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Front Cover
Korede Ayonrinde, Abigail Sim and Paige Symons with Junior School artwork.

Subscribing

If you are not receiving the correct number of Blackwatch magazines at your address, if you need to change your address details or if you know of a current PLC family or an old collegian who is not receiving Blackwatch, please contact PLC Community Relations on +61 8 9424 6475.

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Message from the Principal

To educate PLC students as global citizens means nurturing intellectual rigour, human compassion and cultural sensitivity.

Early in 2009 I attended a management course in Singapore and found myself learning alongside leaders from Thailand, Malaysia, China, Singapore, India, Indonesia, United States, Netherlands and one fellow Australian.

English was the common language although it took me several days to ‘tune in to’ the various accents and pronunciations of my mother tongue. Imagine my surprise when familiarity and friendship allowed the group to share that it took them several days to ‘tune in to’ my version of the English language! As always I was also humbled by the fact that I was the only mono-linguist in the group. However, I realised that what was an unusual situation for me was only a taster of what the world of work and friendship is, and will continue to be, for the current and future generations of PLC students – international, multi-lingual and multi-cultural.

Additionally, our current students are even more likely than those in the past to find themselves in professional environments where they are the minority language and ethnic group.

George Walker, former Director General of the International Baccalaureate argues “very few issues of significance today can be understood within one’s own national context. The situation in [Afghanistan] and the phenomenon of global warming affect us all, each provoking different interpretations, different points of view, different solutions. He defined a global citizen as ‘one who seeks out a range of views and perspectives when solving problems. Global citizens do not ‘tolerate’ or ‘accept’ cultural differences or viewpoints since these words often implicitly place the speaker at the centre of what is acceptable and right. Global citizens proactively seek out those who have backgrounds that are different from their own, examine ideas that challenge their own, and then enjoy the complexity.”

To educate PLC students as global citizens means nurturing intellectual rigour, human compassion and cultural sensitivity. This edition of Blackwatch explores the expanding opportunities to prepare PLC students for such responsibilities.

May 2010 bring peace and understanding to our families and communities.

BETH BLACKWOOD
Principal

PLC nationally recognised for innovation in education technologies

In October 2009 PLC Principal Beth Blackwood was presented with an Australian Award for Teaching Excellence by Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, in Canberra. The Australian Awards for Teaching Excellence are the peak national awards for the teaching profession and celebrate teaching and its contribution to the nation.

PLC was commended in the ‘School and its Community’ category for our use of new technologies in teaching, enabling learning environments to be tailored to individual student needs.

Education technologies have a long history at PLC, with the School being one of the first in Australia to introduce a student laptop programme in 1992.

“Our development of digital content and resources has meant students are able to learn in a myriad of ways, at different rates, within and beyond the school walls.” Ms Blackwood said. “Particular attention is paid to embedding thinking skills. Teachers can tailor teaching materials to particular students and parents can engage through ready access to curriculum materials.”
Each year, Year 12 students of PLC achieve consistently creditable results in the Tertiary Entrance Examinations (TEE) and in the INSTEP (VET) programme.

PLC is a non-selective school, providing open entry for prospective students, and these excellent results reflect the value that we add as a School.

Graduation
In 2009, 98% of Year 12 PLC students achieved secondary graduation through the Western Australian Certificate of Education with girls excelling in both academic and vocational courses. In the Tertiary Entrance Examinations:

- 11% achieved a TER of 99.00 or above which means they were in the top 1% of candidates in the state.
- 35% had a TER above 95.00 - the top 5% in the state.
- 51% had a TER above 90.00 - the top 10% of the state.
- 60% were in top third of state cohort.

Awards and Achievements
General Exhibitions were awarded to our Dux of School, Lauren Smith and to Georgina Carr and Liana Tay. We congratulate them on this exceptional achievement.

General exhibitions are given to the 40 eligible students with the highest Curriculum Council scores based on the average scaled marks of five tertiary entrance subjects/courses, at least two being from humanities/social sciences and two from mathematics/science.

Subject Exhibitions were awarded to Portia Smallbone (Dance), Ashleigh McCloskey (Drama) and Sophie Kesteven (English Literature).

A Subject or Course Exhibition is awarded to the eligible student obtaining the highest raw examination mark in a tertiary entrance rank subject.

Certificates of Distinction
Certificates of Distinction were awarded to Emily Swan (Biology); Portia Smallbone (Dance); Jennifer Alderson, Emily Swan and Liana Tay (Discrete Mathematics); Eliza Kavanagh, Sophie Kesteven, Ashleigh McCloskey and Anna Quirk (Drama); Sophie Joske (English); Sophie Kesteven and Lucy Mengler (English Literature); Charlotte Lane (Geography); Caitlin Baird, Jade Bates and Eliza Kavanagh (Media Production and Analysis).

Certificates of Distinction are awarded to the top 0.5 per cent of eligible candidates in a tertiary entrance subject or course. This is based on the combined mark of an equally weighted school assessment and the examination mark and is a highly prized award.

Certificates of Excellence
13 PLC students achieved Certificates of Excellence. These certificates are awarded to each eligible student who, in her last three consecutive years of senior secondary education in Western Australia, obtains at least ten grades of ‘A’ in year-long (or equivalent) Curriculum Council subjects and/or courses or VET units of competence.

Certificates of Excellence were awarded to Jennifer Alderson, Amelia Brown, Georgina Carr, Frances Foulkes-Taylor, Olivia Gamble, Malindi Haggett, Ashleigh McCloskey, Portia Smallbone, Lauren Smith, Emily Swan, Liana Tay, Celia Thompson and Madeleine Watts.

Top Ten Performing Schools in the State
In 2009 PLC was listed amongst the top ten performing schools in 12 TEE subjects/courses of study.


This list recognises the strength of achievement of schools in a particular subject (at least 12 students must be enrolled). They are compiled from the percentage of students at each school who achieved a scaled mark of 75 or more (in TEE). Schools are then ranked accordingly.
An Opportunity for PLC
At PLC we hold a strong belief that a whole-of-person approach to intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual development is essential to excellence in education and upgrading our sporting facilities was seen as a priority in cultivating this philosophy. Now, a grant of $2.5 million in capital funding from Building the Education Revolution, a key element of the Australian Government’s Economic Stimulus Plan, will be directed towards the building of a Swim & Recreation Centre at PLC. This is a unique opportunity, as independent schools have not received government funding for capital works in the past and are unlikely to in the future. With this in mind, it is heartening to know that in the spirit of continuing a long tradition of generosity, many friends, parents, past-parents and alumni of PLC have already contributed their very generous support towards this project.

The Benefits of Physical Activity
Research shows a direct link between leading an active lifestyle and good mental and physical health. The many benefits to teenaged girls of regular physical activity include alleviation of stress, a decreased incidence of depression, a positive body image, a deterrent from the use of drugs and alcohol, and the development of important social skills like teamwork. This research indicates that we must foster a culture that encourages children and teenagers to be more physically active. The PLC Swim & Recreation Centre will help us emphasise our dedication to providing an environment that will encourage our students to establish a healthy lifestyle for the long-term.

PLC Swim & Recreation Centre
The new centre will feature the existing swimming pool, but newly heated and enclosed on three sides so that students can enjoy swimming activities regardless of the weather. The floor above will be developed into a foyer and recreational space for year-round use for sports and recreation such as basketball, netball, badminton, dance and drama. This space will also accommodate some recreation activities that now take place in the Junior School Hall, thus making the hall more available for other activities of extended classroom teaching and learning.

The Swim & Recreation Centre will be linked to the Junior School by an undercover walkway, enabling Junior School students to make full use of the facility for assemblies and wet weather activities, and the walkway itself will serve as a gallery for the artwork of Junior School students.

As part of this project, the Junior School and Early Childhood recreation areas will be redeveloped providing more open space and ensuring safe, imaginative play areas.

Construction of the Swim & Recreation Centre is scheduled to commence in December 2009 and the centre is expected to be ready for use at the start of the 2011 school year.

If you have any questions regarding the new Swim & Recreation Centre please contact Development Coordinator, Ellaine Hislop, on 9424 6534 or email ehislop@plc.wa.edu.au. All communications and discussions are strictly confidential.
The PLC community has a history of generosity. Many bequests have been received over the years and the benefits of these gifts are evident to this day.

Annual Giving 2009 Programme

PLC annually reaches out to the school community with the aim of funding projects that facilitate the creation of a unique and successful learning experience, supply resources that encourage independent learning, and assist students from diverse backgrounds to realise their potential. Each and every contribution is most welcome and highly valued.

In 2009 generous supporters of Annual Giving made gifts to the PLC Foundation Building Fund, the PLC Foundation Scholarship Fund and the PLC Library Fund.

We offer our heartfelt thanks to the Annual Giving 2009 donors listed below and to those who wished to remain anonymous:

Miss Wendy Addis (1954)  
Mr Rory Argyle (1958)  
Mrs Margaret Atkins OAM (Cusack 1947)  
Mr Colin and Mrs Ruth Baird  
Mrs Carmen Bairstow (Willmott 1991)  
Mrs Judy Battaglia  
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Mrs Brenda Mazzucchelli (Sloane 1957)  
Mrs Prue McAllister (Shenton 1943)  
Mr Gerard McCann and Ms Sue Gawne  
Mrs Robin McCallan  
Miss Cassie McCloskey (2008)  
Mrs Alexia and Andrew Miller  
Mrs Cecily Moffett (Kellow 1941)  
Mrs Jan Muggleton (Fuller 1968)  
Mrs Julie Murray (Sandilands 1986)  
The Hon Robert Nicholson AO  
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Ms Jenny Rankin  
Dr Jenny Rogers (1972)  
Mrs Jane Sanders (1983)  
Mrs Dawn Scaife  
Mrs Margaret Stamper (Monger 1947)  
Dr Rod Steens  
Ms Val Sutherland (1957)  
Mr Garry Triglavcanin  
Mrs Alison Tweedle (McNeil 1951)  
Mrs Pat Voyer (Beaty 1946)  
W Fairweather & Son Pty Ltd  
Mrs Susan Wooller (Gordon 1969)  
PLC Class of 2009

The PLC community has a history of generosity. Many bequests have been received over the years and the benefits of these gifts are evident to this day.

Inspired by and named for Dr Vera Summers (staff 1920-1961, Principal 1934-1961), with the purpose of recognising those who contribute to the long-term future of PLC and encouraging graduates and supporters of PLC to continue the tradition of philanthropy that began with a bequest from Dr Summers, The Summers Society was established in April 2009.

The inaugural member of The Summers Society is Hon June Craig AM and since she was presented with the first pin of The Summers Society, five other generous members of the PLC community have been admitted to the society and those who live locally gathered for a morning tea with Principal Ms Beth Blackwood earlier this year.

For ensuring that future generations of PLC students will continue to benefit from PLC as a leading educator of young women and a modern and progressive school that so many others have enjoyed and benefited from, we thank the members of The Summers Society: Ms Robyn Ahern, Mrs Margaret Atkins OAM, Hon June Craig AM, Mrs Mimi Packer, Ms Angela Vincent and Miss Judith Vincent.

For information on how you can give to the future of PLC by making a bequest in your will, please contact Development Coordinator, Ms Wendy Addis (1954).

Hon June Craig AM, Mrs Margaret Atkins OAM, Mrs Mimi Packer and Ms Robyn Ahern at the Summers Society Morning Tea.

Elaine Hislop, on 9424 6534 or email ehislop@plc.wa.edu.au. All communications and discussions in this regard are strictly confidential.

The Summers Society
Think Global, Act Local

As the Community and Service Learning Co-ordinator, it is my responsibility to inspire students to become involved and take leadership in many community-based projects. A term I often use is ‘think global, act local’.

Through our Service Immersion Projects students witness and engage by helping disadvantaged and marginalised groups in our global and local communities. Although these experiences can be confronting, they require our students to critically question and reflect upon the central concept of our IB education:

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

At a global level our service involves partnerships and hands-on work in Cambodia and Tanzania; building houses, and assisting orphanages and animal rehabilitation. Prior to departing for these international destinations, students spend several months raising money to fund the work and to support schooling in tsunami devastated Sri Lanka.

At times students can feel overwhelmed by the breadth of global issues, but are reassured that they can channel this awareness and need for action into many local community issues and in our Kimberley region. Many aspects of disadvantage, poverty, disability, women’s refuge, animal care, environment, health, homelessness and the plight of refugees sit right on our doorstep; ‘closer to home than you think’ is another term I often use.

The Service Immersion experience creates a strong connection between the student’s intellect (head) and compassion (heart) and leads to ongoing commitment to action (hands). This can also be the catalyst for a profound emotional and spiritual journey, giving a perspective of the daily lives of our students – that to be loved, healthy and educated is truly a wonderful gift.

Many students find that understanding their own sense of privilege has given them a greater sense of purpose and responsibility to give support to the less fortunate, the environment and animal aid. Our girls frequently express their feelings of quiet contentment and the joy they gain when they shift focus from ‘self centred’ to ‘other centred’. This helps them work out where they fit in the world and creates a belief and confidence that they can truly make a difference.

TRACEY BAHEN
Co-ordinator of Service Learning

1. PLC girls interact with Cambodian children on the Service Immersion Tour.
2. Lucy Westbrook (Year 11, 2009) with a sun bear at the bear refuge in Cambodia.
PLC will host the International Theatre Schools Association (ISTA) Middle School Drama Festival from 19-21 March 2010, when 140 students from across the world will come to PLC to participate in three days of drama workshops. Twenty-five PLC students will participate, as will students from Hale School, but the remainder will be from various countries including China (Beijing), India (Mumbai), Philippines (Manila), Thailand and Hong Kong.

Organiser and PLC Drama Teacher Liane Campbell said the drama festival was a fantastic opportunity for PLC girls to meet students from different cultural backgrounds with a shared passion for drama. “ISTA workshops are all about celebrating drama in the context of the host country’s cultural background” Mrs Campbell said. “When we host the Middle School festival, we will be exploring Indigenous stories and taking advantage of Cottesloe’s Sculptures by the Sea exhibition, which will be on at the time.”

PLC joined ISTA in 2008 and since then our drama staff and students have participated in workshops in countries including Dubai, Bali, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Mrs Campbell said meeting students from other countries is an amazing opportunity for PLC girls. “By meeting other students with world experiences it opens their minds to what is on offer in a global context” she said.

The majority of the students participating in the festival will be billeted with PLC families. Anyone interested in hosting a student for the duration of the ISTA festival should email Mrs Campbell at lcampbell@plc.wa.edu.au.

The entire PLC community will be invited to attend the final cumulative performance on 21 March, 2010 at the end of the ISTA Drama Festival.
Youngsters introduced to other cultures

Children in PLC’s holiday care programme have been learning to appreciate other cultures through a range of activities, including the performance of a special Nativity titled ‘Christmas Around the World and Beyond’, which saw the children costumed in the dress of a variety of cultures and holding up the flags of the relevant nations. They also took part in an Indian dancing workshop, with a visit from a special guest to teach them the various techniques. It was great to see everyone getting involved and trying their hardest to perfect their Indian dance techniques.

Right: Children from PLC’s holiday care programme took part in a series of activities encouraging them to appreciate other cultures.

Chinese students take in Australian culture

In Term 3, special guests from Huijia International School in Beijing, China, enjoyed the PLC way of life. For five weeks, fourteen Chinese girls stayed with families in Perth’s western suburbs enjoying the company of their Year 8 buddies and being accompanied by PLC girls to everyday classes like maths, science, dance and textiles.

Head of Middle School Sharon Anderson said it was a wonderful experience for the Chinese students and for the PLC girls. “Our students are learning how important clear communication is and what we take for granted in terms of language” Ms Anderson said. “We are also learning about life in China and how different it is from Australia.”

Chinese student Lindy Yu said she was enjoying her time at PLC and had found the curriculum very different from that at her school in China. Lindy said highlights had been experiencing lamingtons and Australian culture.

Above left: Eleanor Lang, Lindy Yu and Maisie Stein.
Above right: Chinese students from Huijia International School in Beijing with their PLC buddies.

“By meeting other students with world experiences it opens their minds to what is on offer in a global context”.

