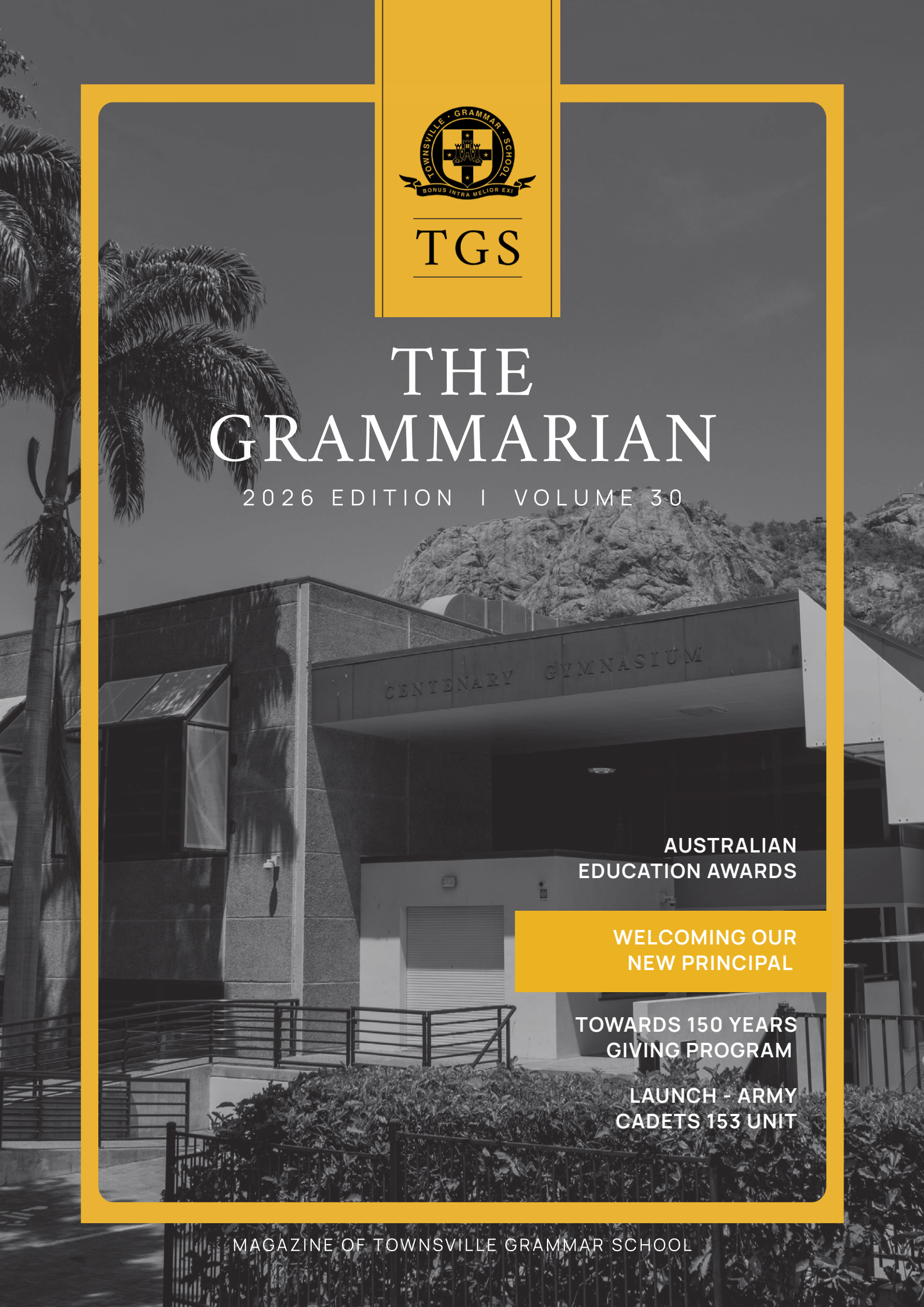
TGS

THE GRAMMARIAN

2026 EDITION | VOLUME 30



AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION AWARDS

WELCOMING OUR NEW PRINCIPAL

TOWARDS 150 YEARS GIVING PROGRAM

LAUNCH - ARMY CADETS 153 UNIT

MAGAZINE OF TOWNSVILLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL



PRINCIPAL'S *Welcome*

It is both an honour and a privilege to serve as the 13th Principal of Townsville Grammar School, and I am genuinely excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for our School community.

For those I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting, I joined Townsville Grammar School in 2019 as Head of School (North Ward), before taking on the dual role of Head of School (North Ward) and Deputy Principal. In 2023, I was appointed Deputy Principal and, having worked closely with our students, staff, families and alumni over the past several years, I feel incredibly fortunate to now lead a school that I care so deeply about.

Originally from New South Wales, I have worked in schools across Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom in a variety of educational settings. However, it is here at Townsville Grammar School where I have found a community united by a strong sense of purpose, tradition and pride.

We are experiencing an exciting period of change across the School, from our leadership through to the development of our three campuses. Yet, amidst this change, one thing has remained constant: the long-standing connection our community has with Townsville Grammar School. Over my time at the School I have come to understand that the spirit of Black and Gold runs deep. It is evident in the pride of our students, the dedication of our staff, the commitment of our families and, perhaps most particularly, in the enduring connection of our Past Grammarians. This connection was evident this year when we launched our 'Towards 150 Years Giving Program' which we have instigated to assist us with developing the School towards our sesquicentenary year.

Thanks to the support of our Past Grammarians Association, we have seen the installation of our Wall of Distinguished Grammarians at the North Ward Campus. This is a wonderful testimony to the many members of our alumni who have achieved distinction in their careers and lives. This wall overlooks the Quad, which has also undergone a significant transformation to make it a more usable, fit-for-purpose space that will meet our future needs as we continue to grow. Our Parker Hall Boarding House has also been renovated, with new dormitory spaces on both floors providing a fresh and contemporary home for our boarders. Construction of the Centenary Gymnasium is scheduled to commence late 2026. This project was the focal point of our Towards 150 Giving Program and through the generosity of our community, we are able to commence this project, which, in time, will provide a renewed ceremonial space for our School.

