

THE GRAMMARIAN MAGAZINE



TGS

PRINCIPAL'S
Farewell

THE SPONGEBOB
MUSICAL

REUNION &
ALUMNI EVENTS 2025

SONY FOUNDATION
CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY CAMP

MAGAZINE OF TOWNSVILLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL | VOLUME 29, 2025



PRINCIPAL'S *Welcome & Farewell*

This is my final introduction for The Grammarian Magazine in my role as Principal of Townsville Grammar School, as I prepare to finish my time at the School at the end of the year. It has been my great privilege and honour to lead this wonderful old School for the past eight years.

When I joined the Townsville Grammar School community in 2018, it was very apparent that I had arrived at a place with a rich, diverse and proud history. I was curious to learn more about our heritage and, in doing so, it became clear that a concentrated effort was required to collate and preserve our archival material. This sparked the beginning of a series of projects related to our School's history and connection.

Mr Chris Wilson, former Director of Boarding, took on the role as School Archivist and has worked to meticulously catalogue our materials, sifting through tens of thousands of photographs, documents and items that have been donated over the decades. In addition, he accepted the challenge of curating our School Museum, located on the top floor of School House. We were looking forward to formally opening our museum in 2025; however, the significant rain event in February flooded the space and we are still in the process of recovery and reinstallation. We are hopeful the Museum will formally open in 2026 and news of this will be communicated to our Past Grammarians who are always welcome to visit.

In addition to his role as Archivist, Chris also takes visiting Past Grammarians on tours around the North Ward campus, he writes stories for the reinvigorated Past Grammarians Facebook page and responds to requests for archival materials – and he always does so with genuine enthusiasm. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Chris for his passion, diligence and professionalism.

We have also been working to revitalise our Past Grammarians Association and our connections with alumni throughout the generations. In 2020, I was grateful that Mr John Short took on the role as President of our Past Grammarians Association, which had formally been led by Mr Jack Calcott and Mr Bill Muller for many years. This chapter of the Past Grammarians Association, under a new constitution, has worked to develop a range of alumni functions and has supported the production of publications and projects about our history.

This year, for the first time in many years, we hosted a Past Grammarians function in Melbourne which was well attended and seemingly something that our Victorian-based alumni are keen to continue. Through the Past Grammarians Association, we will continue to host regular events in Brisbane and Melbourne and will add Sydney to this list in 2026. These face-to-face events are the perfect way for our alumni to connect, share stories and create active networks.



Our 2025 Townsville-based reunion was another fantastic alumni event, again held in School House, where we welcomed more than 100 Past Grammarians from the 1950s through to 2015. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Mr John Short and the committee members who work to deliver our Past Grammarian events and activities.

This year, we will unveil our Wall of Distinguished Grammarians on the North Ward Campus, which is a project that has also been supported by the Past Grammarians Association. This wall features an initial group of forty plaques recognising Past Grammarians with distinguished achievements as well as a timeline of our School. These plaques will be added to over time, as our selection panel works carefully and meticulously to identify and research past students to feature on this installation.

The selection panel, comprising Former Chair of the School, Judge Stuart Durward; Past Grammarian, Bill Tweddell (1957); long-standing teacher at the North Ward Campus, Ms Yvonne West; and School Archivist, Chris Wilson, has worked for many months on this project and I am extremely grateful for their considerable time and enthusiastic commitment. They will continue to work together to select additional Past Grammarians to feature on this wall over the coming years, as we move towards our 150th anniversary.

It has been wonderful to see this process develop and to discover the stories of our Past Grammarians who went on to shape and influence business, government, culture and society in our country.

Some of these will be featured on this wall, and many more will be featured on our website. This wall is designed to be a place where past and current students and visitors can learn about the rich history of our School and its people.

Coincidentally, 'connection' is the theme our Year 12 cohort of 2025 chose as their focus for their senior year, and it is a very fitting theme that has resonated throughout our community. Focusing on our connection has been one of the most enjoyable areas of my leadership of the School. I am so grateful for the progress that has been achieved through the dedication of so many people who are enthusiastic to ensure the stories of our School are kept alive and that the generations of those who learned and worked here remain connected.

