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Front Cover

PLC is a tight-knit community that celebrates diversity and recognises the contribution its many members make to the life of our School. Our cover photo features the multitude of faces that make up our vibrant community. Siobhan Rollinson (current parent and President of PLC Auxiliary), Jane Thompson (Alumni – Stimson 1958, 4th generation family), Wayne Lillis (staff – Maintenance department), Beth Blackwood (Principal), Gillian Swan (Council member), Gary van Heerden (Chaplain – Uniting Church), Francesca Nelson (Alumni – 1980, staff) and Jenny Hetherington (long serving staff member) represent the strong community support provided to our students, represented here by Chelsea Menmuir (Year 8), Chloe Li (Year 11), Talia Clohessy (Year 11), Jonah Thompson (Kindy), Duke Fogarty (Kindy) and Isadora Thompson (Pre-Kindy). Jonah and Isadora are Jane Thompson’s grandchildren and 4th generation PLC students.

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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I come from an era that grew up in a neighbourhood that was a community. I was raised in a country town where news traveled fast and it seemed my mother knew what I had been up to before I had even arrived home from school. Neighbours knew neighbours, talked across fences, borrowed a cup of flour or kept an eye on children who played in each others’ backyards. There were squabbles and tensions but in times of need the community united to support, care and assist each other. There was a strong sense of belonging.

Fast forward many years and the importance of community was brought home while living in an American town that had no sense of community and had what I called ‘lost its soul’. A busy commercial district during the day, its town centre became deserted at night and on weekends, home only to the alienated and lonely, homeless and drug addicted. No brave person would venture into the town at night – only naïve new arrivals such as ourselves. A similar picture of American society was later captured in the poignantly titled book _Bowling Alone_ (2000) by Robert Putman. His book “detailed a decline in trust and reciprocity, and described how the multiple links that hold individuals together had come undone.”

Surveys covering the period 1975 to 1998 painted a clear picture, with data showing a 58% decline in the number of people who attended clubs or association meetings; a 43% decline in family dinners; and, a 35% drop in having friends over.

In 2010 Andrew Leigh, a Federal MP and former ANU Professor of Economics, published _Disconnected_, a book that likewise demonstrated that Australians are also living lonelier, less connected lives than 30 to 40 years ago. It seems that we, too, “are less likely to belong to organisations – from unions and political parties to the Country Women’s Association; we are less likely to participate in civic activities such as casting a valid vote, or volunteering. We are less likely to be part of a church community, or to play sport.

And, according to the statistics we have on average fewer friends, and even fewer connections with our neighbours than we used to. Moreover, people rarely have personal contact with people who are different from them. In some circles children move effortlessly from selective high schools and private schools to the sandstone universities without ever meeting a peer who isn’t either very smart or very well-off, or both.”

How true is that of our lifestyle in Perth?

Author Elif Shafak, talks about ‘cultural ghettos’ and the pitfalls of surrounding ourselves with people who are a mirror image. “We tend to form clusters based on similarities and then we produce stereotypes about other clusters of people. If we never leave our tight circles, then our hearts will dwindle and our humanness may wither. We will shrink inside the walls we build.”

We value being a living community at PLC. A community where there is a strong sense of belonging; that has a shared set of values and where individuals’ responsibility to contribute to the School culture through active participation is balanced with a right to feel valued, included and cared for. Through modeling the strength of community we hope that our students will seek to replicate similar communal responsibility and citizenship wherever they may find themselves beyond PLC. Reaching out beyond our immediate School environment through such opportunities as scholarships, partnerships, service programmes and School tours we also endeavour to build bridges between our students and the wider, more diverse and often less advantaged sectors of our society. We actively seek not to be a ‘cultural ghetto’. If we accept the words of Lord Tennyson, ‘I am a part of all that I have met’, then such experiences as these enrich the lives of both our students and those they meet. Together we seek a connected and more humane world.

**BETH BLACKWOOD**
Principal

Adele Horin. _Lost inside our cultural ghettos_, 30 October 2010. Sydney Morning Herald
Two proverbs that suggest a sense of movement, our interconnectedness, are:

**A person is a person because of people** (a Zulu proverb);

**You are a wayfaring people, strangers, never rooted in one place, pilgrims moving towards an abiding city further on** (a proverb from southern Africa).

In a community the search for meaning and understanding always happens in a context from the sacrifices of our parents in raising and supporting us, to the teachers who believed in us, to significant people in our lives who continue to believe in us and see more in us than we see in ourselves. But what is community?

The aforementioned proverbs imply a dynamic interaction of people from many diverse backgrounds. Such interactions can, and do, lead to great tension, but as humans we do not simply adapt to the environment, we also actively create it. Communities are thus ‘emerging’ entities, constantly being created or ‘becoming’.

The Russian social psychologist, Lev Vygotsky, has contributed much to our understanding of how through these daily interactions, we develop a sense of identity and engage in new ways. The activities we engage in create a sense of community. Vygotsky has discovered the connecting links between socio-cultural processes taking place in society and mental processes taking place in the individual. Children are capable of far more competent performance when they have proper assistance from adults. It is thus through my interactions with others that I become what I am – a person because of people.

Where does God fit into this? Our concept of God embodies our concept of self and community. God guides us in our journey and calls us to reach out beyond ourselves to others. When we manage this, we discover that few of us are free of some kind of inner struggle. In this vulnerability we meet God, each other and ourselves.

Grasping with these concepts, Philosophy and Religious Studies teacher, Duncan MacLaurin and I have revisited the Year 11 and Year 12 Philosophy of Religious Studies course and content, sharing the teaching of the course. In Year 11, the focus is on the journey towards identity and the factors that impact on our sense of identity. In Year 12, we move from identity in general to our individual journeys and factors that have contributed to our sense of self. Mr MacLaurin’s point of departure is from a literary perspective while I approach the issue from a narrative perspective. This is based on the idea that we generate stories to make sense of our lives. Through the course we unpacked and dissected some of the main stories. *Huck Finn, The Grapes of Wrath, The Scarlet Letter* and films such as *Crimes and Misdemeanors* are also studied.

Mr MacLaurin’s approach is to look at the individual and community through the works of Socrates/Plato: *the Republic, the Apology, the Crito* and *the Symposium*, as well as a study of Existential Philosophy in the works of Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, and Transcendentalism in the works of Emmanuel Kant and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

The emphasis for the course is on the integrity of the individual and his moral and ethical obligations to community which may involve the challenges, injustices, and repressive practices and values of a community.

**REVEREND GARY VAN HEERDEN**
Community: the word encapsulates so much within its meaning but when considering it within the context of the PLC Foundation it focuses around a feeling of fellowship, a collective goal to support the mission of the School and to extend and carry forward the tradition of philanthropy that was started by previous generations of PLC students and parents.

The PLC Foundation plays a key role in strengthening and supporting the School community by its efforts to raise funds for projects that range from capital infrastructure developments including the Science, Technology, Arts and Middle School building and most recently the Swim and Recreation Centre. It is pleasing to see the Swim and Recreation Centre in full use and witness the number of students who benefit from this facility. The Foundation is now committed to preparing a campaign to support the School with its next major project.

In addition to supporting building works, the Foundation Board is also currently working to develop a sustainable programme that will allow the School to fund a number of scholarships to girls who would otherwise not be able to attend PLC due to financial circumstances. The first of these scholarships was awarded this year to Clare Wray (pictured).

Overall, the Foundation aims to foster a feeling of shared association that collectively supports the mission of the School to provide educational excellence that gives girls confidence to lead purposeful lives and make an active contribution towards the common good.

As well as looking to the future we also aim to regularly communicate to the community about the successes of previous projects to exemplify the importance of supporting the School.

Although financial contributions are essential to ensure that new buildings are completed and new scholarships are awarded, the results of these contributions to the Foundation provide an enduring and inclusive legacy of which we should all be proud.

Whether you are a member of the Summers Society, have supported a Capital Campaign, donated to an Annual Giving programme or have made Voluntary Contributions on the school account throughout the year, every gift contributes to the strengthening of the PLC community and continues the tradition of past generations by ensuring that we endow PLC with the necessary resources and facilities to meet the future needs of our students.

ROBYN AHERN
Chair of Foundation
Summers Society

Angela and Judith Vincent (1956) pictured here with Principal Beth Blackwood at the 2012 London Reunion are amongst the first members of the Summers Society.

The Summers Society was established to recognise graduates and supporters of the PLC community who continue the tradition started by Dr Vera Summers of making a bequest to the PLC Foundation in their will. Such bequests support the School in continuing to be a provider of academic excellence for girls in the 21st century.

Including a bequest to PLC in your will offers a range of benefits to both the School and yourself. Please contact Joanne Beedie, Development Co-ordinator on +61 8 9424 6534 or at jbeedie@plc.wa.edu.au if you would like to receive further information on the Summers Society or related events.

Matched Giving... making your gift count for more

Many corporate employers offer a scheme of Matched Giving where they match the dollar value of a charitable gift to a varying percentage.

We asked Bob Cowan, a current parent and supporter of the PLC Foundation about his motivations for giving and how he increased his donation by applying for Matched Funding.

Mr Cowan recognises the strong community of PLC. His children, Alexandra (Year 7) and James (Pre-Primary, 2011) have already benefited from investments made by parents and other members of the School community to school facilities in years past. With his daughter set to continue at PLC to Year 12, he hopes his contributions to new facilities and programmes will benefit not only his own children but future students as well.

A Senior Commercial and Business Development Advisor at Apache, Mr Cowan applied for Matched Giving through Apache’s Give Where We Live programme which actively supports community programmes and charities where it has operations. Matched Giving is actively encouraged at Apache so that the company may support those organisations and charities that are important to it employees and not just those with a high profile. Apache is very proactive in promoting Matched Giving as one of the additional benefits of working with their organisation.

“I think it is really good that I can effectively double my donation to any charity or organisation that I support and therefore make more of a difference. It provides more of an incentive for me to donate,” Mr Cowan said.

Mr Cowan found the process very straightforward since the PLC Foundation met the company’s criteria as a charitable institution. At Apache, the programme usually opens at the beginning of each calendar year and employees can apply for Matched Giving anytime through the year by completing a form and submitting proof of their donation (usually a copy of the receipt).

Since the PLC Foundation is a registered Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) any donation is deductible for both the company and for the employee.

“If your employer offers Matched Giving, I would encourage people to check if a donation to PLC meets their company’s criteria, especially if you already make a regular donation to the PLC Foundation’s building or scholarship funds. It is an easy way to make more of a contribution,” Mr Cowan said.

“I think Matched Giving is a great programme. From my personal experience it actively encourages me to give more, knowing my company will match it and I get satisfaction from knowing my company is supporting things that are important to me,” Mr Cowan added.

If you would like more information on how to claim a matched gift to your donation, please contact Joanne Beedie, Development Co-ordinator at jbeedie@plc.wa.edu.au or on +61 8 9424 6534.
Reflections of a First Time Fund Raiser
– An excerpt from a talk given at the PLC Foundation AGM in April by Maria Kailis.

The campaign to raise money for the PLC Swim and Recreation Centre was my first serious commitment to help with the organisation of a fundraising campaign. I agreed to join the campaign because someone asked me and I am not very good at saying no! More seriously I joined because I am passionate about the education of girls and young women.

We want to offer girls the very best opportunities and resources to explore their full potential and talents in all areas – academic, the arts and sport. I believe it is really important to “give back” to the School from which my family has benefited so much. I also believe it is important to “give forward” to the School to help inspire the education of women in the future.

The Swim and Recreation Centre was a very clever way of using space and also benefitted from a one-off grant from the Government as part of the Building the Education Revolution programme.

My first meeting with the fundraising committee included a talk by a very helpful professional fundraiser who told us that fundraising was fun because people loved giving money as it made them feel good. So despite my phone phobia, I eventually summoned enough courage to start to ring people.

That provided a dilemma. PLC is a progressive girls’ school promoting the rights of women. Who, then, should I phone to ask for a donation – the man or the woman of a family? Mostly, I called the person that I previously had the most contact with, regardless of gender. Fortunately, many people could see the value of the wonderful project and were very generous. Thank you to you all.

However, some of the people I spoke to intimated that despite their generous donation to PLC they had donated far more to their sons’ schools. I have since learned that it is estimated that donations to girls’ schools, at most, reach 50-66% of that donated to boys’ schools.

I have pondered on the reasons for this statistic, which I hope will soon be historical only. Why is this? I don’t think we value girls’ education less than boys. However, there may be a different culture behind donations to boys and girls schools. I don’t think women on the whole are used to donating money.

Women are proud of achieving, especially in their professional lives. However, they can show some hesitance in publicly showing off their financial success. Many successful women appear clearly modest in their displays of spending. It’s OK to be successful but not quite OK to declare yourself to be rich. Therefore, women are not so prone to public displays of wealth and this flows down to not wanting to be publicly seen to be donating money. They are more inclined to donate money anonymously, which is also wonderful but does not encourage others to donate.

Women tend to be more conservative in their financial dealings. I believe women often feel more insecure of their financial position, probably due to thousands of years of financial dependence and inequality.

I hope we can think of creative ways to encourage donations to girls’ schools in the future. It does make you feel good when you donate to a good cause. Let us all continue to help to support the education of girls for the future of our whole community.

The Gift of a Young Alumni

Louise Fry (2005) recently made a gift to the 2012 Annual Giving programme. As a recent graduate of PLC, Louise is one of over 1300 girls who have left PLC within the last ten years and who make up our young alumni.

Louise recently commenced her professional career at Ernst & Young as an Analyst in the Transaction Advisory Service department after successfully completing her university education at UWA and the Copenhagen Business School with a Bachelor Degree in Economics and Commerce.

Louise has many wonderful memories from her time at PLC and forged a number of important friendships.

