

= Presbyterian Ladies ' College , Sydney =

The Presbyterian Ladies ' College , Sydney (PLC Sydney) is an independent , Presbyterian , day and boarding school for girls in Croydon , an inner @-@ western suburb of Sydney , Australia . The school has a non @-@ selective enrolment policy for all years but Year 11 , and caters for approximately 1 @, @ 250 girls from age four (Branxton Reception) to age eighteen (Year 12) , including 65 boarders . Students attend PLC from all regions of the greater metropolitan area , New South Wales , and overseas .

Established in 1888 by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of NSW , PLC is the oldest continuously running Presbyterian Church school in its state . The college is a founding member of the Association of Heads of Independent Girls ' Schools and is affiliated with the Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia , the Junior School Heads Association of Australia , and the Australian Boarding Schools ' Association . PLC is one of two Sydney schools in the Round Square organisation .

In 2001 , The Sun @-@ Herald ranked PLC Sydney fourth in Australia 's top ten girls ' schools , based on the number of alumnae mentioned in the Who 's Who in Australia (a listing of notable Australians) . Notable alumnae include the first qualified female architect in Australia and other pioneering women in education , law , and medicine .

= = History = =

= = = Foundation = = =

In 1883 the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of NSW formed a special committee to investigate a proposal to establish boarding schools for girls and for boys , to provide Presbyterian alternatives to the proliferating number of Roman Catholic secondary schools in the colony . The Minister at Richmond , Rev James Cameron stated : " Presbyterians should take prompt action because the Popish party , seeing the want that was felt throughout the colony in regard to higher education , has stepped in to supply that want , and if Protestants did not look to the matter , the Roman Catholics would take advantage of them . " The General Assembly was also inspired to establish a school , particularly a Ladies ' College , by less worthy motives . Other Protestant denominations in NSW had recently established their own Ladies ' Colleges , and the neighbouring colony of Victoria had maintained a Presbyterian Ladies ' College since 1875 , and so it was felt that NSW Presbyterians should also have one . At the 1884 Assembly the Committee announced that while a boys ' school was not needed , the secondary education options available to girls were not satisfactory , and they recommended that a Ladies ' College , similar to the Presbyterian Ladies ' College , Melbourne , be established as soon as possible .

A Ladies ' College Committee was formed and by July 1887 they had leased a property in Ashfield . For principal , they unanimously selected Dr. John Marden , a science master from the Methodist Ladies ' College (MLC) in Melbourne , " because of his high academic standing , his experience and success in teaching and his high Christian character " . Marden was a strong believer in equal opportunity in education , and has been described as an " early feminist " . He rejected the idea that PLC was to be merely a finishing school for the daughters of the wealthy , and was once quoted as saying :

I am ... out of sympathy with the cry that education is unnecessary for girls , and that all they require is a few accomplishments . Women have also to live their life - in most cases a harder one than men have . This notion of accomplishments being sufficient for girls is surely a remnant of those barbarous days when women were looked on as the plaything of men .

The Presbyterian Ladies ' College was finally opened by Marden and lady superintendent , Ms M. McCormick , on 30 January 1888 , with 39 girls . It was modelled on the great English Public Schools , and was the first school to be established by the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales . Together with the Committee , Marden was responsible for organising the curriculum and hiring the

appropriate staff . During the opening ceremony the Governor invited his wife , the Countess of Jersey , Margaret Child @-@ Villiers , to speak . She made what the Sydney Morning Herald described as a " capital impromptu speech " . The Countess ' speech was widely reported throughout Australia and elsewhere around the world , as at the time it was quite unusual for a woman to speak in public . PLC 's Jersey Day , an annual event in which ex @-@ students return to the College on the Sunday closest to 10 March , is named in honour of the Countess .

= = = Growth = = =

In the early years at Croydon , girls tended to be enrolled at an older age , typically over fourteen . It was apparent that despite Marden 's insistence , many parents viewed the College as a finishing school . As today , it was not a requirement for students to be Presbyterians , and early school records indicate there were a number of Roman Catholic and Jewish students . By 1900 the reputation of the school had spread , and pupils were starting to come from a wider geographic area , including New Caledonia , Fiji , New Zealand , the Northern Territory , Western Australia , Queensland and South Australia .

