

HONOUR BOARDS & MEMORIALS

A memorial often missed by the School Community is **The War Memorial Gate** situated close to the corner of Paxton Street and Landsborough Street and just below what is the Principal's residence. In the Townsville Bulletin of 1st December, 1945 the then Headmaster, T.B. Whight, placed an advertisement calling for financial support from past students to donate funds for the purpose of erecting a permanent memorial to old boys and girls who gave their lives and service during World War Two. The memorial was to be in the form of a Memorial Oval and Pavilion and £3000 was required for the task to be completed. Most of the money was raised but very little was achieved until 1947, due largely to the fact that the RAAF finally cleared building debris from the ovals in July, 1946. The War Memorial Gate was completed in 1947 and the Pavilion was erected soon after. The Pavilion was dismantled in 2000 due to safety concerns.

The War Memorial Gate is very rarely opened or used, but in August 1995 a moving service took place at the Gate to commemorate VP 50 and the ending of World War Two in 1945. The service was attended by many past students who served during that conflict. In 1999 a Lone Pine Tree was planted in the vicinity of the Gate to commemorate the six past students killed in the Dardenelles Campaign in 1915.



A second long-standing memorial is the **McKimmin Memorial** situated in the School Quadrangle. The memorial is in honour of Alan McKimmin, a student who died after a short illness in September 1945, aged seventeen. Alan, who enrolled as a boarder in 1943, was the seventh McKimmin on the School Roll. At the time of his death, Alan's father was a member of the School Trustees, a role he had from 1944 to 1951. Before his death Alan had apparently suggested a water fountain for the quadrangle. As a consequence the McKimmin family donated £1000 towards the cost of the fountain. Built at the beginning of 1946 the fountain soon became a popular place for the girls at the School who would sit in the shade of the surrounding awning and eat their lunch. There were some monies left over and in 1956 the then headmaster, M. Blank, introduced the McKimmin Mile a race to be run through and around the School. The prize to the winner was to be a Parker Pen. Until 1985 only boys were allowed to run but in 1985 a separate race was introduced for girls.

On entering the foyer in the Maurie Blank Administration Building a visitor to the School is confronted by two magnificent Honour Boards. The oldest Honour Board in the School is termed **Honoris Causa** and was commissioned by the then Headmaster, P.F. Rowland, to celebrate the academic successes of our students. The Board was designed by A.B. Palin and totally hand-crafted by a Mr Hollins. The Board is made up of North Queensland timber. The outside frame is silky oak, the main board is cedar, the pediment and pilasters is made of bean tree, the small panels and pediment is elm and the spandril over the arch consists of redwood, Queensland beech, acacia and Queensland maple.

The names to be seen on the Board are of some of our most famous past students. Included in the names are G. Hall who was our first Rhodes Scholar and the first winner of the Lilley Medal in Queensland. The Lilley Medal is awarded to the student achieving the best results at the Queensland Primary School Scholarship examination. J. McKelvey was our first past student to be knighted. M. Chubb was the first Grammar student to graduate from a university (Sydney) and also stroked the University Eight to two national titles. M. Sprott-Boyd was an academic medallist and a great athlete at the University of Sydney, F. Perkins was the first Headmaster of Cranbrook Grammar School and E. Hartley, the first girl to be Dux of the School.

The second iconic Honour Board is headed **Pro Patria** and was initiated by Mr Rowland to honour those past students who served in World War One. The Board was unveiled on Monday, 28 May 1917 by the Governor of Queensland, Sir Hamilton Goold-Adams. According to the press release at that time it was a very impressive ceremony where the School cadets formed an honour guard for the attending guests that included the Mayor of Townsville, local politicians and many parents of those past students who had enlisted. In his speech congratulating the School on establishing the Honour Board the Governor stated that more schools and public bodies should establish memorials as a way of keeping a record of past history so that future generations could see it as a golden page in the history of Australia. The Governor who had served with honour in the Boer War used the example of his school in England which had honoured those who had served.

At the time of the unveiling one hundred and twenty-six names appeared on the Board but with the addition of those who enlisted in late 1917 and 1918 the number rose to one hundred and fifty-six. Of that number twenty-two were killed in action and many wounded. Though the number may not seem high in comparison with southern schools it must be remembered that in the period before 1914 school numbers were never more than fifty in any given year. It is a record of service of which the School could be justifiably proud.

MR BILL MULLER
School Archivist