Indeed, we are all caretakers of this great, old School, and I trust the Past Grammarians Association, our current students and families, our staff, and those who follow will continue to keep our history alive to ensure we continue the legacy of providing a Grammar education for our North Queensland community.

With best wishes

Timothy Kelly
Principal





AVENUE OF TREES

For the third consecutive year, 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

Pictured: 2025 School Captains, Zarah Moller and Oscar Caniato





ACADEMIC OUTCOMES *Class of 2024*

We celebrated the academic achievements of our Class of 2024 at the annual Scholars' Assembly in February of this year, announcing the 2024 Academic Awards.

Congratulations

Dux: Jonathan Davis

Proxime Accessit: Alyssa Curtis, Charlotte To and Madhava Vyas

Top ATAR – 99.90

- Alyssa Curtis
- Charlotte To
- Madhava Vyas

Top IB – 45

- Jonathan Davis

Jonathan achieved an IB score of 45.75 – the highest possible band of 45 in the IB program and the highest in Queensland.

Median ATAR – 91

- 11.5% of students received 99+
- 33% of students received 95+
- 55% of students received 90+
- 82% of students received 80+
- 8 perfect subject scores – 100%

100% Subject Achievement

- Sophie Chan – English & Biology
- Maxwell Hanks – Music & Music Composition
- Almaz Hira – English
- Vivienne Roehr – Modern History
- Isabella Wong – Music
- Madhava Vyas – Mathematical Methods

22 QCAA Academic Commendations

Students who received straight A results in six general subjects: Kiran Bartlett, Amali Burch, Sophie Chan, Alyssa Curtis, Christian de Jersey, Julia Fulton, Maxwell Hanks, Almaz Hira, Negine Jahangiri, Ruby Lane, Naomi Kutash, Anirudh Mallya, Freya McManus, Jasmine Musumba, Ted Muller, Khoi Pham, Timothy J Rono, Ashna Sabesan, Ina Singh, Marianthi Theodosiou, Charlotte To, Madhava Vyas

DUX & PROXIME ACCESSIT: YEARS 6-11 2024

- Year 11 Dux: Harini Ramesh
- Year 11 Proxime Accessit: Sophia (Winnie) Shaw
- Year 10 Dux: Luke Broadfoot & Jasmine Wavite (eq)
- Year 9 Dux: Phoebe Morris
- Year 9 Proxime Accessit: Poppy Morris
- Year 8 Dux: Tenille Round
- Year 8 Proxime Accessit: Ralph Kii & Jade Zhong (eq)
- Year 7 Dux: Tien Ern Chan
- Year 7 Proxime Accessit: Moira Beniwal
- Year 6 Dux: Anabel Matthew
- Year 6 Proxime Accessit: Anshu Pattnaik



THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL

The SpongeBob Musical was staged over four performances at the Townsville Civic Theatre, 24-25 May 2025. More than 80 students, staff and volunteers worked to produce the show which was enthusiastically received by appreciative audiences.

CREATIVE TEAM:

Director: Sarah Crawford

Musical Director: Kate Hardacre

Vocal Director: Rachel Cairns

Vocal Assistants: Grace Cole and Sawyer Brennan

Choreographer: Jarrah Scars

Choreography Assistant: Jacinda Edwards

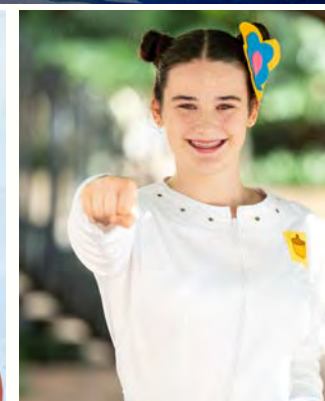
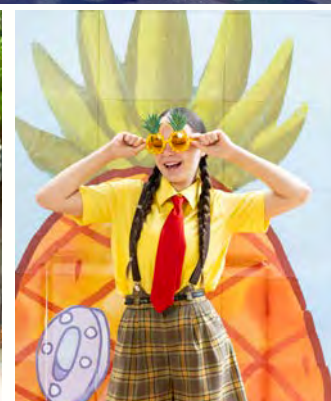
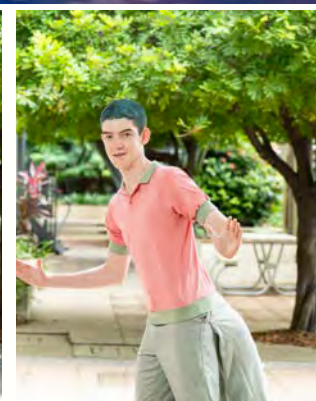
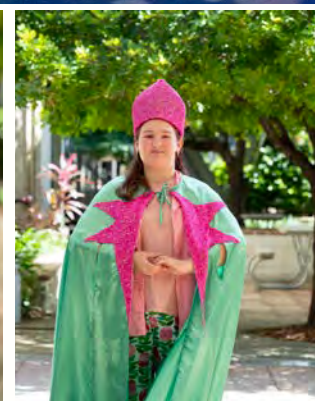
Costumes: Jenni Ansic, Bronwyn Creedy and Jan Andrews

Props: Sasha Lea-Rowell

Set Realisation: Andrew Annett, Sasha Lea-Rowell and Jason Curtis

Production Manager: Yvonne West







SPORT HIGHLIGHTS 2025

CLUB SPORT: The four Club Sports - Rowing, Rugby, Netball and Touch - continued to be the cornerstones of the program, with the Touch Program growing to 14 teams from U7 to U16.

A wide range of Block Sports and @Grammar sports and activities offered to students as part of the overall Co-Curricular program including athletics, basketball, campdraft, cricket, cross-country, fencing, football, soccer and swimming.

ROWING: We celebrated the start to our 2025 rowing season by christening four new boats, pictured above.

Eranova (meaning "new era")

Ventus (meaning "Wind")

Vincere (meaning "Conquer")

Corby Green - in recognition for Corby's significant contributions to the Grammar Rowing Program as Director of Rowing and Head Coach (2008 - 2023).

Our crews took to the Ross River for the Townsville All Schools Head of the River where they delivered an outstanding performance, progressing through heats to reach 26 finals and walking away with 10 medals across the categories. Our rowers then went on to compete in the Queensland Schools State Regatta in Wyaralong with impressive results.

NETBALL: With Grammar Emerald taking out the 15 and Under Div 4 Grand Final, Grammar One went on to win the Vicki Wilson Cup and then competed at the State Finals, hosted at Nissen Arena.

FENCING: For the first time this year, the School hosted a Combined Campus Fencing Competition, with fencers battling it out for the championship in what continues to be a growing sport. The School once again had a strong presence in the annual North Queensland Interschool Cricket Challenge, and also fielded a team in the NQ Schools Campdraft Cup.

JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORTS TOUR: The third annual Junior School Sports Tour took place, this year with our rugby and netball teams travelling to the Gold Coast to play in the Gretel Beuta Netball Trophy and the DNK Rugby Cup at All Saints Anglican School. Our teams played against Coomera Anglican School, Kings College and Emmanuel College.







AGRICULTURAL *Science*

In 2025, the School introduced Senior Agricultural Science for Years 11 and 12. This ATAR-eligible course explores sustainable food and fibre production through scientific inquiry, resource management, economic and ecological impacts and agricultural innovation. Whilst not an Applied subject, student learning is enhanced through hands-on experiences in a small market garden, sugarcane cultivation, chicken husbandry and beekeeping.

The School has established connections with CQU, Burdekin Productivity Services, Townsville and District Beekeeping Society and the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries extension team. Engagement with Past Grammarians working in agriculture and connections through JCU are also being explored.

These organisations have agreed to provide both incursions and excursions, with the latter offering a regular guest speaker to connect Agricultural Science to career pathways and emerging technology. In Term 4, our Year 11 cohort ventured to the Atherton Tablelands, giving students first-hand insights into agriculture, including dairy, crop farming processes, and local industries.

In September we welcomed the installation of a bee hive, through our partnership with the Townsville Bee Keepers Association.

