Heritage
to hold with care
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Dear Friends

Any parent of an Old Girl will tell you that Perth College students graduate as resilient, independent, confident and determined young women. Building these characteristics starts at an early age.

Our youngest girls develop their personality, character, creativity and a love of learning through play. Play is an essential part of every child’s life—it helps them develop physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially. Genuinely engaging activities also help children form friendships and therefore develop skills such as reasoning and problem-solving.

In this edition of the Heritage you will read about the work being done in the Junior School to foster learning through play. Incorporating hands-on learning in the curriculum through events such as Messy Mud Day, the new nature play space, and ‘loose parts’ activities are enabling students to explore, experiment, push the limits and become resilient little girls. As a Principal but also as a mother, I take great delight in visiting the classes in the Founders Centre for Early Learning and seeing the adventures our students are embarking upon, and the joy this brings them.

As our girls grow older, they are strongly supported by the InsideOut self-leadership programme, which emphasises the importance of wellbeing and helps students understand their strengths in order to improve not only academic performance but also personal happiness. InsideOut is based on a ‘positive psychology’ model which recognises that wellbeing is critical to academic success; later this year, the School will bring together educators, psychologists and the community for a major conference about this approach to learning.

Our School has long advocated a philosophy of basing education on the whole person—body, mind, heart and spirit’. We firmly believe a person’s character and values are just as important as their academic achievements. Throughout this edition of the Heritage there are articles about inspirational current students, staff and Old Girls who are role models in a variety of ways and deserving of recognition.

One of those role models is our former Chaplain, Bishop Kay Goldsworthy, who was installed as the 12th Bishop of Gippsland in March. Our Year 12 girls were fortunate to celebrate their first Chapel service of 2015 with Bishop Kay before she returned to her home state of Victoria, having spent 26 years in Western Australia! She is held in such high regard at our School that Honorary Old Girl status was bestowed upon her. I was privileged to attend Bishop Kay’s installation service at St Paul’s Cathedral and it was humbling to watch the community of Sale welcome her with open arms.

Another woman held in high regard at Perth College is our long-serving staff member and Boarding House Housekeeper, Affie Karalis. Affie is in her 50th year of dedicated service to the School and it seems very appropriate we recognise this as she will retire at the end of Term Two.

Affie is profiled in this edition of the Heritage, having made a lasting impression on countless students (particularly boarders to whom she was like a surrogate mother) and become a dear and loyal friend to many staff and Old Girls. She will be particularly remembered for her generous love, gratitude, humility, wise counsel and sympathetic ear.

To stay in a workplace for five decades and remain so passionate about the organisation is an astonishing achievement. The entire School community will miss Affie dearly but also knows she will always be part of the Perth College family; we look forward to seeing her in a volunteer capacity.

PC families and Old Girls will have an opportunity to celebrate Affie’s career and contribution to Perth College at an afternoon tea on Sunday 7 June, from 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm at Affie’s Café.

Jenny Ethell
PRINCIPAL
Dr Suzy Green, founder of The Positivity Institute, is a Clinical and Coaching Psychologist based in Sydney who is helping Perth College develop a culture of positive psychology that permeates both the student body and staff.

She has been coaching a group of 30 teachers about the benefits of mindfulness, recognising and utilising character strengths, the impact of emotions on behaviour and stopping negative thoughts.

“Research has shown teacher wellbeing impacts on student wellbeing, so training staff in the principles of positive psychology is essential to creating flourishing students and a flourishing school,” Dr Green said.

Students and staff have undertaken wellbeing surveys and a questionnaire was also distributed to staff to help them understand and explore their strengths.

“Our strengths play an important role in our daily lives and research has shown our greatest successes are the result of using these unique strengths,” Dr Perich said.
“Nurturing your strengths is shown to be both energising and satisfying, and is linked to increased happiness.”

Having recognised the benefits of embedding positive psychology in InsideOut and aspects of the academic and co-curricular programmes, the School will host a Positive Education conference in October, in partnership with the Positivity Institute and endorsed by the Positive Education Schools Association.

“In the four years since the InsideOut programme was established at Perth College, our research and anecdotal evidence have demonstrated the significance of wellbeing as core to educational outcomes for girls across all age groups,” Dr Perich said.

“Promoting the science of wellbeing and positive psychology to the wider community will enable a larger group of students and educators to flourish.”

**Brain Training**

Andrew Fuller wants teenage girls to re-train their brains.

The Clinical Psychologist from Sydney spent two days at Perth College in March, working with students from Years 7 to 9 to help them acknowledge ‘the genius within’ and provide brain development strategies.

He also held seminars for parents and staff, taking them on a journey through the adolescent brain and telling them how they could help engage students in the learning process.

“Children need to understand it’s okay to make mistakes because that is how they learn,” Dr Fuller said.

“Focusing on the result causes people to panic or freeze up.

“Students need to know it’s okay to have a go, even when they don’t have the correct answer; creating something new involves making a lot of mistakes. When you make a mistake, all it means is that you haven’t learned how to get it right yet.”

Dr Fuller’s visit to Perth College supported the School’s Thinking Skills programme, which, in Term One, is based around the research of Stanford University Professor, Dr Carol Dweck.

“The girls learn about a ‘growth mindset’ at the start of their transition into the Senior School, to empower them in understanding how they learn best and to improve both their motivation and resilience,” Learning Enrichment Co-ordinator, Pippa Depiazza, said.

“We invited Andrew to the School to help the girls discover more about how the brain works, identify their personal learning styles, strengths and weaknesses, and make informed lifestyle choices that support healthy brain development.”

**GirlPower: a positive approach to friendships**

GirlPower founder, Dana Kerford, returned to Perth College in February for the third time in three years.

As the popularity of her friendship programme soars, she travelled from her home in Canada to present workshops for nearly 1,200 students, parents and teachers from not only Perth College but also schools across the city.

Having tweaked her GirlPower tips, messages and advice to help boys through the GoodGuys workshops, Mrs Kerford said children were learning to talk about their feelings and how to stand up for themselves without being mean.

“Research has clearly shown children who have healthy friendships perform better academically, are involved in leadership activities, have higher self-esteem and more positive body image, and are more likely to make smarter decisions in future relationships,” she said.

InsideOut Director, Deb Perich, said more than 100 GirlPower workshops had been conducted across Perth and parts of regional WA in the last year.

“Demand for the strategies we are teaching through GirlPower continues to increase,” she said.

“It is great to see more teachers and parents are choosing proactive approaches to managing friendship issues positively.”

Perspectives through the Arts

Five Perth College graduates have been recognised for their creative talents. Madison Hartslief (2014 Dance Captain) and Lauren Kay were among just 22 dancers selected to feature in the Performing Arts Perspectives at His Majesty’s Theatre on Thursday 12 and Friday 13 March.

The event sets the benchmark for excellence in dance, drama and music for Year 12s across the public, independent and Catholic education systems in the state. Only the highest-scoring WACE students are invited to audition for a panel of representatives from the professional arts and education sectors, which decides who makes the final cut.

