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From the Principal

Dear friends

‘Celebration’ was a word we used many times in 2012 as Perth College marked its 110-year anniversary. With the Old Girls’ Association commemorating its centenary in 2013, you will see and hear that word used again and again throughout the year. With a series of events that began with a thanksgiving service and cocktail reception on Sunday 17 February and will continue over the next 12 months, students and staff are looking forward to helping our Old Girls celebrate such an important milestone.

It was my privilege to visit one of our most enthusiastic and effervescent Old Girls, Jean Gmeiner (1930), this month to talk about her Perth College days and convey the School’s congratulations on her 100th birthday in January. Jean shows no signs of slowing down and still has a keen interest in the OGA’s activities.

Gabriella Imperial (Head Girl), Elanore Grantham (Deputy Head Girl), Sophia Davies and Astrid Thomas (Year 6 Class Captains) presented Jean with flowers and cupcakes to wish her a happy belated birthday and were fascinated by Jean’s collections of old photographs and stories from her time as a boarder. Jean’s daughter, Val, was also schooled at Perth College and the family has witnessed significant change at PC over such a vast period of time.

Four hundred people – including past and present staff and students and their families, and invited special guests – attended a thanksgiving service at St George’s Cathedral, which was led by former Perth College Chaplain and honorary Old Girl, Bishop Kay Goldsworthy, and a cocktail reception at the Government House ballroom for the official launch of the OGA’s centenary.

The Old Girls have made a significant contribution to Perth College history in so many ways – no chapter has or could have passed without their involvement. They have left a remarkable heritage for our current students to live up to and we are encouraging these girls – in particular the Year 12 students – to consider what their own legacy to Perth College will be.

A source of inspiration is no doubt the Class of 2012. The year began with a celebration of the girls’ achievements in their final WA Certificate of Education examinations, the announcement of university preferences, and the news of those who planned to travel, volunteer or enter the workplace. Their results are testament to their hard work and commitment and the unwavering support of their families and Perth College staff.

This edition includes stories about our most recent graduates, achievements from the girls in the Junior and Senior schools over the past six months, and events to celebrate the end of 2012 as well as the start of the new year.

I hope you enjoy reading the Heritage.

Best wishes

Jenny Ethell
Full steam ahead

Before the 2013 school year had even begun, InsideOut activities were under way.

In training for their new roles, Year 12 Officials took part in a Peer Power ‘Leading a Legacy’ workshop on Friday 1 February, presented by facilitators Michael Knight and Jonathan Sargeant. The course helped the girls identify effective ways to lead, bridge the divide between different social groups within the School community, and communicate to motivate and lead others.

“We also asked the Officials to explore the idea they are custodians of the history of Perth College this year, and will be handing on a legacy in 2014,” Mr Knight said.

Before classes began, the girls also worked with the EGAMI Institute to discuss the finer points of presentation and communication.

Year 7 students participated in Enlighten Education’s Journey programme in late February to help their transition into the Senior School, and were provided with a survival kit of skills including time management, prioritisation, creating a positive learning space, stress management and forming new friendships.

A Year 8 mother-daughter workshop was also held at the end of the month and was fully-booked; the same session was offered again in late March.

During Term 1, groups of students from Years 11 and 12 have been progressing through the EGAMI Institute’s Powerful Impressions programme. The course focuses on the professional standards expected by employers, the principles of presenting appropriately and making the best first impression. It also expands on the finer details of communicating and proper conduct in the workplace to influence and build rapport.

Kindergarten students also began a service project to rehabilitate a site in the Shire of Mundaring, washing pots in February ahead of planting reeds in March.

In a coup for InsideOut, the Canadian founder of the GirlPower friendship programme for ‘tween’ girls, Dana Kerford, will travel to Western Australia to work with Perth College girls from Years 1 to 7 in May, facilitate workshops for Years 3 to 7 students from other schools, and run the Language of Friendship course for mothers and their daughters in Perth College and the wider communities.

Twenty students from Year 5 participated in GirlPower’s Back to School Butterflies course in late January, to help transition into the start of the new school year.

Murchison a test of mettle

The formal adventure learning programme at Perth College for Year 10 students came to an end late in 2012 with a camp to Wooleen Station in the Murchison region.

Covering half a million acres, Wooleen is a cattle station 680km north of Perth known for its heritage-listed wetlands, wildflowers and vegetation, and plays a leading role in preserving and sustaining the unique ecology of the area.

The Year 10s departed Perth College early on Tuesday 16 October for an expedition that tested their leadership, self-reliance, decision-making and
courage. Students were divided into small groups, shared tents, and took responsibility for organising meals and food drops, planning canoe and bushwalking routes, and managing their time and communications back to the homestead.

The girls drew on the skills they had learned to make the best decisions for themselves and their teammates and their adventure built on their camp experiences from Years 8 and 9 while also complementing the activities they had already participated in as part of InsideOut.

Returning home on Thursday 25 October, the girls were exhausted but thrilled to have successfully completed the expedition and its test of their emotional and physical strength.

Kits for a cause

A service project undertaken by Year 10s at Perth College during 2012 has helped to improve the health of mothers-to-be around the other side of the world.

In June, students assembled 1,000 packages containing basic items for The Birthing Kit Foundation (Australia), an organisation dedicated to improving the conditions for women in developing countries who deliver their babies at home.

An estimated 385,000 women die each year during childbirth, many from infections which could have been prevented. Most women who receive help from The Birthing Kit Foundation need assistance during childbirth due to isolation, cultural choices or poor transport options.

The kits included a plastic sheet, soap, two gloves, a sterile scalpel blade, three cords and five gauze squares and arrived in Nigeria on 18 October for distribution in conjunction with a polio vaccination regime as well as a training scheme to provide education about clean birthing practices.

“Nigeria is one of the most important areas we have targeted for kit distribution as their maternal and infant mortality rates and levels of infection and injury are extremely high,” The Birthing Kit Foundation’s Supplies and Logistics Officer, Adrian Harris, said.

Students spread the word

A group of Years 10 and 11 students has played a vital role in ensuring the success of a major charitable fundraiser while also spreading the word about a good cause.

Nineteen girls volunteered their time and public speaking skills as official ambassadors at the Dine for Life dinner on Wednesday 28 November. The event brought together the best of the best in Perth’s food and wine industry to host a simultaneous dinner across 18 restaurants, including Rockpool Bar and Grill, Bistro Guillaume and Nobu. It raised $36,000 for South East Asia Investigations into Social and Humanitarian Activities (SISHA), an Australian charity based in Cambodia which fights human trafficking and exploitation of women and children.

Students greeted guests at each restaurant with a welcome speech and a message about SISHA’s work. In preparation for the night, they received presentation skills training from EGAMI, the organisation behind the Powerful Impressions programme run as part of InsideOut. The girls also prepared gift bags for each guest and were rewarded for their service with an invitation to join in the meal.

Dine for Life and many of the 180 guests congratulated the girls on their commitment, poise, passion and maturity.

“This event gave the girls an opportunity to see how like-minded people can come together to make a difference,” InsideOut Director, Deb Perich, said.

Eden Lim, who served as an ambassador at Bistro Guillaume, said it was inspiring to witness the generosity of those who attended and what was possible through hard work and hope.

“Dine for Life was founded by two young Perth women who had a passion for social change,” she said.

“Theyir work is extraordinary and we loved being involved.

“We were able to mingle with people from all walks of life, from media personalities to business leaders, and get some great advice as well.”