The hive will give students the chance to explore biodiversity, pollination, and the vital role bees play in our ecosystem, as well as opportunities to harvest and market honey in partnership with the Agricultural Science Co-Curricular Club.





STRAND EPHEMERA

Townsville Grammar School was one of 30 selected out of 150 applicants to exhibit in the 2025 Strand Ephemera, 19 July - 3 August under the theme, Trace-less.

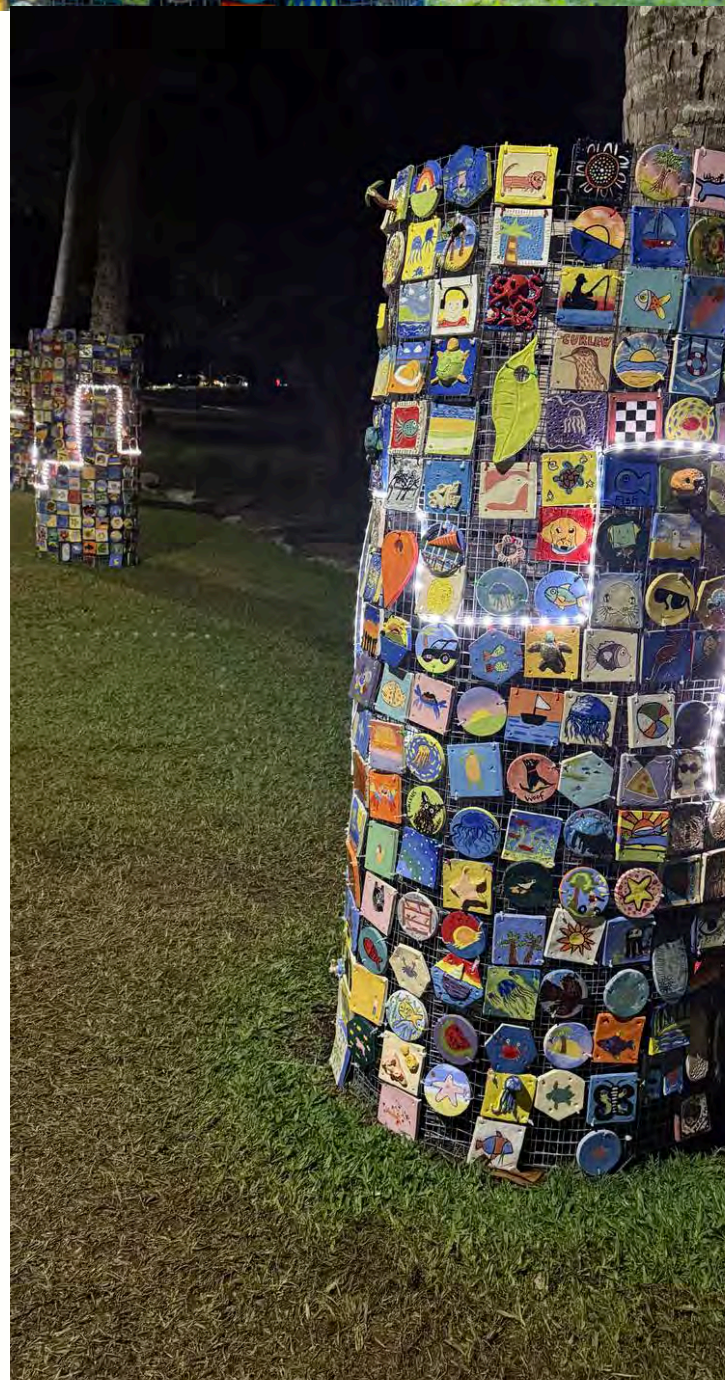
The title of the TGS artwork was Nature's Impressions: Monuments for Environmental Stewardship.

This project was a collaboration of students, staff, faculties and family members.

Staff and students from Prep to Year 12 made more than 1400 clay tiles to form the exhibition which comprised three large clay tile totem poles that wrapped around palm trees along The Strand.

Our artists explored their connection to The Strand and the way people, flora and fauna interact. The artwork interacted with the audience through coded motion light sensors which lit up each night from 6:00pm.

