Pedal Prix 2006

150 teams hurtling around a 1.6 km track at Victoria Park all vying for limited road space and speed.

This was the scene for the second of the HPV Super Series competition held last weekend at the V8 Super Car pit area and Wakefield Terrace, Adelaide. Xavier College entered three teams to contest the 6 hour event.

The senior team XLR8 completed a gruelling 140 kms to be placed 16th out of 35 teams in their category. Junior team CUL8R completed 127 kms to be placed 29 out of 45 teams and 2Fast4U the second junior team completed 100 kms.

Congratulations to the following students for their efforts: XLR8 Shane Farrelly, Cameron Roberts, Leo Shackley, Adam Newton, Jason Ryan, Khye Nelson and Matthew Fiebig; CUL8R Fraser Gill, Scott Kondraciuk, James Rollison, Kieran Meaney, Zac Jamieson and Tyler Jenke; 2Fast4U Jenna Farrelly, Charlotte Berrill, Tom Harris, Rhiannon Cannard, Jamie Collins, Nick Long.

Thank you to Sue Fiebig for obtaining support from the following sponsors: Fairmont Homes, Land SA, Kolecki Brothers, Hallett Concrete, Dave Jack Paving, Healthy Moves, BGC Plasterboard, AGI Insulation, CDs Concrete Pumping, CBS Bins, Adelaide Grande Plaster Products, and TF Electrical Services. Thanks to visiting teachers and their families and those who assisted on the day especially Mr Gasser, Ms Schuitt, Mr Bockelberg and Mr Steele.

Preparations are now underway for the final event in the series - the 24 hour nonstop Australian International Pedal Prix to be held at Murray Bridge over the weekend of September 16/17. 230 teams have entered this event with over three thousand riders participating. All spectators are welcome to attend to show support for our teams.

Mr Roberts
cont’d page 2
From the Principal

Last week members of the Salesian Principal’s Association of Australia (SPAA) met in South Australia and visited the Salesian secondary schools in this state. As mentioned in Xavier News last week they spent Thursday morning here at Xavier and then travelled to St Mark’s College in Port Pirie to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the arrival of the Salesians at St Marks College.

My involvement with the SPAA is a constant reminder for me of the significant part the Salesian Charism plays in the way we go about things at Xavier. Some times we can too easily forget that it is the example of St John Bosco that has inspired our College Charter and determines the policies that the College puts in place to respond to the common issues that need to be addressed by schools. For example, a week does not pass by without the media raising the issue of bullying in schools. Xavier is certainly not free from needing to face these same issues and I am aware of a couple of recent issues and have also been personally involved with some myself. On each occasion I have taken some solace from parents who have acknowledged the effectiveness of the College ‘Bullying and Harassment’ Policy and the manner in which staff members have quickly and constructively responded to the issue. They have made remarks like “It is pleasing to see that here you actually followed up the issue seriously”. This policy, the pastoral care structure at the College that supports the policy and the approach taken by staff members are all consistent with the philosophy of St John Bosco.

When Don (Fr) Bosco founded the Salesian schools in the mid 19th Century, he made a radical departure from the traditional discipline and welfare systems of the time. He deliberately moved away from the repressive educative systems to a preventative system. At the heart of this philosophy is the concept of walking with young people on their educative journey. His unconditional respect for the young people in his care is the model that underpins our commitment to following up quickly with those who suffer an injustice and also with those who act inappropriately. The values epitomised by Don Bosco are transferable from school to home and beyond. I am sure all families would benefit from building interpersonal relationships on the Bosco philosophy.

Absenteeism

The College has devoted considerable energy in recent years to reducing the rate of student absences. It is pleasing to report that the number of students absent has declined considerably.

When a student is recorded as absent from school, without explanation, the College office phones a parent/caregiver to ensure the whereabouts of the student.

Two issues have been identified as continuing to be of concern in regard to student absences:

- There are still, on average, over 20 parents/caregivers each day who forget to notify the College when a student is knowingly absent from school. Please remember to use the College Absentee Phone line 8521 4537. This will save the College staff a considerable amount of time each day.

- There are too many occasions when students miss school, with parental approval, for what I consider to be questionable reasons. Please remember that consistent and regular attendance is vital to student success.

R.I.P.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Thomas Blake (Year 8) on the recent loss of his Grandfather. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Blake/Allen family.

Weekly Celebration of the Eucharist

Every Tuesday morning at 8.10am Fr. Germano Baiguini will say a morning Mass in the Xavier Chapel. Students and staff are invited to join the thousands of Catholics around the world who begin their day by spending some time in prayer and celebrating the Eucharist together before they go off to school, work.... etc.

