

## SPEECH DAY - 1913

Speech Day 1913 took place on 27 June and it was the first time the event had been held in the middle of the year. Previous Speech Days were held at the end of the year but were often not well attended because of the December heat and the possibility of rain. It was also the first occasion the event was held indoors: on the ground floor of School House. The occasion was a great success with many of the people attending having to be accommodated on the verandahs. Among the guests attending were **Sir William MacGregor**, the Governor of Queensland and **Professor Anderson Stuart** from the Sydney University Medical School. They were both in Townsville to open the Tropical Institute the next day.

The Headmaster's report covered all aspects of school life over the year. **Mr Rowland**, however, did accentuate two educational issues of concern to him. One was the demise of classical languages in schools especially after the founding of the University of Queensland in 1911 and the second was the concern that boarding schools would be affected by the State Government's move to build High Schools in major towns. Mr Rowland was a product of the English Public School system where boarding was an integral part of a school. Two areas where Mr Rowland's report differed from more recent ones were that he reported on School health and cadets. Health was an issue in the early twentieth century especially dengue fever. He reported that there was some dengue fever in the school but only one case that caused some concern.

Mr Rowland spoke about the new university in Brisbane saying that it would serve as a seed-ground for young hopes and keep alive ideals. He then added that he hoped that the Tropical Institute to be opened in Townsville would one day lead to a medical school in the city which would be affiliated to the Brisbane University. He saw the establishment of Canberra as a centre for all the aspirations of Australia and the growing network of railways in Queensland as an opportunity to develop commercial interests in the state. Professor Anderson Stuart spoke after Mr Rowland and echoed the Headmaster's sentiments about optimism adding that he saw a great future for the Tropical Institute. He then acknowledged **Dr Anton Breinl**, a Trustee of the School, and the first director of the Institute which, in future years, was to be re-named the Anton Breinl Centre of Tropical Medicine.

After the speeches there were performances by the students. The choir performed three brackets of two songs. Three of the songs had words written by Mr Rowland. The songs were "The Cadet Song", "The Island" and "Australia Wakes". **G.F.P.Grant**, Dux of the School then recited some verse in Latin from Virgil and this was followed by an extract in French from *Moliere's Le Medicin Malgre Lui*. Afternoon tea was then served with the girl students playing the role of hosts.

Among the eighty-three students at the function were three students who were to have an important role in the history of the School. **R.P.Rheuben** who was awarded the Mathematics Prize for Form V at the ceremony was later to become a prominent dentist in America. On his death he donated a generous sum of money to the School and the Science Block is named in his honour. The Chemistry and Physics' Prizes in Year 12 are also named in his honour. **C.W.Bingham** was in Form 2 in 1913 and he was awarded the English Prize. A hundred years on the **C.W.Bingham** Writing Awards were initiated in our Junior School. C.W.Davidson was Dux of Form V. He is the only past student to have served in both World Wars and after World War Two was to be a Minister in the Menzies Government; firstly as Minister for the Navy and then as Postmaster General. He was the fourth past student to be knighted when he retired in 1964. **G.Cadden**, winner of the Chelmsford Cup in 1913 was to die tragically in Charters Towers of typhoid in the March of 1914.

It is ironic that Mr Rowland's optimism of 1913 was soon to turn to one of despair and sadness with the outbreak of the Great war. Five students in the audience were not to survive that conflict including **G.Grant**, Dux of the School. **C.C.Jameson**, a top athlete and winner of the Form V English prize, was also to be killed. His father, Judge Jameson, was Chairman of the Board of Trustees from 1911-1915. **Herbert Mehan** was to win the Military Medal [MM] before his death as were **James Alison** and **Andrew Kneath**. Kneath was just nineteen years of age when he died and the youngest Grammarian to be killed in conflict.



G.F.P.Grant

On reflection 1913 was a good year for the School. There were forty-five new enrolments, thirteen of them being girls, the highest number to that time. Academic results were also good with fifteen out of sixteen students passing the Junior Examination, a record for the School. **G.F.P.Grant** was awarded an Open Scholarship for finishing in the top twenty in the Senior Examination and **Tom Morrison** was given a grant to attend the Charters Towers School of Mines. **R.Lanskey** won the Thallon Medal and **A.E.Tuffley** was first in the state in the examination for an engineering cadetship.



T.Morrison

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