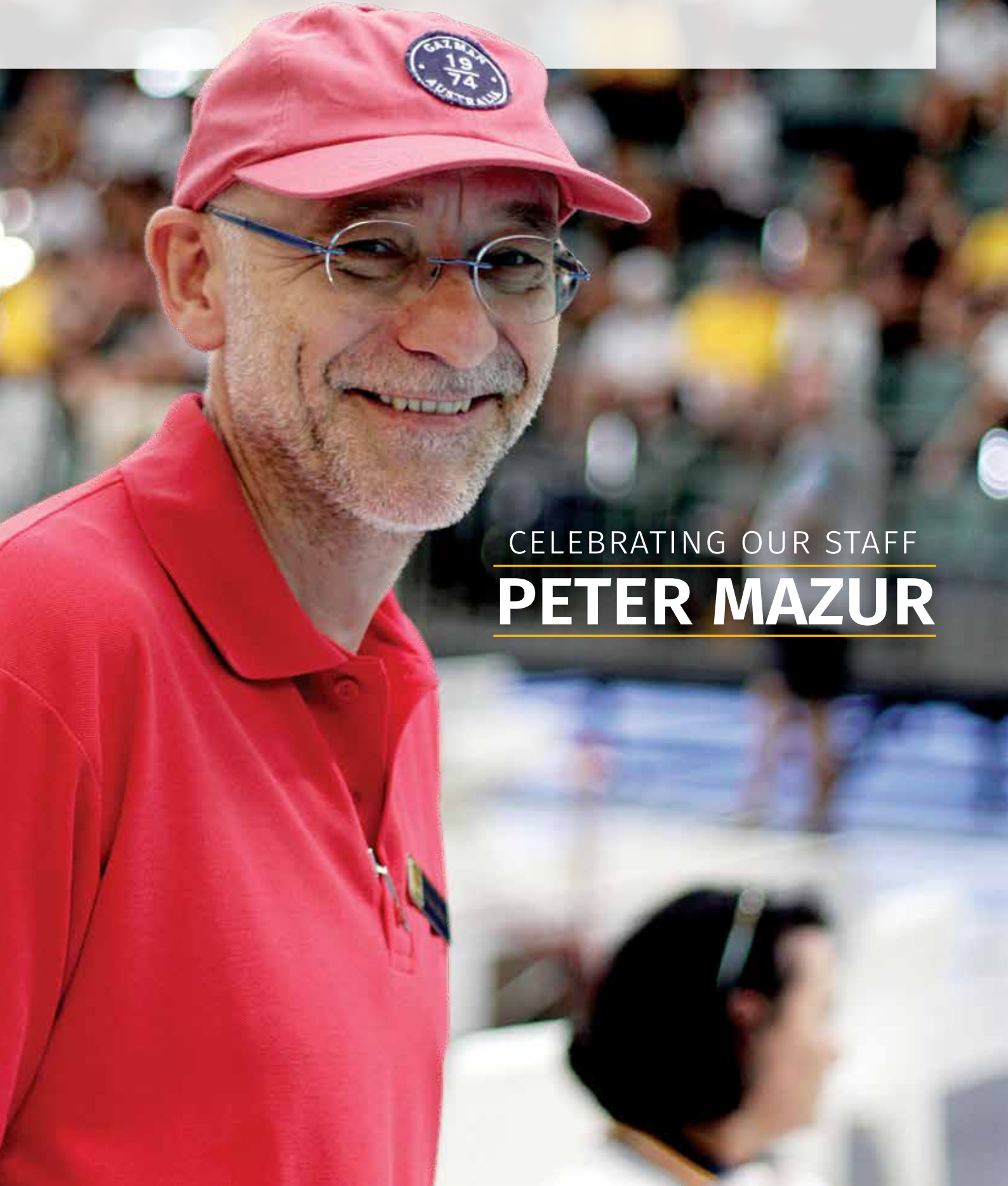




HERITAGE



CELEBRATING OUR STAFF
PETER MAZUR



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The acclaimed novelist **Anne Michaels**, famous for her powerful depiction of individual bravery and selflessness during the Holocaust in her novel *Fugitive Pieces*, has spoken about her belief that morality is a muscle that must be exercised. Michaels believes that our ideals are not for packing away on a high shelf in the hope that when the time comes that we are tested, we might remember to reach for them, but that they are for daily use, for daily life.

One of the most compelling observations I have made during my time so far at the College is the way in which the ideals that we cherish here are translated into daily life. Our motto 'Seek Justice' is not simply a hollow phrase left to gather dust on a high shelf; it is actively embraced and lived out in every aspect of College life. The addition of the word 'seek' in our motto is a call to action; it reframes the concept of justice from one that is static to one that is much more dynamic.

Our Catholic faith makes the same demand of us, to call out and confront the crippling restraints of the false voices that limit human flourishing. It is quite the responsibility, and one that our Founders certainly did not shirk from, whether it be Mary Ward's counter-cultural impact on the education of women, or St Ignatius of Loyola's dynamic conception of religious life, or Pope John XXIII's radical creation of a more inclusive Church.

But seeking justice is actually far more than just a religious imperative; it is fundamental to the stability and prosperity of our entire world, and to the protection of our precious planet. At times it feels that we are in the midst of an unparalleled global crisis of justice; one that demands that we use our privilege to advocate for equality, to listen to the voices of the marginalised and actively work towards dismantling the structures that perpetuate discrimination and disadvantage. I am deeply impressed by the depth with which our graduates understand this need and the myriad ways they are fulfilling the call to seek justice in the world.

From advocating for Indigenous rights, to protecting wildlife in Africa, to literally defending the planet from asteroids, our graduates are actively engaged in the pursuit of justice all over the world. In this issue of *Heritage*, you will read about the ways in which our Alumni are making a difference in their local communities and beyond. You will also read about the ways our students and staff are embracing and expanding notions of seeking justice in all that we do.

Reading through these pages, I am inspired and proud of our graduates, and our whole College community. Ours is a community that exercises the muscle of morality on a daily basis, that lives out its ideals in the way that our faith and our Founders demand of us, in the way that our fragile world so desperately needs.

Daniel Mahon
College Principal

Alumni Development

This year marks the end of an era as we bid farewell to our Alumni Officer, Anna Gingell.

A graduate herself, Anna is an integral part of our community. Her exuberant personality, genuine warmth and care, and authentic love of the College have meant that she has been the perfect person to undertake the role of Alumni Officer, a role she has held for over 15 years. Anna has been an essential part of the web that connects us all, and an invaluable conduit between the College, our graduates, and the wider community.

Deeply respectful of the dignity of each person, Anna has ensured that our Alumni are embraced and included in College life as much as possible, creating powerful opportunities for our current students to benefit from the wisdom and experience of those who have gone before them.

We offer our sincere thanks to Anna for all that she has contributed to College life, and we know that even though her official role has ended, she will remain a fundamental part of our community.



A fond farewell

My time at John XXIII College has been more than just a job; it has been a vocation I have embraced with passion and unwavering commitment. Throughout these years, I have had the privilege of experiencing countless memorable moments and forging deep connections with the College community.

One of the greatest joys of my role has been the opportunity to interact with the thousands of Alumni who have entrusted me with their personal stories and allowed me to be a part of their lives. From the fresh-faced graduates embarking on their new journeys to the wise great-grandparents who have seen generations pass, I have been honoured to share in their experiences and milestones.

I have celebrated the College's graduations and those from universities near and far. I have rejoiced in the birth of new lives, mourned the loss of dear friends, and celebrated the union of couples in marriage. I have congratulated Alumni on their promotions, applauded their remarkable achievements, and cheered them on as they embarked on new career paths. I have reached out to seek mentors, welcomed countless individuals into my office, and hosted events, reunions, and informal gatherings to strengthen our bonds as a community.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your support, understanding, and forgiveness for the occasional mistakes I may have made. Your willingness to share your stories, trust in my role, and involvement in the College have made these past 15 years an incredible and rewarding journey.

As I take this next step in my life, I will carry with me the cherished memories and enduring friendships forged during my time at John XXIII College. Please know that I will always hold this community close to my heart.

Again, thank you for being an integral part of this remarkable chapter in my life. I look forward to crossing paths with you, and I hope our connections continue to thrive.

Anna Gingell nee Muir (Class 1978)

Alumni Development

Alumni Development

There are many ways that Alumni can contribute in terms of mentoring. Whatever field you are in, we would love you to contribute. For more information please visit:

alumni.johnxxiii.edu.au/#businessnetworkinghub
or contact the Alumni Development Office.

Help find lost Alumni

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

alumni.johnxxiii.edu.au/#missingmembers

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

Are your contact details up to date?

