



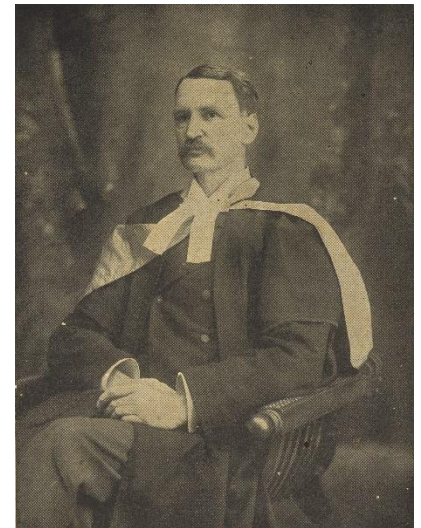
## STORIES FROM THE ARCHIVES:

### Who is the Harper of Harper House?

If you are a member of Harper House, you will know that it is named to honour Rev. Dr Andrew Harper, who was the second Chairman of our College Council, serving in that position from 1906 until 1913.

Andrew Harper (1844-1936) was Scottish. When he was 12 he migrated to Melbourne with his parents and brother. He graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1868 and then returned to Scotland and studied theology at the University of Edinburgh.

He arrived back in Melbourne in 1873 and two years later became an English teacher at the new Presbyterian Ladies' College, Melbourne. Harper was Principal of the school from 1879 to 1888 and did much to encourage a high level of scholarship at the school.



*Rev. Dr Andrew Harper*

Throughout the 1880s and 1890s Harper gained an international reputation as an Oriental linguist and Old Testament scholar. He was a professor at the Presbyterian Theological Hall, Ormond College, at the University of Melbourne.

Dr Harper and his large family moved to Sydney in 1902 when he became the Principal of St Andrew's College at the University of Sydney, a post he held until 1920. He returned to Scotland in 1924 and died in Edinburgh in 1936, at the age of 92.



*Dr Harper's portrait hangs in St Andrew's College, University of Sydney*

Harper's relationship with PLC Sydney perhaps started in 1897 when, then a professor at Ormond College, the University of Melbourne, he visited Croydon and gave two addresses to the students, "one on a religious subject and the other on the value of the study of English Literature, and many of us will for a long time to come look back with pleasure to that Friday morning".<sup>1</sup>

When Dr McQueen introduced the House system in 1924, the three Senior School houses were ultimately named after the first three Chairmen of College Council: Kinross, Harper and Ferguson.

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<sup>1</sup> *Aurora Australis* September 1897, p. 1.



It is believed that the golden harp that is part of the Harper House emblem is an element from the Harper family crest. The House motto is *Et Suavis et Fortis*, meaning suave and brave. Its colour is light blue.

Mollie Munsie, a boarder from Warialda, New South Wales, was the first Captain of Harper House. She served as Captain in 1924 and 1925. Mollie was a Prefect, Class Captain, Captain of the "A" Tennis Team and Captain of the "A" Hockey Team.

Since 1934, when records of the winners of the House Cup began, Harper House has won the Cup twenty times and twice was a co-winner with another House. Harper House first won the House Cup in 1934 and most recently in 2006.



Mollie Munsie, the first Captain of Harper House, second from the left, 1924 "A" Tennis Team



Members of Harper House at the Swimming Carnival, 1989, Ashfield Pool



1992 Swimming Carnival



Inter-House Gymnastics, Thompson Hall, 2000



1992 Swimming Carnival



PLC  
PRESBYTERIAN  
LADIES' COLLEGE  
SYDNEY  
— 1888 —



*Harper at House Choir Night, 2005*



*Harper Hippos at the Swimming Carnival, 2010*

Sources:

*Australian Dictionary of Biography*

Series 1 College Council & Committees, Box 38

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