Whilst this activity features at the North Ward Campus, we are also experiencing a period of growth at our youngest campus in North Shore. Construction has commenced on Stage 3 of this campus which is due for completion for the 2027 School year. This $6 million project will deliver new and improved facilities for our students and represents another significant investment in the future of the School.

While buildings, facilities and infrastructure are important, they are ultimately only part of what makes a school. What matters most is the people, the relationships and the experiences created within them.

As we look towards our 150th anniversary, we have a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the School's remarkable history while considering what we want its future to look like.



The story of Townsville Grammar School has been written by generations of students, staff, families and Past Grammarians. Each generation has contributed something of itself, and each has left the School a little richer for those who follow.

As the 13th Principal, I am conscious that I am now the custodian of that story for a time. It is a responsibility I take seriously, and one I share with our entire School community.

Our future will be shaped by the decisions we make today, by the opportunities we provide our students, the traditions we preserve, and the partnerships we build. Most importantly, it will be shaped by our collective commitment to ensuring Townsville Grammar School continues to be a place where young people can grow, discover their potential and develop the character to make a meaningful contribution to the world around them, as they have done for many generations.

I look forward to sharing this journey with our students, staff, families and Past Grammarians. I hope that, as we approach 150 years, you will continue to feel a strong sense of connection to your School and find opportunities to be part of its future.

The story of Townsville Grammar School continues to be written and I am privileged to be part of the next chapter.

Connor Barrett
PRINCIPAL

OUR SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

The structure of our Senior Leadership Team has also evolved this year, reflecting the School's commitment to strengthening leadership and expertise across key areas in line with the Strategic Plan.

The former Director of Curriculum role has been divided into two specialist portfolios, with the appointment of a Director of Academics and a Director of Studies, who together lead our Centre for Teaching and Learning. This structure provides greater focus and expertise across our academic programs, curriculum and teaching practice.

We have also brought together our enrolment, marketing and engagement functions within a new Advancement Office, led by our Director of Advancement. This provides a more integrated approach to building relationships with prospective families, engaging our wider community and strengthening the School's profile and future opportunities.

I am fortunate to work alongside colleagues who bring not only considerable experience and expertise, but also a genuine passion for Townsville Grammar School. Together, we share a commitment to building on the strengths of this great old School, embracing the opportunities ahead and ensuring that we continue to create a School worthy of the generations who will follow.



Mr Connor Barrett
PRINCIPAL



Mr Greg Walsh
BUSINESS MANAGER



Ms Amy Byrnes
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL



Mrs Sandra Hughes
HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL



Mr Martin Tait
HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL



Ms Julie Plath
DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT



Dr Timothy Smith
DIRECTOR OF ACADEMICS



Ms Naomi Adams
DIRECTOR OF STUDIES



ACADEMIC OUTCOMES

Class of 2025

We celebrated the academic achievements of our Class of 2025 at the annual Scholars' Assembly in February of this year, announcing the 2025 Year 12 Academic Awards.

2025 Dux eq: Harini Ramesh and Sophia (Winnie) Shaw

Top ATAR – two students received 99.95

Top IB score – 41 out of 45

Median ATAR - 91

ATAR outcomes
11% of students received 99+
32% of students received 95+
54% of students received 90+

Academic Commendations
18 Academic Commendations were awarded to students who achieved at least six As in General Subjects.

Subject Achievement Commendations
Seven Subject Achievement Commendations were awarded to students who achieved the highest result in at least one General subject or General (Extension) subject.



PREMIER'S QCE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Harini Ramesh was one of only 42 Year 12 graduates in Queensland to receive a QCE Achievement Award for exceptional academic performance.



Guest Speaker, Dr Dennis Perez Castillo, Past Grammarian 2018

29TH ANNUAL CUM LAUDE AWARDS

We gathered as a community to recognise our students who have demonstrated high academic achievement throughout Semester one of 2026 at the 29th annual Cum Laude Awards. More than 300 students from Years 5 to 12 received Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude and Maxima Cum Laude awards. Year 12 students who had received a Cum Laude award each from Years 7-12 received the Alan D Morwood Academic Awards - pictured below on the stairs of School House.

We welcomed Past Grammarian, Dr Dennis Perez Castillo (2018), as our guest speaker for the Cum Laude Assemblies (pictured above).

Dr Perez Castillo spoke of his journey from Year 12 to where he is now working as an intern at Townsville University Hospital where he has this year been awarded the University Medal, the highest academic honour at James Cook University. He reminded students, through his own story, that success isn't always immediate. Reflecting on his own experiences, he spoke about overcoming early disappointments and how resilience and hard work helped him reach his aspirations. Looking ahead, Dr Perez Castillo hopes to pursue training in anaesthetics and intensive care medicine while continuing to build his career in northern Queensland.





A HISTORIC RETURN TOWNSVILLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL ARMY CADETS

On Friday, 27 July 2026, we marked a historic occasion with the inaugural march in of the 153 Townsville Grammar School Cadet Unit, after 48 years.

The official launch and inaugural parade of the 153 Townsville Grammar School Army Cadet Unit took place at Morwood Oval. The Unit was formally inspected by Brigadier David McCammon, who presented each cadet with a commemorative coin in recognition of their commitment to the program and their role as founding members of the Unit. A highlight of the afternoon was the arrival of an ASLAV (Australian Light Armoured Vehicle), which provided cadets with a unique hands-on learning experience. Students had the opportunity to explore the vehicle and speak with its Commander and Driver, gaining valuable insights into military operations and equipment.



153 ARMY CADET UNIT

The reintroduction of the Cadets Program represents the revival of a longstanding connection between the School and the Australian Defence Force community in our garrison city.