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




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

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

Alternatively, contact the Alumni Office with your updated details:

- 9383 0520
- alumni@johnxxiii.edu.au

Stay connected

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Fr Tony Lusvardi SJ on our Jesuit heritage

Embracing our Jesuit heritage and keeping the charism thriving and relevant for all our students and staff is a fundamental part of life at John XXIII College. This year we have been enormously privileged to host American Jesuit priest Fr Tony Lusvardi SJ, who spent time at the College as part of his tertianship, which is the final stage of Jesuit formation.

Fr Tony grew up in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Before entering the Society of Jesus, he studied literature and philosophy at the University of Notre Dame (Indiana) and spent two years teaching English for the US Peace Corps in Kazakhstan. His most important pastoral experience in formation was administering three small parishes on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota during regency. For the past six years, Fr Tony has been completing his first license and doctorate in sacramental theology at Sant' Anselmo in Rome. He now teaches sacramental theology at the Gregorian University in Rome.

During his time in Perth, Fr Tony celebrated Mass at the College and facilitated a range of professional development opportunities for our staff. He also held several Ignatian spirituality workshops at the College and was a guest speaker at various classes. Our whole College community benefited greatly from Fr Tony's

presence. We are very grateful for the opportunities he provided to enrich our knowledge of Ignatian spirituality and deepen our faith journeys.

Fr Tony shared the following reflection on his spiritual journey and his time at John XXIII College.

It takes a long time to become a Jesuit. Our formation begins in novitiate with the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius Loyola and several experiences of pastoral service. Ordination comes after around 11 years of study. For some, there's further study for specialised degrees. And, then, after a few years of work, Jesuits go back to the beginning and repeat what we did in novitiate—albeit in a shorter time frame and with a bit more maturity.

In Jesuit jargon, we call this sabbatical of sorts 'tertianship,' and it's like a third year of novitiate. It's typical to spend this time abroad, and I, an American Jesuit who works in Rome, was pleased to do my tertianship in Australia, far from my normal stomping grounds. I was even more delighted when told I'd be able to spend my time of pastoral service in a city advertised as the remotest on earth.

Perth may be remote, but I found its people remarkably welcoming. I spent some of my time giving retreats in daily life at St Mary's Cathedral and the rest at John XXIII College. John XXIII has a long history of Jesuit involvement, going back to one of the College's precursors St Louis School for Boys (named for the Italian Jesuit saint Aloysius Gonzaga). It was an honour to be a part of this tradition. I enjoyed celebrating Mass with students, staff and parents; hearing confessions; and engaging in numerous conversations with people eager to talk about spirituality. As is always the case, such conversations helped me grow and deepen my own appreciation for Ignatian spirituality.

Growth in spiritual depth is the most important goal of tertianship, and I'm grateful for the way my experience at John XXIII College helped me to achieve that. Spiritual depth does not mean learning lots of new things but, rather, deepening what is most fundamental. Doing so isn't easy because the fundamentals of the spiritual life often end up being taken for granted and get lost in the hustle and bustle of daily life.

What 'spiritual fundamentals' stood out for me after my time at John XXIII College? The first is a relationship with Jesus. It doesn't get more fundamental than that. At their root the many different 'exercises' that St Ignatius suggests all aim to strengthen the desire to know Jesus more intimately, to love him more deeply, and to follow him more closely. Ignatian spirituality is characterised

by the use of the imagination—to imagine the sights, feelings, sounds, smells, and tastes of the stories we read in the Gospel—so that the humanity of Jesus remains alive for us. All relationships require communication to flourish, and when it comes to our relationship with God, this means prayer. The suggestion I find myself returning to most often is St Ignatius's advice to speak to Jesus in prayer just as we'd speak to a friend.

The second aspect of Ignatian spirituality that came up often while I was in Perth was discernment. St Ignatius gives a lot of good advice for making decisions. In fact, the overarching goal of the Spiritual Exercises is to achieve the kind of interior freedom necessary for good decision-making. Achieving freedom from sin, guilt, and self-deception is a life-long process, but Ignatius gave some concrete pointers too. He learned from experience—and I can confirm from my own life experience as well—that we don't make good choices when we're panicked, under pressure, or confused. Ignatius advises against changing major life decisions when we're in such a frame of mind. To regain our spiritual equilibrium in such circumstances, talking things through with a trusted confidante—and talking to Jesus like we'd talk to a friend—can be helpful. There's little worse for good discernment than a feeling of isolation. Thinking about our present problems in the context of our whole life can also help us to gain a more balanced perspective. A difficult moment is less likely to throw us off our game if we remember times we've overcome difficulties in the past and repeat what we've found helpful before. A habit of daily self-reflection can help us to cultivate a discerning outlook on life.

One final help: gratitude. All that we have is a gift from God, a gift freely given out of love. Taking time to thank him for our gifts is always time well spent, and is what we need to keep all the ups and downs of our lives in perspective. I often tell people that gratitude is like an immunisation against all kinds of spiritual ills.

Deeper gratitude, in fact, was one of the gifts of tertianship and of my time at John XXIII in particular. I certainly have much to be grateful for when looking back on my life thus far as a Jesuit—knowing the Lord in prayer, the sacraments, and service; good friends; interesting work and experiences; even traveling to the remotest city on earth! The people I met at John XXIII College added yet more riches to this great store of blessings.

More information on Fr Tony's work and writing can be found at www.tonylusvardisj.com.



FOUNDATION FOR LIFE

The mission of the John XXIII College Foundation is to ensure that our College thrives into the future so that we can continue to provide the highest calibre Catholic co-educational experience possible for generations of young people to come. This would not be possible without the commitment and support of our wider community, and the generosity of our Alumni. We are deeply grateful for the contributions of our graduates, whether they be financial donations to the Foundation, or giving their time and expertise to enhance our work.

Stephanie Hillbeck (Class 1999) has made an enormous contribution to our Foundation and the wider work of the College, epitomising our Alumni's generosity and dedication. She currently holds the role of Secretary to the Foundation and has been a member of the Investment Committee since 2018. Stephanie's vast financial experience and expertise have been invaluable to the operation of the Foundation.

Since graduation, Stephanie has had an exciting and diverse life and career journey, working in various



industries and locations globally. She participated in an exchange program to the USA for a year before commencing a Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Western Australia. She then qualified as a chartered accountant while working for a 'Big Four' accounting firm in Australia and Europe.

Stephanie and her husband Andrew lived in London for several years, where she held the role of Vice President at a major investment bank. Upon returning to Australia, Stephanie worked in various senior roles with oil and gas companies before returning to the banking arena as Chief Commercial Officer / Chief Operating Officer of a start-up Australian bank. Stephanie is currently the Senior Commercial Manager at an ASX 200-listed mining company in Perth.

Philanthropy and the pursuit of social justice is profoundly important to Stephanie, and she volunteers extensively in the community. She was previously on the board of a not-for-profit inclusive theatre company and is a member of a collaborative giving group that provides grants to make a significant difference in areas of need.

Working for the Foundation is one of many ways Stephanie has continued her connection to the College. Stephanie's son Lucas is currently in Year 10 and embraces all aspects of College life, including Mary Ward Secondary.

During her years as a College parent, Stephanie has been actively and enthusiastically involved in many aspects of College life. She has enjoyed her role as a Parents' Association Liaison, has been a manager for a number of sporting teams, and has volunteered at countless College events.

Stephanie holds wonderful memories of her time at John XXIII College, including laying the foundations of enduring friendships, being part of an inclusive and connected community, and taking advantage of the many extraordinary opportunities available to her. Nearly a quarter of a century after graduation, she remains an integral part of our College community. We are deeply grateful to Stephanie for her ongoing contributions.

Help support our future leaders

One of the essential roles of our Foundation is to support young people to access a quality Catholic education and to become part of the lifelong community that is John XXIII College.

Through our Bursary Fund, we provide financial support to students who might not otherwise be able to access a John XXIII College education. Supporting this endeavour is one of the most vital and meaningful contributions our Alumni can make and is very much part of the call we all have to use our privilege to help others.

