Thank you to a local legend

Perth College marked the end of an era when Affie Karalis retired on Thursday 3 July. After 50 years at the School, the beloved boarding housekeeper bade farewell to the workplace she joined on 6 June 1966. Such is her impact on Perth College, the canteen was renamed in her honour in 2014 and is now known as Affie’s Café.

A native of Greece, Affie arrived in Australia as a young newlywed, speaking little English and knowing no-one. She inquired about part-time employment at Perth College after walking past regularly with her young daughters from their home in nearby Grosvenor Street, Mount Lawley, and thinking it looked like a beautiful place to work.

Once employed, Perth College became her second home as Affie quickly developed a rapport with staff and students, particularly the boarders. She empathised with them about being away from their families, and became a surrogate grandmother to many.

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

Her love for the boarders is so strong that Affie will volunteer in the laundry each Friday.

“To stay in a workplace for five decades and remain so passionate about the organisation is an astonishing achievement,” Principal, Jenny Ethell, said.

Perth College has become a part of Affie’s family, with her daughter, Eva Karalis, now in her 29th year of teaching at the School.

The end of Term Two also marked the retirements of another two long-serving staff members: Year 2 Teaching Assistant, Jan Wynne, who worked at Perth College for nearly 33 years, and Archivist, Trish Montgomery, who began working in the Library in 1996 before switching roles.

“We are blessed these remarkable women have contributed such a significant part of their lives to Perth College,” Mrs Ethell said.
Dear friends,

Amazing things are happening at Perth College this year, with much to look forward to in coming weeks and months. As you'll read in this, our second edition of the Community Link for 2015, Perth College girls continue to demonstrate their incredible creativity, drive and commitment to their community. Emily McDonagh (Year 12) is just one example and her story on page three shows the outstanding example she is setting as she combines her studies with a business venture in digital media.

Behind the scenes, we have lodged a development application for our proposed Senior Learning and Leadership Centre on Lawley Crescent with the City of Stirling. This will then be forwarded to the Joint Development Assessment Panel with a report from the City to be considered in the decision. We hope to hear some news on this application later this month.

We are also thrilled to launch our updated website, which is now easier to navigate, otherwise not have been aware of.”

“The project also opened the students’ eyes to local history, and events they might otherwise not have been aware of.”

“A Note from the Principal

Across the generations

Perth College girls have bridged the generation gap in a special project with our neighbours at St David’s – Juniper Aged Care community.

Four residents made ideal subjects for Year 11 Visual Arts students to create oil portraits based on the theme ‘Re-Generation’.

Perth College Head of Creative Arts, Janet Hummerton, said the class was tasked with exploring the experiences and values of aged people in the local community. St David’s residents – Stella Vote, Dennis Macklin, Shona Siddall and Keith Edgar – were interviewed, photographed and sketched during supervised sessions last term.

“Our School has long held a special relationship with St David’s and it was the natural choice when the girls sought models for their project,” she said.

“We have come to know many of the residents through regular volunteer work and other art activities, and they generously shared their time and stories with the girls to help them investigate the concept of differences.

“The project also opened the students’ eyes to local history, and events they might otherwise not have been aware of.”

Community connections

Perth College girls are donning their entrepreneur hats as they create innovative community service and fundraising projects.

Thousands of dollars have already been raised for a variety of West Australian organisations and charities this year, with the students continuing to set lofty goals for themselves in Semester Two.

The Year 10s are organising a pop-up craft market on Friday 18 September as part of their Careers course to fundraise for the McGuick Alzheimers Research Foundation.

Each student has secured a small loan plus mentoring assistance from the $20 Boss initiative run by the Foundation for Young Australians and NAB. Local residents are invited to shop at the market from 12.15 pm to 2.00 pm.

Boarding students have already had a practice run for the pop-up market, having helped raise $850 for the Royal Flying Doctor Service by selling homemade treats during a lunch break in June.

Ronald McDonald House Perth also benefitted from a boarding fundraiser in Term One, when the girls collected $1,000 during a swimming pool social.

In the Junior School, the Year 6 Helping Hands Club implemented the first Waste-Free Wednesday on 1 July, after collecting 22 metres of litter from the School grounds in just one day. Girls brought their lunch to school in re-usable containers, avoiding plastic and foil packets, wraps or bags. Waste-Free Wednesday will become a weekly event and has served as inspiration for club members to create roses from white plastic bags, which were then delivered to residents at St David’s Retirement Centre.