The increase in enrolments also convinced the Council of the need to set up a branch school on another site , preferably on the North Shore . In 1913 Marden reported that many applications were being refused because of " shortness of space . " The Assembly approved the establishment of a branch at Pymble and gave the Council of PLC Croydon £ 5 @,@ 000 to erect new buildings and lay out the grounds . The Presbyterian Ladies ' College , Pymble was opened on 8 February 1916 with 48 day girls and 86 boarders . Marden became the Principal of both schools . The opening of the Pymble campus necessitated a change of name for the Croydon College , from The Presbyterian Ladies ' College , Sydney to The Presbyterian Ladies ' College , Croydon . Marden retired at the end of 1919 and a Principal was appointed to each branch . Dr E. Neil McQueen , a prominent educational innovator who had previously been the Vice @-@ Principal of the two schools , became the second Principal of PLC Croydon . In 1918 the school magazine Aurora Australis was first published . On the cover it bore a quotation from Thomas Carlyle : ' . . . here hath been dawning another blue day . Think wilt thou let it slip useless away.'

= = = Second World War = = =

In 1941 , both the Principal Mary Hamilton , and the Senior Mistress (novelist , critic and historian) Flora Eldershaw , left the school to fill wartime positions in the bureaucracy . In 1942 , the new Principal , Dr Helen Wilkie , arrived to find falling enrolments , staffing problems and food shortages due to the effects of the Second World War . Word was soon received that Australian military authorities wished to inspect the school with a view to taking it over . On 24 March 1942 , it was requested that PLC be occupied by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) for the purpose of establishing a top secret Radar Unit and military barracks known as No.1 RIMU (Radio Installation and Maintenance Unit) . In order to accommodate PLC 's students and classes , the Council approached Meriden School in Strathfield . Meriden agreed to house the boarders and the singing , domestic science , and physical education classes . PLC also purchased Lingwood , a property in Strathfield , as a centre for the school 's remaining activities .

At the end of 1942 , the Meriden authorities indicated that they could no longer house the PLC boarders , so Lauriston , Strathfield , on The Boulevarde , and Welbeck , at 18 Margaret Street , were rented for them . In July 1944 the Council agreed to purchase Lingwood , at 16 Margaret Street , to house a Kindergarten feeder school for the College , or as a site for a permanent move . A few months later the Council decided that the future of PLC lay in Strathfield . The Croydon campus was offered to the military for £ 36 @,@ 500 and plans were made to purchase Welbeck and Lauriston to form the new PLC .

The Council 's preference for Strathfield as a permanent location for the school was not shared by most of the school community , and after an intervention by the Education Trust of the NSW General Assembly it was decided that PLC would reopen once again at Croydon in first term 1946 . The

military agreed to pay for the extensive renovations that were required , with the final cheque handed over by the government on 21 March 1949 . Lauriston and Welbeck were disposed of in 1946 , but the Lingwood property was retained as a preparatory school . The Council negotiated with Margaret Thompson , the owner and principal of Branxton , a private school in Strathfield , about moving her school to the Lingwood property , where it would retain the name Branxton and come under the control of the PLC Council .

Evidence of PLC 's war @-@ time occupation remain , with tunnels and bomb shelters accessible from below the stage of College Hall . A plaque presented to the school by the RAAF , in commemoration of PLC 's war @-@ time involvement , can be found on the school verandah at the entrance to the Main School .

= = = Modern day = = =

Miss Freda Whitlam (born 1920) , sister of Prime Minister Gough Whitlam was principal between 1958 and 1976 . It was a period of great social transition . In 1968 Miss Whitlam wrote : ' Ours is a world where each year we become more conscious of how quickly and radically our environment is changing . Technology is taking the drudgery out of our lives and opening up exciting opportunities for those who have a good general education and are willing to think positively and creatively . Here we help the girls with this aim in view . ' In 1970 , after the Rev. Bill McLeod spoke to some of the seniors and advised those intending to become a nurse or a teacher to learn Greek or Italian (to aid communication with immigrants) , Miss Whitlam took up the suggestion : ' We have people with time to do something after the exams at the end of each year - let 's organise Greek classes for them ' . In March 1972 the school also produced a newsletter ?????IKA ??? providing background on Greek culture and language and a bibliography of relevant books in the school library .