Right: Children from PLC’s holiday care programme took part in a series of activities encouraging them to appreciate other cultures.
Every year PLC accepts many students who have previously studied in countries around the world; currently this section of the student population numbers more than seventy students from more than twenty different nationalities. Whether they come to PLC as international boarding students or have arrived in WA to make a new life with their families, integrating these students into the state curriculum is a challenge for PLC staff.

Deputy Principal Keith Anderson begins by negotiating the Year level equivalent with the country of origin, but he says that this task is not too difficult because PLC courses are flexible, especially for senior students. For example, in 2010 there will be 310 subjects in Years 11 and 12 – a huge change from ten or twenty years ago.

However, Mr Anderson says that when the newly arrived student’s country of origin is one where rote learning or teacher directed learning is predominant, they often take some time to adapt to their new learning environment, because at PLC students enjoy a more interactive style of learning that includes state-of-the-art communication and technology.

Most commonly the newly arrived students come from the English speaking UK and USA, but many are from countries where English is a second, third or fourth language (ESL). Mr Anderson says that for the newly arrived students coming from ESL backgrounds, language is often the biggest challenge. They undergo intensive English classes at an external college and for those who begin with no English, embracing ESL can be a daunting task. “We tend to use a lot of slang and speak quickly so the new students often find this difficult. Also, our girls tend to express themselves by giving each other hugs and girls from other cultures may not be used to this form of expression. Depending on their country of origin, some girls are not used to the personal and physical freedom they experience here at PLC”, Mr Anderson said.

Head of Middle School Sharon Anderson said that pastoral care for students newly arrived in WA is very similar to that for local students. “The only exception is that I meet with the parents and student when they start at PLC to gain an understanding of the style of educational institution they have come from” Mrs Anderson said.

For school Registrar and International Student Officer Rosemary Lukin (1968) one of the biggest challenges is ensuring that these students simply feel at home at PLC. Rosemary said “In addition to ESL challenges, at the same time these girls are getting used to living in a country that is foreign to them with very different customs and an added challenge for boarders is living away from their families”. Rosemary added “In a way I become a temporary substitute for their mother and the girls know that they can always come to me with their concerns and questions”.

With such a range of cultural backgrounds to draw upon, many of PLC’s events and performances have had an international focus. For example: on Arts Day our students from other countries devise performances that draw upon their cultural backgrounds; in the Boarding House, Chinese New Year and the birthday of the King of Thailand are celebrated; and in March each year Harmony Day respectfully recognises Australia’s cultural diversity.

**Amelia Spackman (Year 11, 2009)** is the 2010 Overseas Representative. When Amelia was aged 7 years her family left their Wimbledon home in London, England, and moved to Singapore, where her father was posted for work in the oil and gas industry. Amelia attended an international school that celebrated most cultural holidays. “It made me much more aware of different cultures and global issues,” Amelia said. “At first I found starting a new school intimidating but in hindsight it has made me more open minded. I really notice this when I go back to England to visit my old friends and compare their lives and experiences to what my life is like now.” Amelia said she would like to bring a greater global awareness to her role as Overseas Representative. “We are so privileged at PLC but sometimes we lose sight of those less fortunate living in other countries,” she said.

**Mint Chaiyakul (Year 9, 2009)** is one of PLC’s international students and has lived in the Boarding House since 2008. Mint is from Thailand and has a brother who attended Scotch College and will remain in Perth to continue his studies at UWA. Mint says that there were several reasons why PLC was the family’s choice in preference to the other Perth schools they considered, amongst them that her father and brother both went to Scotch and both Mint and her father really liked the atmosphere at PLC. She said that although she found it challenging at first, assistance from the PLC staff and her new friends really helped. Mint said that a highlight of living in the Boarding House is the new friends she has made, saying “We now feel like we are sisters”: 
Since becoming an IB World School, PLC has honoured that commitment and become a part of a global community of schools...

PYP Evaluation in the Junior School

In July 2003 Alison Viney and I travelled to Mt Anglem College, Invercargill (at the southern tip of New Zealand) to attend the International Baccalaureate (IB) Conference. This marked the beginning of our journey of understanding the substance and multifaceted potential of the Primary Years Programme (PYP). Subsequently PLC made the commitment to developing through the IB PYP programme, international-minded ‘inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect’. (IB Mission statement)

Since becoming an IB World School, PLC has honoured that commitment and become a part of a global community of schools, all working to enrich the lives of their students. We have worked with educators from countries such as the USA, Germany, Hong Kong, China, United Kingdom, South Africa, New Zealand and Singapore. We have also taken more seriously our responsibility to the world; to the environment, its animals and its peoples. As one student at PLC wrote, “When we learn we don’t just put it away and not use it. We take action and put what we have learned into reality.”

Six years later, in 2009, we prepared for our evaluation visit over three days from 18 to 20 November. This process was rigorous and at times, very challenging and confronting. It involved a six-month self-study where staff, students and parents assessed our progress against the nine standards and 125 practices set by the IB for all their schools. The resulting 77-page report was accompanied by many more pages of evidential documentation. Two months prior to the evaluation visit, the report was sent to the IB to give the examiners time to assess it before they visited.

Mario Gauci, Associate Manager of the IB PYP in the Asia Pacific region and Di Fisk, an experienced IB PYP educational consultant arrived at PLC on 18 November to meet and talk with members of the School Council, the parent body and members of PLC senior management. They also met and spoke with all the Junior School teachers and a number of our students and pored over the curriculum documents and evidence samples we had prepared. The opportunity to clarify our thinking and the requirements of the IB was enormously beneficial.

The need to reflect deeply on one’s practice, to have to identify strengths and practices in need of reinforcement, and then to document proposals for improvement, all of which is evidence based, was time consuming and challenging. There were times when we wondered what we had embarked upon and yet we can now look forward with confidence, knowing that we have thoroughly audited teaching and learning in the Junior School. We have all the information we need to plan for the next five years, which will be exciting, challenging and enriching for all who teach and learn here. We await our formal report from the IB in Geneva but are extremely proud of the compliments received from the examiners who said they saw PLC Perth as a ‘lighthouse’ school that they would encourage others to visit to view good practice.

JANET WILMOT
Head of Junior School

Above: Junior School students Shay Boyle and Molly Alderson with Mandalas.
School News

WA Media TEE Review Awards

Two teams of PLC Year 12 students had their work showcased at the recent Media TEE Review Awards after their projects were judged to be in the top three entries from WA in their specific categories.

A photo essay by Asha Rokich (Year 12, 2009) titled ‘A Country Hero’ and focusing on the work of a country vet, demonstrated Asha’s strong photographic skills and took first place in the Photomedia category. Congratulations to Asha for this most impressive result.

‘Blue Ponies and White Skies’ by Jade Bates, Ella Jackson, Eliza Kavanagh and Chloe Leaker (all Year 12, 2009), a film featuring surrealistic elements and quirky humour, took first place in the Narrative Fiction category, which received the most entries and was hotly contested. Congratulations to Jade, Eliza, Ella and Chloe for creating such an amazing short film, which was very well received by the audience on the evening of the awards.

Eliza and Ella are planning to pursue their interest in film at tertiary level, so keep an eye out for their future success in the industry.

1. Jade Bates, Ella Jackson, Eliza Kavanagh and Chloe Leaker with their awards.
2. Asha Rokich with her award.
3. An image from Asha Rokich’s submission.

Walking School bus accompanied by special guest Julie Bishop

Conducted each Friday throughout the school year, the PLC Walking School Bus comprises thirty enthusiastic Junior School students and parent volunteers. Their weekly walk aims to reduce traffic congestion, encourage a healthy lifestyle and raise environmental awareness among the young students.

In September 2009, they welcomed a special guest walker when Federal Member for Curtin Hon Julie Bishop joined the students for their walk along the Esplanade in Peppermint Grove. Walking School Bus Co-ordinator Rosalind Patterson said that Ms Bishop is an ideal role model for the PLC students on the Walking School Bus.

Above: Students aboard the Walking School Bus pause for a photo with Federal Member for Curtin, Hon Julie Bishop.
Remembrance Day 2009

On 11 November 2009 the PLC community commemorated Remembrance Day at the Vyner Brooke Memorial as usual, but this year we were fortunate to have as our special guest Brenda Taylor, who worked hard to have the memorial established. As our special guest Brenda laid the PLC wreath.

Year 10 Humanities students had volunteered to participate in the memorial and contributed to the service their understanding of Remembrance Day and its history. For the first time, our Year 7 students also attended and they turned out with white panamas, shoes polished and school uniforms pressed. As the men and women in uniform were honoured, the girls came to fully appreciate the importance of their uniforms being immaculate and correct. Our guests included army wives, widows and retired servicemen and women, all of whom appreciated the efforts of our girls, with many commenting on their fine presentation.

The service was accompanied by Nicole Mumford (Year 11, 2009) on the bagpipes, and Megan Kozak (Year 11, 2009) and Tessa Randies (Year 11, 2009) playing the Last Post and Reveille. At the end of the service the girls walked around the lake and placed sprigs of rosemary at each plaque to remember the women.

Special thanks go to Anna Gould, Dinu Kumarasinghe, Hannah Goldfinch, Claudia Henderson, Alice Dormer, Brigitte Brice, Terra Tormey, and Melany Chapman (all Year 10, 2009) for conducting the service. The staff who attended the Remembrance Day service were very proud of your efforts.

Year 8 students bring home Geologi award

In October 2009, Year 8 students Felicity Eustance, Elisabeth Burton and Zoe Maxwell won first place in the national Geologi Short Film competition with their film about the formation of oil. Felicity and Zoe, along with Science Teacher Alana Wilson, were fortunate to travel to Canberra to accept the award. During the presentation the girls’ film was shown to the audience. As part of their prize they received a trophy, an atlas and several DVDs, which they donated to the PLC science department.

The Geologis are part of the annual Science Week celebrations and last year’s theme was “Earth Science in Everyday Life”.

Left: Felicity Eustance and Zoe Maxwell in Canberra with the Geologi award they received for their short film on oil formation.

Above: PLC girls with special guests Mr and Mrs Taylor at the Vyner Brooke Memorial.
School News

iTunes U launched

PLC and Scotch College are among the first schools in Australia to experience a new and exciting version of digital education. Since mid-Term 4 PLC and Scotch students have been able to access class instruction, course materials and lectures through the Apple iTunes U online platform, the use of which is already established in many Australian universities.

PLC Principal Beth Blackwood said that PLC was committed to meeting the changing learning needs of its students. “Today there are many ways for students to engage in learning. We want to provide our students with a learning environment that is flexible and delivers a variety of learning resources and experiences that take advantage of technology.

“Online and mobile learning opportunities are now a very important and valuable part of the learning experience of our students. Educating for today’s world means that our students need to be confident and wise users of information and communication technologies.”

This year PLC and Scotch created a joint committee to examine the exciting possibilities of digital curriculum and to harness the enthusiasm of students skilled in online collaboration and 21st century learning skills.

“Being able to access classroom lessons at home means students can revise at their own speed, as well as giving parents the opportunity to keep in touch with their children’s learning” Ms Blackwood said. “While we will continue to teach in a conventional school environment, this technology provides us with a new opportunity to engage students in learning.”

Above: Lucy Stewart, Anneke Rose and Brittany Rose check out the new iTunes U site.

Podcasts that include audio and video of classes for revision purposes, as well as presentations from guest speakers, documents and study aids, are now available via secure access for students, with plans to continually add material.

Members of the public will also be able to share in the life of the PLC community with access to examples of learning material, concerts and public lectures, featuring staff, students and keynote speakers.

Pipe band on display at Legacy National Conference

When PLC volunteer Pipe Band Assistant Peter Jones, who is also the General Manager of Legacy’s Perth branch, was asked to recommend a suitable band to perform at the Legacy National Conference in October last year, he of course recommended the PLC Pipe Band. Thus, the band performed at the unveiling of a new statue depicting a widow and her children at the Fremantle War Memorial, in the presence of His Excellency Dr Kenneth Michael AC, Governor of Western Australia and many distinguished Legacy patrons. Additionally, several PLC girls volunteered to assist as guides at the conference and help with conference sessions. Our congratulations and thanks go to all the girls for this fine effort.

Left: The PLC Pipe Band parades during the ceremony. In the foreground His Excellency Dr Kenneth Michael AC is also pictured.
“It’s important to introduce career options as early as possible to our Indigenous students so they have a better understanding of what is available to them”

Cute and captivating Pre-Primary Nativity

On 1 December 2009 parents, staff and special PLC guests enjoyed a performance of the Nativity story. Following on from the very successful Australia-themed 2008 Nativity featuring animals like wombats and platypus, this year’s Pre-Primary students presented a more traditional version, with cattle and camels and a traditionally garbed Joseph and Mary. It was a delightful performance by the young students and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, especially the moment when Mary gently placed the swaddled baby Jesus in the manger with the words “Goodnight sweetheart”.

Below: Pre-Primary students captivated parents and guests in the Heather Barr Memorial Chapel with their gorgeous Nativity performance.

Broadening the career options of Indigenous students

In a first for Indigenous students in WA, on Tuesday 15 September 2009 PLC’s Indigenous students took part in ‘Quick Yarns’, an evening based on a ‘careers carousel’ with students spending five to ten minutes with each of twenty-five Indigenous women representing a variety of careers including human resources, the theatre, physiotherapy, nursing, teaching, tourism, administration and elite sports. One of the women was Josie Janz (2005) who attended the Australian Institute of Sport and now plays netball with the West Coast Fever; Josie answered questions about her career in netball and as a professional mentor with the David Wirrpanda Foundation. As most of PLC’s Indigenous students are from the Kimberley region many of the presenters were Kimberley women and in addition to the benefit to our students, the evening also provided an excellent opportunity for professional networking amongst the presenters.

PLC Indigenous Liaison Coordinator Jennie Wise said Quick Yarns aimed to broaden the understanding of different career options at a younger age. “It’s important to introduce career options as early as possible to our Indigenous students so they have a better understanding of what is available to them” Mrs Wise said. “And as far as we know, this is the first time the careers carousel concept has been used for Indigenous students with all Indigenous presenters.”

Mrs Wise said “Quick Yarns” was part of the PLC Careers Lighthouse Project and our Indigenous students have taken part in other activities as part of this project, including visits to the Child Health Research Institute, Channel 7, various universities, a hairdressing salon, law courts and pathology laboratories.

Above: Haylee Rivers (Year 11, 2009), Josie Janz (2005) and Brianna Taylor- Ellison (Year 8, 2009).
Fashion success for Sara

Congratulations to Sara Gibson (Year 12, 2009) who designed a gorgeous green dress and modelled it at the WA Teenage Fashion Awards at the Hyatt Hotel in September 2009. Sara, who made the dress as part of her textiles studies course, progressed through to the finals of the awards.

Left: Sara Gibson modelling her dress in the WA Teenage Fashion Awards.

New sports programme teaches valuable skills

In Term 4 2009, Community & Service Learning students were involved in the pilot of a new project, Sportslink; the joint venture of PLC, the Department of Sport & Recreation, the Recreation & Sport Network and the Peppermint Grove, Mosman Park, Cottesloe and Nedlands councils. The project involved children aged 7 to 12 years with various disabilities coming to PLC to be involved in sporting activities with the support of a student mentor.

Prior to working with the children in Sportslink, the PLC students attended a two-week certified training course. They said that their favorite part of Sportslink was the opportunity to form close friendships with the children. "You really learn how to communicate using more than just words" one PLC girl said. "I enjoyed seeing the children strive for their personal achievements, learn new skills and have fun with sport."

A local occupational therapist with several clients attending Sportslink commented..."The feedback from the parents and children has been absolutely outstanding and the parents have all, without exception, made comments that their children not only benefited enormously from the physical contact but also how much they loved interacting with the 'big girls'."

The pilot project was so successful that Sportslink will run again in 2010.

Rowing dreams continue for Hannah

Hannah Vermeersch (Year 12, 2009) is enjoying a hard earned break after winning a gold medal for Australia in the women’s coxless fours event at the rowing Junior World Championships in France in August 2009 and completing her TUE exams. She has been relaxing in Perth and continuing her rowing training, but reports that she has competed in selection trials for a scholarship to the WA Institute of Sport and was training for the National Rowing Championships in 2010. Hannah is hoping to continue her studies at UWA and has applied for a place in the exercise and sports science course.

