

## **2008 Annual Report**

This is the 94th annual report for Presbyterian Ladies' College.

At Speech Night, held at Challenge Stadium on Saturday 6 December, we welcomed the Chair of Council, Hon Justice John McKechnie, The Moderator of the Uniting Church, Rev Ken Williams and guest of honour, Professor Celia Hammond (Vice-Chancellor of the University of Notre Dame.)

### **International Baccalaureate**

At a recent international conference *Twenty-first Century Learning* that focussed on students' schooling experiences, Helen Gunter (University of Manchester) and Tanya Fitzgerald (Unitec Institute of Technology, Auckland) noted:

“What remains problematic is how students remain as the objects of adults' plans, and at most, are the responders to adult direction, and are rarely involved in the design, delivery and evaluation of their own and others' work”.

This year PLC students took up the challenge to genuinely design, deliver and evaluate their own project, and hence, learning, in the Personal Project which is undertaken by all Year 9/10 students as part of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP).

The PLC community then had the pleasure of viewing these projects at the inaugural Year 10 Personal Project Exhibition where the quality, innovation, creativity and risk-taking of their endeavours were displayed and demonstrated.

In the Junior School, the Year 6 Exhibition (the Primary Years Programme (PYP) version of the Personal Project) focussed on the knowledge and understanding gained from working over the year on Service, Animal or Environment committees, one of which each girl elected to join.

The 2008 Personal Project Exhibition marked the complete implementation of the PYP and MYP of the IB at PLC. This year also saw the first of our Year 9 and 10 students' work moderated against other IB students across the world. Samples of work were sent as far afield as the United States, Spain, Switzerland, Hong Kong and Canada for assessment.

Planning is now underway for the two-year IB Diploma course which will be offered to Year 11 in 2011 and then Year 12 in 2012. Several staff have already been trained to teach to the Diploma while others will attend workshops in 2009 and 2010. Subjects to be offered are still under consideration although we anticipate the availability of English, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, History, Economics, Mathematics, French, Art and Drama.

The IB organisation will audit our teaching and learning programmes, practices and philosophy within the Junior School in 2009.

### **PLC Council**

The PLC Council comprises a range of community members including Old Collegians, current and past parents and members of the Uniting Church. They offer expertise from a variety of professional areas including education, law, finance, business and human resources. The voluntary time they give to the School is invaluable in ensuring wise and astute governance, strategic vision and good repute.

This year, Rowan Maclean (1983) concluded seven years of much valued service as a nominee of the Old Collegians' Association on Council and as a member and later Chair, of the Master Plan & Infrastructure Committee. Rowan's guidance and architectural expertise was significant during a major construction period that saw the completion of the new Middle School, Science, Technology & Art building and the refurbishment of the Boarding House.

Alan Brien retires from Council at the end of 2008, having combined eight and a half years of distinguished service to PLC. Council acknowledges Alan's insightful contributions particularly through his membership of the Education & Pastoral Care, Master Plan & Infrastructure, Governance & Performance and ICT Committees, chairing the latter for the last two years. Alan's extensive knowledge of education and business and his strategic and considered approach will be missed on Council.

We welcomed Old Collegian Katrina Burton (Fairweather 1982) as a new member of Council in 2008. Katrina is a solicitor, a non-executive director of the Bank of Queensland (formerly Home Building Society) and has served on the board of Landgate since 2007. She is also a Director of Edge

of Nowhere (EON) Foundation which encourages companies and individuals to share the success of a strong Western Australian economy to improve the health and life-skills of indigenous people and help build thriving communities.

