June 3, 1907 is an important date in the history of the School. On that day, Lord Chelmsford, Governor of Queensland, presented the Governor’s Cup [Rugby Prize] and on the same day unveiled Honoris Causa, the first Honour Board in the School. The Board is now situated in the foyer of the North Ward campus and celebrates the names of students who achieved academically. The School Magazine of August 7, 1907, Volume 2, Number 10 describes the Honour Board as follows: "The design is by Mr A.B.Polin, and it has been beautifully carried out by Mr Hollins, entirely by hand. The Board is made of various Queensland woods, the following being employed:-Outside frame, silky oak: pediment and pilasters, bean tree; small panels under pediments, elm; main board, cedar; spandril over arch [from left to right] redwood, Queensland beech, acacia wood, Queensland maple; mouldings and pilasters, bean tree.

The Headmaster, P.F.Rowland, was, for two reasons, pleased with the new Honour Board. Firstly, he wanted a board in the Big School Room to add some colour to what was a rather bleak area [refer to photograph] and, secondly, he wanted a board that accentuated academic achievement so that students could be inspired to achieve their name on the board. What follows below are the names of those on the board and their academic achievements.

Five of the first six names on the board were all Sydney University Examination Prize winners. M.C.L.CHUBB [1892] was the first past student to graduate from university. A top rower who stroked the Sydney University Eight to an Australian title and became a leading barrister in Sydney. F.T.PERKINS [1895] was head boy for four years before attending the University of Sydney where he completed a Bachelor and Masters degrees. He entered the Anglican Church and became headmaster of the Monaro Grammar School, then Headmaster of The Armidale School before becoming the founding headmaster of Cranbrook School in Sydney. W.S.BOYD [1894] was a university medallist and went on to be a world renowned geologist. R.L.HENDERSON [1893] studied medicine at universities in Dunedin and Edinburgh. He was killed in France in 1917 and was awarded a Military Cross posthumously. J.L.McKELVEY [1898] also studied medicine. He became a surgeon and was the first past student to be Knighted [1934].

H.BUTT [1889], F.W.DODD [1903], F.H.HUMPHREYS [1903] and H.TUFFLEY [1910] were all Sydney University Examination Prize winners but little is known of how they progressed after leaving school. Butt joined the Bank of Australasia while Humphreys and Tuffley both joined the staff of the Bank of New South Wales. Dodd was the son of the legendary "Butterfly Man of Kuranda" and it is known that at times, he helped his father with his collection. Other winners of the Sydney University Examination Prize were J.A.REYE [1910], R.GRANT [1911], G.M.DUNCAN [1908] and G.HALL [1910] who was awarded an Exhibition in 1907 for topping the year at the Junior Examination. George Hall was also the first winner of the Lilley Medal awarded for the best results in the Queensland Scholarship Examination. He also went on to be Grammar’s first Rhodes Scholar, graduating in engineering at the University of Sydney. J.ENGLAND [1907], R.PERCY [1912], G.GRANT [1914] and W.CHAMBERLAIN [1914]. J.Reye, R.Grant and G.Grant all served in World War 1 with G.Grant killed during the conflict. He had completed his degree before enlisting. A.Grant was a brilliant student and all-round sportsman and Mr Rowland had hopes that he would be Grammar’s second Rhodes Scholar. Unfortunately, he died in December 1912 while rescuing three girls from the surf at Southport. The last name on the Board, T.MORRISON [1911] won a scholarship to the Charters Towers School of Mines.

With the establishment of the University of Queensland the examination system changed. Top Queensland students were rewarded for their excellent results by the establishment of a £100 per annum scholarship. Mr Rowland was extremely proud of the fact that between 1911 and 1916, six Grammar students were awarded the scholarship. The were J.A.REYE [1910], R.GRANT [1911], A.BROOKES [1911], G.GRANT [1914] and W.CHAMBERLAIN [1914]. J.Reye, R.Grant and G.Grant all served in World War 1 with G.Grant killed during the conflict. He had completed his degree before enlisting. A.Brookes was a brilliant student and all-round sportsman and Mr Rowland had hopes that he would be Grammar’s second Rhodes Scholar. Unfortunately, he died in December 1912 while rescuing three girls from the surf at Southport. The last name on the Board, T.MORRISON [1911] won a scholarship to the Charters Towers School of Mines.

The names of three girls appear on the Honoris Causa Board. They are M.FOLEY [1897], E.HARTLEY [1905] and Z.TUFFLEY [1909]. M.Foley and Z.Tuffley were both awarded Sydney University Junior Examination prizes while E.Hartley won the French prize in 1905 at the University of Sydney Senior Examination. She was also the first girl Dux of the School [1904 and 1905]. Foley and Tuffley both trained as school teachers on leaving school. In fact, Tuffley became somewhat of a legend as a teacher at St Anne’s [now the Cathedral School]. In 1948 the Elliott family presented the Mary Foley-Elliott Prize in honour of their mother. The Prize is presented each year to the Dux of the School. Hartley was not allowed to enrol in a university in Sydney as her parents deemed it was too far for her to travel.

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