

TOWNSVILLE PAST GRAMMARIANS ASSOCIATION

Melior Exi



April 2017

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Patron Edna Shaw
(1938)

President Jack Callcott
(1965 – 1969)

Secretary/Treasurer: Bill Muller (ex Staff)
(1980 – 1998)



Past Grammarians Reunited - Left to right; Reg Whitfield, Jack Callcott, Rob Callcott, Neville Whitfield and Alan Whittle

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Earlier this year, after many phone calls and a fair amount of luck, my twin brother, Rob, managed to gather a small group of fellow boarders and classmates here to Townsville for a weekend reunion. The group consisted of Rob and myself, boarders from 1965 to 1969, two brothers from Wewak in New Guinea, Reg and Neville Whitfield, boarders from 1966 to 1970 and 1968 to 1970 respectively, and Alan Whittle, a day student from second term 1967 to 1969. The connection between us, besides four of us being in the same class (Neville was a year lower), was Alan Whittle. Alan's parents, Vern and Dot took in many boarders at their Currajong home over many years, for "free weekends" and "free Sundays". Also, as a lot of the New Guinea boys did not go home during the mid year holidays, Rob and I took Neville home to our family cattle property at one time.

All of us had, over the years since 1969, crossed paths at one time or another but hadn't got together for a reunion. Rob made that happen on the first weekend in

February. Reg came down from Cairns, Alan and Neville came up from Brisbane and Rob came from Koumala, south of Mackay. All wives and partners came and we made a weekend of it. I had asked the School if we could wander through and have a look on the Saturday afternoon. Our group would like to say thank you very much for allowing us to do so. Alan had not been back to the School since 1969. He was amazed with the changes. We had two wonderful days together. We have vowed to do it again some time. We also won't wait another 48 years.

As the year progresses, I will be attending the usual School functions; the ANZAC Service in the Quad, the Reunion in Brisbane on the 1st July and our Grammar@Home weekend in August. I hope to see some familiar faces and would like to see some, that perhaps, I haven't seen for many years.

Mr Jack Callcott

PRESIDENT, PAST GRAMMARIANS ASSOCIATION

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Given that I will be retiring at the end of this year after 20 years at Grammar, it is with mixed emotions that I write a few words in this, my final contribution to Melior Exi.

My feelings are mixed because on the one hand I have genuinely loved my role at Grammar and have always enjoyed my interactions with Past Grammarians – young and not so young! On the other hand, I am also looking forward to beginning the next phase of my life, closer to family in SE Queensland. This year will be my 44th year in schools, as a teacher and educator, since taking my first classes as an Economics and History teacher in Adelaide in 1973.

I have been blessed by my association with a number of special people during my Headship and in this category I acknowledge Judge Stuart Durward, Mr Bill Muller and Mr Jack Callcott. Judge Durward, in his capacity as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, appointed me as Principal and I have been incredibly fortunate to work alongside such a wonderfully measured and supportive Chairman. Bill Muller was the Deputy Headmaster when I arrived in 1998 and in his current role as the School Archivist, he has been an invaluable support person. **Jack Callcott [1969]** has always been a delight to work with – interested, supportive, humorous, insightful and loyal to the School. I am deeply indebted to Stuart, Bill and Jack and numerous other very loyal and supportive Trustees, staff and members of the broader community. I would hope to acknowledge a number of other special associates, in due course.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Annandale Campus and also the foundation year of the North Shore Primary Campus. Annandale, under the Junior School leadership of **Mr Norm Kerley [1996 - 2006]** and **Mr Noel Nethery [2007 -]**, has grown from strength to strength and is now a campus of nearly 500 children from Pre-Prep to Year 6. Three foundation staff from 1997 still work at Grammar; Mrs Jenny Svane, Mrs Karin Poole and Mrs Cheryl Kybus – who is now the Year 7 Curriculum Co-ordinator at North Ward.



Mr Richard Fairley, Mrs Kristell Scott and Mr Chris Wilson with Past Grammarians at the 2017 Hong Kong Reunion.

The North Shore Campus has started well, particularly given the difficult economic times in Townsville, and our Pre-Kindy to Year 2 enrolment is nearly 80 students.

North Shore will quickly reach one-stream capacity over the next 4 years. All staff appointed to the North Shore Campus this year have come from Annandale, including the inaugural Head of Campus, Mr Giles Derrett. This has been a deliberate strategy in ensuring that our timeless values are in place from the very beginning of the growth and development of the new campus.

The external restoration of School House is proceeding to plan and it is anticipated that all such works, including the re-instatement of the southern and eastern verandas will be in place by the end of this year. The restored building that is slowly emerging from behind safety fencing is looking absolutely fantastic and will be an enormous heritage asset in years to come. Next year, the focus will turn to the full restoration of the internal spaces of the building, both upstairs and downstairs and I imagine it will not be long before the next Principal will operate from an office inside this magnificent building!



The School House Restoration is progressing under the guidelines of the Queensland Heritage Register.

Others will no doubt be better placed to judge whether I “came in good” in 1998 but one thing I am absolutely certain about, is that I will “go out better” because of my humbling journey at Grammar. One of my fondest legacies will be that my own children were educated in this School and will always be proud Past Grammarians.

