Welcome

Welcome to the July 2014 edition of The Grammarian, your Rockhampton Grammar School Past Students’ Association newsletter. The Rockhampton Grammar School has a long and proud history since it was first established in 1881. This newsletter acknowledges the achievements, celebrations and news of the School's past students. If you have any contributions for the newsletter please contact editor Rachael McDonald on 4936 0776 or email rmcdonald@rgs.qld.edu.au

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Visit www.rgs.qld.edu.au to keep in touch with your School today.

Caption: Queensland Governor Ms Penelope Wensley AC, pictured with Brad Beasley (left) and RGS Headmaster Dr Phillip Moulds, officially opened the new Beasley Centre, the new primary school building located on Quarry Street. This building houses primary school classes along with the primary administration and out of hours school care. The building is named after Brad Beasley, current Chair of the Board of Trustees at RGS and a past student from 1975.

From the President....

July has arrived, and with it a realisation that I have been president of the Past Students' Association for an entire year.

My time as President has been incredibly rewarding and I recommend anyone who is interested in coming along to one of our meetings to pop in and see what the Past Students’ Association is all about and how you might become involved. In the past year I have attended various reunions, meeting a fantastic range of past students from various eras, hosted the Race Day and had the honour of representing the Past Students’ Association at the School's ANZAC Day Service.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 25 June 2014. Elected to the committee for 2014/15 were: Meleisha Tennent (President), Jason Smyth (Vice President, RGS 1988), Scott Wilson (Secretary, RGS 1987) and Amy Thomasson (Treasurer, RGS 2004).

Whether you have the time to be involved with the Committee big or small, all input is welcome. The Past Students’ Association also sends its condolences to the family of Diana McLellan who passed away on 29 June. Diana attended RGS in 1977-78 and was a regular meeting attendee from the inception of the Association in 2002. Diana was a committee member (2003-2004), Treasurer (2008-2011) and President (2011).
Ross Dunlop (RGS 1951-1954) had a mind for science during his school years at The Rockhampton Grammar School. K.C. Gillam was his maths and physics teacher. “He shaped my career. I thoroughly enjoyed his classes,” said Ross, a former day student when there was less than 200 students at the School. Ross knew he wanted a career in this field. He never thought this passion would take him from the warm Queensland climate to the below freezing temperatures of Antarctica just a few years after graduating. Ross, now 21, joined a 23-member Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition (ANARE) to Antarctica from December 1959 to March 1960. The expedition was in the name of scientific research, mapping and surveying, meteorology and geology. Ross was near the end of his fourth year of a physics/mathematics degree at the University of Queensland when the Head of Department came into the study room one day and said he had received a call from the head scientist in the Antarctic Division and that they desperately needed a physicist at the Mawson Base. Ross seized an opportunity that led to a lifetime of memories that few of us will ever experience. “I was a poor student so I put my hand up straight away,” Ross said. Just four weeks later he was in Melbourne and then onwards to Hobart for 2 months to start his training as a cosmic ray research physicist at the Antarctic Division and Physics Department at the University of Tasmania. Measuring the intensity of cosmic rays, (by monitoring meson and neutron particles) and correlating with solar activity, and the relevant changes in the Earth’s magnetic field were just some of the tasks at hand. The expedition party boarded the ice breaker ship, the Thala Dan, and it wasn’t quite smooth sailing on the six-week voyage. “We lost part of our cargo of aviation fuel not long out of Melbourne. There was a problem with the steering. We stopped the boat and it was rocking around. Some of the drums obviously weren’t tied down too well and they went overboard. It was a very poor ship for passengers. It would break the ice by riding up on it and by design had a shallow draft and hull shape to allow this. We bounced around like a cork.” After visiting the Russian base at Mirny and delivering a new party and supplies to Davis (another small Australian base), the ship arrived at Mawson Base – located in a deep horseshoe harbour which allowed the ship close to shore. He was immediately struck by the beauty of this part of the world. “The stark, white ice, the animals such as penguins, seals and killer whales. I didn’t know what to expect.” After a week of unloading supplies, Ross watched the Thala Dan sail off into the sunset. It was a strange feeling. Looking back I would have liked to have gone when I was a few years older – and wiser. I had just turned 21 and was young and adventurous.”

(continued next page)
Ross was busy helping unload the newly arrived supplies which included fuel, diesel generators, compressed briquettes for heating, food – all the while trying to learn the ropes from the physicist who was ready to come home.
The 23-member party didn’t include tradesmen. It was a case of scientists and the like trying to manage the best they could. All work was done by the best qualified, vastly different from today’s parties which include their own tradespeople. In addition, large numbers of extras were taken to undertake building programs etc during the changeover period. And some tradesmen would have come handy back in 1959.

Ross and his colleagues had to build a bigger power station around the existing station. It was near completion when the extra insulation from the air layer and new building caused the temperature under the operating generator to rise sufficiently to start a fire. They managed to drag a new generator away from the fire and save it. With only one generator expected to run 24/7, long periods without power became the norm.

A small base about 100 km away was manned for studying the Aurora and nearby Emperor penguin rookery. This too was lost to fire.

They were also at the mercy of the harsh Antarctic weather where temperatures would fall to around -25 degrees Celsius. There was also the incessant winds and blizzards. “You get used to it,” Ross said. The pre-expedition training in Melbourne required Ross to help with acclimatisation tests. All in the name of seeing how much cold the future Antarctic visitors could handle.

“It was a cold room in Melbourne where they had a mesh bed and lay there in their undies while we went in to measure the temperatures on their bodies. It was slowly getting colder and they shivered more and more. I was cold enough just doing the temperature measuring and making notes on the physical state of the participants. This was done every 3 months during the stay and again after returning to Australia.”

That training still didn’t prepare men for the Antarctic blizzards. “A couple of weeks before we went home an unseasonable blizzard blew our two planes away from their moorings about 30 km inland from the base. A five-man crew raced to start one of the planes and hold it on the ground. They had to turn it into the wind to stop it from blowing into the sea. Ultimately they were both destroyed.”

Man was also at risk. Mawson Base consisted of sleeping huts in the centre of the compound while work places were some distance away. They were connected by heavy rope, called “blizzard lines”.

“In complete white-outs you can’t see a foot in front of your face and there were winds gusting to 160 kph. You hang onto that rope for dear life. White-outs also created confusion. “When there’s total cloud cover you can’t rely on seeing the surface by shadow. You just keep falling over because you can’t get your bearings. You get very confused.”

Ross has never again stepped foot on Antarctica - only flying over the region a few years ago.

When the 1959 party returned to Australian shores Ross spent 12 months in Hobart working on his research results and developing new experiments. He then returned to Brisbane and completed his studies at the University of Queensland, was married and completed his Masters studies. He then accepted a physics lecturer role at the then Queensland Institute of Technology (now the Queensland University of Technology). Ross retired 17 years ago and now spends his days keeping busy with travel, social outings, Probus, gem faceting and fixing things around the house.

“Antarctica taught me how to get on with other people in closed environments and the pure beauty of the place was incredible. “It’s something you can’t see anywhere else in the world.”

