



# Xavier College

From the Principal

**Volume 16 Issue 16**  
**17th October 2014**

## The Companion

*Welcome back to all members of the Xavier community. I hope that everyone enjoyed the holiday break experiencing some warmer weather and quality time with family.*

*During the holidays I spent some time reading our Year 11s', soon to be Year 12s' reflections on their community service. This is a compulsory 20 hour commitment that we ask of Year 11 as a kind of 'rite of passage' as they enter Year 12. They are not only asked to fulfill the necessary hours but also to reflect on what they learnt about themselves, others and, as importantly, how the experience was reflective of St Francis Xavier and the life he led.*

*To say I was delighted with their responses is an understatement. The students were involved in a myriad of activities: coaching junior sporting teams, assisting the elderly, participation in Red Cross and Vinnies Van, Catechesis, involvement in evening school events, clean-up campaigns in the wider community and tutoring students with learning needs. One student, in particular, scanned over 1000 photos for a family friend who had lost many photographs in the 2013 bushfires. What a wonderful thing to do for someone!*

*To a student, every Year 11 wrote that the experience made a difference to her/his life. As one of our students wrote,*

*"I learned that helping others can often have more of a positive impact on yourself (giver) than the receiver. I feel better about myself; I think people never see me doing good deeds. Doing so, it shows others that I actually do care for them. Putting myself out there, being positive has significantly boosted my self-esteem; people can see me as an approachable and down to earth person with a positive attitude towards life, which I do now as opposed to the start of Year 11."*

*In terms of the relevance to Xavier's life, the students wrote strongly about both the relevance and significance of his life, albeit one that was lived over 500 years ago.*

*One student wrote:*

*"My work has reflected upon our school's patron, Saint Francis Xavier, as he believed that the way to God was through helping and serving others. Christ asks us all to 'service' and I can proudly say that I have completed that task. With Francis Xavier as the patron saint of Australia and our college, he challenges us to take risks and experience hardships for the sake of others. This is effectively shown through the 20 hour community service that I have successfully completed. As Xavier ventured out into the world, so have I, as I was able to reach out to others in order to make a difference in the wider community."*

*On reading reflections such as this, it is obvious to me that our current Year 11 students exemplify already the many qualities that we expect in our senior leaders. We are truly blessed.*

*Yours in Xavier,  
Tricia Maidens*

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## **From the Assistant Principal – Patrick Finnerty**

### **Police Talks**

Senior Constable Ben Gillan is the School Liaison Police Officer at Xavier College. Ben works with us to educate our students through a range of school intervention strategies, educational programs and local relationships which model respect and responsibility.

School Liaison Police Officers are responsible for forging and maintaining links with all high schools throughout NSW. These officers develop and present programs in conjunction with teaching staff and act as a central point of contact on police, community and school issues.

School Liaison Police Officers may provide information, support and guidance on security, intervention strategies and child protection matters relating to the school, as well as other issues relating to safety and community responsibility.

Ben will be conducting talks with Years 7-10 during the final few weeks of this term. The topics covered during the talks are listed below.

*Year 7 – Bullying and Cyber-bullying*

*Year 8 – Gangs and Groups*

*Year 9 – Cybercrime, Alcohol and Drugs*

*Year 10 – Public Order and Safe Parties*

### **Busways Update**

On Tuesday evening, Steven Hawkins and Andrew Glass from Busways met with Mr McCrorie, myself and a number of parents regarding the proposal. Many questions were asked regarding the specific proposed bus routes and the times that they arrive at each stop.

It was a very productive meeting and a Parent Working Party has been formed to liaise with Busways and represent the Xavier College community.

Another meeting will be scheduled in Week 5 and a text will be sent to advise parents. Thank you so much to the parents who responded. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

### **Xavier Day: Friday 5th December**

Details regarding Xavier Day will be posted to families on Monday. We will begin the day with a Xavier Mass, commencing at 9.00am, and all parents are invited to share this mass with us.

Following the Mass students will attend a carnival held on the college grounds. All costs associated with the carnival are covered by the college. A hot dog and a drink will also be provided to each student. As with any school day, students can bring their own lunch or purchase food from our canteen.

For the College Mass, all students are to wear school uniform, then change into appropriate mufti wear for the remainder of the day. Please note that only students who attend the Xavier College Mass will be permitted to participate in the carnival activities.

