



PLC
 PRESBYTERIAN
 LADIES' COLLEGE
 SYDNEY
 — 1888 —

STORIES FROM THE ARCHIVES:

MISS WHITLAM'S CONTRIBUTIONS – PET SHOW

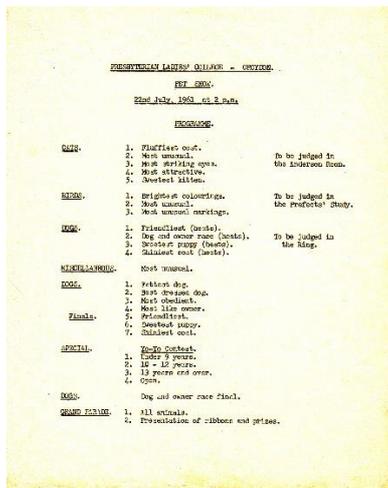
Miss Whitlam's Christian beliefs and values included helping others and we have her to thank for developing the Pet Show into the format we know it today.

The first Pet and Doll Show was in 1953, some five years before Miss Whitlam's appointment as Principal. It was organised by the parents and "proved a great success both financially and for the fun it created". Further Pet and Doll Shows followed in 1956 and 1957, organised by the students, and the funds raised went to the Building Fund.



Miss Freda Whitlam

In 1961, following a lapse of a few years, Miss Whitlam reinstated the Pet Show (minus "dolls"). It was organised by Form 5A1. The next year, 1962, the students decided to give their profits to the Western Suburbs Guide Dog Appeal. The National President of the Guide Dog Association attended and the pupils contributed £50.00 to the Appeal.



Pet Show program, 1961



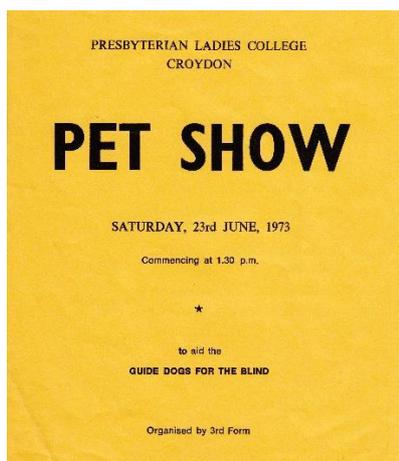
Visit to the Royal Blind Society, 1962

Since then the Pet Show has been an annual event on the College calendar. It provides a practical, hands on way for the students (now Year 9 rather than Form 5A) to gain leadership and team-building skills while helping others. According to Mia Illias, who was the Pet Show President in 2006, we "gained a greater appreciation of how important charities are to those that are disadvantaged. Equally we learnt that even small efforts by individuals when combined into a group effort can achieve what otherwise seems impossible."



The day itself – be in rainy or sunny – utilises most of the open space of the campus and features special guests from the world of sport or television, stalls, food, guessing competitions and, of course, judging of beloved pets.

The commitment to the Guide Dogs organisation continues to be honoured. Hearing about how the guide dogs are trained to support those who are blind or vision-impaired is inspiring and meeting some of these most special canines is always a delight. Presenting a cheque to the Guide Dogs is the highlight of an Assembly each year. After more than half a century, contributions have now exceeded \$500,000.

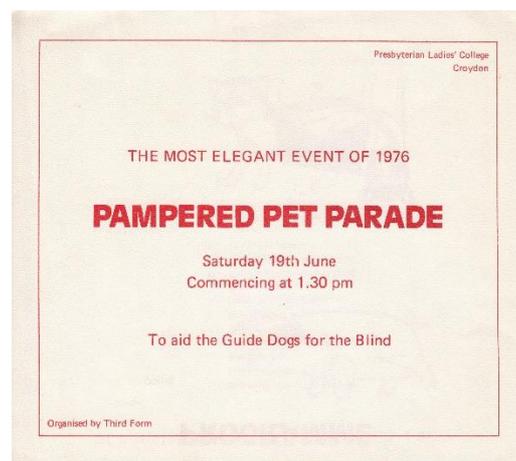


Pet Show program, 1973

PET SHOW - 27/6/64

Hoop-La	23.15.10	
Cakes	17.14. 5	
Sweets/Drinks	60. 2. 2	
Misc/Birds	1. 4. -	
Cats	19. 3	
Hot Dogs	5.13. 8	
Afternoon Tea	6.11. 6	
Dogs	4.10. -	
Pony Ride	1.10. 6	
Balls	7.13. 2	
Ball Show	3.17. -	
Darts	9.10. 7	
Programmes	3.10. -	
Guide Dog	6. 2. 9	
Change	2.12.11	
	<u>355. 7. 9</u>	
Loss:		
Hot Dogs	5.14. -	
Ice Cream	1.10. -	
Change	5. 5. -	
Pres. Bkgs.	3.10. -	
Brunches	6.15. -	
Biscuits	12.11	
Carriage	2. - -	
Drinks	<u>40.17.11</u>	<u>33.11. -</u>
PROFIT:	<u>214. 9.10</u>	

The Pet Show provides opportunities to learn business skills!



Pet Show program, 1976

Debby Cramer, Archivist

Sources:

Aurora Australis magazines

Series 43 Principals, Miss Whitlam, Box 405, Folders 17, 18, 19, 20, 21.

All images from PLC Sydney Archives