Louise believes that PLC gave her a big start in life. “It has offered me so many opportunities and allowed me to gain so many wonderful experiences across my professional and personal life. I want to be able to offer the same opportunities to a girl who would not otherwise be able to attend PLC because of financial restraints and enjoy all the great experiences and times that I had when I was at PLC,” she said.

Through her employers Workplace Giving Programme, which matches employee’s charitable contributions to any Australian charitable organisation, Louise was able to increase the value of her gift to the PLC Foundation Scholarship Fund. She has also donated to Telethon Adventurers which supports childhood cancer research. Both of these charities are important to Louise and she was happy that her firm could support her donations with a matched gift.

Louise is adamant that a small amount goes a long way. “I would encourage as many young alumni as possible to consider making a small monthly donation to the PLC Foundation Scholarship Fund. I know that my contributions will help the PLC Foundation offer scholarships to girls who will then benefit from a PLC education and all the opportunities that it has given me,” she said.
The PLC Community

A community creates a sense of fellowship with others as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests and goals.

Presbyterian Ladies’ College is in itself a community, is made up from a variety of smaller communities and belongs to a larger external community.

The School has a proud history of fostering strong links between home and school, forming a healthy and vibrant community. In 1966, the Mothers’ Auxiliary (now the PLC Auxiliary) was formed to foster the friendship and communication among parents of the School and today remains a vital group within the PLC community. The Auxiliary hosts a large variety of functions and special events throughout the year, providing an enormous array of opportunities for parents to connect with each other and share experiences and knowledge. In addition, they serve to bridge the geographical gap between our country and city families by providing transport to co-curricular activities for our boarding students. The Auxiliary is also instrumental in nurturing relationships with the broader community, hosting the Open Garden Day, which sees beautiful gardens throughout Peppermint Grove opened to the public and serves as one of the School’s biggest fundraising events.

Similarly, the Parents’ Committee represents parents of all students at PLC to involve parents in School organised activities and plays a fundamental role in fundraising for important School initiatives. The Parents’ Committee raises funds for important projects for the School. The Committee reports to the School Council and is instrumental in enabling the development of key projects such fundraising for performance furniture as well as providing for staff travel grants and student scholarships.

The PLC Auxiliary and Parents’ Committee are just two of a number of parent support groups at PLC that serve to create a sense of fellowship among parents and the School. The Argyle Club represents parents of current PLC rowing students and works to fundraise and host social events to support rowing. Past rowers and their parents can continue their strong links with PLC rowing by becoming financial members of the club on an ongoing basis, well past their enrolment at PLC. The areas of Music, Theatre Arts, Boarding and Library are also supported by dedicated and enthusiastic parent groups.

For those wishing to stay connected to the PLC community beyond the years of their formal association with the School, the Back2View Clan (formerly Past Parents’ Club) provides a forum for past parents and staff members to gather throughout the year.

The PLC Old Collegians’ Association represents the School’s oldest and largest community. The OCA celebrated its 90th birthday in 2010 and was established “to keep the girls in touch with the school and their school friends after their studying days are over” and provide them with “the opportunity of meeting twice a year and renewing old friendships.” (Kookaburra 1920.) Today, the association organises dozens of events every year and plays a vital role in awarding scholarships and bursaries to worthy students. Past Collegians are able to remain connected to the School, creating a sense of ownership and belonging.

Teaching and administration staff also represents a valuable component of the PLC community, educating and serving the needs of students every day. Our team of dedicated staff model the benefits of lifelong learning to our students, participating in ongoing professional development and keeping abreast of the latest education tools and technology. Staff also contribute more broadly, attending school camps and tours and volunteering their time in community programmes.

Parents, students (past and present) and staff all serve a fundamental role in the PLC community. Every member serves a purpose and plays a significant part in enriching the life of the School.
Boarding at PLC

PLC is proud to boast a strong and vibrant boarding community, enriched by the presence of students from regional areas across the State, inter-state and overseas.

PLC is home to up to 120 girls from Years 7 to 12 and provides a warm and welcoming environment for boarding students.

Girls from as far as Kununurra, Esperance, China and Thailand board at PLC, sharing their experiences and developing life skills such as interdependence, independence, acceptance and understanding that comes from living among people who come from a variety of backgrounds.

These girls play a vital role in the broader PLC community, adding to the diversity of the School and engaging fully in its co-curricular life. They also contribute to the wider community through a number of Community and Service Learning projects. Every year boarding students support the Salvation Army’s Red Shield Appeal, door knocking for gold-coin donations in the local area.

Recently, boarding students were only too happy to give back to their own rural communities, supporting Main Roads WA and Keep Australia Beautiful WA, by packing Outback Packs intended to assist tourists traveling in regional WA to help keep our tourist destinations litter free. PLC is fortunate to benefit from the many and diverse community backgrounds that boarding students bring to the School. Our students are passionate about the international and rural communities from which they come from and this adds to the heterogeneity within our own community.

Photo above: Sichan ‘Bam’ Lowjun (Year 9) from Thailand with Co-Director of Boarding, Leanne McTavish.

Photo above right: PLC boarding students (L to R) Lauren Smith (Year 7) from Kalgoorlie and Tasma Allen (Year 9) from Kalbarri assist with a Keep Australia Beautiful and Main Roads litter campaign.

PLC on the Road

Our ties with regional Western Australia and overseas are important to us. Every year we make an effort to travel throughout WA and occasionally overseas to visit with current, past and future PLC families.

In addition to having attended the Wagin Woolorama and NorthWest Expo in Broome earlier in 2012, this year we will also be visiting the following places:

4 – 5 August Karratha – FeNaCng Festival
29 – 30 August Dowerin Field Day
5 – 6 September Newdegate Field Day
20 – 21 September Mingenew Mid West Expo
19 – 20 October Esperance Agricultural Show

We have also recently visited Melbourne, Sydney, Kununurra, Thailand, Myanmar and China.

If you would like to connect with us during one of our visits please contact Community Relations at communityrelations@plc.wa.edu.au or phone +61 8 9424 6581.
Community Feature

Council Members

The Council of Presbyterian Ladies’ College is responsible to the Uniting Church in Australia for the governance of PLC.

Members of the Council voluntarily offer a wealth of skills and qualifications to ensure effective governance and set the strategic vision to ensure the School continues its tradition of providing educational excellence for future generations.

Council members are drawn from within the School community and beyond and bring a range of knowledge and experience to the table.

Three of our valued Council members are profiled in this issue.

Tracey Horton – 2010 to current

Emeritus Professor Tracey Horton was appointed Deputy Chair of Council and Chair-elect at the beginning of 2011. Tracey will be nominated to succeed the Hon Justice John McKechnie as Chair of Council upon his retirement at the 2012 Synod of the Uniting Church.

With a career spanning the United States and Australia, Tracey has more than 25 years experience in the fields of senior management, leadership and education as an economist, business analyst, management consultant and university administrator.

She is a graduate of the International Baccalaureate Diploma who continues to pursue life-long learning opportunities. She won a scholarship to complete her MBA at Stanford University in California, USA where she graduated as an Arjay Miller scholar, ranked in the top graduating students of her year.

Tracey brings a wealth of knowledge and business acumen to the PLC Council and her contributions have been invaluable in helping the School to set an overall vision, strategy and pathway to achieving its goals.

Overall, Tracey believes the Council is responsible for ensuring the longevity and continuing success of the School. She enjoys the opportunities her role on Council brings her, in particular the chance to contribute to the education of young women. She is passionate about ensuring that each generation of young women has more opportunities than the last. “This is more than ‘education’, it’s about ensuring the future of young women,” she said.

In addition, as the mother of two sons and as a business leader in what have traditionally been male dominated roles, she is grateful for the opportunity to make connections with girls.

Tracey is an avid contributor to the community and in addition to PLC Council, she is also a Board member of Edge Employment Solutions and Chairman of the Western Australian Museum Foundation. “I think it’s important to feel like you are truly an active member of the community,” she said. She believes that contributing to the community in this way allows her to become more connected and affords her a different perspective in life, away from family and work.

Gillian Swan – 2005 to current

Gillian Swan has decades of experience in the education sector, both as an educator and as a mentor to Education students. After having been in teaching and administrative roles at John XXIII for 24 years, she now works alongside Teaching staff and students as a University Colleague at Edith Cowan University. Her on-going work in this field means that she sees first-hand the issues affecting education and teacher education and as such she brings invaluable knowledge and background to the Council table.

Gillian believes her experience in the area of Education allows her to listen to and make comments on particular matters of educational importance for PLC. As a ‘hands-on’ educator she understands the difficulties and complexity of the philosophical and practical aspects of education as well as the building and infrastructure needs of today’s students, educators and school communities.

As a member of the Uniting Church (formerly Presbyterian Church) from its inception, Gillian was first approached to sit on Council as a Uniting Church nominee by Graham Reynolds, the former Chair of Council. Her history in this area affords her an excellent working knowledge of the processes of the Church and how our School community exists within the framework of the Church.

Gillian fondly recalls visiting the PLC grounds to attend the Presbyterian Fellowship annual sports days. Apart from her youth group experiences at the PLC oval from the 1960s, Gillian has no other history with the School. She is inspired to work in this voluntary capacity for PLC by her passion for working within the education spectrum and the experience of being able to play a role in the education of girls and in seeing their achievements.

As an educator, Gillian’s association with PLC allows her to keep abreast of changing education practices and she has been particularly interested to witness the development of the International Baccalaureate and, most recently, how it will sit alongside the National Curriculum.
Katrina Burton (Fairweather 1982) – 2008 to current

Katrina Burton has a long association with PLC, as a third generation PLC student and as a parent to four daughters – Rosie (2008), Jessamy (Year 12), Eliza (Year 11) and Georgia (Year 7). Katrina’s grandmother, Dorothy Yeo (1928) was one of the first students to attend PLC. While she wears many hats, Katrina sits on the PLC Council in her capacity as Old Collegians’ Association representative.

Katrina brings over 15 years of non-executive directorship experience to the PLC Council. She has sat on the Boards of StateWest Credit Society, Home Building Society and Landgate and is a founder of the EON Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation that provides assistance to communities in the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

She believes that Council’s role is to create a “culture” within the School and that the decisions they make impact on the overall feeling within a school through its pastoral care and community involvement philosophies.

As an experienced volunteer, Katrina is pleased that the School places importance on community and has such a robust Community and Service Learning programme. “If everyone helps just a little, so much more can be achieved,” she said.

Katrina is only too aware of the strain on resources in schools and, with staff already doing so much, additional assistance from parents and the community serves to broaden the educational experience for the students and enhance the nurturing school environment. Since she is fortunate to have the time to commit to the School in this way, she feels lucky to be able to sit as a member of Council and contribute to the PLC community.

Links with the Kimberley – Indigenous Scholarships

At PLC we are proud of the strong ties we share with the Indigenous community in the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

Every year, the School offers four scholarships to Indigenous students from the Kimberley. Applicants are chosen according to current academic progress and proven application to study, willingness to contribute to the PLC community, leadership qualities and motivation for tertiary study.

Chelsea Menmuir (Year 8) is one of our most recent recipients of the Indigenous scholarship. “I have been attending PLC since the start of the year and since then have been loving it,” she said. Chelsea has found the learning styles and the vast range of subjects on offer at PLC to be the greatest differences from her previous school. She believes the scholarship programme has allowed her opportunities she would not otherwise have received and will put her in good stead to pursue her passion for art and perhaps the chance to work with children. She is grateful to be able to travel between her home in Derby and school and for the opportunity to meet new people and participate in school trips.

Chelsea has found the transition to life at PLC to be very smooth and is particularly appreciative of the Boarding House “buddy” system. She admits to feeling homesick at first but says that staff and her boarding friends helped her to manage the situation.

Indigenous Co-ordinator, Tracey Walker, has been a major inspiration to Chelsea throughout her time at PLC this year. “She has helped me to get organised with my schooling. I look up to her because she understands me and the other Indigenous girls and she has enabled me to further my learning through additional tutoring,” she said.

PLC is currently providing opportunities to 17 Indigenous students who add to the vibrant culture of our community. These girls bring breadth of life experience to the School, often coming from remote towns vastly different to city life.

The School is delighted to be able to provide the opportunities that only a PLC education can afford to students who would otherwise have had limited access to such resources.
Community Feature

Community and Service Learning

*Passion without action means nothing. Knowledge without purpose is nothing. Intellect without a sense of place or a sense of responsibility achieves nothing.*

The PLC community lives a service culture and our students are encouraged to become engaged citizens from as early as Year 4.

Coordinator of Service Learning, Tracey Bahen, first introduces PLC’s Community and Service programme to Year 4 students, with an interesting anecdote about a mirror, window and door.

These three objects symbolise the journey we take in becoming active citizens in the community. The journey commences with the mirror, where we are focussed only on the self and continues to the window, where we are encouraged to look out and see beyond to something that inspires and engages us. Finally, we are encouraged to step further to the door, to take hold of the handle and step out to take action.

It is action, afterall, that makes a great leader. The Community and Service Learning programme shows students that they don’t need to be extroverted, a great public speaker or even popular to become a good leader. The programme demonstrates the worth of action and the work behind the scenes. Tracey says that it has been good for some girls who have lacked confidence, communication skills and resilience because by taking action, they have discovered their own sense of purpose.

Community and Service underpins the education of all students at PLC. The girls work to an individual structure that is self-paced with their personal journeys reported on each year.

With PLC adopting the International Baccalaureate, the School structured a programme to embed the area of Service Learning within the curriculum. PLC’s IB programme was reported as “best practice” in a recent IB audit, and while the School’s Community and Service Learning programme is not a requirement of the IB curriculum, it underpins the IB’s philosophy of global awareness. This is captured in the IBO’s mission statement:

*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.*

*To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.*

*These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.*

In addition to the role of the IB in developing Community and Service Learning at PLC, the School has taken a step further, and has developed structures as well as nurtured partnerships with a variety of external organisations. The School works closely with organisations such as Cancer Council of WA, Salvation Army and World Vision in organising events and activities to fundraise for these worthy causes.

