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The Presbyterian Girls' College Begins

In 1913, the Presbytery of Geelong appointed a committee to investigate the question of establishing a Presbyterian Girls' School in Geelong, but the outbreak of war in 1914 delayed action being taken towards the inauguration of any scheme.

The next opportunity came in May 1919, when the Reverend C. Neville approached Miss Harris, Principal of The Newtown Ladies' College, with an offer to buy the school equipment and goodwill of her school in Elizabeth Street, Newtown, at which there were about seventy pupils.

Old school prospectuses seem to develop a charm of their own, given fifty years or so to mellow. This prospectus no doubt would impress parents of 1909.

Newtown Ladies' College
Elizabeth St., Geelong.
Founded 1880
Principal: Miss Harris
assisted by
Teachers of Tested Ability.

It is situated in one of the healthiest parts of Geelong. The classrooms are large, lofty, and well-ventilated, and furnished with all the requirements for the successful working of a school.

The proceedings of each day begin with Prayer and a quarter of an hour's Bible Study.

The school year consists of forty weeks, ten weeks being in each term.

The course of instruction includes English in all its branches, French, Latin, Arithmetic, Algebra, Euclid, Geography, History, Physiology, Music, Singing, Drawing, Painting, Plain and Fancy Needlework, Club Swinging and other gymnastic exercises.

Fees per quarter payable in advance.

Day Pupils in 1st and 2nd Classes	1 Guinea.
Day Pupils in 3rd Class	1½ Guineas.
Day Pupils in 4th, 5th and 6th Classes	2 Guineas.
Day Pupils in Senior Classes	3 Guineas.
Resident Boarders, under 12 years	12 Guineas.
Resident Boarders, over 12 years	14 Guineas.

Some friends of the College write thus:

During the years of my residence in Geelong, I have from time to time met former pupils of Miss Harris, in some cases those who have been fully educated in the classes of her school. I have been particularly struck with the evident signs of mental and moral culture exhibited by these young ladies. I have no hesitation in recommending Miss Harris's School as one in which a thorough training is given.

It must be ten years now since first I knew and was associated with your School; and allow me to say that ten years' knowledge only gives me the more confidence in speaking of both the work and the tone of the School. My own nephews and niece have been your pupils, and their grandfather, Archdeacon Beamish, has often told me of his satisfaction of having them in the care of so excellent teachers as the Misses Harris.

The instruction given at the School is systematic and thorough, and the moral tone and manners which prevail must be fruitful for good in the moulding of pupils.

The Presbytery's committee consisted of the Presbyterian Ministers of Geelong and Messrs J. Pettitt, C. Shannon, J. McPhillimy, J. A. Laird, M. B. Gibb, W. Robertson, J. T. Leary, W. Griffiths and W. Anderson. Negotiations were begun for the purchase of Newtown Ladies' College and, eventually, it was agreed to buy the cottage and school rooms owned by Miss Harris for the sum of £1,750. The committee then approached Alderman H. Hitchcock, J.P., Mayor of Geelong, to see if he would sell 'Roslyn,' his own home, which was close to Miss Harris's School. Roslyn was bought for £3,000 as were some cottages between Roslyn and the school for £925. The cottages were removed and the grounds made ready for the erection of new school rooms, plans for which had been drawn up by Laird and Buchan, Architects, and which, when complete, were to cost £2,300.

To put the college on a good financial basis, the committee invited well-wishers to support their venture by contributing either through a system of debentures payable in ten years and bearing interest at 5 per cent or by gifts to the college. By the end of 1920, £3,350 was subscribed in debentures and £2,280 in gifts. Some help was given through the Peace Thanksgiving Scheme of the Presbyterian Church.

In September 1919, the Committee communicated with Miss Gertrude Pratt, M.A., Dip.Ed. London, headmistress of Girton C.E.G.G. School, Bendigo, and offered her the position of headmistress of the college. Selected as her assistants were: Miss Ballans, M.A., Dip.Ed., Miss Dunoon, B.A., Dip.Ed., Miss Gilbert, Miss Stiles, Miss Owen and Miss Affleck.

The school colours chosen by Miss Pratt and the committee were navy blue, green and gold. The former warden of Trinity College, W. Leeper, suggested the motto, 'Sint Lucernae Ardentes', and designed the Roman lamp which forms the central feature of the crest. The crest itself was designed as a whole by Miss Woodward of Bendigo and was altered by the council and then adapted to incorporate the lamp.