Throughout our history, we have produced generations of graduates who have served their nation in times of war and peace. Our strong military association is reflected in the service of many Past Grammarians and in the sacrifices of those who gave their lives while serving Australia. More recently an impressive number of Past Grammarians have also pursued leadership pathways through the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) in Canberra.

The revival of the 153 Townsville Grammar School Army Cadet Unit signals a renewed commitment to these values. At the unit's inaugural parade, Australian Army Cadets Commander Brigadier, David McCammon, welcomed Townsville Grammar back into the cadet family, noting our School's "deep historical connections to the Cadet movement".

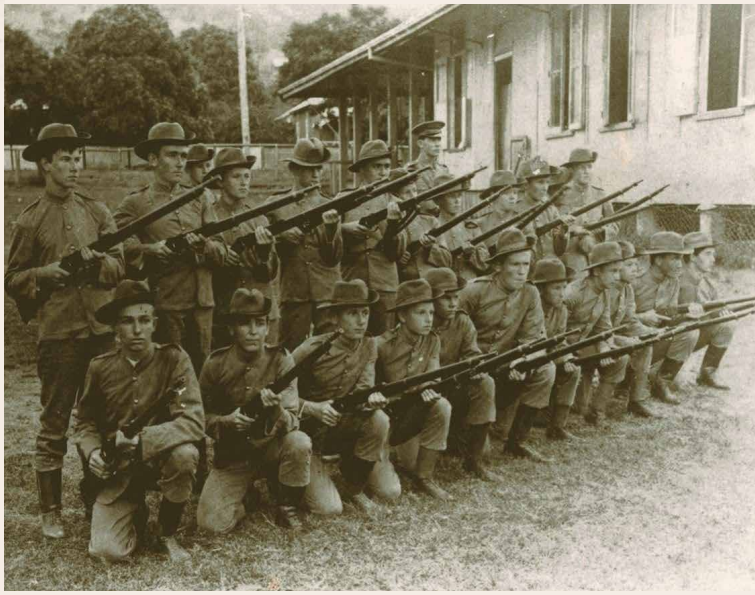
The return of cadets to Townsville Grammar School follows an absence of almost fifty years and represents an important addition to the School's co-curricular program. It reconnects current students with a tradition that stretches back to the School's earliest years, a tradition that was once an integral part of our School life. The cadet program offers our boys and girls valuable opportunities to develop leadership skills, self-confidence, initiative and personal responsibility through practical experiences and challenges.

The cadet program is not a military recruitment initiative. Rather, it focuses on youth development through leadership training, fieldcraft, communication, teamwork, community service and personal growth. These experiences complement our educational philosophy by encouraging students to become capable, resilient and community-minded young adults.

Our commitment to the program is demonstrated through the appointment of a dedicated Cadets Coordinator. Second Lieutenant (AAC) CJ Barrett has accepted this role and will oversee the development of the unit. The initial response has been extremely encouraging, with 27 students enrolled as foundation members.

The reinstatement of the cadet program represents both a return to our heritage and an investment in our future. It honours an important aspect of our history and equips cadets with the skills, confidence and sense of service required in an increasingly complex world. As the newly formed unit develops, we anticipate it will once again become an important part of our School life and strengthen the bonds between TGS and the Defence community.









AVENUE OF TREES & WAR MEMORIAL TIME CAPSULE

For the fourth consecutive year on Founders' Day, 16 April 2026, our School Captains planted a tree in our Avenue of Trees inside the historic War Memorial gates on Paxton Street. The Avenue of Trees was established on Founders' Day 2023 for the School's 135th anniversary. By the School's 150th anniversary, the area will form an avenue of 15 trees (Tuckeroos) leading to the ovals, each with a plaque featuring the names of the School Captains of the year of planting.

On Friday, 24 April, we buried a time capsule at the War Memorial Gates to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Australian Army (1 March 1901). This capsule will be opened on 24 April, 2051.

Pictured above: 2026 School Captains, Sophie Andrews and Noah Boggild planting the fourth tree in our Avenue of Trees



Pictured right: 2026 ADF Leaders, Hadi Hussain and Bridget Boyle bury the time capsule



2026 AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION AWARDS

We were very proud be finalists (Excellence Awardees) in the prestigious 2026 Australian Education Awards.

Our Head of Junior School Mr Martin Tait, and Junior School Teacher (and nominee), Mr Joel Connolly attended the ceremony in Sydney, as pictured above.

Townsville Grammar School was a finalist (Excellence Awardee) in the prestigious **Regional School of the Year** category. Joel Connolly (Annandale Campus) was a finalist in the **Rising Star** category, recognised for his outstanding contribution to teaching and learning at our School.

Presented annually by The Educator, these awards represent the pinnacle of excellence in Australian schooling, recognising schools, teachers, and leaders who make a profound impact on their communities.



Grammar principal Connor Barrett with captains Sophie Andrews, 17, and Noah Boggild, 17, celebrate their national award nomination. Picture: Shae Beplate

Grammar eyes national school crown

Townsville Grammar School is a finalist in one of the most prestigious categories at the 2026 Australian Education Awards.

Principal Connor Barrett said the school had seen thousands of students pass through since opening its doors 138 years ago.

"[Townsville Grammar School] is widely recognised for delivering an exceptional education and outstanding student outcomes in a very traditional, values-based environment," he said.

"We are both proud and humbled to be named a finalist in these national awards alongside other outstanding schools from across Australia, including fellow Queensland schools in Cairns and Rockhampton."

Mr Barrett said the school community was incredibly proud of the recognition in the regional school of the year category.

"This honour belongs to our entire Grammar community," he said.

The school is also celebrating year 1 teacher Joel Connolly being recognised as a finalist in the rising star section.

"It is wonderful to see Joel's talent, dedication and impact recognised on a national stage," Mr Barrett said.