### **Some Important Reminders...**

- Every Wednesday (Week B) from 9.30 – 10.30 our Office Staff have a Professional Learning Meeting and there is only one staff member available to assist you. Please try to avoid contacting the school during this time (except for an emergency). Your assistance is greatly appreciated.
- If your child does not feel well at school please encourage them to go to the front office and speak to the office staff. The office staff will make contact with you if required.
- Please be aware that if you come to the front office to pick up your child without notice there will be a delay. This practice should only occur in an emergency.

- Thank you for ensuring that your child arrives at school by 8.30.

If you have a question or a concern regarding the education of your child please make contact with their Homegroup teacher. It is always better to ask rather than wait.

### *A Prayer for Teachers*

*God of Love - Thank you for every teacher who notices a child's special gift.*

*Thank you for teachers who are listeners and gentle guides.*

*Thank you for teachers who expect much and love enough to demand more.*

*Thank you for the special teacher each one of us remembers.*

*God of Mercy - Sustain teachers who give everything they have and feel abandoned when society expects too much.*

*Strengthen teachers who assume the blame for so many problems beyond their control. Help exhausted teachers rest.*

*God of Strength - Encourage teachers to care and inspire them to nourish.*

*Motivate teachers to keep on learning for the fun of it and to make learning fun for children.*

*God of Justice - help our nation find a way to steward our vast wealth to support teachers in their special calling, wherever they teach and whatever the race or religion or gender or wealth of the children.*

*We pray these things in the name of our great teacher, Jesus Christ. Amen*

Thank you for your continued support,

Patrick Finnerty

## *Important Dates 2014 and 2015*

<b>Monday, 17th November</b>	Staff Development Day (Pupil Free Day)
<b>Thursday, 4th December</b>	Xavier College Presentation Night, 6.30pm
<b>Friday, 5th December</b>	Advent Mass Xavier Day
<b>Tuesday, 15th December</b>	Last school day of school for students
<b>Wednesday, 16th December</b>	Reporting Day Bookings details for Parent/Teacher interviews advised later in the term.
<b>Thursday, 18th December</b>	Staff Planning Day No students
<b>Friday, 19th December</b>	Staff Planning Day No students
<b>Monday, 19th January</b>	Office reopens for 2015
<b>Wednesday, 28th January</b>	Years 7 and 12 commence their 2015 school year
<b>Thursday, 29th January</b>	Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 commence 2015 school year

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## From the Religious Education Coordinator— Kellie Robinson

Pope Francis announced in October last year his intention to convene an Extraordinary Synod of Bishops in October 2014. The Synod, held two weekends ago in Rome, is only the third Extraordinary Synod of Bishops since the synod process was established. Paul VI established the synod process following the conclusion of Vatican II in 1965, as a means of continuing the spirit of collegiality so evident during the Council.

A synod, either ‘ordinary’ or ‘extraordinary’, is an assembly of bishops from around the world convened by a Pope to provide him with counsel on important questions “which directly concern the good of the universal Church” (CCL can 345). Canon Law provides for an Extraordinary synod when matters “require a speedy resolution” (can 346§2). The present Extraordinary Synod has been convened to consider, ‘The pastoral challenges to the family in the context of evangelization’. The Synod’s *Preparatory Document (PD)* described its particular purpose as, “to define the *status quaestionis* [current situation] and to collect the bishops’ experiences and proposals in proclaiming and living the Gospel of the Family in a credible manner”. Bishops from around the world have been asked to consider contemporary and culturally influenced issues facing families in their own particular church (i.e. their own diocese and country). The work of this Extraordinary Synod will inform an Ordinary Synod on the Family to be convened in 2015. From this work, it is expected that the Pope will issue a “post-synodal apostolic exhortation” outlining the findings and teachings which have resulted from the two synods. These are to be viewed as ‘a single organic unity’. The exhortation, according to the *PD*, will shape Church doctrine and practice in relation to pastoral responses to the concerns facing families and individuals in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Some of the questions the bishops have been asked to consider, based on the lived experiences of their people, include:

- † the Church’s teaching on the nature of family;
- † the challenges facing families as ‘domestic church’;
- † the pastoral challenges and needs of divorced and remarried people, especially in relation to ‘the Sacraments of the Eucharist and of Reconciliation’;
- † the ‘attitude of the local and particular Churches towards both the State as the promoter of civil unions between persons of the same sex and the people involved in this type of union’ as well as what ‘pastoral attention can be given to people who have chosen to live in these types of union’ and with regard to children of same sex couples ‘what can be done pastorally in light of transmitting the faith’;
- † the faith formation of children in ‘irregular marriages’;
- † the openness of married couples to having children; and
- † the impact of a more individualistic attitude on the life of families.