PLC has also introduced a family based programme with the aim that Community and Service becomes embedded in the home and the philosophy continues beyond school, making an impact on students’ lives well into the future. This project has been a huge success within the School community, with the programme currently waitlisted. It creates an opportunity for parents and daughters to talk about their world and participate in worthy causes together. “The closest and most important community that can be built is the family community, and so if girls can take leadership within their own families in terms of what action a family achieves together, it means that once they leave school it will continue,” Tracey said.

Serving the Community – Relay for Life

More than 100 Presbyterian Ladies’ College students took part in the Relay for Life at the WA Athletics Stadium in Mt Claremont earlier this year, raising almost $10,000 for the Cancer Council of WA.

PLC students took part in teams and completed laps of the athletics track for 24 hours. Each student who participated raised money through a fundraising book, appealing to family, friends and neighbours to donate to the cause.

PLC students supported Cancer Council of WA by participating in the Relay for Life.

Photo provided by Western Suburbs Weekly
Family Service Programme – A Parent’s Perspective

Cathy Donaldson and her daughter, Anneliese, have enjoyed taking part in the Year 11 Family Service programme, providing meals to families staying at Ronald McDonald House.

“The families who stay at Ronald McDonald House are often dealing with a terrible crisis and are living with critically ill children. Even with this huge weight the families are so appreciative of the assistance that the roster provides – not only by providing a meal for the family group but by listening to them and providing a link with the outside world,” Cathy said.

“As a family we have often taken up the service opportunities provided by PLC. In each case it has been important to think of the people benefiting from the service as people who, through no fault of their own, are in real need. The ability to provide such services is a wonderful opportunity and serves to remind PLC girls of their good fortune and of the importance of giving back to the community,” Cathy said.

Each roster is comprised of three PLC families who plan and prepare a meal for up to 30 residents at Ronald McDonald House. The aim is to provide a sense of home cooking for these families and to alleviate pressure for the parents.

The PLC families spend up to four hours at the House serving the meal, spending time with the families and clearing and preparing for the next day. Cathy has been impressed to see how readily the PLC girls have accepted this challenge and performed the service with respect and kindness.

Cathy added, “Another benefit is that it exposes the girls to the amazing service provided by the doctors and staff at one of WA’s major hospitals. Without fail the residents of Ronald McDonald House are so appreciative of the care their children have been given and are very keen to share these views with us.”

Photo above: (L to R) Anneliese Donaldson and Annabelle Simpson (Year 11) happily preparing a meal for families staying at Ronald McDonald House.

Serving the Community – Partnerships

Students from Presbyterian Ladies’ College have joined forces with Amana Living to help the aged care organisation launch ‘Give 50′, a new campaign to enrich the lives of older people.

The PLC students are donating 50 minutes of their time to Amana Living Cottesloe (Sundowner House). Every week the students visit with the clients and residents and the group play cards, have tea and share stories as they walk around the Amana Living grounds.

This is just one of many relationships with external organisations that PLC is fostering.

The School has also forged partnerships with the following organisations:

LOCAL
- AFAP Hope for Children
- Ethiopia
- Australian Orangutan Project
- Australian Red Cross
- Autism West
- Beyond Blue
- Butterfly Foundation Eating CanTeen
- Cancer Council WA Relay 4 Life
- Centre for Cerebral Palsy
- Deafness Foundation
- Dyslexia SPELD Foundation
- Floreat Uniting Church
- Grant A Starr
- Heart Foundation
- ICEA Foundation
- Juvenile Diabetes
- Kate Stall Transplant Australia
- Leap Science and Maths School
- Lord Mayors Distress Relief
- Make a Wish Foundation
- Mukti
- Oncology Childrens’ Foundation
- PMH Foundation
- Rotary Club of WA

GLOBAL
- Salvation Army
- Sara Franklyn
- Shenton Park Cat Haven
- Starlight Childrens’ Foundation Australia
- The Amanda Young Foundation
- Uniting Church Pancake Day
- Uniting Care West
- World Vision 40-Hour Famine
- Mowanjum Aboriginal Community, Kimberley region
- Jarlmadangah Burru Aboriginal Community, Kimberley region

Photo above: (L to R) Anneliese Donaldson and Annabelle Simpson (Year 11) happily preparing a meal for families staying at Ronald McDonald House.
Community Feature

Pre-Primary Community Inquiry

Presbyterian Ladies’ College Pre-Primary students held the Shire of Peppermint Grove to task during a visit to the local offices in April.

The students, aged 4 to 5, posed a series of questions to the Shire’s Community Development Officer, Vanessa O’Brien, as part of their Unit of Inquiry on “community” for the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme.

The students visited the offices to find out more about how communities work and what the needs of a community are.

“What needs to be in a community?” one student wanted to know while another wanted to find out how the Shire was able to make sure that people were able to buy shoes.

Prior to the visit, the students built their own communities out of Duplo Lego and then divided into groups to consider the needs of all people who might live in a community.

The students also used Google Maps to work out the route they would take from the classroom to the Shire offices and during the walk took note of all the aspects provided by the Shire – parks, bins, Peppermint trees etc.

How the Concept of ‘Community’ is explored in the MYP

All IB Schools are learning communities that encourage teachers, students and parents to value learning as an essential and integral part of their everyday lives. Our community is bound together by a common sense of purpose and identity and the learner profile stands as a clear statement of the values that inform our community.

The IB defines the concept of ‘community’ as groups of people living in proximity (such as space, time or relationship), sharing common values and having social cohesion, or groups of interacting living organisms (including humans), sharing an environment.

The exploration of the concept of community in the curriculum facilitates the students in developing an understanding of the interrelatedness of the world around them.

Through the course of the MYP, students investigate what ‘community’ means, how they are different and similar and what makes a community. They explore different communities and their various needs, issues within them and the importance of actively contributing to the community in which they live.

For example, a Year 9 Language A unit exploring Li Cuxin’s autobiography Mao’s Last Dancer, students analyse the cultural differences and similarities between communities, and the impact a community has on individual values. In a Year 7 Humanities unit, students examine the role of women in developing economies, exploring poverty issues and how these maintain the status of women in these communities. They also investigate the various needs and wants within these communities and the impact that development has had on them.

An MYP classroom is itself a model of a community – it is a lively place, characterised by collaborative and purposeful activity. Within this community, students are empowered to do their best, for themselves, and to contribute to the learning and well-being of others. They are supportive of each other and will come to establish their personal set of beliefs and values. The community encourages reflection, and thoughtful consideration of issues, problems and successes are valued highly.

KIM EDWARDS
Deputy Principal
Presbyterian Ladies’ College shares a strategic relationship with Scotch College that allows for shared Information Learning Technology planning and infrastructure.

Service and support to all members of the community is key to developing learning technologies at both schools and the 1 Degree Support Centre is an area that connects the PLC community (staff, students and parents); is shared with Scotch College; and is staffed by PLC and Scotch alumni.

1 Degree is the first port of call support service for staff, parents and students. It is a vibrant, helpful and open community that was designed on the Apple Genius Bar concept.

1 Degree was officially launched in October 2009 and since then both PLC and Scotch have played host to a number of schools, showcasing this innovative facility. Since its inception, at least a dozen schools have replicated the model, recognising the key role friendly and approachable staff play in supporting technology integration into the curriculum.

At the completion of each year, graduating Year 12s from PLC and Scotch College with a passion for ILT and excellent interpersonal skills are invited to join the 1 Degree team as part-time staff members. Current students are easily able to relate to these 1 Degree coaches while staff and parents also feel comfortable being able to draw on a vast and varied pool of knowledge, making this an energetic and approachable resource for the community.

1 Degree coach Margot McGeoch’s (2008) illustrious career in ILT at PLC began in Year 5 when she first tried to improve the School’s wireless network. Today, she’s a role model to current students, assisting them with computer issues and providing training on particular resources such as Word and iMovie. Margot is just one of the many 1 Degree coaches at PLC and Scotch who assist members of the School community every day.

The two schools are also currently working on new technologies that will enhance the educational opportunities of our students. In Term 3, new video conferencing capabilities will be launched that will allow students to participate in virtual field trips. For example, students will be able to experience field trips online, visiting such places as the Great Barrier Reef and the Smithsonian, without leaving the comfort of their own study environment.

Pilot training is planned to support staff to conduct online classes, allowing students and staff to participate in group training sessions outside school hours.

Another initiative is a joint iPad trial for Junior School students. Year 2 PLC students recently created Mathematics books on their iPads to be used by their peers at Scotch College. Next term, the schools are hoping to add live chats to their “tool bag” so that the Year 2 students can connect with each other in live time, sharing their teaching and learning.

Both schools aim to ensure that all students attain the necessary computer literacy skills and ethical protocols necessary to be successful in a connected global world and knowledge economy. They will move seamlessly from their visual and technology rich home environments to a school that also embraces, where appropriate, the powerful collaborative and individual learning opportunities that technologies offer.

Photo above: 1 Degree Margot McGeough and Tuyen Pham are two of the friendly 1 Degree coaches.
**Suessional Preparations**

The PLC community demonstrated the breadth and depth of their skills as well as their willingness to lend a hand, at a number of busy bees held recently to assist with preparations for the upcoming Musical production, Suessional.

One of the wonderful aspects of the School Musical is that it brings the school community together. This year’s musical Suessional is a huge undertaking and could not be achieved without help from many hands.

The School Musical allows the Drama, Music and Dance departments to work together as one, with students, teachers, performance and technology specialists, set and costume designers, and parents, with every contributor playing an important role for the overall success of the production.

A series of Musical busy bee sessions were coordinated to bring to life the costume designs created by Dance teacher, Skye Hegarty, as well as the vibrant set and prop ideas. Skye is just one example of the talent on hand at PLC. Her Bachelor of Arts in Design for Performance from the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) has afforded her great expertise in costume design and these skills will no doubt be put to good use in future School productions as well.

Teachers from the Junior, Middle and Senior Schools, with parent and student volunteers have all participated to get the Musical up and going. Helpers have been generously painting, making paper mache, sanding, making props, preparing set pieces, cutting out and sewing costumes to bring it all together. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for being involved, your help is invaluable.

Suessional is a musical based on a number of Dr Seuss characters. Narrated by Cat in The Hat, the story centres around Horton the Elephant who is challenged with protecting his tiny friend JoJo (and all the tiny Whos) from a world of non-believers and dangers as well as guarding an abandoned egg, left to his care by the irresponsible Mayzie La Bird. Ultimately, the powers of friendship, loyalty, family and community are challenged and emerge triumphant in a story that makes you laugh and cry.

The Musical will be performed in the Hazel Day Drama Centre in the first week of Term 3 – 25 to 29 July.

**LIANE CAMPBELL – DIRECTOR, SEUSSICAL**

Photo top right (L to R): Rosannah Edwards, Georgia Ladner (both Year 12), Sarah Combies (Drama teacher) and Jenna Verryn (Year 11) have fun with paper mache at the Set and Prop busy bee.

Photo middle right: Dance teacher, Skye Hegarty, displays her costume designs for Suessional.

Photo bottom right (L to R): Rebecca Warrand (Year 11) and Tessa Moon (Year 10) put their sewing skills to the test, putting together costumes for the upcoming School Musical.
Live on Stage – Drama for the Deaf

Drama allows us to become someone else and is the perfect way to connect and engage with others who are very different from you. The Year 9 Drama students were lucky enough to experience this connection with students from the Mosman Park School of the Deaf recently.

Throughout Term 1, the Year 9 Drama class worked with Trestle Masks, where performers rely solely on movement and body language to create meaning. No dialogue or voice is used and so this made it an ideal form of drama to perform for people with impaired hearing.

Our Drama class was ecstatic with this amazing opportunity to perform for members of the community outside of School, and the students from Mosman Park School of the Deaf loved it. Every day, these students rely on reading body language and the use of sign language to communicate their feelings. Because there is no speaking in a Trestle Mask performance, there is no need to translate dialogue through sign language, which makes it a great way of connecting with the hearing impaired. The performance allowed us first-hand experience as to how it feels to rely solely on non-verbal communication.

We ran a workshop to teach our guests the skills of Trestle Mask performance. They appeared to have a lot of fun using the masks on stage, proving themselves to be naturals at this type of performance.

The experience of sharing work and getting involved with students from our local community was very rewarding for our Drama class. It made us realise how Drama can bring people together. As Oscar Wilde once stated, “I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being.” I know that everyone in our class really enjoyed this experience, and we hope that everyone from the Mosman Park School of the Deaf loved it as much as we did.

BY YEAR 9 STUDENTS, ZÖË HANSON AND ELIZA RAKICH

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Laptops for Tanzanian students

Presbyterian Ladies’ College and Scotch College students have raised over $20,000 to fund a building project and the purchase of laptop computers for a school in a remote village in Tanzania.

This fundraising initiative is part of an on-going relationship between the two schools and Matipwili Primary School in Tanzania. This year, the funds will go towards building a resource centre and donating 20 solar wifi laptops to help bridge the gap between the village and the two western suburbs schools as well as to improve education in the remote community.

The computers have been especially designed for use by students in developing countries. It is hoped that the strategies used to introduce computers to the students in Matipwili will be adopted elsewhere in Tanzania.

It is hoped that in future, the school in Tanzania will be able to link into the shared electronic resources of PLC and Scotch College, providing an invaluable education experience for these students with such limited opportunities.

Both PLC and Scotch are innovators in integrating the power of technology into the classroom. The two campuses were the first schools in Australia to utilise iTunesU for the distribution of digital curriculum. Students at PLC and Scotch are able to access class instruction, course materials and lectures anywhere, anytime from iTunesU, Wikis and other online content delivery services.