In 1977 , a Union of the Congregational , Methodist and Presbyterian Churches took place , forming the Uniting Church in Australia . Approximately one third of the Presbyterian Church decided to remain Presbyterian , and consequently the property of the Church had to be divided . In May of that year it was announced that PLC Croydon was to remain Presbyterian and PLC Pymble would be transferred , with its name changed to Pymble Ladies ' College . Then in 1978 it was decided that PLC Croydon should return to its original name : The Presbyterian Ladies ' College , Sydney . Freda Whitlam took part in the movement to form the Uniting Church and thus ended her principalship of the school . She was moderator of the NSW Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia (1985 @-@ 6) .

In late August 2005 , due to financial troubles at the Presbyterian Ladies ' College , Armidale , it was announced that PLC Armidale and PLC Sydney would join to form an alliance , with both schools coming under the executive leadership of Dr William McKeith , the Principal of PLC Sydney . Members of the PLC Armidale Council formed part of the new joint school Council , essentially making the two PLC 's true sister schools .

The aim of this alliance is to strengthen PLC Armidale through cooperative marketing , a change in management , and a stronger financial base . It is also meant to benefit both schools by providing student exchanges , accommodations for sporting events or excursions , and an additional " country or city " option to prospective students . Both schools will maintain their separate identities in order to preserve the unique histories and traditions that both have developed over many years . PLC celebrated their 120th anniversary in 2008 and to mark the occasion the College commissioned a limited edition commemorative coffee table book , PLC Sydney 1888 @-@ 2008 : A Photographic Essay .

= = Principals = =

= = Campus = =

The Presbyterian Ladies ' College , Sydney , initially opened on 30 January 1888 , at Fernlea , a 14

@-@ room gentleman 's residence set on 1 @.@ 21 hectares (3 acres) in Ashfield . But by August they had already outgrown this location , so they purchased Shubra Hall , the home of department store owner Anthony Hordern III at Croydon , for £ 7 @,@ 500 . Plans were drawn up for the additional buildings required , and Marden worked closely with the architect , Albert Bond . Marden was responsible for most of the ideas for the new buildings , based on those he had seen at MLC Melbourne . Keenly interested in horticulture , he also laid out gardens and playing fields . By the beginning of the 1891 school year , the new site was complete and ready for furnishing as the permanent home of PLC .

The Presbyterian reported the opening of the College on 10 March 1891 , by the Governor of NSW , the Rt Hon Victor Albert George , 7th Earl of Jersey at its new site :

Standing in 2 @.@ 43 hectares (6 acres) of ground , laid out in lawn tennis courts , gardens , etc . , in an elevated position , it forms , with its tower 84 ft (26 m) [26 m] high , a very conspicuous feature in the landscape . The central feature of the building is the tower , and the architectural design of the facade is classic . Altogether the effect is very imposing ... The main staircase window is a work of art well worth seeing . The central window is beautifully designed , and contains two female figures representing Literature and Music .

By 1902 PLC was running out of space again and Marden urged that new classrooms be built . The Council reluctantly agreed and an extension was made to the Main School , with six classrooms downstairs and 18 rooms upstairs . The addition was completed on 6 October 1904 , at a cost of £ 2 @,@ 000 .

On 24 March 1942 , it was requested that PLC be occupied by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) for the purpose of establishing a top secret Radar Unit and military barracks known as No.1 RIMU (Radio Installation and Maintenance Unit) . PLC 's displaced boarders , and some of the classrooms , found a temporary home at Meriden School in Strathfield . The school purchased Lingwood , also in Strathfield , as a centre for the school 's remaining activities .

At the end of 1942 , the Meriden authorities indicated that they could no longer house the PLC boarders , so Lauriston (now the primary school of Santa Sabina College) and Welbeck , on The Boulevarde at Strathfield , were rented for them . The PLC Council nearly kept the school at Strathfield permanently , but ultimately it was decided that PLC would reopen once again at Croydon in first term 1946 . The military agreed to pay for the extensive renovations that were required , Lauriston and Welbeck were disposed of in 1946 , and the Lingwood property was retained as a preparatory school . Evidence of PLC 's war @-@ time occupation remain , with tunnels and bomb shelters accessible from below the stage of College Hall . A plaque presented to the school by the RAAF , in commemoration of PLC 's war @-@ time involvement , can be found on the school verandah at the entrance to the Main School .