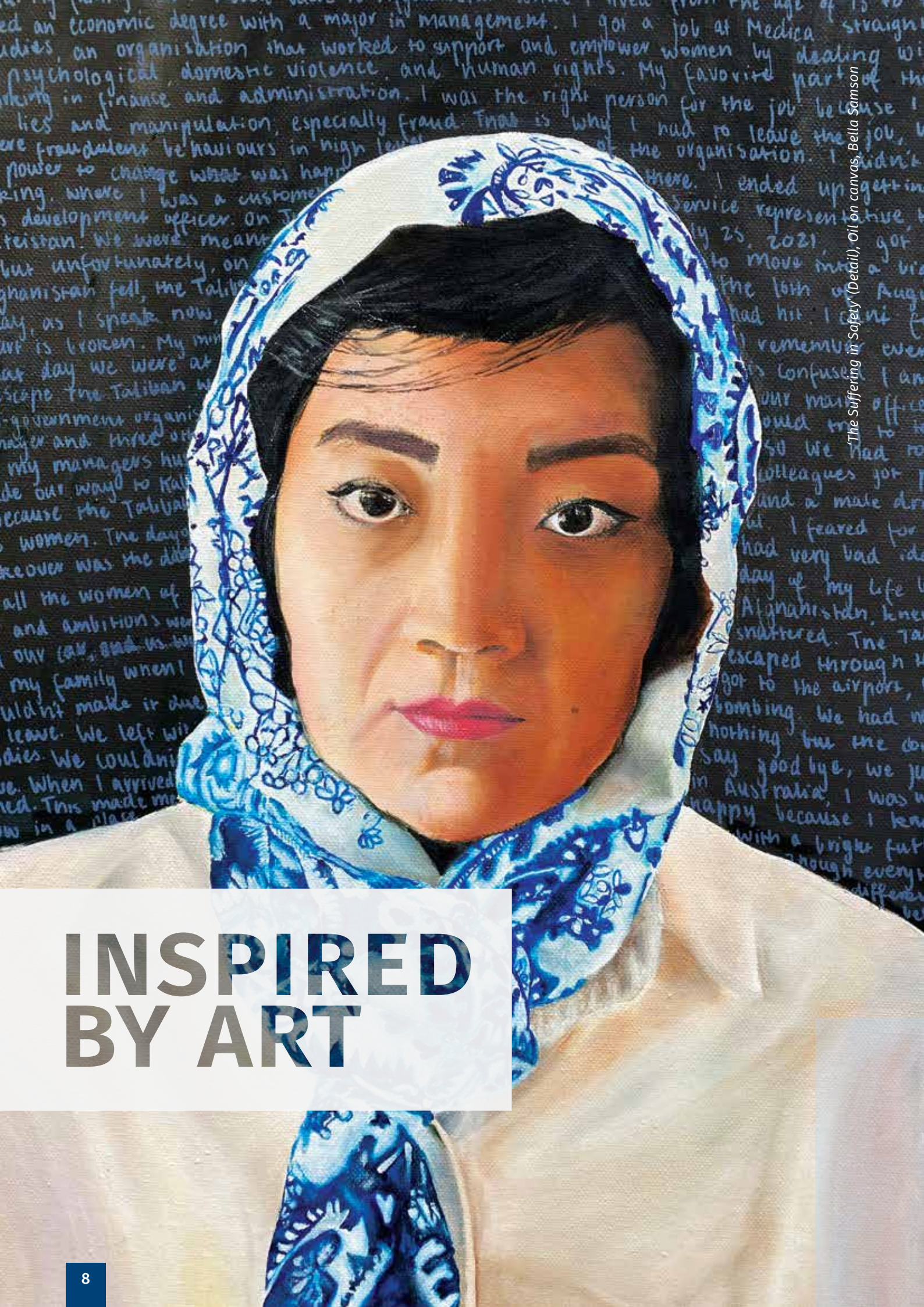
Every gift, no matter its size, is important in helping us to provide opportunities and support to those in most need. Please consider contributing to our Bursary Fund to help someone else receive the same outstanding education you benefitted from.

If you are able to assist, please get in touch with Kate Murphy, Foundation Executive Officer:

Foundation@johnxxiii.edu.au



JOHN XXIII
COLLEGE
FOUNDATION



The Suffering in Safety (Detail), Oil on canvas, Bella Samson

INSPIRED BY ART

The Angelico Exhibition for Catholic Students is one of the most prestigious and exciting events on the Catholic Arts calendar, and attracts an outstanding calibre of submissions from students all over Western Australia.

In 2023 the Angelico Exhibition celebrated its thirtieth anniversary, which was an excellent opportunity to celebrate its important role in providing opportunities for students from Catholic schools to showcase their artistic talents. This year, eight John XXIII College students had their work selected for the exhibition, which was held at the Forrest Centre on St George's Terrace in the city, and attracted large crowds.

Two of our talented student artists won prizes for their works, which is an extraordinary accolade given the quality of the submissions.

Bella Samson, Elizabeth Newton and Kiri Moore



Reflections on faith

Elizabeth Newton (Year 12) won the Fra Angelico Award for her incredible oil painting *Fading Faith*, which depicts her grandmother sitting in her parish church, and is a powerful reflection on the changing role of religious belief. The Fra Angelico Award honours the 15th century Dominican friar Fra Angelico, who is known as the Patron before God of Artists. The criteria for the award is that the artwork must embrace and uphold Catholic beliefs and values.

Elizabeth was surprised and honoured to discover that her painting, which she created in Visual Arts ATAR, had been selected for the award, and said that she felt enormously proud to have won. 'The exhibition is an awesome event that showcases the creativity and dedication of many students from numerous Catholic schools,' said Elizabeth, 'and I am so privileged and honoured to be a part of it.' Elizabeth also greatly valued the opportunity to connect with so many other talented artists at the Angelico Exhibition opening celebration and prize-giving ceremony.



Kate Chaney, Amena Bahrami and Bella Samson

Casting light on courage

Bella Samson (Year 11) was awarded the Caritas Australia Art Award for her moving oil painting of an Afghan refugee, titled *The Suffering in Safety*. The Caritas Australia Art Award encourages students to explore the Caritas focus for the year, which for 2023 was 'For All Future Generations.' The winning artwork had to reflect this focus and represent the Caritas guiding principles of human dignity, preferential option for people experiencing poverty, solidarity, subsidiarity, and stewardship of the earth's resources.

Bella chose to depict a 32-year-old Afghan refugee named Amena, in the hope of encouraging people to reflect more deeply on the challenges facing refugees, as well as their incredible courage. Bella met Amena through her role in the Youth Advisory Group at Kate Chaney MP's office, and was thrilled when she was happy to be the subject of her art project.

Amena has an economics degree and was a finance and administration worker for a non-governmental organisation in Afghanistan, but was forced to flee to Australia in 2021 following the Taliban takeover of the country. She was fortunate to escape, but tragically her family was unable to join her as on their journey to the airport, Kabul was bombed. Amena's visa was approved and she found safety in Australia and hopes that her family may be able to join her one day.

When asked about what she hoped to achieve with her artwork, Bella said: 'I hope viewers see Amena's portrait and admire her strength and bravery in her challenging situation. Her experiences and struggles are sadly common among refugees, and I hope that viewers reflect on the immense courage of refugees that often gets overlooked.' She was enormously humbled to learn that her piece had won the Caritas Australia Art Award: 'I was honoured to receive the Caritas Award, as Caritas is an organisation well known for their charity and social justice initiatives. I appreciated being recognised as having a meaningful artwork reflecting the values of Caritas.'



'Fading Faith' (Detail), Oil on canvas, Elizabeth Newton

Artist statement

Elizabeth Newton

Fading Faith

Recent years have seen a significant decline in young believers practicing Christianity and an increasing number of non-religious people. The 2021 Australian census showed that 43.9% of society is Christian, compared to 96.9% in 1921. The older generation that has kept Christianity alive and sustained the Church for so many years is slowly fading.

The subject of my painting is my Nanna, Joan Newton, seated in her parish church in quiet contemplation and solace. Joan turned to Catholicism from the Anglican Church in the 1950s to marry her partner, devoting herself to both him and the Church. She has brought up six children under the Catholic faith, and many more grandchildren. Religion has been a central force throughout her life, although in recent years she has begun to question its role.

In recent years the Catholic Church has been scrutinised with allegations of sexual assault and more. The public criticism of the Church has resulted in falling numbers of practising Catholics. Christianity, and in particular Catholicism, is being questioned for its impacts on society. Perhaps its belief system of love, community, others, peace and hope needs to be redefined.

Artist statement

Bella Samson

The Suffering in Safety

Amena is an Afghan refugee who recently moved to Perth after fleeing the sudden control of the Taliban in Afghanistan last year. She left her family, her stable career, and her home to move to Australia in the hope of finding safety. I have chosen to explore her as my idea of a hero and a rebel, as she shows courage by being both. She was a rebel as she fled her country in the pursuit of opportunity, and she is a hero as she was brave enough to begin a whole new life with her support network on the other side of the world. She lives in fear every day for her family, but she keeps persevering in daily life as they motivate her to continue in her pursuit for a safer life.

My artwork depicts Amena in a state of strength and reflection. I painted the portrait using oils and used paint pens over the oil paint to create the background. The background consists of Amena's story, from her financial company career, to fleeing her country, ending with her new life in Australia. I wanted to contrast the realistic portrait with a more abstract background, to focus the attention on her powerful face, and depict her identity, framed by her inspiring story.