Snapshots of Antarctica.
Photographs from Ross Dunlop
Believe Me is a dramedy about a group of first time con-artists that start a fake charity to rip off philanthropic Christians; Cut Snake is a crime drama about an ex-crim desperately trying to hold onto his new life as his old one continues to haunt him; And then Unbroken.

Which actors/actresses inspired you before you entered this field and why? Al Pacino was a massive inspiration before I entered this field professionally. Subsequently there have been many more but from an early age Al Pacino and the way he would embody a character and explode from inside was incredible. His fire, his ferocity on screen was something I aspired to. Also, Mel Gibson as Mad Max and the world that was created. Harrison Ford as Indiana Jones. These people were transporting me to somewhere I'd never been, another reality and that was what drew me in, like a magnet.

When did you decide this was the career you wanted to pursue? I've wanted to be an actor since I was a young kid, I can't remember how old but very young.

What acting were you involved with during your school days at RGS? I studied Drama all through high school. I was involved in Rockhampton Little Theatre and an after school drama club from primary school. In grade 9, I signed up for the school musical, The Wind in the Willows and I was hooked! I did the musical every year from then and started working hard on singing and eventually, when it was needed, dancing. I love tap dancing and I absolutely love to sing. I'm looking forward to the day when I can do a musical again!
Was it a difficult career to pursue while you were still at school?
I didn’t pursue acting as a career while I was still at school. I finished year 12 never having made any attempt to enter acting professionally. I wanted to go to drama school first. I ended up being accepted into NIDA at the end of my first year out of school.

What steps were involved in breaking into an acting career and any advice for others who want to enter this field?
In terms of breaking into this field, there are various paths one can take and certainly no hard and fast rules. The only essentials are persistence, self-belief, raw passion and love for the craft and a keenness to learn what you don’t already know. In terms of career trajectory, many go to drama school and many don’t. Many get their start in theatre and many in film. If you want to have a career as an actor in Australia, you need to move to either Sydney or Melbourne and seek representation (an agent). If you can’t get an agent, a good idea is to put on a co-op (a semi-professional, semi-amateur production). Pick a play that inspires you, find people that stimulate and challenge you artistically who also have similar goals and do everything you can to get agents to attend the performances!

Auditioning for drama school can be a very good idea as it gives you structure for three years and allows you to learn a great deal in a small amount of time if you apply yourself. I can’t say I applied myself in all areas at NIDA as much as I should have. Good schools are NIDA, WAAPA and QUT. Before you set out into the professional world of acting and while you are still at school, allow yourself time to create. To be creative. Watch movies and ask yourself more questions about why something was so arresting or moving. Why do I love The Matrix? Why do I love Braveheart? What is it about Robert Downey Jr that makes him charming and endearing? A curiosity, a healthy curiosity when considering your fellow man, is imperative. Also, when performing, rehearsing, always be fearless. It will create moments, exchanges, connections and mood in your acting that will liberate you. Surprise yourself. Allow yourself that! Above all else, remember that it’s meant to be fun. If you’re not having fun, you’re doing it wrong. If you’re having fun, you’re half way there or more! Look at what you love about movies or about theatre or music or poetry or carpentry or design or information technology or cooking or mathematics. Look at what you really love about it and ask yourself how you might contribute something to the world that you love in the same way. And then go for it!

What’s the best acting advice you have received?
When in doubt, keep it simple.

What is the most memorable experience of your career to date?
My most memorable moments are probably from the Chronicle shoot when they would hang me eight or ten stories in the air from a crane in downtown Cape Town. I’d look to my right and be looking in the windows of skyscrapers. It was surreal. Like a ride at Disney Land with no admission fee!

What are some of the most challenging situations you have found yourself in on set?
Some of the biggest on set challenges are physical. Being stuck in cold water all day, wearing harnesses, doing fight scenes, chase scenes. Everything you do in film is repeated many times to get multiple takes so physical scenes can take quite a toll on the body. I’ve definitely gone home sporting some impressive bruises in my time.

What is your favourite genre of film to act in? (Question from RGS Year 12 drama student, Ayesha Sharma)?
Hi Ayesha! I honestly couldn’t choose a single favourite genre to act in but I’m also the type of person that has a broad taste as an audience member as well. I love all film genres. The most important thing to me when signing up for a role is that the genre is merely a guideline for a wonderful story. All too often films fall back on typical conventions and cookie cutter characters arcs, tried-and-true plots. I love when a story surprises me. A unique story told well is gold. I also love a successful amalgamation of genres. COWBOYS VS. ALIENS, while perhaps not necessarily considered as ‘high art’ by many, was a wonderful ride because combined two different genres to tell a unique and exciting story.

What are 5 things people might not know about Alex Russell?
* I pick my nose.
* I can’t stand sea urchin.
* The first M rated movie I ever saw (from memory) was Kindergarten Cop and I prided myself that I’d seen an M rated film.
* I’m a hopeless romantic.
* I often learn things the hard way. But I do learn.

Alex Russell Filmography (so far):
Wasted on the Young (2010)
Almost Kings (2010)
The Best Man (short) (2011)
Halloween Knight (short) (2011)
Chronicle (2012)
Bait 3D (2012)
NTSF:SD:SUV (TV-1 ep) (2012)
Love and Dating in LA! (short-director/producer) (2012)
The Host (2013)
Carrie (2013)
Believe Me (2014)
Cut Snake (2014)
Unbroken (2014)
The Grammarian

Zoe mixes travel with helping others

Zoe Spencer (RGS 2012) knows how to travel the world. Not only does she experience new and exciting things, but she also had the opportunity to volunteer in underprivileged communities in southern African countries. Since a young age I had always wanted to travel overseas and volunteer. My friend suggested the company ‘Antipodeans Abroad’ and I researched the site and found a few trips of interest. The trip I finally decided on perusing was one of the most expensive, however I felt that with its broad range of travel opportunities (seeing six countries) would be the most beneficial,” Zoe said. It was an opportunity of a lifetime that also helped brighten the lives of others.

The All Out Africa volunteer spent three months in South Africa, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia, Botswana and Zimbabwe – and thanks to some kind donations from Rockhampton residents before her departure, Zoe has some special gifts for her new found friends. During Zoe’s two weeks in Swaziland the group helped with a soccer tournament – with fundraised money helping purchase soccer equipment including jerseys, boots and training cones. Zoe also helped the children to make more than 100 sandwiches for breakfast and helped cook lunch. Zoe also had the opportunity to help at a pre-school for children aged 3-6.

“The weekdays included attending one of the many small preschools in which are free to all children, many of these children being very under privileged,” Zoe said. “We helped assist in teaching English to children and supervising as the children were provided two meals, for most the only meals they would eat each day. It was also a chance to brush their teeth.

“In the afternoon we would either plan lessons for the next day, have a class in learning the language – which is very hard – or go to the nearby hospital and spend time in the children’s ward entertaining and offering support to not only the children but also to the families.” Zoe also had the opportunity to take in the amazing African countryside and its many adventures. The adventures included visiting a Wildlife Park in Kruger Park, close ups with whales in Mozambique, white water rafting and finally experiencing South Africa – including a shark cage diving.