Below: Hannah Vermeersch (second from right) celebrates her gold medal with her rowing team at the Junior World Championships in France last year.

Above: Jacquelyn Plugge with one of her charges during the Sportslink Programme.
Staff display dancing talent

Arts Day had a special twist in 2009 when PLC staff surprised students with a special dance, performed in flamboyant costume to catchy tunes from Beyonce and Michael Jackson. The performance was in three parts and included the ‘single ladies’, the ‘bad boys’ and the ‘crazy scientists’. It was a hit with the girls who voiced their appreciation with loud cheering, laughter and applause. It was certainly entertaining to see many of PLC’s staff, including Principal Beth Blackwood, Deputy Principals and Heads of Middle and Senior Schools involved in the performance.
Rachel Imerson talks with PLC Sporting Excellence Programme Students

On Monday 31 August 2009, former Hockeyroo goalkeeper Rachel Imerson spoke to PLC Sporting Excellence Programme students about her pathway to being a triple Olympian.

After missing out on Victorian state selection for the national tournament when she was aged 17, Rachel attended the tournament to support her sister. As fate would have it, injury to a Tasmanian goalkeeper led to Rachel playing three games for Tasmania and she was spotted by Australian senior coach Ric Charlesworth. Within twelve months Rachel was representing Australia at senior level and went on to play at three Olympic Games, including as a team member of the gold medal winning Sydney 2000 Hockeyroos.

Rachel talked about the ups and downs of a career as a semi-professional sports woman, including winning, losing, being relegated, relationships, injuries, moving interstate for training at the age of 18, the pressures of international representation, balancing work and university with representing your country, and life after sport, which has been just as busy for Rachel who, at aged 30, decided to follow her dream of being a doctor and is now halfway through a postgraduate degree in medicine.

Amongst the items Rachel brought along for the girls to hold and view were her Sydney Olympics gold medal, Melbourne Commonwealth Games gold medal, Order of Australia Medal, Olympic torch from the torch relay and her opening ceremony jacket from the Beijing Games.

The girls were thoroughly impressed by Rachel and asked many questions about what it was like to be an Olympian, the pressures of competition and whether she had any regrets. Rachel was definitely an inspiration and dared the girls to follow their dreams both academically and in the sporting arena.

PLC raises the Titration Stakes

Two enthusiastic teams of talented PLC Chemistry students attended Murdoch University to compete in the finals of the Royal Australian Chemistry Institute Titration Stakes competition, after winning a place in the finals in a keenly fought qualifying competition earlier in the year. The finals involved more challenging individual tasks, with the award of individual medals based on the accuracy of results obtained. The individual results were then combined to determine the most accurate team.

The team comprising Year 12 students Clair Hollier, Amy Woods and Sophia McCuckin came eighth overall, with Clair and Amy winning silver medals and Sophia gold. The team comprising Year 12 students Kimberley Bryant, Liana Tay and Madeleine Watts came third overall and all were delighted to win gold medals. Additionally, their high degree of accuracy resulted in an Excellence Award in the form of a plaque for PLC.

Both teams went on to compete in the national finals at Curtin University where Amy Woods, Clair Hollier and Sophia McCuckin achieved two silver medals and one gold respectively and the other team of Kimberley Bryant, Liana Tay and Madeleine Watts achieved a fantastic three gold medals and overall third place, coming fourteenth in Australia.
FROM THE PARENTS COMMITTEE

The Parents Committee has continued to support events conducted for the PLC community during Terms 3 and 4, including the Valedictory Dinner on 22 October 2009.

Our Scholarship Subcommittee assessed applications for the Parents Committee scholarships, which award tuition fees for one term to one student entering Year 9 and one entering Year 11 in 2010. These scholarships aim to reward students who best demonstrate those values that underpin the PLC’s comprehensive individual approach to education, so academic achievement is not in itself a prerequisite for success. Primary emphasis is on endeavour across activities including academic, sporting, artistic, musical, community service and philanthropy. Parents on this subcommittee consider it to be one of the most rewarding of the committee roles and each year express amazement at the quality and content of the applications and the confident and eloquent presentations of the applicants. The worthy winners of the 2009 Parents Committee Scholarships were Rebecca Cole (Year 8, 2009) and Emily Simpson (Year 10, 2009).

The Fees Incentive Draws continue to contribute materially to the PLC community. Funds raised in Terms 3 and 4 are being applied to the air conditioning component of the redevelopment of the Middle and Senior School Library and Resource Centre.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 18 September 2009. Special thanks go to our retiring committee members Peter Chaffey and Susan Henderson (both Vice-Presidents), Chris Quirk and Tracy Humphry for their service to the Parents Committee and the wider PLC community. Particular mention goes to Helenn Wevers, our outgoing Treasurer, for her unstinting dedication and for offering to be available for several months to facilitate the handover to Veronica Jarrett, our incoming Treasurer. Barry Horne, President for the past three years and a continuing committee member prior to the AGM, also retired from the committee after many long years of dedicated service for which we offer our unqualified thanks and appreciation on behalf of the PLC community.

PLC hosted the August 5 meeting of the ‘6 x 6 Combined Committee’, an initiative formed about six years ago in which support groups from the six local independent schools (PLC, St Hilda’s, MLC, Scotch, Christ Church and Iona) convene three times a year to discuss and advance issues of mutual concern and interest. The 6 x 6 helps to foster mutually beneficial relationships between the parent support groups and the marketing and community service departments of the participating schools.

As another school year draws to a close, I would like to thank Principal Beth Blackwood, Director of Community Relations Chavaune Francis, and the members of the Parents Committee, for their contributions of expertise, time and effort. The support of Community Relations Co-ordinator Chloe Rothey, Director of Finance & Administration Sam Kronja, Director of Operations Bob Niven, Accountant Wendy Castles and Functions & Cafeteria Manager Elaine Masterson are also much appreciated.

The Parents Committee could not provide the services that it does to the PLC community without volunteers and we are comprised of parents with a wide range of skills who wish to contribute to the PLC community but are only available outside normal working hours. The roles we undertake are rarely onerous but like any such volunteer group, we depend on ‘new blood’. Any and all parents are welcome to attend our monthly meetings, each of which is noted in the PLC calendar and in Links magazine. Should you wish to raise any issue for consideration by the Parents Committee, or to express an interest in joining, please email us at parentscommittee@plc.wa.edu.au.

We look forward to welcoming new and continuing parents at our annual Sundowner to be held in the School Quadrangle on Friday 19 February 2010.

TONY LOFTHOUSE
President
FROM THE PLC AUXILIARY

The PLC Auxiliary had a fantastic year in 2009, with meeting attendance higher than for some time and several inaugural events. Building on the success of our first ever Outdoor Cinema Evening in March, on Wednesday 17 June in the Hazel Day Drama Centre we hosted a presentation by Jude Blereau, ‘Good food - how to use it; where to get it; and how to make it a workable part of your everyday life’, comprising a fascinating talk and cooking demonstration, followed by morning tea in the foyer of the Drama Centre. This event was open to all and helped raise awareness of healthy foods that are easy to prepare. With tickets priced at $10 each we were also able to raise funds to be put towards the very worthwhile service projects in which PLC students are involved.

Our wonderful class representatives have continued to organise get-togethers for their various groups, ranging from mother/daughter lunches and parent coffee mornings to the ever-popular father/daughter breakfasts, along with play dates in the park and wood-fired pizza evenings. These events all support the main aim of PLC Auxiliary, which is to encourage members of the PLC community to get to know each other. I sincerely thank all the class representatives for the hard work they put in throughout the year to facilitate this important goal.

On Friday 16 October we had our twelfth Open Garden Day and this was a huge success. Thanks to the inspiration of the principal coordinators, Jo Cook and Patty van der Walt, we saw several innovations, from a juice bar in one of the gardens to some fascinating talks and demonstrations. As always, we were overwhelmed by the number of parents who kindly volunteered their time and skills, both on the day and in the lead up to it. We are also very grateful for the marvellous support provided by the members of the PLC Maintenance and Community Relations teams. A day such as this brings together members of the whole PLC community and without the level of support we receive Open Garden Day would not be possible.

This year’s Valedictory Dinner was held on Thursday 22 October and we could scarcely believe the smooth transformation of the Hugh Baird Sports Centre, thanks to the flawless organisational skills of the two Year 11 PLC Auxiliary representatives, Kerry Gallagher and Kate Lapsley and their team of parents. Sincere thanks go to all, for the many preparations, the decorations on the day and of course the inevitable clearing up afterwards. The evening was a wonderful end to the school days of our 2009 Leavers.

On 30 October the Junior School Disco was held with the theme ‘Friday Night Fever’. In a completely transformed Junior School Hall, 280 students boogied the evening away with boundless energy and wearing amazing outfits! Thank you to Siobhan Rollinson and all the other Junior School parents who helped to ensure that this function was a triumph.

Friday 5 March 2010 is the date set for the Outdoor Cinema Evening, our first function for the new year and to be held once again on the lawn outside the Hugh Baird Sports Centre. Members of the PLC Auxiliary have once more voted for this to be a free-of-charge event open to all members of the PLC community. Please come along and either bring a picnic, pre-order a hamper, or buy food at the event – all details will appear in Links closer to the time.

Farewell and thank you to all of the parents leaving us this year who have supported the PLC Auxiliary in any way and in particular to the following who have served on the Executive: Sarah Gamble, Karen Wilson, Aliya Porter, Jenny Mengler and Helen Carr.

Our first meeting of 2010 will be on Tuesday 9 February in the Boarders Sitting Room. As usual, tea and coffee will be available from 8.30 am and the meeting will begin at 9.00 am to be followed by morning tea. All members of the PLC community are welcome to attend our meetings. Parking will be available at Star of the Sea.

We encourage you to email any enquiries, comments or suggestions to auxiliary@plc.wa.edu.au, our new email address.

The PLC Auxiliary wishes all members of the PLC community a safe, happy and fulfilling 2010.

ANNE DUNCAN
President
Open Garden Day
President’s Report

The second half of the school year has been extremely busy and productive for the Old Collegians Association (OCA). The committee has worked tirelessly to achieve the goals set for this year and I would like to thank these inspirational women, along with Acting Alumni Relations Co-ordinator Julie Rose and the team at Community Relations for their wonderful support.

We welcome two new members to the OCA team; Georgiana Lilley (1999) and Kate Crompton (1999). It is wonderful to see the enthusiastic involvement of the younger members of the OCA community and we encourage anyone who is interested in joining us, either as a committee member or as an occasional volunteer to help out with our functions. This is a very exciting time for the OCA and we would love you to join our vibrant and motivated team. If you are interested, please contact me or Ra Stewart through PLC Community Relations – communityrelations@plc.wa.edu.au.

The OCA is active in hosting and supporting a number of PLC activities and functions, awarding OCA bursaries to students, presenting the Year 12 gifts at Valedictory Dinner, and helping to nurture and preserve the lifelong bonds of friendship and belonging that come from being a PLC Old Collegen. As a Life Member of the OCA the benefits include invitations to OCA events such as talks by guest speakers, book launches, cocktail parties and quiz nights; access to the PLC Archives Old Collegian Room where you can meet with other alumni; copies of the PLC magazine Blackwatch; and access to a local, national and international network of PLC alumni.

New OCA Logo
You may have noticed that the OCA has developed a new branding and corporate identity to make us more identifiable at PLC events. This is a part of OCA strategic objectives towards improving the relevance of the OCA within the PLC community and bringing the OCA into the 21st century!

Kailis Pearls
We are most excited to announce that the OCA and Kailis Pearls have formed an association. The Kailis family and PLC have a longstanding relationship, with several members of the family having attended PLC and Dr Patricia Kailis acting as Chair of Council for many years. Dr Kailis’s valuable contribution to PLC was recognised in 2007 when the OCA awarded her Honorary Life Membership of the OCA.

Kailis Pearls has generously agreed to each year make a gift to the OCA of several items from the exquisite Kailis collection. Items from this Kailis gift will be individually presented on Speech Night to the Head Prefect and recipients of the OCA Inspiration awards, given as gifts to the incoming prefecture, and used by way of sponsor prizes for OCA events including our Quiz Night and the Girls Only Cocktail Party.

Old Boys Cocktail Party
The OCA recognises that not all our past students are female and we have established a social function to recognise this. Thus, our first ever Old Boys Cocktail Party was held in Scorgie House on Friday 4 September. We had a wonderful response with thirty-five former students of PLC Junior School attending. We were pleased to induct Rory Argyle (1958; left Kindergarten 1946) as our first male Honorary Life Member of the OCA, and to welcome Benjamin Dry (2008; left Kindergarten 1995) our first male fee-paying member of the OCA.

AGM
The OCA AGM is an informal luncheon that incorporates the AGM proceedings. In 2009 it was held over the mid-term break and, although smaller than in previous years, it was a delightful occasion with Mosmans Restaurant providing a beautiful venue and wonderful food. In 2010 the AGM will incorporate a fashion parade showcasing the designs of PLC OC Kristen Shadbolt (2004) under the Paper Skye label, and displays from the Kailis Pearls collection. This promises to be the most exciting AGM yet!

Prefects Morning Tea
A morning tea was held in the senior school library to congratulate the incoming prefects for 2010. This provided a wonderful opportunity for the committee to meet these inspirational girls, and for the prefects to gain a better understanding of what the OCA does for the greater PLC community. Thanks to our newly formed association with Kailis Pearls, the incoming prefects were presented with a beautiful pearl pen as a congratulatory gift to mark their appointment. The girls were thrilled to receive such a beautiful present.

Quiz Night
Our annual Quiz Night was held on Friday 19 June. As in past years this was a very popular function and with the generous donation of prizes from the PLC and greater local communities we were able to raise $5000. This will go towards funding the bursaries we provide for students at PLC. Our next Quiz Night promises to be bigger and better and will be held on 18 June 2010.
Above: Former students enjoy the oca at Mosmans.
Old Collegians’ Association

Valedictory Dinner
On Thursday 23 October 2009 the Year 12 Leavers celebrated their graduation from PLC with a moving ceremony and dinner in the Hugh Baird Sports Centre. The OCA sees this rite of passage as a ‘handover’ from the student community to the OCA; the wisdom, experience and enthusiasm of these capable young women will no doubt be welcomed by PLC students in the future. The OCA presented each girl with the gift of an engraved silver bracelet to mark the occasion and we trust that they will wear it with pride.

Year 13 Brunch
This annual event was held on Sunday 9 August 2009 in the Senior School cafeteria. Approximately sixty-five girls attended and were welcomed by Principal Beth Blackwood, with each Year 13 girl providing an overview of life since PLC. This was a wonderful opportunity for the girls to renew old friendships and share their post-PLC stories, as well as meet up with some of their teachers from last year.

Pleides Meeting
In August 2009 the OCA hosted the Pleides alumni meeting of the IGSSA sister schools, providing an informal forum for the sharing of ideas and problem solving. It is always most interesting and informative to learn what is happening amongst the other school alumni associations.

Founders Day 19 August 2009
2009 was a record year for attendance at the annual Founders Day service and lunch. Over 90 Old Collegians who left PLC fifty or more years ago helped celebrate PLC’s 94th birthday with students and staff. This year, due to works being undertaken on St Andrew’s Uniting Church, the service was be held at PLC in the Hugh Baird Sports Centre.

Bursaries
The daughters of OCs are eligible to apply for one of three OCA bursaries offered each year. These bursaries are financed by our fundraising efforts and the OCA regards this as one of its most important roles. As always, we were delighted by the calibre of the applicants and congratulate the following worthy recipients:

Georgia Westbrook (Year 11, 2009) Heather Barr Memorial Bursary
During her time at PLC Georgia has combined her many service activities with a wide range of co-curricular activities. She is currently in Year 12 and has been appointed Service Captain for 2010. Georgia’s attitude to life is best summed up with this quote from her scholarship application: “I will always strive to help those around me and be an active member of my community, to work with honour and integrity, to be trustworthy, and to be an independent woman within society”, values that also exemplify Miss Barr’s approach to life.