And so the Presbyterian Ladies ' College , Sydney , still sits on a 5 hectares (12 acres) campus , now adjacent to Croydon Railway Station and within 15 minutes of the Sydney central business district , Sydney University , and the University of Technology . Having grown significantly since its foundation , particularly since the 1980s , the school today features a mix of 19th @-@ century and modern buildings , historic landscaped gardens and playing fields .

= = Curriculum = =

The Presbyterian Ladies ' College is a comprehensive school with a traditional academic approach designed to prepare students for attending a university . The school is registered and accredited with the New South Wales Board of Studies , and therefore follows the mandated curriculum for all years .

= = = Primary = = =

Students in stages 1 to 3 (Kindergarten to Year 6) study the six Key Learning Areas : English , Mathematics , Human Society and its Environment (HSIE) , Science and Technology , Creative Arts , Personal Development , Health and Physical Education (PD / H / PE) . The youngest

students also follow the Reggio Emilia approach to education . Specialist extension courses are offered to select students from Year 2 to 6 with gifts and talents in special areas (SPEC) .

= = = Secondary = = =

Subjects offered to stage 4 students (Years 7 and 8) include : English , Mathematics , Science , Geography , History , French , Mandarin , Latin , Japanese , German , Italian , Design and Technology , Visual Arts , Music , PDHPE , Computing and Religious Education . The " Excelsior class " is an enrichment programme offered to gifted students in this stage and includes additional classes such as Philosophy and Olympiad activities .

In stage 5 (Years 9 and 10) , students are prepared for the School Certificate and study a programme that comprises two elective classes and Religious Education , as well as the courses mandated by the Board of Studies . The compulsory core subjects are : English , Mathematics , Science , Australian History and Geography , and PDHPE . Electives are chosen from : Elective History , Elective Geography , French , German , Mandarin , Latin , Japanese , Italian , Commerce , Drama , Design and Technology , Textiles and Design , Music , Visual Arts , and Physical Activity and Sports Science . In Year 10 , the Excelsior class begins its study of the 1 ? Unit Higher School Certificate (HSC) course in Studies of Religion .

In the final school stage (Years 11 and 12) students are prepared for the New South Wales HSC . The curriculum at this stage has a clear university orientation . The Board of Studies requires stage 6 students to study a minimum of 12 units in the Preliminary Year and 10 units in their HSC Year (most subjects being worth 2 units) . HSC English is compulsory ; Standard and Advanced Extension courses , as well as 2 @-@ unit English as a Second Language are also offered . Students may then choose from all levels of Mathematics , Senior Science , Biology , Chemistry , Physics , Modern History , Ancient History , Business Studies , Economics , Geography , Legal studies , French , German , Latin , Japanese , Italian , Indonesian (Beginners) , Mandarin , Design and Technology , Textiles and Design , Food Technology , Visual Arts , Music (Course 1 and 2) , Drama and PDHPE .

University entry levels are high following the completion of stage 6 . Each year approximately 50 % of graduating PLC students receive a Universities Admission Index (UAI) higher than 90 . In the 2006 Higher School Certificate , a PLC student received a perfect UAI score of 100 , and in 2007 The Daily Telegraph named PLC the best @-@ performing independent school in Sydney 's inner ? west .

= = = Special education = = =

PLC also offers a unique special education unit catering to students with mild to moderate intellectual disabilities . The transition programme was developed in 1992 in response to a decision by academic staff to provide a special @-@ needs stream . Through this unit , up to 20 girls between the ages of 11 and 18 are provided with an individual curriculum incorporating mainstream classes where possible .

Senior students focus on the Board of Studies Life Skills programme . Girls spend time as residential students in the on @-@ campus Transition House , learning to manage their lives independently . Transition students also run an outdoor café to gain small business skills .

= = Co @-@ curriculum = =

= = = Sport = = =

PLC Sydney is arguably one of Australia 's best girls ' sporting schools . The College has been a member of the Independent Girls ' Schools Sporting Association (IGSSA) since its foundation in 1922 , and through this association senior students compete against 27 other girls ' schools in

graded weekend sports and carnivals . Sports available to students through IGSSA include swimming , diving , rowing , cross country , athletics , gymnastics , softball , tennis , basketball , soccer , Field hockey , netball , cricket and water polo . The College also offers sports such as skiing , snowboarding , equestrian and badminton through other competitions . In 2007 PLC won three IGSSA carnival premierships : in diving (for the ninth consecutive year) , swimming , and gymnastics .

