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## Pulling on their footy boots

▲ Perth College boarders warm up at Optus Stadium ahead of a curtain-raiser match against Santa Maria College

▼ Boarders enjoyed a training session with West Coast Eagles Game Development Manager Adam Selwood in the lead up to the curtain-raiser against Santa Maria College

AFL is a relatively new sport at Perth College but several girls are already showing talent.

Five Year 10 boarders have joined the youth girls' team at Subiaco Football Club, for whom Physical Education teachers Courtney Stubbs and Amy Lavell play for, in the WA Women's Football League.

Mikayla Morrison (Year 11) is captain of the East Perth Women's Football Club youth team and recently played in exhibition

matches at Subiaco Oval with the state AFL Women's 16s squad.

Twelve boarders made history when they played in a curtain-raiser before the West Coast Eagles versus Essendon match – only the fourth women's football game to be played at Optus Stadium. It was a tight contest, with Santa Maria College emerging victorious with a score of 9.6 (60) to Perth College's 8.6 (54).

Providing opportunities for the next wave of potential athletes to develop a love of AFL is a high priority at Perth College.

"Many boarders are exposed to AFL with their connections to country football and interest in women's AFL is growing rapidly at Perth College, particularly now with AFLW providing an opportunity for girls to play at the highest level," Miss Stubbs said.

Students have been inspired by Mrs Lavell, who played for Fremantle during the first two AFLW seasons. She said AFLW had broken barriers and showed girls they could do anything they chose to without being impacted by gender.





## A Note from the Principal

### Dear friends,

It's been 10 years since we began publishing *Community Link* and much has happened in that time.

Hundreds of girls have graduated. Our newest facilities Excelsior House and the Founders Centre for Early Learning have been built and they are enjoyed by both students and the community.

The success of our *InsideOut* self-leadership programme is being shared around Australia and the world.

We have developed relationships with many local organisations to not only enhance learning but to also fundraise and allow girls and staff to give back to the community. One example is the Mount Lawley-Inglewood ANZAC Day service; it has been an honour to work each year with a vast

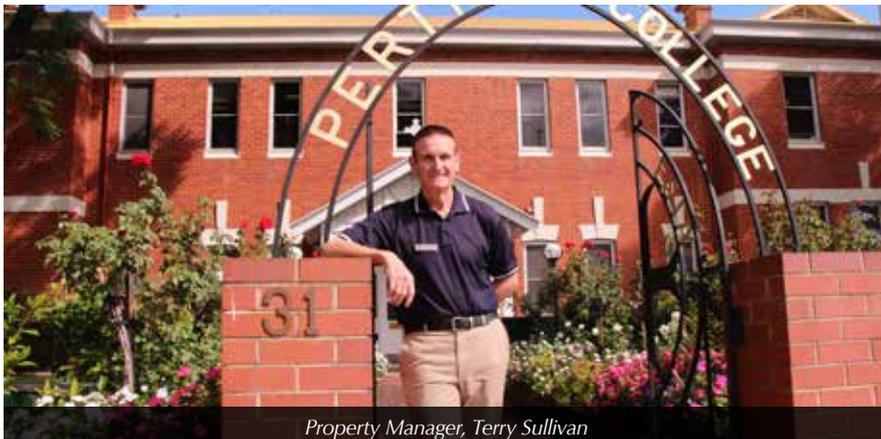
array of individuals, businesses and community groups to organise this event and commemorate such an important occasion.

I will be sad to step down in December after 16 years at Perth College, but I head to an independent school in regional New South Wales with many happy memories, knowing Perth College is one of the leading girls' schools in the country. It has been a privilege to live and work in the Mount Lawley community.

Next year will see a new leadership structure at Perth College, as our Director of Finance and Administration, Tony Gooley – whose two daughters are Perth College graduates – retires. We are also preparing to farewell our Property Manager Terry Sullivan, who joined the staff in 1997 and is known to many of our local business operators. We are currently recruiting across Australia for a new Principal and it is anticipated that an exceptional school leader will be appointed by the end of Term Three.

Thank you for your continued support of our school. I invite you to join us at our Community Christmas Carols in November to celebrate the festive season and a successful 12 months.

Warm regards,  
**Jenny Ethell**



Property Manager, Terry Sullivan

## Students sleep out for good cause

Four Year 10 students have swapped their school bags for sleeping bags to raise awareness and funds for homeless young people.

Erin, Hannah, Sarah and Charlotte are ambassadors for Anglicare and took part in the organisation's School Sleep Out at Optus Stadium on Friday 3 August.

The event gives students a glimpse into the lives of homeless youth and offers a brief experience of what 6,000 young people across Western Australia experience every night. Funds raised from the Sleep Out benefit Anglicare's Street Connect bus, which provides youth in the Perth CBD with counselling, referrals and resources to connect them to essential services.

"The Street Connect bus is very important as it drives around Perth streets to help homeless youth find their place in society," Charlotte said.

"Without the support from the Street Connect bus many of these young people would still be on the streets.

"This is a very important cause and without the help from the public it would no longer be running."



Erin, Hannah, Sarah and Charlotte braved a cold night to raise funds for homeless youth

## Students turn their hands to sustainable farming

Perth College Junior School girls are raising fish and growing plants in a new aquaponics system in which fish waste provides an organic food source for plants and in return, the plants naturally filter the water for the fish.