The message of the artwork is to walk gently on the land and reflect on your relationship with nature - linking in with the Trace-less theme of the event.





MELIOR EXI

Exit Better

The Melior Exi is a year-long program of personal development designed for Year 6 students in preparation for their continued journey into secondary school and beyond. It is a program designed to develop confidence, resilience, courage, tenacity and a service mindset.

Throughout Year 6, students undertake the four components of the program:

- Adventure**
- Community Service**
- Skill Development**
- Public Speaking**

The physical adventure challenges include a Castle Hill trek and mountain biking. The community service component involves a Clean Up Australia Day activity and hosting residents from The Good Shepherd Nursing Home for morning tea and activities.

Throughout the year, the students are also tasked with learning a new skill with the support of a mentor who is usually a member of staff. At the conclusion of the program, the students are asked to make a presentation to their peers on the skill they have developed over the year. Skills range from cooking, learning a language, craft and sports, through to Auslan.





VP 80

COMMEMORATING 80 YEARS SINCE VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC

We were proud to celebrate the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Pacific across our three campuses.

We welcomed Mr Neville Hines and Kate Annetts to present at the North Ward Campus Assembly. Past Grammarian and first ever recipient of the Churchill Fellowship for engineering at JCU, Mr Neville Hines proudly served in the military reserve for 12 years (31st Battalion) and is currently President of the National Servicemen's Association in Townsville. Kate is a former Sergeant in the Australian Army Catering Corps, having served with distinction in the Australian Regular Army from 2001 to 2019. To help mark this special occasion, Alby Lee Sye, Army Veteran and also President of the Military and Historic Vehicle Club of Townsville, parked a 1944 Ford GPW opposite School House. Manufactured in the United States, it was shipped to Australia and served with the Australian forces during WW2 and beyond.

The two Junior School campus communities welcomed Mr Scott Klima, Veteran and the Treasurer of the Townsville Servicemen's League and Mr Michael Larson who addressed students at each Assembly about Australia's participation in the second World War. Mr Larsen arrived in a 1954 Willys Jeep which was enthusiastically received by our students.







EIGHTH ANNUAL SONY CAMP

At the conclusion of Term 3, the School hosted its eighth annual Sony Foundation Children's Holiday Camp at the North Ward Campus.

The Sony Foundation Children's Holiday Camp is an official event of the Sony Foundation. It involves a three-day, two-night live-in program for children with disabilities, hosted by the School in the Boarding House. Each year a group of Year 11 students volunteer to train as Sony Companions, engaging in training in preparation for the event. Two students are allocated to care for each camper for the duration of the event.

Principal of Townsville Grammar School, Mr Timothy Kelly, said the event is the cornerstone of the School's service program and can be a transformative experience for all involved.

"We have been privileged to host this event for eight years, giving our local families the opportunity for their children to participate in this joyful program where they make friends and enjoy a range of activities and experiences," Mr Kelly said.

"For many parents, the Sony Camp is one of only a few opportunities for respite and it is such an honour that they trust their children to our care for the camp for the duration.

We are incredibly grateful to the team of volunteer nurses, doctors and teachers who contribute to the program and are on-hand to support our students as they navigate the course of the program with their campers."

It is 24-hour commitment for the Year 11 Companions, looking after their allocated camper and ensuring their safety and wellbeing.

"It can be challenging and exhausting, but also an incredibly rewarding experience," said Mr Kelly. "Sony Camp is frequently described as life-changing by the Year 11 companions, and in many cases, this experience has led to students deciding to pursue careers working with children with special needs."

Year 12 students who participated as Companions, are also invited to sign-up as mentors and crew.

"It is wonderful to see our Year 12s return to Sony Camp to be involved again and provide mentorship and practical support to the Year 11 Companions," said Mr Kelly. "This is what Sony Camp is all about - providing a space for growth and service for our students and giving our guest campers a truly wonderful camp experience."



COLOUR RUSH

Year 12 Interact Board members organised the TGS Colour Rush on the North Ward Campus ovals in August. It was a fantastic afternoon, with a band, face-painting and a slip-n-slide to entertain the hundreds of families who attended from our Junior School through to Senior School. All funds raised were donated to our sister school, Fatumasse School in Bazartete, Timor-Leste, to help improve facilities and resources, ensuring students are able to access a well-rounded education.





