Yes! We have qualified for our 4th successive GIO Australian Schoolboy Cup Final! Regardless of the result, there is an important principle behind it: namely, school spirit. Allow me to share what I have previously put on the public record in regards to this competition:

The gift that we have been given at Patrician Brothers’ College – our wonderful talent and level of success – is simply an opportunity to build community. To feel good about ourselves and each other allows us to build a sense of being connected.

School communities reflect the individuals in them. When we feel positively about ourselves, it's contagious. Without too much effort the entire school is uplifted and energised. Of course, our ultimate goal is that all of the students gain that sense of well-being from their academic achievement!

Achievement provides a great source of satisfaction. However, there are times when each of us feels less than positive about events in our lives. It is at times like these, that an event like the GIO Schoolboy Cup, encourages school spirit and plays an important part in the life of the school.

These events help us to feel connected with one another. Cheering alongside fellow students, teachers, parents and the wider school community sends an important message that we’re all on the same team. These acts of encouragement lead to other acts of encouragement. Most schools un-

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**From the Principal**

**Victory Against Hills Sports High**

Our Man of the Match and future NRL star, Jarome Luai, kicks the winning field goal in extra time! Mr Matthew Hartigan in the background is certainly excited!
From the Assistant Principal
The last fortnight has seen the first signs of spring weather and hopefully the warmer days will assist the many staff and students who have been struggling in recent weeks with numerous winter ailments. In the last fortnight our students have performed well across a number of areas. Last week our Mock Trial team posted another victory, our Year 12 students presented their major works in IT Wood and IT Multimedia for the HSC practical markers, our prospective school leaders for 2016 presented formal speeches to Year 11 and the staff, our first grade Basketball team played in the NSWCCC championships at Penrith, managing to reach the semi-finals before being eliminated, our Year 8 students had a very successful Social Dance with Nagle College, and finally, our GIO Cup Rugby League team won a nail-biting semi-final against local rivals Hills Sports High School to advance to the national final. The final will be played on Wednesday 16 September at 1:00pm at Pepper Stadium at Penrith against Kirwan State High School from Townsville.

In coming weeks we also look forward to Year 11 Final Examinations, HSC Music practical examinations, our 2015 Sports Presentation Evening, the Principal’s Writing Challenge Awards Ceremony, and of course, the Year 12 Graduation Mass and Ceremony.

In terms of reminders for parents and students this week - we again draw your attention to the importance of student attendance and punctuality. Whether it relates to normal classes or special events, students are required to attend school every day and participate in all scheduled activities during normal school hours. It is not acceptable for students to pick and choose which events they want to attend - and then pressure their parents to excuse them or sign them out from events that do not interest them. This mentality is harmful to the students, compromises their learning and undermines school spirit and commitment.

On a related matter - we again highlight the importance of signing and returning explanation notes for all absences. Year Coordinators are reporting that an increasing number of students are failing to return notes to explain absences and in some cases, contact with parents by phone has been hampered by incorrect phone numbers provided to our front office. Please understand, there are serious implications for parents and the school in cases where absences are unexplained or excessive and we are legally required to pursue these cases, including written notifications, formal parent interviews and mandatory reporting to the Catholic Education Office at Parramatta and to other external agencies including the Department of Community Services (DOCS). Your support in this matter would be greatly appreciated, particularly in situations where Year Coordinators are contacting parents to investigate repeated or questionable absences from school.

Mr Brian Edmonds

Merit Awards
Congratulations to the following award recipients for this fortnight. These awards will be distributed at upcoming Year and College Assemblies.