### **Council Members during 2008**

#### **Ken Williams**

Moderator of the Uniting Church in Australia (WA)

#### **John McKechnie**

Chair of Council/current parent/law/university

#### **Robyn Ahern**

Current parent/business

#### **John Atkins**

Current parent/law/business

#### **Alan Brien**

Past parent/business/education

#### **Katrina Burton**

Past student, current parent, law

#### **Carol Hardie**

Deputy Chair/past student/past parent/rural sector

#### **Barry Horne**

Current parent/human resources

#### **Martin Kirkness**

Current parent/finance

#### **Rowan Maclean**

Past student/architecture

#### **Simon Read**

Current parent/finance

#### **Susan Roberts**

Educator/human resources

#### **Karen Simmer**

Past parent/university/medicine

**Gillian Swan**

Uniting Church/educator

**Tony Taylor**

Current parent/finance/recruitment

**Anthony Wooles**

Current parent/business

PLC also thanks the following people who provide time, knowledge and experience to Council Sub Committees:

**Hazel Day** (Master Plan and Infrastructure)

**Ned Franetovich** (Master Plan and Infrastructure)

**Philip Idle** (Master Plan and Infrastructure)

**Jamie Lutz** (Chair, Audit and Risk Management)

**PLC Senior Leadership Team**

**Beth Blackwood**

Principal

**Keith Anderson**

Deputy Principal Teaching and Learning (Students)

**Sharon Anderson**

Head of Middle School

**Brett Clarke**

Director of Information Systems and Services

**Jamie Craigie**

Human Resources Manager Semester 1

**Kim Edwards**

Deputy Principal Teaching and Learning (Staff)

**Neesha Flint**

Head of Senior School

**Chavaune Francis**

Director of Community Relations Terms 3,4

**Sam Kronja**

Director of Finance and Administration

**Veronica Lawrance**

Acting Director Community Relations Terms 1, 2

**Leeanne and Malcolm McTavish**

Co-Directors of Boarding House

**Bob Niven**

Director of Business Services

**Tina Phillips**

Human Resources Manager, Semester 2

**Chris Robinson**

Head of Staff

**Janet Wilmot**

Head of Junior School

**Academic Achievement**

In addition to the excellent results of our 2007 Year 12s, current PLC students have achieved well this year in school-based assessments as well as a number of state and national competitions. Outstanding successes have been achieved in Accounting, History, Science, Mathematics, Media, Art, French and English.

Some of these successes include:

- Ashley Dunne (Year 7) was the winner of the National Year 7 Maths Talent Quest.
- Jia-Ying Choong (Year 9) who achieved a High Distinction in Young Australian Maths Challenge – Intermediate level.
- Stephanie King, Terra Tormey, Zenoushka Bynevelt and Hannah Newnes (all Year 9) were the national award winners of the Junior Category in the GeoScience and National Geographic Channel with the film *Torrential Tornadoes*.
- Sarah Cole (Year 10) achieved the highest result and a High Distinction in the 2008 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools in Mathematics.
- Imogen Forbes-Macphail (Year 12) was awarded a High Distinction and the highest mark for the 2008 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools in English. Imogen also won the National History Challenge in her chosen category, *Women with a Mission*.

- The following three Year 12 students were awarded cadetships with leading accounting firms: Jane Ayers with McGrathNichol; Kristen Chiswell with KPMG; and Bronte Cramer PKF.
- Year 11s Amelia Brown, Georgina Carr, Greta Carroll, Malindi Haggett, Lauren Smith and Year 12s Ellie Beurteaux, Victoria Gill, Madelene Mulholland and Jessica Ong earned High Distinctions (top 10%) in the 2008 Australian Chemistry Quiz.
- Liana Tay was second in the State in the Alliance Francaise examination for Year 11.
- Cordelia Coleman (Year 12) won the public speaking State Final of the 2008 - 2009 Lions Youth of the Year Quest.
- Portia Smallbone (Year 11) was runner-up in the prestigious National Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards that attracted 15,000 entries.
- Recipients of prizes in creative writing in *The West Australian* Young Writers' Competition were Kristen Chiswell (Year 12), Mariko Hunt and Portia Smallbone (both Year 11), while in the Cottesloe-Peppermint Grove-Mosman Park Library 2008 Literary awards Eva Marsh (Years 1-7) Hannah Murray and Sarah Cole (Years 8-12) were winners of their Poetry categories.
- Eleanor Frew (Year 10) was an award winner in the Tim Winton Award for Young Writers.
- INSTEP Gold Status was achieved twice in one year by Molly Maeers (Year 11), the first PLC student in the field of automotive engineering. Lydia Bacopanos (Year 12) earned Gold Status for Dance and Megan Campbell also received Gold Status for Hospitality.