Once the group arrived in Cape Town, South Africa, the volunteer work resumed at a primary school assisting with teaching classes and conducting the “The Aunty Stella Program”, a program which involved interacting with the children and providing advice on any personal questions they have relating to family, friends or personal development. Zoe also assisted at an after school program.

As soon as she saves some money Zoe would love to travel overseas and volunteer again. In the meantime she is determined to finish her university nursing studies.

All Out Africa is all about volunteer work and adventure travel in southern Africa. While travel is high on the agenda so is the group’s support for social and environmental projects during their travel. The company’s non-profit division has three sections - A Research Unit, Wildlife Fund and a Children’s Fund.

Further information is available at - http://www.alloutafrica.com/
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From Facebook to

It started with a friend posting a photograph of Jessica Earle (RGS 2010) on a Facebook page and it ended with a magazine photo shoot in New York City. “It's bizarre. It's like a dream,” said Jessica, who is back in Rockhampton competing her physiotherapy studies at Central Queensland University. “It was like I was in a TV show.” The Facebook photo was posted when Jessica had been sitting back at home preparing for a holiday in New York City. Her old singing teacher ’liked’ the photo, a friend of her singing teacher saw the photo and asked if Jessica could visit the USA for some modelling. After completing an audition Jessica was one of 13 Australians selected to compete in “ARTS”, a competition in Florida which hosted categories including modelling, singing, dancing, monologues and TV commercials. The 350 contestants were watched by panels of agents representing groups including Disney and Nickelodeon. One curious onlooker quickly spotted Jessica’s potential as a plus sized model and before Jessica knew it she had been offered a modelling shoot in a freezing, snow covered New York City over Christmas. Jessica had previously modelled locally, but this was a new stage. Four photo shoots, one runway show, an eight-page article in the magazine “Behind It”. “I first had to go shopping with the stylist for clothes. I was shopping at 12 o’clock at night and wasn’t home until 1.30am. Then I had a photo shoot at 7.30am. “I had my hair and make-up done in my apartment.” Street scenes with New York’s yellow taxis, iconic New York buildings in the background and posing in a snow covered Central Park – wearing summer clothing – were all part of the experience. “It was -17 degrees and I was wearing summer dresses. I had to lay in the snow in dresses and wear open toe shoes. I did get to keep the clothes!” Modelling is not an easy game. A person’s measurements are openly discussed. It’s a long way from the five-year-old who started dancing before finding a love for singing and acting. “I find modelling the easiest of them all. You don’t have to open your mouth. You just have to be able to take criticism.” Future modelling opportunities are on the drawing board, but Jessica still has a local production of Jesus Christ Superstar to perform in and continue her studies. She also continues as a teacher at the Yeppoon-based dance studio, Devine Drama and Dance, is a private speech and drama teacher and still performs in local chorale shows. “I had planned to be a tourist in New York. I still have to do that.”

Where are you
Past Students upload your contact information so we can take every opportunity to stay in touch with you!
Go to
www.rgs.qld.edu.au/psa-my-details
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Lest we forget

RGS remembers its fallen students

In 1914 Australian soldiers embarked on a World War I (1914 - 1918) campaign which tragically witnessed the loss of over 60,000 lives. Now, 100 years later, we remember all those who served in the armed forces during this campaign. We also remember the students of The Rockhampton Grammar School who bravely fought not only in this campaign but have fought for their country in the years since that time. The Roll of Honour still stands proudly in The Rockhampton Grammar School Memorial Assembly Hall.

Further information on the history of World War I is available on the Australian War Memorial website - http://www.awm.gov.au/atwar/ww1/

Honour Roll

Roger Nicholson Hall
42nd Battalion (Infantry)
28 May, 1918 (aged 22)
France

George Williamson Hartley
15th Battalion (Infantry)
23 June, 1917 (aged 29)
France

John William Murray Hartley
12th Company Australian Machine Gun Corps
9 January, 1917 (aged 25)
France

William Clarence Higson
15th Battalion (Infantry)
8 August, 1915
Gallipoli

Roger Nicholson Hall
42nd Battalion (Infantry)
28 May, 1918 (aged 22)
France

Lindsay Gordon Moller
26th Battalion (Infantry)
10 June, 1918
France

Walter Byron James Pattison
9th Battalion (Infantry)
10 May, 1915 (aged 27)
Egypt

John William Murray Hartley
12th Company Australian Machine Gun Corps
9 January, 1917 (aged 25)
France

Herbert Walter John Rhead
49th Battalion (Infantry)
7 June, 1917 (aged 26)
Belgium

William Clarence Higson
15th Battalion (Infantry)
8 August, 1915
Gallipoli

Charles Frederick Berry
7th Company Machine Gun Corps
5 August, 1916 (aged 22)
France

Harold Edward George Hunter
47th Battalion (Infantry)
22 June, 1919
Australia

Alexander Gordon Robertson
4th Pioneer Battalion
22 June, 1919
Australia

Francis Edward Fairweather
38th Battalion (Infantry)
29 September, 1918 (aged 27)
France

George Wilson Rodgers
9th Battalion (Infantry)
25 August, 1918
France

Ivan Noble Gair
31st Battalion (Infantry)
30 September, 1918 (aged 23)
France

Gordon Andrew Rutherford
47th Battalion (Infantry)
11 April, 1917
France

Wilfred Rotherham Gower
15th Battalion (Infantry)
8 August 1915 (aged 19)
Gallipoli

Lowes Henry Skyring
2nd Light Horse Field Ambulance, Australian Army Medical Corps
9 August, 1918 (aged 21)
Iraq

Kelsey Norman Williams
(pictured below)
11th Brigade Australian Field Artillery
3 August, 1917 (aged 26)
Belgium

Charles William Walker
1st Australian General Hospital
24 September, 1918
Australia

Francis Edmond White
9th Battalion (Infantry)
23 July, 1916 (aged 19)
France

Kelsey Norman Williams
(pictured below)
11th Brigade Australian Field Artillery
3 August, 1917 (aged 26)
Belgium

John Riggall Blair
Australian Flying Corps
26 January, 1918 (aged 26)
France

Geoffrey George Broome
15th Battalion (Infantry)
18 May, 1915 (aged 18)
Gallipoli

Harold Robert Lyne Colquhoun
15th Battalion (Infantry)
27 August, 1915
Gallipoli

Kelsey Norman Williams
(pictured below)
11th Brigade Australian Field Artillery
3 August, 1917 (aged 26)
Belgium

Evan Charles Russell Evans
46th Battalion (Infantry)
18 September, 1918 (aged 22)
France

David Milne Turner
49th Battalion (Infantry)
3 September, 1916
France

Harold Robert Lyne Colquhoun
15th Battalion (Infantry)
27 August, 1915
Gallipoli

Kelsey Norman Williams
(pictured below)
11th Brigade Australian Field Artillery
3 August, 1917 (aged 26)
Belgium

Frederick Charles Berry
7th Company Machine Gun Corps
5 August, 1916 (aged 22)
France

Reuben Park Bradley
1st Australian General Hospital
24 September, 1918
Australia

David Milne Turner
49th Battalion (Infantry)
3 September, 1916
France

Kelsey Norman Williams
(pictured below)
11th Brigade Australian Field Artillery
3 August, 1917 (aged 26)
Belgium