AN IDEAL COLLEGE FOR GIRLS

In its possession of many superior advantages Geelong is destined to be one of the great Educational Centres of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Its climate is of the best and its water supply and sanitation without rival in Victoria. Being easily accessible by steamer, train and motor car, it is a particularly attractive city to Metropolitan and Country residents.

It is already the home of two great Public Schools for Boys—the Geelong College and the Church of England Grammar School. The records of these Schools have made the name of Geelong pre-eminent in the Scholastic World of Australia, New Zealand and other countries.

The establishment of a splendid Girls' School under the control of the Church of England was a wise and successful movement, and the community owes a debt of gratitude to those who did so much to supply the demand for such a School in Geelong, and particularly the service rendered to the community by Miss E. Morres, M.A., the present Head Mistress.

The outbreak of the Great World War was the one factor which delayed the inauguration of a PRESBYTERIAN LADIES' COLLEGE in Geelong some four years ago.

For many years the thought has been in the minds of many people that the PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH with all its traditions for encouraging sound education should establish a College with the high ideals and educational standard of the great Presbyterian and Methodist Ladies' Colleges in Melbourne. In 1914 a strong representative committee was appointed by the Presbytery of Geelong to thoroughly investigate the question of establishing such a College in Geelong. The opportunity did not seem to present itself until a few months ago. The Committee have now come to the decision that the time to lay hold of the opportunity has arrived and have further decided to recommend to the General Assembly and to all interested in the complete and adequate education of our young womanhood, the following scheme:

PART I. "ROSLYN HOUSE"

To immediately establish a PRESBYTERIAN LADIES' COLLEGE in Geelong. To commence school work in February, 1920 at "Roslyn House," Latrobe Terrace, Geelong—the present residence of Howard Hitchcock, Esq., and to reconstruct the buildings etc., formerly occupied by Miss Harris as the Newtown Ladies' College, which is registered as Sub-Primary, Primary and Secondary.

PART II. COMPLETION OF SCHEME

To make provision as soon as possible for a large School with extensive grounds and ample accommodation for Recreation and Sport. In this second part of the scheme and when the School and Halls etc., are ready, "Roslyn House" will be used as a

JUNIOR OR PREPARATORY SCHOOL.

The 'House' System

In Part II, the 'House' System will be adopted, not more than 30 girls being received into any one 'House'. The fundamental idea of the 'House' System is that each household constitutes a separate family. The House Mistress, under the superintendence of the Principal, is responsible for the mental, moral, and physical development of the girls in her House.

The College thus established will provide the stimulus of friendly and healthy rivalry with other Schools for girls, and will create that *esprit-de-corps* so valuable an asset in both school and after life.

THE SCHOOL

Properties Purchased

To carry out Part I of the Scheme, viz.—the immediate establishment and opening of the College, the following properties have been purchased:

(a) *'Roslyn'*

the property of Howard Hitchcock, Esq. This beautiful and commodious residence is pleasantly situated in Latrobe Terrace, on the brow of the hill, overlooking Corio Bay, and with an extensive outlook over Geelong and District. 'Roslyn' has a frontage to Latrobe Terrace, by a splendid depth westward along Elizabeth Street. The property is admirably suited for accommodation for boarders, being well sheltered by shrubberies and ornamental trees, and ensuring privacy. Provision is being made for extensions immediately. Sleeping out balconies, a large dining room, additional bedrooms, bath rooms, etc., are being erected before the opening in 1920. In the present Scheme 30 boarders will be taken, and present indications are that more applications will be received than can be accommodated.

(b) *Newtown Ladies' College*

For many years this School has been admirably conducted by MISS HARRIS in Elizabeth Street, Newtown. Miss Harris has done a splendid work for the girlhood of our community, and we acknowledge our sense of indebtedness to her for her fine service for many of the girls of Geelong and District. The School Hall, Equipment and Goodwill have been purchased. As this College has between 70 and 80 pupils there is already a nucleus of a large School. The class rooms are being reconstructed and five additional class rooms will be added immediately.

(c) Between 'Roslyn' and the Newtown Ladies' College are several cottages, and the land on which they stand has also been purchased. The cottages will be removed and the land fenced in as part of the School grounds.