Winners will be announced on August 7.

TOWNSVILLE BULLETIN 15 MAY 2026

EXCELLENCE AWARDEES:

- **REGIONAL SCHOOL OF THE YEAR**
- **RISING STAR**





Chair of the Board of Trustees, Mr Carl Valentine, Board Trustee, Mrs Suzie Wilson and Principal, Mr Connor Barrett at the launch of the Towards 150 Years Giving Program.

TOWARDS 150 YEARS
GIVING PROGRAM

BUILDING OUR SCHOOL FOR THE FUTURE

Townsville Grammar School was founded through the determination and generosity of our community, and over the decades and generations this same spirit has ensured the School continued to grow and serve as the North's only Grammar School. In 2026, we launched our Towards 150 Years Giving Program.

In the 1880s, when families in North Queensland were required to send their children to Brisbane for secondary education, a group of locals came together with a shared vision to establish a Grammar school in Townsville.

Under the Queensland State Government's Grammar Schools Act 1860, £1000 had to be raised locally as a demonstration of goodwill. The sum of £1892/3/6 was reached by the end of 1884 and the State Government annexed land, securing the future of the School. Construction of School House began in 1887 and the School opened on 16 April 1888. Townsville Grammar School opened as the seventh Grammar School in Queensland and is now one of eight Grammar Schools.

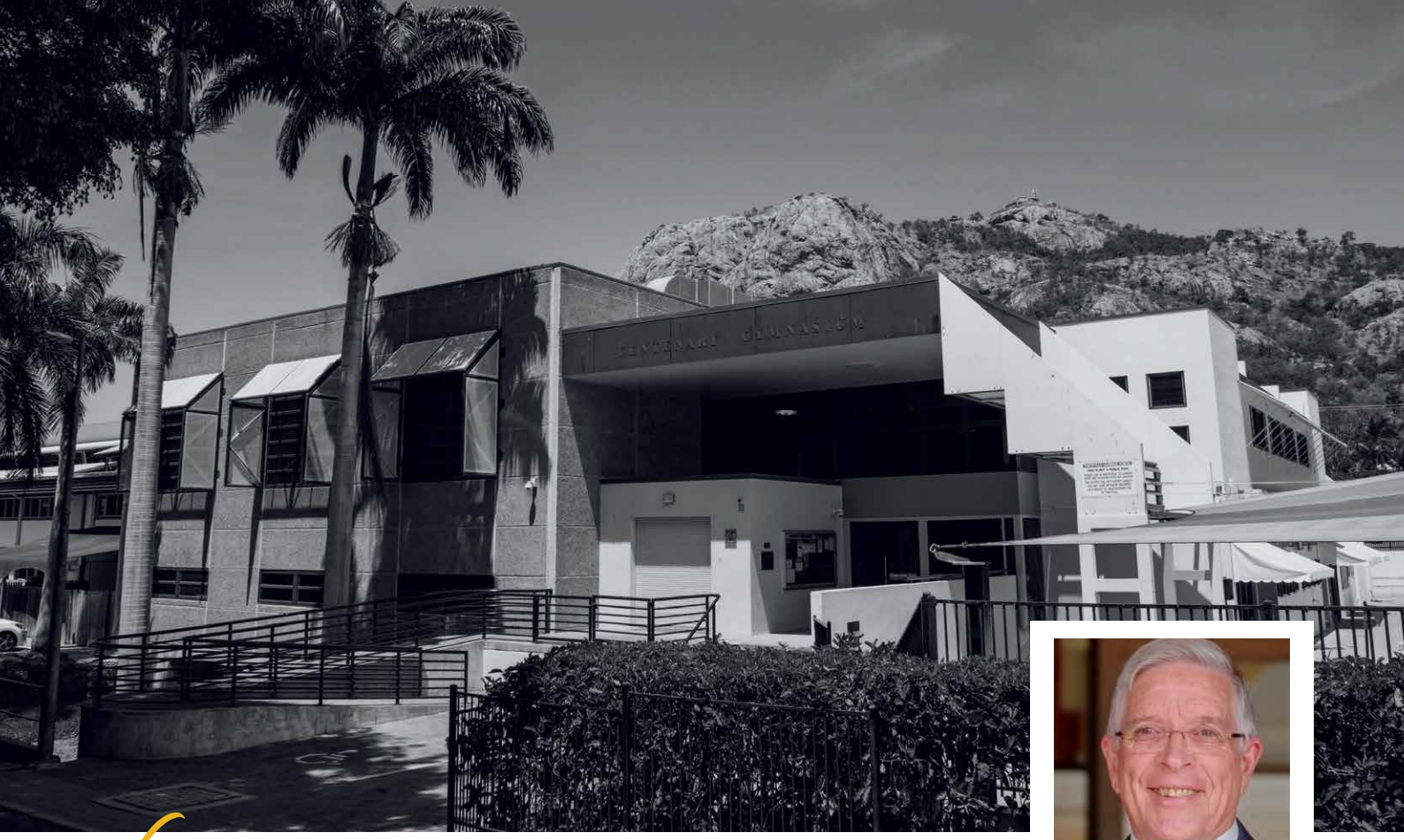
As we look ahead to celebrating the 150th anniversary of our School, we do so through the lens of building a School for the future. As stated in the School's 2025-2029 Strategic Intent, our responsibility as ethical stewards is to ensure that we build a School for the future, one that values that richness of our past and delivers an accessible and affordable education.

From its very beginning, Townsville Grammar School has been built on a spirit of giving, a legacy that continues to shape the School today. Those who have walked these grounds as students, and those who have watched their children learn at the School know that a Grammar education stays with you. It shapes character, instils values, and opens doors long after the school years have passed.

But this did not happen by chance. It happened because the generations before us chose to invest in something greater than themselves, to build a future they may never see, but believed in deeply. From those who first established the School to our parents of today, alumni, staff and supporters, the spirit of giving has always been central to who we are as a community.