John Riggall Blair
Australian Flying Corps
26 January, 1918 (aged 26)
France

George Vernon Tilbury
28th Battalion
30 July, 1916 (aged 19)
France

Earle William Colquhoun
15th Battalion (Infantry)
27 August, 1915
Gallipoli

Kelsey Norman Williams
(pictured below)
11th Brigade Australian Field Artillery
3 August, 1917 (aged 26)
Belgium

Francis Edmond White
9th Battalion (Infantry)
23 July, 1916 (aged 19)
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Charles William Walker
1st Australian General Hospital
24 September, 1918
Australia

Francis Edmond White
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23 July, 1916 (aged 19)
France

Kelsey Norman Williams
(pictured below)
11th Brigade Australian Field Artillery
3 August, 1917 (aged 26)
Belgium

Clifford James Williams
11th Battalion (Infantry)
8 August, 1917 (aged 24)
Gallipoli

Kelsey Norman Williams
(pictured below)
11th Brigade Australian Field Artillery
3 August, 1917 (aged 26)
Belgium

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23 July, 1916 (aged 19)
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Charles William Walker
1st Australian General Hospital
24 September, 1918
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Francis Edmond White
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3 August, 1917 (aged 26)
Belgium

Francis Edmond White
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23 July, 1916 (aged 19)
France

Kelsey Norman Williams
(pictured below)
11th Brigade Australian Field Artillery
3 August, 1917 (aged 26)
Belgium
War memories still stir emotions

It has been over 70 years since Neville Hewitt (RGS 1936) experienced World War II. Those memories remain fresh in his 93-year-old mind and they still bring a tear to his eye.

“I'm the luckiest man in the world to be here today,” Neville says.

Neville finished his school days at The Rockhampton Grammar School in 1936, when 93 boys attended the school. He would enlist in the Air Force in 1941.

Neville sits at The Rockhampton Grammar School’s 2014 ANZAC Service wearing no medals on his jacket – they only come out on ANZAC Day.

“I still hate talking about it. “It was 11 April 1943.”

Neville was a tail air gunner in a Wellington bomber when his crew were shot down on a mission over Northern Africa forcing the crew to bail out.

Neville landed in no-man's land – between the allies and enemy lines. Lying there with broken ankles Neville went for four and a half days without water before he was rescued by Grenadier Guards (an infantry regiment of the British Army).

Unable to walk, Neville had to crawl towards safety – only able to move at night. He made it back safely and was admitted to hospital.

Neville would later find out the rest of his crew had landed uninjured. He pauses to catch his breath and wipe his face. On 29 April 1943 his crew, plus Neville’s replacement tail gunner, returned to the skies for another mission. They never made it back.

“I went back flying and finished flying in North Africa.”

Neville was awarded a Military Medal for initiative, courage and fortitude. Returning from the war he returned to the family property near Theodore and was a Country Party Member, representing the region from 1956 – 1980. Rockhampton’s newer bridge is named after the war veteran and politician.

Joining Neville at this year’s service were fellow RGS “Old Boys” Jack Derrington (RGS 1943), Lance Fairweather (RGS 1945) and Frank Luck (RGS 1945). While Jack, Lance and Frank didn’t serve active duties they still remember the war days during their Schooling at RGS. They had a different perspective watching the war unfold from the schoolyard.

Frank Luck remembers the students lining up against the School fence watching the planes coming in.

“There were Kittyhawk fighters and other planes bringing up the soldiers to go to New Guinea. I remember all the Americans here. We had 60,000 American soldiers camped here in Rockhampton,” Frank recalls.

“I always looked forward to leaving School and joining the Army. It was a boy’s ambition. The war finished before I came of age.”

Lance also recalls the Americans in Rockhampton.

“We always had three or four Americans at our house all the time for dinner. I also remember they kept me supplied with Coca Cola and chewing gum.”

Jack Derrington, an RGS Old Boys Association past president and founder of the former RGS Parents and Friends Association, turned 18 in May of 1945 and immediately enlisted with the Air Force. He never saw a shot fired in anger.

He had been Corporal of the Number 2 Platoon of the RGS Cadets before completing three months of flying training before being told they didn’t need any more air crew. Also studying to be an accountant Jack was moved into an administration role with an engineer squadron.

“I only had one year in the service, but it was a wonderful experience in terms of the training, learning and respect.”
Schoolday memories

with George Pratt (RGS 1958-59)

Arriving at Rockhampton Grammar School in early 1958 with my father, Mr Jardine was the first Master I met and also the Headmaster. This was in his dark conservative office and my first impression was he would be a real disciplinarian. However, the interview went well, but nearly everything seemed compulsory.

Those two years at Rockhampton Grammar School were by far the best two years of my school life. These were also very impressionable years being only 15 and 16 years of age and coming out of the State system. It was also in part of the Jardine era, and was the bread and jam of the school, certainly not the school I saw in 2008. Everything was like being in the Army, very regimental, and Mr Jardine even resembled an Army Major out of uniform with his walking gait and deep voice. Everything was done by the bell, waking up, assembly, change over of classes and prep, or study time.

As each sporting season started everyone was shown how to play and expected to participate. This included swimming, with a coach coming up from Rockhampton township, athletics, debating, Army Cadets, and even boxing.

How many lives would have been saved by learning to swim properly and handle a rifle safely? One boy was exempt from Army Cadets, he was allergic to khaki (jungle green), and even wore grey at classes, as khaki being our school uniform.

The new boy rule was also strictly enforced, and even if you were a Senior in your first year, a boy who had been at the school over a year, irrespective of age, had priority over the senior in lineups and other privileges.

Our best Master in our Junior year, even though he was studying for a Degree, could not have taught at a State School. Some Masters with MA’s and BA’s were not as understood. Mr Jardine taught us Chemistry and Algebra and although we actually feared him, he was firm but fair. He certainly showed his authority, even to the other Masters by running well over the 40 minute time limit for periods of class time, thus cutting back their time. Sometimes Master Jardine’s punishment boarded on cruelty, as it started in the detention line outside the office with a couple of blows to the head with his Chemistry and Algebra books, to a good caning on the hands and a couple on the legs on the way out of the door for maybe good measure.

I actually saw a few 18 reduced to tears and they were men, not boys. I honestly have no issue at all with this punishment as we all survived, as a well known Italian grazier here (Mackay district) used to say, ‘give me the boys and I make the Mans out of them’.

Maybe in many cases the cane should be introduced. I forgave Mr Jardine for most of the punishment after reading the Centenary Book (RGS, 1881-1980) where he had a bad heart condition for all those years. His favourites seemed to be the boys who did well at rugby league and Army Cadets. We must give him credit for all he did and introduced to the School and the many great experiences, and very valuable things we learned such as comradeship, manners, sportsmanship, and how to get on with your fellow man.

Even the embarrassment of the dancing lessons at the Girls Grammar School will not be forgotten, as they proved to be really valuable later in life. One of Mr Jardine’s quotes from the 1958 School Directory Capricornus, “A very necessary part of the boys mental growth seems to me to be the development of poise and confidence and through self expression, and with this end in view we have continued the Grammar School learning program”.