Students are enriching their learning across a range of subjects and learning about ecosystems, life cycles and sustainability, and are even tasting some of the produce.

"The aquaponics system allows students to see sustainability and urban food production in action," teacher Melanie Somers said.

"The girls have been responsible for the daily maintenance of the system, monitoring the chemical levels in the water and feeding the fish."

A team of Year 6 girls has also used the aquaponics system to enter a Science and Technologies competition run by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, which encouraged students to investigate how technology can support farmers. The girls won the Years 3-6 category.

During Term Two, the team monitored the growth of a spinach crop and compared it to spinach grown in soil. They learned to programme a drone to take digital photographs of the crops and then analyse the images using specialist software that tracked crop progress.

The investigation found that spinach farmed in the aquaponics system grew much faster, had more leaves per plant, and had a richer colour compared to spinach grown in soil.

The team also surveyed the boarding families of Perth College about drone technology and found it was commonly used to check crop health, monitor stock and check for weeds. The girls believe sustainable farming is the way of the future and drones have an important role to play.



Emily (above) and Makayla (below) hard at work learning about ecosystems, life cycles and sustainability



Angelhands founder Ann O'Neill with Perth College student Amy, who led a fundraising and awareness drive about the cause at school

## Perth College angels eye world record

Perth College students, parents and staff were among 712 'angels' to gather at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre in an attempt to break a world record.

In support of Angelhands, a non-profit organisation providing services for those recovering from major trauma, people wearing halos and wings came together on Wednesday 27 June to beat the Canadian record of 1,275.

Perth College girls took this cause to heart and also wore a white ribbon during the school day in exchange for a gold coin donation, raising \$500 for Angelhands.

Year 11 student Amy became involved after an inspirational meeting with

Angelhands founder Ann O'Neill earlier this year.

"When Ann spoke to us, she shared the quote 'I thought someone should do something and then I realised I am someone'," Amy said.

"This really resonated with me as I am really passionate about helping others, no matter how small that act may be."

Another world record attempt will take place in Perth in 2019.

# Sewing for the Solomons

Perth College students have partnered with the local chapter of a worldwide organisation to help women and girls in need.

A group of Years 10 and 11 students, their mums and several staff created washable feminine hygiene kits under the guidance of Days for Girls Perth, a charity specialising in sustainable menstrual health management and education. Forty kits were made ahead of the School's annual Solomon Islands trip in July and were delivered to the women at the Christian Care Centre, the only refuge for women and children suffering domestic violence in the Solomon Islands.

Workshop organiser and Perth College teacher Jo Harmsworth said the Christian Care Centre held a special place in the hearts of the School's students.

"The Christian Care Centre is run by the Sisters of the Church, who founded Perth College in 1902," she said.

"We have long had a partnership with the

Centre through our annual service learning trip to the Solomons.

"The Christian Care Centre advised us of a huge need for sustainable sanitary products so we were honoured to be able to make these items and deliver them in person."

Fifteen Perth College girls left for the Solomon Islands on Monday 2 July to volunteer at the Christian Care Centre and spend time attending and working at St Nicholas College. They also visited World War II memorials and the Centre for Melanesian Brothers, and travelled to a traditional village on the remote island of Savo.

Karin Maltby from Days for Girls Perth said the students would make an enormous difference in the lives of the women at the Christian Care Centre with the products they had made.



Jessie, Emma and Carly took hygiene kits to the Solomon Islands in July

## Upcoming Events

We invite our local community to get involved

### INFORMATION SESSIONS AND COMMUNITY TOURS

Perth College campus

Thursday 6 September, 9.00 am

Tuesday 18 October, 5.00 pm

Thursday 22 November, 9.00 am

See how Perth College inspires learning, meet the Principal and senior staff, and tour the campus.

### CONCERTO NIGHT

St George's Cathedral, Perth

Friday 31 August, 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm

This evening showcases the talents of the Year 12 Music students from Perth College and Aquinas College as they prepare for their final exams.

### OLD GIRLS' VINTAGE FAIR

All things vintage – from clothes and jewellery to homewares, art, photography and craft – will be celebrated at Perth College next month.

The Old Girls' Association (OGA) is holding a Vintage Fair from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm on the school grounds on Saturday 15 September.

Garden goods, games and food (including preserves) will also be on sale, with entertainment including fashion parades.

Proceeds will benefit the OGA's Emma and Bessie Cotton Bursary, which supports Perth College students experiencing unexpected financial hardship.

### A FESTIVE FAREWELL

Save the date

Our Community Christmas Carols will be held on Sunday 25 November on the Perth College oval.

The event will celebrate the festive season and also serve as a farewell for Principal Jenny Ethell.

Families are welcome to bring a picnic; food trucks will provide a mix of savoury and sweet nibbles and drinks. A range of activities will entertain children before the Christmas Carols begin.

More details will be available at [www.perthcollege.wa.edu.au](http://www.perthcollege.wa.edu.au) closer to the date.

For enquiries or more details on these events, please email [development@pc.wa.edu.au](mailto:development@pc.wa.edu.au) or contact the Perth College Community Relations Office on 9471 2119.

Community Link