Many commentators will be looking also to the synods as signs of genuine consultation and collegiality, a strengthening and furthering of the so called ‘Francis effect’ and a continuing reshaping of the role of the Curia in the life of the Church. As a further indicator of the Pope’s consultative and collegial attitude lay couples also will address the bishops during the Extraordinary Synod, lending their particular perspective to the deliberations.

We too can participate in the synodal process through our prayer. Pope Francis has asked all Catholics to participate in a world day of prayer for the Extraordinary Synod.

### **PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY FOR THE SYNOD ON THE FAMILY**

Holy Family of Nazareth, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love and the model of family love. Grant that our own families may remain united in deep mutual love and be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic Churches.

Guard the members of our family from all physical and spiritual danger and keep us faithful to the Lord. Grant healing to all families who experience rejections and division. Keep us attentive to their needs. May our families be living witnesses of the love and presence of Jesus in the world.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
graciously hear our prayer. Amen

## From the Leader of Learning

*Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardour and attended to with diligence.*

Abigail Adams

Wow! Term 4 already; hasn't it begun with a bang? The Christmas decorations are up in shopping centres and carols are playing. Before we know it the 2014 school year will be over; but not before a lot of learning and hard work. Rather than a time to down tools and relax, students need to be consolidating their learning, preparing assessments and doing what they need to do to achieve their 2014 SMART goal. This advice is particularly pertinent for our incoming Year 12 students.

Last night the 2015 HSC cohort received their Xavier College Year 12 badges. The badge is a symbol of their responsibilities and privileges as the most senior students of the College. An important aspect of their responsibilities as senior students, which was spoken about last night, is a commitment to achieving to the best of their ability; of approaching their studies, and all aspects of College life, with diligence and sustained effort. This is what we expect of all our students. It is primarily through hard work, ardour and diligence, that we achieve success. Very few students, or adults, are successful by chance, as Abigail Adams would attest. We each have to work to achieve our goals and dreams. Our prayer is that all our students achieve their goals and dreams and that they apply themselves accordingly to that end.

An effective component of achieving academic goals is recognising the importance of independent learning. As a part of last night's proceedings, Prue Salter from Enhanced Learning Educational Services ([www.enhanced-learning.net](http://www.enhanced-learning.net)) ran the second study skills session for the new Year 12 students. Year 12 looked at advanced research about the brain and how that could be used to make their study more effective. The focus of the session was looking ahead to the next year and how students can ensure they are well-prepared. Steps to make effective study notes were highlighted as well as approaches to studying. Parents were important participants in this workshop, with students given the opportunity to tell their parents how well they had implemented the study skills Prue had taught them earlier in the year, and share their commitment for their HSC period of study.

If you are interested in what Prue offers and learning some of her tips to help your child, regardless of academic year, you can visit the Enhanced Learning website link above and the following website: <http://studyskillstoptipsparents.com/>. All students at Xavier have access to a great study skills website to help them develop their skills. Go to [www.studyskillshandbook.com.au](http://www.studyskillshandbook.com.au) and enter the username: **xaviercollege** and the password: **64success** and start improving your results today!

Abundant Blessings,  
Alyssa Roach  
Leader of Learning

# Study Skills



Abigail Adams was the husband of John Adams, second President of the United States of America. A brief biography of Abigail Adams is available at [http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1479.Abigail\\_Adams](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1479.Abigail_Adams)



*Please join us at these events:*

## Strings and Sings

**TUESDAY, 21st OCTOBER**

**6:30pm**

**Entry \$5 at the door  
Xavier College PAS**



## Kirinari Showcase Night

*Believe in  
Yourself.*

The Xavier College Kirinari students would like to extend a warm invitation for you to join us at our annual Showcase Event. It will be an opportunity for all students to present their academic achievements and showcase the great learning which has taken place throughout the year.