Congratulations to the following students on their participation in the exhibition:

Elizabeth Newton, Year 12

Fading Faith

Oil on canvas

Darcy Bowker Douglass, Year 12

Worth Their Weight in Gold

Coloured pencil and gold leaf

Group entry, Year 8 Art students:

- **Oliver Billing**
- **Joel North**
- **Shelby Sheridan**
- **Amber Vujcich**

Incredible Insects

Coloured pencil on card

Bella Samson, Year 11

The Suffering in Safety

Oil on canvas

Samantha Gribben, Year 11

Wick in the Candle

Oil on canvas

HERITAGE

POWER HUNGRY



Year 10 Design and Technology students at Western Power

Finding ways to bridge the gap between school and the real world is a vital focus of a John XXIII College education. Our Year 10 Design and Technology students were impressed and inspired by a recent visit to Western Power, which gave them a fascinating insight into the diverse nature of the industry, as well as a preview of potential future careers.

The students greatly enjoyed a presentation from Carla Basden, Engineering and Design Services Excellence



Manager, and Michael Thornton, Principal Metering Consultant, who spoke about Western Power's role in managing the electricity network and in delivering a decarbonised future for WA. A visit to the Network Operations Centre gave students a taste of the busy and challenging task of managing a control room, and the chance to learn about the challenges of real-time operations. To end the day, students donned protective gear and visited the Cook Street Substation, where they learned all about an exciting upcoming project at Western Power, and the design, operation, and maintenance of primary and secondary transmission assets.

Carla Basden from Western Power spoke about the importance of providing more STEM opportunities to students, supporting the next generation of engineers and boosting awareness of Western Power's entry-level program. As the students said goodbye to the Western Power team, Stephen Stannard, the Network Control Room Manager, said: 'I hope to see some of you back here in five or six years to help us solve some of these challenges.'



BUILDING THE FUTURE

A moving ceremony this September celebrated the exciting future of our College, with the formal commissioning of our new Principal, Daniel Mahon, and the blessing of our new buildings and playground by the Most Reverend Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB.

Archbishop Costelloe celebrated Mass in the St Louis Sports Centre and, during the Eucharist, formally commissioned Mr Mahon, extending a warm welcome to him on behalf of the members of the clergy and staff at the Archdiocese of Perth. 'Mr Mahon's commitment to Catholic education is unwavering, and he has a deep affinity for Ignatian spirituality, which echoes the school's faith focus on bringing each student to an awareness of God's presence in all things,' said Archbishop Costelloe.

Following Mass, the Archbishop officially blessed and opened our new facilities, including the new administration building, staff room, and primary playground. A moving Welcome to Country by Wadjuk

Ballardong Nyoongar man Professor Simon Forrest, and the blessing of crosses crafted from an ancient Tuart tree, a meaningful symbol of faith and transformation, added a particularly special element to the day.

'It gives me great pleasure to bless these new spaces today; they have been borne out of creativity, thought, planning – and much waiting!' commented Archbishop Costelloe. He concluded:

'Let's ask our loving God to bless these special places, which will support our young people with new, positive challenges and provide opportunities for sharing friendships and kind, joyful memories throughout their educational journey.'

Speak For Faith



Our College Captain, **Yvie Rigg (Year 12)** was recently announced as the winner of the Speak for Faith competition, with her thought-provoking speech challenging us to reflect upon the role of women in the Catholic Church.

Speak for Faith is an annual competition hosted by Catholic Education Western Australia and sponsored by the Catenian Association. Catholic school students in Year 11 or 12 across the state are invited to develop a speech that expresses their faith and values. Entrants present their prepared address, and then are required to deliver an impromptu speech in response to a topic allocated by the judges.

Yvie knew from the outset that her speech for the competition would be about women in the Church. 'I originally thought I would discuss Eve and how history has painted her curiosity as a sin,' said Yvie. 'However, the speech began to take shape as I considered the impact of Vatican II and the upcoming Jubilee Year in which Pope Francis has called on us to be 'Pilgrims of Hope'.

'I wanted to discuss the developing role of women in the Church because I believe the historical gender inequity in many institutions (including the Church) has denied women full participation in important decisions that impact them.'

'This topic is particularly relevant to Catholics today as both the Plenary Council and the Bishop's Synod are actively considering the role of women in the Church, and it caught my eye because I am passionate about women's rights and thought it was something that the audience might find interesting too. I mentioned in my speech that critically considering new ways that women can be involved will make the Church stronger and more resilient, and I stand by that statement.'

Yvie credits Ms Lana Turner, Head of Learning Area – Religion, as being integral to her success in the competition. 'She showed unwavering support for the John XXIII competitors, and her enthusiasm for my topic and speech encouraged me to refine it carefully,' says Yvie. 'My parents also listened to me practice in the living room and kitchen so many times! I had not done any impromptu public speaking before and made-up questions to practice as that was the part of the competition I found most daunting.'

Yvie says that competing in the Speak for Faith competition was an incredible learning experience, noting that while she had participated in public speaking and debating competitions for many years, she found that the heats and finals of Speak for Faith showcased some of the most impressive speakers she had ever competed against. 'I was amazed by the amount of preparation and the eloquence of the speakers, and there was a great, supportive spirit in the room,' says Yvie.

'I would encourage anyone considering entering this competition to step forward because it has taught me some great skills and allowed me to meet some awesome people.'



Peter Mazur with James Green (Class 2022)

From our wonderful grounds and maintenance team to our senior leaders, every single John XXIII College staff member has a vital role in enabling us to deliver a transformative educational experience to our students. Over the years, we have consistently attracted talented and dedicated staff members who devote themselves passionately to our students and our College community and excel in their fields. Our Alumni frequently speak of the fundamental role that different staff members have played in their educational and life journeys, and the enormous influence that their educators have had on them. This year, we celebrate a much-loved staff member who has reached an extraordinary milestone of service to our College.

Peter Mazur

This year marks 20 years of service for Peter Mazur, one of our most beloved and admired mathematics teachers and a highly valued member of our College community. Peter's connection to the College commenced in 1996, when his daughter Ela started Pre-Primary. In 2003, he was appointed to the teaching staff, and has been an integral part of our College community ever since.

Peter is a passionate member of St Louis and in his role as Homeroom Teacher has nurtured and supported our students across the years, creating enduring friendships and connections. He is deeply committed to his faith, and has served as Acolyte on many occasions. He participated in the Pilgrimage to India in 2007 and was a recipient of a Staff Scholarship which assisted him to

travel to the US to participate in a NASA Space Camp. This experience enriched Peter's life, but also the life of the College, as he was able to incorporate many of his learnings into his leadership of our Astronomy Club, which is incredibly popular with our students.

Peter recently proposed a toast to the College at the 2023 Staff Conference dinner, where he spoke eloquently about his love for the College, and its enormous impact upon his life. His toast was a true reflection of the vision and values of John XXIII College, and a testament to his extraordinary dedication spanning two decades of service:

'We raise our glasses not only to the past, but also to the present and future. Today, we toast to the students who embrace the values of a Catholic education, who embody intellectual curiosity, compassion for others, and a commitment to seek justice. They are the torchbearers of change, destined to shape a brighter tomorrow.'

'As we celebrate the achievements of John XXIII College, let us remember that our responsibility extends far beyond our amazing facilities. It is a duty to carry the values we have learned here and put them into action in the world. May we always be mindful of the profound difference we can make by embodying our College values of the spirit of service, compassion, and justice.

'In conclusion, let us raise our glasses to John XXIII College—an extraordinary school that has shaped lives, ignited passions, and inspired so many. Cheers to the past, present, and future of this remarkable College, and to the lasting impact it continues to have on the world.

'To John XXIII College and the boundless possibilities it holds—Salute!'



A TRIBUTE


When one thinks of Peter, you can't help but realise that you are in the presence of someone extraordinary. He is an extremely passionate and intelligent mathematician who radiates a contagious delight in his subject area. His brilliance and knowledge of mathematics is something that we all learn from. Peter is also a very passionate astronomer and anyone who has been a member of his Astronomy Club has been privileged to be inspired by him. Peter models servant leadership in all he does, and his dedication to his faith leads the way for us all.

Above all else, Peter is a truly genuine friend to each of us in the Mathematics Department. Even during the busiest periods throughout the year, Peter is unwavering in his positivity, and he has never failed to greet us all with a warm smile and a contagious laugh.

We are very blessed and grateful to have such a high calibre of both person and mathematician working amongst us. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter on behalf of the Mathematics Department for his invaluable work, commitment and friendship throughout the years.

From your Mathematics Department family





SPREADING THEIR WINGS

One of our aims at John XXIII College is to give our students an education that is truly global in its outlook. As well as an intensive focus in the classroom on the world beyond our borders, students can partake in a range of opportunities to venture forth into the wider world. Over the years, many of our students have participated in various exchange programs, overseas excursions and Pilgrimages. These experiences have assisted our students to enhance their knowledge of the world, and of themselves, and to grow and develop in profound ways. Many of our Alumni have pursued studies and careers overseas, and we are always delighted to hear tales of our graduates doing extraordinary things and seeking justice in every corner of the world.

Three of our Alumni have recently participated in life-changing overseas study programs. We caught up with them to learn about their experiences of studying in other countries.