### **Performing Arts**

Music, Theatre and Visual Arts programmes at PLC continue to impress. Audiences have enjoyed a range of wonderful cultural events at PLC this year that have included: the student art exhibition *Collective*; the School musical *Jesus Christ Superstar*; productions of *Antigone* (Year 12) and *The Duck Variations* (Year 11); the Years 9-10 Drama Showcase; the Dance Showcase *Unbound* and the Senior School Choreographic Dance Evening.

A variety of concerts from the Music Department included: the annual *PLC Proms Concert* at the Quarry; *PLC/ Scotch Spring Concert* at the Dickinson Centre; the *PLC Spring Concert* featuring Year 12 vocal soloists Rachel Chandler and Lauren Walker; the *Dean's Choice Concert* at which the PLC/Trinity Chorale and soprano Morwenna MacLean (Year 12) were invited to perform; the Solo and Chamber Music Concert featuring ensembles, TEE soloists and Year 8 Music Scholarship recipient

Marissa Loh (Violin); *Junior School Winter and Spring Concerts*; Vocal Recital Evening; and the TEE Music Recital Evening featuring Year 12s Jennifer Chan (Piano) and Ellen McGuckin (Electric Base) and Year 11s Emma Yole (Violin) and Elizabeth Lor (Piano).

In April, the PLC Trinity Chorale performed at the *Beijing International Youth Festival for Performing Arts* where they were awarded a silver plaque. At the WA Schools' Orchestra Festival the Vivaldi String Orchestra achieved Excellence while the Stravinsky String Orchestra and PLC/Scotch Chamber Orchestra gained Outstanding awards. In the WA School's Band Festival, Concert Band 1 received an Excellent award with Concert Band 2 and PLC/Scotch Wind ensemble achieving Outstanding awards.

Sarah Coulter-Nile (Year9), Rokiyah Bin Swani, Tamsin McLinden, Shuling Wong (all Year 10) and Lydia Bacopanos (Year 12) auditioned and were accepted into the Steps Youth Dance Company 2008.

Jill Shrapnel's work MICRO (textiles) and Sharnie Sammut's JOURNEY (mixed media sculpture) have been selected for the *Perspectives* Exhibition 2009.

The Music Scholarship recipient commencing in Year 8, 2009 is Lucy Yang and Music Bursaries have been awarded to Felicity Eustance and Caitlin O'Shea (both Year 7).

### **NAPLAN results**

In 2008 all Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students sat the national tests for numeracy and literacy. This was the first year for testing of grammar and punctuation. These results support our Learning Enrichment Centre in identifying students in need of individual attention, be it for extension or support material. Reassuringly, all students identified by the NAPLAN with below average results had already been identified by LEC staff. Results for 2008 were as follows:

| <b>Year 3</b>         | Top 20% | Middle 60% | Bottom 20% |
|-----------------------|---------|------------|------------|
| Reading               | 39%     | 56%        | 0%         |
| Writing               | 48%     | 52%        | 0%         |
| Spelling              | 32%     | 68%        | 0%         |
| Grammar & Punctuation | 48%     | 52%        | 0%         |
| Numeracy              | 40%     | 52%        | 8%         |

| <b>Year 5</b>         | Top 20% | Middle 60% | Bottom 20% |
|-----------------------|---------|------------|------------|
| Reading               | 39%     | 56%        | 5%         |
| Writing               | 32%     | 63%        | 5%         |
| Spelling              | 32%     | 57%        | 11%        |
| Grammar & Punctuation | 47%     | 45%        | 8%         |
| Numeracy              | 27%     | 67%        | 6%         |

| <b>Year 7</b>         | Top 20% | Middle 60% | Bottom 20% |
|-----------------------|---------|------------|------------|
| Reading               | 48%     | 43%        | 9%         |
| Writing               | 43%     | 53%        | 4%         |
| Spelling              | 23%     | 67%        | 10%        |
| Grammar & Punctuation | 46%     | 45%        | 9%         |
| Numeracy              | 32%     | 62%        | 6%         |

| <b>Year 9</b>         | Top 20% | Middle 60% | Bottom 20% |
|-----------------------|---------|------------|------------|
| Reading               | 41%     | 55%        | 4%         |
| Writing               | 61%     | 37%        | 2%         |
| Spelling              | 28%     | 69%        | 3%         |
| Grammar & Punctuation | 41%     | 55%        | 4%         |
| Numeracy              | 29%     | 64%        | 7%         |