Natasha Gay (Year 10, 2009) Dr Vera Summers Bursary
During her time at PLC Natasha has excelled in her chosen co-curricular pursuits. Her attitude to life is best summed up in this quote from her scholarship application: “As a student of PLC I hope to bring honour, respect and distinction to the school through my activities in and out of school in all areas”. Natasha’s work ethic and personal ethos reflect the beliefs of Dr Vera Summers.

Olivia Swan (Year 9, 2009) Olive Cusack Bursary
Olivia is a boarder from Esperance and commenced at PLC in Year 8. She found the transition a challenge, but has now embraced boarding life and says “being a boarder is really beneficial and lots of fun”. She recommends that one way to combat homesickness in the boarding house is “by keeping busy and doing lots of sports among other things”. Olivia’s positive approach to life and keen participation in all activities exemplify the spirit of Olive Cusack.

Skills Register
As the involvement of the OCA in PLC continues to grow, we often find that we need a variety of skills and extra hands to help us out on occasion. The OCA has a very diverse role and we require the skills and expertise of people from all walks of life... so whether it’s cooking, the law, journalism, or that you’re a good organiser, we would love to hear from you! Simply register through Community Relations (communityrelations@plc.wa.edu.au) your name, contact details and particular skill or area of expertise. This does not require you to be a member of the OCA.

I would again like to thank my committee for their wonderful hard work and support and I wish you all a very happy, safe and prosperous 2010.

JENNY FREEMANTLE
President OCA

PLC Old Collegians Association Cookbook
$29.95
Past and present students and other members of the PLC community have provided their favourites for this delightful book of over 100 recipes that make the most of our seasonal produce, wonderful weather and fabulous lifestyle!

A flyer with more information has been included in this edition of Blackwatch. Order Forms are available from Community Relations or you can download a copy from the PLC website.

PLC Old Collegians Association Picnic Blanket $120.00
This beautiful merino wool blackwatch tartan picnic blanket is Australian made and has a quality rubber backing – just perfect for the summer months!

Order forms are available from Community Relations or you can download a copy from the PLC website.
1949 – 60 YEAR REUNION

On Monday 17 August 2009 there was great excitement when thirty-two ‘girls’ gathered at PLC to celebrate our milestone. Renewing friendships and sharing memories – there was so much catching up to do! For those who had not visited PLC in recent years, a tour of the School with its wonderful buildings and facilities was an eye opening experience.

A member of the School Council, Gillian Swan, conducted a very moving service in the Heather Barr Memorial Chapel. The School Chorale sang Blessing by Katie Burt then supported us in the singing of the hymns – we would have been rather shaky on our own!

Lunch in the Boarding House dining room followed and featured a slide show from schooldays, which became the catalyst for much hilarity.

Many of the girls had attended the Annual Founders Day Service and lunch that week, and the next day many happily gathered for an informal afternoon tea.

We are particularly grateful to those who travelled long distances to join us; nine from the Eastern States and Jane Jackson from Oxford, England. Our thanks also go to all at PLC whose cooperation and hospitality made this reunion so special for the Class of 1949. Thanks are also extended to Ethelmary Kenworthy (Cook), Shirley Martin (Cary) and Judith Tweedie (Foreman) for their organisation of the series of events marking our 60 years from PLC!

1979 – 30 YEAR REUNION

On a very balmy night on Saturday 14 October 2009, over sixty ‘girls’ gathered at the Nedlands Golf Club for a cocktail function overlooking spectacular views, following an earlier tour of the PLC campus. A number of OCs had travelled from the country, interstate and overseas and many hours were spent catching up on events of the past thirty years and reminiscing about our schooldays. It was a wonderful evening and our thanks go to all those involved in organising our special event thirty years on! Special thanks are extended to Linda Arnold (Vuletic) and Catherine Devine (Watkins) for their work in planning this milestone.
PLC PERTH REUNIONS IN MELBOURNE AND BANGKOK

In 2009 groups of PLC current student parents and OCs living in Melbourne and Bangkok attended reunions in August and October, respectively, the events coinciding with visits by PLC Principal Beth Blackwood and Director of Community Relations Chavaune Francis. These functions were organised as part of PLC’s regular programme of reunions for PLC alumni living outside WA. Both events were well attended with all enjoying the opportunity to hear of each other’s news and achievements.
1959 – 50 YEAR REUNION
On Wednesday 14 October 2009 fifty-seven OCs excitedly gathered outside Carmichael Hall delightedly renewing old friendships. The conversation flowed unabated as we enthusiastically followed Acting Alumni Relations Co-ordinator Julie Rose around the campus, marvelling at the changes wrought in our five-decade absence and with memories of our schooldays reviving during our visit to Archives.

The Boarding House dining room was attractively decked out with tartan cloths and PLC memorabilia, including a PowerPoint presentation of photos taken during and after our schooldays.

Head Prefect Nanette Danks (Harvey) sadly acknowledged some classmates who are no longer with us and entertained us with her reflections on our time at PLC. Celebrations continued into the evening and the next day at other venues.

We are all greatly indebted to Davina Whittall (Fauckner) for her tireless efforts in tracking down ‘lost’ OCs and her invaluable expertise in the computer world. Many hours were spent telephoning, emailing and researching addresses, resulting in a comprehensive record for future reference. We are also very appreciative of PLC’s role in organising the reunion. We particularly thank Julie Rose for her organisational assistance and PLC Archivist Shannon Lovelady for her archival input.

1984 – 25 YEAR REUNION
At Mosman Park Bowling Club on Saturday 12 September 2009 approximately thirty-five OCs caught up for a memorable evening of laughter, stories and reminiscing over a glass of wine and finger food. An enjoyable night was had by all and special thanks are extended to Jane Scanlon and Jane Willis (Cresswell) for organising this event.

1955 – 55 YEAR REUNION
The Year of 1955 will celebrate it 55th year in 2010 and plans are underway for a reunion to coincide with Founders Day in August. There will also be one or two other functions, but these have yet to be decided upon. For further details please contact Margot Stretch on 08 98 337 520 or 0409 852 033.
In the last edition of Blackwatch we published a piece based on anecdotal evidence that View Street’s All Saints Church burned down in 1976. On reading that piece, former Melville Anglican Church parishioner and PLC past parent Ruth Baird (Fiona Baird 1976) called to say that rather than the City of Melville archives, we should contact the keeper of the Melville Anglican Church parish archives; John Smith-Gander, whose wife, Betty Smith-Gander OA&M, was for many years in charge of the parish Sunday School.

John found a paper, ‘Forward In His Service: History of the Anglican Parish of Melville’ by Enid Adams, which states that All Saints Church was moved from View Street to Melville and reconstructed on the parish site c1956. In this new location in the Melville Parish, the All Saints Church building served as the Lesser Hall, providing Sunday School services for up to 250 children each Sunday until c1998.

John says it was a strange little building made from fibreboard, with a three-quarter-inch cane floor and a very high Federation ceiling. It was renovated several times including the addition of a brick façade, but was eventually demolished c2003.

Thanks to Ruth’s interest, we were able to confirm anecdotal information previously provided by our Registrar Rosemary Lukin (1968) and we now know that, rather than having burnt down, for another thirty-three years the building was filled with the sounds of children, as it had been in its life as All Saints Church in View Street.

**Update on All Saints Church: Mystery unsolved, now solved**

Grave of Olive ‘Dosh’ Cusack (Deputy Principal 1941-1962)

Further to a lovely story in the last issue of Blackwatch about Barbara Potter (Allan 1955) finding the grave of Olive Cusack while exploring land around Tambrey Station near Roebourne, Barbara brought to Archives some beautiful photos of the gravesite [see Accessions Pics 3 and 4].

Mrs Cusack was widowed just prior to Christmas 1936, the mother of three young children. She subsequently returned from Tambrey Station to Perth and served PLC as the legendary Deputy Principal to Dr Vera Summers (Staff from 1920; Principal 1934-1961).

Mrs Cusack’s ashes are buried with her husband Thomas, in a vividly beautiful and isolated location on Tambrey Station, below an inscription bearing the words… Thomas Donald Cusack, 1893-1936. After he had served his own generation by the will of God fell on sleep. Well loved. And his beloved wife Dosh Cusack, 1895-1985. His Majesty seeks and loves courageous souls.

A little gem

From the Council Minutes of November 1978: “Salinity testing of bore water. A report was presented on the level of salt in PLC bores…by Mr Brine.”
Archive Volunteers

Heartfelt thanks go to our Archive volunteers:

Samantha Hopkins (2011; left Year 10 2009) who devoted many lunch hours in Terms 3 and 4 to help with the Photographic Collection and to consult old registers for details on ‘missing’ Old Collegians for reunions. Samantha has now relocated with her family to Scotland and we wish her every success at her new school, Robert Gordon’s College in Aberdeen.

Bev Barry (Wilson 1958) who assisted Tracy White in the exhausting assembly of large textile boxes (and lids) and the careful wrapping and packing of several garments within, filling three boxes.

Current parent Tracy White (Caitlin White Year 9 2009) who has also photographed the cover and presentation plate (where available) of every book in the Collection and in doing so has made some exciting discoveries; among them the much-worn Bible of PLC Founder, Rev George Nisbet Dods and that of his father, John Dods, which was a gift to John from his mother in May 1860 and had long resided in an Archives bookcase deceptively appearing at least 100 years younger. Inside, Mrs Dods has written… “Book of Numbers, Chapter 6, verses 24-26” which we discovered reads: The Lord bless thee, and keep thee; The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee; The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. Tracy has now begun photographing the various trophies in Archives and their inscriptions, as well as individual pages from the autograph books in the Collection.

Current parent Sandy Tan (Sophie Tan 2007 and Felicity Tan Year 10, 2009), who is compiling a complete set of editions of Kookaburra (1917-2009) for the Kookaburra digitisation project begun by Deborah Mackay (1972; current parent Emily Mackay Year 9 2009) in 2008. The method of digitisation requires removal of the spine from the original, so this is a much harder job than it sounds! In the cases where we have only a few rare copies that must be preserved, Sandy has diligently scanned each page for reproduction. The next phase of this project is to make these available for viewing online. It should be noted also that no donated editions of Kookaburra will be used in this project without permission from the donor.

Dr Veronica Davenport (Uren 1959) who has volunteered one morning a fortnight beginning 2010.

Jill Moffatt (Hawkesford 1959), who has volunteered for various research projects and most recently identified almost every face in the 1957 and 1958 Festival Choir photos. She is now searching early Kookaburras for information about staff.

Volunteers are always welcome at Archives and there are many tasks in which to become involved. If you are interested in volunteering a couple of hours here and there or on a more regular basis, please call Shannon Lovelady on 9424 6476 or email slovelady@plc.wa.edu.au.

Recent Accessions

Patricia ‘Pat’ Gladstones (Burns 1950)
The reference written for Pat in 1950 by Dr Vera Summers.

Elizabeth Kelly (Weygers 1963)
Issues of PLC News and Blackwatch from 1995-2008, which will be used for the upcoming PLC News/Blackwatch digitisation project.

Ruth Baird, past parent (Fiona Baird 1976)
The opportunity to scan six black and white photos from the early 1940s featuring Ruth’s sister Ann Erhardt (Miller 1944) and friends. Ruth also provided further information that contributed to determining the fate of View Street’s All Saints Church (see main article).

Albany Golf Club

Sandra Monteath (Glauert 1957)
The opportunity to scan photos of Joan Jaggard (Glauert 1925) with her brother Valdemar Glauert who later married Peggy Glauert (Boas 1931) and their sisters Ursula and Barbara Glauert (non PLC) c1922 [see Pic 1]; and a photo taken opposite the Albion Hotel in Cottesloe of a group of PLC girls c1951.
Joan Fox (Menzies 1942)
Copies of a letter written to Joan by Dr Vera Summers in 1978, including a discussion of coeducation that provides a wonderful glimpse into the timeless philosophy of Dr Summers…I am not entirely opposed to it but I think that in the early stages of adolescence, separate education is better. Girls get the boy craze a good deal sooner than boys get the girl craze, and for two, or perhaps three years, teaching them together is rather like harnessing a horse and a donkey together.

Meg Parker (Pearson 1948)
Black and white photo of the 1941 2nd Cottesloe Brownie Pack. A toadstool, proudly made by Brownies a decade earlier, is evident in the background.

Sylvia Brandenburg (Leeke 1951)
Photo of the Class of 1951 Reunion attendees taken on the steps of Carmichael Hall 2006; copy of the speech given by the Hon June Craig, AM (Lynn 1947) at PLC Speech Night 1974; photo of PLC Year 9 rowers at 2009 IGSA Head of the River Regatta at Champion Lakes.

Tracy White, Archives volunteer and current parent (Caitlin White Year 9, 2009) The opportunity to copy a DVD containing videos and photos of the 2006 Year 6 Class, and a class photo of the progressive year levels from Year 1 in 2001 to Year 6 in 2006.

John Bremner (1960; left PLC Kindergarten 1948)
Prof Bremner’s three PLC Kindergarten reports written in 1948 by Miss (now Dr) Audrey Little (1933; staff 1948-1953).

David Yates
Items from his Aunt Joan Yates (1936) including a 1935 prefect tiepin; a 1930 PLC hat badge; and a book entitled Book of Common Prayer dated December 1930, used when Joan attended Sunday School at All Saints Sunday School, View Street, Cottesloe. Pressed and dried within its pages is a cross, delicately formed from a long piece of grass.

Margaret Leggott (Shepherd 1959)
Two reprinted photos of Margaret in summer uniform while a student at Junior Branch 1953; a group shot of 1959 leavers taken on a 1956 picnic; the opportunity to copy Margaret’s reports from 1949-1957 and a 1952 fee schedule.

Barbara Potter (Allan 1955)
Five colour photographs of the grave on Tambrey Station near Roebourne WA, of Olive ‘Dosh’ Cusack (Deputy Principal 1941-1962) [see Pics 3 and 4].

Samantha Hopkins (2011; left Year 10 2009), Archives volunteer
Her Year 10 personal project The Piping Herald about bagpipes (the missing link between noise and music).

Robin Kirin (Oldham 1971)
The opportunity to borrow and digitise twelve oral history tapes of Robin’s father Richard ‘Dick’ Oldham (1931; left PLC Kindergarten 1921) recorded by John Bannister in 2006 for the Claremont, Cottesloe, Mosman Park & Peppermint Grove Oral History Project (Dick talks candidly about his family and his years at PLC Kindergarten); the opportunity to scan an original photo of Dick with his older siblings; a copy of prose written by Dick after WWII; speech notes and the order of service for Dick’s funeral [see Obituaries this issue].

Kirstin Prendiville (Smith 1978)
The opportunity to scan three images from the mid-1940s of Kirstin’s mother Margaret Smith (Bourne 1947) [see Obituaries this issue] and to borrow and photograph Margaret’s 1940s autograph book featuring the autographs of many PLC girls.
John Barrett (1930; left PLC Kindergarten 1921) during his visit to archives in November 2009, with My First Book of Birds presented to him in 1921 for proficiency by Miss Frances Dumaresq (acting principal 1921).

Pat Mannolini (Gribble 1951)
A 2005 colour photo of Pat’s uncle John Barrett (1930; left PLC Kindergarten 1921). On 4 November 2009, Pat kindly brought John all the way from his home in Hovea to PLC for afternoon tea with Archivist Shannon Lovelady and Principal Beth Blackwood (see Pic 5). He remembers very well Agnes Scorgie (Principal 1916-1921) and his days at the PLC Kindergarten.

Jenny Williams (Jeffrey 1959)
Six scanned images of Jenny dating from her first day at PLC in 1949; three scanned images of social gatherings of Jenny and friends from 1959 featuring Helen Evans (Ambrose), Helen Malloch (Boys), Val Gorey (Weir), Jenny Fraser (Roberts), Marion Laffer (Jones) and Sue Thomas (Milner).