**Bronze Awards**

- Seandan Arias 7C12
- Javier Arispe-Jerez 7C12
- Naman Bathla 7C18

**Silver Awards**

- Braith Egarchos 8D20
- Adam Helmey 8E10
- Jemaine Ma’u 8D22
- Karan Mehta 8D20
- Ethan Pillay 8E9
- Manav Sharma 8D22
- Thomas Sultana 8D22
- Luke Eckersley 9A25 2 Awards
- Michael Rosales 9A25
- Jaden Victoria 9B6

**Gold Awards**

- Parampreet Chadha 7C17
- Lewis Charter 7C12 3 Awards
- Marjen Chowdhury 7C14 2 Awards
- Miguel de Guia 7C16
- Nathan Jones 7C11
- Riley Marsh 7C11
- Augustino Ma’u 7C15
- Loic Moutia 7C18
- Shane Chan Myae 7C14
- Adrian Perera 7C15
- Yasswanth Ramesh 7C14
- Isaac Rosario 7C16
- Aditya Saini 7C17
- Shaarig Sami 7C14 2 Awards
- Damon Siderides 7C14
- Sibi Subramanian 7C18
- Isaiah Te Puia 7C12
- Braith Egarchos 8D20

Good luck to all for the upcoming fortnight!

Mrs Natacha Warnant, Merit Awards Convenor

Year 7 English
Year 7 have just experienced their very first Principal’s Writing Challenge on our school theme Service and Sacrifice. The challenge was met with great enthusiasm as the boys were able to express what service and sacrifice truly means to them. Some of the boys in my class have produced fantastic work ranging from stories about Ghandi to the men and women who served our country in Gallipoli. This competition has not only challenged the boys with their thinking and writing skills, but has also brought them closer as they have been able to share ideas and experiences of this challenge together. All of the boys have done a great job with what they have produced and should be very proud.

Ms Natalie Collins, English Teacher
**Feast of the Assumption**

We recently celebrated the Feast of the Assumption with a whole school Mass. Whilst we missed having our own Pastor, Fr Peter Confeggi, we were fortunate to have Fr Paul Roberts as the chief celebrant. Our boys participated well and engaged meaningfully in the Eucharist. Mr Greg Beacroft, Liturgy Coordinator, was particularly pleased with the reverence displayed by the community.
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From the Director of Studies

Principal’s Writing Challenge

The staff judging of the Principal’s writing challenge has been completed. Thank you to all students who have participated in exploring the theme of Service and Sacrifice and its significance in their own lives. Some students wrote moving poetry about the nature of heroism. Others took a more personal response and looked at the service and sacrifice of their parents in establishing a safe and welcoming home for their children. Others told tales of epic adventure and some students conducted research into areas of conflict where intervention through war was necessary when basic values of humanity were challenged. The secret, of course, to successful writing is to make sure that when the ideas are down on paper, you go back and refine them. Editing for common mistakes is the most obvious, but true editing goes beyond that, looking carefully at what the story means to convey and making sure that it does so through the effective use of language. Shortly boys and parents will be informed of the winners and on Monday 14 September, the Principal’s Writing Competition Awards Presentation will be held, commencing at 9:45am.

Year 11 Examinations

These will commence on Monday 31 August and will conclude Wednesday 9 September. All students return to school on Thursday 10 September to resume normal classes. It is imperative that parents and students know that classes will continue as the Preliminary work needs to be completed before the HSC work can commence. In Term 4, I would ask parents to keep a keen eye on their son’s attendance at school as this provides continuity and stability for their sons in their journey towards a successful completion of the HSC in 2016. Boys need to also have established a firm routine of study and revision. Three hours, not including breaks is the recommended study time for senior students per night. This is not very onerous if study time is broken up into chunks, but it allows students to be on top of their work load, not constantly having to play catch-up. Boys who have committed themselves to major work progress, need to already have a plan, worked out with their teachers, about the progress of their work. If they have identified key deadlines, then they understand the nature of the time constraints they have to work under. Boys who are considering pursuing subjects with more than 1 major work especially need to be aware of the need to be highly organised and confident in their expertise in the subjects. Major works are very demanding and students often underestimate the stresses involved in managing more than one.

NAPLAN 2015

Parents of Years 7 and 9 will receive NAPLAN results this week. It is important to have a close look at how your son has progressed in these tests. On the whole, Year 7 students showed pleasing growth in all areas of literacy and numeracy while Year 9 students showed a steady growth in their writing and in their numeracy. The reports themselves provide information about how your son performed in relation to other students in the same year group and against the national average and the national minimum standards. Year 7 reports show bands 4 to 9, and the national minimum standard is Band 5. Year 9 reports show Bands 5 to 10 and the national minimum standard is Band 6. The report also provides a table with a brief description of what students have typically demonstrated in the tests (reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation and numeracy) at each band. If there are any concerns please do not hesitate to contact your son’s teachers.

