

TEACHING STAFF 1888-1914

In the period before World War One the educational system developed in Australia looked to English origins and connections. As a consequence the private schools of Australia looked to employ Headmasters from England who would foster the aims and ideals which flowed directly from the principles of Thomas Arnold at the Rugby School. Arnold wished to train gentlemen who would be scholars and men of action, natural leaders accepting the responsibilities of their station in life. Townsville Grammar's first three Headmasters were educators steeped in Arnold's philosophy. However, to put these principles in place needed a supportive and capable teaching staff.

To employ teachers in the period 1888-1914 would not have been an easy task. Townsville Grammar was the only school north of Rockhampton offering a secondary education. Until 1911 the nearest university was in Sydney and until the rail-line was opened just prior to World War One the only form of transport to Townsville from Brisbane was by ship. Added to this the masters employed were required to teach a full load as well as providing supervision in the boarding house. Weekends were taken up with sport and cultural activities. Yet in spite of these disadvantages the School was able to employ men of ability who were able to help build the academic and sporting ethos of the school from its infancy.

When Mr Hodges began as Headmaster in January 1889 he had two staff to help him: D.C.ANSTED and E.F.UPWARD. Mr Upward left during 1889 and he was replaced by W.FAGAN, a Cambridge graduate and W.A.PURVES, an Oxford graduate. They were joined by K.KEMNITZER in 1891. Mr Purves, who wrote the words for the School song, later went on to be a successful Headmaster at Toowoomba Grammar and Sydney Church of England Grammar School. Mr Kemnitzer retired at the end of 1902 and died in March 1903. J.CASTLING, an old boy, joined the staff in 1897 and wrote the music for the School Song.

The turn of the century saw more Australian born masters joining the staff. In the period before 1914 most of these masters came either from Adelaide, Melbourne or Hobart. The first was CHARLES BLAXLAND, the grand-son of Gregory Blaxland who with Wentworth and Lawson crossed the Blue Mountains in 1813. Charles Blaxland was a brilliant cricketer, once scoring 201 not out in a club fixture in Townsville. He later became Headmaster of Bega Grammar School before joining the staff at The Kings School, Parramatta.

Four Adelaide University educated masters joined the staff in the first decade of the century. WILLIAM JOLLY [1901-1904] was a brilliant all-round sportsman who represented South Australia in rowing, cricket, Australian Rules and was the State long jump and triple-jump champion. He became South Australia's first Rhodes Scholar in 1904 and represented Oxford and Worcestershire at cricket. On returning to Adelaide he was to become Professor of Forestry at the University of Adelaide. Another Rhodes Scholar from South Australia was ROY ROBINSON. A brilliant cricketer he played for Oxford. Robinson remained in England on graduating from Oxford and was later knighted and then made a Baron for his work in supervising forests in the United Kingdom.

MORTON MOYES [1909-1910] was the brother of Johnny Moyes, the Australian cricketer and commentator. Morton, while on the Grammar staff, was the Queensland high-jump champion. He is credited as being the athletics' coach of George Hall, our first Rhodes Scholar. In 1911 Moyes joined Mawson on his first trip to Antarctica. But for a short time as commanding officer of the Naval College at Jarvis Bay, Moyes was to spend his working career in the Antarctica. He was awarded a MBE for his work in that region of the world.

T.D.KAY [1907-1909] hailed from Tasmania and came close to being a Tasmanian Rhodes Scholar. His period at the School coincided with that of D.N.MACGREGOR [1908-1911]. MacGregor was a talented cricketer and rugby union player who represented North Queensland in both sports. He was also the leading figure in the establishment of cadets at the School. With Kay, MacGregor shared a sense of adventure and during the Christmas holidays they cycled to Brisbane camping along the way. MacGregor moved to Sydney at the end of 1911 to teach at Newington College. He was killed at Gallipoli on 25 April, 1915. In 1911, A.CLUNIES-ROSS joined the staff. He was to be the Second Master until returning south at the end of 1915. Clunies-Ross was a member of the family that controlled the Cocos and Keeling Islands for over a century.

While the above mentioned added to the development of the School some of the appointments were not as successful. On his retirement in 1938 Mr Rowland acknowledged the work of his staff but added that he always had difficulty in appointing capable science masters. Two such appointees from Tasmania never arrived after having drawn their passage money and one other arrived in Townsville but never left his hotel room. The lessee of the hotel where he was staying rang Mr Rowland to say that the staff member in question was found lying drunk on the parlour sofa. After a short spell in hospital Mr Rowland put him back on a ship sailing south!



*The Staff (1901).
N. W. Jolly, B.Sc., (Adelaide), C. Lillywhite, B.Sc., (Adelaide), F.T. Miller, M.A. (Cantab),
(Headmaster), A.H. Shuttlewood, Oxford.*

MR BILL MULLER
School Archivist