## **Sporting Excellence**

Participation in sport and engagement in a healthy lifestyle continue to be valued at PLC. This year we came second in the IGSSA Athletics, third in the Swimming and Cross Country and fourth in the Schoolgirls' Head of the River. PLC was overall Champion Hockey School in the IGSSA competition and the Senior A Netball won the IGSSA pennant.

PLC had state representatives in cross country, equestrian, athletics, rowing, canoeing, triathlon, sailing, waterpolo, hockey, gymnastics, tennis, diving, swimming, fencing, netball, cricket and basketball.

Elite Sportswoman Pockets for students who have represented Australia were awarded to Mia Washbourne (netball), Celia Thompson (sailing), Cassandra McCloskey (tennis) and Alice Broun and Annabel Hall (diving).

## **Connecting the Community**

PLC is fortunate in the support it continues to receive from vibrant and active support groups. The PLC Auxiliary continues to offer many social and fundraising events including the popular Open Garden Day. A relaxing city country lunch was held at Meads Mosman Park in February and the Parent Ball in March was another significant and enjoyable event of the year. Funds from these groups have supported the purchase of cafeteria furniture, shade-cloths, Year 12 common room furniture and the refurbishment of the Boarding House kitchenette.

Our commitment to rural Western Australia meant visits to field days in Dowerin, Wagin, Broome, Karratha and Mingenew as well a 'reunion' breakfast in Esperance for Old Collegians, current and past parents.

The Old Collegians' Association conducted a Constitution Review, hosted a Welcome Lunch for former students returning to the School as parents and a morning tea for the 2009 Student Council. They also held the OCA Cocktail Party, a quiz night and the Old Collegians Luncheon and AGM at Meads.

In 2008 past students came together at an Easter Service, Year 13 Brunch and the Founders' Day Service and Luncheon. Reunions for 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 years and the 1971 Boarders, were held as well as a reunion for Old Collegians in Hong Kong.

Both the Parents' Committee and the PLC Old Collegians' Association support the studies of current PLC students through their respective scholarship programmes. Winners for 2009 are: Parents' Committee Scholarships - Year 8 Rebecca Crompton and Year 10 Megan Kozak  
PLC OCA Scholarships - Vera Summers Scholarship Rachel Bonus (Year 10) and Heather Barr Scholarship Greta Carroll (Year 11).

The Parents' Committee Professional Development Award for 2009 has been awarded to Junior School teacher, Megan Hooper to support a study tour to Reggio Emilia schools and education workshops in Italy.

### **Community and Service Learning**

This year has seen a blossoming of opportunities for PLC students to engage first-hand in giving service to others less advantaged than themselves. Our inaugural Co-ordinator for Community and Service Learning, Ms Tracey Bahen, has been the catalyst for developing a diverse range of service and leadership opportunities. The feedback from students involved in service programmes such as the tour to Cambodia in support of the Tabitha Foundation; the service tour to Tanzania; volunteering at the KALACC Festival in the Kimberley; supporting a local women's refuge centre; collecting for Good Sammy's and supporting senior citizens at Amana Living, is testament to the adage 'it is better to give than receive.' We all stand to learn from each other, and learn about ourselves, through such activities. Giving service is not a condescending act but a shared discovery of the depth and breadth of life.

In February, PLC joined with others across the country in celebrating the Prime Minister's Apology to the Stolen Generations. We continue to support reconciliation and be enriched by our scholarship programme for students from the Kimberley region.