UAC and Year 12 Students

Some Year 12 students have mislaid their UAC PINs. In August your UAC PIN was posted to the address you registered with BOSTES. You’ll need your UAC PIN to:

- check your ATAR
- apply for tertiary study

Keep your UAC PIN in a safe and secure place and don’t give your UAC PIN to anyone else.

UAC application number

Your UAC application number has nine digits and is issued when you apply. Your Confirmation of Application will also include your UAC application number. You’ll need your UAC application number to use Check & Change on the website.

If you have lost or forgotten your UAC PIN, access Check & Change, enter your UAC Application number and select “Forgotten your UAC PIN? UAC will send it via email or call 1300 275 822 between 8.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

Mrs Danuta Paton

Service and Sacrifice

What makes our school so great? We are blessed with Year 11 students who actively live out the theme of Service and Sacrifice every Thursday during Period 3 when they go to Blacktown South Public School to teach Catholic scripture to students in Year 1, Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6. They also attended Wednesday 9 September. All students return to school as this provides continuity and stability for their sons in their journey towards a successful completion of the HSC in 2016. Boys need to also have established a firm routine of study and revision. Three hours, not including breaks is the recommended study time for senior students per night. This is not very onerous if study time is broken up into chunks, but it allows students to be on top of their work load, not constantly having to play catch-up. Boys who have committed themselves to major work progress, need to already have a plan, worked out with their teachers, about the progress of their work. If they have identified key deadlines, then they understand the nature of the time constraints they have to work under. Boys who are considering pursuing subjects with more than 1 major work especially need to be aware of the need to be highly organised and confident in their expertise in the subjects. Major works are very demanding and students often underestimate the stresses involved in managing more than one.

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Ms Denise Grzelj, Organiser
Library Update

Book Week Celebrations

Monday 24 August - There was competition in the air on Monday when 5 student teams and 2 staff teams competed in our inaugural Lunchtime Trivia! The ten general knowledge questions ranged from topics such as Literature, Sport, Science, our College History and Maths. Congratulations to the following students on the Year 10 team who all won Sports Canteen meal deal vouchers: Munsa Saggi; Mohak Issar; Manmeet Saini; Shiamak Kumar; Anshul Arora and Navil Nadan.

Tuesday 25 August - On Tuesday evening, over 30 enthusiastic students and staff celebrated the joy of reading during Reading Hour 2015. Reading Hour events are held in libraries all around Australia to promote the status and visibility of reading and literacy. You could hear a pin drop from 5-6pm as everyone was immersed in their chosen books by candlelight. The celebration was followed by pizza and a lengthy discussion on the texts. Thank you to all students and staff who were involved!

Wednesday 26 August - In addition to our regular raffles, the library conducted a special raffle to reward some of our regular Homework Centre attendees with a Book Week afternoon tea. Congratulations to Brock Sperinck, Ravineet Lal, Delahoya Manu and Miss Fleming who were treated to some homemade cooking and some delicious treats.

Thursday 27 August - On Thursday, we announced The Children’s Book Council of Australia - Older Reader’s Book of the Year. Congratulations to The Protected by Claire Zorn. This award winning book will be available for borrowing in the coming weeks. It is a novel about grief, adolescence and family. The Protected deals with serious issues and the deep sadness of a young girl who loses her sister in a car accident and the toll it takes on her family, but it also locates hope and a path out of mourning.

Congratulations also to Matthew Faauila (10C19) who was the winner of our Book of the Year Guessing Competition.

Friday 28 August - Book Week celebrations came to an end with Lucky Door Lunchtime Prizes. Seven random students seated in the Games Area and on the Desktops won lucky door prizes by identifying the Book Week logo under their seat.