The Director of Information Learning Technology at PLC and Scotch College, Anna Hu, said that if the network capabilities in Tanzania were in place, there was no reason why PLC and Scotch College’s shared resources could not be extended to reach students in Matipwili and beyond.

Year 11 Scotch College and PLC students are excited at the opportunity to bring new technologies to Matipwili Primary School. L to R: Eve Bramley, Oscar Roberts, Katelin Nelson and Alain Dutton.
An International Approach to Learning

PLC values, supports and celebrates diversity and recognises the contribution international students make to the life of our School. The School currently has students from Thailand, China, Vietnam, the Netherlands, Singapore, Indonesia and Brunei boarding at the School. PLC also benefits from a large international community of families residing in Perth temporarily. This community represents a wide range of nationalities including the United States, the United Kingdom, China, New Zealand, Thailand, South Africa, Ireland, India, the Netherlands, Singapore, Germany, Brunei, Nigeria, France, Japan, Kenya, Canada and Switzerland.

Boarding students benefit from a dedicated International Students’ Coordinator who helps to provide a caring and structured transition to life in Australia.

Year 12 boarding students, Mint Chaiyukal and Malika Chawla from Bangkok, are delighted with their decision to study at PLC, Perth. They believe a PLC education puts them ahead because it gives them a more well-rounded education experience. They are enjoying the ample opportunities available to them at PLC, from outdoor education and sport to serving the community.

Malika said, “Community Service is not something that is done in Thailand. I have really enjoyed participating in the community service programme and making a difference to those who need it.”

Mint and Malika have enjoyed studying at PLC and being a part of close community group. Excellent academic support and a wide-ranging co-curricular programme have allowed the girls to realise their potential and feel part of a tight-knit community.

Student Exchange Programme

Local students also have access to international education experiences through the School’s student exchange programme. PLC has a reciprocal agreement with schools in Austria, South Africa, England and Japan and the School also plays host to students from France and China.

In Term 3, the Middle School looks forward to welcoming 16 students from the Huija Province to the Year 8 classrooms.

Recently, Year 10 students, Emily Farquhar and Georgia Symons had the experience of a lifetime during their exchange to Woodridge College South Africa. The girls enjoyed their exchange so much that they extended their six-week visit by a further two weeks.

Woodridge College was extremely accommodating to the two girls, organising a four-night outdoor education adventure for them while their peers sat their mid-year examinations. The girls had the opportunity to visit the Addo Elephant Park, Baviaanskloof Wilderness Park and the coastal towns of Knysna and Plettenberg Bay. They also had the chance to ride a wild ostrich, cage dive with Nile crocodiles, jump from the world’s highest bungee jump (at 216m) and ride the tree-top canopy zip-line in the Tsitsikamma Forest.

PLC has shared an exchange programme with Woodridge College, South Africa since 2005. The College is in the Eastern Cape and is a boarding community in a rural setting on Van Stadin’s Pass.

Emily Farquhar and Georgia Symon were excited on their departure to South Africa.
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

PLC’s mission is to prepare young women to lead active purposeful lives. Already, our students are making their mark in the wider community, achieving at national and international levels and contributing to society in meaningful ways.

Global Science bid for PLC student

Year 10 student, Abbey Mardon, is one of only two Western Australian high school students who competed in an international science competition in the United States in June.

Abbey recently took part in the International BioGENEius Challenge finals in Boston after winning the BioGENEius Challenge of Western Australia.

The Challenge gives some of WA’s top high school students the opportunity to work alongside experienced scientists to complete their own biotechnology research project.

Abbey spent several months conducting research, which will ultimately enhance the competitiveness of the Australian livestock industries.

Mentored by Dr Sasha Jenkins from The University of Western Australia’s (UWA) Natural and Agricultural Sciences faculty, Abbey’s research investigated enhancing the removal of biological phosphorus in the waste treatment process in piggery farms. Her research will help to improve manure management systems, and increase profits through reduced fertiliser costs.

Abbey’s interest in this topic began during primary school, where her school was situated opposite a lake. She became interested in looking after the lake and its inhabitants and learned there were problems with algal blooms caused by high levels of phosphorus.

“I was very lucky to be paired with Dr Jenkins as her research at the time was about a way of reducing the phosphorus entering our waterways,” Abbey said.

Abbey was encouraged to enter the competition by PLC staff member, Ms Lana Salfinger. Ms Salfinger introduced Abbey’s Year 8 Science class to the Challenge and Abbey was excited by the opportunity to work on a “real life” science project. Ms Salfinger assisted Abbey with her application and encouraged her along the way. “I really look up to her, as she makes science exciting but at the same time allows us to see how it is useful in real life,” Abbey said.

Science and Innovation Minister John Day said the winning research projects were very relevant to the State and would have “real life implications”.

“These exceptional students have achieved wonderful results under the stewardship of their mentors from the WA science community,” Mr Day said.

Simpson Prize Runner Up

Year 10 student, Adelaide Crossing, was this year named State Runner Up in the Simpson Prize, a national History essay writing competition for Year 9 and 10 students throughout the country.

Adelaide travelled to Canberra with 15 other students from across Australia earlier this year to accept her award from Minister for School Education, Peter Garrett.

While in Canberra, Adelaide attended a special two-day study programme that included visits to Parliament House, the Australian War Memorial and the National Museum of Australia.

This award recognises her outstanding exploration of the ANZAC story through her essay, which focused on the topic of Why has Australian commemoration of ANZAC Day increased in popularity in recent years?

Adelaide’s approach took a different angle, with the basis of her argument formed around the idea that the increase in popularity has been led by the Australian youth. “To the young, the observance of Anzac Day is as much a commemoration of fallen soldiers and those who serve today, as it is a celebration of a proud national identity,” she said.

Adelaide believes that ANZAC Day is currently the best opportunity Australians have to celebrate and identify with what it means to be Australian.

She was inspired to enter the competition by her passion for History and to commemorate her grandfather, whom she never met.
From McNeil Street to London

Presbyterian Ladies’ College will be proudly waving the Australian flag at this year’s London Olympic Games following the selection of a number of former students.

When former student, Hannah Vermeersch (2009) officially opened the School’s Swim and Recreation Centre last year, she shared with students her aspiration to row for Australia in the 2012 Olympics. Recently her dream was recognised after a successful campaign at a regatta in Lucerne, Switzerland saw the Australian Women’s Eight Rowing team selected to compete at the London Olympic Games.

Hannah recognises the contribution PLC has made to her rowing career “PLC is where I first learnt to row and where my passion for the sport began. The school supported me through all of my training commitments and continues to do so even now that I have left,” she said.

Janine Murray (2007) has also been selected for Rhythmic Gymnastics. Janine won a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi in 2010 and now “through her hard work, dedication to her intense training and her amazing raw talent Janine has officially been selected as the only Rhythmic Gymnast athlete to represent Australia at the 2012 Olympic Games in London” (Gymnastics WA).

Fiona Boyce (2004) and former PLC staff member, Kobie McGurk have also been selected in the Hockeyroos Olympic team. Kobie was last year named in the Federation of International Hockey’s prestigious World All Stars team and will play a key role in defence.

This will be Fiona’s first Olympic appearance and there are great expectations that the new breed of Hockeyroos will continue the success of one of Australia’s greatest sporting teams.

Nikki Chung (Year 12) was also selected in a training squad for Gymnastics, although Nikki recently sustained an injury and so unfortunately will be unable to compete.

Nikki also won the WA Institute of Sport’s Athlete Career and Education Award at the WAIS Champions Breakfast. The gymnast is studying five TEE subjects including chemistry, physics and French.

Nikki is enrolled in PLC’s Sporting Excellence Programme which aims to create a premier schooling environment for talented student athletes by providing an understanding and flexible approach which fosters the individual’s sporting potential while balancing the demands of school life.

The programme is available to students who are currently representing Western Australia and aspire to represent Australia in their chosen sport. Flexible study arrangements are made and advice and assistance with goal setting, motivation and nutrition is provided. The School also helps to facilitate partnerships with external sporting organisations such as local clubs, WAIS and the AIS to proactively manage each athlete’s commitments to their sport.

PLC is a proud supporter of its future Olympians. These young women are wonderful ambassadors and role models for commitment, discipline and teamwork. We look forward to supporting their performances and participation in August.
PLC/Scotch South Africa Hockey Tour

Forty-three tour members from PLC and Scotch College traveled to Johannesburg in April for two weeks of hockey and sightseeing.

PLC were very competitive on the hockey field, winning two matches, drawing two and losing four very close games. The opportunity to play under different conditions and against a stronger and older opposition was excellent preparation for the IGSSA season.

The weather was perfect and the sightseeing was both interesting and spectacular. During a game drive we were excited to see two young bull elephants fighting. While we were treated to so many different, beautiful and strange animals, we did not see any big cats.

The girls enjoyed coaching hockey to some young children from a township, providing them with a unique opportunity to interact with some disadvantaged little hockey players.

This tour has left us with some amazing memories.

JUDY BOYNE AND EMMA JENKINS

Junior School Mentor Programme

The Junior School has recently launched a new initiative to foster links between PLC and the wider community. The Junior School Mentor Programme aims to engage students by establishing a relationship with a mentor who has a similar interest or passion in a particular area or field of study.

Six students and mentors are currently participating in the programme. We have sourced our mentors from the wider community as well as our own PLC alumni. The connection with the alumni is exciting and will help the programme grow to reach more students within the School.

This semester students have worked with their mentors on their own Individual Exploration, modelled on inquiry based learning. Their personal journals are full of questions, research, reflections and visual representations of their journey with their mentor. Some of the Individual Explorations include designing a web page, writing a picture storybook, writing a short story, designing and sewing a dress, research into outer space and sustainable gardening.

Dinah Walker (Solomon 1965) is an experienced and passionate educator with a Masters degree in gifted and talented education. Dinah is working with one of our younger gifted students, Sarah Schmidt (Year 3), writing and illustrating a picture storybook. The book developed from the Sarah’s passion for space. Initial meetings were spent researching planets and outer space and this research material was used as a starting point to build an imaginative picture storybook.

Adrienne Lumsden, has a degree in computer science and has just completed a Bachelor of Education (Primary). Adrienne is passionate about mathematics and technology and was matched with one of our gifted mathematics students, Sophie Lim (Year 4). Adrienne has worked with Sophie on computer programming, including planning and entering a programme and correcting errors.

Lisa Byars is a parent of the school with a passion for gardening particularly sustainable gardening and aquaponics. Lisa was matched with Piper Murphy (Year 4) who has been interested in gardening since starting school. Lisa and Piper have been researching aquaponics as a sustainable gardening solution. One of the goals is to build an aquaponics garden at PLC.

PLC is fortunate to have passionate and skilled mentors who willingly give up their time to be a part of this exciting programme.

KAREN WOODS
**Film Festival Success**

Year 12 Media Production and Analysis students, Alexandra Eftos and Rachael Read, were recently nominated for the 2012 Flickerfest Film Festival. The awards are open to all Australian High School students and the screening of shortlisted films took place at Bondi Beach earlier this year. The girls’ film, entitled *Unconstrained Conversations*, was selected as one of ten finalists in Australia for the category of Best Short Fiction Film in the tertiary category.

Additionally, Year 10 students, Emilie Ong and Shireen Pandher were shortlisted as finalists in the national Tropfest Junior Short Film Awards.

The selection of students as finalists to both film festivals is to be highly commended and continues the tradition of PLC’s success in both Tropfest and Flickerfest short film competitions since 2010.

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**ANZAC Biscuit Fundraising Drive to Restore Memorial Plaques**

Presbyterian Ladies’ College staff members ran an ANZAC biscuit fundraising drive earlier this year to raise money to restore the Vyner Brooke memorial plaques at Point Walter which had been vandalised.

Four of the plaques were completely destroyed. The ANZAC biscuit fundraiser allowed for the purchase of one of the plaques to be replaced while Principal, Beth Blackwood, pledged her support to pay for another. The remaining plaques will be restored by the RSL.

The Vyner Brooke memorial plaques hold a special place in the history of the School. One of the nurses who survived the bombing of the Vyner Brooke was PLC Old Collegian, Sister Minnie Hodgson (pictured). She was later killed in the Banka Island Massacre.

The School adopted the Vyner Brook memorial as part of the WA Government’s Adopt a Memorial programme in 2004. The Vyner Brook memorial is dedicated to nurses killed in World War II during and following the sinking of the Vyner Brooke.

Each year PLC students attend a Remembrance Day service at the Vyner Brooke memorial and afterwards, lay wreaths and rosemary on them.

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**National Rowing Championships**

The National Rowing Championships were held at the new course at Champion Lakes for the first time in March this year.

PLC was well represented in the schoolgirl section. Year 12 student, Natasha Gay, did PLC proud, winning gold in the Schoolgirl single Scull A Final.

Despite a week-long heat wave with temperatures close to 37°C each day, the girls rallied to the challenges before them. In the face of particularly strong competition from the interstate schoolgirl crews who were at the end of their rowing season, our crews did exceptionally well.
Beyond the Classroom – Outdoor Education

It has so far been a hectic and exciting year for Outdoor Education, with a range of activities and programmes already completed and many more on the horizon.

Outdoor Education co-curricular options have again been very popular with the students in Terms 1 and 2 and have featured activities such as surfing, sailing, yoga, kayaking and rock climbing. The overwhelming interest in these activities, particularly in Term 1, led to extra sessions being created to allow more students the opportunity to participate.

Another popular co-curricular programme this year has been the Lancelin surf weekends, where girls and staff travel to Lancelin for a weekend to learn to surf under the guidance of surf school instructors. It has been amazing to see the skill development of the girls by the end of each trip, with many able to consistently catch and ride waves after initially struggling to even stand up.

