

# TOWNSVILLE PAST GRAMMARIANS ASSOCIATION

*Melior Exi*



*April 2014*

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Patron: Edna Shaw  
(1938 – 1940)

President: Jack Callcott  
(1965 – 1969)

Secretary/Treasurer: Bill Muller (ex Staff)  
(1980 – 1998)

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The first quarter of 2014 is almost over. How time flies by. As each New Year arrives, I put a few lines together for our School publications on behalf of the Past Students Association.

This year, I will be attending all of the Schools official functions including ANZAC Day and Speech Night on your behalf. I will be attending the Brisbane Reunion gathering on the 5 July and also the Grammar @ Home Weekend in Townsville in August. These functions are very well organised and are great places to meet old school friends and I urge everyone to come along and enjoy. Every year, as I go about my work, I bump into past students who haven't attended a reunion since leaving school. Some have indicated to me that they would like to attend, but "never seem to get around to it" or they aren't quite sure when the functions are on. This year, I urge those who haven't attended a reunion before, to "just do it". And those regulars who come to almost every function, encourage those people who you do know are past students to come to a reunion. They will certainly enjoy it.

**Mr Jack Callcott (1965-1969)**  
**PRESIDENT**

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The School has commenced 2014 on the back of a wonderful year of 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations in 2013 and the Seniors of last year producing our best ever tertiary entrance results. At Grammar, senior students now have a choice of two pre-tertiary pathways, i.e. the Queensland Studies Authority Overall Position (OP) system or the International Baccalaureate Organisation Diploma (IBDP) programme. In combining the results of both pathways, 16 Grammar students gained the equivalent of an OP1, with 37.5% of the cohort achieving an OP 1-5 outcome, compared with a Queensland average of 19.96%. Our IB students, also performed exceptionally, with Dux of School, Damon Binder (12/2013) achieving a perfect score (45/45) placing him in the top 0.3% of the world. Damon was the only IB Diploma student in Queensland to achieve this remarkable outcome. Townsville Grammar IB cohorts are already outperforming Queensland, Australian, Asian and World averages.



In February, the Board of Trustees announced the opening of a second Primary Campus to be built on a parcel of land acquired at North Shore. This campus will open in 2015 with a Pre-Prep Centre and expand to a Prep to Year 6 Campus from 2016. This is an exciting development in one of the fastest growing population corridors in Queensland. The new campus has been master-planned and is ideally situated to take advantage of local community facilities such as an adjacent aquatic centre.

The costly restoration of heritage listed School House continues following the successful removal of paint applied to the brick work in the 1990s. The restoration of the brickwork under the supervision of our heritage architect has exceeded all expectations and even though there is an enormous amount of restoration work still to be done, the old building is already presenting as a magnificent structure.

In addition to this ongoing work, the Rheuben Science building is being extended with the addition of 2 new classrooms, a new girls toilet facility, new stairwells, a disability lift and a modern make-over. This is a \$3.0m project and will be completed late this year. At the Annandale Campus, the \$1.75m Prep Stage 2 project has been completed successfully, in readiness for the commencement of the year.

In undertaking the Rheuben works, the opportunity to restore and relocate the Bourke Street front gates occurred and these gates, dating back to the 1930s, have

now found a permanent home near the Centenary Gymnasium.

As always, I look forward to meeting Past Grammarians during the course of the year. I always enjoy your company and fellowship and the opportunity to learn more about this truly wonderful school.

Mr Richard Fairley  
PRINCIPAL



#### FINANCES

Your Association financially is on a steady footing with subscriptions maintaining a moderate bank balance. We have, in the past, helped the School with some purchases and the Association has purchased some historical memorabilia for inclusion in a small museum at a later date.

Please contact the School on 4722 4900 for any

information on proposed functions or to pay any donations or membership fees.

#### NEWS OF PAST GRAMMARIANS

The family of Clifford Reginald Mecham [1889-1890] has been in contact with the school regarding the career of Clifford as a ship's captain and his involvement in World War One. A boarder from Hughenden Clifford joined a trading ship company and sailed all over the world including the exciting time of trading in the China Seas before World War One.