**When: Thursday October 30; 5:30 pm**

**Where: Xavier College Performing Arts Space**

Following the performances and presentations, there will be light refreshments served.

For catering purposes, please RSVP by 24/10.

## ***A holistic approach to boost wellbeing as exams approach***

The key to being positive and managing negative emotions such as anxiety and feeling down and depressed in any pressure situation, including exams, is to “fuel up”. It goes without saying that if we are exhausted, tired, stressed, depressed etc. it is very difficult, if not impossible, to deal with the pressure of exams. “Fueling Up” is about boosting wellbeing factors in your life. You need to boost the wellbeing factors in your *body, mind and emotions*.

Trying to “feel good” or be “positive” when your body is exhausted and depleted is *impossible!* This is something we all know, yet many of us find it difficult to change.

### **Here are some things you can do to boost the energy in your BODY:**

#### ♦ **See a doctor**

Visit your doctor and get a check up. It’s important that any medical issues are ruled out because you may try some of the following tips without noticing any benefit while all along there may have been a medical issue that needed attention.

#### ♦ **Get better sleep**

Feeling good all starts with getting the right amount and type of sleep. Start with a good night - time routine. Stop anything that stimulates you such as caffeine or TV or computer, iPad or phone screens. Try a warm drink such as chamomile tea and use essential oils such as lavender oil. Having a soothing bath or shower can also help along with gentle stretching of tight or tense muscles. If you still feel you are not getting a “good” sleep be sure to see your doctor.

#### ♦ **Eat in Moderation**

Never skip a meal, especially breakfast. Breakfast replenishes your body and helps you start your day full of energy. Eat three main meals, and two to three snack meals a day. Eating five to six times in a day keeps your blood sugar levels balanced, giving you an overall sense of well-being needed for focusing on your tasks and responsibilities.

#### ♦ **Exercise Regularly**

Regular exercise, at least three times per week for a minimum of 30 minute sessions, can virtually “soak up” stress chemicals in your body and help you to relax and even sleep better. Brisk walking, aerobic classes, swimming, bike riding, or jogging are great exercises to release stress build up and relax your body and mind to either start or end your day right.

### **Here are some things you can do to THINK more positively:**

#### ♦ **Change your thinking and perceptions**

Write down your top 5 fears and worries. What’s the worst thing that can happen? Then ask yourself, “IS THAT TRUE”? Usually fears and worries are not based on reality but on imagined scenarios that have little to no evidence. If it’s something that can’t be changed bring acceptance to it. It is what it is for now!

#### ♦ **Change your focus**

Have you noticed that what we worry about we make bigger and keep closer to us by the way we think and focus. Try this: make your fears and worries *small* in size (5 cm in height) *dark* in brightness and as far away as possible in *distance*. When we change the *size, brightness and distance* of the things that

upset us in our minds it reduces the intensity of the emotion.

## Here are some things you can do to FEEL more positive:

### ♦ Acts of kindness

Make a list of five acts of kindness you can do every day. Make them simple acts of kindness that are easy to do, things such as saying “thank you”. Do these five acts of kindness every day for six weeks. The research shows that people that do this and think of three good things in their life (as above) have a dramatic positive boost in their mood.

### ♦ ‘3 good things’ exercise

Every day at the start and end of your day, think of three good things that happened. Write them down. Then think about either WHY those good things happened or how it MADE YOU FEEL when those good things happened.

Learn more this year about how to prepare for examinations and manage stress by working through the units [www.studyskillshandbook.com.au](http://www.studyskillshandbook.com.au).

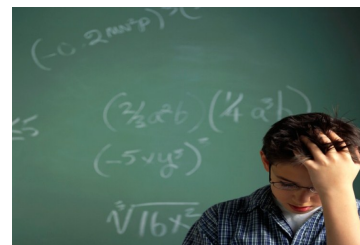
Our school's access details are:

Username: xaviercollege

Password: success64

Mrs Sandra Hazell

Teacher Librarian and Year 7 Wellbeing Coordinator



## ***Vocational Education and Training Students Shine!***

The annual Schools Industry Partnership Awards were recently held at Penrith RSL to acknowledge and award student excellence in the study of a Vocational Education and Training (VET) course as part of their HSC program of study. Students from schools across the Penrith, Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains regions were recognised during the evening.