George Pratt
Mt Ossa

The RGS Past Students’ Association would like to keep you updated on upcoming events at the School, including School Reunions. Please contact Rachael McDonald at rmcdonald@rgs.qld.edu.au to update your contact details so we can keep in touch with you.
Back to School

Life of a US college football star

Jamie Keehn (RGS 2006) is the starting punter with the Louisiana State University Tigers in the USA. With two more years left at LSU, Jamie is fast attracting the attention of big league American Football scouts. Back at RGS in May, Jamie is a world away from college football.

Life at Louisiana is playing in front of home crowds of 95,000 people in their $20 million home stadium which includes a nutrition station, weights and x-ray facilities and having up to 900 media scrambling to cover some games.

“Our smallest crowds are about 67,000 and we played in front of 104,000 against Alabama,” Jamie said.

And then there is his valuable LSU scholarship which covers his accommodation, food and tuition for his sports management degree, with a business minor. His extensive football costs are covered on top of that.

“It was all a bit mind blowing at the start,” said Jamie, who still has great memories of his rowing days at RGS. Growing up in Australia Jamie also excelled in athletics and played soccer, cricket and AFL during his time in Victoria, where his American Football potential was first spotted.

“It was hard learning the rules, wearing pads and 3kg helmets and a face mask. Also, every time you walk down the shops someone wants a photo with you or your autograph. “Game days are crazy.” This was Jamie’s first visit back to RGS since his sister Emily’s graduation in 2009.

“A lot is still the same, but there’s also been lots of improvements.”

Jamie was back in a training camp earlier this month before entering two months of off-season training followed by four weeks of training and fitness. He will then be ready to start the new season.

Living a School law dream

During his school days Duncan Galton (RGS 2006) always wanted to work in the legal profession and now he works as a barrister for John Gerard Chambers.

Returning to The Rockhampton Grammar School, Duncan sits in a Year 9 mathematics class with Mrs Aileen Kelly (pictured below), the same person who taught him that subject during his RGS school days.

Duncan to this day still thinks Mrs Kelly is a great teacher, but he still has no interest in mathematics.

At School Duncan loved oratory and was “terrible” at sport, but he always had his eye on working as hard as he could to gain entry to law studies – eventually finding his place at the Queensland University of Technology.

“If you work for it you’ll get it,” Duncan said.

“Being a barrister I enjoy the electrifying atmosphere in the court room.”

During his return to RGS Duncan also caught up with Mr David Taylor and other staff from his school days.

Leadership duties at uni

The Residential Colleges at the University of Queensland are currently under the watchful leadership of some former Rockhampton Grammar School students.

Isabeau Smith (RGS 2011) returned to RGS on 22 April to meet with current students and parents to discuss residential college options for prospective university students in 2015.

Isabeau, at the University of Queensland’s Grace College, has held a number of leadership positions within the college many of which she was prepared for due to the leadership opportunities she had at School. Like at School, Isabeau moved up through the roles starting as touch and water polo convenor and O’Week committee member in her second year. She now has a lead role as Sports Convenor on the college’s student club executive. Isabeau oversees full control of all things sport with the 180 girls at Grace College. She manages a team of heads of respective sports, all of which are involved in the Inter-College Cup (ICC). She also works with other UQ college sports convenors and UQ Sport. This year Isabeau also initiated a Boot Camp with a professional PT One afternoon a week, a run club and is working on a college gym upgrade.

Isabeau is in her third year of a Bachelor of Health, Sport and Physical Education.

“This was not my first choice when I left school but throughout my first year I realised by passion for it and am absolutely loving it.”

Isabeau will soon return to Rockhampton for teaching prac and eventually wants to travel to Canada to explore what winer sports can offer.

“You’ll nevery truly succeed at professional life if you don’t make time for yourself and have a personal one as well.”

Next edition: Meet Tamasin McArthur
Anna Hetherington (nee Shannon, RGS 1977 - 80) grew up in a house of three brothers on their Ilfracombe district property so entering an all-girls school in Year 8, while her eldest brother was at another school in Rockhampton, was a difficult concept. “I found it hard being in a female factory,” Anna said.

“There was the three foot rule that we weren’t allowed to be within three foot of the perimeter fence or boys! For someone who had grown up with brothers, this seemed really strange but as a mother I obviously have more sympathy for the rule now!

It’s 1976 and later that year the Rockhampton Grammar School announces that girls will be returning to the School in 1977 – after a 92 year absence. Girls had started at the School in 1881 and remained until the girls section was closed in 1885. Anna said her mum (Patricia) was always keen for her daughter to attend school with her brothers. “Having us together at one school was always going be easier for the family.”

Mr Geedrick was waiting at the gates on that first day of school at co-educational RGS.

“His warm greeting of ‘Hello Mr and Mrs Shannon, nice to see you, is there anything we can help you with?’ had my mother, who had was battling the age old “getting kids back to school” blues, on the verge of tears of relief. Such a welcoming atmosphere. For the students, Mr Geedrick was the glue that held the school together. He was very firm but very fair and I adored my chats with him. Everyone knew that Jimmy would sort a problem out swiftly and that nothing would escape his notice. He made a huge impact on my life and that of many others.

Joining Anna on that first day of School in 1977 were her friends from Girls Grammar – Helen Letchford (now Reinke) and Shirley Moretti (now Blackburn) – all three girls had brothers at RGS.

The boarding girls called Boland wing their new home in 1977 before the following year entering their new girls boarding dorm.

“I still remember the excitement and I have a letter I wrote to family friends full of excitement about the new dorm that was being built just for us! Apparently beds that lifted up to store bags underneath, as well as our own desk & mirror each was something to really look forward to!” Anna said.

“That first year was full of adventures as the school adjusted to girls in their midst. We all felt like we were at the beginning of something new and different. Initially, the teachers called us Miss Shannon, Miss Letchford, Miss Moretti…. but that soon reverted to Christian names.”

“The girls uniform had a few interesting designs including a horrid pill box red beret. I remember leading a delegation of protestors to see the board and lobby why we should get rid of our red berets. They were ridiculous – a red beret in tropical Queensland. I think I was in Year 10. We lobbied and were successful.

“For me, being in a school with both boys and girls felt normal. My brothers and I have always enjoyed each other’s company and I was able to spend time with them and their friends.” My elder brother & I loved rowing and loved being out on the river in the early mornings. (Continued next page)
Returning to School in 1977 was Year 11 student Ian Coombe who had first started at the all-boys school in 1974. Anna’s memories of Ian – “Ian was the elder brother of Mark and Brett in my year. I looked up to Ian he was always ready with a laugh but very kind and he has remained a great friend over the years since school. In those school years, he was someone who lived and breathed rugby of course. What Coombe doesn’t!”

Ian still calls Anna a friend today. “She was a pretty lively girl, still is today, and spoke what she thought,” Ian said.

Ian was one of four Coombe boys to board at RGS and his younger sister also boarded at the School. He was a School Prefect in his final year in 1978. “When I started school it was footy and more footy. Everything revolved around sport. We trained every day except Thursday when we had cadets. It was very regimented. The same meal on the same night of each week – roast on Tuesday and Thursday, fish on Friday. We always got a carton of milk at night and after dinner prep was in a classroom. Ian lived in Palmer wing for five years – today it is home to girls boarding and science labs.

