



PLC  
PRESBYTERIAN  
LADIES' COLLEGE  
SYDNEY  
— 1888 —

## STORIES FROM THE ARCHIVES:

### GLIMPSES OF PLC IN THE 1930s

The Great Depression, that started with the Wall Street crash of October 1929, dominated life for Australians in the 1930s. The severe economic downturn led to record high unemployment of around 30% in 1932.

At PLC, however, Miss Hamilton (Principal 1932-1941) and the staff strove to minimise the harsh economic situation and maintain the usual academic and co-curricular regime.

By 1938 the economy had improved and at PLC:

- There were 262 students
- The College's Jubilee was celebrated with the pageant *Under This Gum Tree* written by Miss Eldershaw and performed by every girl in the College
- A new gymnasium was opened, funded by ex-students as their Jubilee gift to the College



*A room in the Boarding House  
late 1930s*



*An expedition to Collaroy Beach  
1932 or 1933s*



*The new gymnasium  
1938*



*Miss Mary Hamilton,  
Principal 1932-1942*



*Part of Under This Gum Tree  
1938*



*Sports Blazer  
belonged to  
Elizabeth Love  
Student 1936-1939*