



WALL OF FAME

In its more than 50-year history, St Pius X has educated many young people who have subsequently made a significant contribution to our community and our nation. These individuals have achieved an outstanding level in their chosen field of endeavour.



Mr Mark Sargent

Mr Mark Sargent is certainly a famous face in the Newcastle region. Mr Sargent graduated from St Pius X in 1980. He began his rugby league career with Central Charlestown, won a premiership with Canterbury Bankstown and served as Club Captain for the Newcastle Knights. He played a total of 146 first grade matches. He represented Country, NSW and Australia, culminating in the World Cup Victory in 1992. Mark Sargent has been awarded a Rothman's Medal, Australian Sports Medal for Services to Rugby League, inducted into the Hunter Region Sporting Hall of Fame, and made Newcastle Knights Team of the Era Member. He is a testimony that sport and study do coexist, with Mr Sargent also gaining two Masters Degrees and having a successful career in business.



Professor Richard Lennan

Professor Richard Lennan was Dux of St Pius X in 1972. He gained degrees in Arts and Sacred Theology, a Masters of Philosophy and Doctorate in Theology. He was ordained in this diocese in 1983 and served as university chaplain. He became a senior lecturer at the Catholic Institute of Sydney, Associate Professor in Cambridge (USA) and currently is a Professor of Theology in Boston. Professor Lennan has authored and edited many published works. He is a truly brilliant thinker.



Mr Richard Campbell

Mr Richard Campbell graduated from St Pius X in 2002. He went on to gain a scholarship with the Australian Institute of Sport and played in the Australian Schoolboys Team, Youth Team and National All Stars Team. After being decorated as the National League's Highest Goal Scorer of 2007, he competed in the FINA World League Super Finals and Olympic Games in Beijing. He has competed in 63 international games to date and won gold in the 2009 World University Games. Richard currently lives, competes and studies in Spain.



Mr Graham Jennings

Mr Graham Jennings graduated from St Pius X in 1977. He began his soccer career with his local club, Adamstown Rosebuds. He went on to play for Sydney Olympic and Croatia, Leichhardt, Toronto Awaba and the Newcastle Breakers. He represented Northern NSW, NSW and spent seven years as an Australian Soccerroo. Mr Jennings has been inducted into the Hunter Sports Hall of Fame and the Australian Football Hall of Fame. He is another example of both sport and intellect, having received a University Medal for Honours in Education.





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Gary Haberl

Gary Haberl is an Olympic Table Tennis Champion. In 1977, at just 14 years of age, he began winning national, age, singles and doubles titles. He holds a total of 30 national titles and has represented Australia on 105 occasions. These include the World Championships, World Cup, Commonwealth Championships and Seoul Olympics.



Mr Andrew Walker

Mr Andrew Walker was Vice Captain of St Pius X in 1988. He began to act in television commercials, drama and cooperative theatre. However his real talent was in television production. He has worked in various roles: as art department coordinator, associate producer, production manager and casting director on many programs. Some of these include Echopoint, Something In the Air, Stingers, Life, Silver Sun, Big Reef, Answered by Fire and Satisfaction. Andrew Walker has been nominated for numerous national and international awards including Logies, Emmies and AIF. His most recent series won the 2009 ASTRA Award for Most Outstanding Drama.



Suzy Batkovic

Suzy Batkovic graduated from St Pius X in 1995, having earned an Australian Institute of Sport scholarship. She has played basketball for the Sydney Panthers, Townsville Fires, Australian Opals, Seattle Storm and competed in the French and Euroleague Championships. In 2002 and 2009, Suzy Batkovic was named International Player of the Year and has won silver medals in two Olympic Games, both in Athens and Beijing. Suzy continues to compete at the highest level of international competition and has been named in the Euroleague World All Star Team.