Lauren performed an original solo dance while Madison was one of three in an ensemble piece.

Artworks by Hayley Partington (2014 Art Captain), Ruby Darge (Art Vice Captain) and Alice Fox are currently on show at the Art Gallery of Western Australia as part of Year 12 Perspectives.

Hayley’s artwork, Hay St Mall, is a mixed media piece on old door panels. Using pencil, pen, acrylic paint, oil and charcoal, she merged images of the Hay Street Mall from the 1970s and the present day.

Ruby’s handmade book, Wanderings through the Wildflowers, features an oil-painted cover and ink and marker works on watercolour paper pages. She was inspired by the 19th century book, Wildflowers: How to See and Gather Them, by Spencer Thomson, which is a cherished gift from her nana.

Alice’s artwork combines found objects with acrylic paint, ink and resin on acetate and MDF to portray her grandfather, Trevor.

“I selected pieces of his hoarded junk and arranged them systematically to reveal much more about my grandfather than the man I thought I knew,” she said.

Sixty-nine of the best emerging young artists from across the state were chosen by a judging panel to exhibit at the event, which closes on 1 June.

Siobhan takes on Tamworth

The year has begun on a high note for Siobhan Cotchin. A talented singer, she spent two weeks during January in Tamworth at the 2015 Junior Academy of Country Music. Siobhan was the only WA student in the course, which offered places to just 23 boys and girls across Australia and New Zealand.

Accomplished country musicians led intense workshops about performance, songwriting and musicianship, with
participants given opportunities to co-write with other students and meet professional singers.

“It was awesome; I found my tribe and I learned so much about song-writing and performing with a band,” Siobhan said.

In February, the Year 10 student was invited to return to the Nannup Music Festival, having won the Emerging Artist Award at the event in 2014, aged just 13. The prize was 10 hours of recording time in a studio, which she used to record her first EP, *Stories*.

A regular busker at markets in Malaga and Fremantle, Siobhan is determined to build experience by performing at local events and venues, and hopes to study at the WA Academy of Performing Arts after graduating from Perth College.

**Musicians add US to passports**

Perth College musicians have just returned from arguably their most ambitious tour yet.

Sixty-one girls were joined by 25 students from Aquinas to tour the United States at the end of Term One. Highlights included an adjudicated performance at the Chicago International Music Festival as well as concerts with host schools and at key locations in Washington and New York.

Members of the Perth College String Orchestra and the Perth College/Aquinas College Chorale and Concert Band were also privileged to participate in workshops with film composers at Disneyland, Los Angeles.

**Resident Artist reveals creative process**

Perth College girls had an exclusive insight into a professional Artist’s creative process when Jarrad Martyn completed a two-week residency in the Art department during February.

A graduate of Guildford Grammar School and Curtin University (with Honours), Mr Martyn created several oil paintings and talked to students about surviving as an artist while also making a mark on the industry.

“My career has been quite varied—it’s about striking a balance between commercial art and doing things as a passion,” he said.

“I’ve undertaken residencies at my old school as well as the Fremantle Arts Centre, done private art tuition and created murals for businesses.”

Mr Martyn said he gathered his ideas by reading, researching and looking at images, and then made a collage or drawing before beginning to paint.

His residency was sponsored by the Perth College Art Committee.

**Festival provides taste of the arts**

Students in Bedford House proved to be a talented bunch at the 2015 Creative Arts Festival, winning the dance and inaugural drama competitions, as well as the people’s choice for art.

Lawley was triumphant in both the Junior School and Senior School choir competitions, while Campion won the art category.

With its theme *A Night at the Pictures*, the festival, on Friday 20 March, promoted the creative arts across all year levels and students participated in activities from music-making to workshops in circus skills, contemporary dance and improv.

Judges faced tough decisions in the costume parade, photography and cupcake decorating competitions, and the Jim Nicholson Amnesty Talent Quest.
Perth College has celebrated three decades of showcasing the work of emerging and established local artists.

On Friday 27 March, Shirley Withers—who, in 1986, was instrumental in establishing a committee to raise an awareness of art within the School—officially opened the 30th Annual Art Exhibition.

From a single Boissevain painting, the committee has now collected 250 pieces of painting, sculpture, glass and textiles, which are on display across Perth College.

The committee also sponsors an annual artist-in-residence programme; in 2015, contemporary artist, Jarrad Martyn, spent two weeks working in the Art department, talking with students about his creative journey and developing a piece to feature in the exhibition.
From the Chaplain
By Father Barry Moss

“All life is a series of problems which we must try and solve. The first one, then the next, and then the next, until at last we die.”

So says the Dowager Countess in the hit television drama, Downton Abbey. I found this a pretty depressing thought and wondered where one goes with this view of life. Even in the episode this seemed to be emphasised with an elongated silence, with both the Dowager Countess and Lady Edith staring off into the distance.

If this is life, I think we are then left with what resembles a Greek tragedy and we find ourselves at the mercy of ‘the Gods’ or ‘fate’ or whatever life will throw at us. It seems we become just like tumbleweed, blowing this way and that without any meaning or purpose. I think such a view on life negates the reality of hope. Not a fool’s hope, but the hope that life is a wonder and however short or long, it is valued and precious.

At Perth College, the hope of possibility and wonder are things I see created anew every day. In general observation, I have noticed that students, however successful or disappointing their day has been, enter into a new one with the light of possibility, of hope, of wonder and engagement. It is no wonder Jesus gives that piece of spiritual direction; “If you do not become like a child you can never enter the kingdom of heaven.” I think Jesus is picking up just such an attitude to life that sees all a wonder. Yes, we all know that children can be selfish or petulant, wearing their emotions on their sleeves. But this actually exists in all of us; however, the added quality is that Jesus notices it doesn’t last.

Children can’t help but enter the kingdom of heaven, a new day, a new hope, to discover and learn again, full of possibility and wonder. Hurts are forgiven, life is to be enjoyed and celebrated. We can learn a lot from such observations.

Maybe we can look through our own calcified ideas and thoughts, the worries, pains and hurts we carry around. Our mind’s eye can fixate on these and by our will and determination, we seek to dominate and control, forcing the world into our image. Or, as the Dowager Countess expresses in Downton Abbey, a world of “series of problems which we must try and solve.” Or maybe we can take a leaf out of a child’s view of life and see the wonder and possibility of each new day which offers something worth celebrating.

In every school there are many people who make an invaluable contribution to the lives of both students and staff. Perth College was saddened to learn of the passing of Sister Marguerite, on Sunday 8 March, aged 96.

Sister Marguerite worked from 1962 until 1969 at the School in service to God, caring for boarders and helping with housekeeping services.

A funeral to celebrate her life was conducted by the Community of the Sisters of the Church (CSC) Chaplain General, Father Jonathan Ewer, in the Ham Common Chapel near London on Sunday 14 March.

Father Ewer spoke of Sr Marguerite surviving rheumatic fever as a child and staying at home in Hobart to care for her ageing parents before following her sister, Inez, into the CSC. She was professed in England and went on to work with children at Clevedon.