Piraya Quach-Thanissorn on the Murchison adventure
Emma Kinsey (foreground) prepared packages for The Birthing Kit Foundation
Elly Zounis volunteered at the Dine for Life dinner
Eleven years after Perth College was established in 1902, the Old Girls’ Association held its first meeting; its purpose – to allow former students to keep in contact with each other, as well as the School.

With approximately 100 members, the OGA’s purpose evolved as Perth College’s Founding Sisters and the Old Girls saw the potential women could reach, and sought new roles for women in the society of the time.

They created and published the first edition of the School magazine, Myola, in 1913, held meetings, functions and dances at Perth College, fundraised to build the new campus in Mount Lawley and buy specific items for the School, and set up Myalla to maintain communication with members and foster a sense of community.

During World Wars I and II, members held ‘soldiers’ gift’ evenings and ‘trench comfort’ afternoons, made children’s garments for air raid victims of Britain, and produced bandages and other hospital equipment. They fundraised for the Mission to Seamen, Prisoners of War and the Red Cross.

After the war, the OGA’s suspended social life was reinvigorated and all manner of functions was held for the enjoyment of the members. Reunions began in the 1980s and are as popular as ever today in both the city, interstate and even overseas. Corporate lunches, which began in the 1990s, and guest speakers are always a highlight of the calendar.

Each year, the School proudly welcomes back many of the Old Girls to speak to current students preparing for life after graduation and seeking advice on future pathways or to forge professional connections. Leading by example, the Old Girls have encouraged generations of students to make a difference in the lives of others as well as society in general. They have been tireless servants of Perth College as well as generous benefactors.

Today, the OGA has 3500 members and has achieved outstanding success as a social and fundraising body. From direct monetary contributions in the form of scholarships for daughters and granddaughters of Old Girls, to fundraising activities for more resources or facilities upgrades, stunning sculptures and artworks dotted around the grounds and in buildings, the OGA has left its mark on Perth College in many ways.

“The Old Girls have such a close relationship with the School, as we are the girls who have ‘left home’ but have never needed to leave the family,” OGA President, Bev Ireland, said.

“How fortunate are we to belong to such an incredible School community?”

Highlights of the centenary celebrations so far in 2013 have included the Young Old Girls’ cocktail party – for former students aged 18 to 45 – and the launch in March of Tied with a Ribbon: Made from the Heart, a cookbook featuring more than 100 mouth-watering recipes shared by Old Girls, former staff members and parents.

April’s drama production telling the history of the organisation through music, dance and song involves Old Girls of all ages as well as the student House choirs, and has been choreographed by 1956 Leaver and former Head of Drama, Anne Hairsine, and teacher Gabby Metcalf.

“The Founding Sisters would be so proud to see the OGA celebrating its centenary with such aplomb,” Mrs Ireland said.
Donors give generously

In 2012, students, their families and staff were invited to leave a legacy of their time at the School in the form of a paver within the new Heritage Walk.

Principal, Jenny Ethell, hosted a thank you morning tea during October, with 150 first-round supporters returning to view their pavers. During the Term 3 holidays, 518 pavers were placed around the Chapel Quad, with the final round to be completed during Term 1 in 2013.

“The increase in support for Perth College has been overwhelming, and the School and the students who benefit are extremely grateful,” Mrs Ethell said.

“Each member of the PC family has played a critical role in the history of the School and is integral to ensuring it is in good hands for the future.”

During 2013, Perth College aims to build on its achievements, seeking further support from the School community through the Annual Giving programme, so it can continue its journey and achieve the vision of giving the gift of education to future generations of PC Girls, who otherwise would not have the opportunity to attend this remarkable school.

Because of the generosity of the School community, Perth College will be awarding its first InsideOut scholarship to a student in 2014.

Further details on how to support the 2013 Annual Giving programme will be posted to the School community shortly.

If anyone would like to continue their support, please contact the Director of Community Development, Jo Nitz, by email to foundation@pc.wa.edu.au or telephone (08) 9471 2119.

Funds raised by the Perth College Foundation last year will enable a new student to attend the School in 2014 through the InsideOut scholarship.

Thank you!
• 707 pavers purchased
• $196,725 gifts received

Jacaranda Society

President of the Old Girls’ Association, Mrs Bev Ireland (1960), joined the Jacaranda Society bequest programme during 2012, as the Founding Patron.

The programme was established to acknowledge and thank past students, staff and members of the Perth College family who have made a provision for the School in their wills.

Throughout the School’s 110-year history, bequests have played a crucial role in securing its financial future. New facilities such as the Jean Rogerson Science Building would not have been possible without the legacy and foresight of past community members.

The School looks forward to hosting the inaugural Jacaranda Society lunch on Thursday 29 August 2013.

For a confidential discussion regarding the Jacaranda Society, please contact the Director of Community Development, Jo Nitz, by email to foundation@pc.wa.edu.au or telephone (08) 9471 2119.
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The Perth College Foundation would like to thank and acknowledge the support of current parents, Old Girls, staff, past staff, past council members and past parents for their generous support of the launch of the Foundation. The following is a list of all supporters throughout 2012.

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Old friends reunited last year when Perth College invited former parents, staff and council members to mark the School’s 110th anniversary.

Past Parents, Staff and Council Members

Past parents, staff and council members were invited back to Perth College for morning tea to celebrate 110 years of educating remarkable women during November 2012.

This was the first time the School had invited this special group back to PC, with future events to be planned.

Guests were entertained by talented musician and Year 9 scholarship recipient, Emily Gelineau.

“It was lovely to see so many familiar faces join us to celebrate our 110-year anniversary and reconnect with old friends,” Principal, Jenny Ethell, said.

“I was delighted to thank more than 90 guests for helping Perth College get to where it is today and their feedback about the event was overwhelmingly positive.”

If you are a past parent, staff or council member and would like to be connected and join this group for future events, please contact the Director of Community Development by email foundation@pc.wa.edu.au or telephone (08) 9471 2119.
What does the role of Foundation Chair involve?

The Foundation and the Annual Giving programme are still in their infancy so my role at the moment currently involves chairing meetings and giving speeches at official functions. As the Chair, I see myself as someone who the School community can relate to and contact about bequests, charitable acts and so on.

What is your connection to Perth College and when and how did you become Chair of the Foundation?

My daughter, Georgia, is a Year 11 boarder on a rural scholarship and she came here as the first Year 7 boarder. My connection goes back to both of my sisters, mother, grandmother and even grandfather, who all came here. My grandfather was schooled at Perth College until the age of eight or nine.

What do you enjoy most about this role?

I became Chair of the PC Foundation at the request of the Principal, Jenny Ethell. I’ve always had a belief in playing an active role in my children’s education and it is nice to be able to give something back to such a great school.

It’s always very easy to come and do things within this community because all of the members are committed to promoting the School. There is a genuine feeling of wanting to help people and nurturing girls to reach their full potential.

Tell us a little bit about yourself...

I attended Hale School, where rowing was my main claim to fame – I’m still involved in the sport today and it’s one of my biggest hobbies. During January, I coached some of the girls and would eventually like to do more.

I’m married to Pauline, a Vet who was educated at Morawa. We have a son, Charles, who is two years older than Georgia.

We have a 5500 hectare property at Dandaragan, where we farm beef, prime lamb and crops.

Can you tell us something about yourself that is not commonly known?

I’m interested in amateur theatre and am currently doing a play based on Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet.

If you had just $10 left in your wallet, what would you spend it on?