Australian Catholic University

The Australian Catholic University offers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students an Alternate Entry Scheme. This includes Pathway programs that are designed to help students develop the skills to make the transition into university as easy as possible. A range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scholarships and Bursaries are also available. For more information, go to www.acu.edu.au/accessacu

University via TAFE

There’s more than one way to get a university degree. By completing TAFE studies before university, you can gain academic skills, get practical job skills and earn academic credit for university.

For pre University programs you can study at TAFE, call 131 870 or go to www.univiatafe.com

Automotive Apprenticeships

Vantage Automotive Pty. Ltd Apprenticeships are schemes that have been designed to provide people with work based training and nationally recognised qualifications in their chosen career sectors or industries. They outsource and manufacture to Jaguar, Volvo, Subaru, Renault, Audi, and Volkswagen. Apprenticeships are mainly aimed at school leavers.

Interested students who wish to apply for an apprenticeship will need to complete an online assessment test, application and attach their resume and cover letter. These forms can be accessed at wve.vantageautomotive.com

Book Review

Manav Sharma, Year 8
Title: 'Heroes of Olympus: Mark of Athena'
Author: Rick Riordon
Genre: Fantasy

"It is about seven demigods (half human/half God) who begin a quest across Rome to close the doors of Death. I recommend it because it has a lot of twists and interesting sections of fighting. The myths in this book are awesome." 4 Stars

Mrs Selina Wong & Mrs Vikki Forrest, Teacher Librarians
Athletics Carnival
Please enjoy the pictorial of this great community event!
Mock Trial

This is the business end of the season: the elimination rounds! Having gone through the regular season undefeated, our boys were placed 5th in the state (out of approximately 200). This is a phenomenal achievement for any school, let alone a non-selective Catholic school in Western Sydney!

However, whoever you are pitted against in the eliminations is random, and as such, we came up against Hurstville Agricultural High, yet another selective school. This was perhaps our most polished performance as a team. Rameez Parkin, in his first attempt as Barrister, was venomous in his cross-examination, tearing into his opposing witness’ claim of ignorance. Mohak Issar, playing the role of a policeman investigating a burnout, proved too difficult for his opposing barrister, who could find no way through his mantra of, “As the policeman, I am the higher authority.” A big thank you is in order to Christos Floratos, who stepped up with just a few days notice to be our 2nd witness. Despite this, Christos ended up being the highest scoring witness on the day! Bailey Broom again delivered an excellent closing address, whilst Dennyson Veloso was solid in his first round as magistrate’s clerk. We scored a convincing win, giving us great confidence going deeper into the competition. Well done to the clerk. We scored a convincing win, giving us great confidence going deeper into the competition. Well done to the clerk.

Mr Colm McCaughan & Mrs Lesley Maguire, Coaches

NSWCCC Basketball

On Monday of Week 7 our Intermediate Basketball team competed in the group stage at Penrith Basketball Stadium on Tuesday. We were matched against De la Salle, Revesby for our quarter final. Some very nice teamwork resulted in us getting out to an early lead, which took a bit of the pressure off for the rest of the game. A victory in the quarter final saw us match up with archrival St Dominic’s College, Penrith in the semi final. Unfortunately, the semi final was as far as we would progress. The game was really high quality from both teams. A notable mention must go to Tuakore Singapu for his heart and determination during this game and Hayden Blankley who was literally carried off the court having given everything he could.

Thanks to all the boys involved: Hayden Blankley (Captain), Tuakore Singapu, Prince Opoku, Joel Relunia, Patrick Gilmour, Kunal Ram, Ruel de Guia, John Paul Reyes, Jack Groeneveld, Aku Makki, Rupert Arocha and Joshua Ross. I am so proud of the way the team played and conducted themselves throughout the tournament. It was a pleasure to be part of this great bunch. Finally, a special thanks to Zac Cruz for all his help and the parents who came to support the team.

Mr Michael Said, Coach

OLMC SRC Dance

Friday the 14th August was a fabulous night for our senior students as they were invited to the OLMC SRC dance. It was an excellent night – great music, being with mates and socialising with friendly and welcoming OLMC girls. Everyone danced the night away in a really positive environment.

