on the next page.

### Thomson, Dulcie Eileen (Past Parent)

Died 12 April 2020, wife of Basil Thomson (OX 1938) (dec), mother of Peter (OX 1965), Helen, Maree, John (OX 1977) (dec) and Greg (OX 1981).

### Thornton, Evelina (Past Parent)

Died 19 June 2021, wife of Ian (senior campus staff member), mother of Xavier (OX 2007), Gianluca (OX 2009) and Julian (OX 2011) (dec).

### Waldron, John Francis (Past Parent)

Died 12 February 2021, husband of Patricia (dec), father of John (OX 1981) and Adrian (OX 1983).

## St Patrick's College East Melbourne

BACON, Harold	1959-1960
BAHR, Karl	1939-1945
SILLITOE, Neville J.	1938-1940

To contact St Patrick's Old Collegians' Association, please email [spoca68@gmail.com](mailto:spoca68@gmail.com)

## Obituary submission

To request a submission form, contact the Community and Engagement Office at [obituaries@xavier.vic.edu.au](mailto:obituaries@xavier.vic.edu.au) or on 9854 5465.

All entries are subject to submission guidelines and ultimately inclusion is at the discretion of Xavier College.



## John Galbraith



**Galbraith John (OX 1957, Past Staff Member Burke Hall 1979-1998, Past Parent).** Died 21 July 2021, husband of Julie, father of Matthew (OX 1985), father in law of Cate, grandfather of Eve and Daniel, father of Madeleine, father in law of Bernard Aylward (OX 1986), grandfather of James and Olivia, father of Mary, father-in-law of Matthew Croagh (OX 1990), grandfather of Tom (OX 2020), John (XC Year 12), Patrick Croagh (XC Year 10) and Rebecca.

John Galbraith was a man who had a 53-year association with Xavier. It began in Prep at Burke Hall in 1945 and ended when he retired as a teacher at Xavier in 1998. At John's farewell, colleague Peter Gurry said: "John has typified all that is best in Jesuit education. In a 20-year career at Burke Hall, he has been a commanding presence admired and respected by students, parents and colleagues."

"John has shown generosity, compassion and understanding to the students and fellow teachers, always with a wonderful sense of humour. And as a sports coach, John took great care to foster the finest ideals of sportsmanship in the boys." John taught at Burke Hall from 1978. He studied Law when he left Xavier and worked in real estate before training as a teacher. As a student at Xavier, John set records as a middle distance runner and was a member of the athletics team which won Xavier's first APS title in 1957. John rowed for the First VIII in 1955, 1956 and 1957, when he was Captain of Boats. He was also a prefect and an officer in the school army cadet corps. John passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family who remember him as a 'teacher, gentleman, listener, humourist and optimist.'

## Matt Paterson



**Paterson, Matt (Past Senior Campus Staff Member 2003-2012)**  
Died 3 July 2021, husband of Sharon, father of Lorraine, Fiona, Andrew and Anders, son of James and Violet Paterson (dec).

Matt Paterson held many positions of responsibility as an educator but what he loved most was being a classroom teacher. In fact, he said on his retirement after a decade at Xavier: "I am just pleased to be leaving teaching as a teacher."

It was a simple yet powerful statement of priority for this student focussed educator, who touched the lives of so many of the Xaverians entrusted to him in the classroom and whose collegiality in the staff room was missed greatly after he retired.

Matt came to Australia from his native Scotland after 15 years teaching in England and five years coaching athletics in Norway. Following local teaching appointments at Knox College and Wesley College, Matt came to Xavier to teach Maths and Science. He was also a proud soccer coach and lost just two matches during his 10 years at Xavier. But Matt's greatest sporting passion was athletics. He was a national coach in England, Norway and Australia.

## Gary Rosewarne



**Roswarne Gary (staff Member Senior Campus 1997-2021)**  
Died 21 July 2021, devoted husband of Erin, beloved father of Matthew and Blaire, adored grandfather of Pippy, Ruby, Jet and Taj.

It was with genuine shock and sorrow the Xavier community learned much loved Head Curator, Gary Rosewarne, had passed away after suffering a heart attack.

College Rector, Fr Chris Middleton SJ, paid tribute to Gary who had "a great capacity for friendship and mixed with a wide range of staff. He has coached here and has always taken great pride in the grounds and in particular the pitch in the cricket season, where he was a great supporter of the boys."

Gary was a longstanding member of staff, commencing at Xavier in 1997 before being appointed Head Curator in 1998. Many staff who worked closely with Gary were particularly saddened by his sudden passing. Gary was also a legendary figure in the Victorian Amateur Football Association (VAFA) where he played 304 games for Elsternwick before coaching his beloved club.

His many friends described Gary as a modest man and a true gentleman.

## Bob Stewart



**Stewart, Robert (Bob) OAM (Grandfather)**

Died 4 July 2021, husband of Maree, father of Robert (OX 1982), father-in-law of Orla, grandfather of Fearghus (OX 2016), Cian (OX 2019) and Pierce (Year 11), father of Peter (OX 1984), father-in-law of Penny, father of Annie father-in-law of Steve, father of Bernard (OX 1987), father-in-law of Lissy and father of Francis (OX 1988), father-in-law of Liz, grandfather of Patrick (Year 12), Lachlan (Year 10) and Jack (Year 5), father of Gabrielle father-in-law of David.

Many in the Xavier community remember the friendly face of Bob Stewart, patriarch of Kew's eponymous men's wear store, for decades the official supplier of the College uniforms. Whenever you went into his High Street store, usually in a last-minute panic for some urgently needed uniform item, Bob was there, tape measure draped around his neck, always smiling and ready to help. He prided himself on customer service and his sons Robert (OX 1982) and Francis (OX 1988) have carried on their father's tradition. Bob's mother inherited the business from her late husband and against all convention at the time steered it through the Great Depression and the Second World War, with Bob joining the company in 1948. Over time, he took the business in a new direction, firstly deciding to stock school uniforms and then moving to a larger store in 1969, always maintaining his trademark passion for customer service.

Bob and his wife Maree, sent their four sons to Xavier.





## XAVIER COLLEGE

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### Senior Campus

135 Barkers Road Kew  
Victoria Australia 3101

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### Burke Hall Campus

Studley Park Road Kew  
Victoria Australia 3101

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### Kostka Hall Campus

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