Six Xavier College students were presented with awards for their high standard of application and work in their VET course and for excellence during their mandatory work placement experiences with at least two local employers. The students were:

Jayden Shepherd	- Hospitality
Sarah Lovegrove	- Hospitality
Taylor Dallimore	- Hospitality
Zachary Pianta	- Construction
Breanna Redden	- Entertainment
William Turner	- Information Digital Technology

Each student is to be congratulated on their positive application towards their study and participation within their VET course.

The value of studying such VET courses is realised because they provide students with dual accreditation, receiving their Higher School Certificate as well as a national AQF Certificate II or III level qualification in their chosen trade/service area. Added to this are the insightful learning and real industry experiences gained when students complete work placement with related industry employers. Year 12 students can also sit the optional HSC examination in their VET course and have it contribute to their ATAR for university entrance.



Many thanks must go to Schools Industry Partnership for organising the annual awards evening and for their dedicated work to arrange the local host employers that Xavier College students access for their work placement experiences.

*Mr Geoff Sullivan*  
Leader of Learning VET



*William Turner, Zachary Pianta, Breanna Redden and Sarah Lovegrove with their VET awards for student excellence*

## ***From the College Office***

Please be reminded of the following:

- ***Students not returning to Xavier College***

If you are aware that your child will not be returning to the College at the end of 2014, it is requested that you notify the College, in writing, of your child's anticipated date of departure from this school as well as the name of the school they will be transferring to. If your child is not transferring to another school, you will need to advise what they will be undertaking next year, for example, work or TAFE, etc.

- ***Students taking a leave of absence***

If your child requires a leave of absence from the College for a period in excess of four days, you will need to complete an *Application for Exemption from Attendance at School* and forward it to the College Office no later than two weeks prior to the anticipated leave commencement date. For further information and a copy of the application form (Form 3.1), go to: <http://xavierllandilo.catholic.edu.au/SiteData/SharedFolder/Modules/SystemPolicy/Student%20Attendance%20Exemption%20-%20Guidelines.pdf>

## **Uniform Shop Extended Trading Hours**

Commencing on Thursday, December 4th, the Uniform Shop will be trading on **Tuesdays and Thursdays until the end of 2014**. The last trading day for 2014 will be Tuesday, December 16th. Additionally, the Uniform Shop will also operate extended trading hours during the school holiday period in January 2015. Dates and times are as follows:

# School Uniform Shop Hours

### **2014**

Thursday, 4th December 9.00am to 7.30pm

Tuesday, 9th December 9.00am to 4.00pm

Thursday, 11th December 9.00am to 7.30pm

Tuesday, 16th December 9.00am to 4.00pm

### **2015**

Friday, 16th January 9.00am to 3.30pm

Monday, 19th January 9.00am to 3.30pm

Tuesday, 20th January 9.00am to 3.30pm

Wednesday, 21st January 9.00am to 3.30pm

Thursday, 22nd January 9.00am to 7.30pm

Monday, 26th January **CLOSED—Australia Day Public Holiday**

Tuesday, 27th January 9.00am to 3.00pm

Thursday, 29th January 8.00am to 4.00pm

Please remember that the days in the summer months can be very hot and the shop becomes very crowded, particularly during the last days in January. It is recommended that you do not leave it until the last few days to make your uniform purchases. However, if you are unable to make it to the Uniform Shop until then, be mindful that there may be a delay with being served.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Mrs Dawn Hackett  
Xavier College Office Administrator



### **• NO PA ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE MADE DURING THE HSC EXAM BLOCK (13th October to 6th November).**

If your child needs to leave school early, ***please send a note with them*** which they are to show their teacher when it is time for them to leave. Students can then wait at the Office to be collected.

## **School Fees**

Thank you to all those families who have met their financial commitments to the College in respect of school fees. The timely payment of school fees allows the College to meet its commitments elsewhere.

There are still several accounts which have not been finalised and your immediate attention to this would be most appreciated.

It should be remembered that any payment arrangements that have been negotiated with the College need to be kept up to date, and that these arrangements are only valid until the College resumes for the next year. At that time, **all** arrangements will need to be renegotiated.