This Giving Program is about more than support. It is about belonging to something enduring. Your support ensures we can continue to provide an exceptional education - one that opens doors, nurtures potential, and prepares young people to contribute purposefully and compassionately to a world beyond our imagination.

FIND OUT MORE
BE A PART OF OUR NEXT CHAPTER



Giving

OUR LEGACY

Giving has always been a part of the Grammar story. In 2026 we launched the Towards 150 Years Giving Program, calling on our community to help us shape the future of the North Ward Campus in the lead up to the School's 150th anniversary. Past Grammarian, Mr Bill Tweddell AM (1967) is the Program Patron.

OUR FIRST PROJECT

Our first project is to transform the Centenary Gymnasium into the Centenary Centre - a venue that has been the heart of our School community since 1988. This is the ceremonial centre of the School, where all Grammarians gather to learn, celebrate and graduate. Through the generosity of our first Giving Day in 2026, the project will commence at the end of the year.

YOUR IMPACT

The thread of the Black and Gold span generations. If you would like to know more about how you can be a part of our next chapter, please speak with us or visit us online - via the link below, or QR code on previous page.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRON
BILL TWEDDELL AM

As the Patron of our School's Towards 150 Years Giving Program, I am calling for your support as we come together to build the future of our School.

Our first goal is to raise funds to transform the Centenary Gymnasium into the new Centenary Centre — a space that sits at the heart of School life. From assemblies and celebrations to sport, performances and community gatherings, this is a place filled with memories — and with your support, we can ensure it continues to serve future generations.

Already we have seen incredible support from parents, Past Grammarians, grandparents, staff, students and friends of the School. Thank you for being part of something so important.

Our School was built on the spirit of giving, and every contribution — no matter the size — helps continue that legacy for future generations.

If you are able to support us, we would be incredibly grateful.

Bill Tweddell AM
Past Grammarian (1967)

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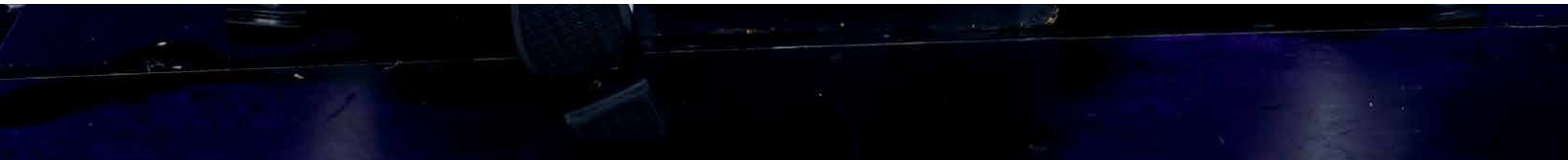
MIDDLE SCHOOL PRODUCTION 2026

GRAMMAR'S GRIMM TALES



MIDDLE SCHOOL PRODUCTION YEARS 7-9

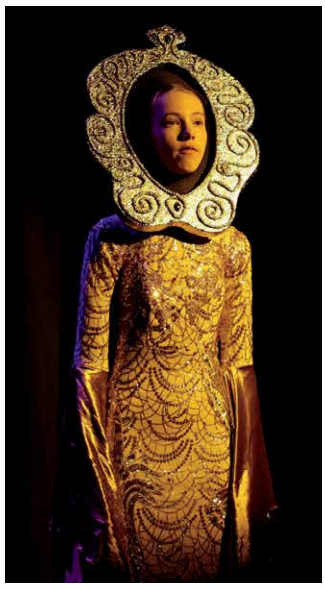
Over two entertaining evenings, audiences enjoyed a collection of twisted Grimm Brothers' tales brought to life through the creativity, energy and talent of our students. From captivating performances on stage to the hard work behind the scenes, our Middle School Production was a wonderful collaboration involving our senior students who wrote and directed each of the three short plays, and our students from Years 7-9 who performed to very enthusiastic audiences.



















JUNIOR SCHOOL PRODUCTION 2026

PETER PAN JR

JUNIOR SCHOOL PRODUCTION PREP-YEAR 6

Over six performances, 71 of our Junior School students from Prep to Year 6 performed Peter Pan Jr bringing energy, confidence and joy to the stage. Libretto Studios worked with the students to present the show at the Performing Arts Centre at the North Ward Campus to sold out performances.




PETER PAN













SPORT RECAP 2026

JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORTS TOUR

Our annual Year 6 Sports Tour students proudly represented TGS across Cairns and Innisfail, competing in netball, rugby union and basketball against various schools. Our teams experienced a mixture of results on the field, but more importantly, displayed excellent sportsmanship, resilience and pride in representing TGS.

FENCING

The annual TGS Combined Campus Fencing Competition saw 26 students and two staff members taking to the piste. It was a wonderful day filled with exciting duels, friendly competition, plenty of determination and, most importantly, lots of fun! It was fantastic to see our fencers put their skills into practice, challenge themselves and support one another throughout the competition.

CLUB NETBALL GRAND FINALISTS

It was a memorable Grand Final Day for our Grammar Netball Teams.

★★★★★★★★★★

PREMIERSHIP - GRAMMAR GOLD

Grammar Gold capped off a fantastic season with a convincing 18-11 victory over the Phoenix Phyrestars, earning a well-deserved Premiership.

MINOR PREMIERS - GRAMMAR STEEL

Grammar Steel finished as Minor Premiers. The team remained undefeated throughout the regular season and fought hard in a thrilling Grand Final, narrowly going down to FNAE by just two points.







ROWING SEASON 2026

To launch the 2026 season, we proudly named six new boats that will become part of our culture, identity and pursuit of excellence. Each name reflects the values, mindset and standards we strive to uphold within our rowing program.

Decima - Purpose and destiny - success is determined through daily effort and choices.