“Ritamada visits were still a separate trip for boys and girls. “The boys were a bit disappointed in that. We thought they (girls) had a flasher set up (boarding house) than us, we thought they got looked after a bit more.” Even though RGS was now co-ed they remained the minority Ian still had to write a letter to Girls Grammar in his last year of School to find a date for his School Formal. “No texting or mobile phones in those days.”

For bush kids, it felt like a bit of nature and freedom to start the day. RGS was a much smaller school back then and the girls were definitely in the minority. Anna was the only girl in a class of 25 for business principles in room M6.

By the time Anna was a Prefect in 1980 more girls had arrived at the School, but she still enjoyed the integration between Year levels – not just students all in the same Year level. “Having the older students to be mentored by, and the younger year levels to mentor, helps you to grow through boarding school years I think.”

“I think having girls lightened the atmosphere at the school. Some liked it, some didn’t.”

Overseeing the transition was then Headmaster Mr Arthur Butler, a man described by Anna with “fair, firm and innovative leadership at the helm of RGS”.

“He had his work cut out for him as he led the changes back to a Co-Ed school. I had a lot of respect for Arthur and his wife Carol, still do.

“Not everyone was enthusiastic about the idea of Co-ed, nor sure that it would be a success. “We can’t have been all that bad. In my year 12 year book, one long serving RGS teacher, who has only retired from the school in recent years, wrote “If we had to have girls at this school, I’m glad it was you and your lot!”

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“We had a big open room with rows of double bunks with a locker at each end of the bed. “I felt homesick when I started but once I was involved with co-curriculum it made a big difference.”

Then Headmaster Mr Arthur Butler was Ian’s first rugby coach in under-13s. “I started in the front row and stayed there for the next 30 years.”

Ian remembers the talk about the girls coming to RGS the year before in 1976.

“Some people didn’t want it but plenty said they were happy for the girls to be here.”

“A lot of the girls I met in 77 I’d still call friends today. “When the girls arrived there were less fights – the ones Jimmy (Geedrick) didn’t catch us at, and certainly there were a lot of blokes trying to impress girls. There was also less swearing. “It did change the environment. It wasn’t rugby every day.

“We were talking to girls after school. “Ritamada visits were still a separate trip for boys and girls. “The boys were a bit disappointed in that. We thought they (girls) had a flasher set up (boarding house) than us, we thought they got looked after a bit more.”

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Sasha’s golden haul at rowing nationals

Sasha Belonogoff (RGS 2007) has a goal - to represent Australia in rowing at the 2016 Olympic Games in Brazil. His nationals campaign in March was a step in the right direction with Sasha winning gold medals in the National Championships Men’s Single Scull, as well as gold in the Australian men’s quadruple scull that won gold in the World Rowing Cup event. An added surprise at his national titles medal presentation was that at one of his gold medal presentations the medals were presented by current RGS rowers - (pictured above, from left) Isobel Chisholm, Georgia Saunders and Kate McAuley.

Former students still show the way

Past students leaders continue to demonstrate their leadership qualities in the broader community. Lachlan Hughes (‘99), Ryan Anderson (‘00), Neil Farmer (‘01) and Emily Keehn (‘09) have featured on the front page of The Morning Bulletin, in recent months. Here are their stories:

Lachlan Hughes (20 Feb.) – Beating the drought: Lachlan and his wife Anna run 7000 Angus-cross cattle over Banchory Station (Clermont), Crescendo (Capella), Dulacca Downs and Heatherlea (Dulacca). The Hughes’ are one of six beef and sheep meat producers from across Australia competing in the inaugural Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) Challenge to improve productivity on their farm. In the second quarter judging the Hughes’ achieved daily weight gains of up to 1.4kg for 500 backgrounder cattle.

Ryan Anderson (18 Feb.) – Protecting the environment: Ryan and fellow Hedlow Creek landowners were forced to close off one of the region’s most beautiful camping spots due to the ugly actions of a few. Over the years they had allowed people to camp on their properties and share nature’s gift but became fed up with having to pick up rubbish and watching the run-off of sediment, pesticides and nutrients into the Fitzroy River system. Capitalising on Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA) funding, Neil put in 11km of fencing, 3.5km of poly pipe, two 5000 gallon tanks and a solar pump for stock water. Before the work cattle would get stuck in the muddy ground around the lagoon after floods. The poly pipe now allows cattle to access water away from the lagoon while the tanks provide water to five of their paddocks. Cattle reduction around the lagoon has also prevented further erosion, improved bank stability and increased grass cover.

Emily Keehn (5 March) – Olympic dreams. Emily is taking the first steps towards her 2016 Olympic dream after the heptathlete fractured her foot at last year’s Australian Athletics Championships. After months in a moon boot, physiotherapy and fitness work, Emily is back on track in her Olympic quest. Next year the sporting all-rounder will build towards the Queensland, Australian and World Championships.

The Grammarian

RGS today...

Here is a snapshot of what is happening at your School today:

School Buildings:
The Beasley Centre was officially opened by the Governor of Queensland, Ms Penelope Wensley AC, on 23 June, 2014. This building was named in honour of RGS Chair of the Board of Trustees, and former past student Brad Beasley (RGS 1975). The building is located on Quarry Street and this year became home to two year levels of primary school students, the primary school administration and out of hours school care.

Agriculture:
RGS has teamed up with AgForce and CQ University Australia to enhance agriculture education at the School. Current RGS Headmaster Dr Phillip Moulds said the School was committed to the next generation of land professionals. RGS will access the resources of AgForce’s Belmont Station, the former CSIRO research facility at Etna Creek, and will develop new Agriculture education pathways, with plans to introduce a Certificate III in Agricultural Science from 2015 as well as students’ taking university-level courses. The joint venture was officially launched by Governor of Queensland Ms Penelope Wensley AC, opened by the Governor of Queensland, Ms Penelope Wensley AC, and also joined the Australian men’s quadruple scull that won gold in the World Rowing Cup event.

An added surprise at his national titles medal presentation was that at one of his gold medal presentations the medals were presented by current RGS rowers - (pictured above, from left) Isobel Chisholm, Georgia Saunders and Kate McAuley.

Dancing:
RGS has announced the establishment of The Rockhampton Grammar School Dance and Musical Theatre Academy to start in 2015. The Academy will be under the direction of Michael Robertson, a current Year 2 teacher who also runs his own dance studio. Mr Robertson will become RGS Head of Dance from 2015. The Academy is open to both RGS students and students who do not attend the School. The Academy will build upon the School’s already extensive Drama, Music and Arts programmes.
Doctor cures medical ambition

Dr Geoff Cashion (RGS, 1989) has a new business and is about to have a new child, but finds himself right at home at Rockhampton.

Geoff left Rockhampton as a 17-year-old having graduated from RGS to pursue a business career. Fast track 24 years and Geoff now finds himself owning the new Allenstown Medical Centre. A place where he spent many hours of his school days pushing trollies at Woolworths to earn some extra cash.

