

PROMINENT SPORTSMEN 1888-1938

In the book *The Games Ethics and Imperialism*, J.J. Mangan writes about the influence great Headmasters in the English Public School's system [in the nineteenth century] had on encouraging talented schoolmasters to migrate to the colonies and to develop an English Public School philosophy of education. Townsville Grammar's first three Headmasters were products of that philosophy and thus Hodges, Miller and Rowland fostered literature, the classics and, in particular, the importance of sport. In the period 1888-1938 sport was compulsory for boys. Not only did the School produce two Rhodes Scholars and numerous prestigious Exhibition and Open Scholarship winners during this period but it was also a period when past students gained national and state recognition in a variety of sports.

The first students to benefit from the encouragement of an all-round education were M.C.L. Chubb [1892], W.S. Boyd [1893] and F.T. Perkins [1896]. Chubb became the first Grammar student to graduate and also rowed for Sydney University for two years, stroking that crew to a national title in 1896. Boyd and Perkins were both excellent athletes winning Blues at the University of Sydney. Boyd, a University Medallist, went on to become a world-renowned geologist. Perkins founded the Monaro Grammar School in Cooma in 1906 and was appointed the first Headmaster of the Cranbrook School [Sydney] in 1913.

Fred Timbury [1901] is arguably the best all-round sportsman produced by the School. He was a boarder from Charters Towers and Dux of the School in 1901. Timbury graduated from the University of Sydney before returning to Queensland where he represented Australia at rugby union in two internationals against New Zealand, represented Queensland in six matches at cricket and was the Queensland doubles champion in tennis. He retired from all sport in 1909 to move to Roma where he became involved in the developing gas industry in that area. In the 1930s he was Mayor of that town and became an ardent advocate of the Bradfield Scheme with its aim of providing water to the North of Australia.

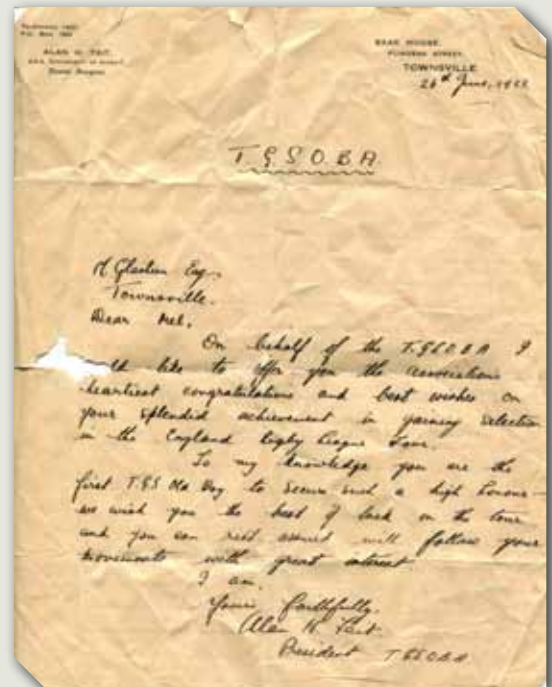
Two boarders from Ravenswood State School arrived at the School in 1916. Both were State Scholarship winners and both were excellent sportsmen. Bill Sugars [1919] and Melville Glasheen [1917] both played their first rugby league games for Queensland in 1932 and Glasheen went on to represent Australia at rugby league on the 1933-1934 tour to the England and France. Glasheen also has the honour of being the first Townsville rugby league player to be selected for Australia while still playing for the Estates Club in Townsville. This was a remarkable feat because the sport was, at that time, dominated by Sydney and Brisbane clubs. Glasheen also had the privilege of playing in the first rugby league international to be played in France.

When Hodges arrived in Townsville in 1889 the first decision he made was to introduce cricket into the School. From then until 1938 cricket was the dominant sport at the School. Until World War One the School played, with some success, in the first grade competition and after the war played predominantly in an expanding school's competition. Schoolmasters with cricketing credentials were employed from the southern states and this reflected in the standard of cricket played by the students. Tommy Whight a student from 1916-1919 and staff member from 1920-1927 was not only a brilliant cricketer but an inspirational coach. Whight represented North Queensland on many occasions and often made high scores against visiting New South Wales State teams.

Two students coached by Whight went on to play Sheffield Shield cricket. Frank Sides [1929], aged sixteen, became the youngest player ever to represent Queensland at cricket. Alan Tait [1923] also represented Queensland in the 1930s while living in Townsville. Glen Baker [1932] moved to Brisbane to further his cricketing career. Many Past Grammarians also represented North Queensland at cricket. F.G. Rollwagen [1904], Dux of the School in 1903 and 1904, played for the North for many seasons. Roy Andison [1919] scored 183 against New South Wales in 1926. In the same game Whight made 53. But for the tyranny of distance, players such as Whight and Andison would surely have represented their State. George Hall [1910], our first Rhodes Scholar, also represented Townsville while still at school. The 1931 North Queensland side selected to play New South Wales contained five Past Grammar students. It would have been an exciting occasion for the locals as the New South Wales team included Bradman, McCabe, Jackson, Kippax, Ironmonger and other legends of Australian cricket.

Frank Sides played 27 first class matches for Queensland and Victoria between 1930 and 1939. In 1932 and 1933 he was unable to play because of continued ill-health. In his last first class game before enlisting he made his highest first class score of 139. He was also a wicket-keeper of note. Sadly he was killed in Bougainville in 1943. Glen Baker played twenty-nine first class matches for Queensland between 1936-1941 with a highest score of 157 and best bowling of 3 for 36. Like Frank Sides, he was killed in Papua New Guinea in 1943. Alan Tait [1923] represented Queensland on five occasions with a best bowling of 2-36. He was Chairman of the Board of Trustees during the difficult war years and, with his cricket coach, Tommy Whight, now Headmaster, guided the School through a difficult period.

Archival note: I am grateful to Mr K. Glasheen, son of Melville Glasheen, and Mrs G. Braddick, grand-daughter of Melville, for the information provided for this article. Julia Braddick is our current Girl School Captain.



MR BILL MULLER
School Archivist