“She was good with the children: vibrant, full of beans and affectionate,” Fr Ewer said.

“She also had a gift for raising money.

“In those days there were very few grants for looking after children in care, so the sisters used to blitz the shops in Bristol begging for money.

“Marg loved doing that and she was very successful at it. Judith often had to go with her but hated the begging part of it. Nevertheless, they had a lot of fun together on these trips, especially if they were sent away for a couple of days to Gloucester or Hereford.”

When she and Inez returned to Australia, Sr Marguerite worked at St Michael’s Grammar School and Perth College.

Long-serving Perth College staff member, Affie Karalis, remembers Sisters Marguerite and Elspeth visiting her house with an offer of employment, and recalls Sr Marguerite spending much of her time singing and playing guitar with the boarders.

When the CSC gave up direct involvement in the schools it had founded in Australia, a new home for the Sisters was built at East Burwood, Victoria, and they had more time to explore other avenues of pastoral care. Sister Marguerite returned to the United Kingdom when East Burwood closed.

“One of the delights of being here was that she could join in the recitation—and singing—of the divine office,” Fr Ewer said.

“That meant a great deal to her—that and her frequent visits to the Benedictine abbey at Elmore.

“We give thanks for the confidence and courtesy with which she welcomed all who came through the door, looking for the higher ways of God and trying to grasp his thoughts.”

Tribute to Sister Marguerite, CSC

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Tribute to Sister Marguerite, CSC
Playing with the curriculum

Perth College’s youngest students are showing there’s more to play than just having fun.

Messy Mud Day, new nature play spaces and everyday objects found in the home are helping girls in the Founders Centre for Early Learning discover, create, improvise and imagine.

Play-based learning forms the basis of the early years programme and draws on the Reggio Emilia philosophy of northern Italy, focusing on learning through experiencing, exploring and interacting, and activities that encourage curiosity and problem-solving.

“At the basic level, as educators we believe play is such an important part of a young child’s life and how they interact with the world,” Dean of Early Learning, Kellie Heary, said.

“Perth College incorporates play into the curriculum and it isn’t limited to the classroom; our pedagogies extend into outdoor learning spaces to offer the girls even more possibilities and opportunities.”

New nature play spaces have recently been created on the main lawn outside the Preparatory building and the middle tier between Founders and the Junior School.

“The girls now have these amazing tailor-made environments that are safe but at the same time stimulate their imaginations, provide excitement and adventure, and allow them to develop socially, physically and mentally,” Mrs Heary said.

Messy Mud Day, held for all students from Kindergarten to Year 4 on Tuesday 31 March, provided a hands-on incursion that encouraged creativity, new textural and sensory experiences, and permission to be silly and have fun.

“Many modern day backyards are either quite small or designed more for the entertainment of adults, and so children often don’t get the opportunity to get dirty or make a mess,” Mrs Heary said.

“It was really delightful to see the girls jump out of their comfort zone and into a bucket of mud.”

‘Loose parts’ play has also been incorporated into the curriculum. Donations from families enabled staff to establish a collection of natural and manufactured materials as well as recycled goods for the girls to use as they wished.

“The girls use loose parts to invent, create, build, collaborate and so much more,” Mrs Heary said.

“There is a growing body of research to support the idea of free play to foster curiosity, learning and skills development.

“We still teach different subjects and literacy and numeracy, but the way we set up the environment further enhances students’ learning.”

Note-taking strategy goes global

When Alison Mackenzie and Marilyn Hand devised a strategy to help Junior School students learn to take notes, they never imagined the idea would take them halfway around the world.

The Teacher Librarian and Junior School English Co-ordinator will travel during August to the World Library and...
Information Congress held in Cape Town, South Africa.

They will talk about the strategy and share their experience of its implementation with more than 3,500 participants from 120 countries.

Ms Mackenzie and Mrs Hand have also prepared a chapter to feature in the publication, Global Action on School Library Guidelines, to be launched at the event. It includes contributions written by leading professionals and scholars from around the world, including Canada, Spain, Poland, Norway, the United States of America, Portugal, Sweden, France and Ethiopia.

“This is an opportunity for us to introduce our idea to an international audience,” Ms Mackenzie said.

“It is a great promotion for Perth College to show educators on a global scale what the School is doing and how it is leading the way.”

The note-taking strategy explicitly teaches students how to take notes to improve research, inquiry and comprehension across the primary years.

It was based on evidence from leading American researcher, Dr Robert Marzano, and his simple strategy of ‘keep, substitute, delete’. Students learn what information to keep, the words they can substitute and the information they can delete when taking notes.

Ms Mackenzie and Mrs Hand conducted presentations on the strategy throughout 2014 at local and interstate conferences and also created a video.

“The overwhelming response from other schools has been how lucky we are to have staff that readily took this idea on board and adopted it as a whole-school strategy,” Mrs Hand said.

“Learning how to take notes whilst researching is a skill which will benefit the girls through the Senior School and beyond, and feedback indicates parents also understand the importance of developing this lifelong skill, because it will be used across subjects from English to History to Geography and Science.”

Helping Hands for Sunshine House

Members of the Helping Hands community service club have made dolls to brighten the lives of less fortunate children in Cambodia.

The girls spent seven weeks during Term One working on the project, using calico, material off-cuts, buttons and wool.

Year 6 teacher, Madeline Lynam, suggested the idea to benefit the children at Sunshine House orphanage.

“It was hard work for the Year 6 girls to learn to sew and make sure their stitches were tiny while forming a strong barrier for the stuffing, but the end result speaks for itself,” she said.

“I had organised a similar project when I taught previously at other schools and travelled to work in an HIV clinic in the north of Vietnam.

“I took 200 dolls made by students from Years 6 to 8 with me and the presents were so gratefully received.”

The Helping Hands club’s dolls were delivered to Sunshine House by Senior School students participating in the Cambodian Odyssey during the April holidays.

Small change makes a big difference

Mia Freeman is spreading the word that loose change can change a child’s life.

The Year 6 student organised a fundraiser on Friday 20 March in which all girls in the Junior School were encouraged to donate just five cents each.

The coins—totalling more than $400—were pooled into a giant heart Mia constructed from tape on the brick paving outside the Junior School Library.

“We raised a lot more than I anticipated,” she said.

“Thank you to everyone who contributed to this fundraiser—you will have definitely changed someone’s life and helped them to lead happier lives.”

‘5 Cents for 5 Senses’ raised $428 to support United Way WA’s work for children suffering the loss or impairment of one or more of their senses: sight, touch, taste, sound or smell.