“Rockhampton hasn't changed. The population might have grown but it's still a great regional town with beautiful houses, great schools and access to Brisbane and anywhere around Australia,” Geoff said.

Allenstown Medical Centre opened its doors on 16 December last year and now has eight doctors, including three full-time doctors, along with part-time doctors and locums. Medicine is an intellectually challenging profession. You become a part of people’s lives. You get great variety in your day working with people of different ages with different conditions.”

Geoff has found his career niche in life – a life which already included working for National Australia Bank, employed in boys boarding at Brisbane Boys College and he pursued his musical passion as a singer/songwriter.

Medicine was not an option for Geoff post school. He admits he didn’t get the grades and his line of study had him heading in a direction towards business ambitions. In his final year of school he still received an academic Speech Night prize for topping accounting. The business studies have today helped him set up his own business.

“I had a great bunch of friends (at school) who were all pretty academic and high achievers – not like me. I enjoyed my sport playing rugby in my junior years and Australian Football in Years 11 and 12 (gaining Central Queensland selection in Year 12) and I had supportive teachers like Arthur Kelly (maths) and John Cotterell (Headmaster).”

After studying a business degree at QUT Geoff worked as a loans manager (National Australia Bank) for almost four years. “I decided I didn’t want to do that anymore,” Geoff said.

He was working in boarding at Brisbane Boys College in his mid-20s when he sat back and thought he didn’t have any rent, expenses or other great commitments so maybe now was the time to study.”

Medicine was his preferred university study choice. “I wanted a challenge and wanted to work for myself.”

Returning to study meant returning to QUT and starting from scratch on the subjects of chemistry, physics and biology. Sciences he never studied at school.

“I surprised myself and was actually good at them. I just scraped through my business degree.”

Geoff found it easier getting back into study a second time round – this time he had a passion for this line of study.

Geoff was 24 when he decided he wanted to get into medicine, two years later after additional studies at the University of Queensland and interviews he started his medical degree and finished as a qualified doctor as a 30-year-old. He has since worked as a General Practitioner and as an emergency physician.

In the last 18 months, before opening in Allenstown, Geoff worked at Rockhampton Base Hospital where he was still based in Sydney and travelled home every two weeks to see his partner. He was getting sick of the travel and wanted to be closer to his family in the Rockhampton area.

One thing Geoff doesn't have time for after successfully starting the new business is his music.


“Vanessa Amorosi provided backing vocals for Threads. I recorded Get Up at Pete Murray’s home studio in northern NSW and worked with acclaimed producers Anthony Lycenko (Pete Murray, Busby Barou) and Steve Scanlon (Vanessa Amorosi, Kate Ceberano, Killing Heidi).”

Geoff toured nationally for two years, signed publishing deals in Australia and the USA and also lived briefly in Los Angeles pursuing music.

He still loves his music, but Geoff is listening to a beat of a different kind for today.

Moore’s RGS rugby days lead to Wallabies captaincy

Former RGS student Stephen Moore (RGS 1996) endured a tough debut as Wallabies captain when the Australians met France recently.

Stephen, who attended RGS from 1993 - 1996 before finishing his schooling at Brisbane Boys Grammar, only lasted five minutes into the game before he was sidelined with a knee injury. An injury which rules him out of playing for the rest of the year.
The Grammarian

Fun and fashion at RGS Race Day

Once again The Rockhampton Grammar School Race Day at Rockhampton’s Callaghan Park was a big success with over 400 people in attendance. In the fashion stakes Brian Perry (RGS 2004) was named best dressed man, while under-30 ladies winner was Sarah Becker (RGS 2000), Classic lady winner was Vicky Meirs and best millinery winner was RGS parent Tracey Sweeney. A special thanks to all our supporters on the day, including Escape Travel who generously donated the gate prize of 2 tickets and a night’s accommodation in Brisbane for State of Origin Game 3. The lucky winner was Mrs Karen Tennent, wife of past student Barry (RGS 1969) and mother of past student Meleisha Tennent (RGS 2003). Also a special thanks to all the RGS staff and students who generously gave up their time to help set-up for the Race Day and once again provide quality service throughout the afternoon. Staff and students assisted with food and drink service, setting up and providing music on the day.

(above) Fashions of the Field winners with judge Mrs Kerry Peel (second from right), Brian Perry, Sarah Becker, Vicky Meirs and Tracey Sweeney; (below) Geoff Hadwen, Zander Armstrong (RGS 2011), Cameron Morgan (RGS 2011), Tyron Currie (RGS 2011) and Stewart Norford.

(Left) RGS 2013: (from left) Indianna Fawcett, Billie Thorne, Catherine Irwin.

(Below) Stephen Crawford (RGS 1990) and Eden Keleher

(Above): Scott Wilson (RGS 1987) and wife Fiona.

(Below) Sharon McKee, RGS Headmaster Dr Phillip Moulds and Brittany Lauga (RGS 2003, nee McKee)

Sarah Walsh (RGS 2011) and Alexandra Barlow (RGS 2013)

Mark (RGS 1982) and MaryAnn Birkbeck.

Meleisha (RGS 2003) and mum Karen Tennent.

Pieta Boadle (RGS 1993) and Sandii Leitch, nee Adams (RGS 1993)
Ian gets the right dose for business

Business entrepreneur Ian Kinsey (RGS 1978) had some challenging years as a child growing up in Blackall.

It's a far cry from the pharmacist who has also branched out into a diverse range of business interests – his latest venture is opening a Go Vita and SPAR Supermarket in Rockhampton.

"Until Grade 5 I never even knew the alphabet. Basically a teacher in Grade 5 inspired me to learn and I have enjoyed education since," Ian said.

It was tough times for a young Ian in Blackall. His father was a wool presser, his mother was on home duties and he had four other siblings.

Ian's parents died in 1974, his mother one month after his father passed. Ian was in Grade 8.

"Up until my parents death in 1974 I had never left Blackall or Isisford and had never seen television," Ian said.

"My father and mother were educated until Grade 7. I was the first in my family to complete an education up to Grade 12 and go on to university."

During Ian's secondary school education Blackall did not have Grade 11 and 12 so he elected to finish his schooling at The Rockhampton Grammar School because of the free train travel then on the Midlander.

"At the time, Legacy and the orphans pension and government allowances allowed me to pay and come to Grammar."

After gaining the required TE (Tertiary Entrance) score to become a pharmacy student Ian furthered his journey at the University of Queensland – again fighting to secure enough funds to study while working part time as a telegram boy with Australia Post. He completed his Bachelor of Pharmacy in 1981. The same course and the same university his son Nicholas (RGS 2013) has now started his career aspirations.

"If I hadn't gone to Grammar, and finished school in Grade 10, I most probably would have gone to work at the post office or in a bank. There would have been no chance of becoming a business owner. The Grammar made me realise my potential and believe that anything was possible."

"It was only when my son went to the Grammar that I fully realised the influence the Rockhampton Grammar had on my life and my career path."

Post-university Ian returned to his home town of Blackall and opened Ian Kinsey Outback Chemist. The business remains in Blackall today.