If you are experiencing genuine financial difficulty, please contact me on 02 4777 0924 or email me on [shackett@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:shackett@parra.catholic.edu.au) to discuss your situation. Please be assured that all discussions are treated with the utmost confidentiality.

*Mr Steven Hackett*  
School Fees Officer



### **XAVIER UNIFORM SHOP** **AND** **SECOND HAND SHOP**

**TERM 4 OPENING HOURS**

**THURSDAY**

**8.00am - 4.00pm**

### **REMINDER TO PARENTS**

Parents are asked to notify the College if your child will not be attending school.

Phone: 4777 0900



## **Upcoming PRC Dates for Term 4 2014**

Term 4  
**Wednesday**  
**29 Oct 2014** 7pm

PRC  
Presentation

**PRC Welcomes**  
Danielle Mantakoul **Presenting** Smart Start School Readiness

St Michael's Primary School  
155 Reservoir Road,  
Blacktown South

Term 4  
**Monday**  
**10 Nov 2014** 7pm

General  
Meeting

**PRC Welcomes**  
Michelle Nolan, and/or Jenny Plaskett, Western Sydney Local  
Health District **Presenting** Childhood Obesity/Healthy Eating

Diocesan Assembly Centre  
Cnr Flushcombe Road & Marion  
Street, Blacktown



# Important Dates for 2014

## Term 4

<i>Monday, 13th October to Thursday, 6th November</i>	<i>HSC Written Exam Block</i>
<i>Tuesday, 21st October</i>	<i>Sings and Strings Concert, PAS, 6pm PDSSSC Softball Gala Day</i>
<i>Thursday, 23rd October to Friday, 24th October</i>	<i>SRC Camp, Vision Valley</i>
<i>Tuesday, 28th October</i>	<i>PDSSSC Baseball Gala Day</i>
<i>Thursday, 30th October</i>	<i>Kirinari Presentation Night</i>
<i>Friday, 31st October</i>	<i>Year 9 History Incursion</i>
<i>Monday, 3rd November</i>	<i>Year 8 Reflection Day (8 Blue, Orange, Green, Purple)</i>
<i>Tuesday, 4th November</i>	<i>Year 8 Reflection Day (8 Red, White, Yellow, Crimson)</i>
<i>Wednesday, 5th November</i>	<i>Vaccinations: HPV Round 3</i>
<i>Monday, 10th November</i>	<i>PDSSSC Boys Cricket Gala Day</i>
<i>Wednesday, 12th November</i>	<i>Year 12 Formal, Nurranginy Reserve</i>
<i>Friday, 14th November</i>	<i>Year 7 2015 Orientation Day</i>
<i>Monday, 17th November</i>	<i>STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY Pupil free day</i>
<i>Thursday, 20th November</i>	<i>PAS Excursion to Long Reef</i>
<i>Friday, 21st November</i>	<i>Gold Award Winners Day Out</i>





*faith in our future*  
PLANNING TOGETHER IN CHRIST FOR THE  
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA

### ***Social Justice Gathering***

Explore and unpack the Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement of 2014-2015, 'A Crown for Australia: Striving for the best in our sporting nation'. This year the focus is sport and justice. Pope Francis explains, "When an athlete, even as a 'pro', cultivates this 'amateur' dimension, he is contributing to the good of society, he is building up the common good through the values of generosity, camaraderie, and beauty." Find out how you can share the message of justice through sport in your communities, parishes and organisations with the Justice & Peace Office, Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney.

Date: Sunday 25 October from 10.30am to 3.30pm.

Venue: St Patrick's Church, 5 Drynan St, Summer Hill.

### ***Exhibition & Sale of Indigenous Art***

Everyone is welcome to this exhibition in St Patrick's Cathedral Hall and sale of works by some of Australia's prominent Indigenous artists. The Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Resources and Energy, will open the exhibition with a cocktail reception on Friday 24 October. The artist-in-residence during the exhibition will be Barbara Weir from the Utopia Community in the Central Desert, NT. All artworks will be for sale with proceeds to benefit the St Patrick's Cathedral Project and Arts Musica. Opening hours: Friday 24 Oct, 7.30pm-9.30pm; Saturday 25 Oct, 10am-4pm; Sunday 26 Oct, 10am-4pm.