Helping Hands: Emily Narustrang

Junior School English Co-ordinator, Marilyn Hand, guides Year 3 students Alessa Genovese, Mimi Bunter and Ada Grealish through the steps of the note-taking strategy

Anastasia Barakovska (Year 5), Olivia Grant (Year 6) and Thais Pierrot work through the note-taking strategy with Teacher Librarian, Alison Mackenzie

The 5 Cents for 5 Senses fundraiser was the brainchild of Mia Freeman (Year 6)
Senior School

Year 11 Dinner Dance, Pan Pacific Hotel, Saturday 14 February

Photo credits: Bliss Studio
Year 12 Ball, Hyatt Regency Perth, Saturday 14 February

Photo credits: Bliss Studio
A Luckey meeting

A chance encounter with singer Harry Styles, of One Direction, has propelled Emily McDonagh into the digital world and the role of young entrepreneur.

An overwhelming response to a social media post about meeting the English musician in 2013 prompted Emily to create Luckey—an app allowing fans around the world to share photographs and stories about meeting celebrities.

Luckey was nominated for—and won—Google's student prize at this year's OzApp Awards. The Year 12 student met with entrepreneurs and investors from around the world at the ceremony held during the West Tech Fest at Perth Town Hall in February.

This included Farmville creator, Amitt Mahajan, and Chris Fry (Twitter's former Senior Vice President of Engineering).

Emily's prize was a visit during the April school holidays to Google's Australian headquarters in Sydney.

“When I bumped into Harry Styles at Crown, I posted the photo on Twitter and my phone started vibrating crazily from the notifications,” Emily said.

“People from countries like America, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia wanted to know what he was wearing, what he said, what he was like.

“Social media sites like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are quite specific and I realised there wasn’t a platform for people to share stories like mine.”

Since that chance encounter, Emily and her dad have formed a company and partnered with a developer in Melbourne to create Luckey.

“I want to capitalise on the ‘selfie’ trend; thousands of people each day are posting photos of themselves meeting their idols at concerts, the football and events around the world,” she said.

“We’ve spent the last few months writing our submission to Apple to get Luckey on its App Store and then we’ll be spreading the word and seeing what else we can do to engage users.”
Celebrating our high achievers

Twenty-four students in the Class of 2014 received prizes following their final WA Certificate of Education (WACE) examinations.

Sixteen girls attended an assembly to honour their achievements in February. Catherine Tu, who was awarded a General Exhibition by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority and also received a Certificate of Distinction for History, spoke to students about the secrets to her success.

“Year 12 can be overwhelming; if I could pass on any advice it would be to set some goals—think about what you want to get out of the year because it gives you purpose,” she said.

“You also need to schedule in your breaks to keep a balance in your life, and give yourself rewards for working hard.

“I found Year 12 is about perseverance and believing you can achieve your goals.”

Of the 118 girls eligible for an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR), seven per cent achieved a score of 99 or above, including Dux and Head Girl, Stephanie Tran (99.75).

Perth College had the highest performing students in WA in the Stage 3 courses of Biology; Chemistry; Dance; Economics; English; French; Geography; Literature; Mathematics 3AB; Mathematics 3CD; Physical Education Studies; Politics and Law; and Visual Arts.

Hayley Partington and Claire Shinkfield (English), Marie Martin (Geography), and Molly Goldacre (Physical Education Studies) received Certificates of Distinction (top 0.5 per cent of candidates in the state based on the WACE course score, or the top two candidates).

Twenty students received Certificates of Commendation for obtaining at least 20 grades of A in course units and achieving the WACE.

Girls get a career edge

Three Year 11 students have gained potential career head starts.

Georgia King and Brentisha Macale are working one day per week at the Mount Lawley ANZ branch as they each aim to complete a Certificate II in Business.

“The school-based traineeship is a wonderful opportunity for both of these girls to gain entry into the banking or finance industries,” Careers Counsellor, Paul Litwin, said.

Jacinta Coppin recently began working one day a week at Subiaco’s St John of God Hospital in the coronary care unit, alongside a Patient Care Assistant.

She has long held a dream of employment in the health sector and is passionate about helping her home town of Roebourne, where she undertakes work experience at the Mawarrikarra Health Service during school holidays.

Jacinta’s efforts will earn her a Certificate II in Health Support Services in 2015 and a Certificate III in Healthcare Systems if she continues the traineeship next year.

“I just like helping people,” she said.

“I really want to be able to help my family and community and I know they are encouraging me to do well—if I can maintain my grades, I think I will be able to achieve anything I set my mind to.”

Principal, Jenny Ethell, said Jacinta’s traineeship was a unique opportunity to work with patients who were extremely ill and gain valuable experience.

“This will stand her in good stead to get a full-time job in any health care or aged-care facility and is also a great stepping stone to a career in nursing,” she said.
The 2015 Student Officials were humbled to be elected to leadership positions for their final year at Perth College. The members of the Student Executive shared their feelings about their responsibilities, hopes and plans for the School.

Alison Jones (Deputy Head Day Girl):
We were all pretty ecstatic when we found out what our positions were. I felt incredibly privileged, humbled and overwhelmed. Throughout the application process, we all had a lot of support from our peers; people cared more than I realised. We all have a unified vision for what we want to achieve.

Claire Barnetson (Head Boarder): To represent the people I am so passionate about, along with a really energetic and supportive Boarding Executive (Rachel Walters, Gabrielle Inglis and Kym Barrett-Lennard), is very special to me, and I feel honoured to have been given the opportunity.

Lola Baldsing (Head Girl): All of the Officials, not just the Student Executive and the Student Representative Council, work so well together; most of us have been mates for ages.

Sophia Cain (Head Day Girl): We want to extend that culture of working and mixing together to the rest of the student body; breaking year group boundaries and bringing all of the girls together, so everyone mingles, regardless of their age or whether they’re a boarder or day student, is one of our goals this year.

Lola Baldsing (Head Girl): It’s nice that so many people haven’t been afraid to stop us around the School and tell us they like what we’re doing so far, and that they appreciate it. Our message in 2015 is ‘Stand up, Stand out’; ‘Stand up’ is about taking opportunities, living life to the full, taking pride in and taking care of yourself, and being an active member of the world. It means standing up with conviction for who you are and what you believe in as well as important matters in the world; one of our biggest focuses this year is feminism and taking pride in being a woman.

Georgie Wilkie (Deputy Head Girl): It’s about making more for yourself. We know we have an influence on the younger girls who are still trying to figure out their identities and what they believe in; they get conflicting messages in the media, at home, outside school, and from boys, so we want to spark discussion to help them talk things through.

Lola Baldsing: ‘Stand Out’ is about trying your hardest, finding what is special about you and taking pride in it and what you do. Standing out from the crowd by being yourself and being proud of it.

Getting to know our Head Girl

Name: Lola Baldsing

How long have you attended Perth College? I’ve been at PC for eight years, moving here in Year 5.

What does your role as Head Girl involve? I’m a lots of planning, organisation and teamwork. I’m always working with other Officials, especially the Executive Council, planning activities, events and displays. It’s a bit of work, but it is a lot of fun and very satisfying. It also involves acting as a role model for younger girls, but there’s nothing better than feeling like you have helped to inspire other students.

