FROM THE ARCHIVES

THE NAMING OF BUILDINGS

The oldest building on the grounds is SCHOOL HOUSE. The original 1888 building was destroyed by Cyclone Leonta in 1903 and rebuilt to almost the exact specification as the original and re-opened in February 1904. It originally had accommodation on the top floor for boarders and the downstairs area was divided into two sections: Big Room and Small Room. The majority of lessons took place in these rooms. In the 1980s the bottom floor was changed into the uniform store and finance section while upstairs has remained boarding. [The accompanying sketch of School House was drawn by C.H. Hodges, Headmaster from 1889-1900.]

There is one further boarding house on the Senior School campus: PARKER HALL which is the large building bordering on the ovals and opposite the pool and the CENTENARY GYMNASIUM. This boarding house has been named after Grammar’s two Rhodes Scholars. GEORGE HALL [1905-1910] was Queensland’s Rhodes Scholar in 1911 and CHESTER PARKER [1930-1934] was Queensland’s 1938 Rhodes Scholar. Parker was killed in World War Two while serving as a submariner in the British Navy. The Centenary Gymnasium was completed in 1988 and Parker Hall was built in 1995. There is one further building named after George Hall. This building which fronts the Quadrangle was for many years a boarding house but in recent times the building has been converted into the Mathematics’ Centre including staffroom facilities for Mathematics’ staff.

Various buildings have been named after past Headmasters. The two older buildings facing Paxton Street are named the MAURIE BLANK BUILDING [built in 1940] and the LEN DANIELS BUILDING [built in 1956]. Maurie Blank was a member of staff from 1939-42 and 1947 before becoming Headmaster from 1948-1965. Len Daniels was Headmaster from 1966 to 1975. The Library, built in 1966, is named after P.F. ROWLAND, Headmaster from 1905 to 1938 and one of the rooms is named the T.B. WHIGHT ROOM. Mr Whight was a student from 1916-1920, a master from 1921 to 1927 and Headmaster during the difficult war years 1938 to 1946. [The accompanying sketch of the Maurie Blank building was drawn in 1953 by a student, G. Morris].

Buildings have also been named after prominent past students. The Science Block is named after R.P. RHEUBEN [1911-1915], a brilliant student who, after completing dentistry at the University of Queensland, moved to the state of Nevada in the USA and became a leading figure in dentistry. He died in the early 1980s and bequeathed much of his estate to the School. The SPENCER HOPKINS BUILDING which overlooks the Quadrangle is named after one of our favourite sons. He enrolled at Grammar in 1888 and maintained contact with the School in roles such as a member of the School Board and Chairman of the Board of Trustees 1928-1940 and 1946-1960. The FRANK SIM BUILDING is named after Mr Sim who was a student from 1939-1942, a Board Member from 1968-1971 and Chairman of the Board 1972-1991. The only building on the main campus named after a girl past student is the EDNA SHAW CERAMICS STUDIO. Miss Shaw, a student in the late 1930s, is currently the Patron of the Past Grammarians’ Association and a very generous benefactor.

The Junior School on the Annandale Campus was opened in 1997 and was the brain-child of S.C. PAUL, Principal from 1993 to 1997. He was supported in his ideas by E. WENCK, then Chairman of the Board of Trustees and three prominent and innovative Board members in R. MARSH, A. BLOXHAM and R. MURRAY. Ross Marsh was a long standing Trustee and President of the Parents’ and Friends’ and Mrs Murray was a student at Grammar from 1964-1967, a member of the Past Grammarians’ Association and a Trustee from 1990-2005. Buildings on the campus have been named after them in recognition of the work they put into the development of the Junior School. Another building has been named after the first Head of the Junior School, N. KERLEY.

Two further buildings are named after two founding members of the Townsville Grammar School. The UPWARD BUILDING is named after E.F. UPWARD, Acting Headmaster in 1888 and master for a time in 1889 and who was instrumental in opening the School on April 16, 1888. Mr Upward moved the majority of the students in his School, St John’s College, then situated in Stanley Street and on a site close to the present Dance North Centre to the present North Ward Campus. T. WILLMETT was the first Chairman of the Board of Trustees [1884-1892] and was the driving force behind the foundation of the School in 1888. As chairman of the Queens Gardens Trust he was instrumental in moving the School grounds from its suggested area at Kissing Point to where it stands today. The WILLMETT BUILDING is a most appropriate recognition to one of our founding fathers.

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School Archivist