Dominus - Meaning master or leader, Dominus reflects discipline, ownership and leading by example.

Gladius - Symbolises precision, courage, and powerful execution when it matters most.

Goliathus - Representing strength, presence and resilience.

Virtus - Meaning courage, excellence and character. Virtus reflects integrity and respect.

Supremus - Represents setting the standard and pursuing excellence without compromise.

CBSQ

The School was represented at the CBSQ Shield Tournament with our Year 9/10 boys team. The CBSQ is a state-wide basketball competition played at the Gold Coast, and this is the second year that Grammar has competed. Our team played hard and came away with two wins from seven matches, which included a number of narrow losses.

QISSN

During the school holidays, the School entered teams in the Queensland Independent Secondary Schools Netball (QISSN) carnival for the first time. The QISSN tournament is a state-wide event, with 81 schools and 100 teams competing across girls and boys divisions. It is the largest secondary school's netball competition in Australia. **The boys team was crowned the champions of Division 2.** This is a wonderful achievement and the School is very proud of everyone involved. The girls team played hard throughout the week and in a hotly contested field, can be very proud of their first attempt at this tournament.







WALL OF DISTINGUISHED GRAMMARIANS

With the financial support of the Past Grammarians Association, the School has installed a Wall of Distinguished Grammarians featuring plaques honouring alumni of distinction.

Those featured on the wall are selected by a panel including former Chair of the Board of Trustees, Judge Stuart Durward AM KC, Past Grammarian, Bill Tweddell AM, Archivist, Chris Wilson, and long-serving teacher, Yvonne West. The panel research and select alumni according to set criteria and the concept is to continue adding to the wall over the coming years.

The first batch of plaques was installed in May 2026, along with a timeline of the School's history. The selection panel is finalising the next batch of plaques for installation at the end of 2026.

The wall faces the Quad which has also undergone a major reconstruction in 2026 to ensure the space continues to serve the School as a safe, fit-for-purpose area that forms the heart of the School.

Past Grammarians, family and friends of the School are always welcome to visit to see the Wall of Distinguished Grammarians, our School Museum and campus developments.

SCAN HERE TO VIEW
OUR SCHOOL TIMELINE



9th ANNUAL SONY FOUNDATION CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY CAMP

The School hosted its ninth annual Sony Foundation Children's Holiday Camp from Saturday 19 to Monday 21 September, welcoming 27 children with disabilities. At the same time, 22 other schools in Australia were hosting Sony Camps as part of the national program founded and supported by Sony Australia.

The program began in 1998 with one camp in one Sydney school. Since then, it has expanded to more than 20 camps in 40 plus schools and universities each year.

Students in Year 11 elect to take part in the event and undertake training throughout the year to prepare to serve as Companions to the Campers. At least two Year 11 students are assigned to each child and are tasked with taking care of their camper 24/7, from their arrival through to their departure - two nights and two and half days.

Year 12 students who participated in the program when they were in Year 11 return to act as mentors, assisting with set up of events and to support to the Companions and their Campers. It is a an action-packed, fun-filled program which provides parents and carers with respite, while giving the children an incredible holiday, and the student Companions a wonderful service opportunity. The Camp is provided at no cost to the families.

Teachers, staff, parents and community members volunteer to support the event and run the event each year.

SONY FOUNDATION AUSTRALIA













TGS REUNION AUGUST 2026

The annual TGS Reunion took place on Saturday, 8 August in School House.
This year's reunion had a special focus on the graduating years ending in 6 and we welcomed groups from 2016, 2006, 1996, 1986 and 1976. Many travelled to attend the Reunion from within Australia and the UK.