A glass of red wine.
Friends of Perth College

With a busy calendar at the end of 2012, the start of the new year has also been an eventful one for the Friends of Perth College.

Parent Welcome Sundowner

A large crowd of new and old faces came together to celebrate the start of the school year on Sunday 3 February for the Parent Welcome Sundowner at the Founders Centre for Early Learning. Parents were able to meet those with daughters in the same year group thanks to a colour-coded sticker system and many new friendships were formed during the balmy evening. Year 12 Officials were more than capable wait staff, weaving their way through the crowd to serve a variety of tasty canapés.

Festive Fun

The Perth College family celebrated the end of the year as well as the festive season at the Friends of Perth College Community Carols and Christmas Market on Sunday 25 November.

The Founders Centre for Early Learning was packed with stalls offering fresh produce, arts and crafts, homemade treasures, gift ideas and gourmet food, while a bouncy castle and a baby animal farm provided plenty of fun. The arrival of Father Christmas caused a frenzy as children lined up to pass on their lists and wishes.

The event also launched Built on Faith: A History of Perth College 1902 – 2012, and speeches by long-serving employee, Affie Karalis, and Author, Dr Catherine May, paid touching tribute to the hard work and research of so many staff and Old Girls.

Crowd members definitely brought their singing voices, enjoying picnics on the lawn and joining in with the Community, Junior and Senior School Choirs for some of the most-loved Christmas carols to wrap up the event.

Introducing the Committee

The Friends of Perth College committee for 2013 comprises:

- Nita Lyster President
- Jo Rochow Vice-President
- Claire Salmon Secretary
- Sharyn Marissen Treasurer
- Nick Stanisis, who has a long association with the School, is the new representative for Friends of Perth College on School Council.
How long have you worked at Perth College?
I know I look really young but would you believe 30 years?

What do you enjoy most about working at Perth College?
The girls – they are delightful.

What does your role involve?
I am the Junior School Mathematics Co-ordinator so… maths, maths and more maths!

What are your fondest memories from your time at the School?
As an Old Girl, seeing the School evolve into one of the most prestigious in Perth.

Tell us a little bit about yourself...
I am an Old Girl and began my PC schooling at the age of four. My grandmother and my two aunts came to Perth College, as did one of my cousins. I finished Year 12 as House Captain of Barron. A year after graduating, I was asked to coach the swimming team. My first position was as a half-time Physical Education teacher and half-time Year 3 teacher.

In 1988/89, I spent a year living and working in Toronto, Canada, before marrying my 200cm-tall Canadian husband, Mark. We have one fabulous son, Brodie, who is studying Commerce in his first year at UWA. My favourite pasttime is having lunch with my girlfriends and then shopping, or shopping and then having lunch.

Can you tell us something about yourself that is not commonly known?
Even though I seem to do it a lot, I hate talking on the phone.

If you had just $10 left in your wallet, what would you spend it on?
A new lipstick.
How long have you worked at Perth College?
I am in my fifth year at Perth College. I started in 2009.

What do you enjoy most about working at Perth College?
Teaching the girls. Every day is different, mostly because I teach and have conversations with students from all years on a daily basis. I love the variety.

What does your role as Year Co-ordinator involve?
I oversee the pastoral and academic care and development of the Year 7 cohort. I liaise with staff, especially Form teachers, parents and the wider school community on any matters relating to the Year 7s.

What are your fondest memories from your time at the School?
I have been on a number of Year 9 Explorus camps of which I have some very funny and fond memories. I also had the privilege of attending the Europe Trip in 2011, and that experience was a definite highlight.

Tell us a little bit about yourself...
I live with my husband in South Perth, and enjoy spending weekends catching up with family and friends, usually over a nice breakfast and coffee somewhere local. I have a real passion for travelling and love planning my next jet-setting adventures (hopefully Japan, New Zealand and maybe South America in the future)!

Can you tell us something about yourself that is not commonly known?
I tend to get asked a lot about where my name comes from, so I’ll answer that one here – my name, Kalo, comes from Tonga and is the name of the past Queen’s sister (the aunt of the present King). Her full name was Kalolaine but everyone called her Kalo, and so that was the name given to me.

If you had just $10 left in your wallet, what would you spend it on?
A coffee and a ham/cheese croissant.
How long have you worked at Perth College?

I have worked at PC for five years – I started in 2007 but took a year off in 2008 to live in Paris. I was lucky enough to pick up the same position when I returned!

What do you enjoy most about working at Perth College?

There’s so much I enjoy at PC, it’s hard to pick one thing. I think it would be the interactions I have with the girls – it’s a very rewarding job and I love working with such a wonderful group of students.

What does your role involve?

As Year Co-ordinator, I act as the link between students, teachers and parents. I work with a great group of Form teachers who help me to support and guide each of the students under our care. I also have a role in organising, promoting and helping to run various year group activities throughout the year. It’s a very busy job but I’m loving the challenge.

What are your fondest memories from your time at the School?

As a teacher and a student, I have many wonderful memories. From a student point of view, the Year 11 French trip was a major factor in my continued love of everything French and has ultimately resulted in me becoming a French teacher! I also fondly remember participating in the 2002 Centenary Pageant in my final year at PC, despite a distinct lack of talent as a singer or dancer! As a teacher, I have fabulous memories of things that happen on a daily basis in the classroom as well as on the camps I have been on. My students always ensure there are many memorable moments!

Tell us a little bit about yourself...

I live with my partner Jeremy and my bird Louie, in a house we recently bought not far from PC. I have taken up rowing as a hobby following my participation in the staff rowing event last year. It’s challenging but I’m really enjoying it. As a student, I was a dedicated horse-rider and had been riding for 20 years before the hectic (and rather cash-strapped) life of university made me take a break from it. I lived in France for a year in 2008 to improve my understanding of the language and culture and it is an experience I will treasure forever. I am also addicted to shoes and have developed quite a collection!

Can you tell us something about yourself that is not commonly known?

I studied a Zoology major at university (along with French) and worked at Caversham Wildlife Park for two years. One of my jobs included being a wombat handler.

If you had just $10 left in your wallet, what would you spend it on?

A bargain pair of shoes! Failing that – coffee and chocolate.
Head Girl: Gabriella Imperial

How long have you been at Perth College and where are you from?
I started high school at PC in Year 8, so have been making the trek from home to school for five years – I live in Darlington in the Hills. My mum is from Hartfordshire, England, and my dad from Manila, Philippines; I was born in Sydney and my brother in Bangkok, Thailand, while we were living there as expats for eight years. We are Australian but I’m the only one who was born here!

Do you have any special memories from your time at PC?
PC has given me so many diverse and interesting memories! I had the opportunity to travel to Toronto, Canada, on exchange in 2011 – an incredible experience. I am still in contact with all of my friends and hoping to visit them at the end of the year! Indonesian Masterchef in Year 10 was another highlight, working as part of a team to make amazing food, and eventually winning the competition. It was so much fun! And of course Handover is a day I will never forget.

What is special about Perth College?
The people. I am so lucky to have spent my time at PC with the best cohort of girls – our Leavers of 2013 – who are the most talented, creative and outgoing group you will ever meet. We also have the best teachers in the world – they provide support not only with homework, but also with any issues at home or school. They are all so passionate and inspiring, and they motivate me to do my best every day.

What does your role as Head Girl involve and what does it mean to you?
I love PC, and being elected to represent the School and the girls I love so much means the world to me – I never thought I would have ‘Head Girl 2013’ embroidered on my blazer! My responsibilities include representing the School at events and functions, and making speeches at some of them! I meet with Mrs Ethell every Monday lunchtime with the other girls on the Exec, run assemblies and promote a positive attitude towards and within school.