Do you have any special memories from your time at PC? One of my best memories would have to be the Murchison camp in Year 10, especially the solo day shenanigans. I’ll remember drinking our hot chocolate (with copious amounts of sugar and marshmallows mixed in) under the stars while having a ‘deep and meaningful’ for a long time.

Another special memory would be working on the Myola. It was so fulfilling to see the magazine come together after months of hard work, all the while collecting a large number of inside jokes and the mini Myola family.

What is special about Perth College? Its network, both inside and outside of school. There are so many people on hand to help at PC while also making the School a fun and caring environment. As for outside of school, there really is something special about being out in your uniform and having someone say, “I went to Perth College, too.” I was at a wedding a few months ago where the guests included generations of Old Girls, and everyone had a story to tell about PC; you just get embraced by the shared experience of attending the School.

Can you tell us something about yourself that is not commonly known? Most people are a bit surprised when they meet my father and find out I’m half Sri Lankan. I have been fortunate enough to visit Sri Lanka a few times; I really love it there.

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Can you tell us something about yourself that is not commonly known? Most people are a bit surprised when they meet my father and find out I’m half Sri Lankan. I have been fortunate enough to visit Sri Lanka a few times; I really love it there.
As a Housekeeper in the Boarding House and supporter of many of the School’s events, Affie Karalis holds a special place in the hearts of countless students and staff. She has shared her background and family life with many of them: just as Affie had been about to begin a Science degree in Romania, she had returned to Greece, married and eventually arrived in Perth, speaking little English and knowing no-one.

Affie recalls visiting Perth College from her home in nearby Grosvenor Street in 1966 to seek domestic work.

While the School did not offer her employment immediately, Sisters Elspeth and Marguerite visited Affie the following week with a proposal and, on 6 June 1966, she began a part-time job.

Affie is quoted in *Built on Faith: A History of Perth College 1902–2012*:

> “From my first day till today, I thank God for leading my footsteps to this beautiful institution. From my first day I fell in love with the people in it, the friendliness of them, with the students, with the young thriving life, and with a Chapel… we could go in after work or during lunch time and say our prayers and that was the beauty of the job.”

Of the School canteen—known as Affie’s Café—being named after her, Affie said, “I never in my dreams expected such an honour; I don’t know what I did to deserve it.”

Principal, Jenny Ethell, said Affie had a genuine love for Perth College and a remarkable ability to remember the name of every Old Girl who returned to visit her at School.

“She has seen generations of girls come and go, and been like a second mother to many of them,” Mrs Ethell said.

“Affie spoke at her 40th anniversary celebration for 20 minutes without notes, and didn’t forget to acknowledge or thank anyone.

“Her gratefulness, generosity and overwhelming love for everything and everyone in the School are extraordinary.”

School Archivist, Trish Montgomery, said every organisation needed an ‘Affie Karalis’.

“Prior to contract cleaning, no matter the disaster, the message was ‘just go ask Affie’,” Mrs Montgomery said.

“From accidental spills on carpet, clothing or whatever, it was always Affie to the rescue.”

Deputy Head of Boarding, Nola McIntyre, agreed.

“I had a stain on my son’s cricket pants; after trying a few potions I could not remove it so I sought the advice of an expert—Affie,” she said.

“She took me into her laundry and put a little dishwashing liquid on the stain, gave it a rub, said a little prayer (the magic ingredient) and then put it in the machine; Presto! The pants came out like new.

“Affie has been more than a miracle worker—she has been my mother, grandmother friend and counsellor, for many years. It is very hard to express just what Affie means to me.”

Affie said Perth College had become her second home.

“It has been my life; the people who work here are amazing and I have loved seeing the School transform,” she said.

“My heart and soul belong to the staff and students, especially the boarders; I walked in 50 years ago knowing no-one and will walk out knowing a world of amazing people.”

Perth College families and Old Girls are invited to celebrate Affie’s contribution to the School.

**Afternoon tea**

**Date:** Sunday 7 June  
**Time:** 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm  
**Venue:** Affie’s Café

Perth College will mark the end of an era when long-serving staff member, Afrodit ‘Affie’ Karalis, retires after nearly 50 years.
One hundred years ago, work began to construct a new school for Perth College in Mount Lawley. Exciting plans are afoot to ensure the continuation of a world-class education with contemporary facilities for all students.

“It is fitting we are considering such a major development as we celebrate 100 years since construction began on this very site,” Principal, Jenny Ethell, said.

“If we are to continue enhancing the quality of education for our Senior School students, we need to provide contemporary facilities.

“The Centre will enable more flexible delivery of the curriculum and also complement the work we are doing through InsideOut, supporting the development of the girls’ leadership and citizenship skills.”

Mrs Ethell said feedback from the community at a Dialogue Café in January and Open Day sessions in March was overwhelmingly positive.

The School hopes to lodge a development application to the City of Stirling later this year.

The building is proposed to include:

- New learning spaces
- An open theatrette for lectures
- Examination rooms, negating the use of the Pavilion
- Video conferencing facilities
- Staff offices
- A new boarders’ dining hall
- Underground parking for 40 cars, decreasing traffic congestion on local streets
solar heating, which in the long run will save significant amounts of gas usage from the existing gas boiler. “The filtration system uses an ultra fine filter which will save thousands of litres of water as the backwashing is carried out a lot less than traditional sand filters.” Perth College Pool Manager, John Fielding, said the project was necessary to extend the facility’s lifespan, and students as well as members of the Perth Swim Academy had given it “the big thumbs up.”

Pool transformation a winner

The renovation of the School swimming pool has earned Commercial Aquatics Australia a major award.

The company received gold in the commercial pool renovation category at the 2014 Swimming Pool and Spa Association (SPASA) WA Awards of Excellence. Judges believed the project had enhanced the overall look of the facility and resulted in an outstanding transformation.

It was the first major renovation in the pool’s 30-year history.

Red brick paving was removed and replaced by a concrete aggregate finish to ensure the surface surrounding the pool was not slippery when wet. The pool walls were lowered and a level wet deck inserted to allow for easier entry to, and exit from, the water. New starting blocks, electric rollers for the pool covers, liner and tiles were also installed.

Additionally, the plant room in the basement of the Science block was completely renovated.

Commercial Aquatics Australia Project Manager, John Mandelt, said the renovation was significant for not only the scope of the works but also the environmental benefits it delivered.

“A Myrtha prefabricated stainless steel guttering system to the side walls was installed to provide better filtration, along with new pipework along the centre of the pool, new balance tank and new filtration system,” he said.

“The internal pool liner was replaced with a commercial grade liner and a purpose-built under seating pool blanket was provided along with state-of-the-art filtration system, which in the long run will save significant amounts of gas usage from the existing gas boiler. “The filtration system uses an ultra fine filter which will save thousands of litres of water as the backwashing is carried out a lot less than traditional sand filters.” Perth College Pool Manager, John Fielding, said the project was necessary to extend the facility’s lifespan, and students as well as members of the Perth Swim Academy had given it “the big thumbs up.”

