



PLC
PRESBYTERIAN
LADIES' COLLEGE
SYDNEY
— 1888 —

STORIES FROM THE ARCHIVES:

A TICKET TO RIDE



Students travelling to the College by train in 2017 are well-schooled in “tapping on” and “tapping off” with their Opal card. Before the Opal card, which was introduced in late 2012, railway patrons used a magnetic strip ticket, and before that an Edmondson style paper ticket.

Even earlier, throughout the 1940s and well into the 1960s, the NSW Government Railways issued metal train periodical tickets, like the one shown here. Measuring a mere 3.5 cm high and 2.0 cm wide, the ticket had a hole at the top so that it could be attached to a key ring. From the obverse we can see that the ticket was for travel between Strathfield and Croydon, that it was for a student (the incised “S”) and that it was for second class travel.

The reverse of the ticket reveals why the ticket is of special interest to the PLC community: it was issued to Miss J. Grimmett and its expiry date was 22 August 1946. It is reasonable to deduce that the ticket belonged to one Janice Grimmett, who enrolled at PLC Sydney on 6 February 1946 and who lived in Strathfield. Janice sat the Leaving Certificate in 1952, the same year she was Treasurer of the Student Christian Movement and a Probationary Prefect.¹

2560	Firmage Maureen	28 King St Enfield.	18-7-35	Kooralia
2561	Grimmett Janice	3 Chalmers Road	11-12-36	Hornbush Park
2562	Koch Margaret	239 Madson Rd. Spping	8-1-37	Braemar College

Janice Grimmett enrolled as a student in 1946. Series 47 Box 487 Entries & Instructions 1912-1967.

¹ *Aurora Australis* 1952, p. 3 and *Aurora Australis* 1953, p.12.

Our knowledge of Janice Grimmett after she left PLC Sydney is sketchy. We know that she enrolled at the University of Sydney in March 1954 and gained her Diploma in Pharmacy in January 1956² and that she married in February 1959.³



School Prefects, 1952. Janice Grimmett is seated at the extreme right-hand side of the photo.

How did the ticket come to be part of the Archives' collection? A neighbour of the College, Gregor Stronach (whose sister coincidentally attended the College), came across the ticket while "digging about in the garden" in 2016 and kindly donated it to the College Archives earlier this year. Being buried for half a century or more in dirt has not been the kindest method of preservation, but this fascinating item of ephemera tells yet another story of PLC Sydney.

² University of Sydney Archives.

³ *The Ex-Students' News*, 1960, p.17.