Primary school girls have the opportunity to participate in interschool sports through PLC 's membership in the New South Wales branch of the Junior School Heads Association of Australia (JSHAA) . Students with special sporting talent are provided a pathway to compete at the highest level available at PLC , IGSSA / JSHAA , Combined Independent Schools , state representation at School Sport Australia , and Commonwealth and Olympic level .

In September 2007 , the college broke the under @-@ 19 female Australian record for 24 @-@ hour non @-@ stop rowing , with a distance of 337 kilometres (209 mi) . Also in 2007 , PLC was named the New South Wales School Snowsports Club of the Year by the NSW Snowsports Association , later winning the national award at the 2007 Ski and Snowboard Australia Awards .

The 2008 rowing season has been one of the school 's best to date . In March , the PLC 1st Eight crew won the Schoolgirl Eight race at the IGSSA regatta for the first time in the school 's history . This crew was also successful at the 2008 Australian Rowing Championships , winning the A Final of the Schoolgirls Eight race (the Sydney Cup) , ahead of St Catherine 's School , Toorak and Pymble Ladies ' College , thus ranking them as the best schoolgirl eight in Australia .

= = = Ensembles = = =

Junior and Senior School students can participate in musical ensembles , both selective and non @-@ selective , including several bands , string orchestras , a full school orchestra , chamber music ensembles , choral groups and several smaller instrumental and vocal groups .

= = = Debating and public speaking = = =

One of the strengths of PLC Sydney is their long history of achievement in debating and public speaking . The college has competed in the Independent Schools Debating Association (ISDA) for the past five years and has had a long @-@ standing commitment to the Archdale Debating Competition . PLC students have had success at the semi @-@ final level , and they won the competition in 2006 .

PLC Sydney enters teams in the Junior and Senior sections of the Association of Heads of Independent Girls ' Schools (AHIGS) Festival of Speech , producing the best results of any AHIGS school over the history of the competition , with 10 consecutive wins in the competition 's 12 @-@ year history .

Students may also participate in the Macquarie Cup and the Commonwealth Bank Senior Debating , vying with students from a range of public , Catholic and independent schools . There are also Social Debates with surrounding schools as well as a regular competition with Trinity Grammar School called the PLC / Trinity Challenge .

= = = Aid projects = = =

The PLC Overseas Aid Fund has been established to enhance the college 's work with aid projects in developing countries , and is an important part of the school 's Round Square membership . Current projects undertaken by the school include the establishment and on @-@ going management of two Kindergartens in East Timor , the management and support of Birla Children 's Orphanage in Vietnam , and the establishment of the " Adopt a School " programme . This programme was developed and is directed by the Principal , Dr McKeith , and matches schools in Australia with schools in Sri Lanka requiring rebuilding following the 2004 Tsunami . PLC 's school , allocated through this programme , is the Senehasa Counselling , Training and Rehabilitation Centre

for Girls .

= = Motto and crest = =

The school crest was adopted at a College Council meeting on 23 August 1888 . The College Council decided to use the same crest as that used by the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales , with minor modifications .

The Church 's crest consisted of a shield with the words *Nec Tamen Consumebatur* (translated from Latin as " And yet it was not consumed ") surrounding it . On the shield were the stars of the Southern Cross , a burning bush , and a Latin cross in outline . At the base were the floral emblems of Scotland , England and Ireland . Surrounding the shield was a border with the words " Presbyterian Church of New South Wales " , with a Star of David placed on top . Behind both shield and borders was the cross of St. Andrew in blue .

The School modified this crest by changing the words " Presbyterian Church of New South Wales " to " Presbyterian Ladies ' College , Sydney " , placing a Maltese cross at the top of the shield and inserting the School motto *Sancte Sapienter* . The motto had been adopted by the school on 23 August 1888 , and although no translation was given of the Latin , it may be loosely translated to " be holy wisely " or " holy , wisely . "

= = School badge = =

The school 's highly symbolic badge was inspired by the first Principal , Dr. Marden , and designed in 1888 by the first art teacher , J.A. Bennett . The maiden on the lion represents Knowledge , which is crowned by a tower representing the home , and holding a trident representing Sovereignty . A laurel wreath represents the victory of true womanhood , while the sun symbolises light and energy , and the crescent moon stands for youth . The words " Presbyterian Ladies ' College , Sydney " surround the badge .