Wildlife immersion

Caitlin Skead (Class 2019) recently undertook a two-week wildlife practicum in South Africa as part of her veterinary medicine studies at Murdoch University. She says that the experience was ‘a dream come true’. Caitlin was born in South Africa, so having the opportunity to return to study the country’s wildlife and assist in their conservation was particularly meaningful for her.

‘Working with wild African animals up close and personal was such a privilege and something I will never forget,’ says Caitlin. ‘We were able to work with some of the most highly regarded wildlife vets in South Africa, aiding in the rhino conservation and anti-poaching efforts. This involved de-horning rhinos as an anti-poaching measure and also to reduce deaths that occur due to rhino fights. We also aided in a semen collection from a rhino bull and egg retrieval in a female rhino to assist researchers aiming to successfully complete IVF in rhinos. These were



Caitlin giving a nutritional enema to a sick rhino named Esther in the hopes of boosting her immune system.

both highly technical operations with specially-designed and engineered equipment for the purpose. Working with such highly-skilled vets was incredible and to witness the precision and accuracy it takes was amazing. Some of the other operations we were involved in included darting and transporting zebra and buffalo, aiding in the training and general care of the anti-poaching canine unit, as well as the everyday tasks and medical work at the rhino sanctuary where we were staying.'

Caitlin says she chose to become a vet for many reasons: 'I obviously adore animals, but I also wanted a job that would offer a lot of variety and is hands-on and practical. What I love about being a vet is that no two days are the same and I get to problem-solve and overcome challenges daily. Being a vet means I get to be a GP, surgeon, radiologist, dermatologist, dentist and gynaecologist all in a day's work. Although I love animals, it is also a very people-focused career and that has enabled me to develop and enhance my interpersonal skills massively.'

Caitlin embarked upon her university studies just as the COVID-19 outbreak engulfed the world and says that the



isolation was particularly challenging. 'I went from seeing friends every day at school to being completely isolated at home doing all online learning. My degree is very content-heavy and time-consuming with a lot of practical hours, which has made it a challenge to make time to catch up with old school friends, however I love what I do and have met so many like-minded and amazing people along the way and my friends are very supportive and understanding.'

Caitlin has very fond memories of her time at John XXIII College, and particularly enjoyed being involved in a wide array of activities including the College musicals, various bands and choirs, as well as many sporting pursuits including netball and cross-country training. Participating in the Pilgrimage to India was an incredibly powerful experience for Caitlin.

Caitlin was the recipient of the Loreto Past Pupils' Scholarship in Year 11. This scholarship is awarded annually to a Year 11 student who has displayed a high level of involvement, leadership, effort in study, service, and willingness, and who is a positive influence in the life of the College community.

Scandinavian inspiration

For **Rebecca Harsanyi (Class 2021)**, participating in a Study Tour to France during her time at the College whetted her appetite for further study abroad. She is currently completing a semester in Norway as part of her Bachelor of Medical Science at the University of Western Australia, and is finding the experience incredibly valuable.

'I had always known I wanted to take a study abroad semester since high school,' says Rebecca, who is currently based in Oslo. 'UWA has partnerships with lots of universities around the world, so I had a large choice. I chose to come to Oslo because I wanted to experience living in a culture that is substantially different to

Australia, but where a language barrier would not hinder me significantly. Norway is also such a beautiful country and I wanted to be able to travel.'

Rebecca received an early acceptance offer from UWA and embarked upon her current degree. She greatly enjoyed the ATAR Chemistry course, so chose to major in synthetic chemistry, biochemistry and molecular biology. Now in her second year of study, Rebecca has more opportunities to choose units that focus on her specific areas of interest. She says that one of the highlights of her degree so far has been meeting people in her lectures and labs who share the same passion for chemistry.

Rebecca says that some of her John XXIII College education highlights were the incredible extra-curricular experiences, including the Year 10 Outdoor Education Camp, the Study Tour to France and the Year 12 camp. 'These were so much fun, and made better by the classmates I was able to experience them with,' says Rebecca. 'Despite the stress, Years 11 and 12 were also highlights because of how connected the year group felt all going through the final push of high school together.'

Rebecca Harsanyi (Class 2021)



In Norway, Rebecca is embracing the opportunity to study courses unavailable to her in Australia. She is taking a class on runology (the study of runic inscriptions) out of personal interest, but has also been fortunate enough to be able to take a master's level course on biomolecules, which she believes will be of great use in her degree. This is Rebecca's first experience of living alone and she is relishing the opportunity to gain independence and also to meet people from all over the world. There are people from five different cultural backgrounds living on her floor in her student housing.

Rebecca is planning to make the most of her time in Scandinavia and to visit Bergen and Stockholm. She also hopes to travel to Tromsø to see the northern lights.

Ben Linsten (Class 2020)



Galactic adventures

Alumni **Ben Linsten (Class 2020)** was selected to complete a three-week internship in the Lunar and Planetary Laboratory at the University of Arizona, where he assisted in monitoring space for asteroids using NASA's incredible remote Infrared Telescope Facility, which is located on the summit of Mauna Kea in Hawaii and is equipped with highly sophisticated infrared instruments to allow scientists to study ancient space rubble and observe features on Mars.

Ben is undertaking a Bachelor of Philosophy at the University of Western Australia, majoring in Frontier Physics. He enrolled in an inspiring unit called Planetary Defence with Associate Professor David Coward, Chief Investigator at Oz Grav and Science Director at the Zadko Telescope. Ben's connection to Professor Coward helped to bring about the internship in Arizona, where he worked with Professor Vishnu Reddy, assisting with research on asteroids, meteors and meteorites in the solar system, including exploring ways to protect the planet from impending asteroid impacts in the future.

During his internship, Ben attended the major conference 'Asteroids, Comets and Meteors' and forged invaluable connections with leaders in the field, including scientists from NASA. He found the experience enormously exciting and inspiring, and hopes to return to the US in the future.

A photograph of Miles Lockwood, a young man with a beard and short dark hair, wearing a grey sweater. He is standing at a podium, looking slightly to his right, and speaking into a microphone. His hands are resting on the podium, and there are papers in front of him. The background is a dark blue curtain.

WORDS OF WISDOM

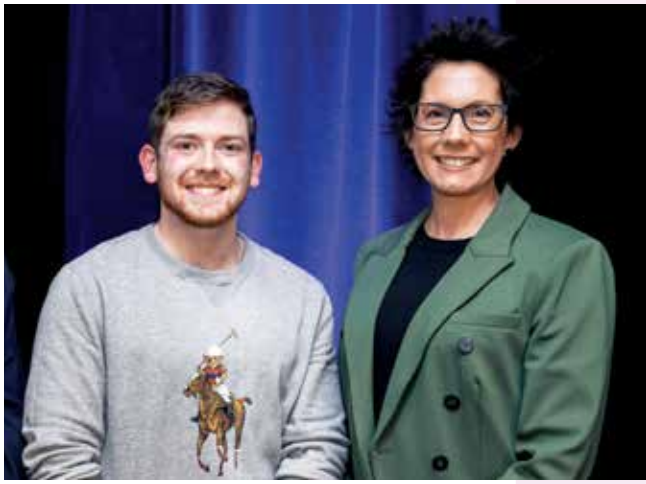
Miles Lockwood (Class 2018) inspired and entertained our students at a recent High Achievers' Breakfast, sharing the wisdom he has gained on his journey beyond secondary school. With characteristic candour and humility, Miles, who was Dux of the College, challenged students to embrace all the opportunities that life presents them, and to 'say yes' to everything.

Good morning everyone and cheers for having me here. Congratulations on all your academic achievements thus far. A big pat on the back the back to the Year 7s who were able to perform their first year at a new school, and of course to the Year 12s, who are finally on the home straight.

When writing this speech, I was struggling to relate advice and life skills specifically to high achievers. In fact I was never actually invited to these brekkies; I only pulled my head out the sand right at the end. I wouldn't normally share that with high school students so as

to not give you any bad ideas, but you have clearly all learnt to apply yourselves already. So here is some advice I learnt later in my life that I'm sure you can all apply sooner than I did.

I'll open with a quick anecdote about my first few months as a high achiever. I had graduated as Dux of the College, survived leavers and had spent the summer celebrating finishing school. I had just started my engineering degree and was pretty chuffed with myself. The start of university also happened to coincide with the 2019 federal election. Now considering everyone in the entire country has to vote, they make it very simple so no matter how dull an individual may be, they can vote. I, however, after filling out my voting slip decided to stuff it with great effort into an opening in the back of the cardboard voting booth. Afterwards, I was explaining to my friends how silly it is that you have to fold your paper so many times to stuff it in the hole, never thinking once that I had done something wrong, only for my friends to point out to that



there were ballet boxes scattered throughout the room. In fact the room only consisted of people and ballet boxes. Literally the only thing you are expected to do as an Australian adult is put your vote in the box. I messed this up, probably because the information wasn't contained in a textbook. I share this tale because my mate's response was, and I quote: 'Ya know, for someone who got Dux, you're as thick as a brick'. In that moment, she was definitely correct. A lesson in humility maybe. I think it is important to recognise and celebrate your achievements, but also strive to be high achievers in the other areas of your life too. Although the consequences of my tale are insignificant, I share this to convey that you can be missing out on a whole lot in life if you don't diversify your attention. If you're capable of academic success this early in your lives, you are definitely capable of achieving so much more.