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The Perth College Foundation is aiming to raise $10 million by 2017 and is well on its way to reaching this ambitious goal.

On track to reach target

The ‘culture of giving’ at Perth College is growing stronger.

The School is building a substantial capital base to ensure it can continue to offer innovative teaching and learning programmes, modern resources and opportunities for current and future generations of students.

Principal, Jenny Ethell, was delighted the Perth College Foundation has exceeded its initial target of raising $2 million in five years.

She said the generosity of the School family and the community had enabled the Foundation to raise $8 million within three years.

“Wishing that I had a strong network of supporters who are all keen to ensure Perth College girls have a positive and worthwhile experience at the School,” she said.

“Their contributions are invaluable and humbling, and I am so grateful they all understand the value of a Perth College education.”

Old Girl, Bree Ludlow, took over as Chair of the Foundation in early 2014. She is determined the Foundation will raise $10 million by 2017 and hopes to engage more of the School community in the Foundation’s long-term plans.

She said the generosity of donors in 2014 had helped the Foundation to fund six scholarships and special awards at the Junior and Senior School Presentation Nights.

Scholarships honour past students

Two scholarships have been created due to the generosity of Old Girls.

The Margaret and Patricia Feilman InsideOut Scholarship was awarded for the first time to a Year 10 student in 2014, who is flourishing at Perth College and has immersed herself in academic and co-curricular activities.

“It is exciting to be a part of her journey through the School and know her life has changed due to the contribution of our donors,” Mrs Ethell, said.

The scholarship was created due to a $600,000 gift to the Scholarship Fund from the Feilman Foundation, which was established following the sale of Lefroy Retreat in Augusta and named the Joan and George Lefroy Academic Scholarship in recognition of their generous support of the School.

Chair, Bree Ludlow, said the Foundation aimed to raise $1.5 million for the Scholarship Fund through its Annual Giving programme.

“As an Old Girl with so many fond memories of my time at Perth College, it gives me great joy to know countless students will be able to have a similar experience to mine,” she said.

2006 Leaver, Tiffany Ha, said her academic scholarship was a life-changing opportunity.

“My parents came to Australia as refugees before they finished high school, so education was always a priority in our home,” she said.

“Without the qualifications to earn an income that could send me to a private school, it was a foregone conclusion that I was to attend a public high school.

“Fortunately, with great surprise and honour, I was awarded a near-full academic scholarship for all five years of my secondary schooling at Perth College.

“Without the generosity of the Perth College Foundation, I never would have been given the top-tier education, the invaluable networks of friends and colleagues, and the once-in-a-lifetime opportunities I received both during my years at Perth College and beyond.”

They provided grants for charitable organisations such as education, children and youth, culture and the environment, and the School therefore renamed the InsideOut Scholarship in their honour.

A new scholarship will be offered to a student commencing in Years 10 or 11 at Perth College in 2015, based on academic performance and financial need. It was established following the sale of Lefroy Retreat in Augusta and named the Joan and George Lefroy Academic Scholarship in recognition of their generous support of the School.

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Leaving a legacy

Twelve bequests to the Perth College Foundation have been confirmed.

The School was fortunate to receive bequests in 2014 from the estates of Edith Margaret Treloar (1928 Leaver) and Beverley Cook (1950 Leaver).

Mrs Ethell will host the third annual Jacaranda Society function later this year to thank those who have made a provision for Perth College in their will.

“Bequests have played a significant part throughout the years in the School’s development,” she said.

“The generosity of benefactors has enabled the construction of facilities and infrastructure such as the Jean Rogerson Science Building, and assists Perth College to remain a leader in girls’ education.”

In 2014, the Foundation received $26,000 from bequests.

Val Mayger, a past student and former President of the Old Girls’ Association, said she had made a bequest to the School having seen its rapid and significant development since attaining her Leaving Certificate in 1957.

“I have met so many students and been impressed with their caring, confident and competent demeanours and their courage in thinking outside the square,” she said.

“I made a bequest knowing it will give more girls the opportunity to experience the excellent education and nurturing environment Perth College offers and for which it is so well-known.”

Summary of 2014 donations

The Perth College Foundation received $1.23 million in gifts to the School’s Scholarship, Building and General Funds in 2014.

These donations have enabled the School to continue to provide a range of experiences and opportunities for each student to help her become a smart, confident and determined young woman.

To find out more about giving to the Perth College Foundation, contact the Director of Community Development, Jo Nitz, via email to foundation@pc.wa.edu.au or phone (08) 9471 2119.

Alternatively, visit the Giving area of the School website www.perthcollege.wa.edu.au for more information about the Perth College Foundation.

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2014 Donor Honour Roll

The Perth College Foundation acknowledges the support of current and past parents, Old Girls, past and present staff, and past Council members. Thank you to the many donors who have chosen to remain anonymous; we appreciate your kind support.

Mrs M Ash  Mrs P Balgera  Mrs J Barnwell  OAM  Mr P & Mrs L Benwell  Mr M & Mrs E Benwell  Ms L Bishop & Mr C O’Sullivan  Ms M Black  Mrs M Blechynden  Mr J & Mrs S Boase  Mrs R Borshoff  Mrs J Bush  Miss H Butler  Mrs K Carroll & Mr M Carroll  Mr M & Mrs J Christie  Mrs S Cobbold & Mr J Cobbold  Mrs G Collins  Miss B Cook  Mrs S Cresswell & Mr A Cresswell  Mr K & Ms S Daken  Mrs G D’Andrilli  Mrs V De Alwis & Mr M De Alwis  Mrs M De Ray & Mr J De Ray  Mrs H Devaney  Mr R & Mrs F Ding  Mrs J & Mr M Drake-Brockman  Mrs B Dundas & Mr G Dundas  Mr J Durack  Mrs J Ethell & Rev D Ethell  Mrs L Francis  Mr N & Mrs F French  Miss V Gmeiner  Miss S Gray  Mrs J Green  Mrs B Grieve  Mrs P Gurry  Dr K Hammond & Dr R Braham  Mrs N Harper  Mrs E Hopkinson  Mrs R Hyde  Mrs H Hyde  Mrs B Ireland  Mr R & Mrs M Jackson  Ms N James & Mr J Lo  Mrs C Jamieson & Mr C Jamieson  Miss L Keddie  Mrs E Kelsch & Mr M Kelsch  Mrs S Kenny  Mr K Knighton  Mrs C Launder & Mr S Launder  Miss J Lee-Visser  Mrs J & Mr G Lefroy  Mrs K Liew & Mr C Liew  Dr V Longley  Mrs B Ludlow & Mr J Ludlow  Mr W Luk & Ms X Kao  Mrs C MacLeod  Mrs S Mahoney  Mrs E McCallum  Mrs M McCart  Mrs T McDiven  Mrs C McKay & Mr P McKay  Mrs H McPherson  Mrs T Mitchell  Mr J Moriss  Mr V & Mrs J Muller  Dr J & Mrs J Neilson  Mrs F Nicholls  Mrs J Nitz  Mrs B O’Reilly  Mrs B O’Shannessy  Mrs A Parker  Mrs A Pembroke  Dr A Perkovic & Mr D Cimesa  Mrs J Pierrot & Mr M Pierrot  Protection Engineering P/L  Mrs N Radford  Mrs R Roberts  Mrs P Roe  Mrs P Saunders  Mrs A Selleck & Mr J Selleck  Mrs J Sharbanee & Mr P Sharbanee  Mrs D Shub  Dr O Shulman & Dr G Shulman  Mrs J Simkin & Mr B Simkin  Ms C Slater  Dr S Smedley & Mr J Smedley  Mrs R Smith & Mr G Smith  Mr D & Mrs K Stevens  Mrs M Suthers & Dr J Suthers  Ms N Swannell  The Feilman Foundation Ltd  Mr A Tilbury  Mrs M Treloar  Mr M Vaillancourt & Ms L Taylor  Mr E Vieira  Mrs B Zusman
Community Events