Can you tell us something about yourself that is not commonly known?
I can play a traditional Thai instrument called the Khim – it is a ‘hammered dulcimer’ – brass strings lie across the instrument which are hit to make a sound. I had lessons in Thailand and a few when we moved to Perth, but my teacher went to Germany to get married and never came back! I am trying to reteach myself in time for the Amnesty Talent Quest for Creative Arts Day!

What is your favourite weekend activity?
Sleeping in! I also enjoy catching up with friends for coffee or going to the movies.

If you had just $10 in your wallet, what would you spend it on?
The last $10 in my wallet is usually spent on school bus tickets – but I still manage to not have any tickets whenever I get on the bus! So, bus tickets or possibly Mr Munchies sushi!

Deputy Head Girl: Elanore Grantham

How long have you been at Perth College, and where are you from?
I have been at Perth College since Year 9; I moved to Perth just over three years ago after living in Karratha for five years.

Do you have any special memories from your time at Perth College?
I have so many special memories from my time at PC but I think one of the more significant memories is from my orientation day. In Year 8 I came to visit Perth College for a day and was chased around by some girls in my year who wanted to meet the new girl. I am good friends with these girls now and I think what was so special was that I made great friends within the space of one day who I kept in contact with over the summer before I began my first year at Perth College.

What is special about Perth College?
I think Perth College is so special because of the staff and the students; it’s a place where you can make lifelong friends and everyone is so welcoming, amongst all the school work and assignments you always have friends to make it fun and the teachers are always there to help and support you as best they can.

What does your role as Deputy Head Girl involve?
My role as a Student Official involves being a role model for younger students and leading by example. Being a part of the Student Exec involves working in a team of four and organising events around the school including the weekly assemblies. My role, to me, involves representing the students both in the school and the wider community and being able to make positive changes to the School environment so the students can make the most of their time at PC.

Can you tell us something about yourself that is not commonly known?
I am originally from a small town called Port Augusta in South Australia, which is where all my family is still living.

What is your favourite weekend activity?
Catching up with my friends, who I might not get to see a lot during the week because of school. I love doing things like shopping and watching a movie to relax.

If you had just $10 in your wallet, what would you spend it on?
I would probably spend it on my favourite foods which are chocolate and frozen raspberries.
Fourteen months of preparation culminated in a thrilling three-week adventure to Borneo in December for 23 Years 10 and 11 students.

**Trek tests students**

With an itinerary designed by World Challenge, an organisation specialising in travel to challenging destinations for school students, the girls immersed themselves in the diverse Malaysian culture and enjoyed an experience billed as ‘not for the faint hearted’.

Their adventure was the result of extensive fundraising, a camp to test their hiking and survival skills, several vaccinations, and visits to Asian supermarkets to familiarise themselves with unusual foods.

Arriving early at Perth Airport on Sunday 2 December, the girls met their World Challenge leaders and divided into two groups – one led by Learning and Enrichment Co-ordinator, Pippa Depiazzi, and the other by Science teacher, Gretchen Blair.

They were presented with $6,000 – the total amount each group had to spend on their 21-day tour.

“Arranging their own transport, accommodation and meals certainly provided a challenge for the girls,” Mrs Depiazzi said.

With the adventure divided into four phases – acclimatisation, trek, project, and rest and relaxation – Borneo’s heat, humidity, rain and exotic wildlife tested the girls but strengthened their teamwork, leadership, problem-solving and communications skills.

The girls arrived home on Sunday 23 December with a greater awareness of a different culture, a newfound sense of confidence and independence, and backpacks full of carefully-chosen mementoes.

**Highlights included:**

- Climbing Mt Kinabalu – at 4095m, one of the highest mountains in South East Asia, renowned for its variety of flora and fauna
- Sleeping in special Hennessy tents, strung between trees, in the middle of the jungle
- Staying with a local elder in his traditional longhouse
- Visiting a rehabilitation centre for the endangered orangutan and Malaysian sun bear
- Whitewater rafting
- Snorkelling in the warm waters of the Tunku Abdul Rahman National Marine Park
- Completing community service projects, such as painting classrooms in a school for intellectually-handicapped children
- Exploring markets teeming with fresh produce, handicrafts and clothing.
The Years 11 and 12 students dressed to impress on Saturday 16 February for the highlights of their social calendar – the Dinner Dance and Ball, respectively.
The girls all looked spectacular and they and their partners displayed elegance and maturity. There was plenty of time for fun on the dance floor – many of the girls reported sore feet from sky-high heels the following day.
A Junior School fantasy

A special gift to the Junior School by senior Art students has brightened the entrance to the building and is also sparking children’s imaginations.

Two new mosaic dragons have been installed on the external wall and were created by a group of current Year 8 girls who also designed a castle that now hangs outside the Founders Centre for Early Learning.

A series of small, individual terracotta plates – depicting images such as a mermaid, a witch and a butterfly – was created in 2011 by current Year 12 students and placed on the wall during the summer holidays.

The theme of the installations was ‘fantasy’.

Mini-fete a taste of the real thing

A mini-fete held last November gave Year 6 students a taste of being a business owner while also raising money for a good cause.

The classes of Bek Duyckers and Eva Karalis transformed the grassed area between the Judith Cottier Theatre and the Junior School into a thriving marketplace on Thursday 8 November. As part of a Technology and Enterprise project, the girls formed small groups to plan a stall of their choice, source materials and target a select demographic.

“Some of these stalls centred around Halloween, interactive games, the selling of healthy foods and a variety of sweet drinks and food,” Ms Duyckers said.

“The day was a huge success for the Year 6 girls and they learnt a lot about organising their own business venture.”

The girls raised $2,256 for Canteen, a national support group for young people living with cancer.

Year 3 students, Lara Daffen and Amy Trieu, love the new artworks outside the Junior School.
Caring for the community

Perth College’s youngest students put on a show for a group of local elderly residents in December, delighting them with song and dance.

Forty-six Kindergarten and Preparatory girls presented a routine from the 2012 Junior School musical, *Dear Edwina Junior*, at The Second Avenue Aged Care Facility in Mount Lawley. They sang “Hola, Lola” before spending time with the residents, reading books and answering questions about their schooling.

Residents had asked for a visit by the younger girls after Year 6 students twice performed for them earlier in the year as part of the Helping Hands community service club.

“We loved the ‘Hola, Lola’ song and the girls’ very cute outfits,” the Facility’s Activities and Lifestyle Coordinator, Julie Martin, said.

“Our residents are still looking at their fabulous drawings and talking about the visit – many of them have been wistfully reminiscing to each other about their own children at that age.”

“Pitching in to help

A group of Kindergarten students has given a neglected Mount Helena creek bed some tender loving care.

Twenty-four girls travelled to a site off Grahame Street in November to plant reeds they and Year 10 students had grown from seeds. They worked for two hours, assisted by staff and parents who had accompanied them from the School as well as a Natural Resource Management Officer from the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council.

Earlier in the year, a group of Year 10 girls had previously planted seeds that generated 1600 seedling reeds as part of an InsideOut service project, with the guidance and support of Men of the Trees.

“Both the younger and older girls are very enthusiastic about the environment and were keen to do as much as they could to help out,” InsideOut Director, Deb Perich, said.

“The creek bed has been impacted by increased housing development in the area and the day was so successful we hope it will become an annual event.”