The new Outdoor Education team has also been particularly active in the Middle School. The Year 7 students participated in a four-day Nanga Mill programme in March. Blessing Emole (Year 7) is already looking forward to her next Outdoor Education camp. She enjoyed sleeping outside in a hutchie and thought the trees in the evening looked beautiful.

Year 8 students recently participated in a six-day Margaret River programme in May. Feedback from the girls, their parents and staff, has indicated that the girls had a wonderful time and learned a great deal from their experiences. Eloise Wiffen (Year 8) had been looking forward to abseiling and caving and these activities didn’t disappoint. She also became more aware of her environmental impact “we have to make sure that we look after the environment and don’t completely take it over,” she said.

The first of the Year 10 expeditions has also been completed, with students hiking and kayaking their way around the Walpole region in April. Further expeditions commence in July and September, with students hiking in gorges near Kalbarri or sea kayaking around the Shark Bay Marine Park.

Emilie Ong (Year 10) enjoyed her Southwest Explorer expedition. “The expedition was great and I found it really fun. Although physically challenging, it was always rewarding,” she said.

The new Outdoor Education team of Director of Outdoor Education, Liam Sullivan, and Outdoor Education Specialists, Jay Freap and Ellen Barker, has worked hard to maintain the high standard of Outdoor Education set previously by former Director of Education, Peter Nidd and his team at PLC, in particular, working with students and teachers to improve both the enjoyment of and the educational opportunities that an outdoor programme can achieve.

Through community living, connection with nature and activities that provide both mental and physical challenges, Outdoor Education at PLC aims to create balanced, caring, open-minded, risk-taking and resilient girls.

Photos 1 & 2: Year 10 Students enjoyed kayaking and hiking in the Walpole region as part of their Year 10 expeditions.

Photo below right: The Outdoor Education team from L to R: Liam Sullivan, Ellen Barker and Jay Freap.
Year 6 Students Construct Museum

Year 6 students, in a recent Humanities unit exploring the impact of migration on communities, debunked the notion that young people today are neither interested in nor excited by information regarding their ancestors.

 Artefacts in a Museum constructed by the girls included a handle from an ancient Greek jug dating back 2500 years, dug up in the back garden of Athena Paizes’ family home in Greece, through to a hand lens and geological tools belonging to Isabella Campbell’s father, Alan that reflect his travels to different locations for work, and his family’s eventual migration to Western Australia, in response to the mining boom. Other intriguing examples included a bracelet made from gold smuggled out of Nazi Germany as teeth fillings and a 120 year-old wind-up toy Scotty dog that is still in perfect working order.

Excited by finding links to their past, the girls researched the history of family artefacts and their owners, finding evidence of items that have been passed down through generations by interviewing family members and accessing other primary sources such as letters and official documents.

Parents, grandparents and other visitors were impressed by the research skills the girls developed, with one parent commenting that she was delighted that her daughter gained a sense of perspective regarding her family’s origins at an age where it would be most meaningful to her, as she now appreciated the challenges that her ancestors had faced. Another commented that she had been amazed by the things that people kept and treasured, and said this was an authentic and meaningful reason to take these objects out of the cupboard and share a family’s heritage.

Student, Emma Thorpe stated, “I was fascinated to find out about my family’s history. I had no idea that they came from Denmark and England, or that they made such a difference by contributing to their community in South Australia. I feel so proud.”

Other students were also delighted that, through their research findings, they were able to identify common events that led to family migration, explore different perceptions people held of places and events and research the individuals on their family trees. Research findings enabled the girls to fully understand the reasons why people migrate and helped them to understand and appreciate the contributions that all families make as migrants in a new community.

KERRI CRESSWELL

Athena Paizes and her mother, Katerina proudly share a 2500 year-old family artifact dug up from the family home in Greece.

Alan Campbell and his daughter, Isabella, show off Geological samples, representing their family’s migration to Western Australia as a result of the mining boom.
PLC Pipe Band Perform at ANZAC Day Parade

The PLC Pipe Band again marched in the ANZAC Day Parade this year. The Pipe Band supports this major community event annually and has done so since 1985. In 2006 the President of the Western Australian Branch of the Royal Australian Regiment Association, Mr Ken Barrington, presented the band with the Regimental Pipe Banner. This banner, by tradition, is carried by the Pipe Sergeant at all band performances. The Association has adopted the PLC Pipe Band and, for the past seven years, in cementing this alliance, the Band has marched at the head of the Association.

In addition to the present band members on parade, a number of past players were also marching in the ranks of other bands.


The Drums and Pipes was established in January 2012 having, since its formation in 2002, been a Drum Corps. The unit OC/Music Director is Capt (AAC) Peter Jones OAM.

Amongst the ranks of the Australian Army Pipes and Drums – Perth were L/Cpl Matija Franetovich (1995) and Piper Davina Goldthorpe (1990). Jodie-Anne Jones (Stewart 1990) was also a member of the Australian Army Pipes and Drums – Perth upon leaving school and is now the Piping tutor of Wesley College Pipes and Drums. Both Jodie and Matija have returned to PLC to do relief tutoring and adjudicate on Arts Day.

Other past students currently playing with bands include Lauren Pember (2005) and Susan Lissiman (2005) who joined the WA Police Pipe Band. Claire Niccol (2004) has joined the Manly Warringah Pipe Band that this year will be performing at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

KERRY JONES

Go the Distance

Over 40 Year 5 students have been running and walking laps of the School Oval at lunch-time on Thursdays as part of a new fitness programme, Go the Distance.

The students run or walk laps of the Oval, with the aim of completing the distance of a half-marathon over the course of the 10-week programme. Additionally, Go the Distance serves as training for the 4km event in this year’s City to Surf. It is hoped that the Year 5 students participating in the programme will also enter this prominent annual event as a team.

The programme has been very well supported by the Year 5 community, with a large number of parent volunteers overseeing each training session. It has been an excellent demonstration of community spirit.

Year 5 parent and personal trainer, Lisa Phinney, initiated the programme to inspire the girls to live healthy, active lifestyles. “I wanted to teach them that being physically fit does not need to be arduous, it can be fun,” she said. Lisa organised fun themes such as a trivia walk for some of the sessions in order to keep the girls entertained and interested.

The PLC Pipe Band again marched at the annual ANZAC Day Parade this year.
In deciding her Year 10 Personal Project as part of the IB’s Middle Years Programme last year, Anneke Rose (Year 10) knew she wanted to involve and make use of the PLC Archives. The Personal Project presented the perfect opportunity to explore possible topics that would indulge Anneke’s general interest in archives. The early images in the Photographic Collection are always inspiring, and so it was suggested she start there. She spent the next few hours examining those early albums and gradually her topic became clear: “To assist the School community by researching a School photograph from 1939, which will allow me to collect information that will enhance the PLC Archives.” One particular photo caught her interest, identified as Form IVA 1939. Of the 38 girls in the photo, 16 were unknown, or only tentatively identified. Anneke embarked on researching and confirming those 16 identities. She closely examined the 1939 photo and others from the surrounding years, seeking familiar faces. Using this technique she thought she identified Dulcie Falle formerly Strauch (Cooper 1941).

Dulcie was someone who had been found in late 2011 as part of a monthly search for those with approaching birthdays. We quickly had a very surprised Dulcie on the phone and were grateful that she knew exactly which photo Anneke was referring to and that she was able to confirm she was in the photo. It was a wonderful, early, first success. Dulcie later welcomed Anneke into her home for an interview to help identify others. Apart from the birthday card we sent her last year, this was the first contact she’d had with the School since her son, Ken Strauch (1941), left Kindergarten in 1948. At Dulcie’s request, Anneke was also delighted to be able to put her back in touch with her old friend, Jean Brodie-Hall (Slatyer 1942).

Anneke then mailed a hard copy of the photo to as many people in it as possible, sparking a flurry of phone calls back and forth between the Old Collegians, Anneke and Archives, as the ladies recognised themselves and others and called to confirm and discuss. Anneke then interviewed June Hawkins (Henning 1942), who identified several others while she regaled Anneke about her days as a boarder. June continued working on the photo even after the interview, phoning through each snippet as it was remembered.

The next interview was of Jean Brodie-Hall and Ailsa Jones (Fleming 1941), together, during which the identity of the photo itself was called into question. Later, looking into class lists and other Archives’ resources, Anneke discovered the photo is actually a mixed Form photo which includes Forms IVA, B, C and Remove, along with Sub-Leave and Leaving. During this meeting Jean and Ailsa also revealed this was the first time they had seen each other since leaving school 70 years before! Anneke had no idea, as they laughed, chatted, and shared their memories as comfortably together as if they’d seen each other only the week before. Anneke listened and learned, as Jean and Ailsa explained how the war changed everything and what a difficult time it was, how people went in every direction and consequently lost touch with dear friends and each other.

Further assistance from Nylsalie Tandy (Newton 1941) and Andrea Wharton (Newton 1957), plus painstaking examination of this and other comparative photographs, has resulted in only two people being unidentified. One is in the back row and the other had tentatively been identified as Rae Fernie (Conochie 1944), but Rae was not here until 1940. Perhaps some of our Old Collegians can help put the final piece in place? Please contact Archives if you can help.
The process of research, fact checking and interviewing has taught Anneke a great deal more than she expected at the outset. Apart from the people in the photograph, she’s learned about the earlier days of PLC – how it looked during wartime with air-raid trenches running across the lawns and classrooms with canvas shutters and also about PLC girls themselves and the strong bond they feel even 70 years later. A common theme of conversation was Community Service; how the girls raised money for the Cot and War Funds and the Presbyterian Children’s Home in Byford with penny concerts and other annual performances. Although Archives is one of the main beneficiaries of Anneke’s project, the process has also been enjoyed by the many participants from the PLC community who have been brought together so that Anneke could have this glimpse into the past.

Anneke’s project will be on display in the MYP Personal Project Exhibition in the Middle School from Monday 30 July.

SHANNON LOVELADY
Archivist

Bringing the Photographic Collection to the Online Community with Flickr

As mentioned before, I find the early photos from the Photographic Collection particularly inspiring. Over the Christmas break I explored Flickr and made these beautiful images accessible to the online community.

Currently I am primarily focused on the earliest years of 1915 to 1930 and have uploaded 112 images to date into five sets:

• Founders and Staff
• Grounds and Buildings
• Students
• Sport
• Uniform

The images feature some favourites such as the 1928 wedding of Elizabeth ‘Elsie’ Finlayson (Principal 1922-1927), an early Founders’ Day celebration with Donald Carmichael (Founder) on the verandah looking directly at the camera, PLC in Palmerston Street, North Perth (previously Ormiston College), Scorgie and Junior (now Finlayson) Houses and grounds, early drama productions, prefects, the myriad shapes of the 1920s Panama hat (from cloche to wide brimmed), swimming classes at Freshwater Bay, the 1922 carnival at Crawley, tennis and basketball teams, early uniform and some casual, playful images from the Bonner, Metcalf, Ellershaw and Thiel Collections (see Accessions Blackwatch Summer 2012, Winter 2008 and Summer 2009 respectively for the last three).

This project is ongoing and more images will be uploaded from later decades as time permits. Please visit http://www.flickr.com/photos/plcarchives/.

Contact Archives
Email: archives@plc.wa.edu.au
Phone: +61 8 9424 6476

Below: A selection of some of the images from the PLC Archives Photographic Collection now available on Flickr.
Recent Accessions

Jenny Fothergill, daughter of Lucy May ‘Maisie’ Bloore (Watkins 1932)
Twenty Years After by Alexander Dumas, PLC embossed and presented to Maisie as Dux of Form 4A 1930; Sheet music for Under the Double Eagle, a rousing Austrian marching song which Maisie played on the piano as students marched into assembly each day; Steel storage tube in which the following certificates spent the past several decades rolled up; 1906 Perth Public Hospital nurse training certificate for Lucy Ashton (Maisie’s mother); Maisie’s Australian Music Examinations Board certificates for having passed Grade VI Piano 1928, Grade II Piano 1932 and Grade III Theory 1935.

Wendy MacLeod (Emmott 1963)
Seven textbooks from 1959-1963; Wendy’s birthday and autograph book; 1962 Speech Day programme; Wendy’s School Reports from 1959-1962 for Forms: 1D, 2L, 3E and Sub Leaving; 1959, 1960, 1961 and 1962 Kookaburras (Note: 1960 copy is much appreciated as there was only one in our Collection.)

Fleur Edwards (Hull 1991)

Graham McDonald, son of Elizabeth ‘Nonnie’ McDonald (Hoile 1927)
1923, 1924, 1925 and 1927 Kookaburras once belonging to Nonnie; in addition to the 1922 Kookaburra sent last year.

Natalie Angliss (Prevost 1977)

Christine Price, past parent and daughter of Marjorie Scurlock (commercial studies teacher 1941-1944)
What is now the Marjorie Scurlock Collection, comprised of:

Section 1, Correspondence: 16 letters, dating from a letter from Dr Vera Summers (Principal 1934-1961, staff from 1920) of 7 October 1940 offering Marjorie the position of commercial mistress at a salary of £175 per annum, to a home-made card from Miss Winnie Barclay (staff 1942-1952) dated December 1955, featuring a tiny photo of the newly built Carmichael Hall on the face.

Section 2, Miscellaneous: Two photos of Mrs Scurlock with students on campus and at the beach; Exercise book titled Examinations 1939 once belonging to previous commercial mistress and Old Collegian Ellen Williams (Foulds 1923, staff 1935-1939); Pid of PLC writing paper; 1940 report for Lillian Andersen (1941); 1941 and 1942 commercial references for Betty Stenhouse (Clapton 1943) and Prue McAllister (Shenton 1943); 1941 and 1942 UWA Leaving Certificate Exams in Commercial Methods and Bookkeeping; 1942 UWA application form for Supply of Percentage Marks filled in for Joan Lenz (1944) and Prue McAllister (Shenton 1943); 1943 Junior results for Leslie van Staveren (Bunce 1945), Berwine Barrett-Lennard (Cook 1945), Valmae Cornish (1945), Mae O’Halloran (Ellis 1944), Doreen Clemens (Hall 1944), Joan Franklin (Gartrell 1945), Dawn Dansey (Peek 1944), Jasmine Oldham (1945), Doris Schulze (Scott 1946), Heather McLean (Sloss 1943), Lorell Millett (Smedley 1945), Robin Neville (Chenell-Smith 1942), Frances Purdom (Taylor 1944) and Betty Mann (Rundle 1945); 1942 Kookaburra; Order of Service for the 1989 memorial of Heather Barr (Principal 1968-1989).

