



PLC
PRESBYTERIAN
LADIES' COLLEGE
SYDNEY
— 1888 —

STORIES FROM THE ARCHIVES:

JERSEY DAY EXPLAINED

If you are new to the PLC Sydney community, you can be forgiven for wondering just what is “this thing called Jersey Day”.

It is an important tradition that dates back to our beginnings, but what, you ask, is the “Jersey” about? I confess when I was a “newbie”, knowing that the day had something to do with ex-students, my mental process went “jersey” = jumper = ex-students must wear special jumpers on this particular day”. Wrong!

Jersey Day is named in honour of the Earl and Countess of Jersey, who opened the new College buildings (College Hall, the Dining Room and the Boarding House) on Tuesday 10 March 1891.

The Early of Jersey, who was the Governor of New South Wales, spoke at the opening, but it is the words of his wife, the Countess, that we cherish more than a century later:

When I was a child I was shown a slip of paper on which was printed: ‘to gain knowledge for the mere sake of possessing it is selfishness; to gain knowledge for the mere love of displaying it is vanity; but to gain knowledge for the sake of being useful to others is true Christian charity’.

Jersey Day is a special day, held on the Saturday nearest 10 March, for ex-students to meet and chat with their former classmates over afternoon tea, to visit with teachers and staff, to enjoy musical or dramatic performances by current students, and to tour the College grounds.

The first Jersey Day was held on 10 March 1894, and every year since then, with the exception of the years during World War II, ex-students, young and old, have revisited the College on that day. During the war years, when the College was temporarily relocated, reunions were held at “Wellbank” and “Lauriston” in Strathfield.



*Countess of Jersey
Margaret Elizabeth Leigh
Child-Villiers
1849-1945*