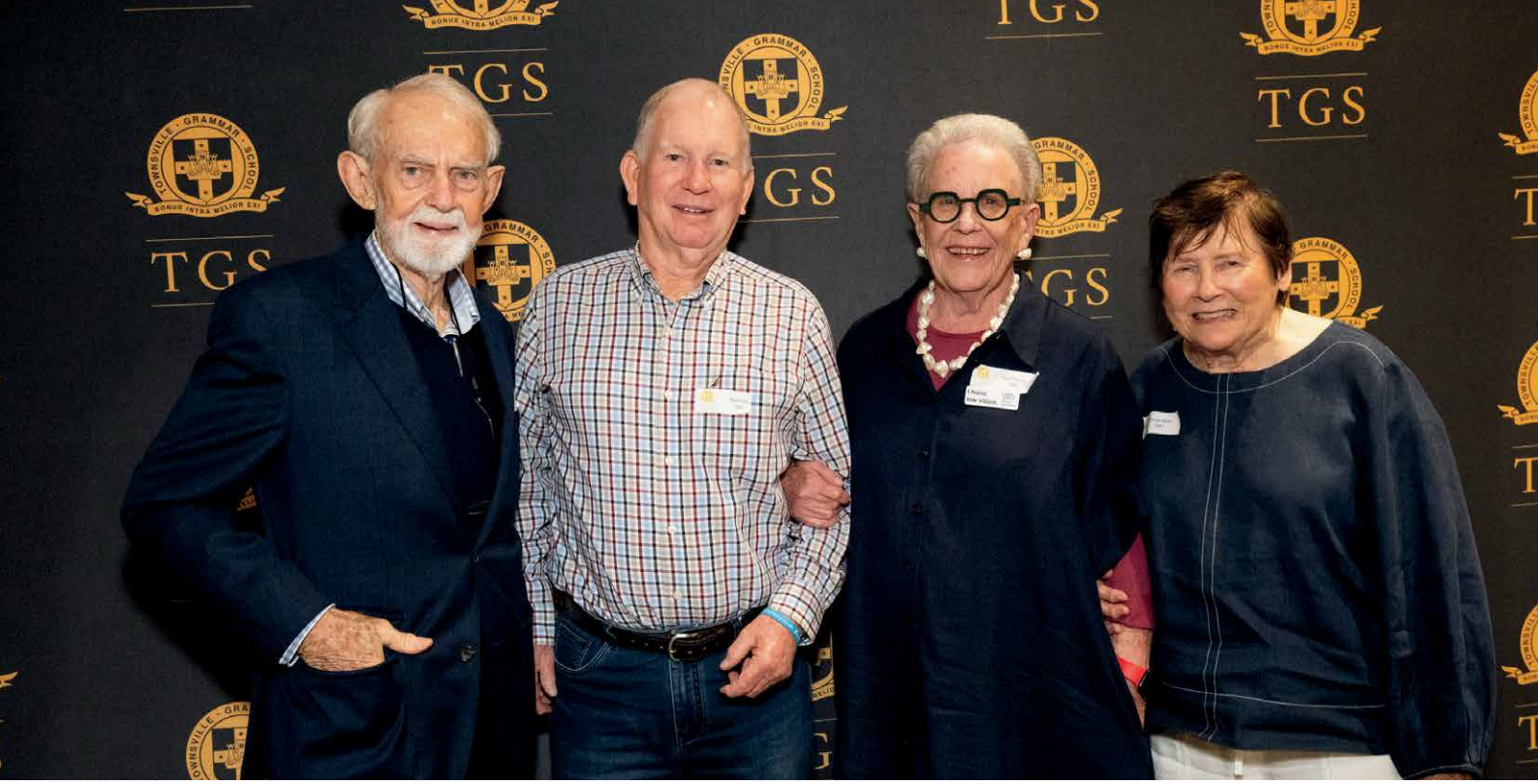











TGS
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
BONUS INTRA MELIOR EXI










TGS
TGS
TGS











Past Grammarians Function - April 2026

MELBOURNE













Past Grammarians Function - May 2026

BRISBANE











Past Grammarians Function - March 2026

SYDNEY

This year we held a Past Grammarians function in Sydney, adding to our schedule of events in Brisbane and Melbourne which continue to grow each year. In 2027 we will again be hosting events in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney in addition to the annual Reunion that takes place in Townsville in the recently restored School House.

SAVE THE DATES IN 2027

PAST GRAMMARIANS EVENTS

SYDNEY	MELBOURNE	BRISBANE	TOWNSVILLE
THURSDAY 11 MARCH	THURSDAY 29 APRIL	SATURDAY 22 MAY	SATURDAY 7 AUGUST

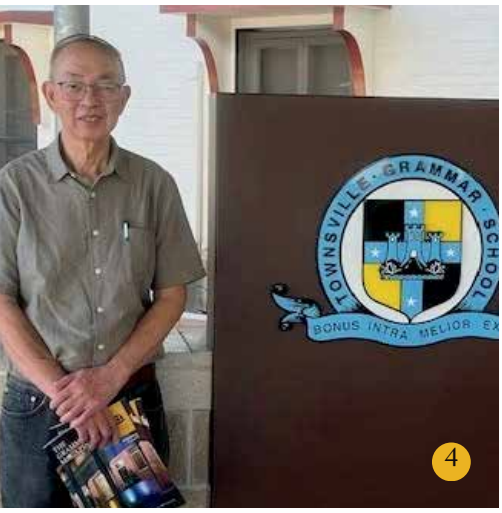
ALUMNI *Visitors*



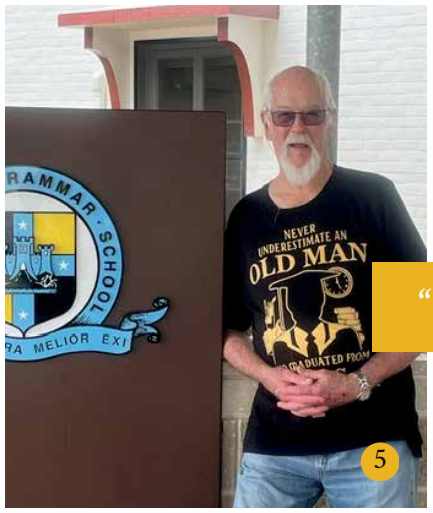
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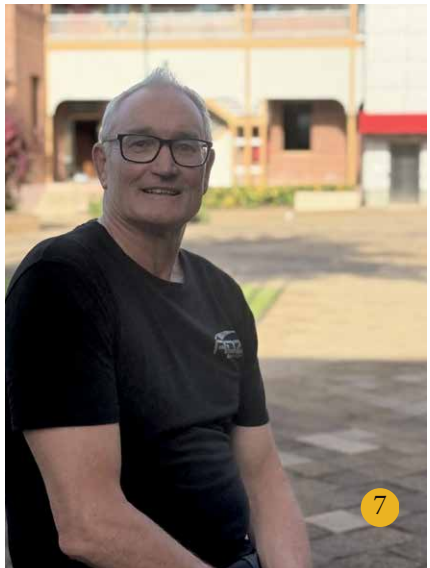


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7

1: GEOFF BROWN (1974), ROWLAND 'ROLY' ALLISON (1961), AND GEOFF ALLISON (1983)

Former boarders, Geoff Brown, Rolly Allison and his son, Geoff Allison, had a great time looking around the campus and walking through School House (which was the boarding house in their time). They also enjoyed time exploring the School Museum located on the top floor of School House.

2&3: AMBER OSBORN & SIMON BEVIS (2000)

Amber Osborn and Simon Bevis returned to reconnect with their school where lifelong memories and friendships were made. Amber, who now lives in Melbourne, and Simon, who resides in England, have remained close friends since their time at Grammar. During their visit, Simon took the opportunity to find his name on the Boarder Dux honour board from 2000. Originally from England, Simon attended Townsville Grammar while his family was living in Papua New Guinea.

4: HARRY LOUIE (1968)

We welcomed back Harry Louie, who was a boarder from Richmond. Harry graduated in 1968. Harry had a look around the campus, and visited School House where he lived as a boarder, and shared some tall stories about possum catching back in the day!

