

12. Presbyterian Ladies College (PLC)

<i>Chairperson</i>	Emeritus Prof Tracey Horton
<i>Members</i>	Mr Stuart Love (Deputy Chair) Mr Morgan Ball Mr Andrew McKenzie Ms Fiona Crowe Ms Morgen Lewis Prof Donna Cross Mr James Mactier (from October 2017) Ms Claire Poll (from August 2017)
<i>Nominees of Parents' Committee</i>	Mr Andrew Johnson (to October 2017) Mr Matthew Maxted (from October 2017)
<i>Nominee of Old Collegians</i>	Mrs Kathy Bonus Ms Linda Kenyon
<i>Life Members</i>	Hon June Craig Dr Patricia Kailis
<i>Principal (ex officio)</i>	Dr Kate Hadwen
<i>Director of Finance and Corporate Services</i>	
<i>(ex officio):</i>	Mr Sam Kronja
<i>Council Secretary (ex officio):</i>	Ms Karen Taylor

I. CONTRIBUTION TO THE MISSION OF GOD

Our Chaplain, Rev Gary van Heerden, continues to lead the Strategic Objective to “Enhance our inclusive culture where all students feel known and valued, and develop a sense of connectedness, belonging and purpose.”

A focus at PLC this year has been to make explicit the emphasis in our roots in Celtic spirituality that there is no sacred/secular divide. Whatever we engage in, God is there, as God is ever imminent, ever close. Fostering this awareness has contributed significantly to service at PLC and the teaching of Religious Education in the Junior School.

Over the last year we have sought to integrate the teaching of religion and spirituality into the inquiry based approach of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program. We continue to strengthen our program offered to students in Years 7-12. In addition to widening the scope of teaching Religious Education, this enhances the Celtic emphasis that God is in the midst of the ‘ordinary’, or as the Celtic scholar Esther de Waal calls it, a ‘spirituality of the mundane’.

PLC’s service philosophy ensures the myriad of service activities our students engage in are not simply add-ons, rather they flow out of an awareness of God’s love and the interconnectedness of all people.

2. SUPPORTING THE SERVICE WORK OF THE UNITING CHURCH

PLC’s long history of supporting charities both financially and through our commitment to service continues. Community organisations who have benefited from our support in the past year include (but are not limited to): UnitingCare West, Mosman Park Primary School, Good Samaritan Industries, Earth Carers Environmental Program, Amana Living, Royal Perth Hospital, Ronald McDonald House, Police-Citizens Youth Club and Red Cross Soup Patrol.

Several of these are family service projects where girls work with their parents donating their time together to support these worthy causes. In addition there are numerous lunchtime events run to support over 45 community organisations. Students also have opportunities to participate in service immersion tours to Cambodia, Tanzania and the Kimberley region. The programs provide much needed support to these communities with the participants returning inspired intellectually, spiritually, emotionally and socially.

3. CHILD PROTECTION AT PLC

Council and management were grateful to receive an informative presentation from representatives of the Uniting Church and its insurers on the Uniting Church National Child Safe Policy Framework, the National Redress Scheme and recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The Principal has spent considerable time personally delivering training on our Child Protection programs to all staff, regular contractors and to Council.

Our programs focus on the rights of all children in our care to feel and be safe and that their welfare and best interests are paramount in everything we do. Our Child Safety Code of Conduct has again been reviewed and updated with further reviews scheduled at least annually. Management have also developed initiatives designed to support staff when dealing with disclosures of abuse.

4. INNOVATION

At PLC, innovation takes on many forms beyond simply providing opportunities for students in Science and Innovation.

4.1 Innovations in Wellbeing:

In April 2017, we were thrilled to officially open the PLC Lighthouse Wellbeing Centre on the property adjacent to the School. The first of its kind in Western Australia, the Lighthouse offers dedicated and purpose-built facilities for staff and external providers to deliver our holistic health and wellbeing programs. The programs encourage physical, psychological, social, expressive and spiritual health while the centre offers calm, welcoming and safe facilities for our students to engage in a range of healthy activities or simply take time to practice mindfulness, meditation or reflect on their day.

4.2 Innovations in Boarding:

The PLC Boarding House is thriving with unprecedented demand requiring extension of our facilities in 2019 to accommodate extra enrolments. Our dedicated Boarding Staff run an established and successful wellbeing program entitled From Strength to Strength. Dedicated staff members run year group specific programs that aim to build on the resilience and resourcefulness within each student to enable them to flourish and prosper. The programs have been designed on a developmental continuum to support the changing needs of each age group and aim to build confident and resilient girls by nurturing their day-to-day emotional, social, health and academic needs. The programs aim to develop confident, strong and independent individuals who retain and use these skills on their journey beyond PLC.

4.3 Innovations in Learning:

An important aspect of innovation is the ability to push the limits by changing and adapting current practice or thinking. This bold and audacious thinking, can lead to new discoveries and propel society forward. At PLC we encourage innovation through thinking that requires determination, passion, drive, and a willingness to make mistakes and celebrate successes. There are obvious applications in education where students are driving their own learning by solving a project that addresses a problem, requires a radical solution or uses breakthrough technology.

These are all important skills that students will need for the future and we aim for them to become second nature through hands-on applications and development of processes such as hypothesis-driven problem-solving, systematic inquiry and logical thinking.

4.4 Innovation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM):

Through a series of stakeholder meetings, we have gathered valuable information to inform the planning of our Science and Innovation Centre. Like the PLC Lighthouse, this Centre will be designed to provide contemporary, dedicated purpose-built facilities to deliver our existing and new programs.

PLC's curricular and co-curricular programs are at the forefront of science and innovation including: Robotics – the design, construction, operation and use of robots, as well as computer systems for their control, sensory feedback, and information processing; Young Entrepreneur Programs offering opportunities to collaborate in groups to create their own innovations, culminating in an Innovation Expo to display and pitch their ideas; Coding where students learn to code micro-components in python and design their own robot including 3D modelling and printing or create computer software, games, apps and websites.

Our Junior School hosted its inaugural STEM Big Day In with our students being joined by over 200 Year 5, 6 and 7 students from surrounding schools. The event included investigations, demonstrations, the creation of Solar Buddy torches for children in Papua New Guinea enabling them to read and study after the sun sets and a neuroscience session where students wore devices on their heads and their brain activity caused all sorts of wonderful things to happen. The event was so successful PLC has been invited to host on an annual basis.

4.5 Innovation in Integrating Technology in the Classroom:

PLC has once again been selected as an Apple Distinguished School recognising our “continuous innovation in learning, teaching, and the school environment”. PLC was the first School in Western Australia to introduce one-to-one devices in the classroom and continues to be at the forefront of developing targeted and individual programs that use technology to enhance the teaching and learning experience both at school and wherever the students are studying.

5. MOTION TO RECEIVE THE REPORT

The Presbyterian Ladies' College Council proposes that the Synod receive the report.

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