

STORIES FROM THE ARCHIVES:

What's in a name?

Jersey Day is fast approaching. This day is a PLC Sydney tradition that is:

- held each year on the Saturday nearest 10 March.
- the day ex-students return to the College to renew friendships with "school chums".
- named in honour of the Countess of Jersey, the wife of the Governor of New South Wales, who was present and spoke at the opening of the new buildings (Boarding House, Dining Room and College Hall) on 10 March 1891.



The Countess of Jersey

But has it always been called "Jersey Day"? No! The first "reunion day" was held in 1894 and was referred to as **Old Girls' Day**, a name that was also used in 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898 and 1902.

During the years 1899, 1900, 1901, 1904 and 1905 the *Aurora Australis* uses the term **Anniversary Day**.

Jersey Day first appears in the school magazine of March 1907 – and Jersey it has remained.



Jersey Day 1922



Jersey Day 1948



Jersey Day 1988



Jersey Day 2006

The Earl 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 are remembered 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.'"

Call it what you will, but the arithmetic is easy: 2019 marks the 125th anniversary of this special day! Three cheers for Jersey Day!

Sources:

Images from PLC Sydney Archives
Aurora Australis magazines