Section 3, Teaching Matter: PLC exercise book containing Marjorie’s commercial studies timetable, with results for all her students in the back; 1940 UWA Examiners’ reports on Junior Shorthand and Typewriting, 14 Pitman’s Office Training weekly publications from 1938-1942; 15 assorted pages (speed/accuracy tests, common words, etc) torn from other editions of Pitman’s Office Training 1939-1940; Revisionary Book (typing); Examples of a letter and an invoice for typists to copy.

Kristin Duffy (Folvig 1961)
DVD of 13 high-resolution digital images from 1960; Large reprints of each image.

Jacqueline Ritchie (Eyres 1961)
Jacqueline’s 1957 School tie, hat band and three hat badges; Large photo of 1961 Festival Choir; Small photo of Ann Gasiorowski (Forehan 1961) dated May 1959.
1. Processing the Marjorie Scurlock Collection.


3 B Hockey Team
   Front: Kristin Folvig, Anne Aitken, Jennifer Fraser (Captain), S Bradley, Dianne Matthews.

4. Dr Vera Summers’ items donated by her godson, Robert King.

Prue Leake (Cusack 1947)
1918 UWA academic gown once belonging to Prue’s mother, Mrs Olive Cusack (Deputy Principal 1941-1962); The obituary Prue wrote for her mother (see PLC News, December 1985).

Jamelia Gubgub (1972)

Helen Gianotti (Linton 1969)
1967 Speech Night programme; Programme from Lady Precious Stream performed in August 1965; Extra Subjects form from 1966; miscellaneous paperwork associated with the Argyle Club 2000-2003.

Fiona Field, daughter of Grace Howden (Thomson 1937, see obituaries)
Grace’s 1934 silver PLC hat badge.

Jennie Mitchell (Hills 1961)
Signed copies of Dr Vera Summers’ two books, ‘Personalities and Places’ and ‘The Light of Other Days’; Jennie’s PLC blazer pocket; PLC pennant once belonging to Jennie’s sister Libby Hills (1963).

Robert King, godson of Dr Vera Summers (Principal 1934-1961 staff from 1920)
Items once belonging to Dr Vera Summers: Gold cufflinks inscribed with VS; Gold watch inscribed with VAS; Gold ‘V’ lapel pin; A 1928 postcard from Brussels from Dr Summers to her mother, in which she mentions going to have afternoon tea with Gwen Dowson (staff 1930-1933); Charming handwritten accounts of two dogs, Rover and Tim, from the early days of Perth, provenance unknown.

Thanks to Archives Volunteers

Regular volunteer and past staff member, Coralie Gadsdon, who has completed documentation of all trophies within Archives and has begun the enormous but enjoyable task of assembling a complete staff list from 1916 to present day.

Amelia ‘Millie’ Butler (Johnson 1940) via email, who assists as needed and has recently helped to piece together the family members of Rae Harris (Tupper 1941), and prompted the discovery of Miss Norah Milesen’s (Maths and Science teacher 1937-1938) exciting career as a munitions physicist and the sad fate of Miss Mollie Tipping (Maths and Science teacher 1935-1936).

Julia Douglas, Nicole Battley and Aude Mangharam (Year 8) who regularly donate an hour of their time after school on Thursdays and complete myriad tasks with interest and enthusiasm! Thanks also to Annabel Wilson and Alice McGregor (Year 8) who come less often but whose help is no less appreciated.

Current parent Kendal Shaber is a new, regular Archives volunteer who is scanning and photographing early issues of Kookaburra in preparation for digitisation (in-house). Kendal will also be examining the lives and careers of some of our Old Collegians in the interwar period (1918-1939).
From the PLC Auxiliary

In keeping with the theme of “community” in this edition of Blackwatch, it is perhaps an opportune time to underscore the Auxiliary’s vital role within the PLC community and the many ways it contributes to the School, its students, its parents and the wider community.

The PLC Auxiliary meets in the Boarding House Sitting Room at 9.00am on the last Monday of each term-time month. Parents who feel that they would like to be actively involved in the PLC community are warmly encouraged to attend these meetings. Coffee is available from 8.30am, so convenient if you would like to join us straight after drop-off.

These friendly, open meetings are often the perfect forum to air any query a parent may have relating to the School. Principal, Beth Blackwood, and Director of Community Relations, Chavaune Francis, usually attend these meetings. Ms Blackwood brings us up-to-date with what is happening in and around the School and also makes herself available to address any questions directly. As the Auxiliary is represented only by current PLC parents, parents can comfortably look to the Auxiliary as a credible source of information and advice.

The Auxiliary’s organisation of parent social events has always been a big part of bringing the PLC community together. Our aim, to foster closer bonds amongst parents, is something that can be very valuable considering the significant number of years many of our children, and ultimately we as parents, will spend together during our school years at PLC, and beyond.

This is especially important for parents of boarders, for whom distance can make it hard to get to know parents from the city and other parts of Western Australia. In addition to having a dedicated Boarding House representative to help bridge the day student/boarding gap, the Auxiliary hosts an annual City Country Lunch which brings together both boarding and day parents, and which serves to forge as strong a bond between families as exists between their respective daughters.

The Auxiliary also oversees an effective Pastoral Care programme. This programme is based on the notion that PLC is a ‘family’, and as such, the Auxiliary can be relied upon to help with day-to-day family activities such as transport, meals, etc. The programme is run in coordination with relevant staff at the School and is open to any PLC family who needs assistance.

The Auxiliary’s work in the wider community comes most visibly to the fore with the hugely popular and successful Open Garden Day. Scheduled for 2 November this year, this annual event is an enormous undertaking for the Auxiliary and its small band of talented Open Garden Day organisers. Not surprisingly, a huge amount of planning and preparation goes into making Open Garden Day the success it has always been, and it relies heavily on the generosity of the PLC community who give freely of their time to help stage the event. Visitors from far and wide come to see the magnificent gardens on show and sample the wonderful food and wares for sale on the day. Preparations and ticket sales are already well under way, so be sure to support this event in any way you can.

Community and Service Learning is a vital, integral part of the PLC ethos as well as the IB curriculum, and the Auxiliary is delighted to offer its support to several community-based initiatives and programmes. The Auxiliary has been instrumental in organising appeals for books and food in the Junior School, and has assisted with family-oriented Middle and Senior School projects such as boxing medical supplies at Royal Perth Hospital, participating in a Soup Patrol to Fremantle and visiting the elderly at nearby residential homes. More on these projects can be found in this issue’s Community feature.

The Auxiliary is involved in many areas of life at PLC. For further information on how you, too, can become involved, or if you have any queries, please contact us on auxiliary@plc.wa.edu.au.

SIOBHAN ROLLINSON
PLC Auxiliary President
From the Parents’ Committee

It has been an exciting start to the year for the PLC Parents’ Committee. We have a lively committee representing parents’ interests and allocating much-appreciated funds to worthy projects across the campus as well as to scholarships, professional development projects and the Sundowner. The Committee funds are generated from the annual Parents’ Committee subscriptions and the fee incentive draws from each term.

This year we have provided for the beautification of the Junior School Summers House entrance and the purchase of custom-made performance furniture for the Junior School Library. We would appreciate the PLC community’s input and suggestions for further projects across the campus. One possibility is to commission a sculpture to celebrate PLC’s up-coming centenary. This sculpture should embody the ethos of PLC and aesthetically enhance the campus.

In addition, the Parents’ Committee sponsored the PLC Sundowner, which broke all attendance records, and I must take this opportunity to thank all volunteers, making special mention of the Year 4 and Year 10 volunteers. We also sponsored the Martin Seligman Seminar for PLC staff members as part of our commitment to the professional development of PLC teaching staff.

At this time I would like to introduce you to some of our members and invite you to consider your possible contribution to the Parents’ Committee. The Committee meets on Tuesday evenings at 7.30 pm at Scorgie House and we have robust discussions around topics of relevance to the PLC community. We are privileged to have Beth Blackwood present the Principal’s report of the School to us at each meeting and we also hear from community representatives from the PLC Auxiliary, Boarding House, Friends of Music, Old Collegians’ Association and sub-committees such as the Scholarship sub-committee and Junior School sub-committee. We hope to hear a diverse range of views so that we may support the School community in as many ways possible. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, suggestions or would like to attend a meeting. This is a great way to get involved in your child’s schooling.

JENNY PLAYFORD
Parents’ Committee President
jenny@playford.biz

The 2012 Parents’ Committee.

The Parents’ Committee was able to provide for new paving to beautify the entrance to the Junior School.

Junior School students enjoy new performance furniture purchased by the Parents’ Committee.
OCA President’s Report

What can the PLCOCA do for you?

This is a question the PLC Old Collegians’ Association committee has been contemplating over the past six months, as we consolidate the excellent work that has been done by the PLCOCA over the years and look forward to the up-coming centenary of the School in 2015.

The PLCOCA constitution lists four key purposes – to foster a spirit of community between past and present Collegians; to provide leadership through example to present Collegians; to further the educational objects of PLC; and to consolidate the special relationship established between Collegians during their PLC years.

An organisation like the PLCOCA is only as strong as its members’ involvement. In order to ensure that the PLCOCA continues to further its purposes in the next 100 years, the committee is very keen to hear your suggestions for future activities. Some of the ideas the committee has had in recent years include:

• The development of a skills register, allowing you to find other Old Collegians with a particular skill set.
• A networking breakfast series allowing Old Collegians in similar industries to connect.
• A mentoring programme to enable more experienced Old Collegians to pass on their wisdom to young alumni just commencing their careers or who are changing careers; or to mentor current students who are considering which direction they want to take.

Some of these ideas will take some time to implement, whereas others can be done straight away. We are planning to hold at least one networking breakfast in the second half of this year, with a series soon to follow. Again, we are keen to hear your views on these.

While we are looking at implementing some of these new ideas, we will also continue to hold the wide variety of functions that we have held in recent years.

In the first half of this year, we have been busy with the Welcome Morning Tea and third annual PLCOCA Art Exhibition and Sale.

Welcome Morning Tea

The Welcome Morning Tea was held on Monday 30 January. We welcomed over 50 Old Collegians and their daughters who were new to the School in 2012. It was lovely to catch up with some familiar faces and to see past students reconnecting with those they knew at school. As always, the Panama hat cupcakes were a hit with the new students. The girls also enjoyed looking at photos and memorabilia of their mothers’ PLC days, which was put together by PLC Archivist, Shannon Lovelady (Martin 1983).
Art Exhibition and Sale
From 25 to 27 May, the PLCOCA held the third annual Art Exhibition and Sale in the Middle School Gallery. We were very pleased to have almost 30 artists from the PLC community exhibiting, including Old Collegians, their parents, siblings, partners and current and past PLC art teachers. The exhibition was opened by the Hon. Peter Collier MLC, who taught social science at PLC between 1987 and 1988, and who reminded us of the importance of the OCA and of the role it plays in strengthening and maintaining connections between past students and the School. The opening was a fabulous night, setting the tone for the rest of the weekend. The committee would like to express its gratitude to all of the artists who contributed their beautiful artwork to the exhibition, in particular to Sophia Vinten (2007), who curated the exhibition as well as exhibited.

Wine and Cheese Evening
A Wine and Cheese evening was held in July at the Cheeky Sparrow in Perth CBD, with Anita Robinson (2002) from Talisman Wines.

Upcoming Events
The second half of the year is always busy for the OCA with a number of important events scheduled, including the AGM, interviews for OCA sponsored scholarships and the Year 12 Valedictory Dinner. The 2012 AGM will be held on Sunday 19 August at PLC. For several years, the OCA has intended to become an incorporated entity, meaning that it will have its own legal identity. In order to meet the legislated requirements for incorporation, the PLCOCA constitution requires a few minor amendments. Further information about this will be provided closer to the date of the AGM and the amendments will be discussed and voted on at the AGM.

A Final Note and Thank You
I succeeded Francesca Nelson (1980) as President of the PLCOCA at the beginning of this year. I would like to thank Francesca for her hard work and dedication as President and for her support as I transitioned into the role this year.

After several years on the OCA, Helen Gianotti (Linton 1969) will retire from the committee at the upcoming AGM. Helen has been the secretary of the OCA for several years and she will be sorely missed. However, she leaves behind an excellent set of template documents and promises that it will be a breeze for someone to step into her shoes. If you are interested in becoming the secretary of the PLCOCA, please let us know.

You can contact the PLCOCA through the PLC Alumni Coordinator, Colette James, on +61 8 9424 6520 or by email at alumni@plc.wa.edu.au. We look forward to hearing from you or seeing you at an event soon.

KATE CROMPTON (1999)
President
Reunions

Reunion Dates

Year of 1962 – 50 Year Reunion
   Friday 27 July 2012

Year of 1952 – 60 Year Reunion
   Friday 14 September 2012

Year of 2002 – 10 Year Reunion
   Saturday 6 October 2012

Year of 1972 – 40 Year Reunion
   Saturday 13 October 2012

Year of 1992 – 20 Year Reunion
   Saturday 3 November 2012

The 65 and 70 Year Reunions will be held in conjunction with Founders’ Day on Friday 17 August.

