

FROM THE ARCHIVES

As this is the final Report from the Archives for the year 2007 it is opportune to write a brief summary of what occurred at Townsville Grammar in the year 1907. The year was just the third of Mr ROWLAND'S tenure as Headmaster (1905-1938) and the School was just beginning to find its feet after the devastating effects of Cyclone Leonta in 1903. At the start of the year Mr Rowland announced that the numbers had increased to 58 students with eighteen of the students being boarders. Of the forty day students, ten were girls, a record at the time for the School. Mr Rowland was pleased with the numbers but did comment that in Mr HODGES' time (1888-1900) the numbers had increased to seventy on one occasion, a record.

Two educational issues concerned Mr Rowland during the year. The first concerned scholarships and the standard of teaching. While pleased that the School had been awarded £1000 per annum for three years to provide for the education of five students per annum Mr Rowland was concerned by the teaching of students in the primary schools. In his words students in the North were being disadvantaged by the liberal and less mechanical approach of the teachers in contrast to the "cram" approach in the Brisbane regions. As a consequence students were disadvantaged at scholarship examination time. Mr Rowland led the fight to have the examination system changed allowing for more open questions which would negate the effect of "cramming". By the end of the year he had succeeded in his attempts to have the system changed.

A second concern for Mr Rowland was the fact that primary schools held on to their students until they were fourteen or fifteen years of age. Mr Rowland believed that students came to a high school environment at an age too old to be able to advance their educational progress. Too many of the students were leaving Grammar in their first or second years because employment was easy to obtain for a fifteen year old.

On June 3, 2007 two important events occurred in the history of the School. The Governor of Queensland visited the School on that day and presented the School with the Governor's Cup, later to be called the Chelmsford Cup or the Rugby Prize. The Cup, awarded to the Best All Round Boy, was awarded for the hundredth time this year. The second task that the Governor undertook was to unveil Grammar's first Honour Board, HONORIS CAUSA. This Board displays the names of the students who achieved academically in the period 1888-1907 and is made of a beautiful combination of North Queensland timbers including silky oak, cedar, beech, acacia, elm, maple and redwood. The Honour Board has a pride of place in the School Foyer.

Some of the prominent names on the HONORIS CAUSA Board includes **J.L. MCKELVEY (1897)**, the first past student to be knighted, **W.S. BOYD (1896)**, a double first at the University of Sydney and a University Medallist and a Blue for Athletics, **F.T. PERKINS (1894)**, the first Headmaster of the Cranbrook School in Sydney and **G.F.E. HALL (1909)**, Grammar's first Rhodes Scholar. In 1907 Hall achieved the highest results in the Queensland Junior Examination. The names of two girl students also appear on the Board. They are **E. HARTLEY (1905)**, Dux of the School in 1904 and 1905 and **H. TUFFLEY (1909)** who was not far behind Hall in the Junior Examination results.

Sporting and cultural activities also flourished during the year. It is interesting to note the variety of extracts from plays produced during the year. Extracts included The Iliad (Greek), Aeneid (Latin), Erlkonig (German), Moliere's "Medicin Malore Lui" (French) and Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. George Hall held lead roles in the plays with the exception of the one in German. Hall was also to be a leading light in the School's sporting programme which consisted predominantly of Cricket, Swimming and Athletics. Little or no Football was played at a competitive level as there were no other high schools to compete against. The Cricket team played in the local Townsville Senior's Competition and acquitted themselves well by winning half of their fixtures. Star of the team was **T.D. Kay (1907-9)** a staff member who had come from Tasmania. Hall and **G.M. DUNCAN (1908)** were selected in the Townsville team to play Charters Towers. The School Second Eleven remained undefeated during the season but all their games were played against the local primary schools. Duncan and Hall also dominated in Athletics and Duncan, who finished fourth in the Queensland section of the University of Sydney Senior examinations, was the inaugural winner of the Chelmsford Cup. He also won the Cup in 1908 while repeating the year despite his excellent results the year before. As Mr Rowland pointed out in his Speech Night Report, Duncan was too young to go to University at the end of 1907. At the end of 1908 Duncan was awarded a Queensland Exhibition and a scholarship to a College at the University of Sydney.

In many respects 1907 was a most successful year for the School. Much of it can be attributed to the driving force of the Headmaster, Mr Rowland, and the emphasis he placed on a good all round education. This success was reflected in the fact that enrolments rose to seventy-one students in 1908 with thirty-one boys enrolled as boarders.

As a final point of interest the first colour photograph of the School was published in 1907.

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