



The Olive Cusack Bursary 2024 Application Information

The PLC Old Collegians' Association bursary recognises a Boarding House student currently in Year 7, 8 or 9 who demonstrates an understanding of the needs of others, participates in a wide range of activities organised by the School community, and shows a commitment to personal excellence, particularly in the Boarding House.

The recipient will receive \$5,000 towards tuition fees in 2024.

Olive Cusack

Presbyterian Ladies' College 1941 – 1962

Born Olive Drummond in Irvine Street's "Hawthornden", Peppermint Grove, she was affectionately nicknamed "Dosh" by her family. Aged 27 in 1922 she married Tom Cusack and they took over management of Tom's family sheep station "Tambrey" near Roebourne. They had three children together and held tennis parties the like of which the district had never seen. Tom went missing just before Christmas 1936 and was found dead on the third day of searching. Sadly, he had apparently shot himself by accident while hunting kangaroos.



Mrs Cusack began teaching French, English, Maths and Sport at PLC in 1941. The following year she became Deputy to Dr Summers and picked up another nickname, "Mrs Cu". She loved hockey and actively promoted the game amongst the girls, acting as coach, umpire and player, even in her last years at PLC, when she would've been in her mid 60s. In the words of Margot Stretch (Brown 1955), "she was a strict disciplinarian. Mrs Cu would often meet us as we arrived at the School gate to ensure that our uniform was correct. She knew the correct angle at which a beret should be worn and any person found wearing it incorrectly would be quietly and firmly shown exactly how it should be placed. Fairness was an outstanding trait...She had a deep love of reading both prose and poetry...Everyone loved, admired and deeply respected Mrs Cusack."

Mrs Cusack was Dr Summers' Deputy and close friend for 41 years and retired in 1962 (aged 67) after Dr Summers retirement the previous year. She died in 1985 and her ashes were placed in her husband's grave at Tambrey Homestead. Her memorial plaque reads *Dosh Cusack 1895-1985 'His Majesty seeks and loves courageous souls'*.

Criteria

Eligible applicants are invited to apply for the Olive Cusack Bursary by submitting a handwritten letter that outlines how they meet the bursary criteria and why they believe they would be a worthy recipient. The letter should also reflect the unique experiences associated with being a Boarder at PLC.

The selected student will need to:

- Display an understanding of the needs of others;
- Demonstrates courage in trying new things and participates in a wide range of activities organised by the school community;
- Contribute positively to the Boarding House and PLC community as a whole;
- Behave in a manner that consistently reflects the PLC school values;
- Demonstrate a commitment to personal excellence, particularly in the Boarding House.

Format

- Applications should be handwritten and no more than two A4 pages.
- Applications should have a cover page with the name of the Bursary and student details

General Requirements

- Applications should attach a copy of their Semester One report (no originals).
- Applications should also attach a dot-point list of co-curricular activities they have participated in (sports, music, service etc), awards etc;
- Please submit your application to the Boarding House Reception no later than 4.00 pm on Friday 27 October 2023.

Process

- After applicants submit their written applications, a shortlist will be selected by a panel of PLC Old Collegians.
- Each shortlisted applicant will be invited to a brief (10 minute) interview with the panel.
- The panel will award the bursary following the completion of interviews.

Bursary Key Dates:

Applications Open: Friday 22 September

Applications Close: Friday 27 October, 4.00 pm

Interviews: Early November

Bursary awarded: Mid November