Three service-oriented tours took place in 2008:

- 25 staff and students travelled to the Kimberley to support the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre Festival.
- Seven years of PLC Junior School fundraising for the Tabitha Foundation Building Programme culminated with an inaugural tour of 32 staff, students and parents to Cambodia to build and donate 24 houses. In the words of one of the parents:  
*I am still trying to return to the reality of our privileged lives in Perth, which, for me, has been a bit of a struggle as I view the content of our lives with greater detachment and an altered sense of priority. I think a number of the girls and other parents have experienced similar feelings..... I feel very privileged to have been able to participate in the trip and to share such an amazing experience with my daughter.*
- A combined PLC/Scotch tour to Tanzania engaged students in refurbishing schoolrooms for children in the village of Matipwili accompanied by Rebecca Watts (Media) and Rebecca Rutter (Outdoor Education).

The PLC Community embraced the issue of homelessness and domestic abuse with support for *The Big Issue*, UnitingCare West's Winter Warmer Appeal, Comfort Pack Appeal for the Wyn Carr Refuge and the Salvation Army's Graceville Refuge.

Some continuing partnerships include Uniting Care West's Pancake Day, the World Vision 40 Hour Famine, Wheelchairs for Kids, CanTeen's Bandanna Day; Amnesty International, Good Samaritan Industries 2008 Donations Project; Mahamaya Girls' School in Sri Lanka Schools and Amana Living.

Students in the Junior School have made contributions to the Tabitha Foundation, Animal Aid Abroad, the Umoja Primary School in Tanzania, Parish Pantry and the residents of local nursing homes.

The courage, resilience and determination of Kate Reilly (Year 9), who lost her life in April while awaiting a heart transplant, touched the lives of many and advanced awareness and action for organ donation legislation. Purple Thursday fund raising was held in memory of Kate and to support organ donation.

## **Beyond McNeil Street**

International and national tours and exchanges enable students to broaden their perspective and expand their studies in various curriculum areas. In 2008, students toured China, Cambodia, Tanzania, South Africa, France, the Kimberley, Sydney and Canberra and participated in exchange programmes to South Africa and Japan. PLC has been host to students from South Africa, Belgium, Germany and Japan.

The Year 9 Scotch College/PLC tour to Canberra included 242 staff and students in 2008. To manage the tour the group will be split into two with one half in Jindabyne (skiing) while the other half toured Canberra. The newly appointed Tours Administrator has made a significant difference to the time and energy required to organise the administrative and duty of care aspects of this popular Tour. An alternative tour of Perth was organised by Geetha Nair (Head of Middle School Humanities) for Scotch College and PLC students not travelling to Canberra that included visits to State Parliament House, Constitutional Centre and Museums as well as recreational activities.

As internationally minded educators, our staff have travelled as far a field as Chang Mei, Singapore, Beijing, Jakarta and eastern state capital cities to participate in professional development opportunities.

## **College Operations 2008**

### **2008 Income**

Fees: 78%

Commonwealth Grants: 10%

State Grants: 8%

Other 4%

### **2008 Expenditure**

Salaries: 65%

Administration: 8%

Utilities and Services: 6%

Replacement and Capital Expenditure: 10%

Boarding: 2%

Teaching Resources: 5%

ICT: 4%

## **Foundation**

The PLC Foundation is an association of members of the PLC community committed to the long term financial viability of the School. The work of the Foundation includes receiving funds and gifts from the PLC community by way of annual giving, bequests and capital fundraising campaigns. The Foundation has responsibility for and stewardship of funds in its custody.

In 2008 the Foundation Board appointed Gannon, Growden and Schonell as investment advisors to the Foundation. Their cautious investment approach will ensure that the Foundation will be in a position to continue to offer support to the School and students.

Through its scholarship program, the Foundation Board continues to support a number of Indigenous, music and academic scholarships. This support ensures that scholarship winners who may not otherwise be able, can attend PLC.

Following the safe arrival of her third daughter, Beth Kiernan (Clarkson, 1990) has announced her retirement from the Foundation Board. For almost nine years, Beth has made important contributions to Board deliberations and her expertise and guidance during the Enriching the Future Campaign was invaluable.