“InsideOut”
Graduates of the Class of 2012 are pursuing paths near and far after impressive results in their final exams.

Our High Achievers

While many have gained entry to local universities – including the WA Academy of Performing Arts – others have moved interstate to study, some have their sights set on colleges overseas, and several are travelling or volunteering abroad.

Of the 133 girls eligible for an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank, 52 per cent finished in the top 10 per cent of the state or achieved an ATAR of 90. Twelve students placed in the top one per cent of the state.

Perth College had the highest performing students in Western Australia in the Stage 3 Biology, Chemistry, Dance, Drama, Economics, English, Geography, Human Biology, English Literature and Physical Education Studies courses and Stage 2 Integrated Science.

The greatest number of students in the Boarding House’s history achieved an ATAR above 90 and all Year 12 boarders gained their first university preferences.

- Cathey Zhang, who was the Dux and also received several subject awards at the Presentation Night in December, is now studying a Bachelor of Philosophy (Honours) at the University of WA, with an assured pathway into Medicine.
- Sophie Argus is studying Physiotherapy at Curtin under a Health Sciences Excellence scholarship.
- Elissa Wundersitz, who won gold and silver medals in Sydney during January this year at the Cycling Australia National Track Championships, is studying Sports Science at Notre Dame and has her sights set on the Junior Track World event in Scotland during August as well as the 2016 Olympics.
- Works by Carla Milazzo and Helena McKay are featuring in the prestigious Year 12 Perspectives exhibition at the Art Gallery of Western Australia, joining some of the best, brightest and most talented secondary school graduates in the state whose pieces will be on show until 30 June.
- Giane Hladin and Annissa Harwood were invited to audition for the 17th Performing Arts Perspectives concert at His Majesty’s Theatre, in Music and Dance respectively. The event features the highest standard of student performances from the public, independent and Catholic education systems. Giane received early entry to study a Bachelor of Music (Jazz Performance) at WAAPA.
- Eloise Whittle and Chantelle Goetz are both studying at the University of Melbourne.
Some of their plans include:

- Emma Muller - Volunteer work in Malawi
- Kirralee Dawson - A gap year in Germany as part of a Rotary placement. Kirralee, who won a Certificate of Distinction for placing in the top 0.5 per cent of students across the state in English, will study at Curtin in 2014 through a Humanities Excellence scholarship
- Rosie Oldham - Bachelor of Education (Secondary); major in Drama, minor in Music at Edith Cowan University and the WA Academy of Performing Arts
- Mariah Lwoy - Bachelor of Science at UWA, with assured entry into Engineering

Of the 115 girls who responded to a survey in February regarding their destinations this year:

- 108 enrolled in university, including four students studying at the University of Melbourne, one at RMIT University and one at the University of NSW
- Five students attending TAFE are pursuing courses in beauty therapy, veterinary nursing, visual arts and business
- Thirteen students are travelling or taking a gap year, including seven who accepted placements through Rotary and Latitude Global Volunteering. One is joining the armed forces during her gap year.

Travel is a ‘Real Game’

A Social Science assignment prior to Christmas has given students a realistic expectation of how far a dollar really stretches.

Brooke Tonev’s Year 7 class organised a travel expo on Tuesday 27 November to ‘sell’ a range of holiday packages they had created to teachers and classmates. Students had a set budget to cover transport, meals, accommodation and an itinerary that included at least two visits to cultural or historical sites.

The girls transformed a classroom into a travel expo, setting up stalls with flyers, souvenirs, information and their Personal Learning Devices to promote the packages they designed.

“The unit is called ‘The Real Game’ and it’s largely Economics-based with a History component,” Mrs Tonev said.

“It gives the girls a realistic view of what is involved in planning a holiday – they considered the features they would like and compared them to what they could afford on a designated salary.

“The feedback we get from parents about this unit is very positive – they see a real difference in their daughters as the girls gain an appreciation of how much things really cost.”
Senior School

Getting up close to the brain

Year 8 students have had a close-up look at the brain – although not the human variety – to understand how the mind works and improve their memories.

As part of the annual ‘Brain Day’ in February, the girls combined theory with some hands-on activities – including the dissection of a sheep’s brain – to appreciate the complex process of learning.

Learning Enrichment Co-ordinator, Pippa Depiazzi, said students were introduced to the specific parts of the brain, taught some critical and creative thinking techniques, and told how they could better care for their brains and therefore their bodies.

“The day enables the girls to identify their personal learning styles and strengths and weaknesses, and tailor their study methods,” she said.

“It provides them with an understanding that their brain is unique and reassures the girls they have the capacity to empower their own learning and improve both their motivation and resilience.”

Students worked in pairs to question and problem-solve with each other as they explored the brain. Hand-on activities enabled them to absorb the relevance and importance of the role the brain plays in all aspects of their intellectual, social and emotional lives.

Emma Barnetson said she was apprehensive at first about dissection but had thoroughly enjoyed the day.

“Being up close to a real brain was incredible and to learn how it functions was just amazing,” she said.

“I loved being able to know how my own brain works and understand how it can be affected so easily.”

Changing Beliefs and Values

Philosophy is a subject area of interest to many Perth College students and, in 2013, Senior School students have the choice of a new course of study.

In previous years, girls in Year 11 have studied Philosophy and Ethics 2A, while in Year 12, a compulsory Beliefs and Values course prepared students to embark on the next phase of their lives, assisting with life after graduation.

In 2013, Perth College has introduced Philosophy and Ethics as an elective subject for Year 11 students. Philosophy and Ethics 2A/2B can be studied over a 12-month period and includes critical thinking and reasoning in more depth, societal ethics, scientific ethics and aesthetics.

Head of Beliefs and Values, Justin Gill, said a student opting to study this course would have the opportunity to complete a new 3A/3B Philosophy and Ethics unit in Year 12.

BioGENEius project participant Stephanie Tran, who worked with Dr David Nolan, of Murdoch University

Elite level research

Three budding Scientists have completed intensive six-month research projects as part of the international BioGENEius Challenge. The programme provides motivated and talented students the opportunity to undertake authentic biotechnology research with a professional Scientist. It aims to encourage more secondary school students to consider careers in the field and develop the next generation of researchers and entrepreneurs.

Each year, two students are selected to represent Western Australia at the international competition involving youth from across the USA, Canada and WA. Emily Rose Rees, Catherine Tu and Stephanie Tran, all in Year 11, completed their projects outside of school hours, each working to address a unique research question. They submitted laboratory journals, project reports and scientific posters for judging in early February and semi-finalists were selected – including Stephanie, for Genetic Variation in CD46 Cell Receptor in Multiple Sclerosis Patients and Controls.

In early March, Stephanie attended the regional BioGENEius finals, where she presented a 10-minute speech to a judging panel and then had to answer their questions. Stephanie said the quality of the projects undertaken by her peers was outstanding.

“I was surprised to make the semi-finals and it was a real shock to make the regional finals,” she said.

“Some of the outcomes of the other students’ projects were real discoveries and very impressive.”

Perth College thanks the following for mentoring our students: the University of WA, Murdoch University, Curtin University, CSIRO, Professor Klini Grice, Dr Martijn Woltering, Dr James Lui, Ms Tracey Williams, Professor Peter Hartmann, Dr Monika Tschochner and Dr David Nolan.
**Boarding House**

Since its establishment, the Perth College Boarding House has encouraged generations of boarders to make a difference in the lives of others as well as society in general.