Parent Welcome Sundowner, Sunday 1 February, Founders Centre for Early Learning

New Parents’ Dinner, Wednesday 25 February, Perth College Big Quad
Open Day visitors were able to watch performances during a Year 12 Dance Technique class (Adelle Lantzke, pictured).

Emily Dowden, Zoe Avery, Stephanie Dunkeld, Gianna Lu and Brinnell Pilling run the Boarders’ Stall as a fundraising activity.

Year 6 tour guides take visitors through the Junior School Library.

Visitors were able to watch the Barbershop, conducted by Val Lang, during its lunchtime rehearsal.

Saxophone quartet members, Nina Mueller, Elina Brajkovich, Emily Gelineau and Alisha Hiscox.

Emily Gelineau, Ella Doddemead, Harriet Kent and Josephine Nolan perform for visitors.

Open Day. Monday 2 March, Perth College

PC High Tea. Thursday 12 March, The Rise, Maylands

Save the Date!

Friends of Music Cocktail Evening
Friday 22 May, 7.00 pm to 9.30 pm
Perth College campus

Year 12 Father Daughter Breakfast
Friday 12 June, 7.00 am
Mount Lawley Golf Club

Friends of Perth College Tastings and Tapas Evening
Saturday 15 August, 6.00 pm
Perth College Big Quad
From our Old Girls

The emphasis on diversity at Perth College has ensured our Old Girls are pursuing interesting and varied pathways.

From student to staff

During her five years as a boarder at Perth College, Jasmyn Fullgrabe never contemplated returning to the School as a staff member.

Now a Health and Physical Education Trainee, she is working at the School for 12 months to complete a Certificate III in Sport and Recreation.

The skills and qualification she gains will enable her to support the operations of facilities such as fitness and aquatic centres and outdoor sporting complexes.

The traineeship is administered through the AFL SportsReady education and employment programme and will also help Jasmyn build experience in customer service and administration.

She was surprised when Head of Health and Physical Education, Renae Campbell, asked her late last year to consider undertaking the traineeship.

“I had always wanted to study a Certificate III or IV in Fitness at TAFE or possibly a Diploma in Fitness to become a Personal Trainer,” Jasmyn said.

“I considered coaching but never teaching; the traineeship has opened doors for me and is a great foundation for anything I want to pursue next year.”

Jasmyn said the traineeship was also an opportunity for personal development.

“Boarding prepared me so much for being independent but it’s still hard being away from home and taking responsibility for things like renting a house, paying bills, cooking and cleaning—even driving myself to and from work every day,” she said.

“I’m also seeing the School through fresh eyes as a staff member.”

Jasmyn’s duties include assisting with administration in the Physical Education department, organising events, helping to run Junior School classes, coaching, and supervising students using gym equipment.

Mrs Campbell said Jasmyn’s strengths included her strong work ethic and character.

“Her natural ability to lead others makes her a valuable coach and mentor to the students she works with,” she said.

“Jasmyn has adapted to full-time working life with great aplomb and now with one term under her belt, we look forward to watching her progress as she determines where her future career interests lie.

“She is a great addition to the PE department and has made an amazing transition from student to employee.”

Finding her feet at Oxford

2006 Leaver and 2014 Rhodes Scholar, Freya Shearer, is throwing herself into life as a student at Oxford University.
While she misses her family, friends and the weather in Perth, Freya is embracing the challenge of the prestigious institution’s equivalent of a Doctor of Philosophy as well as its co-curricular opportunities.

Freya arrived at Oxford in October last year and is completing a DPhil in the Spatial Ecology and Epidemiology Group.

“I’m researching the spatial epidemiology of three mosquito-borne diseases: Yellow Fever, West Nile Fever and Japanese Encephalitis,” she said.

“I have learnt so much studying alongside students from all over the world with vastly different backgrounds and interests, and I’m continually challenged by their diverse perspectives and ideas.”

Freya has also become involved in the Rhodes Scholars’ Southern Africa Forum, which supports community development initiatives by providing small grants, and is training for the 100m and 400m hurdle events with the Oxford University Athletics Club for a varsity match against Cambridge in May.

She aims to return to Australia in the second half of 2017 and hopes to work in public health research or programme development.

At the top of her game

Paula Balgera can’t remember a time when her life didn’t revolve around horses.

A 2002 Leaver, she began riding at the age of six and moved through pony club, hacking, dressage and show jumping before discovering a love of quarter horses.

Paula is now the President of the Australian Quarter Horse Association amateur division and lives in Gooseberry Hill with her husband, Aaron, their toddler, Bianca, and infant son, Angelo.

The family owns and runs an agistment property, Cavallino Estate, in Tamworth, New South Wales, with Paula’s father, John Di Candilo, and mother, Zhana, herself an Old Girl of Perth College (1975).

They have a specialised team of Western Show horses competing at state and national levels, and spend at least four months each year at Cavallino for the competition season, which runs from February until May.

“I’ve got at least three jobs: dad’s personal assistant, the bookwork, and running the horse property,” Paula said.

“I also compete and because Tamworth has the biggest equestrian centre in Australia—it’s where all of the major shows bar one are held—I’m always travelling; I’ve driven across the Nullarbor 15 times.”

Paula and her mare, Good Ride Girl, took top honours in four of the big Western Pleasure Shows in 2014.

“It took me nearly 20 years to work to where I am,” she said.

“I’m at the top of my game now and there’s not really any higher I can go unless I start competing in America but it’s very expensive and difficult with a family.

“I’m going to go one day!”

Paula credits her determination to both her schooling and her parents.

“I was very stubborn so I wanted to get A-grades in every class, but dad also said I couldn’t ride after school unless I had top marks, so it gave me something to work towards,” she said.

“The School rewarded you when you behaved and worked hard.”

Bianca is enrolled to join Perth College in Year 5.

Pleiades unites Old Girls across the years

Members of the Pleaides Club have reunited for the first time in many years for a cocktail function in Floreat.

Old Girls from eight schools are hoping to renew interest in the organisation, which was first formed in the 1930s.