The School recognises the time, expertise and dedication of members of the Foundation Board: Elisa Fear, Carol Hardie, Sue Hobson, Mimi Packer, Jennifer Thornton and Chair, Robyn Ahern.

## **2008 Achievements**

- Enrolments remained strong for the 2008 School year with approximately 1180 students across pre-Kindergarten to Year 12. The Year 10 cohort is a particularly large group with 165 students, as PLC seeks to balance numbers across the next three years to offset the half-year cohort currently in Year 6 (due to legislative changes to the entry age to School).
- Introduction of a new school timetable with longer periods and 10-day cycle.
- Commencement of new Year 11 and 12 Courses of Study in Dance, Drama, Psychology, Physical Education Studies and Materials, Design and Technology (Textiles).
- The inaugural International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme Year 10 Personal Project Exhibition.

- Review of pastoral care structure and academic leadership in Middle and Senior School. Consideration was given to retaining the current horizontal Year group pastoral care structure or moving to a vertical House group system. It was determined that the current system served well the pastoral care needs of students and, as such, will remain. PLC will, however, continue to seek ways to strengthen the pastoral care offered to students.
- Review of the academic year for Year 11 and 12 in the light of new Courses of Study and Diploma introduction in 2011.
- Review and development of Middle School Homework Policy. The new policy has been forwarded to Middle School parents.
- Rewriting and implementation of Mathematics Scope and Sequence for Junior School and staff training with mathematics consultant, Bronwyn McLeod of Gateways Education.
- Review of Programme of Inquiry in Junior School by International Baccalaureate curriculum branch.
- Three staff selected and successfully trained as curriculum leaders for the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme – Kim Edwards (Deputy Principal), Lana Salfinger (Head of MYP Science) and Victoria Biggs (Head of MYP English).
- Leadership development through Coaching Accreditation Programme. Grant Sullivan of Australian Growth Coaching was engaged to work with the Senior Leadership team with a view to embedding a coaching culture within PLC.

The training aimed to build knowledge, competence and confidence in coaching and mentoring; to have a structure for approaching coaching conversations at PLC that moves from trusting relationships to results, ensuring growth of individuals and the people they need to influence; for staff to see coaching modelled and to increase self awareness and learn how to use emotional intelligence to maximise conversation outcome. The coaching programme will be extended to Heads of Department in 2009.

- PLC continued to be recognised for its leading use of technology for teaching and learning. In April, over 30 principals, teachers and University lecturers visited PLC as the last stop in an Apple sponsored tour of laptop schools in Perth. During the visit Keith Anderson, Kim Edwards and Brett Clarke spoke to them about our use of digital materials, demonstrated a range of materials, and discussed the infrastructure needed to support a laptop programme.
- In actioning Rudd's electoral promises for education, the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) in collaboration with the

Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) invited schools that demonstrate 'best-practice' in ICT education to present at Digital Education Symposia held in each State. These Symposia were intended to be explorations of the possibilities and realities of the Digital Education Revolution proposed by the federal government. We were proud to be invited to present at the Symposium in Perth. Deputy Principals, Keith Anderson and Kim Edwards showcased different examples and case studies of how PLC continues to demonstrate 'best-practice' in ICT education and digital curriculum.

- Appointment of first Education Assistants for Middle and Senior School.
- Fundraising Strategic Plan established.
- Appointment of a Fundraising Co-ordinator to support fundraising endeavours.
- Redesign and launch of new PLC website.
- Establishment of Sensory Garden for the Early Learning Centre and Middle School recreation area.
- Partnership with Scotch College for ICT infrastructure, sharing of IT resources and education objectives. The proposed shared ICT structure will support PLC to remain at the forefront of ICT in education as well as being effective in the sharing of resources. The possibilities of this venture are considerable, both from a financial and operative perspective, particularly:
  - (i) as both Schools teach to the IB programmes and Courses of Study the shared infrastructure offers the potential for virtual sharing of classroom content and presentations.
  - (ii) although each School will retain much of its own IT infrastructure there will be economies through shared knowledge, processes, hardware and human capability.
  - (iii) an ability to leverage purchasing power from suppliers and contractors.
  - (iv) shared professional development.
  - (v) ability to strengthen the relationship of both Schools with Apple, Microsoft and other key partnerships for innovative technologies and educational practices. For example, we are currently negotiating with Apple an opportunity for both Schools to use and showcase iTunes as an educational resource within Australia.
  - (vi) to be poised to leverage ICT if a shared campus, such as Port Hedland, becomes a reality.
- Relocation and refurbishment of newly named Student Services to house Middle and Senior School Counsellors, Chaplain, Director of Careers, Careers Reference Library, Learning Enrichment Centre team, Tours Administrator and Co-ordinator for Community and Service Learning to cater for students from Years 7 – 12.

