

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

The month of April is always a busy one for the School especially in regard to important ceremonies, the main ones being Founders Day (April 16) and ANZAC Day (April 25). In fact it could be argued that Founders Day is the most important date on the School calendar. This year the School is celebrating its 119<sup>th</sup> Founders Day with the highlight being the official naming of the **Edna Shaw Ceramics' Centre**, the Centre being a welcome addition to the growing list of excellent educational facilities at the School.

This was certainly not the case when **Mr C.H. Hodges** presided over his first Founders Day ceremony in 1889. Mr Hodges had only arrived at Christmas 1888 and thus this occasion was the first opportunity he had to report to the School community and to set out his educational philosophy. The North Queensland Telegraph of 18 April, 1889 reports in some detail what Mr Hodges had to say. He began his report by congratulating the trustees, masters and students on the start that had been made which, he hoped and believed, would lead to the beginning of greater things. He then reported that a concrete cricket pitch had been laid on what is now the Sports' Reserve and reported that cricket as a sport was well established. Mr Hodges then made a special appeal for £200 so that a gymnasium and sanitarium could be built and furniture purchased to cope with growing numbers in the School.

Mr Hodges then turned his thoughts to a range of educational issues. The issue that caught the attention of the students was when Mr Hodges commented that he was in favour of longer school holidays. He said that if a student worked hard during term time then he would be in need of a longer rest. He did, however, add that the school day and education programme should be a rigorous one that kept the students working diligently at all times. Mr Hodges' attitude is perhaps best understood in his concluding words when he said: "On idle boys both term and holidays are alike thrown away, but for a lad learning three or four languages, who keeps his nose to the grindstone, the allowance is none too much if mind and body are both to be kept healthy." Grammar has come a long way since those early days especially in the facilities at the School but in many respects the philosophy that students have a healthy mind and body has not changed greatly.

The Grammar community takes great pride on ANZAC Day in remembering those past students who have fought in every conflict since the Boer War 1899-1902. Fifty-nine Grammarians have forfeited their lives for their nation, a number which can be argued is high for a School of our size. This archival report is a snapshot of one student who gave his life so that we may have our freedom.

**Charles Frederick BROMLEY** was born in the Richmond area in 1922 and enrolled as a nine year old in 1931. From a young age he had to display great self reliance to survive the rigours of the boarding life. He was nicknamed "Cruncher" because he wore size 12 shoes and wherever he went his mates would say that he was crunching the ground underneath him. He learned to overcome the teasing and as he neared the end of his school career he became a respected leader and in his last year was appointed the Second Prefect and was a great role model for the younger students.

Past students who remember Bromley tell me that in the last couple of years at school all he wanted to do was to leave and learn to fly. He was very aware of the impending war and felt that as a pilot he would best serve his country. He achieved his wish when he enlisted in the RAAF in March 1941. He learned his flying on the Wirraways and it was in one of these hopelessly outdated planes he faced a squadron of Japanese Zeros on 20 January 1942. Knowing the odds he still faced them with courage and was shot down over Papua New Guinea. He is buried at the Bita Park War Cemetery in Rabaul. He was just nineteen years of age.

Charles Bromley is just one of the many who will be remembered by the School community on ANZAC Day. We shall not forget those who paid the ultimate sacrifice with their involvement.

*Mr W.J. Muller*  
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