Thank you to all the seniors who were so gracious and well-mannered on the night. They did our school proud. Thank you to all the staff – Mr Silvestrini, Ms Pham, Ms Luppino, Ms Fleming and Mr DeAlwis who provided great encouragement.

Mr Mark Domars & Ms Denise Grzelj

The OLMC dance was the best school event I have ever been to, and I don’t say that lightly. The DJ played a large variety of music which included electro/techno music and a rock song, rather than those at previous socials and senior dances that only played pop music. The beverages were reasonably priced and the girls were awesome. I would highly recommend it to any other Patties boys.

Patrick Ross - Year 12

The dance with Our Lady of Mercy College was a fun experience for me. Despite being a tad awkward at first with a false fire alarm and evacuation, it definitely got much better. Forming circles with my friends, meeting the girls from OLMC and dancing with them was definitely really enjoyable and was probably the highlight of the night, for I was also able to show off my dancing ‘skills’ which was nice, to be honest. But yeah, it was a great night, I was able to befriend a lot of the girls that I met and it would be great to experience something like that again.

Alex Jovanovic / Isaiah Requierme - Year 11
Congratulations
Benito Montalbano – Year 7

Benito Montalbano of Year 7 competed in the NSW State Championships for Go Karting, held at Lithgow in early August. He went on to win both classes in Junior National Light & Junior National Heavy, to become NSW State Champion for 2015, taking home two blue plates. Benito’s goal is to take out the National Title later this year! Congratulations and Good Luck Benito.

Congratulations
Luke McDonald – Year 9

Congratulations to Luke McDonald of Year 9 who has been selected as a player for the Lloyd McDermott U17s Rugby Development Team 2016 tour to New Zealand. We wish him all the best.

Congratulations
Timothy Hodge – Year 9

We would like to congratulate Timothy Hodge on being selected in the 2015 New South Wales Institute of Sport (NSWIS) Swimming Squad.

MCS Athletics

The Annual MCS Athletics Championships were held in Week 5. Our College participated with great pride during the day. All students who participated did so to the best of their ability which resulted in some excellent results. A number of boys have been selected to represent the MCS at the CCC Championships later in the term. Some outstanding performances on the day were Aku Makki U15 Age Champion and Luke Zaurrini U16 Age Champion.

Thank you to Mr Campbell and Mr Saleh for their hard work on the day.

Mr Rob Bangel, Coach
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Fax: 9831 6617

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GIO Schoolboy Cup – Quarter Final – 18 August 2015
Patrician Brothers’ College, Blacktown vs Endeavour Sports High
WIN Jubilee Stadium Kogarah

In last year’s Grand Final of the GIO Cup we were soundly defeated by Endeavour Sports High School and to find that we had to play them again in this year’s Quarter Final presented a major challenge for our coaching staff. The coaching staff immediately developed a training program which included an opposed training session with Penrith’s Holden Cup team, a recovery session in the pool, team dinners and intense training sessions. Our opponents were extremely confident of repeating last year’s result as they brought all of the school along as supporters, bearing flags and banners, as well as a squad of cheer leaders. The first fifteen minutes of the game were dominated by Endeavour who had all the possession and field position and it was only our determined and aggressive defence which kept our goal line intact. When we finally got some possession and field position the team showed what potent attacking qualities they possess and were able to run in three first half tries to go into the half time break leading 16-0. The highlight of the first half was the 60 metre solo effort from Jarome Luai who beat player after player to score between the posts. At half time the coaching staff told the players their first half effort had been extremely pleasing but the job was only half done and the effort had to be repeated in the second half. The players responded to the coaching staff’s call by putting in a sustained defence effort repelling the attacking raids of our opponents and when in possession again showed their attacking qualities by running in a further three tries. Endeavour did score a try late in the second half which is only the third try the team has conceded in the four games they have played. This statistic is confirmation of the defensive qualities the team possess and if it can be repeated in our future games the GIO Cup will again take up residences in our Trophy Cabinet. The semi-final of the GIO Cup is to be played at Pepper Stadium, Penrith on Tuesday 25 August against our old rivals Hills Sports High.