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**Boarders brighten strangers’ day**

Through the On Board programme, girls in the Boarding House make a significant contribution to the community through volunteer work, fundraising, environmental projects and organising both school and local events.

In early December, a group of Year 9 boarders ventured into the city with Head of Boarding, Judy Parker, to spread cheer to random shoppers. The entire Boarding House made flowers and cards with special messages inside, and 24 boarders gave them to people in Forrest Chase to wish them a nice day.

“This was our annual community service event as part of our On Board initiative, which encourages the girls to contribute to their immediate and wider societies and also lead by example,” Mrs Parker said.

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**Creatures great and small**

Boarders have been inspired to help animals in need of care and new homes after the RSPCA WA visited Perth College in February.

Education Officer, Peta Eddy, spoke to a group of girls about the organisation’s work – just one day after RSPCA Inspectors raided a property they had been monitoring and seized 70 animals, including dogs and puppies, a goat, horses, sheep, a lamb and several birds. Ms Eddy’s presentation featured images of those animals as well as ‘before and after’ photographs of some of the 1037 animals it re-homed in 2011-2012.

“We rescue and re-home thousands of animals that have been lost, abandoned, injured or abused and it takes $8 million every year to look after the animals that come into the RSPCA’s care,” she said.

“As a charity, we rely on fundraising, donations, grants, bequests and events to feed and house these animals at our facilities and provide them with veterinary treatment.”

Although RSPCA volunteers must be aged 18 years or older, the boarders expressed an interest in assisting where possible and were told they could help by organising their own fundraising activities and donating the funds to the RSPCA, participating in the Million Paws Walk in May or organising their own local walk, assisting with the RSPCA’s major community events, or joining its holiday programmes. Families considering a new cat or dog are also encouraged to adopt a pet from the RSPCA’s Animal Care Centre.
Artists inspire budding talent

Drewfus Gates, Ben Kovacsy and Camilla Loveridge led a programme to kick-start the senior students’ Visual Arts courses for Semester 1, talking through the generation and development of ideas and helping with skills such as drawing, design and studio techniques.

Staff members Janet Hummerston, Dianne Good, Amelie Katczynski and Amanda Madden accompanied the girls, who took part in workshops on colour, light and composition with Drewfus, construction and site-specific installation with Ben, and media exploration and expressive figure drawing with Camilla.

The Art Department is exhibiting some of the drawings from the camp in St Michael’s Hall and will continue to share some of the works produced as the year progresses.

Artist-in-residence a first for PC and Yvonne

A local emerging artist took over the Art department foyer for two weeks in February, passing on tips and tricks to Perth College students and helping them to improve their skills.

Yvonne Zago worked from the School as its guest artist-in-residence, spending time with students from Kindergarten to Year 12 to talk about her work, sources of inspiration, and the process of producing an exhibition, and demonstrate a variety of techniques.

“I really love it when people buy my work and love the pieces I’ve done because it’s such a humbling feeling,” she said.

“My advice to anyone considering becoming a career artist is to believe in yourself and be prepared to work hard.

“There is lots of support, government grants and galleries for emerging artists, which is great because their work is exciting and new and different.”

Ms Zago graduated from Edith Cowan University with a Bachelor of Visual Arts (Honours) in 2003 and her body of work in her first group exhibition at Linton and Kay Art Galleries in 2010 sold out on opening night.

She will also exhibit two pieces at the 28th Annual Art Exhibition at the Perth College Pavilion from Friday 12 to Sunday 14 April. Her artist-in-residency was funded by the Perth College Art Committee.

Indigenous Art a first for exhibition

Indigenous artworks will go on show at the Perth College Art Exhibition in April, providing students with an insight into a type of art with which they are not so familiar.

A Curator will visit the School to talk to the girls about the pieces before the works are displayed in the pavilion for the event. All proceeds from any sales will go directly to the artists, including Dawn Hamlett and Loreen Samson.

Dawn, who lives in Morawa, began painting 13 years ago at her family’s insistence and her art focuses mainly on stories from her Indigenous roots. In 2011, the Art Gallery of Western Australia selected her painting Frank Wittenoom for inclusion in its Indigenous collection. As a community leader, Dawn enjoys teaching others how to appreciate and create art.

From Roebourne, Loreen paints about the beauty of the land and the markings and body symbols of different tribes and cultures. She tries to inspire young people to create art to help them understand and heal themselves, and also wants to assist them to respect their land and culture.

The exhibition begins with a champagne opening on Friday 12 April and viewings and sales will continue over the weekend.

A Christmas celebration

A fun and magical production of The Nutcracker ‘Sweet’ was an early Christmas gift from students in Years 7 to 9 and an ideal way to celebrate the end of 2012.

A cast of 60 girls used drama, circus, dance and physical theatre to bring the age-old story to life in the Judith Cottier Theatre from 22 to 24 November.

They rehearsed twice a week since July to inject their own style into the production of the classic tale.
Students in Years 7 to 9 captured the festive spirit in their take on a classic Christmas tale, *The Nutcracker* ‘Sweet’.

Artist, Drewkus Gates, teaches the girls about colour, light and composition.

Year 3 students were eager to meet artist-in-residence, Yvonne Zago.
Volleyball comp a first for PC

Two Perth College teams capped off the school year with a trip to Melbourne in December for the 2012 Australian Volleyball Schools Cup.

Physical Education teacher Lydia Padgett, who travelled with the girls, said competition was fierce at the annual event, with a record 477 teams representing 130 schools across the country.

“It’s the biggest high school competition in the southern hemisphere and is a great event for the girls to gain experience in,” she said.

Perth College sent 16 athletes for the first time. The under-16 team placed fourth in Division 3, narrowly losing their bronze medal match, while the Open girls placed 12th in Division 2, which proved an extremely tough grade.

The girls trained throughout Semester 2 and were coached by Rachelle Brammer, a state and Australian women’s volleyball representative with level one coaching accreditation and an accredited referee, and Stuart Carr, the University of Western Australia Volleyball Club President.

OPEN Girls
Sarah Mortimer
Phoebe Pearce
Tess Roberts
Zoe Slater
Danielle Van Der Walt

U/16 Girls
Eleanor Buckley
Deborah Dewar
Jenny Kang
Imogen Kelsch

Campion claims House carnival

Campion was the clear winner at the Years 7-12 House Carnival Swimming Championships in February, finishing the event at Challenge Stadium on 1831 points.

It was the first of many House competitions for the year and the girls took to competitive and novelty events with much enthusiasm. Barron and Lawley tied for second, each earning 1674 points, while Bedford trailed narrowly on 1617 points.

Records tumbled as talented swimmers Brooke Rego (Year 7) and Brianna Throssell (Year 12) powered through the water. Brooke broke four 50m records – breaststroke, butterfly, freestyle and backstroke – and was the junior 100m freestyle champion, while Brianna broke three 50m records – backstroke, freestyle and butterfly – and was the senior 100m freestyle champion. Brianna also received the Christine Morrison Trophy as the open 50m breaststroke champion and the Pat Bold Trophy as the open 50m freestyle champion.

Swimming Pennant Results:
Year 7 Campion
Year 8 Barron
Year 9 Campion
Year 10 Lawley
Year 11 Barron
Year 12 Bedford
Best in the west

Year 12 runner Bri Ilarda can now claim to be the fastest 3000m runner in the west, after breaking three long-standing state records.

She ran the event in 9 min. 28 sec, breaking the under-18, under-20 and open state records by 0.6 sec, at an interclub competition on Friday 8 February at the WA Athletics Stadium. Her result was well inside the qualifying time for July’s World Youth Championships in Ukraine.

