

## THE SCHOOL UNIFORM

There seems to have been no set school uniform for boys during the headmasterships of C.H. HODGES [1888-1900] and F.T. MILLER [1901-1904] and for most of P.F. ROWLAND's tenure [1905-1938]. Photographs taken during the time of Hodges and Miller show that all boy students wore long trousers and a coat. Most of the boys possessed a boater and some of the boys even wore a waistcoat with a fob watch attached. Ties were worn but the majority of the ties were what we would refer to as a bow tie. The uniform became more regular during the first part of Rowland's tenure with the majority of boys wearing longs with a dark blazer and all the students had a boater. The School badge was also on the boater and all the boys wore a metal badge on the top left side of their blazer. The boater, however, was unpopular with the students and was abandoned in the late 1920s.

The Association Football playing gear [1898] was probably the first attempt at a consistent uniform at Grammar. The playing shirt was navy blue in colour with a yellow silk badge containing the School badge and motto in black and a navy blue cap with a black and yellow badge. It was out of this that the School colours of black and gold emerged. As a side issue when the Central's Rugby League Club was founded in 1908 by a group of past students, they used the School colours. The club is still in existence and still maintains the original colours.

It was not until 1937 that a consistent boy's uniform was introduced. It consisted of a wedgewood blue coloured shirt, grey shorts and grey socks. The tie as we know it today was also introduced. This uniform was worn for the first time on ANZAC Day 1937 and was met with great interest by the Townsville community. But for some minor changes this has been the boy's uniform since that time. It should be noted that in November 1971 a referendum was held in the School community to see whether the boys' uniform should be changed. Of the 159 votes returned the figures were 82 for change and 79 against. In March, 1972 the School Trustees voted not to make any changes. Some of the minor changes that have occurred since then include the introduction of the black School jumper in the early 1980s and, more recently, the Akubra hat and School colours on the boys' sock have been introduced by the current Principal, R.W. FAIRLEY.

In spite of the fact that girls were for a long time in the minority the development of their uniform occurred earlier. From the enrolment of the first two girls in 1893 until 1927 girls wore a white dress as their uniform. In 1928 this was changed and in the words of one girl student the following uniform was introduced: *"We were made to wear a very unflattering uniform of a pinafore style heavy navy cotton pleated tunic, a white blouse, hideous navy blue cotton bloomers and grey ribbed stockings, held up with garters. The bloomers were so large and well elasticised round the legs, that they provided wonderful storage places. One girl was known to have carried nineteen objects stuffed in the legs of her bloomers."* That girl was probably GERTRUDE POHLMAYER [1931] who became the bane of 'Boss' Rowland in her attempts to improve the lot of girls at the School. I well remember her telling the students at an Assembly in the 1980s about what they would secrete into their bloomers and how, on one occasion, all the girls dyed their bloomers pink much to the chagrin of the Headmaster.



The above uniform was to last until the girl students and the then Ladies Auxiliary approached M.W. BLANK [1948-1965] with suggestions to change the uniform. In short, the proposal was that the girls wear a white over-blouse, short sleeves with five buttons and a waistband. There was to be a navy blue skirt and a navy blue cardigan. The tie was to be replaced by a bow tie. Due to the fact that no local firm was able to make the bow tie it was decided that the then tie would be continued. This has been the girls' uniform, with minor changes since 1966. S.C. PAUL [1993-1997] changed the colour of the girls' shoes from brown to black and R.W. FAIRLEY introduced the logo on the blouse pocket.

There was no girls' sport uniform until M.W. Blank became headmaster in 1948. There was a greater consistency to the boys' sports uniform with the football jumpers [league and union] always being the black and yellow striped jersey. This format was introduced in the early 1900s and, with the odd exception, is still the format today. P.F. Rowland introduced sporting competitions amongst the boys based on colours, the three colours in question being blue, green and red. These three colours became the basis of House colours when the structure was introduced by T.B. Whight during the war years. When Whight House was formed in the early 1960s the colour purple was adopted. R.W. FAIRLEY has formalized the system of House colours by introducing the coloured House shirts.

There was no organized sport for girls until M.W. Blank became Headmaster. The girls' sporting gear consisted of a white dress and a black scarf with the School badge on the scarf. For House competitions the girls wore a belt or sash in the house colours around their waists. This system was to remain in place until L.S. DANIELS made changes to the sports' uniform. Girls and Boys were expected to wear black shorts and a yellow T-shirt with the imprint of the School crest for physical education and sport. With the rapid growth of sport in the School in the last couple of decades School teams are now dressed in more appropriate team dress.

The introduction of a separate campus for the Junior School has seen that institution develop its own uniform structure while still maintaining the traditional School colours of blue, black and yellow. In many respects those colours and the House colours have been the only consistencies in the various School uniforms over the one hundred and twenty-one years of the School's history.

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