With gratitude,

Mr Richard Fairley
PRINCIPAL
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2016 Year 12 Students, now Past Grammarians, at the 2017 Scholars Assembly

NEWS OF PAST GRAMMARIANS

The 2016 Scotch College [Sydney] Speech Night report listed the **NORM PINWELL** Prize for the best Annual Shakespearean Essay. Norm was Dux of the School in 1925 and then returned to teach at the School. He married the daughter of the Headmaster, Mr Rowland, before moving to Sydney in 1934 to teach at Scotch. Knowing the love that Mr Rowland had for Shakespeare it is not surprising that Norm would follow that path.

Two life members continue to show an interest in the Association. **MALCOLM SKINNER [1939]** who attended the School in the late 1930's, now lives in retirement on the Gold Coast. **EDNA SHAW [1938]**, our Patron, is now a resident in a Care Unit in Melbourne. However, she is still active in her love for literature and recently donated her tennis racquet and typewriter to the Archives. She was also generous in donating the pen and pencil she used while a student at the School.



Pens gifted by Dame Edna Shaw used in the 1930's.

Some years ago **LAURENCE EDWARD WILKINS [1939]** gifted the School a generous sum of money to establish a bursary to assist students who otherwise may not have been able to attend Grammar. Laurence died in 2014 but the School recently received another \$50,000 from his estate to continue funding the bursary. The Laurence Wilkins Prize for Proxime Accessit in Year 12 has been named in honour of Laurence.

Congratulations to **CHARLES MAY [1951]** on his recent award of an Order Australia Medal [OAM] for his services to the community of Nundle. He has also been awarded two National Medals and the Australian Fire Services Medal. Charles was a boarder from Mossman and his name will be added to the Honour Board in the Maurie Blank Building and the Boarders' Honour Board situated in the Dining Room.

Thanks to **RAY KOHN [1964]** for his help with past students who served in the Vietnam War. His input is greatly appreciated as the School works to update the Honour Boards.

Ray has also helped **JANET HOGARTH [nee SWANWICK 1964]** who is trying to track down all past students who did sub-junior with her at Grammar. Janet is hoping to arrange a get together in the middle of the year so that they can celebrate their seventieth, or close to, birthdays. If you have yet to be contacted please contact the School so that we can arrange for you to contact Janet.

Another long standing Past Grammarian who recently made contact is **RODNEY HALE [1960]**. Rodney left school at the end of Junior and joined the ANZ Bank. He completed his accountancy qualifications by correspondence while working all over Queensland and then in Papua New Guinea. He retired as company secretary for Tutt Bryant Pacific. Rodney is keen to make contact again with fellow students from his time at the School.



Under 8 Stone XIII (Undefeated), 1955

Back Row: A. Hobbs, C. Alloway, G. Keir, A. Shong, J. Niblett, I. Keir, D. Woodhouse, M. Langston, I. Langau, P. Daley.

Front Row: M. Boyle, R. Haworth, B. James (Capt), R. Cox (Coach), H. Shann, J. Underwood, D. Sheehy.

John UNDERWOOD with the 1955 Rugby League team.

JOHN UNDERWOOD [1956] has had a recent bout of ill health but is now on the path to a full recovery. A few years ago his wife Terry wrote a book called *In the Middle of Nowhere*. It is about their lives in the outback.

FIONA TRAFFORD-WALKER [1984] is a high flyer in the world of finance. She is based in Melbourne and is the Director of Consulting at Frontier Advisers. Her father was a judge in Townsville before transferring to the Brisbane region.

Those interested in sport who listen to the ABC Grandstand programme on the weekends will know the voice of **MATTHEW ELLIOTT [1982]**. Matthew played for St George Rugby league team before coaching Bradford [England], the Canberra Raiders, the Penrith Raiders and the New Zealand Warriors.

Two other past students who have done well in the world of rugby league are **JOSH HANNAY [1997]** and **MICHAEL LUCK [1998]**. Josh was the first Cowboys' player to play 150 games for the Cowboys while Michael finished his career at the New Zealand Warriors. Both Josh and Michael are back in Townsville and on the coaching team of the Cowboys.

It was great to see the **RENTON FAMILY** visiting the School recently. **PAUL [1984]** is still based in Los Angeles while his twin brother **MARK [1984]** is in Melbourne. Their sister **FIONA [1986]** now resides in Brisbane.

It is great to see children of Past Grammarians who are now attending the School and doing well. **WILLIAM PRICE [12/2017]** has been made a prefect and **EMILY PRICE [9/2017]** has been appointed Middle School captain. They are the children of **BEV PRICE [nee PEARCE 1986]**. **OLIVER de JERSEY [12/2017]** has been appointed the leader of the Symphony Orchestra and his sister **SOPHIE de JERSEY [9/2017]** is the Middle School Music Captain. Their father **STEPHEN de JERSEY [1987]** is a prominent architect in town. **ANNA CALEO [12/2017]** is the daughter of **CAROLYN CALEO [nee WARD 1983]** and is the Rowland House Captain. Anna is also a ballet dancer of some note.