THE SCHOOL LIFE

Advisory Board

In order to establish the College on sound lines, the advice and experience of our leading educationists in the State have been placed at the disposal of our Committee. With the help gained from these experts, the best modern methods of education are assured.

Curriculum and Teaching Staff

Provision will be made for instruction under the most modern methods. The subjects of study in Lower, Middle and Upper School will cover all the requirements of a complete education. Special attention will be given to the Kindergarten and Primary Departments where the foundation is laid, and a highly qualified Primary Mistress is being secured for this section. Pupils will be prepared for Junior and Senior University Examinations, and the School Intermediate and Leaving Certificate Examinations of the Melbourne University. The Committee have laid it down as a fundamental principle that the Teaching Staff should be highly qualified with University degrees and good experience in teaching. The members of the Staff are now being carefully selected and arrangements are well in hand.

The Curriculum is being framed to provide for girls an education which, while

moderate in cost, will be adapted to individual requirements, and as complete in all sides as that given to the girls at the great public schools.

Religious Training

Recognising the primary value of moral and spiritual interests, the religious life of the girls will be carefully looked after. The background of all the teaching in this department will be those religious ideas and convictions common to all *Protestant denominations*, with freedom of conscience fully respected in regard to each pupil. Our aim will be to permeate the College life with high *moral* and *spiritual* ideals.

Physical Training and Recreation

Outdoor games will be under the supervision of experienced mistresses, and physical culture will be in the hands of a specialist.

No pains will be spared to make the individual girl's life a happy and joyous one, with provision for the cultivation of social qualities and training in habits of refinement and courtesy.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

With these objects and ideals the School will be constituted and governed by a College Council of 21, who will elect an executive of seven, whose duty it shall be to see that the School is managed according to the highest traditions of past and present educational methods, and on sound business principles.

So began the Presbyterian Girls' College, Geelong, on 14th February, 1920, and the school was opened to pupils on 15th February. The Official Opening on 19th June, 1920 at Roslyn House was a simple ceremony held in the grounds. Miss Pratt recalls that the band struck up 'O God of Bethel' instead of the Old Hundredth, which was unfortunate, but otherwise, all went well.

PROGRAMME

of the

OFFICIAL OPENING of the GEELONG PRESBYTERIAN
GIRLS' COLLEGE,

On 19th June, 1920, at 3 p.m. at Roslyn House,
Latrobe Terrace.

The Chairman of the Council (Cr. J. Pettitt)
will preside.

PROGRAMME

1. Psalm, 'The Old Hundredth'
- 3.5 2. Prayer. Rev. D. D. Munro
- 3.10 3. His Worship the Mayor of Geelong (Ald. Howard Hitchcock, J.P.) will call upon the Right Rev. The Moderator to officially open the College and to give an Address.
- 3.20 4. Moderator's Address
- 3.40 5. Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication
Rev. T. Worsley Maguire

- 3.45 6. Address. Rev. C. Neville (Hon. Secretary of the
College Council)
3.52 7. Unfurling of College Flag by The Senior Prefect.
3.56 8. The College Song will be sung by the Girls
National Anthem

— AFTERNOON TEA —

The Geelong Returned Soldiers' Band will play Selections
during the afternoon

C O L L E G E S O N G
'SINT LUCERNAE ARDENTES'
(*Let your Lamps be burning*)

'Sint Lucernae ardentēs!
That's the aim of our School!
To keep ever ready and burning
The famous lantern of learning
Make we our rule!
Filled with the sweet oil of wisdom
Pure as the light of a star,
Bravely our beacon is beaming,
Sending it's radiance streaming,
Beckoning afar.

'Sint lucernae ardentēs!
God grant our light so shine
That henceforth the flame of our teaching
Far through the centuries reaching
Stand for a sign.
Borne over far distant lands
Wheresoe'er learners may roam
Bidding the watchful know proudly,
Telling it gladly and loudly,
This was their home.

'Sint lucernae ardentēs!
That's the aim of our School!
To kindle of hope and endeavour
Fires that will blaze and will never
Flicker nor cool!
So we in learning and playing
Known and acclaimed may be,
Worthy our founders' ambition
Nursed in Good British tradition
G. P. G. C.

C. LL. GRIFFITHS