

From the Archives

At the recent 119th Annual Speech Night two of the prizes handed out to Year 12 students were the Rheuben Prize for Chemistry and the Rheuben Prize for Physics. **ROY PHILIP RHEUBEN [1915]** was a great benefactor to the School and his generosity is also remembered in the naming of the Rheuben Science Building. On his death in 1989 he left over \$US100,000 to the School. There were no pre-conditions in the will so the Trustees used the gift to refurbish the Science facilities.

Rheuben enrolled in Grammar in 1911 on a state scholarship. After three years completing the Junior Certificate he was awarded a Trustees' Scholarship to complete Senior. As a result of undertaking a successful Senior Examination Rheuben was awarded a Teachers' Scholarship which he declined deciding to study dentistry. In 1917 he passed the Intermediate Examination at the University of Queensland and topped the class. He spent the next two years as a dental mechanic in the A.I.F. before completing dentistry and winning the Eden Memorial Gold Medal for Operative Dentistry.

Roy Rheuben returned to Townsville and set up rooms in the T and G Building. A keen motorist he became involved in rallying and the administration of the motor car industry. He served on the Technical Committee of the R.A.C.Q. before serving as President of that association. He was a keen single handicap golfer and also loved fishing.

In the early 1930's he attended the University of Minnesota where he completed a Doctorate in Dentistry [Honours]. He worked at the Mayo Clinic for a short period of time before returning to the University of Queensland as a lecturer in oral surgery. Rheuben, however, was keen to return to the United States and in 1938 undertook the State Dental Board Examinations in California and Nevada. He was the only non American to pass both examinations gaining 100 per cent in California and being told some years later that the result he received in Nevada was the highest ever achieved in that State.

Rheuben was to spend the rest of his life working in either California or Nevada. He had a most successful career in oral surgery and presented papers throughout the United States and in South America. He was a foundation member of the Beverley Hills Dental Association and later President of the Nevada Dental Association.

Roy Rheuben had a great love of the Grammar School and in his correspondence would often talk about the influence the then Headmaster, P.F. Rowland, had on his early years. This love of the School is reflected in the wonderful generosity he displayed to a School that he saw very little of after emigrating from Australia to the United States in 1938.

FINAL ARCHIVAL SNIPPET FOR 2006:

In the early 1980's a past student, SAM McCLUSKEY [1931] penned his memoirs as a boarder of five years standing under the watchful eye of P.F. Rowland. In his memoir he noted that the Headmaster was not keen on gambling and discouraged even a sweepstake in the Melbourne Cup. In 1931 McCluskey was given the task of organizing the sweep and went to see Mr Rowland to gain permission to hold the event. Mr Rowland was astute enough to realize that he would never be able to stop it going ahead so all he said to McCluskey was: "I refuse to be consulted".

The entire School and some staff were involved and between them they raised two shillings to put the Headmaster into the sweep. As it turned out his horse ran second and when McCluskey went to his office to give him the winnings he would not accept the money until told who the benefactor was. McCluskey put the money on his desk and said: "I refuse to be consulted." With that McCluskey ran out of the office followed by the eruption of great laughter from the Headmaster. In spite of his dislike of gambling Mr Rowland had displayed a wonderful sense of humour.

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