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## From the Archives

Townsville Grammar can indeed be proud of its academic achievements. Not only have we produced two Rhodes Scholars in **G.F.E. Hall** [1910] and **C.J. Parker** [1938] but a reading of the School magazines will show that the School has had many students worthy of the highest academic accolades. Four past students have been knighted for their far reaching services to the nation and many others have topped the State in public examinations or won University Medals. Spenser Routh is one of the few Queensland students who won both the Byrnes Memorial Prize for the best result in the Queensland Primary examination and the John Black Scholarship for topping the State in the Senior Examination in 1951. Many Grammar parents and Past Grammarians may remember him as the University of Queensland Librarian.

If circumstances had been different Townsville Grammar may have had two more Rhodes Scholars. **Fred Timbury**, Dux of the School in 1901, attended Sydney University where he studied law. It was not until a year or two after he completed his studies that Rhodes Scholarships were introduced. He was a brilliant student and a great sportsman. While working as a solicitor in Brisbane he became our first international sportsman when, in 1910, he represented Australia in two rugby internationals against New Zealand. Although he only represented the School 2<sup>nd</sup> XI at cricket, Fred went on to represent Queensland at cricket. He played six matches for the State scoring 57 runs and took 14 wickets at an average of 38.42. He also represented Queensland at tennis.

Fred Timbury moved to Roma in the early 1920's where he later became Mayor of that town. He was instrumental in bringing modern methods of drilling gas into Australia and as a consequence gas production flourished in the Roma district. In his later years Fred became a keen proponent for changing the water flow of Australian rivers into the Darling System. If some of his ideas had been adopted our present water problems may not be as acute as they currently are.

A reading of the writings of P.F. Rowland will show that he always felt that **A.R. Brookes** was the School's best ever candidate for a Rhodes Scholarship. Arthur Brookes won a scholarship to Grammar in 1907. From his first day at School he became involved in every facet of School life. He participated in every School production, won many academic awards including a scholarship to the University of Queensland in 1912, became a debating champion and was an excellent cricketer and tennis player. In 1911 he scored 100 not out in a total of 9 for 131 to win an A Grade fixture for the School team. He was a batsman of some ability.

On leaving School in 1912 he enrolled in classics at the University of Queensland. He soon became a leader in Emmanuel College and represented the University at cricket and tennis. Although still young he was close to Queensland selection in tennis. His academic results were also of the highest order and there was talk that he would be the next Queensland Rhodes Scholar.

On December 28, 1912 Arthur Brookes was tragically drowned at Southport while single handedly trying to rescue three young girls from the surf. A promising life tragically cut short. His achievements are remembered by plaques at Mackay Primary School and Emmanuel College. P.F. Rowland also had a plaque struck for Grammar but, unfortunately, this plaque has been lost. The Past Grammarians are in the process of having this matter rectified.

The Grammar School is indeed fortunate to have such a rich heritage of academic achievements. Hopefully, these achievements can be of inspiration to present and future Grammar students.

*(Mr W J Muller)*