



**PLC**  
 PRESBYTERIAN  
 LADIES' COLLEGE  
 SYDNEY  
 — 1888 —

## STORIES FROM THE ARCHIVES:

### Miss Mary Hamilton, Principal 1932-1941

Miss Mary Hamilton was PLC Sydney's third – and first female – Principal. She provided a calming influence after Dr McQueen's very public and disquieting departure and led the College during the Great Depression.

Miss Hamilton could not have chosen a more challenging time to become Principal. Not only was the College at a low ebb, but by mid-1932 almost 32% of Australians were out of work.

She charted a "steady as you go" approach, followed a non-controversial path with regards to the curriculum, and maintained the tradition of service to the community. Gradually the enrolment, and the financial situation, improved. In 1938 there were 262 pupils.



*Miss Evelyn Mary Hamilton  
 (1895-1985), BA; DipEd;  
 Portrait by Adelaide Perry*

*Here are some images of PLC Sydney students and buildings during Miss Hamilton's tenure as Principal:*



*Sports Day, early 1930s  
 Image from Joyce Wise (née Cleaver),  
 student 1929-1932*



*Senior girls in front of Shubra Hall  
 Image from Judith Chrystal (née Crockford),  
 student 1933-1941*



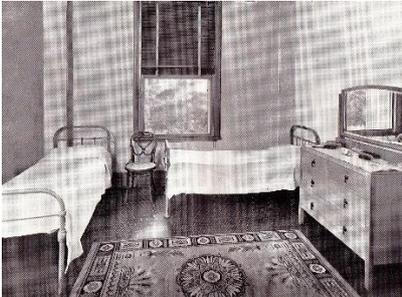
*Geology excursion at Balmoral, 1932  
 Image from M.E. Monot Roberts,  
 student 1930-c1934*

The prospectus of the time states that the "School offers a full course from Kindergarten to Leaving Certificate Honours". During Miss Hamilton's tenure full-time staff members increased to 23, with 12 additional teachers who taught "extra" subjects.

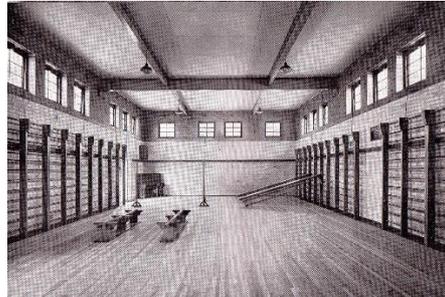
Miss Hamilton served PLC Sydney solidly for ten years. She resigned at the end of 1941 and joined the war services of the YWCA with the Australian military forces and was stationed in Tasmania.



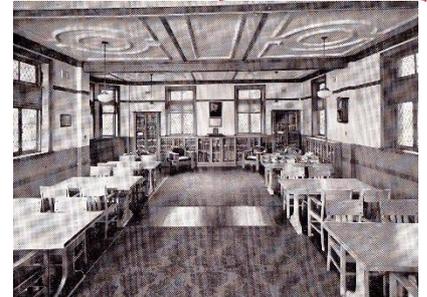
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*A room in the Boarding House,  
Image from College prospectus*



*The gymnasium was opened in 1938,  
a gift from the ex-students to the College  
Image from College prospectus*



*Marden Library  
Image from the College prospectus*

Hamilton Junior School, officially opened in 2018, honours Miss Hamilton. It houses classrooms, breakout spaces, support rooms, specialist STEM rooms, amphitheatre, turtle pond, bee hotel, vegetable gardens, Arthropod house, and play equipment for pupils in Years 3 to 6.



*Images from NBRS Architecture, Alexander Mayes Photography*

Debby Cramer, Archivist



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