Nanette Danks (Harvey 1959)
The opportunity to borrow and photograph relevant pages from the 1930s autograph book of Nanette’s mother June Harvey (East 1934); an original photo and enlarged reprint of Dr Vera Summers taken by June in 1932; a photo of June with three friends at PLC c1933; programmes for the performances of Sixteen for the PLC OCA (1936) and Pleiades Club (1948); programme for The Romantic Age by A A Milne (1937) and a detailed newspaper article about the performance; Nanette’s 1948 PLC hat badge, and 1950s Ferguson House badge; 1959 prefect blazer pocket and head prefect tiepin; seven photos from Nanette’s days at PLC in the 1950s; male and female 1959 prefect dance cards (the male card still with pencil attached); a 1959 letter from Violet Major (Staff 1940-1969) to Nanette thanking her and the rest of the Leavers for a delightful pre-holiday picnic; a 1965 newspaper article on the appointment of Anne Symington (PLC senior resident mistress 1953-1964) as new Headmistress of St Mary’s Anglican School for Girls; the opportunity to copy relevant photos from Nanette’s album which she brought to Perth for the 50 year Reunion of the Class of 1959 in October 2009.

Davina Whittall (Fauckner 1959)
The Bushland Plants of Kings Park, Western Australia (1988) by Dr Eleanor M Bennett (Scrymgeour 1959), illustrated by Patricia Dundas (Ford 1969).

Jennifer Cook (Ledger 1950)
The prefect badge of Jennifer’s mother Jean Ledger (Duncan 1924); scanned and printed copy of Jean’s 1924 Leaving Certificate; photos of Jean’s Dux of 1924 gold medal; Jennifer’s hat badge, hatband and blazer pocket; seven scanned, printed and named photos of Jennifer and her friends at PLC in 1948; the PLC skirt and hatband of Jennifer’s daughter Vanessa Pugh (Cook 1979).

Above: John Barrett (1930; left PLC Kindergarten 1921) during his visit to Archives in November 2009, with My First Book of Birds presented to him in 1921 for proficiency by Miss Frances Dumaresq (Acting Principal 1921)
NEWS OF OLD COLLEGIANS

Sara Alampi Sottini (Meszaros 1984)
After completing her university studies, Sara moved to Sydney and a career in publishing. She subsequently moved to Europe where she met her husband, Giacomo, in Florence and spent ten years working as art director of several top women’s fashion magazines based in Prague and Milan, before returning to Perth in 2005. Sara has two young children and is currently full-time at home.

Jane Andrews (Rossi 1979)
Jane married in 1988 and worked as a primary school relief teacher until the birth of her fourth child five years ago. Her children range in age up to 20 years.

Michelle Bade (Evans 1979)
Michelle completed a visual arts diploma and has spent a fabulous few years exploring many forms of art, producing bodies of work in painting, printmaking and photography. She has also been a wholesaler of pearls from the waters of Indonesia, Tahiti and the South Sea.

Amanda ‘Mandy’ Bamford (Silberstein 1979)
With her husband Mike, Mandy runs a biological consulting business and her special interest lies in wetlands and environmental education. She has two sons.

Janis ‘Jan’ Barclay (Drummond 1949)
Since retiring Jan has been fishing, fishing, fishing, and divides her angling activities between home in Rockingham, up north and down south, depending on the season! In between she does ‘good deeds’ looking after ‘old people’, but says now that she is ‘old people’ it’s hard to tell who is looking after whom! Jan’s sister is Caroline ‘Twinkle’ Pummer (Drummond 1947) and her mother Enid Drummond (Irgens 1923, deceased) also attended PLC.

Juanita ‘Nita’ Barrett (Norris 1959)
Nita completed mothercraft training at Ngala and in 1960 commenced general nursing at Fremantle Hospital, followed by midwifery at King Edward Memorial Hospital. She has spent the last thirty years in Albany after living and working in Onslow and Kojonup. She says that sharing the lives of her two children and a number of grandchildren keep her very busy.

Living in Perth with her daughter Grace (3), Jo has just launched a personal style and image consulting business ‘Elegance and Grace’.

Claire Barton (Whitaker 1979)
After working in chemical research in Europe, Claire returned to Perth in 1997, then in 2001 moved to Bunbury to work in alumina processing research. In 2005 she married John and in 2006 bought a business that supplies uniforms to local business, sporting groups and clubs. She continues her interest in fine arts and music and in 2008 assisted the formation of Bunbury’s first, and now very busy, permanent orchestra, the South West Philharmonic.

Susan Bremner (Crawley 1959)
After she married, Susan lived in Boston, USA, where her first son was born. She subsequently lived in Hobart, Edinburgh and Pennsylvania and worked as a cytotechnologist (cell screening). Susan retired in 2006 and currently lives in NSW, where she has taken up croquet, Probus, and attends the University of the Third Age. She makes regular trips to her birthplace, Dunedin in New Zealand, to Perth, and to Tasmania to see her boys and seven grandchildren aged 3–18 years.

Christine ‘Chris’ Brookes (1979)
Chris completed nursing at PMH and midwifery training in the UK, where she is currently a fertility specialist nurse in Chelsea, London. Previously she worked at Hollywood Private Hospital in Perth and has worked in Melbourne, Canada and several IVF clinics in the UK. Whenever possible, she returns to WA to visit family and recently attended her 30-year reunion.

Amanda Aitken (2000) married Kevin Bruton in the PLC Heather Barr Memorial Chapel on Saturday 4 April 2009. Amanda’s two Bridesmaids were Elizabeth Lang (2000) and Donna Simmons (2000), with the couple’s dog Cooper as ring bearer. The reception was held in Fremantle where Amanda and Kevin met and now live. Amanda’s mother Stephanie Aitken (Smith 1971) also attended PLC.

APOLOGY
We sincerely apologise to Betony Bickford for the incorrect spelling of her maiden name that appeared in the Blackwatch Winter 2009 edition. The correct spelling is:
Betony Bickford (Stanwix: staff 1972-1979)
Jodie Busby (Buzza 1983)
Jodie has two beautiful boys, Benjamin ‘Benji’ Busby (2007) aged seven and Lachlan ‘Lachy’ Busby (Pre-Primary 2009) aged five. She continues to lend her voice to TV and radio commercials and radio plays. Jodie will return to the stage next year in a play with the Black Swan State Theatre Company and Queensland Theatre Company.

Vicki Carter (Ellison 1979)
Vicki is currently a senior physiotherapist at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. She is married to Cliff and has two daughters Sarah Carter (2008) and Sophie Carter (PLC Year 11, 2009).

Jillian ‘Jill’ Cassidy (Craig 1969)
Jill has worked part-time as a teacher assistant at Churchlands Primary School for the past twenty years. She also works with her husband in their sail-making business and they have travelled to Europe several times with sailing ships. Jill has three daughters and is looking forward to becoming a grandparent. She enjoys golf in her spare time.

Dianne Ceray (Mills 1959)
Dianne has been retired for five years and is immersing herself in textile art, including spinning, weaving, felting and mixed media.

Ai Kim Choo (1979)
Ai Kim did a BAppSc in physiotherapy at Curtin University and worked in Port Hedland, Melbourne and the UK before basing herself in the USA, where she is a home health physiotherapist who sees clients in their own homes until well enough to visit an outpatient clinic. Ai Kin lives with her husband in Vancouver, Washington, a city on the north bank of the Columbia River directly across from Portland, Oregon.

Nancy Ciampini (Angel 1959; left 1955)
Nancy married in 1961 and subsequently worked in an administrative role with the WA Police until her retirement in 1998. In the nine years to 2007 she worked as a volunteer in the day procedure unit at Sir John of God Hospital in Murdoch and has also volunteered with the Stay on Your Feet programme. She has a son and two daughters.

Priscilla Clarke (Gibson 1949)
Now retired and living with her husband in Mt Helena, Priscilla is an active supporter of cardiac patients, taking calls for Health Heart Support and regularly visiting post-surgery cardiac patients in hospital. She is also active with the Red Cross, making daily calls to people living alone. Priscilla says she plays bridge twice a month and enjoys gardening, cooking, painting, needlework and caring for her husband and grandchildren.

Ann Cook (Maitland 1959)
Ann has worked in various schools in NSW, including twenty years at Knox Grammar School, Wahroonga, as head of counselling and resources, followed by five years as school psychologist at McDonald Performing Arts College. She is currently at Queenwood School for Girls in Mosman. Ann has lived in Canada and Thailand and regularly travels to Asia and America to visit her children.

Sharyn Cook (Bradshaw 1979)
Sharyn and her husband Paul have three children and live on a crop and sheep farm in Kulin. Sharyn also works part-time as a nurse at Lake Grace Hospital.

Christine Cowcher (Gilbert 1984)
Christine began her teaching career in Pingelly, then married Warren and moved to a farm in Quindanning. They have three daughters and Christine currently teaches in early childhood and music at Williams Primary School.

Eleanor Bennett (Scrymgeour 1959)
After completing a BSc (Hons), Eleanor worked as a botanist at the WA Herbarium until leaving to begin her family. She subsequently worked part-time, lecturing in horticulture and assisting Prof BJ Grieve (1907–1997) on How to Know Western Australian Wildflowers (UWA Press), a series of books begun in the 1920s by Dr WE Blackall (1876–1941).

It was when her husband was transferred as principal to Ravensthorpe District High School that Eleanor started research for her PhD, and on returning to Perth she was appointed to the herbarium to contribute to the books Flora of the Perth Region (NG Marchant et al, 1987) and Flora of the Kimberley Region (JR Wheeler [ed] et al, c1992).

In 1985 Eleanor was appointed as a botanist to Kings Park, where she wrote The Bushland Plants of Kings Park, Western Australia (c1988), which was illustrated by Pat Dundas (Ford 1969) and also published as The Cullity Timbers Kings Park Collection.


After a notable career distinguished by a body of published work that is well represented in the National Library of Australia, in 2000 Eleanor set up her own business in Perth – Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd.

Julia Cusworth (Morrison 1984)
Julia lives in the wheatbelt town of Narembeen and has one son, born in 2004. She is currently teaching part-time and in 2009 this included relief teaching in her son’s class.

Helen D’Alton (Walker 1959: left 1958)
Until her marriage in 1965, Helen worked in a legal office and fixed trust company. While her two children were growing up, she assisted both her father and husband in an exporting business and architectural practice respectively, followed by time as an accounts supervisor. She retired in 2005 and now spends her time with babysitting, bowls and bridge, Probus, and travelling with her husband whenever possible. She has two children and two (soon to be three) grandchildren. Helen’s daughter is Elissa Everingham (D’Alton 1987).

 Nanette Danks (Harvey 1959)
 Nanette studied zoology at UWA, subsequently taught anatomy at The University of NSW, then managed nursing homes and a retirement village for the family business. Her interests have included volunteering for Amnesty International, Riding for the Disabled and at a centre for asylum seekers. Now retired, Nanette and architect husband Geoffrey enjoy a cottage in the Blue Mountains. They have two sons and Nanette says that the added joy of grandchildren knows no bounds.
Patricia ‘Pat’ Dundas (Ford 1969)
A renowned botanical artist, Pat provided the illustrations for the book *The Bushland Plants of Kings Park, Western Australia* (c1988) by Eleanor Bennett (Scrymgeour 1959).

Subsequently, she spent seventeen years working on over 200 colour illustrations for the book *Orchids of Western Australia* (A Brown et al. 2008; UWA Publishing), the first modern text cataloguing all the known orchid species of WA.

For the past five years Pat has been one of the seven-member Botanical Artists Group of Western Australia (BAG), which has at least one major exhibition each year. More recently at Kingfisher Gallery, West Perth; a recent book *Brush with Gondwana* (J Gooding, 2008; Fremantle Press) features illustrations by Pat and other artists in the group.

Pat says that following her “tree-change” to Pemberton, she enjoys a slower pace of life including keeping a permaculture garden and marron farm, and bird watching in the adjacent forest. Examples of Pat’s beautiful art work can be viewed by visiting the website she maintains www.botanicagallery.com.au.

Veronica Davenport (Uren 1959)
Veronica taught in schools in Perth and country WA and in 1972 was a foundation staff member at Churchlands College of Advanced Education. She was awarded a PhD from UWA in 1985 and in 1994 won a National Excellence in Teaching Award (NEITA) at state level, followed by a national award. In later years she taught at Edith Cowan, Murdoch and Curtin. Veronica retired in 2005 to care for her partner, now recently deceased, and continues to live in the home they shared in a retirement village.

Elizabeth ‘Liz’ Ferguson (Black 1959)
Liz enjoys craft, staying in contact with friends, and attending her local church and associated home groups. She says she has three wonderful grandchildren.

Rose Fisher (2007)
Rose is currently studying for a degree in design from Whitehouse Institute of Design, Melbourne.

Emma-Jane Foulkes-Taylor (Walker 1984)
Emma-Jane and husband Rossco live and work on Yum Station in the Murchison running Dorper sheep and doing contract work in the district. They have three children, including Frances ‘Fran’ Foulkes-Taylor (2009).

Athena Fraser (Burton 1979)
After living in Sydney for eight years, in 2001 Athena returned to Perth where she is national property manager for a company that is part of Job Services Australia, a national network of organisations dedicated to helping job seekers find and sustain employment. She is married and has a son (9) and a daughter (7).

Jenny Fraser (Roberts 1959)
Jenny spent almost thirty years living at Gifford Creek and Minnie Creek Mangaroo stations in the Gascoyne, and says this was a great place to raise a family. A short stint as a publican in Dandaragan followed and she now lives in Wagin. She has two children, including a daughter Ashley Mottershead (Fraser 1981) and five grandchildren aged 3–20 years, including granddaughter Rachel Mottershead (Year 11, 2009). Jenny describes herself as “a professional pleasure seeker” who very much enjoys travelling to Paris.

Helen Frazer (1984)
Helen did medicine at UWA then moved to Sydney where she trained in radiology at The Prince of Wales and St George hospitals. In 1992 she married Greg, and twins Tom and Eloise Sutherland (left Year 2, 2008) were born in 2000. They moved to the USA in 2002, then Melbourne in 2005 and Perth in 2007 before returning to Melbourne where Helen is now deputy director of BreastScreen St Vincent’s Hospital.

Lorraine Gargett (Bulloch 1959)
Lorraine has recently retired after twenty-one years as electorate officer to a local member of state parliament. She is now enjoying her seven grandchildren, travelling, and doing volunteer conservation work.

Melissa Gillett (1984)
Melissa graduated from UWA with a psychology degree and graduate diploma in education, initially working as a school psychologist. She is currently deputy principal at Balga Senior High School and finds it most rewarding to work with a student population that includes many in Australia on humanitarian grounds, with no prior schooling. In 2008 Melissa became the proud mother of a baby daughter.

Meredyth Grey (Goldby 1969)
Meredyth worked as a dental nurse for twenty years then started her own wholesale company supplying headwear to pharmacies across WA, before moving on to supplying businesses, schools and souvenir shops with logo merchandise. She sold the business four years ago and has returned to dentistry, temping as a receptionist. She has been married to Lindsay for thirty-six years and they have three children.

Vicki Gregory (Nix 1969)
Vicki teaches at Currambine Primary School and says she is passionate about her job. She is mother to two children and grandmother to two, with a third on the way. She says she enjoys caravaning and overseas travel and is a big Eagles fan.

Robin Groom (Kent 1959: staff 1967–1968)
Robin graduated from Claremont Teachers College then taught at a number of schools, including Year 1 at PLC. With her husband she established and operated a wholesale plant nursery for the fifteen years to 2006. They have two sons and since her retirement in 2007 has enjoyed spending time with the family, whilst rediscovering her love of art, music and crafts, including felting, sewing and scrapbooking; she also finds time for line dancing and travel.
Fern Hinchcliffe (Higgins 1959)
Since the death of husband Barry, Fern continues to manage the macadamia farm they established over twenty-five years while living in Canberra. She now lives on the mid-north coast of NSW, enveloped by tall eucalypts overlooking the Pacific and being regularly visited by the local native fauna. She enjoys playing bridge and visits her mother Hazel Higgins (Day 1935) almost daily; visits to her son in Sydney and daughter and family in Hawaii are made as often as possible.

Annette Hong (1996)
After moving to Melbourne for her undergraduate and post-graduate degrees, Annette qualified as a CPA and now works for a motorbike importer and wholesale distributor. This has led to a motorbike licence and a discovered love of riding. Annette says she would ride in preference to driving a car any day. Annette and husband John married at Melbourne Zoo in October 2007 and she retains her maiden name.