Result:
Patrician Brothers’ College, Blacktown 32
defeated
Endeavour Sports High School 4
Tries – Sean O’Sullivan x 2, Jarome Luai, Moses Feilo, Jesse Abbott, Navaetangi Stefano Soni
Goals – Jarome Luai x 4

Man on the Hill
The GIO Cup Semi Final was played against our old rivals and neighbours Hills Sports High whom we have defeated on each occasion we have played them and we were hoping a similar result would again occur.
The atmosphere at the commencement of the game was electric, with the school band blaring out tunes and the school community waving flags and banners. Hills Sports High also had a sizeable community, a large number of former students in attendance and a large number of parents and spectators.
The game commenced with the team displaying energy and enthusiasm in defence, pinning Hills in their quarter and creating an error. From the ensuing scrum Michael Tupou was able to score after three minutes of play.
This easy try saw a drop off in our energy, concentration and enthusiasm in defence and it came as no surprise to see Hills score a very easy Try brought about by some poor reads in defence which had been one of our strong points.
The remainder of the half was played out from one end of the field to the other without any team being able to dominate.
With half time approaching, Jarome Luai was able to step his way past a number of Hills defenders for us to take an 8-6 lead into the break.
The coaching staff told the team at the break that they had to get into the grind, be patient and build pressure because the game was shaping up to being a very tight encounter and it would go down to the wire.
The second half was a repeat of the first with play going from one end to the other without any team being able to dominate. The only points came from a penalty goal to Hills to level the score with 5 minutes remaining.
The game finished with the teams locked at 8 points all and NRL officials advised the coaches that 5 minutes each would be played with golden point applying.
From the kick off in extra time the team played out its best set of the game with a kick at the end of the set trapping Hills on their goal line. An error from Hills provided us with possession, enabling Jarome Luai to put a field goal over and win the game, putting the team into the Grand Final for the fourth year in a row which is a tremendous achievement.
The game itself was not a great spectacle, with numerous errors, penalties and injuries making it a very stop, start affair with only the closeness of the score line making it exciting.
The team now has three weeks to get over its injuries and fine tune its attack which needs to improve before the Grand Final which will be played at Pepper Stadium, Penrith on Wednesday 16 September at 12.45pm.

Result:
Patrician Brothers’ College, Blacktown 9
defeated
Hills Sports High School 8
Tries – Jarome Luai, Michael Tupou
Field Goal – Jarome Luai

Man on the Hill
It is extremely rewarding to nurture and witness the growth in maturity, wisdom and talent of our boys.
Jarome Luai can be seen above as a Year 9 spectator in 2012 during our memorable and historic victory in the GIO Schoolboy Cup Final. He is now a superstar in the 2015 GIO Schoolboy Cup. He can be seen on the right kicking the extra time field goal that gave us victory over Hills Sports High.
Thursday Sport

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Patties mentor is top of his class

COACH LEADS FROM THE FRONT

Nick Houghton

PATRICIAN Brothers head of coaching Peter Ross has seen his fair share of NRL talent.

Since he started teaching and coaching rugby league at the school in 1997, Ross has lost count of the number of players who have made the step to professional ranks. A former Patties old boy, the passionate footy coach again has Patrician Brothers on the path to national glory.

“Patrician Brothers is more than just a school,” he said.

“There is a community spirit which has helped the school to incredible heights on the footy field and off it.

“In my 27 years at the school I have coached some incredible players and even better teams. It has been a real privilege.”

Names such as Matt Moylan, Michael Jennings, Joseph Paulo, Luke Lewis and Jamie Buhrer are just some of the players coached by Ross.

“It’s such a satisfying feeling to see the kids taking advantage of their talents,” he said.

“Ahead of our GIO Cup semi final I had the team and coaches over for dinner. It’s the moments like this during a season that stand out.”

After losing in the grand final of the GIO Cup in 2004 and 2007, Ross said he would never forget the jubilation of winning in 2012.

