

CHELMSFORD CUP & MARY AGNES DONALD PRIZE

At Speech Night each year two major awards are presented towards the end of the evening. These awards are the Governor's Cup [Rugby Prize] and the Mary Agnes Donald Prize. The Governor's Cup is awarded to a senior boy student and the Mary Agnes Donald Prize to a senior girl student. These awards are highly prized by all senior students and their achievement is acknowledged on an Honour Board in the Maurie Blank Administration Centre.

The Governor's Cup had its genesis in the Rugby Prize initiated by the then Headmaster, P.F. Rowland in 1905. Mr Rowland introduced the Prize and, at the time, explained that the name had been bestowed as a means of commemorating the connection between Townsville Grammar and the English School, Rugby, from which our first Headmaster C.H. Hodges had come. The Prize would be a book and would be awarded to a boy who, in addition to holding a high position in the School, also displayed academic and athletic prowess as well as exhibiting powers of leadership. The Prize in 1905 was a book presented by the then Prime Minister of Australia, the Rt Hon Alfred Deakin.



On June 3, 1907 **Baron Chelmsford, Governor of Queensland**, visited the School to unveil the Honoris Causa Honour Board which is located in the reception area of the School Office. To mark the occasion, Baron Chelmsford presented the Governor's Cup which was then to be awarded to the Rugby Prize winner. In presenting the Cup, Baron Chelmsford spoke of his years at Winchester College and the great traditions existing at that School. In presenting the Cup to Townsville Grammar, then a school young in years, it was hoped that a tradition would be fostered where the pupils would endeavour to have their names engraved on the trophy.

Baron Chelmsford had distinguished himself at Winchester School and Oxford University before becoming a civil servant whose postings included periods as Governor of Queensland, New South Wales and then Viceroy of India. He is best remembered for the 1919 Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms that set India on the path to responsible government. At Oxford he graduated with a first class honours degree in law and captained Oxford at cricket before representing Middlesex in that sport.

The Mary Agnes Donald Memorial Prize was established by **Dr W.H. Donald** on July 17, 1929 in memory of his mother. W.H. Donald had attended the School from 1900-1902, completing his Junior Certificate with solid results. He left the School to take up an appointment with local firm, Burns Philps, but in 1908 decided that he would like to undertake medical studies. Under the guidance of P.F. Rowland he returned to the School for two months in an attempt to pass the Sydney University Senior Examination. He was successful in the examinations and entered St Andrews College, Sydney University in 1909. He graduated in 1913 in twenty-fifth position out of eighty-eight students, while at the same time gaining a blue for rowing and a half-blue for rifle shooting.

Dr Donald had a long and endearing relationship with the School. His father, D. Donald, had been secretary to the Board of Trustees from 1908-1929 and Dr Donald was a frequent visitor to the School. In 1923 he was one of four old boys who acted as pall-bearers at the funeral of C.H. Hodges, Headmaster from 1888-1899. Dr Donald also remained a close friend of W.A. Purves, second master at Grammar from 1890-1898 and later Headmaster of Sydney Church of England Grammar School.

The Mary Agnes Donald Prize was first awarded in 1930 and the Prize was to be awarded to the girl who, in the opinion of her fellow students and that of the teaching staff, was considered to have best maintained the School traditions by her devotion to her work and by her general conduct. Each girl student was to exercise one vote, and the teaching staff [at the discretion of the Headmaster] could exercise two votes.

After T.B. Whight became Headmaster in 1938 the criteria of the award was changed and it was awarded to the girl obtaining the best pass in the Queensland Junior Public Examination. During A.D. Morwood's tenure as Headmaster the criteria was again changed and from 1981 it became the award for the Best All Round Girl in Year 12.



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