Bri hopes to one day represent Australia at the Olympics. She got a glimpse of life as a professional athlete when she won gold in January at the Australian Youth Olympics Festival in Sydney.

“I’m really enjoying the 3K at the moment and representing Australia in Sydney was a real highlight – getting a taste of what the professional athletes have, with their own ice bath and warm-up track, was a big help,” she said.

Perth College was well-represented at the event, with Catherine Woodall (Year 12) and 2012 Leaver, Laurina Fitzpatrick, competing in three women’s rowing events (pairs, quads and eights) at the Sydney International Regatta Centre.

Elissa Wundersitz, a track cyclist and 2012 Leaver, won bronze in the women’s omnium and silver in the women’s team pursuit, and placed sixth in the women’s 5km scratch race.

About 1550 elite junior athletes from 40 nations were vying to be the best in 17 sports, utilising most of the venues developed for the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Congratulations to:

• Sports Captain, Elysia Burvill (Year 12), was a member of the Australian Schoolgirls Hockey team touring Argentina in February.

• Heidi Gan (2005) and her swim partner Simon Huitenga won the mixed duo category of the Rottnest Channel Swim and broke the race record by 5.00 min to finish in 4:08.11.

• Brianna Throssell (Year 12) won a silver medal at the FINA World Short-Course Swimming Championships in Turkey in December, as part of the Australian women’s 4x100m freestyle relay team.

• Sarah Jessop (Year 11) partnered with a teammate from the Perth City Swimming Club to win her female duo category in the Rottnest Channel Swim in February. Learning Technologies Co-ordinator, Graham McMahon, paddled the 19.7km distance from Cottesloe Beach to Thomson Bay to provide support for a solo swimmer. It was his ninth crossing as a support paddler – in previous events he has assisted participants in the duo and teams category, one of whom was a deaf girl.

Campion took home the trophy from this year’s Senior House Carnival Swimming Championships
Old Girls’ Association

The Perth College spirit continues to stand the test of time, as evidenced by attendance at events organised by the Old Girls’ Association this year.

A centenary celebration

The Old Girls’ Association has purchased a star, in the constellation of Carina and registered under the name of Myalla, in honour of its centenary year.

The organisation began a year of celebrations to recognise the milestone with a thanksgiving service at St George’s Cathedral on Sunday 17 February. The Perth College Chorale performed Evensong and former School Chaplain and Honorary Old Girl, Bishop Kay Goldsworthy, delivered a touching and inspiring sermon.

This was followed by a cocktail reception in the magnificent Government House ballroom, where 400 guests enjoyed canapes and catching up with old friends. Entertainment as guests arrived was provided by the Year 12 String Quartet.

Sister Linda Mary, Mother Superior and Australia Provincial of the Community of the Sisters of the Church, travelled from New South Wales for the occasion.

2013 Centenary Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17 to Saturday 20 April 7.30pm</td>
<td>Old Girls’ Gala Production</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 April 2.00pm</td>
<td>Country Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 27 October</td>
<td>Country Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 29 November</td>
<td>Centenary Gala Dinner</td>
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Pat (Williams) Poynton (1969) has kindly loaned her property ‘The Secret Garden’ next to Flute’s Restaurant in Willyabrup as the starting point for this event.

Entertainment as guests arrived was provided by the Year 12 String Quartet.

Sister Linda Mary, Mother Superior and Australia Provincial of the Community of the Sisters of the Church, travelled from New South Wales for the occasion.

Fiona Marsh, Jess Garnaut and Victoria Bishop

Richard and Dymphna Elsey, Laurie Humphrey and John McDonald

Jasmin Brain, Jessie Klär, Jane Munday and Vikki De Alwis

Member of Council, Bree Ludlow, with Principal, Jenny Ethell, and OGA President, Bev Ireland

Alison MacKenzie, Ellie Freeman and Rebecca Freeman

Tracey Johnston and Sally Stewart with wines labelled for the event
From a Young Old Girl

Sarah Jamieson knows the power of self-belief.

The 1992 Leaver took up middle distance running as a 15-year-old and first represented Australia in 1994 at the World Junior Championships. It wasn’t until she moved to Melbourne – six years after graduating from Perth College – to train at an elite level that she appreciated the extent of her athletic talent.

“I realised once I trained with girls who had competed at the highest level that I could make it, too,” she said.

“For many years I had to work as well as train to make ends meet but, in 2004, I was lucky enough to secure a contract with Reebok USA and become a full-time professional athlete.”

Sarah specialised in the 1500m and 5000m and her career included travel around the world to compete in three Olympic Games, two Commonwealth Games and three World Athletics finals, as well as World Cups, World Cross Country Championships and World Championships.

“I had dreams of reaching the highest level in my sport but you are never sure if it will come to fruition; I guess I never realised I could make a career from running,” she said.

“I thought I would be a Physical Education teacher when I left school – I’m glad I went to university and always had my degree as a fall back option.”

The University of Western Australia graduate (Bachelor of Physical and Health Education) broke the Australian record for the 1500m in Stockholm, Sweden, with a time of 4:00.93 minutes – and it still stands today.

Having lived in Melbourne for 15 years and returning to WA after the birth of her first child, Harry, in 2010, Sarah is also mum to Ivy, born in November last year, and now concentrates on coaching, establishing her own business – Perth Running Club. One of her charges is Year 12 student and 3000m runner, Bri Ilarda.

“I love seeing an athlete train hard and get rewarded,” she said.

“I coach three different squads of athletes – the recreational runner, juniors and an elite squad, which Bri is a part of.

“It would be fantastic to coach an athlete to the Olympics and to break my Australian record.”

Sarah’s advice to Perth College students – regardless of their strengths, talents, abilities and goals – is to “believe you can achieve greatness. Back yourself and don’t let setbacks stop you in your path; they truly make you stronger.”

Career highlights:

- Opening Ceremony at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games
- 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games – silver medal, 1500m
- Stockholm, Sweden, 2006 – broke the 1500m Australian record
- World Cup, Athens, 2006 – third, 1500m
- World Athletics final, Stuttgart, 2007 – second, 1500m
From an Old Girl

Mary Nenke is a busy woman.

The 1964 Leaver is a mother of six adult children and wife to Michael; together, they run a thriving regional business supplying gourmet products to the world. They also market home loans to farmers, pastoralists and rural businesses across Western Australia and hold an extravagant annual dinner on their Kukerin farm for hundreds of guests – in an old shearing shed transformed by chandeliers and a grand piano.

A winner of many major awards for her work to promote farming, women in agriculture, and regional development, Mary is certainly passionate.

“Once I have an idea or an inspiration, I am blessed with drive and determination to see the project through and a wonderful husband and family to help make it happen,” she said.

The word ‘can’t’ is not part of Mary’s vocabulary. She credits that to her mother and father, who ran a general store in Falcon and taught their daughter if something was worth doing, it was worth doing well.

Graduating from Perth College aged 17, Mary worked for her parents before becoming a bank officer – something she had never planned on doing. In retrospect, she says it prepared her well for life in rural WA and in business.

After meeting through the local Junior Farmers group, Mary and Michael married and took on his family’s wheat and sheep farm in the Wheatbelt, spreading yabbies across the property’s dams in 1969 to enjoy in their own meals. With finances stretched in the late 1980s and early 1990s due to soaring interest rates, low commodity prices and the cost of educating six children, the Nenkes turned a hobby into Cambinata Yabbies in 1991.