This leads me to my main point: branching out to new endeavours or taking on new responsibilities is the best way to grow as an individual. This can be daunting, but here is something that works well for me. I am one of the laziest people you could ever meet. When I have to do something, the first thing that crosses my mind is: 'What is the quickest, least-effort way of completing this?' This is evidently a problem. To get around this, I muster up my courage and use 100% of my will and brain power to initiate the first step. The rest of it, the hard part, will just follow suit. Here's some examples so you know what I mean.

Sadly, I'm quite old now and need a real job. I knew I needed to look for a real job but every fibre in my body was repulsed by the idea of full-time work. One day I got up and was like, screw it. I used everything I had and sent my resume in. It took five seconds. Then, a few weeks later, I had an interview date. It was only going to be 20 minutes, so why not? The ball was already rolling, so I may as well. This led to vacation work, which opened doors for this and that, finally ending with me having a job I really enjoy.

Once you have committed to something, it makes executing it much easier. No study motivation? Try setting a goal or telling a mate you want to meet up to study. You can't bail now or you will let them down too. Once the ball is rolling it's pretty easy to keep it going.

Something else I've actually only learnt recently is; just say yes to everything. I've had semesters with hundreds of commitments, and I've had semesters with almost no commitments and I honestly felt just as busy in both. With all the distractions of the modern age, your time will always feel full. So if opportunities present themselves to you, just say yes. The odds are you can squeeze it in and will be grateful for it.

Putting these two pieces of advice together has helped me hugely, despite being an extremely lazy individual. Academically I have had the opportunity to do a master's degree in electrical engineering, work on the LIGO gravity wave detector, do my honour's degree in dark matter discovery, present an invention at Engineers Australia, and I've received many other engineering opportunities too. Considering that I prioritise the social aspects of my life, this did not seem like something I was capable of. And when I list it off now, it sounds like a huge trek. But I didn't get up one day and do it all; I just forced myself to spend five seconds taking the first step and the good stuff just followed.

So there's some life advice from someone who didn't sit where you are sitting now, but if anything, it counts for double as you get a head start. Being high achievers at a school like JTC, you will most definitely be presented with opportunities that not everyone is fortunate to receive. So I would encourage you all to engage with as much of it as possible. Best of luck with your future studies.

Help inspire our current students

Connecting with our current students is an incredibly important way for our Alumni to give back, and to use their skills and experience to inform and inspire those who come after them. We are always delighted to welcome Alumni back to the College to speak at an event, to mentor students and to share their knowledge and experiences in a range of different ways. It's also a wonderful way to stay connected to the College community.

Please contact us at alumni@johnxxiii.edu.au if you would like to get involved.

Alice Barter (Class 2002) has devoted her career to advocating for Aboriginal rights, helping to bring about positive change and influencing policy and legislation to create a more just society.



As Managing Lawyer of the Civil Law and Human Rights Unit of the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA (ALSWA), Alice has worked extensively to defend the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have come into contact with the justice system. She was instrumental in mounting a legal challenge in the Supreme Court regarding the inhumane treatment of young people in the Banksia Hill Detention Centre, and has brought about essential policy change with respect to the rights of Aboriginal people in custody. She also led a successful campaign to compel the state government to install airconditioning in Roebourne Prison, which is one of the hottest places on earth, and where the prison population (which is 80% Aboriginal) is forced to withstand summer temperatures of up to 50 degrees.

‘The imperative to seek justice and to use our skills to serve others was really instilled in me during my time at JTC.’

Alice continues: ‘There was also a strong focus on learning about Aboriginal culture and history, which I think is so essential. It’s really important to learn the history of this country, of the land that we live and work on.’

Alice completed 12 years of schooling at John XXIII College, with her three siblings also attending the school. Her mother Anne-Marie Barter, worked in both the primary and secondary Mary Ward programs at the College. Following graduation, Alice completed a Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Arts at Murdoch University, majoring in Australian Indigenous Studies.

Alice says that she always knew that she wanted to work in the area of Aboriginal law and policy and volunteered at the ALSWA while undertaking her law degree. After completing her articles at the Director of Public Prosecutions, she returned to the ALSWA as a Criminal Defence Lawyer, based in Port Hedland. ‘It was an amazing experience, and I learned so much about the Martu people of the Western Desert and was really immersed in their culture and country. But it was also heartbreaking to see the disadvantage and injustice.’

Alice completed a Master of Criminology in Melbourne, with her thesis focusing on Aboriginal driving issues in the criminal justice system, and then worked in the area of domestic violence. She has appeared extensively in the Coroner’s Court both as Counsel Assisting, and as counsel for Aboriginal families, assisting them to find answers about the death of loved ones, and in particular people who had died in custody, or during police pursuits.

While her work can be challenging and traumatic, Alice believes that it is essential to maintain hope and to continue to work towards a more just future. ‘I see so much resilience and strength in First Nations people, including their patience with us,’ says Alice. ‘And it’s inspiring to know that lots of people dedicate their lives to fighting for justice. Personally, it’s really important for me to know that I’m doing something fulfilling and meaningful.’

Alice will be leaving the ALSWA this year to take up a new challenge as an Assessor for Criminal Injuries Compensation, which will provide her with a new avenue for serving the community, especially victims of crime.

Her connection with John XXIII College will continue into the future, as her son is enrolled to commence secondary school in 2026.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the justice system

By Alice Barter

In my ten years working in the Civil Law and Human Rights Unit of the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia Limited (ALSWA), I have desperately fought for change, but the grim reality is that we still live in the middle of a colonial war. I have witnessed Aboriginal children charged with trivial offences that non-Aboriginal children would never be charged with, followed around shops, not given mental health support, having to mourn family and friends who have passed tragically too young, enmeshed in the criminal justice system due to systemic factors, and detained in cruel and barbaric conditions.

Many of our young clients – some as young as nine years old – have been harassed and brutalised by police, including being strip-searched, punched, hit with torches, dropped outside of town to walk home, threatened, called racist and ableist derogatory names, arrested unlawfully and mauled by police dogs. In relation to the latter, ALSWA has represented over 40 people (14 children) who have been injured by police dogs. Some of the injuries have included irreparable damage to faces, necks and limbs.

We must remember that children's behaviour is a response to feeling unsafe, unheard, anxious or overwhelmed. These children have huge potential to contribute to society. When we meet with them they are polite, respectful and insightful, and resilient despite their tough circumstances. They are tomorrow's leaders; they must be nourished and rehabilitated instead of forgotten and dismissed.

As many commentators have said: Banksia Hill Detention Centre is in crisis. The notorious Unit 18 of Casuarina, a maximum-security adult prison, which was gazetted a youth detention centre in July 2022, is even worse. ALSWA has sent over 60 complaint letters about conditions for children detained at both Banksia Hill and Unit 18 since February 2022.

The young people have raised extremely concerning instructions including:

- Extensive lockdowns (including no time out of cell at all).
- Sexually inappropriate behaviour by officers.
- Excessive use of force.
- Young people sleeping in wet clothes/bedding.
- Clothes and cells being extremely dirty, with rubbish left in cells for days.

- Officers using degrading and unprofessional language.
- Children in distress and experiencing thoughts of self-harm and powerlessness.

On 25 August 2022, the Supreme Court of WA declared that the confinement of our 15-year-old client to his cell for over 20 hours a day at Banksia Hill on 26 dates that year, in January, February, May and June, was unlawful.

Justice Tottle found 'that the applicant was locked in his cell for long hours on successive days. Between 4 and 6 February 2022 the records show that the applicant was locked in his cell for approximately 70 of 72 hours' and that 'staff shortages were the primary cause of the applicant being locked in his cell on those days'.

On 11 May 2023, Tottle J heard further judicial review applications on behalf of three ALSWA clients. The three young people have instructed ALSWA that they experienced ongoing lockdowns when they were locked in their cells for 20 to 24 hours a day. The allegations span 178 days between April 2022 and January 2023. One applicant alleges 134 dates on which unlawful lockdowns occurred, including four days in August 2022 with no time out at all – totalling over 96 hours of continuous confinement – along with two days in January 2023, again with no time out. They are seeking declarations that this confinement was unlawful as well as prerogative relief, in the form of prohibition or an injunction, ensuring that the applicants are not confined to their cells unless in accordance with the Young Offenders Act 1994 (WA) and regulations.