Calling All Past Singers

It is with sadness that we will bid Maribeth Williamson a final farewell from the Music department when she retires at the end of 2012. Maribeth was officially farewelled from PLC at the end of 2010, but remained teaching several Senior vocal students this year.

As a final tribute from everyone at PLC, we will be holding a small concert followed by a light afternoon tea on Sunday 25 November. We invite any past members of the Chorale, or vocal students of Maribeth to join us on this day, either singing in the Chorale, or as a member of the audience. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Head of Music Curriculum, Philippa Tan on pttan@plc.wa.edu.au to receive more information about the concert and a rehearsal schedule.

We hope you can join us on this day.

London Reunion

On 19 March, to coincide with Principal, Beth Blackwood’s overseas trip, a reunion of past students, living and working in London was held at the WA Business Centre, Australia House on the Strand.

It was a great success with 45 alumni attending. Every decade was well accounted for, with the early years being represented by Jane Shackleton (1953), Angela Vincent (1956) and her twin sister Judith (1956).

The menu had a distinctive Western Australian flavour and a large display of fresh Australian flowers made everyone feel at home.
Easter Service and Luncheon

The Easter Service was held on 5 April, the last day of Term 1. Almost 90 past students who left PLC 50 years ago or more, joined the staff and students for the service. At its conclusion, our guests joined Acting Principal, Keith Anderson, in the Cafeteria to enjoy a light lunch. This special occasion has become a regular event for some ladies who take the opportunity to catch up with old friends to share memories as well as the changes happening around the College.

Melbourne Reunion

41 girls attended an afternoon tea for the Melbourne Reunion on 27 May. This year the event was held at the Rialto on Collins Street for the first time and was hosted by Principal, Beth Blackwood, and Director of Community Relations, Chavaune Francis. Every decade was well represented with Mrs Joan Cooper (Lodge 1943), Mrs Joyce Goffin (McWilliam 1945) and Mrs Dack Grae (Fletcher 1948) standing in for the early years and a number of girls from 2011 demonstrating that the younger alumni are also keen to continue their strong ties to PLC.
Reunions

Sydney Reunion

The Sydney Reunion was held on 29 May at Café Sydney in Customs House. Principal, Beth Blackwood and Director of Community Relations, Chavaune Francis hosted this cocktail party event with 49 former students in attendance.

Old Collegians from 1947 (Tiggy Turpin) to 2009 had a wonderful time connecting with each other about their school days.
Old Collegians Update

Nancy Unwin (Matthews 1951)
Nancy worked at Westfamers before undertaking general nursing training in Fremantle. She then studied midwifery at King Edward Memorial Hospital and paediatrics at PMH before working at the Ayers Mogumber Mission. She married in 1962 and worked at Milne Bay in Papua New Guinea preparing Papuans for independence in 1975. She then worked in Sydney, assisting with transferring nursing training into university. She volunteered with Lifeline, the Red Cross and Meals on Wheels.

Judy Bryning (1953)
Judy worked in various commercial offices and libraries and traveled throughout Europe and SE Asia. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts (Fine Arts) at Curtin University as well as a Diploma of Education and then taught Art in senior high schools. In 1996 she obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Asian Studies, studying part-time at Murdoch University and also taught at TAFE. She has self-published two books, selling through the State Library, West Books and Dymocks in Fremantle.

Rae Willis (Scott 1962)
Rae spent three years training as a dental nurse at Perth Dental Hospital. She lived in Melbourne and Adelaide when first married before moving to the south-west of WA for 10 years. She has now returned to Perth to be closer to family.

Joanne Wild (Roberts 1969)
Joanne and her husband Dennis run a letterpress printing studio in Elizabeth Town, Tasmania. They produce a range of archival cards, featuring Jo’s original linocuts.

Mary-Ellen King (1977)
Mary-Ellen worked at the Perth Concert Hall in administration and became Assistant Manager before becoming the Melbourne Manager of Opera Australia. She then studied for a Master of Business Administration at Melbourne University while working as a project manager at Hewlett Packard. She held several roles at the Melbourne Symphony over eight years, culminating with the position of Acting Managing Director. She was an Executive at the Victorian Arts Centre and then General Manager of the Melbourne International Arts Festival. After taking a break and travelling for nine months, she returned to Melbourne to work in community care. A new opportunity arose in Perth, allowing her to return ‘home’ to undertake a role at Bethanie Group.

Naomi Ashurst (Smith 1983)
Naomi completed a Bachelor of Science with first class Honours and a PhD in Biochemistry at the University of Western Australia. Within two weeks of submitting her thesis, she was moved to Canberra, joining the Public Service in the Industry department. She has since married and had a son, who is now in his first year of high school. After 18 years, she still enjoys working in the Industry department, currently as a part-time manager of the Clean Technology Policy team.

Vanessa Bennett (1985)
Vanessa completed a Diploma in Interior Design in 1990 and worked in the United Kingdom for two years, travelling extensively throughout Europe. On her return to Perth, she worked in the interior design industry in both residential and shop fitting projects. After visiting New Zealand in the late 1990s for a friend’s wedding, she decided to stay and gained a position as an Art Consultant. Returning to Perth, she completed a Bachelor of Visual Arts and then a Diploma of Education before working as a teacher in the north-west Kimberley region. She is currently teaching Art in the south-west and is enjoying life in Bunbury with her partner.

Tricia Williams (Baldwin 1988)
Tricia has been raising her two girls with her husband in Africa and South America. They are now living in the dream location of Dunsborough and are about to build their long-awaited house there.

Bobbie Burrows (Mizen 1995)
Bobbie is a youth worker and has worked for Cockburn Youth Services for the past eight years. She has been with her partner for 14 years and they have a daughter, Melissa (9). They were married last November in Margaret River. Dominique Enever (Kurti 1996) was one of the guests who shared their special day.

Ellen White (Seaby 2004)
After leaving PLC in Year 10, Ellen completed a Certificate IV in Business Administration before moving back to the family farm. She traveled with her sister Dale Cronje (Seaby 2001) before marrying in 2007 and moving to Dongara for two years. She and her husband now live in Busselton, where she works in local government.

Charlie Gribble (2011)
Charlie is currently studying journalism and law at Bond University in Queensland.

Fairy Turner (2007)
Fairy recently returned from a two-week charity tuk-tuk race across India to raise money for Frank Water Projects, a UK based organisation that funds sustainable clean water projects in developing countries, and the Alzheimer’s Society. Fairy’s journey saw her travel 3500km from Cochin to Shilong, from the south-west to the north-east of the country. Her team placed 6th out of 70 teams from across the world and avoided any major accidents and breakdowns.

Linda Wayman (1972)
As part of the International Women’s Day celebrations on 8 March, Linda Wayman was inducted into the WA Women Hall of Fame along with 11 other inductees.

Linda was endowed with this prestigious acknowledgment of her achievements on the basis of her leadership and business contributions in Western Australia, in particular, her role in being a champion for women in the area of flexible working hours as well as her mentoring and support contributions to help women’s careers in the business world.

Linda was also recently awarded the Advertising Person of the Year by the Perth advertising and media industry.
Lucinda Giblett (1998)

Many years of study and travel followed Lucinda’s five-year stint at PLC as a boarding student, but she always felt a special connection to the apple orchards she grew up with in Manjimup, WA.

A turning point came in 2008, when her father announced that the family were going to try their hand at organic farming. Having long been a supporter of engaging in healthy and sustainable activities for people and the natural environment, she was quickly open to the possibility of a future in Manjimup.

Currently enjoying her fourth year of country living, Lucinda is passionate about organic farming. “Organic farming is one crucial step toward treating our world holistically – as a sum of living parts that are interlinked and interdependent,” she said.

With a strong desire to contribute to the betterment of global agricultural issues, Lucinda recently founded a not-for-profit incorporated charity, Stellar Violets Inc, named to honour her grandmothers.

Stellar Violets aims to create a culture and community that is resilient and supportive of life for future generations. Lucinda is currently focussed on the organisation’s Stellar Violets Life Library, Living Museum and Gallery projects.

The organisation is seeking major sponsorship, donations, and key people with the skills, support and dedication to bring this unique project to life. Please get in touch if you, or someone you know wants to contribute to something that will be here long after we are gone.

80th Birthday Celebration

Mona Rankin (Nash 1948) celebrated her 80th birthday with a party on 1 April this year. She was joined by several lifelong friends from PLC. Grae Dack (Fletcher 1948) visited from Melbourne for the occasion and Pam Cunningham (Foreman 1948) and Margaret Martyr (Dreghorn 1948) also attended.

Mona Rankin (Nash 1948)
Judith Curphey OAM (Oliver 1946)

Judith founded the Australian Girls Choir 27 years ago, a group best known for its part in a Qantas television advertisement. Now in her 80s, she remains actively involved with the choir in her role as Artistic Director.

The Choir provides opportunities to sing for girls 5 years old and upwards. With classes having commenced in Perth this year, the Choir is now nation-wide.

The Choir has sung for many well-known Australian artists including Olivia Newton-John, Hugh Jackman, John Farnham and Jessica Mauboy. It also performed for Oprah Winfrey on her recent Australian tour.

Judith says she was most influenced by Dr Summers when at PLC as she always believed that young women should be encouraged to achieve whatever they chose to do.

She is very proud of what she has achieved with the Choir, especially seeing the girls form lifelong relationships and sharing their love of singing and performing.

Judith Curphey received an Order of Australia for her service to music, particularly her work with the Australian Girls Choir.

Louise Furniss (Morey 1972)

Louise has been fortunate to travel to Zimbabwe this year with a Christian medical team for the second year in a row. Cosmos HealthCare, an international health and development organisation based in Perth sends two teams overseas every year to provide free medical clinics in rural villages where people traditionally have very little access to quality health care. Louise’s role in these expeditions is as an educator and general assistant.

Some villagers walk up to 20km and may have to wait up to five hours to be seen by medical staff. This year Louise brought sewing kits and fabric with her for the locals, so that they could sew bags whilst waiting to be seen. These sewing sessions were a terrific success and the local nurse hopes the sewing groups will continue. “They are a great way of the community meeting in an informal way and being able to air problems and give each other support. It also provides an opportunity for health and life skills education and discussion in a non-threatening environment,” Louise said.

Louise Furniss started a sewing group initiative with local villagers during a recent charity trip to Zimbabwe.
We are saddened to learn of the deaths of the following Old Collegians:

Doris May Bridge (York 1932)
25 June 1915 – 17 February 2012

Erica Christine Carpenter (Lenz 1953)
28 April 1936 – 19 May 2012

Irene Winifred Joan Cook (Rogers 1931)
18 May 1914 – 31 May 2009

Elaine Alison Dunn (Keys 1950)
26 July 1932 – 17 March 2012

Jean Maria George (Clairs 1947)
14 September 1930 – 19 January 2012

Margaret Joyce Hammond (Murdoch 1938)
27 June 1921 – 19 December 2011

Camilla Margaret Hayman (Mather 1996)
11 May 1978 – 14 December 2011
(obituary deferred from previous issue)

Dr Edith Margaret Hill (Kerr 1930)
5 May 1914 – 2 April 2012

Grace Welsh Howden (Thomson 1937)
31 March 1920 – 30 March 2012

Gwendolyn Frances May Humphry (Fawcett 1930)
23 September 1913 – 20 February 2012

Margaret Lesley Leppnus (Haining 1939)
22 November 1922 – 4 February 2012

Verna June Lester (Fetridge 1945)
30 June 1928 – 24 October 2011

Valerie Hartley Lynn (Paton 1942)
14 February 1925 – 11 August 2011

Heather McLean formerly Cohen (Sloss 1943)
14 February 1923 – 19 October 2011

Molly Eagleton Mcnee formerly Green (Reading 1927)
24 June 1910 – 24 October 2010

Cecily Odell Moffett (Kellow 1941)
6 August 1926 – 27 November 2011

Aileen Merle Murray (Pollard 1941)
13 September 1924 – 18 August 2011

Jean Lydia Oldham OAM (Leake 1946)
4 December 1928 – 26 April 2012

Patricia Elizabeth Pinnick (Murray 1952)
29 July 1935 – 9 January 2012

Alice Ruth Rayner (Belby 1945)
27 May 1928 – 3 March 2012

Dulcie Redgrave (Thomas 1935)
1 July 1918 – 25 September 2009

Deborah Beatrice Sadleir formerly Elliott (Drummond 1940)
30 July 1923 – 30 October 2008

Rhonda Joy Serventy (Jordan 1952)
4 August 1937 – 24 September 2011

Peggy Marion Whitewood (Anderson 1945)
7 April 1927 – 3 March 2012

Nellie Westerberg (Chapman 1940)
14 June 1923 – 6 January 2012

Amy Wilkinson (Chapman 1943)
22 February 1926 – 6 February 2012

Joan Yates (1936)
2 August 1919 – 18 January 2012

Jean Maria George (Clairs 1947)
14 September 1930 – 19 January 2012

Jean came from Swanbourne State School to PLC in Grade 2, 1939. Her twin brother, Noel and older brother, Ivan both attended Scotch College, down the hill from their Wood Street home.

After matriculation, Jean studied nursing at Royal Perth Hospital, after which she moved to Melbourne to obtain her midwifery certificate at the Royal Melbourne Women’s Hospital. She then travelled overseas for a number of years and during this time, worked at the Braille Eye Hospital in London.

Upon her return to WA she married Bryan George and they settled in Attadale with their three children – Christopher (Old Scotch Collegian), Elizabeth Blincow (George 1976) and Jane O’Brien (George 1979).

Jean continued to nurse through all her working years and loved it with a passion. She also played tennis twice a week, swam each morning with the Port Beach Polar Bears and always maintained contact with her school and nursing friends. She was also a lover of cruise ships and would jump at the chance to join a girlfriend and cruise to any number of exciting destinations. After retirement she was an active committee member of the local Probus chapter and a regular parishioner at St Christopher’s Church in Bicton.