Initially supplying to friends, the business grew rapidly within two years and they began to purchase yabbies from other farmers to meet demand, processing and selling the crustaceans across Perth and the South West, interstate to Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, and even exporting to Singapore, Hong Kong, France and the USA.

By 1998, Cambinata’s processing facilities had become Australia’s largest, most sophisticated licensed yabby export establishment. A decade later, the Nenkes set up a commercial kitchen adjoining their shearing shed, to create gourmet products and cater for functions.

“All of our children have worked in the business, with Ann our first full-time ‘Yabby Girl’ and our youngest, Catherine and Suzanne, sorting and packing yabbies as part of their home schooling,” Mary said.

“Today our three sons, Paul, Derek and Ian are full-time in the business. Each manages different areas, with Paul running the cropping programme, Derek the commercial kitchen and Ian the yabby trapping programme.

“Our daughters still help with marketing and functions along with our sons-in-law.”

The Cambinata Extravaganza is now in its eleventh year, celebrating the diversity of the Wheatbelt and produce from the region. A mini expo showcasing producers and artists precedes a silver service dinner – created from farmed abalone, lamb, beef and yabbies, and accompanied by regional wines and rainwater – in the spruced-up shearing shed. Guests camp overnight on the property and enjoy a hot breakfast in the morning.

Mary’s latest project is putting agriculture back on the ‘political menu’ and she’s calling for PC students and Old Girls to help by becoming Farming Champions.

“Many Western Australian farmers are in crisis, through debt, the rising cost of inputs, land being sold to foreign buyers, and mental illness,” she said.

“There is need for urgent action to ensure a positive future – it’s not just about ‘poor’ farmers, it’s about the essential service they provide and the ‘poor’ Australia we’ll have without them.

“The idea is each champion finds more champions to get agriculture at the top of conversation around Australia.”

More information can be found through the Alarming Farming group on Facebook.

WA Senator Michaelia Cash (left) has answered Mary Nenke’s call to become a Farming Champion.
Perth College has mourned the passing of two former staff members and valued contributors to the School community.

Vale, Robert Juniper

A part-time member of the Art department from 1954 to 1956, Mr Juniper died on Thursday 20 December 2012, aged 83. He was best known for his depictions of the West Australian landscape.

Perth College was his first teaching post and, in an interview published in Western Australia in the 20th Century, by Patrick Cornish, he was quoted as saying, “It soon became clear that I would be roped in for the duty that every school Art Master faces – painting the backdrops for the School play.” So it continued at the next two schools he taught at – Hale and Guildford Grammar. Mr Juniper said he often bought materials himself to make props, and added he had “great fun” making items for the productions.

Born in Merredin in 1929, he was one of Western Australia’s most respected artists, renowned for his illustrations, paintings, printmaking and sculptures. He gave solo and group exhibitions around Australia and overseas, and was an inspiration and mentor to many fellow artists.

A five-time recipient of the Perth Prize for Contemporary Art (between 1954 and 1962), he won the Wynne Prize in 1976 and 1980 and was named a State Living Treasure in 1998. Mr Juniper was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for service to the visual arts, particularly as an Australian landscape painter and contemporary artist, in 2011.

The stained glass hexagonal-patterned rose window above the Chapel altar was designed by Mr Juniper and donated to the School by the Old Girls’ Association. It was installed in 1998, the centrepiece of the OGA’s Chapel restoration project, to commemorate Dorothy Talbot and Ikey Broadfoot, and serves as a tangible legacy of his talent and contribution to Perth College.

Farewell, Kate Sprenkels

The Perth College family has said farewell to former Head of LOTE and Old Girl, Kate Sprenkels, who passed away on 24 January 2013.

A 1973 Leaver, Kate displayed considerable academic aptitude as a student and had a determined sense of social justice. She returned to the School as a teacher and was appointed Head of her department in 1992, instigating overseas study trips to France and introducing technology into language instruction.

A tribute to Kate will be included in the next edition of the Heritage. Perth College extends its deepest sympathies to her family and friends.
Built on Faith: A History of Perth College 1902 – 2012 was launched on 25 November on a busy, sometimes noisy occasion, as this special day was combined with the Friends of PC Community Carols and Christmas Markets.

Who could have more of an understanding of the life of the School than Aphrodite Karalis, now entering her 47th year as an employee of Perth College? Affie proudly launched this publication, remarking, “A great history unfolds through the pages of this magnificent book, showing the changes, improvements, academic achievements and the ongoing life of Perth College.”

Dr Catherine May is to be congratulated for condensing 10 years of information and seamlessly adding it to her previous work, with the additional chapter titled A School of the World 2002 – 2012. Fremantle Press is also to be commended on producing such a visual delight.

Built on Faith not only serves as a wealth of information for Old Girls, new and existing families, and the Perth College community, but is also an ongoing research tool for students. Sales enquiries may be directed to the Development Office by calling 9471 2133 or emailing brooke.haddleton@pc.wa.edu.au.

Students add their own touch to gala production

As part of the Year 7 History programme, all students visit the Perth College Archives, not only to develop an understanding of the rich history of the School, but also to realise the importance of evidential material which can illuminate the past and guide the future.

The girls are absolutely amazed when they are exposed to memoirs of former students, see old photographs of what the School and Mount Lawley were like in years gone by, and imagine how it would be wearing a beret or coping with a button through a gym tunic for sport.

This year, however, will be different for the girls. The celebration of the centenary of the Old Girls’ Association in 2013 will involve both the Year 7 students and the Archives. In groups of two, girls will be allocated a former student to research, and this will result in the gathering of information of approximately 70 Old Girls from different eras. Methods of enquiry will span across the Archives, past editions of the Myola (the School Annual), in some cases a questionnaire and, of course, Google.

The final product will be a contribution to the Old Girls’ Association Gala in April, with concise biographical detail for future use in the Archives: a multilayered outcome!
Join us for a spectacular journey back in time as the stage comes alive and students dance disco, swing, waltz, contemporary, dub-step and even cheer. SPIN is a breathtaking, inspiring display of talent and skill across Years 7 to 12.

Perth College’s biennial large-scale dance production is on again this year from Thursday 27 to Saturday 29 June at 7.00pm in the Judith Cottier Theatre.

After auditioning almost 300 girls, staff have selected a cast of 139 aspiring young dancers to perform and weekly rehearsals have been held since the start of the year.

SPIN is a showcase event featuring guest artists, assistant choreographers who were recent Perth College graduates, and the School’s own resident staff choreographers. Guildford Grammar School students will also be included in a big band 1940s swing piece.

An extraordinary support production crew includes PC students, Theatre Manager, Matt Brown, and Costume House Co-ordinator, Krystal Meek. Anchored by the 2013 Dance Captains, this year’s SPIN: Through Time is co-directed by Jane Murray and Maranne Purnell.

**Event Details:**

Thursday 27 to Saturday 29 June
7.00pm

Judith Cottier Theatre
Lawley Crescent, Mount Lawley

To make a booking, please phone 9471 2100 or visit www.perthcollege.wa.edu.au
Perth College Old Girls’ Association proudly presents

Judith Cottier Theatre
Perth College, Lawley Crescent, Mount Lawley
Wednesday 17 - Saturday 20 April   7.30pm
Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 April     2.00pm

Bookings:   Phone: 9471 2100   www.perthcollege.wa.edu.au

In celebration of the last 100 years
Written and directed by Anne Hairsine and Gabrielle Metcalf

The Centenary Gala Production