PRINT *Makers*

A group of our talented First Nations students had the unique opportunity to participate in a two-day intensive printmaking workshop as part of the Young Indigenous Printmakers program. Held in partnership between Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts and Townsville City Galleries, this inspiring initiative offers First Nations secondary school students a chance to explore and express their culture through visual storytelling.

The workshop was led by local printmaker Ms Margaret Robertson and Mr Ricky Emmerton, a proud Kalkadoon artist. Their expert guidance introduced students to the world of lino carving, printing and editioning — providing both technical skills and cultural insight.

Our students spent two weeks creating meaningful artworks inspired by their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage, reflecting both personal and cultural narratives. Their artworks are on exhibition alongside Mr Emmerton's PhD exhibition at the Perc Tucker Regional Gallery as part of the Young Indigenous Printmakers Exhibition, from 29 November 2025 to 3 May 2026. This public exhibition is a valuable opportunity for students to gain real-world experience in a professional gallery setting — and to have their voices and stories shared with a broader audience.





GRANDPARENTS' DAY

We welcomed hundreds of grandparents and special friends for our annual family days at both Junior School campuses this year. Our guests enjoyed performances, activities in classrooms and morning tea.





ARCHIVIST'S MESSAGE

What a wonderful privilege and journey it has been, and continues to be, tracking and recording aspects of the history of our School. There are so many stories relating to our people and our place that have been lying on shelves and boxes for years. Many stories have been told and there are many more that need to be recorded and shared before they fade away and are lost forever.

Over the 137 years since our doors first opened in 1888, our School, and those involved with it, have endured historical highs and lows. However, over this time, it is obvious that our School has always strived to live up to its motto, 'Bonus Intra, Melior Exi' (enter good, exit better). From the philosophies of our first Headmaster, Charles Hodges in 1889, to our current Principal, Timothy Kelly, the School has been led to facilitate this objective. The quality and contributions of our alumni attest to this.

Over the years, many dedicated members of our School staff have contributed to the recording of our rich and deep history. Most notably, RW Moore, Kim Allen and Bill Muller meticulously recorded our stories in print.

The ongoing desire to preserve, share and display our history has long been an aspiration. The renovation of our spiritual heart, School House, has provided the space to display snippets of our shared history. We will, in the near future, have a museum space fittingly housed on the top floor of School House, a space that was, for 100 years, the boarders' dormitory. As past Chair of the Past Grammarians Association, Jack Callcott, has said, **"If these walls could talk, imagine the stories they could tell".**

The support of our Board of Trustees, Past Grammarians Association and School leadership will ensure that we are able to preserve and display glimpses into our past for our current and past students to learn from and enjoy.

Since the Grammar community has become aware of this exciting development, we have seen increased interaction with the School from Past Grammarians, their families and others associated with the School.



"If these walls could talk, imagine the stories they could tell."
-Jack Callcott, Past President
Past Grammarians Association

Unsolicited donations of uniform items, School publications and photographs have started to arrive quite regularly. Many of these items will find their way into permanent and rotating displays as we start to curate our museum space.

We are very grateful for those who have been prepared to donate or loan items that are of great sentimental value, and we welcome Past Grammarians and friends of the School to visit and have a look through our materials.

Chris Wilson
Archivist





Reunion - Townsville AUGUST 2025



The annual TGS Reunion took place on Saturday, 9 August in the recently restored School House. This year's reunion had a special focus on the graduating years ending in 5 and we welcomed groups from 2015, 2005, 1995 and 1985 as well as alumni from other years.







Brisbane - Past Grammarians Function May 2025
2026 event: Saturday, 23 May



Past Grammarians Function - Brisbane
MAY 2025





Past Grammarians Function - Melbourne
MARCH 2025





PAST GRAMMARIAN NEWS

Queensland Firebirds player **Sasha-May Flegler** (12/2023), was selected in the 2025 Australian 21/U Squad. Pictured above.

