

FROM THE ARCHIVES

RECOGNISING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The School has a wonderful tradition of academic excellence dating back to 1891 when M.C.L.Chubb and F.T.Perkins were both Sydney University Examination Prize winners. Chubb went on to become a successful Sydney lawyer while Perkins became the foundation Headmaster of The Cranbrook School in Sydney. Some other high performers included two Rhodes Scholars in George Hall and Chester Parker and our first student to be knighted, Dr John McKelvey. In the late 1940s and early 1950s Spencer Routh was to be awarded the Lilley Medal (top student at the State Examination, Grade 7), the Byrnes Medal (first place in the Queensland Junior Examination) and the John Black Scholarship for first place in the Queensland Senior Examinations. Spencer is only one of four Queensland students to achieve these results stretching over a century.

In more recent times, the annual Cum Laude Awards and the Alan Morwood Awards have captured the hearts and minds of students and families. The wonderful thing about these awards is that they are presented on the basis of a student achieving a requisite number of VHAs and not based on rank orders. This has meant that a significant number of quiet achievers have had their excellence affirmed accordingly. Without doubt, the Cum Laude system has contributed to an inspirational climate of hard work, achievement and parent interest in high standards of achievement.

The Alan D Morwood Awards, named after the late Headmaster, Mr Alan Morwood (1976-1992) are presented to Year 12 students who have achieved a Cum Laude, for every year from Years 8-12. Present at the inaugural presentation ceremony in 2002 was the Chairman of the Board, Mr Stuart Durward SC, various Trustees and Mr Morwood's widow, Denise Morwood.

The School has also been fortunate to have had many distinguished guests attend the Cum Laude ceremonies including past students who have been successful after leaving school. Guests from James Cook University include Professor Sandra Harding (Vice-Chancellor) and Mr Bill Twedell (a Past Grammarian and currently the Chancellor at James Cook). Former School Captains such as Dr David Coker, David and Mark Warnock, Cavin Wilson and Dr Ryan Kelly have also attended. Cavin Wilson was recently awarded the prestigious John Monash Scholarship and Ryan Kelly was awarded the TJ Ryan Medal for the the top results in Year 12 in Queensland. Dr David Coker has also been awarded a Commendation for an Australian Bravery Medal in 2010 for the role he played in protecting his partner during the Mumbai Hotel terrorist raid.



2017 Alan D Morwood Award Winners



*Mr Fairley & Kate Limon (12/2005)
Senior Cum Laude Special Guest - 2017*

The first Dux of School was Henry Aplin and he was recognised at Speech Day on 14 December, 1888. This prize (a handsome writing desk) was presented by Headmaster Edward Upward. Other prizes were awarded for Latin and Modern Languages, English and Mathematics. The Trustees and visitors then adjourned to Queens Park, where a marquee had been erected. A large crowd gathered to witness the Boys' Athletic Events. The programme concluded with a tug-of-war!

Speech Night still remains a significant event in the life of the School and the Dux of School is announced every year, along with a significant number of other academic prizes for students in Years 5-12.

MR BILL MULLER
School Archivist