As archivist I have been trying to track down G.H.SCHACHT [1909] who left the school to continue his education in England. During the war he served in the British Army from 1915-1918. I managed to contact his school and they advised that he won the Military Cross while in action on the Western Front. The interesting thing is that he changed his surname to DUTTON to get away from the German connotation of his surname. The name Dutton appears on the Pro Patria Honour Board but I could never find him on the school register or enrolment list. The problem is now solved albeit we have Schacht and Dutton on the Honour Board!

Archival research has also shown that Oscar Francis McMAHON [1912], a boarder from Mareeba, who joined the Australian Navy in 1913, served in both World Wars, and was awarded the Order of the British Empire in 1942 for his services to the military.

Dorothy LAWRENCE [nee SCHULZ 1942], whose parents owned a sheep station near Hughenden, attended the

# Grammar @ Home Weekend

2004 • 1994 • 1984 • 1974 & Beyond



*Save the date*

**SATURDAY 9 AUGUST 2014**  
**TOUR OF YOUR SCHOOL**  
GRAMMAR RUGBY FIXTURES | CLASS PHOTOS  
**GALA NIGHT OF REMINISCING**  
THE BANQUET CENTRE | TOWNSVILLE BREWERY

school as a student in 1942 and subsequently taught English, French, Latin and Modern History at the school from 1943-1945. The School History Book states that the results achieved by her Junior Latin classes were of an exceptional standard. Dorothy tells of the supportive and happy atmosphere that headmaster Tommy Whight fostered with his teaching staff and considered it a privilege to teach at the school. Dorothy later influenced the attendance of her brother-in-law, Barry LAWRENCE [1949-1952] and now lives with her daughter Heather and family at Mt Elliot.

PATTI HALL [nee GLASGOW 1993] has left the Grammar staff and has recently completed her first book: "Teach Love Life: from stress to success". Patti and two other ladies are now giving talks and seminars on how to improve one's lifestyle.

A friend of Patti's at school EDDIE PLANT [1993] is also presenting seminars in New South Wales. A retired major from the army Eddie is helping those servicemen returning from areas of conflict to adjust to civilian life. Eddie spent time overseas including Iraq and Papua New Guinea.

SALLY McPHERSON [1998], her brother DREW MCPHERSON [1999] and MATTHEW PETERS [1999] were recently in town to advertise their Brisbane based business, iSeekplant and to meet with prospective clients. The company is a plant hire website that aims to provide construction efficiency products around Australia.

DEAN CAVANAGH [1998] has moved from Mackay and is now working as a Police sergeant in Charters Towers. He is happily married with two young children.

ELIZABETH STALEWSKI [1998] has returned to Townsville and is working as a GP in a flourishing medical centre.

NICHOLAS KNIGHT [2000] is enjoying life on the Sunshine Coast and was recently asked to coach the

Caloundra Panthers, an AFL team, in the local competition.

Well done to JENNIFER HARKNESS [2001] on her most interesting art exhibition that opened recently at the Perc Tucker Art Gallery. Jennifer is based in Byron Bay.

Our best wishes to ANTHONY CALEO [2001] for a speedy recovery from severe burns he received from a fire while working on his parents' property.

Congratulations to CHLOE BUTLER [2004] on her selection to the Australian Woman's Rugby Union team, the Wallaroos. Chloe will be playing in the World Cup which will be held later this year. Well done to Harriet DYER [2005] on recently winning the Sydney Theatre season for 2013 Best Actress Award for her role in the play *Machinal*. This is a remarkable achievement as she beat actresses such as Cate Blanchett to win the award. For those who follow the television show "Love Child" will have seen Harriet as one of the leading roles.

J-P SMITH [2006] has been doing well on the tennis circuit. He has won twenty regional tournaments to date and is now ranked 198 in the world. He and his New Zealand partner are ranked 73 in the world in Men's Doubles. At the recent Master's Tournament at Indian Wells, regarded as the fifth major, J-P made it through to the first round.

Thanks to the CALEO TWINS, JACK [2013] and CLARK [2013] for undertaking the task of coaching the Grammar U8 Rugby Union Team. They both recently completed their Level One Coaching Certificate.