Due to the ongoing lockdowns, ALSWA's clients' mental health has deteriorated leading to increasingly distressed states and serious self-harm and suicide attempts.

The solutions are simple:

- A trauma-informed, culturally-appropriate therapeutic model of care at Banksia Hill.
- Banksia Hill must employ properly trained and remunerated staff who want to mentor the young people – not punish and humiliate them.
- Resource and empower communities to support young people and their families.
- Raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14 years.
- Ensure young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are engaged and connected with the community so they can thrive.

This article was originally published on the Australian Lawyers Alliance website.



Walking together

Part of our dedication to seeking justice at John XXIII College involves an intensive focus on listening to Aboriginal voices and working towards dismantling the structures that perpetuate discrimination and disadvantage for the traditional owners of our country. At John XXIII College we constantly strive to recognise and address historical injustices, advocate for Reconciliation and become a more genuinely inclusive community. Students are provided with a wide range of opportunities, both in the classroom and outside of it, to deepen their knowledge of Aboriginal history and to commit to healing, justice and Reconciliation.

Cultural immersion

The Pilgrimage to the Northern Territory is a powerful and challenging experience for our Year 11 students, allowing them to experience life in a remote Aboriginal community and to gain a deeper understanding of Aboriginal culture and history, as well as the profound challenges facing our First Nations people.

'This journey was one that challenged all of us, causing us to question our own ways of living and helping each of us to learn both about ourselves and the situation many people must deal with each day. The term 'life changing' has become a staple for these sorts of journeys, nonetheless our pilgrimage to the Northern Territory, visiting the homelands of Banatjarl and Menngen, moved each of us, gifting us with a new perspective, a greater appreciation for and deeper understanding of Aboriginal culture and the life each of us was able to return to.'

Year 11 Pilgrimage students

Embracing Reconciliation

Our Danjoo Koorliny Staff Conference this year was focused intensively on Reconciliation and was themed 'Walking together'. Developed in collaboration with the Reconciliation specialist Wonnil, the event provided us with a powerful opportunity to enhance our Reconciliation journey and learn from members of the Aboriginal community. The Conference opened with an address from Fr Frank Brennan SJ and was followed by leading Indigenous rights and cultural understanding experts, with breakout activities allowing for further yarning and learning. A range of challenging and inspiring plenaries and sessions provided opportunities for our staff to develop their cultural competencies, listen to Aboriginal voices, discover ways to further embed Aboriginal perspectives into our curriculum and to embed Reconciliation in the education we deliver. The day concluded with a panel discussion open to the broader community on the Voice to Parliament. The Conference was widely acknowledged to be a transformative experience for our staff. We will continue to work with Wonnil to bring about long-term change and to continue to educate our students, staff and the wider community.

Watch a video about the
Year 11 Pilgrimage





SPORTING EXCELLENCE

Co-curricular sport makes up a significant part of John XXIII College life. Our sporting program is not just an extracurricular activity; it's an integral part of who we are. It's about shaping resilient individuals, fostering teamwork, and nurturing the spirit of competition that defines us. At John XXIII College, we don't merely follow the sports trend; we set it. Our wide array of sports programs stands as a testament to our commitment to students' holistic development. Finally, our sporting

program seeks to complement, rather than replace, community sports programs.

While we actively encourage participation in sports by all students, and our programs cater for students of all abilities, we also intensively support and celebrate our many elite athletes to achieve their dreams. We congratulate the following former and current students for their recent sporting successes. It is a wonderful testament to the dedication and talent of our students,

as well as the commitment of our sports staff, to see such incredible success.

Glory for Grace

Grace Johnston (Class 2022) has recently signed with Perth Glory and was named one of the 28-player squad for a six-day training camp in Sydney in August after the Matildas game. Grace says that she is incredibly excited and grateful for this opportunity: 'I am extremely grateful to sign for Perth Glory, it's a privilege to train with such a high-quality team day in, day out. Perth is a club that I grew up supporting and I hope I continue to grow in my football career with them.'

Grace was actively involved in a range of sports during her time at John XXIII College, competing in athletics and cross-country carnivals and also NAS one-day carnivals in Years 11 and 12, as well as competing in NAS soccer and volleyball. She credits her teachers Miss Pillera and Miss Kononen with encouraging and supporting her to achieve her best. 'They always encouraged participation and brought so much energy to sports days and trainings.'

Grace is combining her sporting career with nursing studies at the University of Notre Dame Australia and is incredibly excited about the season ahead with Perth Glory.

Excelling in cricket

Year 10 student Mahalia Upton has already embarked upon an incredibly promising career in cricket, and represented Australia at the Junior World Series in Dubai in October. Mahalia travelled to Ipswich earlier this year for the 2023 Indoor Cricket National Championship, playing for the Western Australian u16 girls team, the Western Wolves. The girls won the u16 girls' grand final against New South Wales. Following her stellar performance at the National Championship, Mahalia was selected to be part of the Australian u18 team for the World Indoor Cricket Federation Junior World Series in Dubai.

Congratulations to Mahalia for this outstanding achievement; to be chosen for the u18 team at such a young age is truly remarkable. Facing tough opponents from countries like England, South Africa, New Zealand and the United Arab Emirates in extreme weather conditions is a testament to the team's determination and resilience. Taking home the bronze medal in such a challenging environment was a well-deserved accomplishment.

Mahalia also played in the u16 state team for outdoor cricket in January and is currently involved in trials for the u16 state team to play in Hobart in January 2024.

Mahalia says that she feels incredibly honoured and excited to have been chosen to represent her country in her favourite sport at such a young age. She loves cricket because of the pace of the game and the challenges players face over a long period of time. 'The game requires quick reflexes, and it never really finishes until the last ball is bowled,' says Mahalia. 'The game can turn at any stage so strategies play a big role.'



Mahalia Upton (Year 10)

As well as the challenges that her intensive training schedule presents, Mahalia has had to learn to balance her academic commitments with her sporting responsibilities. While she is excited about her future professional sporting career, she is also intensely focused on her studies as she would like to attend university to become either a dietician, nutritionist or a speech pathologist. 'I have a lot of trainings that I must commit to both in the mornings and in the afternoons, as well as games on the weekends that sometimes go for the whole day,' says Mahalia. 'Because of this I don't have much spare time to do homework or assessments out of school. As a result I have to do a lot during school time and make sure I get most of my work done during class, and the remainder gets done after hours, which can mean later nights and no free time.'

Mahalia says that the person who inspires her most in the world of sports is Mitchell Johnson. 'This is because his determination and hard work he has put into the sport has inspired me to always push the boundaries of my own potential and persevere in the face of challenges.'

Swimming to success

Congratulations to Year 11 student Braden Fyneman, who was selected to represent Australia in swimming at the recent Youth Commonwealth Games held in Trinidad and Tobago from 4 – 11 August 2023. Braden was one of five male athletes selected to represent Australia in swimming. Braden has been dedicated to swimming since he was nine years old and currently represents the UWA West Coast Swimming Club. Braden won the gold medal in the 1500m freestyle at the 2023 Age National Championships, and has been a three-time finalist at the same event. Braden's dreams are to be selected for an Australian Dolphins Team, and also for the 2024 Australian Junior Team.



Braden Fyneman (Year 11)

Exciting changes

Some exciting changes to the way the Northern Associated Sport (NAS) competition is structured will enhance and invigorate our College sporting program. NAS has always been the elite sporting network within the Associated Catholic Colleges Sporting Association and has provided our students with competitive experiences in an after-school format for summer and winter fixtures. John XXIII College has always performed successfully in this competition.

To overcome some of the challenges involved with participating schools fielding teams for every game, NAS schools have decided to move to an alternative model of delivery designed to strengthen and broaden the sporting offering more generally. Commencing in 2024, NAS schools will move to a one-day summer and winter carnival format. This exciting change will strengthen the elite competition and broaden participation levels among students.

To ensure that John XXIII College commits to a high level of representation in the revised competition format, compulsory trials and training sessions for all competing athletes will take place in the lead-up to each one-day summer and winter carnival. Carnival days will remain a compulsory school day for all students, and it is anticipated that, even though competing in a NAS sport will remain optional, most students in each year group will be keen to represent the College. Students who are unable to compete or choose not to compete in NAS one-day carnivals will benefit from engaging in an alternative wellbeing and physical activity program.

We are incredibly excited about this new initiative that will increase the level of participation of our students in team sports, as well as allow for a top-tier competition for our elite athletes.

Felix Frichot (Year 11), Phoebe Walsh (Year 9) and Indigo Ross (Year 7)



This year's College Creative Writing Competition

attracted an impressive array of entries across all year levels, proving that creativity and literary flair are alive and well among our students.