Kathryn Howell (Day 1959)
Kathryn finished school at MLC in Melbourne and went on to RMIT. She was Registrar at Lauriston Girls School and Registrar/Director of Admissions at Melbourne Grammar School, retiring at the end of 2007. Currently she is the vice-president of the Melbourne Grammar Retired Staff Association and attends the University of The Third Age, where she helps organise over ninety classes. She enjoys gardening, classical music, cooking and supporting the Brisbane Lions. She is married to John and has three sons and five grandchildren.

Fleur Hyland (Elliot 1969)
Fleur has worked as an ambulance officer, a security emergency response officer in mining, and a driver of large dump trucks in Kalgoorlie, Fitzroy Crossing and Pinjarra, but spent the past six years self-employed as a masseuse. Now semi-retired, Fleur enjoys the simple life, beachcombing ‘up north’ and trying not to find work. Her hobbies include creating jewellery from nature, sewing and boating.

Leanne Ikin (Hatton 1979)
Leanne started her teaching career in Darkan then Koonganup, travelled Europe in 1987, taught at St Mary’s Anglican Girls School in Perth for eight years then worked as an education consultant at a computing company. Now, after ten years of relief and part-time teaching she has returned to full-time teaching. Leanne is married to Steve and has one daughter Alannah Ikin (left Pre-Primary 2003) who already considers herself an Old Collegian!

Cynthia ‘Cyndie’ Innes (Huelin 1959)
After occupational therapy training, Cyndie spent a year in India, switched to medicine, married, had two sons, and worked in Derby with the RFDS. She later moved to Perth to run a family practice in Swanbourne and remarried. She now has four grandchildren and works part-time as a GP. Life highlights include travelling Pakistan’s northwest frontier to follow the Silk Road to China, learning Balkan dancing in Bulgaria and exploring Istanbul. Cyndie continues to dance, play guitar and look for someone to publish her fantasy novel.

Valda Ioane (Slocombe 1959)
In 1977 Valda went to Western Samoa to marry and became the first foreign representative appointed by the Australian Development Assistance Bureau to the Australian Executive Service Overseas Program (AESOP). She was instrumental in forming a disaster relief planning committee that culminated in an act of parliament relating to disaster management. In 1989 she settled in Darwin, working for the Northern Territory University and the state government. Just as retirement was imminent, Valda started her own business as sole contractor to photograph winning horses at NT turf clubs. Four years later she is working long hours and thoroughly enjoying every minute.

Jane Jackson (1949: left 1945)
For many years Jane was Director of Public Health in London’s East End, living on the Isle of Dogs. She retired to old haunts in Oxford intending to catch up on research in social/medical anthropology, but presently finds herself enjoying travel, sculpture, art, music, opera, walking, gardening, spending time with friends, and trying to play the double bass!
Heather Janssen (Butler 1969)
Heather married in Germany and in 1971 the couple moved to Perth where Heather joined Trans Australian Airlines (TAA), initially as the first female load controller in Australia, for a career in the travel industry that spanned thirty-five years. She has a daughter and son.

Megan Jeffries (Walters 1979)
Megan did nursing in Perth and fine arts in the USA, returning to Perth in 1987 to marry Phil, then spent a number of years travelling the world with his work. They have four sons and are now settled in Perth.

Carolyn Jones (Spackman 1979)
Carolyn works in administration for Rio Tinto Iron Ore and has now spent almost four years in Karratha. She has a son and daughter and is the proud grandmother of one.

Margaret Johnson (Dare 1959)
After a stint with the Taxation Department in Perth, Margaret married and moved to Albany. Some years later the family returned to Perth, where she now lives. She has a son and a daughter, and with her husband has travelled extensively overseas.

Esmae Johnston (Gartrell 1969)
After a long career in nursing, Esmae is now semi-retired. She is married and has two boys.

Samantha ‘Sam’ Kampf (Legge 1984)
Six years ago, Sam relocated to Perth from ‘down south’ and has returned to singing full-time in a Perth-based rock band. She has two children aged 3 and 5 years respectively.

Jocelyn Kardash (Read 1949)
Jocelyn says her continuing interest is ‘the greater understanding of life and living through a closer relationship with God and people’. Her main passion and purpose is fellowship, Bible study, conferences and fortnightly gatherings in her home, peppered with some painting, woodcarving, travel and ‘the matrix of a warm, extended family’.

Ethelmary Kenworthy (Cook 1949: staff 1977–1992)
After sixteen years teaching in the PLC Junior School, retirement has brought with it the opportunity for Ethelmary to follow her many interests including morris dancing, cross-stitch, her local Anglican church and travelling the length and breadth of Australia in their camper-trailer with husband Neil. Ethelmary has five children, including daughters Jennifer Jay (Kenworthy 1979) and Alison Kenworthy (1980) and seven grandchildren.

Jane Kingsnorth (Ferguson 1969: staff)
After completing studies in education, Jane taught at PLC, but left to assist her husband with their mining industry consulting business. The flexibility of working from home allows Jane time for golf, tennis and bridge, as well as caring for her mother. Jane reports that she has one son with no grandchildren in sight!

Marisa Klerk (Forte 1979)
For the past twenty-one years, Marisa has been a flight attendant in international business and first class and recently relocated to Perth after living in Sydney for twenty-five years.

Marilyn Laffer (Jones 1959: left 1958)
Marilyn met her husband Bruce when they both worked at UWA. In 1974, they moved to Tasmania where Marilyn worked in a college library for seventeen years before retiring. Early in 2009 they embarked on an eight-week sea voyage from Sydney to Southampton and rank this as one of the most fantastic things they have ever experienced. Whilst in England, Marilyn fulfilled a lifelong ambition by visiting the Sissinghurst Castle Garden and returned with many ideas to put into practice! She has three children and a grandson.

Verona ‘Tibby’ Lea (Baron-Hay 1949)
Living in Melbourne, Tibby leads a very full life as Pastoral Care Coordinator at her local church and mentor to a child at the local primary school under the World Vision Kid’s Hope program, but she manages to include low impact aerobics, daily walks with a newly acquired dog, and enjoyable outings to the ballet and opera. She says that grandmotherly outings with her eight grandchildren are a delight.

Carole Leaver (Taggart 1969)
Carole manages shopping centres for superannuation syndications and intends to retire in two years. She spends time travelling with Judy Rew (Wood 1969) and their respective husbands, both caravanning and overseas. Carole has two children and three grandchildren aged 5–10 years.

Margaret Leggott (Shepherd 1959)
Having retired from teaching, Margaret and her husband moved to a seaside house near Margaret River in 2002 where she continued part-time work for three years. More recently, babysitting for daughter Mandy Sinclair (Linton 1986), membership of several clubs, travelling, and pursuing her interest in quilting, scrapbooking, gardening and photography have kept her busy. Margaret says that with six grandchildren and several volunteer jobs, life is never dull.

Jenny Leyte (Seet 1979)
Since graduating in 1983, Jenny has worked as a dietician in clinical and community dietetics and private practice. Currently she is a community dietician with the Peel, Rockingham-Kwinana Health Service. She has been married for twenty-eight years and has a son (9). Her leisure activities include gym, scrapbooking and enjoying the beach lifestyle in Secret Harbour.

Patricia ‘Patsy’ Littlejohn (Sloane 1949)
After retiring from lecturing at RMIT University in 1994, Patsy completed a master’s degree in education at The University of Melbourne. From 1999 to 2005 she was a member of the Melbourne welfare agency Camcare, serving on their board of governance, and was co-author of a book launched in 2006 recording the first thirty years of Camcare. Her current interests include theatre, quilt making and her grandchildren. Patsy’s sister is Brenda Mazzucchelli (Sloane 1957).

Freda Livingston (Bunce 1949)
Until recently Freda was a volunteer with Kings Park Guides giving twelve years of service and continues volunteering with the university branch of Save the Children’s Fund and the UWA Visitors Centre. She says that she very much enjoys her six grandchildren all under the age of seven years. Freda’s two daughters, Janet Livingston (1981) and Margie McAuliffe (Livingston 1985), and her sister Lesley van Staveren (Bunce 1945) all attended PLC.

Shirley Martin (Cary 1949)
Shirley says she fills her time with bridge, bowling and babysitting!
Kathryn Mathwin (Miles 1984)
After ten years farming in Kojonup, in 2007 Kathryn and her family relocated to Perth where he is currently in practice as a paediatric occupational therapist, working with children with learning difficulties.

Kim Mahood (1969)
Kim is a writer and artist and travels annually from her home in NSW to the Kimberley/ Tanami region of WA, where she works with indigenous people making maps.

Helen Malloch (Boys 1959)
After leaving Channel 7 in 2000, Helen has been working with her husband in their real estate business. She says that she has also been spending much of her time going back and forth to the PLC Boarding House, appearing to spend more time at PLC now than when she or her daughters attended!

Carolyn Martin (Hoare 1969)
In 1985 Carolyn became a stipendiary magistrate and in 1996 a judge of the Family Court of Western Australia; the first woman to be appointed to these positions in WA. Carolyn enjoys travelling when the opportunity arises.

Mary Martin (Forbes 1959)
In the early 1980s Mary was awarded a diploma of music teaching after four years study at WAAPA. For the past fifteen years she has lived in Narrogin where she teaches piano, conducts a choir and is involved in a range of other music activities.

Delys MacNeill (Mullings 1959)
In 2006, Delys retired after thirty-four years of teaching in primary schools and coaching sports like hockey, basketball, swimming and golf. She is vice-captain of her local golf club and her current passion is encouraging women to get out and play, with mandatory social sessions in the clubhouse afterwards! Delys has two children and four grandchildren.

Shirley McDonald (Webb 1949)
Since retiring, Shirley has enjoyed travelling and spending time with her grandchildren and also has been very involved with the National Trust, particularly as a guide at Tranby House, Maylands. Shirley’s sister is Dorothy Thomson (Webb 1952).

Kimberley McDougall (2004)
Since receiving a traineeship in 2005, Kimberley has been working at Channel Seven in Perth.

Helen McFarlane (Pugh 1969)
Helen studied primary teaching, married Andrew in 1981 and moved to a farm in Kojonup. This was recently sold, heralding a move to Borden near the Stirling Ranges. Helen has four children now aged 19–25 years; her two daughters are Emily McFarlane (2000) and Meghan McFarlane (2004).

Chaise McHenry (Eatov) 1984
Chaise spent two years travelling internationally before becoming a flight attendant at Qantas. She was forced to retire for health reasons at the ‘ripe old age’ of 24 years, then pursued a career in PR and marketing in Sydney. She moved back to Perth in 2001 and joined the team at Perth Weekly. She married Steve in March 2008 at McHenry Hohnen Vintners winery and the couple divides their time between Nedlands and Margaret River.

Janice ‘Jan’ Mcness (Ellis 1958: left 1956)
After leaving WA Jan completely lost touch with PLC and for the past thirty years has lived in Victoria. About two years ago she noticed an article in her local Geelong paper accompanied by a photograph of Barbara Baird (1957), who she immediately recognised. She set about tracking down Barbara and eventually they met, spending a lovely time reminiscing about their PLC days. Subsequently, and to Jan’s delight, regular deliveries of Blackwatch began arriving. Jan says that her time at PLC had a profound effect on her, particularly one teacher, Mrs Cusack (‘Mrs Cue’: staff 1941-1962), who encouraged Jan’s love of language and writing, neither realising to what extent this would later take flight.

After receiving an invitation to the Old Collegians’ Reunion held in Melbourne in August 2009, Jan wrote to Principal Beth Blackwood with the donation of three of her published books to the PLC Library.

Jan subsequently attended the Old Collegians’ Melbourne morning tea at the Grand Hyatt on Saturday 22 August where she met Principal Beth Blackwood, Director of Community Relations Chavaune Francis and mingled with the Old Collegians who attended.

We are particularly proud to present this article in Blackwatch, as Jan’s reconnection to PLC and the mutual advantage this has brought is so illustrative of the importance of community and alumni relations at PLC, and of members of the PLC community being proactive in this at every opportunity.

Kate McKenzie (Sounness 1993)
After three years in Albany, in September 2008 Kate moved to Sydney with Ryan, and is working at the medical device manufacturer ResMed in export logistics. She says that she is enjoying exploring NSW, getting back into salsa and trying her hand at sailing on the magnificent harbour!

Lee McLaren (Symons 1959)
Prior to the death of her husband in 2007, Lee travelled extensively with him around Australia and New Zealand. She says that she is most fortunate to be now living in Busselton where she is making new friends.

Barbara Baird (1957)
Barbara has been working with her husband in their real estate business. She says that she has also been spending much of her time going back and forth to the PLC Boarding House, appearing to spend more time at PLC now than when she or her daughters attended!
Samantha Owen (Quinn 1997)

Samantha studied law at Murdoch then completed honours in history at UWA. In preference to an Australian Postgraduate Award PhD scholarship to the University of Sydney, she instead accepted an international scholarship to the University of Pittsburgh, USA, where she completed a master’s degree in modern Italian history. In 2006 she moved to the UK on a scholarship from the University of Reading to undertake a PhD in modern Italian history.

On 11 April 2009 Samantha married Justin Owen at St George’s College Chapel at UWA, followed by an evening reception at Royal Perth Yacht Club. Samantha’s bridesmaids were her cousin Zoe Beckett (Stewart 1993), and PLC Old Collegians Catherine Lang (1997) and Sarah Hellings (1997). Guests included another cousin Kirstie Morrissey (1989) and former classmates from the Year of 1997

Lisa Riley, Julianne Davies (Guthrie), Genevieve Nevard and Helen Kornweibel. Also attending were Anthea Lang (Bowman 1967), Marilyn Guthrie (Whyte 1968), and physics teacher Judy Duzewich (PLC staff 1987-2002).

On 30 May 2009 in Penarth, Wales, the groom’s family hosted a marriage blessing with Rebecca Vaughan (1997) and Clare Pope (1997) among the guests. Samantha and Justin now live in London where Justin is an architect and Samantha is completing her PhD.

Above right: Mr and Mrs Justin Owen at Matilda Bay foreshore.
Below right: Samantha with her bridesmaids Zoe Beckett, Catherine Lang and Sarah Hellings.
Karla Paget (Bishop 1969)
In December 2008, Karla retired from thirty-five years of teaching and is now enjoying camping around Australia, cooking, sewing, friends and good times. She has been married to Merrick since 1974.

Natasha Palman (Bird 1984)
For a number of years, Natasha worked as a secretary prior to completing a BNurs and PGrad Dip Midwifery. She is currently a manager at the WA Nursing Agency and has two teenage sons.

Diana Palmer (Cresswell 1959)
Diana is a retired grazier, and a retired shire councillor and state councillor of the Isolated Children’s Parents Association Qld! Since the death of her husband eleven years ago she has lived with her cattle dog in her ‘dream house’ on the banks of the Warrego River, south of Cunnamulla in outback Queensland, where the native fauna love her garden. She now researches family histories, helps produce the local paper and is involved with the local art gallery. She loves spending time with her family, now spread over three states.

Judith Palmer (Copping 1959)
Judith retired from radiography after a brush with cancer and is now busy playing golf, doing tapestry, reading, knitting and gardening. She has made three trips to Antarctica and recently visited Canada, Alaska and the Galapagos Islands. Judith has five children and one granddaughter with two more grandchildren on the way.

Jennifer Park (Richardson 1969)
Jennifer is farming in Badgingarra with husband Dale and working part-time as an education assistant at the local primary school. She is still playing hockey with no sign of retirement and is involved in the local competition.

Pippen Parisiss (1983)
Pippen reports that she has one husband, two daughters, Siena and Sasha, one business, ‘Siena’s Café’ in Oxford Street, Leederville, and a newly discovered love of tennis!

Jillian Paul (Monteath 1959)
Jillian worked as a medical receptionist before marrying Michael Paul (Scotch 1959) in 1964. They subsequently had a son and a daughter and the family lived variously in the north of WA and Canada before a permanent return to Perth. Jill completed a BA in history at UWA and later worked part-time as a librarian for a number of engineering consulting firms. Now semi-retired, she says she is enjoying her eleven grandchildren and does her best to stay fit.

Gwyneth ‘Liz’ Pederick (Allen-Williams 1969: staff)
With a BEd (PE), Liz taught with Community Welfare, the WA Department of Education and at PLC. She and husband Ian farmed outside Wagin until 2005, when they retired and moved into town, where Liz teaches scripture, and exercise classes for the WA Department of Health. She also plays piano and cornet in the Great Southern Concert Band, is involved in her local church, and spends some time between home in Wagin and visiting her mother in Augusta. Liz has two children and three step-children.