Peter Ross has been nominated for a Junior Sports Star award in the Service to Sport category. The awards are sponsored by Rebel. Seven News is our media partner. To nominate someone, visit JuniorSportsStar.com.au
Big Brother, NRL is watching you

Reed Izzard is another family favourite

Nick Haughton

The Patrician Brothers Blacktown has been a school where many great rugby league players have attended over the years."I’ve had a lot of former Patrician Brothers students who have played at the highest level," said Izzard.

Izzard is an important role model for the current students at Patrician Brothers Blacktown, as well as former students who have gone on to play at the highest level. He is passionate about giving back to the school that helped him achieve his dreams.

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Eyes on the prize for in-form Brothers

By Patrick Fahy

PATRICIAN Brothers College in Blacktown will be looking to continue their impressive form in rugby league’s GIO Schoolboy Cup when they play Endeavour Sports High at Jubilee Oval, Kogarah, on Tuesday.

The game is part of the national quarter finals of the competition, and a win puts them one step closer to winning the trophy again.

Patrician Brothers has had a rich history in rugby league, with a number of former students going on to play in the NRL.

Bryce Carwright, Dallin Watene-Zelezniak, Robert Jennings, Pauli Pauli and John Folau — who have all played in the NRL this year — were members of their team when they won the competition in 2012.

Every member of the current Patrician Brothers team played in the S.G. Ball Cup this year, while Reed Izzard and Jerome Luai have already made their Holden Cup debut for the Panthers.

There is no love lost between the two teams, with Endeavour defeating Patrician Brothers 24-12 in the grand final last year.

Patrician Brothers coach Greg Beacroft has come up against Endeavour four times, for two wins and one loss.

“You’ve got to go in with a positive attitude,” Beacroft said. “But I was positive last year and we lost the grand final.

“I think it comes down to the passion and commitment of players on the day. There’s not really much difference between the two teams, so it will come down to who controls the ball and the sacrifices they’re prepared to make.”

On the path to the quarter finals, Patrician Brothers have had a 62-0 win over Matavilla Sports High, a 28-8 victory against Westfields Sports High and a 42-0 drubbing against Hallam College from Melbourne.

“We’ve had three good wins, with 134 points for and only eight against,” Beacroft said. “But it means nothing on Tuesday if we lose.”

If Patrician Brothers win, they will go up against the winner of the quarter final between The Hills Sports High and Wavell State High School from Brisbane.

Out for redemption: Patrician Brothers open rugby league team and their coach Greg Beacroft (in black) will seek redemption for last year’s grand final loss to Endeavour Sports High in the GIO Schoolboy Cup.

Picture: Isabella Lettini
Native hideaway is backyard bliss

Champion Couple’s Garden Oasis proves hard to beat

Nick Houghton

The sound of birds chirping, the croaking of frogs and the gentle trickle of water regularly fills the air at Adella Ave. However, the source of this native Australian ecosystem is not what you would think.

The yard of Blacktown couple Bruce and Rosemary Smith is home to this magical space of Australian native flora and fauna.

The passionate gardeners first planted in 2001 and have watched their suburban garden flourish into so much more.

Wattles, gums and native grasses are just some of the plants that make the Smith’s pride of place stand out.

“Our son Evan was the one who first started planting in our front garden,” Mr Smith said.

“Funnily enough he was doing it to keep people from parking on our front lawn. Rosemary and I are very passionate about native plants and it has been the big inspiration to keep adding bits and pieces over the years.”

The impressive garden has also captured the attention of Blacktown Council’s garden competition judges with the Smiths collecting grand champion prizes in 2007 and 2008.

“It is good to see native gardens recognised over gardens full of exotic plants and flowers.” Mrs Smith said.

The couple has joined forces with Patrician Brothers Blacktown and spends about 10 hours a week on a native garden at the school.

“Our boys went to Patrician Brothers and Principal Sam Passarella got in contact with us after hearing about our garden at home,” Mrs Smith said.

“We have entered the school into the garden competition this year which is very exciting.”
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