- Review of PLC Master Plan with priorities being the determination of a Sports complex, allowing for the reassignment of the current tennis courts in the Junior School as a grassed open space for our younger students, followed by refurbishment of Senior School.

## **2009 Plans**

- Continued preparation and implementation of new Year 11 and 12 Courses of Study.
- Change to the structure of the academic year for Year 11 and 12 students to be implemented in Year 11. In the light of Government mandated changes to the Year 11 and 12 Courses of Study staff at PLC have carefully considered changes to the current academic timetable and programme. In order to provide our students with the best possible educational experience the current system of Year 11 being four Terms and Year 12 being three Terms will be reversed to provide Year 12 girls with almost four Terms to complete their studies commencing 2009.

Starting in 2009, Year 11 will be taught and assessed in Terms 1 – 3 with final examinations coinciding with current Year 12 school examinations during the second week of the October school holidays. During Term 4 the girls will begin their Year 12 coursework, providing them with a total of almost four Terms to complete the work. The decreased time in Year 11 is outweighed by the benefit for the majority of students of having extra time for Year 12 work. The key benefits of this change are seen to be:

- (i) That more time will be available for the ‘high-stakes’ Year 12 work. This benefit will be achieved without a total re-arrangement of the Middle and Senior School timetables.
- (ii) Extra time is provided for girls ‘picking up’ a new subject in Year 12 as they will have 4 Terms rather than 3.
- (iii) All subjects in Years 11 and 12 will finish in October allowing girls to select the most appropriate ones for their future. This provides the potential for all Stage 2 and 3 subjects being taught at PLC to count for a Tertiary Entrance Rank, rather than just Stage 3 ones. Thus a Year 12 girl will now be able to study a Stage 2 subject as well as Stage 3 subjects.
- (iv) More effective counselling for Year 11 girls moving into Year 12 as their full results and report will be available early in Term 4. This would allow early changes if necessary.
- (v) Girls will be allowed in certain circumstances to repeat a subject. This will not be a common occurrence, but is possible under the new rules.

- Review of new timetable introduced in 2008.
- Explore opportunities for student exchange programme to China.
- Introduction of programme to support the holistic needs of high performing sportswomen.
- Primary Years Programme audit and evaluation by International Baccalaureate examiners.
- Leadership development through Coaching Accreditation Programme for Heads of Department and Junior School leaders.
- Planning for implementation of the International Baccalaureate Diploma for 2011.
- Adoption of professional standards for teachers and review of teacher appraisal and professional leadership roles.
- Additional support and specialist staff with the appointment of an Early Learning Music specialist and additional 0.5FTE School Counsellor.

### **2007 Results Snapshot**

PLC graduating students excelled across a wide range of subjects in the 2007 Tertiary Entrance Examinations, as well as the INSTEP programme. 59% of our TEE cohort were placed in the top third of the State and 52% with a TER greater than 90.

PLC was also listed amongst the top ten performing schools for Applicable Mathematics, Art, Biology, Discrete Mathematics, Drama Studies, English, English Literature, French, History, Human Biology, Media Production and Analysis and Physics.

Congratulations to our 2007 Dux of School, Josie Gorter on achieving a General Exhibition.

Curriculum Council Certificates of Distinction were awarded to Evelyn Froend (Drama Studies); Annika Houwen (Human Biology); Alison Lowe (Discrete Mathematics); Bianca Macliver (Accounting); Emily O'Keeffe (English Literature and History); Claire Ransom (Geography); Isobel Rosenstreich (Drama Studies); Tenika Smith (English and Media); Anna Speirs (English); Lorena Sumich (English) and Katherine Williams (Discrete Mathematics).