Joan Peters (Watte 1959)
Joan retired at aged 55 and is busy being grandmother to eight grandchildren, step-grandmother to two and great-grandmother to another two! Her 50th wedding anniversary will be in April 2010.

Margot Pfeiffer (Gregg 1984)
After a couple of years working and travelling, Margot completed a BNurs then moved to Esperance where she worked for three years at the district hospital. She married David, then moved back to Perth to further her studies, completing postgraduate midwifery at KEMH. She has three daughters, aged 10, 8 and 5 years, and is currently working part-time in Baby and Healthwise Clinics.

Rosemary Raad (Allan 1959)
Rosemary spent much of her working life as a medical secretary and in ‘retirement’ took up voluntary work with Silver Chain and the Cottage Hospice of the Cancer Foundation. This was followed by eight years full-time liaising with fundraising groups and promoting public awareness – work that Rosemary says is humbling, rewarding and a great privilege. She has three children, including daughter Nickiwa Dew (Raad 1985), and is grandmother to four beautiful grandchildren.

Pamela ‘Pam’ Raven (Gardner 1949: left 1947)
Following her retirement after fourteen years with the Royal Agricultural Society, Pam joined the Rottnest Voluntary Guides Association, making the trip over about three times a month, and she works one morning a week with the children at Princess Margaret Hospital. When ‘showtime’ comes around she returns to work there for about two months. Otherwise, a holiday house in Denmark is visited as often as possible! Pam’s daughters, Fleta Pohnler (Raven 1976) and Fiona Waters (Raven 1984), both attended PLC.

Judith ‘Judy’ Rew (Wood 1969)
Judy works at a pharmacy warehouse office and whenever possible spends time travelling with Carol Leaver (Taggart 1969) and their respective husbands, both caravanning and overseas. She has three children and four grandchildren and plans to retire in a couple of years to enjoy the grandchildren and maximise travel opportunities.

Robyn Rose (Wildy 1959)
Until her retirement in 2000, Robyn worked as a physiotherapist in Townsville and since then has spent time travelling with her husband, both caravanning around Australia and on a tour of Europe last year. Both are keen golfers, so playing golf is incorporated wherever and whenever possible!

Gloydyn ‘Glo’ Ross (Paddon 1949)
Retired from primary teaching and living in Brisbane, Glo says she finds volunteer work very rewarding. She is an adult literacy tutor in TAFE, an information officer at Queensland Art Gallery, a volunteer at Redland Art Gallery and a tour guide at the historic Commissariat Store and at Ormiston House, in Brisbane.

Deborah ‘Debbie’ Scott (Clarke 1969)
Since leaving their farm in Margaret River, Debbie and her husband have lived in Eaton. They have a TV and security business, but Debbie is semi-retired with more time to pursue her interest in gardening, writing, photography (especially capturing the beautiful Australian landscape) and catching up with her three children and three grandchildren.

Kayla Sheridan (Triggs 1984)
Kayla did a BEcons at UWA then worked for the NAB and BHP. She is married to John and they have two sons aged 10 and 13 years respectively. John’s work has taken the family to live in Milan, London, Bangkok and Jakarta. They moved back to Perth in 2008.
Jean Sutherland (McDonald 1959)
Following the death of her father, Jean returned to the family farm at Beverley and worked in the local Elders agency. In 1961 she married Don and had two children, including daughter Fiona Hodgson (Sutherland 1985). In 2001 the farm was sold and Jean and Don retired to Perth, where Jean volunteers with the Cancer Foundation when not indulging in overseas travel. They have four grandchildren.

Frances ‘Fran’ Taylor (Lyon 1959)
Fran studied architecture at Perth Technical College and worked in architectural drafting. She married a surveyor whose work took them throughout WA and they had three children. Following her second marriage, Fran gained an Associate Diploma of Arts in Multicultural and Aboriginal Studies with a minor in Human Service Administration from Edith Cowan. Since 1993 she has lived in Bridgetown, most recently working at the Shire of Manjimup, and retired in 2005. Fran is now involved in historical research and web design/management.

Georgina ‘Georgie’ Taylor (Argyle 1979)
In 1983 Georgie graduated from the WA School of Nursing and travelled overseas before returning to complete midwifery at KEMH in 1988. She worked initially in midwifery in Port Hedland and progressed to nursing management. She was Clinical Midwifery Manager – After Hours at KEMH for twelve years and recently moved to part-time work at the smaller Kaleeya Hospital in East Fremantle.

She married Richard in 1988 and has two sons at Scotch and UWA respectively.

Pamela ‘Pam’ Taylor (Gundill 1979)
Pam has been married to Peter since 1999 and their son was born in 2003. After taking a three-year break she has returned to part-time teaching, currently at Lake Monger Primary School.

Susanne ‘Sue’ Thomas (Milner 1959)
Married to Richard for forty-five years, Sue has two children, including daughter Asha Matthews (Thomas 1985) and four grandchildren. She enjoys playing golf and bridge.

Elizabeth ‘Tot’ Thornton (Godsmann 1959)
In 1966 Tot married Max and the family farmed in Cunderdin until 1999 when the farm was sold and they moved to Harvey, where Tot and Max were deeply involved in the Dardanup Heritage Park. In 2004 they relocated to Kellerberrin to be nearer to family and in July 2009 Max passed away.

Wendy Till (Clarke 1984)
Wendy is enjoying family life in Roleystone with her husband Andy and three children. Currently she is taking a break after working for a veterinary consultant.

Sonia Tipton (Payne 1979)
Sonia runs a contracting business with her husband Doug, is a part-time zone coordinator for the WA Farmers Federation, and has a small jewellery business. She has a son (8) and daughter (5) and, as a parent volunteer, loves assisting in the classroom and with after-school sport. Her latest passion is scrapbooking and she also plays netball, saying that the body can’t do what it once could!

Sandra Wackett (Barrett-Lennard 1959)
Sandra graduated from WA’s first school of occupational therapy and worked at Hollywood Repatriation Hospital until marrying Geoff Wackett (Scotch 1958) in 1966. They farmed at Quairading, where Sandra worked part-time in allied health and was very much involved in the community as a volunteer. In 2002 they sold up and retired to Perth, where Sandra still manages to do some voluntary work, travel and catch up with old school friends, whilst being involved with her three grandchildren, including Abbey Wackett (PLC Year 5, 2009), children of Sandra’s son Andrew Wackett (ex-Scotch) and his wife Kathryin Wackett (Abbott 1984).

Susanne Walden (Holmes 1959)
Susanne retired from full-time teaching after thirty-four years, but continues with relief teaching and combines this with covering much of Australia camping with her husband. When she is at home Susanne volunteers in sports, Meals on Wheels, Home & Community Care, and with the local Senior Citizens Club. Her three children, including Anna Walden (1993), live in various parts of WA.
Jane Waters (Anderson 1984)
After many years working in Sydney in financial market associated roles, in 2000 Jane returned to Perth with husband Stuart and two children. She is now a director of a family business, Condor Financial Management, serving high-net-worth clients and based in West Perth.

Fiona Waters (Raven 1984)
Fiona is a sergeant with the Victoria Police and manages a regional family violence unit. Fifteen years ago she married David and they have three children aged 8-12 years. After numerous visits to Japan with David on business trips, the family now hosts Japanese students. They regularly holiday at Pambula on the NSW coast and return as frequently as possible to WA to visit friends and family, including Fiona’s mother Pamela Raven (Gardner 1949) and sister Fleta Pohlner (Raven 1976).

CLASS OF 2008 REUNION – Year 13 Brunch
The Year 13 girls turned out in force for their reunion brunch at PLC on Sunday 9 August in the School Cafeteria.

Amongst those who attended was a large group who are now studying at UWA: Alice Johnstone, Virginia (Ginny) Lannigan, Cordelia (Cords) Mortimer and Gabrielle (Gaby) Rule are all doing science; Anna Bond, Cordelia Coleman and Arabella Tole are doing law/arts; Daisy de la Hunty, Jessica Ong and Kate Tunstill are doing medicine; Sabrina Del Borrello, Hannah Broughton and Bronte Cramer are doing commerce; Imogen Forbes-MacPhail and Hannah Murray are both doing arts; Georgia Donaldson is doing architecture, Georgia McLinden is doing engineering, Jennifer Mumford is doing economics/commerce and Lauren Walker is doing arts/commerce.

At Curtin, Ellie Beutheaux is doing engineering/commerce, Jane Ayers is doing commerce part-time in conjunction with a full-time workplace cadetship, Margot McGeoch is doing nursing and Lisa Kyle is studying mass communications. At Notre Dame, Megan Campbell is doing nursing and at Murdoch, Sara Louie is doing media studies and journalism.

Lucy Moir is studying health science but did not say where, Emily Palmer is doing science and is hoping to study for six months in the UK in 2010, Sophie Milne is doing and has moved back home, Diana Nguyen is studying. Emma Anderson is living and working in Cottesloe, Ellie MacTaggart is working in Fremantle and living in Claremont, Meg McDonald is working on the cruise ship True North sailing to the Kimberley and Papua New Guinea, Catherine (Cate) Willis spent a gap year in the UK, Georgia Mackay will be teaching English in Vietnam before backpacking around Europe then returning to law/arts at UWA in 2010, and Annathea (Anna) Curry intends to do arts at UWA and is applying for a costume course at WAAPA.

Others who attended are Nada Baradja, Emily Alexander, Courtney Kidd and Catherine Donnelly.

Apologies were received from Kirsty Blinney who is currently on Rotary exchange in Sao Paulo, Brazil; Madelene (Maddie) Mulholland on exchange in Navez, Brittany, France; Chelsea Wells on Rotary exchange in Nordfjordeid, Norway; Pamela Ng who is in Melbourne; Holly O’Meehan who is working on the family farm in Borden and preparing to work as a nanny in Milan, Italy, for the Bulgari family; Rosie Burton who was competing in a rowing regatta in Bunbury; Hannah McKelvie who was committed to doing a ‘prac’ with the Dockers for her exercise and sports science degree at Notre Dame; and Anja Muecke who had hoped to attend, but unexpectedly had to travel interstate at short notice.

Fiona Wells (Johnston 1974)
After dental nursing for six years, travelling for three years and subsequently working in a variety of jobs, Fiona has been an employment consultant for the past seventeen years and was married in June 2009.

Davina Whittall (Fauckner 1959)
Davina did science at UWA majoring in biochemistry, then worked at St Vincent’s Hospital in Sydney before a year of travel and return to Perth, where she spent many years based at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital coordinating research for the Busselton Population Medical Research Foundation. In 1968 she married Michael from Kenya and has two children Digby Whittall (PLC Pre-Primary; ex Scotch) and Margot Whittall (1992). Over the past couple of years Davina has devoted time to caring for her mother who has devoted time to caring for her mother who is living in the family home.

Joc did a business degree as a mature-aged student and for the past eighteen years has worked for a consulting firm in Balcatta. Her daughters are Kathy Barton (Wilson 1996) and Megan McClorey (Wilson 1999) and her now 92-year-old mother is Beth Lee (Hunter 1934). Over the past few years, Joc has enjoyed extensive travel with Carolyn Martin (Hoare 1969).

Lesley Wishart (Morgan 1949)
Happily married for fifty-three years and continuing to live in Mt Hawthorn, Lesley tutors individual migrants with poor English skills and is significantly involved in her local congregation as an elder and member of the pastoral care team. She is grandmother to eleven ‘diverse’ grandchildren aged 29-15 years; granddaughters Philippa Tan (1996) and Jocelyn Tan (1999) attended PLC. Lesley was a Carmichael scholarship recipient in her final year at PLC.

Arlene Young (Arndt 1979)
Arlene works part-time as a ward clerk at the Peel Health Campus and lives in Pinjarra. She has been married to David since 2008.
Obituaries

We were saddened to learn of the deaths of the following Old Collegians…

Ruth Cecelia Gaunt, formerly Sharp (Hardie 1934)
11 June 1917 – 29 September 2008
Marion ‘Mary’ Sydenham Hackett (Holt 1932)
20 July 1915 – 14 November 2009
Thora Sylvia D’Arcy Hapgood (Evans 1931)
9 December 1914 – 7 May 2008
Nellie Pauline Higgins (Finch 1931)
3 August 1914 – 17 December 2008
Jessie Campbell Nicholson BEM (1942)
1 February 1925 – 14 April 2009
Richard ‘Dick’ Russell Oldham (1931; left PLC Kindergarten 1921)
3 March 1914 – 10 August 2009
Patricia Clare Preston (Sadleir 1929)
31 May 1914 – 2 September 2009
Gabrielle Quinn (Cohn 1984)
8 February 1967 – September 2009
Mollie Evelyn Read (Wright 1930)
28 October 1912 – 18 May 2009
Margaret June Smith (Bourne 1947)
3 June 1930 – 14 January 2009
Zoe Marjorie Venn (Weir 1930)
11 November 1913 – 12 November 2009
Jean Wishart (Walker 1935)
18 January 1918 – 10 June 2009
Dorothea ‘Thea’ Isobel Walsh (Graham 1948)
18 March 1931 – 29 August 2009

Ruth Cecelia Gaunt, formerly Sharp (Hardie 1934)
11 June 1917 – 29 September 2008

Ruth was a day girl at PLC for five years from 1928 under Miss Janet Phemister (Principal 1928-1933), leaving on completion of her Junior Certificate. For several years she served on OCA committees and in 1936 helped to present the three-act play Sixteen at the Myola Club Hall for the OCA Dramatic Club evening, with a cast including Denise Thompson (Dingwall 1932), Dulcie Bell (Armstrong 1928), June Harvey (East 1934) and Pat Jones (Williamson 1927).*

In 1938 Ruth married Arthur Allan Sharp and began married life at Mt Magnet where Allan was with the Commonwealth Bank. The couple then moved to Louise Street, Nedlands, where they raised three sons and a daughter Helen Gallash (Sharp 1958), avidly supporting their children’s sporting activities and provided an ‘open house’ to their friends. Ruth played golf at Nedlands Golf Club where she would later become president and for a time drove for the WA Branch of the Australian Association of Hospital Almoners.

Widowed at 58, Ruth’s golfing friends were a tower of strength and it was whilst holidaying with them at Rottnest that she met John Gaunt. They married in 1986 and together enjoyed regular visits to Rottnest and caravanning around Australia. In 1998 they moved to Parkland Villas, Mandurah, to be closer to Ruth’s daughter Helen. Ruth subsequently became wheelchair-bound but she and John enjoyed another ten very happy years together in Mandurah. In mid-2008 Ruth went into care nearby and shortly afterwards passed away aged 91.

Ruth’s sisters Jean Hearman (Hardie 1927) and Nancy MacKenzie (Hardie 1936) also attended PLC, as did her nieces Anne Ritson (Hearman 1962), Janet Bentley (Hearman 1969) and Janice MacKenzie (1968), and her grandnieces Sylvia Ritson (1992) and Elsa MacKenzie (2002).

* A programme from this performance was recently donated to Archives by Nanette Danks (Harvey 1959) daughter of June Harvey (East 1934).

Jessie Campbell Nicholson BEM (1942)
1 February 1925 – 14 April 2009

Jessie Nicholson was born in Glasgow, but spent her childhood in Kashmir, India, at the height of the Raj, after her father’s business took the family there in 1929. Her education was shared between the Presentation Convent in Srinagar and the Boarding House at PLC. She was the eldest of six children and her siblings included Lorna Nicholson (1949), Sheena Stuart (Nicholson 1951) and John Campbell Nicholson (1961; left Kindergarten 1949).

Whilst a teenager, Jessie contracted poliomyelitis, leaving her with paralysis in one arm and other complications, but she overcame these setbacks to lead an extraordinary life of service that began as a young woman in London, when she was influenced by a founder of the Christian Socialist Movement, Father John Groser, and became enamoured with the Anglican Church.

In WWII she served in Sialkot, in what is now Pakistan, with the Women’s Voluntary Service and then in Burma with the Women’s Auxiliary Service, attached to the Welsh Regiment 2nd Battalion with the rank of...
sargeant, earning the British Empire Medal and amazing her commanding officer with her driving skills on roads carved from the jungle, despite the use of only one arm. She was later promoted to the commissioned rank of second lieutenant.