The motto *All 'ultimo lavoro* is Italian and comes from Dante 's *Commedia* (*Paradiso* I , 13) . It has variously been translated as " for the crowning task " , " strive for the highest " , " the utmost for the highest " , or " I work for the highest " , with the first of these being the most direct translation .

The badge is reproduced in the leadlight over the front door of Shubra Hall , and may also be found on the recently opened Ex @-@ Students ' pathway . It was traditionally worn as part of the uniform on the Tam o ' Shanter , until it was phased out in 1995 . The badge is currently not worn on the academic uniform , partially due to its adoption by Pymble Ladies ' College as their school crest in 1977 . It was , however , reintroduced in 2003 as an addition to the Beret of the PLC Pipes and Drums uniform , and is also used by the college 's Ex @-@ students ' Union , as it has been since 1905 , with the addition of the words " Ex @-@ students ' Union " below .

= = Uniform = =

When the College first opened in 1888 there was no uniform , instead the girls wore long cotton dresses , gloves and hat . A straw boater was introduced in the early 20th century , worn with a red and white hat band featuring the college crest with its burning bush woven into it in red . During this time Prefects wore red silk arm @-@ bands embroidered with a gold crest .

The distinctive Black Watch Tartan of the college was introduced in 1918 . Senior girls wore heavy box @-@ pleated skirts and white blouses ; junior girls wore pinafore dresses . All girls wore a navy blazer and heavy woollen stockings . Prefects also wore a special hat badge with a ring of bright blue enamel . A black felt Breton was introduced for winter use , and no change was made until the introduction of the green beret in 1952 .

The current uniform for Year 11 and 12 was introduced in 1966 . It was designed by the senior students of 1965 and consists of a Black Watch kilt , white blouse , green blazer , green jumper or vest , black stockings for winter and bottle green knee @-@ high socks for summer , and black leather lace @-@ up shoes . Girls of Scottish origin are permitted wear the kilt pin representing their

family or clan name , rather than the standard school pin . A green and Black Watch Tam o ' Shanter (known as ' the Beret ') was also introduced for all grades a few years earlier .

The girls found the school 's distinctive Beret difficult to wear , so it was phased out in 1995 . It was replaced by the current Panama hat , but the Beret was reintroduced in 2003 as an addition to the Pipes and Drums uniform .

The current junior (R ? 10) uniform was introduced in 1997 . In summer , girls are required to wear a Black Watch tunic , short @-@ sleeve white blouse , green blazer with tartan piping , short green socks and black leather shoes . The winter uniform consists of the tunic , long @-@ sleeve white blouse , the blazer , green jumper or vest , Black Watch Tartan tie , Black Watch Tartan scarf and either green knee @-@ high socks or black stockings . School pockets are awarded for student achievements , and are embroidered in red on the pockets of junior blazers (R ? 10 girls) , and white on the left @-@ breast of senior blazers (11 ? 12 girls) .

= = = College tartan = = =

The school has adopted the Black Watch Tartan of the Royal Highland Regiment as its school and Pipes and Drums uniform . PLC was granted permission to wear the tartan after its brother school , The Scots College , was issued a royal decree allowing them to use Black Watch as their Pipes & Drums and Cadets uniform . The Black Watch is the oldest of the highland regiments . The 1958 Aurora Australis (the school yearbook) explained the tartan 's origin : " This tartan was specially designed for the regiment to prevent the jealousy which would have been aroused , if any existing clan tartan had been used . "

= = House system = =

The house system was established by Dr. John Marden , shortly after the opening of the school , with three houses : East , West and Boarders . In 1924 the senior houses were reorganised and renamed Kinross , Harper and Ferguson (with Anderson added in 1968) , followed in 1926 by the introduction of junior houses , named Vicars and McQueen (with Thompson added in 1937) . The school moved to four houses in 1979 , from primary to secondary , and thus the junior houses disappeared . Finally , two new houses named Pickard and Wilkie were introduced in 1995 . The Houses are named after women and men who have made a significant contribution to the life of the College .

Anderson

Mrs E.O. Anderson (1885 ? 1985) attended PLC from 1898 to 1902 . She was an original member of the Committee of the Ex @-@ Students ' Union in 1906 , then President (1927 ? 1932) , and Patroness from 1936 . In 1932 she petitioned the Assembly for the appointment of women to the PLC Council . Anderson was a member of the Council (1932 ? 1958) , and a benefactor to the College all her life .