Our social media entrepreneur

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

The Year 12 student received an overwhelming response to a social media post about meeting the musician in 2013, which prompted her to create Luckey – a mobile phone app that allows fans around the world to share photographs and stories about meeting celebrities.

“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,” Emily said.

To capitalise on the ‘selfie’ trend, Emily and her dad formed a company and partnered with a developer in Melbourne to create Luckey, which can now be downloaded free from Apple’s App Store.

Luckey was nominated for – and won – Google’s student prize at February’s OzApp Awards, for which Emily received a trip to Google’s Australian headquarters in Sydney. She was also the only finalist from a secondary school in the student category of the recent WA Information and Technology Telecommunications Alliance INCITE Awards.

Emily is still considering her options for tertiary studies next year but will continue to develop Luckey and hopes to further engage users of the app.

“I want to encourage young people to embrace both entrepreneurship and innovation, and show you can be both young and female and still be successful within the technology and start-up sector,” Emily said.
Q&A PC-style!

WA’s Australian of the Year will share her passion for science, innovation and technology when she visits Perth College in September.

Professor Lyn Beazley AO is the next guest in the School’s ‘Evening with a Remarkable Woman’ series.

She will be the centre of attention during the Q&A-style session, hosted by media personality and Perth College Council member, Andrea Burns, on Thursday 3 September.

Local residents are invited to join the School community to hear about Professor Beazley’s 30-year career in medical science research, her role as the state’s Chief Scientist (from 2006 to 2013) and her current position as a science ambassador for Murdoch University.

This is the second event in the ‘Remarkable Woman’ series; the Governor of Western Australia, Kerry Sanderson OAM, was the guest during the first forum held at the School in May.

‘An Evening with a Remarkable Woman’ begins at 7.00 pm; tickets are free and available via www.perthcollege.wa.edu.au or by calling 9471 2100.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONCERTO NIGHT
Judith Cottier Theatre, Perth College
Saturday 29 August, 7.00 pm
Showcasing the talents of Year 12 students from Perth College and Aquinas College.

AN EVENING WITH A REMARKABLE WOMAN
Judith Cottier Theatre, Perth College
Thursday 3 September, 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm
A Q&A-style session with the state’s former Chief Scientist, Professor Lyn Beazley.

INFORMATION SESSIONS AND COMMUNITY TOURS
Perth College campus
Wednesday 9 September, 9.00 am or Thursday 15 October, 5.00 pm
See how Perth College inspires learning; meet the Principal and tour the campus.

Visit our NEW WEBSITE
www.perthcollege.wa.edu.au

WE INVITE OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY TO GET INVOLVED

K-12 STUDENT ART EXHIBITION
Perth College Pavilion, Lawley Crescent
Monday 14 September to Friday 18 September
Students from Kindergarten to Year 12 exhibit artworks created throughout the year.

JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSICAL
Judith Cottier Theatre, Perth College
Wednesday 16 September, 1.30 pm, Thursday 17 September, 6.00 pm, Friday 18 September, 6.00 pm
This annual event features all students from Kindergarten to Year 6 in a singing and dancing spectacular.

LEARN TO SWIM
Perth College Swimming Pool, Queens Crescent
Term Four
Term Four swimming lessons for children from Stages 1 to 6. Contact Fiona Njirich on 0403 241 622 or fiona.njirich@pc.wa.edu.au

HATING ALISON ASHLEY
Anne Hairsine Drama Studio, Perth College
Thursday 19 November, 6.00 pm, Friday 20 November, 7.00 pm, Saturday 21 November, 2.00 pm
Showcasing the singing, dancing and acting skills of our Years 7 to 9 students.

PERTH COLLEGE CAROLS
Perth College Founders Centre for Early Learning – Lawn Area, 32 Queens Crescent, Mount Lawley
Sunday 22 November, 5.00 pm
Celebrate the joy of Christmas with the Perth College community and School choirs.

OPEN DAY 2016
Perth College campus
Monday 7 March, 10.00 am to 2.00 pm
The School opens its doors to the wider community on the Labour Day public holiday. Years 6 and 10 students provide guided tours; performances are scheduled throughout the day.

For enquiries or more details on these events please email development@pc.wa.edu.au or contact the Perth College Development Office on 9471 2146.