Certificates of Excellence were awarded to Grace Edwards; Adele Ferguson-Gander; Josie Gorter; Lucy Greer; Annika Houwen; Bianca Macliver; Emily O'Keeffe; Clementine Packer; Claire Ransom; Erin Stanes and Amelia Young.

## **Staff**

Teaching is a noble profession and PLC continues to be blessed with teaching staff who have a genuine interest in sharing their knowledge, interests, skills and care with young people. In *The Learning Game*, the author, Jonathan Smith comments that “beyond loving them, the best we can do for our children is to make them interested, interested in things, in the hope that this will make them interesting”. To do so means being an interested and interesting person in your own right. I never cease to be amazed by the talent, interests, knowledge and experience of the staff at PLC as well as their generosity in sharing these skills with their students. The teaching staff are supported by a committed team of support staff whose hearts are also engaged in providing a well-administered and caring learning environment.

In 2008 we fare-welled long serving member of staff, Annette Moon who has given 22 years of service to the PLC community and students. Annette commenced at PLC in 1986, and across the years has taught Geography, English, Politics, Ancient History and society and environment. She has helped shape many new initiatives at PLC including the laptop programme and implementation of a Middle School. She led the Middle School Society and Environment Department from 2004, overseeing the introduction of International Baccalaureate. She has been a loyal, intelligent and thoroughly professional member of staff.

The 2009 summer edition of *Blackwatch* is a celebration of past and present teachers and staff who shape for the better the lives of future citizens.

## **Principal's Notes**

In April this year I took a month's study leave that included an appreciated balance between educational research, school visits, time with PLC students on school tours and recreational leave. Specific study leave objectives included:

- Spending time with the PLC/Trinity Chorale on tour in China as well as the Senior School Tour to France. It was a privilege to spend time on the Chorale tour of China with its richness of culture, history and music. The time spent at the Beijing Conservatory of Music undoubtedly extended our girls' understanding of music, both western and Chinese. The performance standard of students from Beijing No 1 Senior High School and the Preparatory School of the Beijing Conservatory of Music was inspiring.

The time spent in Paris with twenty students and three staff was also special. Again, the excitement and challenge of experiential learning was very evident and the benefit of the language and cultural experience will certainly extend beyond the year.

- Exploring the potential for future boarding enrolments from China.
- Investigating the potential for PLC girls to undertake an educational experience in China. Travelling in China again confirmed the importance for our students to gain an understanding of the culture, history, politics and economics of this country as well as its relationship with Australia, the Asian region and the world. Relationships have been established with two schools in Beijing with the potential for future school visits.
- Visiting IB schools in the Asian region and United Kingdom to share practices and seek partnerships.
- Following up initiatives in the United Kingdom with regard to teacher well-being, workloads and professional standards. This year the Consultative Committee, comprised of teaching staff and senior leaders, has reviewed professional standards for teachers and appraisal processes for professional leader status. The New South Wales Professional Teaching Standards have been selected as appropriate guidelines for evaluation and appraisal processes at PLC. Accreditation processes will be implemented in 2009.
- Visiting Sacred Heart School for Girls in London following commendation for practices to encourage academic excellence, resilience and independence. This school has introduced Individual Monitoring Programmes whereby each Semester students determine individual learning goals for all subjects studied. The reflection and monitoring processes support academic progress and individual responsibility for learning. Next year we will explore the possible application of such goal setting for students in the Middle School.

In addition to study leave, 2008 has been a busy, stimulating and rewarding year with highlights such as our first Year 10 Personal Project Exhibition, *Jesus Christ Superstar* musical and completion of the Student Services Centre for Middle and Senior School students. The staff of PLC has been exceptional in the time, care and professionalism they have given to teaching and pastoral care. I thank, too, the generosity of parents who have supported so many student activities and social events across the year. Together staff, students and parents have created a caring and connected sense of community at PLC.