Ferguson

Rev John Ferguson (1852 ? 1925) was a minister of St Stephen 's Church , Sydney , and in 1917 , Acting Principal of St Andrew 's College at the University of Sydney . He was appointed Senior Chaplain and Chairman of the PLC Council in 1913 , serving until 1923 .

Harper

Rev Dr Andrew Harper (1844 ? 1936) was the third Principal of PLC Melbourne (1879 ? 1888) . He then lectured at Ormond Theological College , Melbourne before coming to Sydney , where he was Principal of St Andrew 's College (1902 ? 1923) . He was Chairman of the PLC Council from 1907 until 1913 .

Kinross

Rev Dr John Kinross (1833 ? 1908) was a Presbyterian minister at Kiama (1858 ? 1875) . He then became Principal of St Andrew 's College from 1875 until 1901 , and Chairman of the PLC Council from 1888 until 1906 .

Pickard

Marion Pickard was appointed to the College as a teaching governess in June 1888 . She was Lady Superintendent from 1894 until her resignation in 1907 . In 1905 Pickard was elected the first President of the Ex @-@ Students ' Union .

Wilkie

Dr Helen Wilkie (1895 ? 1984) was the second Headmistress at PLC Armidale (1938 ? 1941) , and then the fourth Principal of PLC Sydney (1942 ? 1946) . On her appointment to Croydon she was immediately confronted with the takeover by the RAAF , and organised the move of the College to Strathfield .

= = Ex @-@ Students ' Union = =

The Ex @-@ Students ' Union is the school 's alumnae association , inaugurated on the evening of 9 December 1905 . At the invitation of Dr. Marden several former students discussed the proposal , elected Marion Pickard (who was at that time Lady Superintendent) as their President , and formed a committee to produce a constitution . These actions were confirmed at a General Meeting on Jersey Day 1906 , and the committee took office until 1907 . In the beginning , the main objectives of the Union were " the accumulation of a special fund to be devoted to the erection of a chapel and library at the College , and an Ex @-@ Students ' prize to be awarded annually to the girl most proficient in work and sport . "

The Union achieved much in its first few years : renting a building in the CBD to serve as a club and committee meeting place , making garments for hospitals , visiting kindergartens , the YWCA , Home of Peace , Infants ' Home and the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children . An Ex @-@ Students ' Orchestra and Dramatic Club were formed , and tennis and croquet matches were held between current and former pupils .

In 1916 the Pymble College was opened and its first Ex @-@ Students ' Union expressed an interest in joining that of PLC . Subsequently a combined Union was formed , known as the PLC Croydon and Pymble Ex @-@ Students ' Union , and an Ex @-@ Students ' prize was established at Pymble on the same conditions as at Croydon .

One of the Union 's most significant contributions to the school was planned following the death of Dr. Marden in 1924 . With the desire to provide Marden with a " fitting and lasting memorial " , it was decided that a library , to be called the John Marden Memorial Library , should be built at the Croydon College . This building was opened by Mrs. Marden in 1927 and although no longer suitable as a library due its size , it remains a treasured part of the school .

In 1929 , it was proposed that " Pymble students should form a separate Union " and that an equitable division of Union funds should be undertaken . This explains the two separate groups that exist today , however , it is still not uncommon for Pymble students to attend Croydon reunions and events , particularly regional or interstate activities .

= = = Notable alumnae = = =

Alumnae of the Presbyterian Ladies ' College , Sydney are commonly referred to as PLC Old Girls , and may elect to join the schools alumnae association , the PLC Ex @-@ Students ' Union .

In 2001 , The Sun @-@ Herald ranked PLC Sydney fourth in Australia 's top ten girls ' schools , based on the number of its alumnae mentioned in the Who 's Who in Australia (a listing of notable Australians) . Among these women are Sibyl Morrison , the first female barrister in New South Wales , Marie Byles , the first practicing female solicitor in New South Wales , Jessie Aspinall , the first female junior resident medical officer at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital , and Florence Mary Taylor , the first qualified female architect and first woman to train as an engineer in Australia , and the first woman in Australia to fly in a heavier @-@ than @-@ air craft .