## ANZAC DAY

It is not well known that an important architect and originator of Anzac Day ceremonies and rituals once had a close association with our school. He is the Rev David

# Open Night

Thursday 8 May 2014 | 3:30pm to 7:00pm

- Year 7 and 8 2015 Parent Information Forums, Meet Our Teachers, Musical and Drama Performances, Campus Tours, Classroom and Subject Displays, Activities + More!
- Courtney from Mix 106.3 will be broadcasting live.

For more info phone 1800 GRAMMAR or visit [tgs.qld.edu.au](http://tgs.qld.edu.au) for a full event programme.



North Ward Campus - 45 Paxton St, North Ward | Year 7 to 12

John Garland who became a canon at St James Cathedral in 1902, appointed archdeacon of North Queensland in 1903 and between 1904 and 1907 was its registrar. The Rev Garland served with distinction in World War One and after the expulsion of the Turks from Jerusalem he was the first chaplain to celebrate the Eucharist in the Anglican chapel of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. For his work between the British and the Coptic Church he was awarded the knighthood of the Gold Cross of the Holy Sepulchre. On his return to Australia he initiated the Anzac Day march, the returned soldiers' luncheon, the two minutes silence, the wreath laying ceremonies and the special church services. It was always his wish that the Anzac Day should remain a civilian ceremony.

The Rev Garland was a keen supporter of the school and would often present prizes at Speech Day. His son David James Garland was also educated at Grammar. The Rev Garland was a close friend of Mr Rowland. Mr Rowland was to write, in part, the following in regard to Anzac Day: "Many brave deeds were done in the War; the survivors of the Anzacs and other Australian contingents fought nobly in France and Palestine: but no more splendid deed of heroism was performed than the landing on the Gallipoli Peninsula on Anzac Day.

Six young men associated with the school died on the Gallipoli Peninsula. They were with dates of the death in brackets: D.N.McGREGOR [25 April], J.F.WALSH [28 April], H.D FOOT [1 May], H.W TILLIDGE[7 August], J.I.SMITH [8 August] and A.M.FOOT [22 November].

## **MAY THEIR SACRIFICE NEVER BE FORGOTTEN**

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to Jana PETERSON [2004] on her recent marriage to John Williams, a former Cowboys player who now plays for the Cronulla Sharks. Jana has had a successful career as a model and has appeared on television shows.

### **VALE**

The Association wishes to pass on its deepest sympathies to the following past students who have passed away in recent months.

GRAHAM HOUGHTON ROBERTS [1934]: Graham served as a Warrant Officer in World War Two. In 1992 he was awarded the Order of Australia Medal [OAM] for services to golf and the local community.

LAURENCE EDWARD "Joe" WILKINS [1939]: "Joe" enlisted in World War Two aged eighteen. He served in New Guinea with the Australian Intelligence Corps for four years. After the war "Joe", who never married,

worked in the finance industry. An extremely generous man "Joe" donated to fifteen charities each year. In 2001 he donated \$250,000 to the school for the establishment of a bursary to help students attend the school. In 2006 he donated \$100,000 to the Mater Hospital in Brisbane to help with research into prostate cancer. A wonderfully generous man "Joe" was a keen supporter of the Rostrum Club and the Freemasons. The Association thanks "Joe" for his wonderful contributions to the school and society.

TERENCE BANDA [1993]: Terence came to Grammar from Papua New Guinea where his parents had settled from Zambia. A talented athlete and a most respected student he was head boy and winner of the Governor's Cup in 1993. On leaving school Terence studied medicine in the United States to before returning to PNG to work as a doctor in that country. It was a dream of Terence to return to Zambia to work as a doctor in that country. He did so only to die from complications of pneumonia. A wonderful person taken too early.

Deepest sympathies of the Association go out to Dr.S.ROVEDA [1948] and his family on the recent passing of his wife. The Roveda family have been great supporters over the years and one of their daughters KAREN BLOMBERG has been a valued member of the School Trustees some years.

## **Bonus Intra, Melior Exi**