Chad Edser

Chad Edser began his surfing career at fifteen years of age by winning local schoolboys' titles in 1987. After success in Newcastle, state and national cadet titles in 1988, Chad Edser was chosen in the Australian team to tour the American West Coast and then later, New Zealand. The following year, he won many competitions including his division in the Merewether Pointscore, the Tracks Cup, Surfest, NSW individuals and was a part of the Australian All Stars Team. In 1992, Chad Edser won the Junior World Surfing Championship in France.



Rachel Hennessy

Rachel Hennessy attended St Pius X in 1988 and studied another two years at the National Playwright's Centre. She has authored award-winning drama novels, short stories and films. Rachel has received a Patrick White's Playwright Award, Varuna Playwork's Fellowship and Australian Vogel Award. Rachel has a Masters Degree and PhD in Creative Writing and is a Peer Advisor to the Literature Board of the Australia and gained a Developing Writers' Grant from the Australian Council.





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Dr Peter Gibson

- Specialist respiratory physician at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney.
- Asthma research at Firestone Chest and Allergy Clinic, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.
- 1989 - staff specialist at John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle.
- Developed a clinical service for investigating, assessing and managing people with asthma.
- Established an active research group and trained clinicians and scientists in practice and research.
- Senior staff specialist and Director of the Ambulatory Care Service in the Department of Respiratory and Sleep Medicine at John Hunter Hospital.
- Conjoint Professor of Medicine in the Faculty of Health at University of Newcastle.
- Co-director of the Centre of Asthma and Respiratory Diseases at University of Newcastle.
- Co-director of the VIVA programme in the Hunter Medical Research Institute.



Tim Richards

Tim Richards graduated from the National Institute of Dramatic Art in 1999. He is an acclaimed actor in theatre, television and film. He has starred in productions with Freewheels, Hunter Valley Theatre Company, Sydney Theatre Company, Bell Shakespeare, Company B and is well known for his role in Disney's The Lion King. You may recognise Tim Richards from his role in the television programs All Saints, the Farm, Backbreaker and Blue Water High. His latest play, A Streetcar Named Desire, co-starring Cate Blanchett, is a 'sell out' and about to tour the United States.



Helen Kapalos

Helen Kapalos graduated from St Pius X in 1986. She began her career in journalism as a reporter for ABC Radio. When she won a scholarship for the National Year of Tolerance, Helen moved to SBS television, Sydney. She is recognised locally for her role as a reporter and newsreader for NBN News. Her coverage of the closure of BHP won a NSW Prodi Award for Best Feature Documentary. Helen has worked as a reporter and newsreader for Network Nine on Nightline, a Current Affair and the Athens Olympics. She currently is contracted to Network Ten, Melbourne.



Dr Elizabeth Leane

Dr Elizabeth Leane is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Tasmania, having previously been a Senior Lecturer in English Literature and Lecturer in the School of English for Journalism and European Languages. Elizabeth is widely published in both Literature and Science and was shortlisted for the British Society for Literature and Science Book Prize. From 2001 to 2012, Elizabeth received a grant to study human-animal relations in Antarctica, creative responses to the continent for Science, Antarctica as scientific utopia and a comparison of fictional and non-fictional representations of Antarctic science and scientists.





WALL OF FAME



Ross Abbs

Ross Abbs is a lecturer Sydney Law School. Completing a Bachelor of Civil Law programme at the University of Oxford in 2010, Ross was appointed to the position of Lecturer Sydney Law School in 2012. He has previously worked as an associate to the Hon Justice Michael Kirby of the High Court of Australia and as a research assistant at the Victorian Law Reform Commission. Ross is currently undertaking research for a PhD thesis on criminal justice in the High Court of Australia and co-authored on publications on Transnational Law and Practice, Liability and Climate Law, Corporate and Taxation Law and Australian Property Law.