There is a strong focus on creative writing at the College, with a wide range of opportunities for students to nurture their writing talents, both in and out of the classroom. As well as studying various literary genres and completing creative compositions as part of their academic program, students are exposed to renowned visiting authors and illustrators to bring the world of literature alive for them. This year we welcomed writer Sean E. Avery to the College during our Book Week celebrations to entertain and inspire our students.

The annual Creative Writing Competition, which is organised by Magis, the College's Gifted and Talented Program, helps to foster imagination, innovation and creativity, and gives students a tangible goal to work towards in perfecting their creative pieces.

Judges were deeply impressed by the quality of entries in this year's competition. We certainly have some budding authors in our ranks!

Congratulations to the winners of the 2023 Creative Writing Competition:

Year 7/8: **Indigo Ross** for her poem 'The Impact of Man'.

Year 9/10: **Phoebe Walsh** for her untitled composition.

Year 11/12: **Felix Frichot** for his poem 'Mors Mundi'.

The Impact of Man

by Indigo Ross (Year 7)

Earth, my planet of vibrant grace,
 Abundant playground for all breed and race,
 Brimming with creatures and plants alike,
 A delicate balance of diverse delights.

Or at least so it was, one time in the past,
 But unlucky for nature that joy did not last.
 For along came a force more powerful than known
 Destructive and cruel and serving its own,

Repurposing land, disrupting food chains,
 No empathy shown whilst holding the reins.
 Now thousands of species won't see the dawn.
 Babies won't cry, corals won't spawn.

So, how did this happen? What did we do?
 How does a thousand turn into a few?
 We are only one yet have such impact.
 Purposely choosing to ignore the fact.

But it isn't too late, we can turn this around,
 Protect the endangered, put trees in the ground.
 There must be a way, a path we can find,
 To alter the priorities of mankind.



PERUVIAN PANACHE

Melanie Butler (Class 1993) has embraced the enticing flavours and vibrant culture of Peru in her newly-opened restaurant Lima Cantina. Located in the buzzing Oxford Street restaurant precinct in Leederville, Lima Cantina showcases Peruvian specialties such as ceviche and Pisco, all against the backdrop of colourful décor and South American music.

We caught up with Melanie to find out more about her journey since leaving school and the inspiration for her new culinary venture.

What were some of the highlights of your time at John XXIII College?

Every year of high school was brilliant. I have beautiful memories of each year spent at JTC. Highlights for me were playing netball and tennis every week and participating in the school musicals under the instruction of Mrs Gorringe and Juliet Owen. I was House Captain of St Louis in Year 12, which was another highlight. I feel that the sporting events (carnivals) we

had each year were key in nurturing a sense of belonging at the College. I am still in contact with many of my classmates. What I gained most from attending JTC (and am eternally grateful for) is the lifelong, supportive, kind, inspiring group of friends who have been by my side since we graduated.



Mel Butler (Class 1993)

Tell us a little about your journey since leaving school

I graduated with a Bachelor in Education from the University of Notre Dame and then completed a fourth-year Graduate Certificate at Murdoch University. After completing my tertiary studies, I lived in Tokyo (two years), Barcelona (one and a half years), and London (three years) teaching English. The life lessons I learned from living in each of these three cities were invaluable. Witnessing the great sense of respect for family, the value of culture, and connection to community was completely unique in each country, yet equally as strong. This sense of respect resonated with me as it is what we value most here in Australia (Perth!).

Memorable historical moments while living overseas were visiting Gallipoli in 2001 with fellow JTC Alumni Kate Foster to pay our respects to all servicemen and women. A few days after Gallipoli, we were back in Istanbul and the Twin Towers were hit; 11th September 2001. My birthday is 7th September. In 2002 I went to live in Barcelona and then moved to London in 2003. In 2005, I was on the bus going to work in Oxford Street in London. This was the morning of the London bombing. My bus passed through Tavistock Square one hour before the bombs began to hit. I never went to work early, but on this day I did. I recall walking in the rain for over two

hours to meet up with Danielle Colgan (also from JTC), desperate to find a friend after being sent home from work as it was not safe to remain in the city of London.

In September 2005, I returned to live in Melbourne, and through a twist of fate I became the venue manager of a Jazz club called Transit Lounge located on the top level of the Transport Hotel in Federation Square. We held corporate events for the likes of the AFL, Tennis Australia, Price Waterhouse Cooper and National Australia Bank, and the venue was often used as the green room for pop stars including Lady Gaga! I spent almost ten years working in hospitality management in Melbourne. I nurtured a strong network of industry figures who have become valued business mentors in my life today.

Fast forward to 2011, I returned to Barcelona to attend my good friend's restaurant opening and through another twist of fate, that friend is now my husband, Miguel (from Peru). We have been friends since I lived in Barcelona back in 2002. We got married on Koh Samui on a blue moon on the 31 August 2012. After getting married we travelled extensively. I returned to working in the education sector, and I now work for a university as a Senior Academic Skills Advisor. I manage a team that works to support students to stay engaged with their studies.



The restaurant's colourful interior evoking Peruvian food culture

Miguel and I lived through two years of lockdown in Melbourne. We decided that we needed to be close to family, so I applied for a transfer. We packed up our life in Melbourne, jumped in the car, and came across the Nullarbor. We are now happily living in West Leederville. My sister Natalie and her family live in the Kalamunda Hills, my brother Jason and his family live in Torquay in England, and my parents are in Subiaco still living in our family home. Also thrown into the equation is that I am currently studying an MBA! Returning to study as a mature age student has been invaluable in supporting the trajectory Miguel and I are currently on – opening Lima Cantina.



Tell us about your new restaurant? What made you decide to open a restaurant and why did you choose Peruvian cuisine?

Lima Cantina is a Peruvian restaurant that has been in the making for many years. Miguel and I spent years travelling the world tasting, critiquing, admiring, and planning the venue that has now become Lima Cantina. Located at 130 Oxford St Leederville, we are super happy to become members of the Leederville precinct. Peruvian cuisine is delicious. We just had the world top 50 restaurant awards announced in June, and Peru positioned first and fifth. Peruvian cuisine is enriched with influences from Japan with a fusion known as Nikkei, influences from China with the fusion known as 'Chifa', and we also have staple menu items that stem from the African and Italian migrations into Peru. We could have opened the Cantina in Melbourne, but it made sense to open in Perth where we have access to world-class seafood to make our ceviches, top-quality meat and fresh produce, and exquisite local wines to match, one of which on our menu is produced by Cath Wilcock (JTC). We are grateful for the invaluable business advice and installation support from all my JTC class mates, namely Ben Rohr, James Healy, Dom McGreal, Danielle Colgan, and Ed Schaffer.

Have you travelled in Peru or do you have connections to the Peruvian community in WA?

Yes, I have and I love every element of Peru. While you do need to be mindful when out in public, travelling in Peru is mind blowing. I highly recommend visiting Machu Picchu once in your life. It is magical. We aim to commence importing products from Peru in 2024. There is a strong Peruvian community here in Perth and the majority of our staff at Lima Cantina are Peruvian.

What do you love most about Peruvian cuisine and culture?

What is not to love about Peru – the country is full of colour, the music known as Cumbia is super fun to dance to, and the people are so generous and loving and they produce Pisco! Pisco is the national spirit that is made from grapes. There is a region in Peru called Pisco, which is where all the grapes are grown to make the spirit. I have travelled through this area and stayed at several haciendas that produce Pisco. If you are a wine lover and like a bit of adventure, I highly recommend visiting the region of Pisco. We love Pisco so much, we named our dog Pisco. And regarding the cuisine, I have never tasted flavours that jump off a plate like they do when eating in Peru.

What are some of the most exciting dishes that you will be serving?

At the moment we are celebrating Goldband Snapper in our classic ceviche. The tiger's milk in the classic ceviche is on point, it packs a (Lima) punch. If ceviche is not your thing, the beef anticucho packs a flavour that is so unique to Peru. It comes with Aji Panca salsa. This is made with dried red chilis – delish!

What are you most excited about for this new adventure? What do you see as being your biggest challenges?

The most exciting aspect of opening the Cantina is tapping into all the local producers and establishing those relationships. We refuse to have items on a menu that don't celebrate the quality of Peru or the quality of WA. So, the challenge is navigating the cost of goods to ensure we are delivering quality to the table while supporting local as best we can.

Is there anything about your John XXIII College education that inspired you on your particular journey?

I am so fortunate to have had my JTC friends in my life for the last 30 years. Being able to lean on each other makes the challenges life throws at you much more manageable. I am looking forward to our 30-year reunion coming up in November.

CLASS 2022 REUNION



This September, the graduating Class of 2022 congregated at the Wembley Hotel to share a joyful evening at their one-year school reunion. The night was filled with long-awaited hugs and the eager exchange of stories about post-school life. The connection and camaraderie among the year group seemed only to have deepened during their time apart, and all of the graduates who attended were delighted to reunite with their former classmates. Although the formal part of the evening ended all too soon, the celebrations continued into the night, setting high expectations for future reunions.





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