STUDENT ABSENTEEISM

PHONE LINE: 8521 4537

Ring any time before 9am and leave a message

Pedal Prix 2006

A student’s perspective

On the weekend I was able to ride in the school pedal prix team. It was held on Sunday at Victoria Park Race Way. It was a great day and we all had a ball.

To ride the bikes it takes a lot of fitness and great endurance because it can put a huge strain on the body. It is a good feeling when you are out in the bikes competing against other riders on the track.

Now we need to concentrate on preparing the bikes and our fitness for the main race that is held in Murray Bridge in September. None of this would be possible without the support of the teachers and our parents.

Matt Fiebig (XLR8 team), year 9
From July 10th to the 14th, I participated in my Work Experience in the South Australian Police Force. Along with 11 other applicants, I was able to go behind the scenes at Salisbury Station and see the officers in their daily job. We had many speakers from Recruiting, Criminal Investigation Branch, Child and Family Investigation Unit, Mantle (drug operations), Community Constables, Star Group, Major Crash, Patrols, Community Programs and Intelligence. All presented 1-hour speeches on their fields and how their role fits within SAPOL.

We also travelled on the Police Bus to the Communications Centre in Adelaide (where all calls are sent to), Mounted Section (horses for patrol), Police Band and Dog Operations at the Barracks near Adelaide Gaol, Water Operations at Semaphore, Elizabeth Magistrates Court for Prosecutions and finally the Police Academy at Fort Largs. To see some of these sections and the police cadets training was something spectacular to see. I also was able to interact with some scenarios and work amongst the other applicants. Since I was the only Xavier student, I interacted with students from other schools and made some good friends, who I will enjoy to work with in the near future.

Hearing from the officers was interesting and influential on many of the applicants alongside me. Many were disrupted and disturbed by some of the points to take into consideration for being a police officer. There is paperwork to write up every day for reports and filing, variation of shift work at night, weekends and public holidays, seeing people in horrific ways that anyone can imagine, reporting to families about loved ones passing away, risk of being hurt on duty and the amount of stress, responsibility and pressure put on officers.

Cont’d page 4
A week in the life of a Police Officer cont’d.

However there are many benefits including 6 weeks annual leave on full pay, 90 days long service leave after 10 years with increment of 9 days up to 15 years and additional 15 days after 15 years, 12 program days off per year, 12 sick days per year increased wages in years service (up to 8 years), penalty rates for afternoons, night, weekends and public holidays.

The Police Force is one big family and everyone looks out for each other, especially in time of need. There are a variety of funds available, sporting federation to participate in (optional) and the reward of making a difference in the community. Officers also commented on the amount of enjoyment they have including putting criminal away, adrenaline pumping in speeding chases with sirens going off and connecting closely with your team: even at get togethers after work.

I truly understand and have fully researched the task ahead of me to become a Police Officer. There are plenty of challenges that face me and enormous pressure to make it into SAPOL at only 18 years of age. Despite the odds, I am a believer and I am more focused, motivated and passionate about this career. I know deep down I have all the qualities and skills to succeed highly in SAPOL and many people have respectfully complimented me.

I have the support from family, friends and peers to make it and my goals are set to make my dream come true. I am prepared to dedicate my life to the police and help everyone I encounter in my career. My foot is the door, I just have to step in...

By Michael Krawczyk
Year 12 Student

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

for all year levels will be held in week 3 of term 3.

Wednesday August 9th
2.00pm – 5.00pm and
6.00pm – 8.00pm

Students have received a letter and booking sheet and will be making appointments with teachers during class over the next two weeks.

NetAlert/Online Safety Parent Information Evening

An invitation is extended to parents, students and friends of the Saint Mary’s College Community to attend the NetAlert Expo hosted by the College.

What is NetAlert?

NetAlert is Australia’s Internet safety advisory body and was established by the Australian Government in 1999 to provide independent advice / education on Internet safety and managing access to online content. It is a not-for-profit organisation providing people with information about the issues, risks and dangers associated with using the Internet.

What is a NetAlert Expo?

Saint Mary’s College will host a NetAlert Exp on 17 August at 7.30 pm. The venue will be the College's Centre for Performing Arts.

The Expo will cover a range of issues including:

- The online exploitation of children by paedophiles
- Exposure to illegal and inappropriate content
- Advertising and marketing practices that increase the vulnerability of children
- Increasing trends such as cyber bullying and cyber-stalking
- Helping parents understand the ways children use the Internet
- New mobile technologies (such as iPods and camera phones) and how to deal with unsavoury content

All participants that attend the Expo will receive free resources.

How do I Register?

online at:
www.stmaryscoll.adl.catholic.edu.au/News and Events/Events
Or Email: giannicelli@stmaryscoll.adl.catholic.edu.au
Or Phone: 8231 4347 and ask for Mrs Iannicelli