Jessie then embarked on a long association with the YWCA in London, Melbourne and Wellington, and subsequently with the Girls Venture Corps of Great Britain, and in 1965 settled in Melbourne where for decades she was a member of the congregation of St Paul’s Cathedral, representing the cathedral on the diocesan synod and the diocese of Melbourne on the general synod, and was a member of the council of the diocese. She also devoted much time to visiting the sick and was well known by people from all walks of life in Melbourne for the grace of this ministry.

It was in Melbourne that she would also become secretary of the Incorporated Association of Registered Teachers of Victoria (IARTV) and registrar of the Associated Teachers Agency, earning legendary status in Victoria among teachers and principals of independent schools until her retirement in 1985.

In its centenary year the IARTV commemorative publication Looking Back, Thinking Forward included a chapter titled ‘The Nicholson Years’ in which Dorothy Pizzey AM wrote…”She has been the friend and guide to so many in the independent schools that it is hard to know how we will get on without her.

“She has helped us get jobs, she has offered comfort and wise advice when we have lost our jobs; she has found us teachers when… our staff have been lost, stolen or strayed; she has created in the IARTV office a centre

… to which we have all been welcome. Above all, she has made us laugh: her sense of humour is well known and her annual reports have never been surpassed for wit.”

Jessie died aged 84 in Box Hill Hospital and is survived by a brother and three sisters. The Reverend David Conolly delivered the eulogy at her funeral in St Paul’s Cathedral and this was published in The Age newspaper on 15 May 2009 titled ‘Beacon of strength to young, fellow educators and the sick – Jessie Campbell Nicholson BEM, Woman of Substance’.

Richard ‘Dick’ Oldham (1931; left PLC Kindergarten 1921) 3 March 1914 – 10 August 2009 Dick was the last surviving child of Susan Hoyle Russell and prominent Perth architect Charles Lancelot Oldham, whose firm, Oldham Boas Ednie-Brown, designed many of Perth’s still significant buildings. The family lived in Forrest Street, Peppermint Grove, and was part of a close group of friends who have many connections to PLC and included the Lee Steere, Waldie Forbes, Sholl, Manford, Burt, Salmon, Church, Drummond, Allnutt, Plaistowe and Evans families. Dick spent an idyllic childhood playing on the foreshore, swimming in the Swan River and riding homemade carts down the local hills.

In 1917, the first of two family tragedies occurred when Dick’s older brother, Alban, died when he playfully jumped in front of a car where the horseshoe bridge stands today in Claremont. Then, in March 1920, when Dick was aged 6, his father unexpectedly died. In an oral history taken for the Cottesloe, Mosman Park & Peppermint Grove Oral History Project in 2006 (available at PLC Archives), Dick spoke of his adored mother, who was left to raise seven children ranging in age from 18 months to 17 years, and how he admired her strength in enduring her circumstances, which quickly shifted from comfortable to straitened. Family friends rallied around to help fund the children’s education and in September 1920 Dick started at PLC Kindergarten.

Like his brothers, Dick was subsequently educated at Guildford Grammar School. He then joined the Bank of NSW firstly at Cottesloe, then Hay Street, Leonora, Quairading and Narrogin. Then WWII began and Dick enlisted in December 1939. He was briefly assigned to the 25th Light Horse until he was able to join the RAAF and fly Catalinas, reaching the rank of Wing Commander in 461 Squadron, and flew in the Battle of Britain, becoming one of the few…Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few. (Winston Churchill)

After the war Dick married Kimberley ‘Kim’ Morris and returned to banking. Dick and Kim had five children, Russell, Christopher, Kent (dec), Robin Kirin (Oldham 1971) and John. The family home in Clarendon Street, Cottesloe, was self-built and Dick’s proudest achievement was that no puddles ever formed on the poured concrete outside. Dick had a lifelong love of fishing and later took up golf. He was also talented in the art of sketching humorous caricatures. His love of adventure never left him and at 78, he became the oldest person in WA to do an unassisted static line parachute jump. He married for a second time after Kim died in 1987. The second marriage ended in amicable divorce only two years ago and the two remained close friends.

1. Ruth Cecilia Gaunt, formerly Sharp (Hardie 1934)
2. Class of 1942 in Form III 1937
Back: Barbara Barker, June Baker, Dorothy Smith, Winsome Haning, Peg McCullough, Lalage Thomason, Dulcie Cooper
Middle: Beth Dunn (standing), Jessie Nicholson, Barbara Beard, June East, Ailsa Newman (standing)
Front, seated: Flavia Pestalozzi, Jean Slatyer, Joan Lenz, Barbara Ellis, Enid Holland, Helen Grove, Joan Thyne
It was the hunt of our Archivist for our earliest ‘old boys’ that brought Dick back to PLC. Delighted to have been found, and very proud of his ‘old girl’ status, Dick said that he had always fondly remembered his time at PLC. After several invitations to Old Collegian events, he eventually found enough time in his busy calendar to attend Founders’ Day 2008, which was a long and busy day, during which his merry eyes twinkled, and his broad grin was evident throughout.

Dick was diagnosed with cancer only five weeks before his death at 95. He retained his faculties to the very end and died relatively pain-free, for which his family members say they are most grateful.

Dick’s family members who have attended PLC in the past include his siblings Molly Bennett (Oldham 1922), Robert ‘Gilgie’ Oldham (1927; left PLC kindergarten 1919) and Pattie Jordanoff (Oldham 1935); his nieces Tish Korgsaa (Oldham 1957), Jan Oldham (1960), Jodi Chetto (Jordanoff 1960) and Katrina Acharya (Oldham 1964); his only daughter Robin Kirin (Oldham 1971) and granddaughter Genevieve Oldham (1998).

Patricia Clare Preston (Sadleir 1931)
31 May 1914 – 2 September 2009

Patricia was the youngest child of Emily and Ralph (Rafe) Sadleir of the shipping and transport business R.C. Sadleir. The family lived in Nedlands, with Patricia attending the local state school until 1928 when her secondary education began at PLC; her favourite pursuits were tennis, swimming and hockey.

Every Christmas, Ralph took Patricia and her sister Evelyn on a ‘no-frills’ camping holiday and the girls would spend long, lazy days in their little boat lined with cushions, with fishing lines tied around their toes and playing the latest popular music on a wind-up gramophone. Each night, they bathed in the river and ate tinned beans, supplemented with the fish they had caught. Occasionally, the girls were sent to Ralph’s sisters in Melbourne, where they enjoyed shocking their maiden aunts with their racy clothes and talk, much to the discreet amusement of their mother.

Patricia left PLC on completion of her Junior year and worked in her father’s office in Perth where she was allowed some latitude, often leaving early to play tennis and using her father’s car to facilitate socialising after work while he uncomplainingly caught the train home. However, in tougher times Patricia proved her mettle, working long hours as the bookkeeper and general administrator, which she continued into the early years of her marriage.

In 1939 after a long engagement, Patricia married Derek ‘Dick’ Preston, an Englishman she had met at the Kings Park Tennis Club, and they enjoyed their early married life in a flat near the beach at Cottesloe, where it is said that Patricia buried many a burnt meal after a sun-drenched day by the water! They subsequently moved to Dalkeith and started their family; sons Rick and Ken who is the father of future student Claire Preston (PLC Year 7, 2013) and daughters Helen (staff, 1965-1966), Penny Bennett (Preston 1964) and Joan Rossington (Preston 1969).

In 1953 the family moved to Swanbourne. Subsequently, Patricia’s mother, Emily, moved in with them and she and Dick lovingly cared for her for the last ten years of her life. Their children viewed this as an idyllic phase as they enjoyed a carefree lifestyle in close proximity to the beach and the bonus of a tennis court where they congregated with the local kids on most afternoons and weekends.

There followed a phase when Dick was unable to work due to illness and Patricia purchased Boronia Florist in Nedlands, thus providing the family’s income and becoming a talented florist who was much in demand for the exquisite wedding bouquets she created. Although very busy, Patricia always made life fun and when Dick returned to work she returned her focus to their two youngest children who were still at home.

In retirement, Patricia and Dick moved to Wembley Downs where they enjoyed fishing along the coast before moving back to Nedlands in 1986. They delighted in their involvement with an ever-increasing number of grandchildren that reached twenty-two in total. Widowed in 2001, Patricia remained living independently until 2008 when she moved into Hollywood Aged Care Village. It was there that she died, aged 95.
Mollie Evelyn Read (Wright 1930)
28 October 1912 – 18 May 2009

Mollie was the youngest of five children born at ‘Avalon’, the family’s Mumballup orchard and dairy farm. Whilst her four brothers were being educated at Christ Church Grammar School, Mollie’s childhood was one of servitude; her closest companions and only solace a white duck called Poosey and a big black hen. She received no formal education until, in the face of strong opposition from Mollie’s mother, family friend Beryl Jukes (Battye 1921) intervened, arranging and financing Mollie’s admission to PLC as a boarder.

Mollie was 11 at the time and her lack of education necessitated classes with children half her age. Miss Elsie Finlayson (Principal 1922-1927) personally tutored Mollie every day before and after school, and on weekends, and Mollie thrived, showing a keen intelligence and growing confidence. In 1928 Dr Vera Summers (staff from 1920; Principal 1934-1961) took over Mollie’s tutelage. Mollie was awarded Form Dux in 1929 and Proficiency in 1930. She completed six Junior subjects and left PLC aged 18, returning to her former life at ‘Avalon’. However, in 1933 family members intervened and facilitated her entry into nursing training at the Children’s Hospital (now PMH), where she qualified in November 1936 and was placed in the newly developed children’s Hospital (now Princess Margaret Hospital), where she met a young doctor, Ewart Smith. They married in 1954 and Ewart’s work, first as a flying doctor, took them to Cloncurry in outback Queensland, then on to four years in Europe where Ewart was a medical officer attached to the Australian Embassies in Rome, Athens and Copenhagen. Their eldest daughter was born in Copenhagen and their three younger daughters in Australia, after their return.

Ewart established a general practice in Kelmscott, which in the 1960s and 1970s was a semi rural town in the foothills of the Darling Ranges, known for its orchards, market gardens and migrant population; and a three-bus trip away from PLC.

However, Margaret very much believed in her daughters having the same education that she held in high regard and, sometimes using their grandmother’s home in Nedlands as a base and later a townhouse in Dalkeith, her daughters having the same education, that she held in high regard and, sometimes using their grandmother’s home in Nedlands as a base and later a townhouse in Dalkeith, all four of Margaret’s daughters, Ingrid Winter (Smith 1974), Astrid Hughes (Smith 1975), Kirstin Prendiville (Smith 1978) and Helga James (Smith 1984) commenced at the PLC Junior School in Year 5. Teachers like Mrs Tyler (Junior Headmistress 1965-1978, see obituaries Blackwatch Winter 2009), Mrs Greig (Mrs
Williams; staff 1966-1990) and Mrs Davies (staff 1956-1995, deceased) all benefited from the beautiful flowers from Margaret’s garden duly transported to school by the girls. Apparently Mrs Williams was particularly fond of the bird of paradise, a large bunch of which made for an interesting long bus trip!

Margaret was also the grandmother of Katelyn Prendiville (2009) and the much loved sister-in-law of Charmian Bourne (Urquhart 1956).

After enduring Parkinson’s disease for twenty years, Margaret died aged 78, followed a month later by her beloved Ewart. They will be greatly missed, but leave treasured memories that their daughters trust many in the PLC community share; trips to the little farm at Kelmscott, picnics, barbecues, horse riding and the holidays at Rottnest. Perhaps some may even remember the very first Sundowner welcome party in 1967, when Ewart attended in a dashing, pale blue safari suit, much to the astonishment of Miss Barr!

Zoe Marjorie Venn (Weir 1930)
11 November 1913 – 12 November 2009

Zoe was the youngest child of Madeleine and James Weir who ran ‘Bullara’, a sheep station north of Carnarvon that was then taken over by their only son, Lewis and his wife Dorothy Weir (Hall 1928). Zoe’s six sisters were all schooled at MLC, as was Zoe, prior to her starting at PLC in 1926, aged 12. On moving to Perth, the family home was ‘Colvyn’, the former Bunning family home on Victoria Avenue, Claremont. Zoe loved life and by her own admission was into ‘anything and everything’. She enjoyed her time at PLC and was one of the winners of the 1929 fancy dress competition looking very dapper in a top hat and tails, complete with painted moustache. In her final year, concern arose that she was not paying sufficient attention to her studies and Zoe was sent by her father to a finishing school in the Melbourne hills with her best friend Joan Wittenoom (1931).

Back in Perth, in 1936 Zoe married Frank Venn, whose two sisters Helen Finlayson (Venn 1928) and Cathrine Nicholas, formerly Malloch (Venn 1933) had also attended PLC. After several years of living in various country locations, Frank and Zoe settled on the Venn family farm at Dardanup and had four children; Dale, Robert, Ash and John (dec).

In retirement they moved back to Perth’s western suburbs, where Zoe was happiest, and lived a colourful life together until Frank’s death in 1984. Zoe then reluctantly took up gardening, having loved the flowers Frank’s efforts had wrought and missed them after he died. She retained her love of being surrounded by beautiful things, maintained herself fastidiously and remained a vibrant social butterfly, with friends across all ages. She also loved her dogs, the latest in a long line of which was an effervescent poodle-shihtzu cross named Bubbles.

Zoe entered respite care at Hollywood Hospital just a few weeks before she died, on the day after her 96th birthday.

Zoe was mother-in-law to Barbara Potter (Allan 1955); grandmother to Yasmin Lenigas (Venn 1979); great grandmother to Bronte Lenigas (2006), aunt to Hon June Craig AM (Lynn 1947), Gaye Ibbotson (Lynn 1950), Jillian Milner (1952) and Judy Roberts (Weir 1956); great aunt to Susan Norman (Milner 1977), Anna Johnston (Milner 1983), Jennifer Yates (Craig 1969), Susan MacPherson (Ibbotson 1974). Sandra McGhee (Ibbotson 1977), Dimity Wehr (Malloch 1980) and Jessica Wallace (Malloch 1982); great great aunt to Amy Johnston (Year 6, 2010), Sarah Craig (1996), Louise Craig (1998), Catherine McDonald (Yates 1993), Anita Ibbotson (Year 8, 2009), Kate MacPherson (2004), Sam MacPherson (left Kindergarten 1995). Lachlan MacPherson (left Kindergarten 1997). Lavinia Wehr (Year 8, 2009), Abby Wallace (2007) and Sophia Wehr (PLC Year 8, 2012).
Dorothea (Thea) Isobel Walsh
(Graham 1948)
18 March 1931 – 29 August 2009

Thea was the daughter of Mines
Department chief draftsman James Graham,
who died when Thea was a child, and
Dorothea (nee Thrum). Thea attended
PLC from 1944, completed her Leaving in
1948 and went on to nursing at Fremantle
Hospital. In 1952 she married Brian Walsh
and they spent the next three years in
Derby where Brian worked for the Royal
Flying Doctor Service. Over the ensuing
years they had five children together and
worked in various locations throughout
Australia before returning to Perth. Retiring
to Kalamunda, Thea set about enjoying her
three grandchildren.

Like many members of her family, Thea was
highly intelligent and a devout Christian. Her
brother Dr Jim Graham (ex Scotch Collegian;
UWA Hackett Research Scholarship recipient,
deceased) was a physicist and an Elder of
the Presbyterian Church. Her maternal uncle,
the Rt Rev J G Thrum, was Moderator of the
Presbyterian Church in WA and her maternal
grandfather was a Presbyterian minister
in the goldfields. When Thea moved to
Kalamunda, finding the right church was
more important to her than most, and after
attending services at six local churches, she
finally found Darlington United Church and
happily attended services there for many
years with Pastor David Preston.

In 1995 Thea was diagnosed with leukaemia
and her health began a steady decline. She
developed heart disease and the leukaemia
treatment compromised her immune
system. She became susceptible to, and
was plagued by, other cancers necessitating
several surgeries.

Her enduring faith gave her comfort
throughout her ordeal and she is now at
peace after 14 years of pain and suffering.
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