5: EVAN FISHER (1958)

Dr Evan Fisher and his daughter, Katie, visited the School to see the newly restored School House and Museum. Evan is a nationally recognised and highly respected veterinarian with a career that has spanned more than fifty years. When asked what place he calls home in Queensland, he stated, **"Townsville Grammar School was my home"** and vividly remembers his time living in School House.

"Townsville Grammar School was my home"

6: GROUP (2008 & 2017)

Shane MacDonald (2008), Johanna Steel (2008), Simon Blackman (2008), Georgia Horewood (2008) and Jake Doran (2017) returned to Grammar to host a special alumni panel for our Year 12 class of 2026. The group shared their reflections of their time at school and provided some valuable and practical real-world advice.

7: DONALD 'JOHN' YOUNG (1976)

John boarded in School House during his time at TGS and enjoyed reminiscing about his years here. Originally attending TGS while his family were based in Townsville for work, the family later relocated to Brisbane. John now calls Toowoomba home. John gifted the School with the generous donation of his brother's TGS blazer, which will be displayed in the School Museum.



ALUMNI *News*

BILL TWEDDELL AM (1967)

Our congratulations to Bill Tweddell AM (pictured above), on his recent appointment as Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia by Her Excellency the Governor, the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC.

Bill received this honour during an investiture ceremony at Government House Sydney for his significant service to international relations, education and community.

DENNIS PEREZ CASTILLO (2018)

Congratulations to Dennis Perez Castillo who was awarded the University Medal, the highest academic honour at JCU (pictured right).





MIELLA SATORI (2020)



Miella Satori sang at this year's ANZAC Dawn Service on The Strand

SASHA FLEGLER (2023)

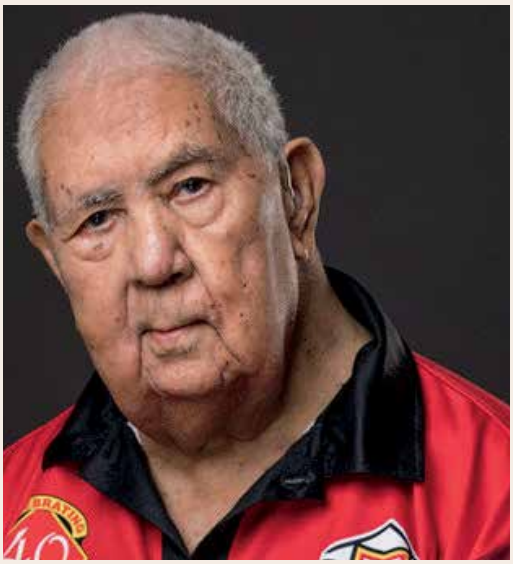


Sasha Flegler made her Queensland Firebirds debut

WADE FORSTER (2015)



Wade Forster won two Golden Guitar awards at the Tamworth 2026 Country Music Festival:
Male Artist of the Year
New Talent of the Year



VALE DR ERNEST "ERNIE" HOOLILHAN OAM

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Dr Ernest Michael "Ernie" Hoolihan OAM.

Ernie was a proud Gugu Badhun Elder, a highly respected community leader, pioneering public servant, advocate, sportsman, and one of Townsville Grammar School's most distinguished Past Grammarians. As one of our oldest living alumni at the time of his passing, he embodied the values of service, perseverance, leadership, and integrity that our School seeks to instil in every student.

Born in Ingham, Ernie moved to Townsville with his family and would go on to become a trailblazer in many fields. One of his earliest and most significant achievements came when he became the first Indigenous student to be awarded a scholarship to Townsville Grammar School in 1949, opening doors for future generations and establishing a lifelong connection with our School.

His achievements were recognised by our School when his name was among the first to be commemorated on our Wall of Distinguished Grammarians. Nationally Ernie was recognised through the award of the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM), acknowledging his extraordinary service to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and to North Queensland.

During his years at our School and throughout his life, Ernie excelled in sport. A gifted all-round athlete, he participated in athletics, table tennis, football, and Australian Rules football. He became particularly well known through his association with the Garbutt Magpies, one of North Queensland's most celebrated Australian Rules clubs. Former School contemporaries recall that Ernie's competitive spirit extended well beyond the sporting field. Whether participating in inter-house competitions, challenging friends to a game of chess, or engaging in spirited debate, he approached every endeavour with the same determination, good humour, and respect for others that became hallmarks of his character.

Ernie was recognised as one of Australia's pioneering Aboriginal public servants. Across many decades, he devoted himself to improving the lives of First Nations peoples through public service, community leadership, advocacy, and organisational development. His work helped shape programs and services that strengthened health, housing, social wellbeing, education, and community participation throughout North Queensland.

Perhaps his most enduring legacy was established in 1973 when he and his beloved late wife, Maud Hoolihan, founded Yumba-Meta Limited. What began as a vision to provide affordable accommodation and support for disadvantaged people grew into a respected organisation that has assisted countless individuals and families throughout Townsville and North Queensland. Their commitment to dignity, opportunity, self-determination, and community care continues to have a profound impact today.

Throughout his life, Ernie received numerous honours in recognition of his service. These included community leadership awards, Townsville's Premier Award recognition, NAIDOC honours, and national acknowledgement through the Medal of the Order of Australia. His contributions to Indigenous advancement, housing, health, culture, and community development earned widespread admiration and respect.

Above all, Ernie will be remembered as a man of vision, generosity, humility, and determination. He combined quiet strength with a deep commitment to helping others, leaving a legacy that extends far beyond the organisations he helped build. His influence can be seen in the lives of those he mentored, the communities he served, and the generations who continue to benefit from his dedication and leadership.

VALE

Ernest Hoolihan - Class of 1952

Jennifer Wishart - Class of 1961

John Alexander Sweet - Class of 1964

Cameron Ross Burnett - Class of 1976

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