Mark Wells

Mark Wells is a country rock songwriter and performer who has performed live at Nashville, Tennessee, centre stage at the Sydney Entertainment Centre and appeared with Alan Jackson, Lee Kernaghan, Troy Cassar-Daley, Kasey Chambers, The McClymonts, and Adam Harvey. He has also performed at a number of festivals including Optus National Music Muster, the Deni Ute Muster, Tamworth Country Music Festival and CMC Rocks the Hunter. Mark was named Best Male Vocalist at the 1233 ABC Music Awards, was nominated for CMC New Oz Artist of the Year (2011) and was winner of the Songwriter's Prize at the Telstra Road to Tamworth in 2008. Mark's debut full-length release 'The Long Walk Home' reached the ARIA Australian Top 50. Mark also performed at the Big Band Concert which raised over \$20 000 for Cystic Fibrosis NSW and the HMRI and his 2010 single launch raised funds for John Hunter Children's Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).



James Drinkwater

James Drinkwater is an award-winning artist. Attending the National Art School in Sydney in 2001, James has numerous solo exhibitions at St James and Museum Station Sydney, Damien Minton Gallery Redfern, Iain Dawson Gallery Sydney, Cooks Hill Galleries Newcastle, Forty-Five Downstairs Melbourne, Volume Gallery Newcastle, Maunsell Wicks Sydney and Newcastle Art Space. He has had residences in Gippsland, Kenya, Berlin and won numerous awards including King School Prize (2012), Dobell Drawing Prize (2011), John Olsen National Art School Life Drawing Prize (2002), Newcastle Mattara Festival Painting Prize (2001), Gould League Environmental Prize (1998) and Reg Russom Life Drawing Prize (1996 and 1995). James has been featured in publications including Sydney Morning Herald, Hunter Lifestyle Magazine, The Arts Diary, Newcastle TAFE and National Art School Speaker, The Australian Financial Review, Real Living Magazine, ABC National Radio, Newcastle Herald, Newcastle Weekender Magazine, Expressionist – MX Melbourne City Rail Newspaper and Star Newspaper Melbourne.





WALL OF FAME



Richard Cootes

Richard Cootes began his teaching career in 1977 and is currently the Liaison Officer for Catholic Mission where he travels around the schools of the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese giving passionate and prayerful presentations for Children's Mission, and Religious Education Coordinator St James Primary School, Kotara South. Richard is also a published composer of liturgical music with releases including *For All That is Beautiful, Deep Love, Gathered in My Name and Remember Me*. Richard inspires all to live out the Gospel call to "bring the Good News to the poor" and empowers young people to make a real difference in the world.



Geon van der Wyst

Geon van der Wyst graduated from St Pius in 1986 and studied with the Australian Ballet School. He entered the Australian Ballet Company in 1991 and was promoted to soloist and senior artist. In 2001, he joined the National Ballet of Canada in the role of Principal Dancer. He has lead roles in numerous performances including Romeo and Juliet and The Taming of the Shrew.



John Cootes

John Cootes is a former Australian professional rugby league footballer, a former Roman Catholic priest and an active member of St Vincent de Paul. John has a long and successful media career as sports commentator for Channel 10 and is known as an opportunist centre and accomplished goal kicker.

- ✦ 1966 – studied theology at Rome's Propaganda College.
- ✦ 1967 to 1973 – played senior football with Western Suburbs, Newcastle.
- ✦ 1967, 1969, 1970 – represented Newcastle.
- ✦ 1967 to 1970 – represented New South Wales Country.
- ✦ 1969 – named Caltex Country Player of the Year Award.
- ✦ 1969 to 1970 – represented both NSW and Australia and toured New Zealand.
- ✦ Known as an opportunist centre and accomplished goal kicker
- ✦ 1970 scored 3 tries when West beat Maitland in the Newcastle Grand Final. Played centre in 3 matches of the World Cup in England.
- ✦ Cootes finished with 5 tries in the series – 2 each against New Zealand and France in preliminary matches and 1 against Great Britain in Australia's 12-7 final victory.
- ✦ 1970 – named Australia Day Council's NSW Citizen of the Year
- ✦ 1979 – appointed as John Singleton's replacement as host of Saturday Night Live.