Pictured below left to right:

Dr Peter Olali (1994), Medical Oncologist, is overseeing the development of a comprehensive cancer centre in PNG. Dr Olali has been visiting the Canberra Region Cancer Centre for observation with Dr Nalini Pati and Prof Desmond Yip who established an oncology unit in the Solomon Islands and are supporting the PNG centre.

Wade Forster (2015) was crowned the winner of the 2025 Countrytown Award for Breakthrough Artist of the Year.

Tia-Clair Toomey (2010) and **William (Bill) Tweddell** (1967) were acknowledged in the King's Birthday Honours list 2025 - Tia-Clair Toomey for significant service to crossfit and weightlifting, and William Tweddell for significant service to international relations, to education and to the community. Tia-Clair also won her 8th international crossfit championships in 2025, cementing her status as the greatest athlete in the sport's history.





PAST GRAMMARIANS *School Visits*

Above: We welcomed a group of Past Grammarians who addressed the Year 12s as part of their Positive Purpose Week. The group talked about their individual journeys and offered their advice and tips for navigating life post-School.

Pictured L-R: Ashleigh Metcalfe-Cass (2009), Michael Doris (2009), Karl Geiger (2015), Carla Edwards (2010), Sune Walker (2014) and Nathan Barrett (2011),

Below Left: Malcolm Campbell (1959) called in to donate some photographs for the School Museum during his visit to Townsville. Malcolm is pictured with Principal, Tim Kelly, at School House.

Below Right: Pictured are Peter and Dianne Starkey - Diane is the great granddaughter of Mary Agnes Donald. The Mary Agnes Donald Memorial Prize was established in 1929 by Dr W.H. Donald who attended the School from 1900-1902 in memory of his mother. The Mary Agnes Donald Prize was first presented in 1930 to the girl who was considered to have best maintained School traditions by her devotion to her work and by her general conduct. In 1938 the criteria of the award changed and it was awarded to the girl obtaining the best pass in the Queensland Junior Public Examination. The criteria again changed in 1981, and it became the award for the Best All Round Girl in Year 12. The Mary Agnes Donald Prize is still awarded at Speech Day each year. In 2025, it was awarded to School Captain, Zarah Moller.



PF ROWLAND'S GREAT GRANDSON - A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

We were delighted to welcome Gavin Colley and his family to Townsville Grammar School to share stories of his Great Grandfather - Headmaster PF Rowland (1905 - 1938, our longest serving Headmaster). The group met with our School Archivist, Chris Wilson, and many a story, photograph and cherished book from his time as Headmaster were shared. Pictured right are the generations: Great grandson, great-great granddaughter and great-great-great granddaughter.



PROFESSIONAL ACTORS VISIT

Theatre Club students had the opportunity to meet Past Grammarians and professional actors, James Raggatt (2009) and Rachel Nutchey (2014). James and Rachel shared their experiences, offering advice on pursuing a career in acting, the challenges they've faced, and the rewards that come with following their passion. It was truly inspiring for our students, and we are grateful to James and Rachel for taking the time to visit and give back to the School community.



GUEST PRESENTER

We were delighted to welcome back Past Grammarian, Dr Stephen Whebell (12/2005) as our guest speaker for the Term 3 Formal Boarding Dinner. Dr Whebell is a specialist intensive care doctor working at the Townsville University Hospital. Dr Whebell attended TGS and James Cook University. He undertook his specialty training in various hospitals in Brisbane, with time spent at St Thomas' Hospital in London, before returning to Townsville. Dr Whebell is pictured with 2025 Boarding Captains, Libby Moller and Cornelius Farrell.





PAST
GRAMMARIANS

Reunion 2026

SATURDAY, 8 AUGUST 2026

**FOR ALL PAST GRAMMARIANS, WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS
ON THE GRADUATING YEARS ENDING IN 6**

SCHOOL HOUSE - NORTH WARD CAMPUS - TOWNSVILLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
COCKTAIL FUNCTION + CAMPUS TOUR

TICKETS ON SALE EARLY 2026 VIA WWW.TGS.QLD.EDU.AU/PASTGRAMMARIANS

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