It initially comprised alumni from seven schools—Perth College, Methodist Ladies’ College, Presbyterian Ladies’ College, St Mary’s Anglican Girls’ School, St Hilda’s Anglican School for Girls, Loreto Convent School (now amalgamated with St Louis College as John XXIII) and Kobeelya.

The organisation took its name from the cluster of stars (the Pleaides) in the constellation of Carina, which is traditionally known as the Seven Sisters.

Members organised monthly dances, fashion parades, Christmas parties, plays and musical performances. Former Old Girls’ Association President, Bev Ireland, said debutante balls were also popular, with debutantes and their partners presented to the Governor and his wife.

“The founders of the Club and the members set high social standards and took pride in every facet of their activities,” she said.

“Seven Stars’ balls were held every year and continued through to the 1970s, and many former Perth College girls were debutantes.

“Leading up to the ball, we had training in how to walk, curtsiey and dance; all the debs held a party of various sorts so it was quite a social time.”

The Club now comprises alumni from eight schools—Perth College, MLC, PLC, St Mary’s, St Hilda’s, Iona Presentation College, Penrhos College and Santa Maria College.

Old Girls from these schools met in March, allowing members to mingle at a cocktail function.

In September, Perth College will host representatives from the alumni associations of the eight schools, to share ideas about increasing interest in Pleaides, plan networking opportunities and propose fundraising ideas for local charities.

The School will also host a cocktail function for all Old Girls from the Pleaides Club schools in early 2016 to raise funds for Sunshine House in Cambodia.
Imogen keeps improving

Imogen Kelsch is proving herself as an athlete to watch after winning a medal at a national competition.

The Year 11 boarding student finished in third place in the under-18 javelin at the Australian Junior Athletics Championships held in Sydney during March.

Imogen earned a bronze medal with a personal best throw of 40.52m.

The result followed a gold in the equivalent event at the State Athletics Championships in February, when she threw a distance of 38.65m—nine metres longer than her closest rival.

Imogen has also represented Western Australia at under-15 level, travelling to Kuala Lumpur for an international competition in 2013.

A member of the University of Western Australia Little Athletics Club, Imogen also enjoys playing volleyball and netball.

During the recent school holidays, Imogen returned home to Broome and acted as a mentor for local students at the Broome Senior High School Specialist Athletics Academy.

Future bright in swimming

Perth College has a strong future in swimming if the performances at the Years 7–12 House Swimming Championships are anything to go by.

Hannah Sivic (Year 7) broke the 50m breaststroke record of 43.13 seconds with a new time of 41.44 at the event on Wednesday 11 February.

Brooke Rego (Year 9) was the Junior 100m freestyle champion and also won the Pat Bold Trophy (champion open 50m freestyle) in a time of 29.92 seconds.

Lexi Njirich (Year 10) was the Senior 100m freestyle champion and won the Christine Morrison Trophy (champion open 50m breaststroke) in 38.88 seconds.

Campion was the champion House with 2,144 points, closely followed by Bedford with 2,029.50. Lawley earned 1,888.50 to claim third place while Barron finished in fourth with 1,607.

Individual year group champions were:

- Hannah Sivic (Bedford—Year 7)
- Rhiannon Smit (Campion—Year 8)
- Brooke Rego (Lawley—Year 9)
- Lexi Njirich (Campion—Year 10)
- Eilidh Harcus (Bedford—Year 11)
- Hannah Piesse (Lawley—Year 12).

Campion claims Junior School title

Campion students put in strong performances to earn victory for their House with 1,183 points at the Years 3–6 Swimming Olympics on Wednesday 11 March.

Lawley followed in second place with 1,061 points while Barron was third with 980 points and Bedford had 567.

Georgia Goff was the Year 6 Champion and also won the Richelle Jose Trophy for the fastest 100m freestyle. In the younger year groups, the champion swimmers were Emily Haywood (Year 4) and Sofia Garreffa (Year 5).
Thirty-six years of service is a worthy achievement by any standard and so it was that Louise Spurrier, after completing a Master of Arts in Philosophy, Economics and History at Melbourne University, married and moved to Western Australia to join the teaching staff at Perth College in 1912.

This acquisition provided the School with an outstanding classroom teacher who used innovative methods and was eventually appointed Headmistress. Mrs Lou’s way of teaching—unusual in the early 1900s—include lecturing and encouraging the girls to understand the subject rather than rote-learning the facts. She was noted for not adopting a ‘spoon-fed’ method and, in so doing, provided a fluent transition for her students from school to university.

Due to her pursuit of excellence, Louise Russell Smith was in demand in educational circles and remained at Perth College possibly because of the decision by Sister Rosalie to relinquish her own position to take on the role of Principal while appointing Mrs Lou as Headmistress in 1921. It was a position Mrs Lou held until her retirement in 1949.

The Literacy Society was initiated by Mrs Lou to encourage a love of quality literature. A novel, poetry, play or historical essay would be set for students to read, with a meeting to follow, allowing free discussion which was highly valued by the girls.

An invitation to afternoon tea at Mrs Lou’s home in Guildford, during which spirited intellectual discussion would take place, was considered an honour.

The much-loved and respected Mrs Lou passed away in 1953; in 1954 a group of Old Girls, with the blessing of Sister Rosalie, established the Louise Russell Smith Memorial Fund to present books of quality to the School Library. Such was the desire to honour their late Headmistress, students donated approximately 400 volumes. Many Old Girls often mentioned the immeasurable debt to which they owed this devoted educationalist.

“For her mental stature, her breath of vision, for her ability as a teacher, and for the scope of her interest in humanity—she is well remembered.”

On 27 July 2013 we, the Darge family—Trevor, Sue, Harrison and Ruby—were enjoying a typical Saturday afternoon when a fire broke out in our family home. It began with a smell of burning and a small wisp of smoke rising from the centre of our recently renovated two-storey home. By the time the fire brigade arrived, 15 minutes later, the house was fully ablaze. Despite the best efforts of the firefighters, the house was severely damaged by fire. The whole top storey had to be removed for safety reasons.

In the days that followed we tried to comprehend the incomprehensible—how we as a family had gone from a lovely house of some 18 years, with all its treasured possessions, to a smouldering ruin. No books, no clothes and nowhere to live! Fortunately, we had the support and comfort of a generous group of family and friends.

We had an immediate problem of finding a roof to go over our heads. Through the efforts and kindness of Principal, Jenny Ethell, and Director of Finance and Administration, Tony Gooey, a solution was quickly found. We were able to move into a residence near Perth College maintained for the use of visiting boarding parents and clergy.

For the next two weeks we were the guests of Perth College, enjoying the kindness of the staff and the support of Ruby’s friends and their parents. It was an oasis of calm amongst the troubles. A long and difficult 18 months followed but now we are delighted to say we have moved back into our restored home—regarding each brick, tile and window with a new fondness.

A house fire is an unforgettable event. But also unforgettable is the strength of the bonds that exist between a school, its students and their families. Our family sincerely thanks the Perth College community for its care and generosity.
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