SPEECH NIGHT PRIZES

On 10 June, 1931 Sir Henry John McKelvey, a boarder from Ravenswood, Dux in 1897 and Head Boy in 1898 and 1899, and later a distinguished surgeon established the Charles Henry Hodges Memorial Prize in honour of his Headmaster. McKelvey remained a life-long friend of Mr Hodges and was a pall bearer at his funeral. Sir Henry donated £100 at the then Bank of New South Wales. Originally the prize was awarded for the top mathematics student and from 1976 awarded to the Proxime Accessit in Form V. In honour of Sir John, the School, in 1947, established the J.L. McKelvey Memorial Prize for Science. This prize was discontinued but has now been re-instated as the J.L. McKelvey Memorial Prize for Chemistry in Year 11.

William Sprott Boyd is arguably one of the most brilliant students to study at Grammar. A boarder from Ingham he was Dux of the School in 1894 and Head Boy in 1896. He had a stellar career at the University of Sydney awarded the Barker Scholarship and the Horner Exhibition from that university. In 1898 he was awarded the George Allen Scholarship and in 1899 the Levey Scholarship. He was also a good athlete and received his University Blue for athletics. In the early 1900s he moved to the United States and Canada where he worked in mining, becoming the Vice-President of Kennecot Copper, then the largest copper mine in the world. On 22 May, 1934 he wrote to the Trustees enclosing a cheque for £25; £5 a year to go towards a book and a silver trophy. In 1938 he donated a further £25 and in May 1938 a further £125 for a William Sprott Boyd Award with the wish that the award would be presented in perpetuity. The prize was initially awarded for Latin and French Prizes but in 1976 it became the Proxime Accessit award in Year 12. Due to Boyd’s love of geology and mining the prize will now be re-named the William Sprott Boyd Prize for Earth Science in Year 11.

A.S. Grose was a contemporary of both McKelvey and Boyd. He was Dux of the School in 1896 and Head Boy in 1897. On leaving school he became an articled clerk in a law firm before becoming a founding partner of the firm Wilson, Ryan and Grose. A long-time supporter of Grammar he was a Trustee from 1930 to 1946, the year in which he died. Money from his estate was left to the School and in 1947 the A.S. Grose Memorial Prize for Languages was established. This prize was later changed to Proxime Accessit in Form 3 [Grade 9] and Dux in Form IV [Grade 10]. This prize lapsed in the mid 1990s and will be re-instated in 2016 as the A.S. Grose Memorial for French in Year 11. This prize reflects the great love that Mr Grose had for languages.

The name Mary Foley will forever resonate in the annals of the history of the School. Not only will she be remembered as the first girl to enter the School but also the first girl in Queensland to attend a co-educational secondary school. Mary attended the School during the same period as Boyd, McKelvey and Grose. On 24 June, 1934 she established the Thomas Foley Memorial Prize in honour of her father Thomas Foley M.L.A. Mr Foley was not only a driving force behind the establishment of the School but was also a Trustee from 1906-1920. The prize was initially to be awarded to the girl obtaining the Best Junior Pass but from 1948 it was changed to the Best All Round Girl in Form IV [Grade 10]. This prize was also discontinued in the 1990s but this year re-introduced as the Thomas Foley Memorial Prize for English Literature in Year 10.

On 10 February, 1945 the Trustees received a cheque for £50 from Dr Breinl’s widow to create a Dr Breinl Memorial Prize. Dr Breinl was a world renowned scientist in tropical medicine and a science research centre in Townsville is named after him. He was also a parent and Trustee at the School from 1913-1943. The prize initially went to the best science student in Form 3 [Year 9] but from 1976 it was awarded to the Proxime Accessit in Form 2 [Year 8]. In 2016 this prize will be re-instated as the Dr A. Breinl Memorial Prize for Physics in Year 11. An apt prize for a renowned man of science.

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