Venue: St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta.

### ***The Jeweller's Shop play by Karol Wojtyla (St John Paul II)***

The Diocese of Parramatta's Family & Life Office in partnership with Artes Christi is sponsoring a performance of The Jeweller's Shop: A meditation on the Sacrament of Matrimony Passing on Occasion into a Drama by St John Paul II.

Date: Sunday 26 October at 3pm, Riverside Theatre, Parramatta.

Tickets: \$30 adults, \$25 concession and \$20 for groups of 8+. For more information on how to book contact Ben Smith tel (02) 8838 3440, [bsmith@parra.catholic.org.au](mailto:bsmith@parra.catholic.org.au).

### ***Life-Faith Initiative: Your Faith, Your Life***

Spirituality Together: The Institute for Mission offers all, from young adults upwards, a series of enjoyable nights connecting God, our spirituality and our lives in the world. Bring a friend and accompany each other on your faith journey.

Dates: From 7.30pm-9.30pm on 27 October, 24 November 2014 and 9 February 2015.

Venue: Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Shrine, 8 Greyfriar Place, Kellyville.

RSVP: three days prior to the day tel (02) 9831 4911, [connect@ifm.org.au](mailto:connect@ifm.org.au) [www.facebook.com/ifmconnect](http://www.facebook.com/ifmconnect)

### ***Couples invited to take part in Stronger Relationships Trial***

The Australian Government has introduced the Stronger Relationships Trial to strengthen couple relationships. Couples are able to register if they are Australian citizens, over 18 years of age and in a committed relationship. The Stronger Relationship Trial provides couples with a \$200 subsidy to attend couple counselling, couple education such as pre-marriage courses or marriage enrichment seminars, or parenting courses. The subsidised counselling or education courses are available through approved organisations such as CatholicCare Parramatta.

Details: For more information contact CatholicCare Parramatta tel (02) 9933 0222 or visit [www.ccss.org.au](http://www.ccss.org.au)

### ***50 Years of Dialogue – Interchurch Relations since Vatican II***

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Decree on Ecumenism at Vatican II, Prof Catherine Clifford will deliver a lecture on the concept of Receptive Ecumenism: What can we as Christians learn from each other?

Prof Clifford is Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology, Saint Paul University, Ottawa, and is visiting Australia at the invitation of the Theological Reflection Commission of the NSW Ecumenical Council. She holds a PhD from St Michael's College, Toronto, and a Licentiate in Theology (STL) from the University of Fribourg Switzerland. Prof Clifford's teaching and research interests lie in the areas of ecclesiology, ecumenism, and this history of the Second Vatican Council.

Date: Monday 27 October, starts 10.30am.

Venue: The Broken Bay Institute, 423 Pennant Hills Rd, Pennant Hills (entry via City View Rd).

# Community News...



UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY  
PENRITH OBSERVATORY

## ASTRONOMY NIGHTS

**Friday, 24th October 2014 (7pm—9pm)**

### ***Special Astronomy Night — Free event***

Come along and hear from Dr John O'Sullivan, the Australian CSIRO astronomer, whose study into black holes led to the WiFi technology that is now used in everyday life worldwide. For this achievement Dr O'Sullivan was awarded the 2009 Prime Minister's Award for Science.

The evening will also include stargazing through the observatory's telescopes.

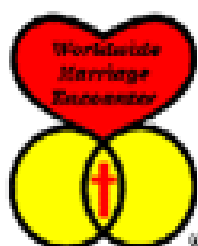
**Saturday, 1st November 2014 (8pm—10pm)**

### ***Astronomy Night***

The evening will include a presentation, a 3D astronomy movie, a tour of the dome area and an opportunity to view the night sky through the observatory's telescopes.

**Cost:** Adults \$15.00 Children/Concessional \$10.00 Family (2 adults, 2 children) \$40.00

**Bookings are essential:** Book and pay online: [www.uws.edu.au/observatory](http://www.uws.edu.au/observatory), What's On



**Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend**  
**Relationship enrichment for married couples**

**12th—14th September 2014**  
**(7th—9th November 2014)**

**Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW**

**Bookings:** 02 4283 3435 or  
[wsharpe@bigpond.net.au](mailto:wsharpe@bigpond.net.au)  
**Information:** [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au)