Good to see **DEAN CAVANAGH [1998]** back in town. After working on the Gold Coast and Charters Towers in the Police Force he has been promoted to Acting Senior Sergeant in Townsville. Dean was captain of the 1st XV while at school.

JONATHON MCCARTHY [2003] has had a stellar career since leaving Grammar. He attended the University of Queensland on an Anglo American Academic Scholarship graduating in Mining Engineering [Honours] and Bachelor of Business Management [Economics]. After graduating he has worked in the mining industry in Australia, Canada and is now working for Terra Energy LLC, Mongolia and is the General Manager of their South Gobi operations.

Congratulations to **STEPHANIE KERSHAW [2012]** on her recent selection to represent the Hockeyroos on their up-coming tour to New Zealand. It is a great reward for Stephanie who missed the Rio Olympics due to a serious injury.



Stephanie Kershaw playing for Queensland at the State Hockey Centre, Brisbane (Photo courtesy of Townsville Bulletin)

Three former IB students at the School have gone on to do well academically. **HENRY ORTON [2012]** recently graduated from the Australian National University with a Bachelor of Philosophy [Science] with First Class Honours and earned a University Medal. This year Henry is reading for his PhD with the support of the prestigious Westpac Future Leaders PhD Scholarship.

DAMON BINDER [2013] is the youngest ever recipient of the John Monash Scholarship. Damon aims to use this scholarship to attend Cambridge University and read for a PhD in the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics. On the completion of his doctorate Damon would like to pursue a career in academia.

DANIEL PORTEUS [2013] is currently completing an internship with Facebook in the USA. Only two such placements were offered in Australia for this year.

JADE BAXTER [2012] recently completed her Bachelor of Speech Pathology at James Cook University and is working in Singapore on a three year contract with Total Communication Therapy.

DR. ZE HAO (MARCEUS) POON [2010] is currently working on the Gold Coast as a veterinary surgeon.



Dr. Ze Hao Poon, with his parents at his graduation in Melbourne.

MARRIAGES:

IMOGEN PERRY [2007] married **SADHEESH RATHNAYAKE [2007]** in March. They were cast opposite each other in the School musical production of Sweeney Todd. They have been together ever since and live in Lake Macquarie.

VALE:

We record with sadness the deaths of the following members of the Grammar community and extend our deepest sympathy to family and friends.

DELPHINE ARMIT [1953] or Dell, as she preferred to be called, was married to **JOHN WHITE [1952]**, winner of the Chelmsford Cup and Head Boy of the School in 1952.

It is also sad to record the death of **JOHN NETTLEFIELD [1951]** and **SHOLTO DOUGLAS [1978]**.

Former staff member **DAVID GLASSOCK [1998]** recently lost his long battle with cancer. A popular teacher and great rugby coach leaves behind a wife, four sons and a daughter.

Mr Bill Muller
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The TGS 2017 Reunion - Tickets on Sale NOW!

With an extended invitation to Graduates of 2007, 1997, 1987, 1977, 1967, 1957 and earlier....



The poster features a background image of a restaurant interior with tables set for a formal dinner. On the left, there is a circular logo for Townsville Grammar School with the motto 'BONUS INTRA MELIOR EXI'. Below it is a smaller circular logo with the letters 'ib'. The text 'SATURDAY 12TH AUGUST 2017' is prominently displayed in the center. To the right, the words 'TGS REUNION' are written in large, bold, black letters. Below this, the event details are listed: '10AM RUGBY + BREAKFAST ROLLS + SCHOOL TOUR' and '6PM 3 COURSE DINNER @ THE BREWERY BANQUET CENTRE'. At the bottom, it says 'TICKETS ON SALE NOW' and provides the website 'WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/263211'.

SATURDAY 12TH AUGUST 2017

TGS REUNION

10AM RUGBY + BREAKFAST ROLLS
+ SCHOOL TOUR

6PM 3 COURSE DINNER
@ THE BREWERY BANQUET CENTRE

TICKETS ON SALE NOW WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/263211

For those in South-East Queensland, feel free to join us at our reunion in July too!



The poster features a background image of the West End Garden Restaurant. On the left, there is a circular logo for Townsville Grammar School with the motto 'BONUS INTRA MELIOR EXI'. On the right, there is a shield-shaped logo for the Past Grammarians Reunion with the motto 'BONUS INTRA MELIOR EXI'. The text 'South-East Queensland Past Grammarians Reunion' is prominently displayed in the center. Below this, the event details are listed: 'Sat 1st July 2017 - West End Garden Restaurant - From 11.30am'. Two decorative callout boxes provide additional information: one on the left describes the location and transport options, and one on the right lists the schedule of events.

South-East Queensland Past Grammarians Reunion

Sat 1st July 2017 - West End Garden Restaurant - From 11.30am

Short walk or take buses 196 and N199 from Brisbane Cultural Centre Bus Station

12 noon Class Photos
1 pm Group Photo
1.15pm Lunch

West End Garden Restaurant
VIETNAMESE AND CHINESE CUISINE

Further information available from Arthur Burke 07 3263 6025 arthurburke@bigpond.com