Jean was a very positive person and active until the last year or so, when her health began to fail. She and Bryan were still living in Attadale when she passed away from a stroke, aged 81. She was a frequent attendee at PLC Old Collegian events and an integral part of her 1947 cohort. She will be sorely missed.
Camilla Margaret Hayman (Mather 1996)
11 May 1978 – 14 December 2011

From the moment Camilla was born it was obvious she was a people person. A friendly, playful child, she seemed to always know what to say and do and if she didn’t, she found out. Dedicated to hard work in everything she did, she quickly made herself indispensable at school. She was practical, pragmatic, a leader and organiser. While she was at PLC the state of the art Hazel Day Drama Centre was built. Within months she was the “go to” person for anything to do with drama, stage management or back of house. Her contribution to the school was acknowledged by awarding her the Drama Captainacy and the Perth Soroptimist Heather Barr Memorial Prize for Citizenship as the person most likely to succeed in life.

Her gap year was spent at a school for the disabled in the UK. The pay was minimal and the hours long and arduous, but the people skills she learnt from her students and fellow teachers stood her in great stead. Her experience there led her to studying human movement at UWA. At the end of her degree her talents were recognised by the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) with a postgraduate scholarship in bio-mechanics. She then joined the performance analysis team where she acknowledged as being influential in at least suitcases full of equipment. She was publicly this job, usually carrying in excess of 35 kilograms, but in 2011 she was asked if she had ever done anything to help someone on the operating table make him and her King’s cup rowing crew.

Unluckily in the midst of joy there was sorrow, as at this time, Camilla’s tripping gait was diagnosed as being caused by a brain tumour. She embarked on a six and a half year journey that left those who knew her in awe of her physical and mental strength. She did not let her personal fight interfere with her determination to build a wonderful life with her loving husband Pepe and son Josh. She was balanced and talented in every area of life. She retained her sense of humour throughout, evidenced by her telling of a joke in the middle of a conscious brain surgery in 2011. The neurosurgeon admitted that in his entire career, he had never had someone on the operating table make him and his anaesthetist laugh.

She was very proactive in giving back to the community. She was a foster carer, walking for Cure for Cancer and participated in The FRIENDly Ride in September 2011. She never gave up, never complained and really made a difference. She was always admired for the way she knew where she was going. Her determination of direction and the respect she earned for that extended well beyond rowing circles. She was a leader; smart, intelligent, driven, and motivated, not only for herself but also for those around her. The quote: “If you need something done, give it to a busy person” fitted Camilla completely.

Her family consider themselves privileged to have shared her journey, knowing their lives have been enriched from having her in theirs. She is deeply missed.

Dr Edith Margaret Hill (Kerr 1930)
5 May 1914 – 2 April 2012

Edith was the daughter of Dr Charles and Lina Kerr who arrived in WA in 1914 and began practicing medicine in Donnybrook. After a brief move to Meekatharra, Dr Kerr purchased a medical practice in Fremantle in 1918. Edith had a quick, intelligent mind and a desire to learn. She came to PLC from Fremantle’s Church of England Grammar School in 1925 and excelled in her studies and sports, playing netball in winter and tennis in summer. She completed her Leaving in 1929 with English, Maths, Physics, French and Biology but being too young for university entrance, was offered a scholarship to stay on for 1930, during which she concentrated on Latin and German. That year she was Deputy Head Prefect as well as Kookaburra Editor and received the Form VIA prize for Proficiency.

In 1931 Edith became the first PLC Old Collegian to enrol in medicine, only available at Melbourne University. For the first three years she was resident at Janet Clarke Hall, but in 1934 shared a flat with school friend Jo Waters (Church 1929), who was...
studyng art. She graduated in 1938 and while working at Brisbane General Hospital, met fellow doctor James Hill, from Sydney. In October 1939 they became engaged. They married in Queensland in January 1940 and purchased a practice in Cooroy, a small town north of Brisbane. Edith soon had two daughters, Margaret and Josephine. As the war intensified, James was conscripted into service. Edith was required by the Commonwealth Manpower Commission to continue the practice and run the Cooroy Base Hospital at the same time. The government allotted her nannies and cooks so she could continue in her demanding role as the only doctor in the region. They were busy and difficult times.

James survived the war and after lengthy rehabilitation, returned to the Cooroy practice. Two more daughters were born shortly after the war; Kirsty and Prudence. Edith and James continued working in the practice and the base hospital but in about 1950 they sold the practice and moved to Sydney so that James could study obstetrics and gynaecology. After a short time, they moved north once again and in 1952 settled into ‘Baroona’, an historic home in Rosalie (now part of Paddington), Brisbane, where their fifth and last child, James, was born later that year. Edith then retired from medicine and shifted her focus onto raising her family.

Once her children were older, Edith travelled a great deal, sometimes back to Perth to visit family, including her brother Charles, and nieces Penny Muir (Kerr 1957) and Mary Threlfall (Kerr 1965). They loved these visits from their sprightly, glamorous aunt who was vivacious and young at heart, even in her later years.

In the 1980s James and Edith moved to Chapel Hill and after James died she built another house for herself and Josephine who, through illness in her teenage years, was now an invalid. In her late 70s, Edith suffered a stroke which made it very difficult for her to converse. It was a cruel blow, as she loved company and was naturally outgoing and gregarious. Otherwise her health was good and served her well into her old age. She retained her natural elegance, smoking cigarettes with a beautiful, long, art deco holder and enjoying wine with her meals to the end. She passed away at Lilian Cooper Nursing Home, Kangaroo Point, Queensland, aged 97.

Grace Welsh Howden (Thomson 1937) 31 March 1920 – 30 March 2012

Grace was born in her grandmother’s home in Scotland and spent her early years in Heidelberg, Victoria. The Depression saw the family move to WA in the early 1930s and settle on farming land at Marchagee. Life on the farm was harsh; a machinery shed and workshop were the only permanent structures. The farm was harsh; a machinery shed and workshop were the only permanent structures and the family slept in tents with all cooking done outside. When Grace was 11 her mother fell ill and Grace quickly learned how to cook for the family and all farm hands.

Initially schooled by correspondence, the opportunity for Grace to attend PLC arose when her Scottish grandmother died, leaving money for her to go to boarding school. Grace came to PLC in 1934 at the height of the Depression. Though only here for two years, they left a lifelong imprint on her memory and she often recounted having to eat tripe for dinner, attend church two or three times on Sundays (the only day on which you could have jam on your bread), all-seasons open-air dormitories and a uniform of the new Black Watch woollen skirt and lisle stockings. As so many from that time remember, they froze in winter and boiled in summer. Nevertheless her days at PLC were very happy ones and it was here she made some of her closest friendships which endured throughout her life, particularly with Helen Parry (Taylor 1937), Kath Wallace (Scott 1934) and Ruth Thomson (Bowman 1936) who married Grace’s eldest brother Peter.

In 1938 at age 18, Grace and her parents moved to Melbourne where she went to business school and qualified as a comptometrist. In 1941 she applied for the Australian Women’s Army Service and was deployed to the Signals Corps for the duration of the war and rose through the ranks to become a Captain. She was camp commandant at Fawkner Park when the war ended.

It was through the Army that Grace met Stace Howden, her brother Sandy’s Company Commander. They married in 1948 and enjoyed 40 happy years together. Their children; Fiona and Kenneth, were born in 1950 and 1957 and they agree it was as a loving wife, mother and consummate homemaker that Grace showed many of her finest attributes.

In the 1980s Grace completed her VCE in English and Philosophy so she could enjoy discussing texts and plays more thoroughly with Stace. After he died she became a keen and intrepid traveler, taking wonderful trips overseas and to remote parts of Australia with her old friend, Helen Parry (Taylor 1937). In 1990 she made her first visit to the west in 45 years to attend a PLC Reunion with Helen, her sister-in-law, Ruth and Josephine McLarty (1935). Tui Naughton (Thomson 1937), Shirley Taylor (Angel 1938), Coral Thomas (Pascoe 1937),
Joan yates (1936) 2 August 1919 – 18 January 2012

Joan enjoyed a country childhood growing up in Busselton where her father, Dr Percy Yates, established a medical practice. After primary schooling at Busselton State School, Joan began her six years of boarding at PLC aged ten in February 1930.

Joan settled like a duck to water and loved her time at PLC. There were several highlights during 1935, her final year (Sub-Leaving). She was Captain of the Running Team, a keen forward on the A Hockey Team, a member of council Professor A D Ross and Founder and long-term president over the ceremony which was immediately followed by the very first Inter House sports meeting. Joan was a close runner up for Champion Athlete that day, in both Open and Under 16 categories.

After leaving PLC, Joan boarded with Mrs Janet Dawson nee Phemister (PLC Headmistress 1928-1933), who tutored her in her Leaving at the Academic Coaching Bureau in St George’s Terrace, run by Mrs Dawson in partnership with Mrs Edith Whitaker (PLC Deputy Headmistress 1928-1930). Joan then returned to Busselton, but regularly accompanied her mother, Evelyn, on frequent trips back to Perth. She maintained her love of exercise and became strongly focused on the Ling method, a series of precise, slow moving, gymnastic exercises also known as Swedish Drill, which was being adopted throughout the world at that time. In May 1938 Joan travelled to England where she commenced studies at Bedford Physical Training College, one of only four women’s colleges in England that taught the Ling method. In mid 1939, along with representatives of 37 nations and 7000 demonstrative gymnasts, she attended the Lingiade festival of 37 nations and 7000 demonstrative gymnasts, she attended the Lingiade festival in Stockholm, the gymnastic equivalent of the Olympic Games held to celebrate the centenary of the death of Per Henrik Ling, inventor of the method.

Shortly thereafter, her studies were suspended due to the war and she returned home via Canada, the US, New Zealand and the eastern states in late 1939. It was a harrowing journey but she was determined to complete her training and had serious ambitions of doing so in Sweden, as she believed they led the world in physical education. The continuing war made this an impossibility, however, and she later attained her Diploma in Physical Education from Melbourne University. She then taught PE for a short time, but was later prohibited from teaching at schools due to her epilepsy, which was thought to have been brought on by a severe case of sunburn at age two. She then worked at the Forestry Department in Busselton before being appointed secretary to the director of the Perth City Library where she stayed for many years, charming her colleagues with her quaint sayings and excellent sense of humour. She had Wednesdays off and enjoyed spending them playing golf.

In March 1942, Joan was honoured to act as bridesmaid for lifelong friend Verna Rowbotham (Ross 1937). There were a number of opportunities for Joan to also marry, but due to the war and other circumstances, that occasion never eventuated. She delighted in her friends’ children and her nieces and nephews when they came along, and was very much involved in their early lives.

On retirement, Joan returned to the family home in Busselton to care for her aging mother and father who died in 1983 and 1985 respectively. She then happily immersed herself in bookwork until it became evident she was suffering with dementia. Her declining health made it necessary for her to return to Perth in 2002, so she could be closer to her extended family and receive proper care. She spent three years at Pilgrim House in East Fremantle and the last six at Alfred Carson Lodge in Claremont and it was there she died, aged 92.
Dates For Your Diary

**JULY**
- **Tuesday 24 July**: Term 3 Commences
- **Wednesday 25 July to Sunday 29 July**: School Musical - Seussical
- **Friday 27 July**: 50 Year Reunion
- **Monday 30 July**: Auxiliary Meeting
  - PP Exhibition Opening

**AUGUST**
- **Saturday 4 August to 5 August**: Karratha Fencing Festival
- **Sunday 5 August**: OCA Movie Afternoon
- **Tuesday 14 August**: OCA Meeting
  - Parents’ Committee Meeting
- **Friday 17 August**: Founders’ Day
- **Saturday 18 August**: Head of the River
- **Sunday 19 August**: OCA AGM
- **Monday 20 August**: Auxiliary Meeting
- **Thursday 23 August**: Middle and Senior School Arts Day
- **Friday 24 August**: Mid-Term Break
- **Monday 27 August**: Mid-Term Break
- **Wednesday 29 August**: Grandparents and Special Friends Day
- **Wednesday 29 August to 30 August**: Doowrin Field Day
- **Friday 31 August**: Junior School Arts Day

**SEPTEMBER**
- **Wednesday 5 September to 6 September**: Newdegate Field Day
- **Saturday 8 September**: Spring Concert
- **Sunday 9 September**: Year 13 Sundowner
- **Tuesday 11 September**: OCA Meeting
  - Parents’ Committee Meeting
- **Friday 14 September**: 60 Year Reunion
- **Thursday 20 September to 21 September**: Mingine Mid West Expo
- **Friday 21 September**: Student Art Exhibition
- **Monday 25 September**: Auxiliary Meeting
- **Friday 28 September**: Term 3 Concludes

**OCTOBER**
- **Monday 1 October**: Queen’s Birthday
- **Saturday 6 October**: 10 Year Reunion
- **Tuesday 9 October**: OCA Meeting
- **Saturday 13 October**: 40 Year Reunion
- **Tuesday 16 October**: Term 4 Commences
  - Parents’ Committee Meeting
- **Friday 19 October to 20 October**: Esperance Agricultural Show
- **Wednesday 24 October**: Valedictory Dinner
- **Monday 29 October**: Auxiliary Meeting

**NOVEMBER**
- **Friday 2 November**: Open Garden Day
- **Saturday 3 November**: 20 Year Reunion
- **Tuesday 13 November**: OCA Meeting
  - Parents’ Committee Meeting
- **Monday 26 November**: Auxiliary Meeting
- **Thursday 29 November**: Pre-Primary Nativity

**DECEMBER**
- **Sunday 2 December**: OCA Christmas Carols
- **Tuesday 4 December**: Junior School Speech Night
- **Wednesday 5 December**: Term 4 Concludes
- **Thursday 6 December**: Middle and Senior Speech Night