His business interests soon branched out into a 5 Star Supermarket, 2 clothing stores (Outback Emporium and The Zoo) and a furniture store which Ian is currently transitioning to a Tree of Life Home and Gift Store to keep the business viable.

"I basically saw opportunities to purchase premises that became available for below replacement value and was able to start businesses that I could create that met the community's needs," Ian said.

Over the past 32 years Ian has also owned a video store, travel agent, toy store, other pharmacies, Thrifty Link Hardware, a cinema, Retravision store and a Homemakers Furniture store.

His latest venture is in Fitzroy Street, Rockhampton.

"Today customers are looking for healthy alternatives and by combining an organise supermarket with a normal supermarket next door I hope to create a unique shopping experience for Rockhampton and surrounding districts."

SWAT (Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, Threats) analysis has been completed, the construction has started, site visits to other similar business ventures around the State are complete and Ian's working with a local graphic design team to brand the business.

**Back at School: Ian shared his vision for the new venture with RGS Year 10 business students in Term 1.**
RGS Reunions
The Rockhampton Grammar School has already welcomed home the Classes of 1984 (16-18 May 2014) and 2004 (16-18 May).
From 27-29 June the RGS old boys from 1960-1965 will return to School and the Class of 1994’s 20 year reunion will be held on Saturday, 2 August.
This reunion includes a School tour and BBQ function at the RGS Rowing Club.
Anyone interested in attending the Class of 1994 reunion can contact reunion coordinator Danielle Shaw (nee McKee) at 1994rgs@gmail.com
If you have milestone reunions approaching in 2015 please get in touch with the School for any assistance. Please contact RGS Communications and Development Officer Rachael McDonald at rmcdonald@rgs.qld.edu.au or phone 4936 0776.
The annual RGS Brisbane function will next year be held on Saturday, 2 May, 2015, at the Brisbane Irish Club in Elizabeth Street.
For further information or to book a start at the function please contact Lance Currie at lcurrence@yahoo.com
We also want to hear from any Past Students who currently live in Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra or Townsville.
Please contact Rachael with details.

Reunion Calendar:
- Class of 1994 (2 August 2014)
- Class of 1995 (2015. Date TBA)

RGS Brisbane function
RGS past students converged on the Brisbane Irish Club in early April for the annual Brisbane catch-up. Thanks to Lance Currie for organising the event.
If you missed this one the next event is on Saturday, 2 May, 2015.

(June 4, 2015) The Grammarian
Past students from the Class of 1984

Past students from the Class of 2004

(Below left) Tanya Johnson (nee Holding) and Sarah Aldous (nee Croucher).
(Below right) Nicole Cross, Emma Ireland-Jones and Lauren Daniels.

Peter Marshall, Paul Bickford, Carl Scott, John McDougall, Ian Dearden, Peter Ford.

Graham Barr, Gordon Pullar, Stan Wainwright.

Jules Guerassimoff, Neil Russell
Vale - Diana McLellan (nee Foster)

Diana McLellan (nee Foster, RGS 1978) was both a very passionate student and supporter of The Rockhampton Grammar School. Diana was one of the first girls to return to the School in 1977. Completing her Senior year in 1978, Diana was also a School prefect and rowed for RGS. Diana was also an RGS parent with her three children attending the School - Alaina (RGS 2001), Conrad (RGS 2006) and Hadrian (RGS 2008). This connection to the School continued with Diana’s involvement with the RGS Past Students’ Association. Diana was a regular meeting attendee from the inception of the Association in 2002. She was also a committee member (2003-2004), treasurer (2008-2001) and President (2011) before her health forced her to step down from the position. Diana was also on the inaugural RGS Race Day Committee in 2004 and each year thereafter, save for two years when illness prevented her involvement.

1960s School Memories

The RGS students of the 1960 - 65 era immensely enjoyed our 50 Year reunion at the School on 27-28 June. Most of us had not seen each other for 50 years and, as we gathered on Friday morning, familiar faces did not always immediately lead to names and the most common question as we arrived was - “Who is that person?” followed by “Of course”!!! Thus beginning many long and enjoyable conversations filled with memories, stories and jokes whilst we discovered where everyone had been and what they had done in all the intervening years. School tours and a trip to Ritamada were of great interest to observe the extraordinary, impressive and well integrated development of the extensive school buildings and resources leaving us with a very firm belief that it must be one the best resourced and managed schools in Qld - a leader in education with a strong vision for the future. Enrolment numbers which just about blew us away are a great endorsement of the School. Nevertheless, we found our familiar places and buildings from the 50s and 60’s. A wonderful Reunion Dinner in the Memorial Assembly Hall was a great finale for our weekend. We had an opportunity to acknowledge the people who had apologised and, especially, remember our nine classmates lost in the 1960 aircraft disaster in Mackay. Meeting with our now retired teachers Jack Lanham, Rod Deeth and Martin Linnane was real highlight and very special along with apologies from Rom Hayes in Albury. We thoroughly appreciated the support from Phillip Moulds, Stewart Norford and Rachael McDonald. We must meet again but we cannot leave it 50 years!

- Geoff McIntyre (RGS 1957-1962)
The Grammarian

Births, Vale and Marriages

MARRIAGES

Anthony Keating (RGS 2007) and Hayley Dillon (RGS 2007) were married at Spicers Clovelly Estate, in Montville, on 10 May. They were joined by family and friends before heading to the Maldives and Malaysia for their honeymoon. Anthony and Hayley now live in Melbourne.

Joshua Kapernick (RGS 2003) married Natasha McKee at Mercure Resort Yeppoon on 12 March.

Vale


John Collins (RGS 1961) - Passed away 30 March, 2014. Father of RGS past students Neville (RGS 1991), Grant (RGS 1995) and Mark (RGS 2000).

BABIES

Kate Atkinson (RGS 2001, nee Lee) and husband Cameron Atkinson (former Head of Wheatley House at RGS) welcomed their second daughter Olivia Skye Atkinson on 12 February this year.

Olivia is a sister for Matilda Atkinson, 2-year-old. The family now lives in Sydney. (Pictured below) Olivia and big sister Matilda.

Anna Sleeman (RGS 1997, nee Miller) and husband Andrew welcomed to their family Max Andrew Sleeman on 12 March this year. Max is the adored baby brother of three-year-old Ariel. The family lives in Brisbane.

Sarah Miller (RGS 1997) and Dave Hayter were married at Maleny Manor on 9 March. Sarah and Dave honeymooned in Sri Lanka and the Maldives. They live in Brisbane.

RGS 1st XV in Blackall (1964). Peter Rose provided the photo and some names: (13) Ian Osborn, Kwago Gura, (10) Peter Rose, John Pilkington (second from right), (2) David Gill; (front, from left) Bob Sayce, John Behan, (far left) Daryl Jeffries. Do you know the names of other players?

From the archives...

Events Calendar
• 30 June - 4 July - Confraternity Rugby League and QISSN (Qld Independent Secondary Schools Netball) at the Gold Coast.
• 8-10 July - AgGrow Field Days (Emerald).
• 2 August - RGS 20 Year Reunion (Contact: Danielle Shaw (nee McKee) at 1994rgs@gmail.com)
• 8-10 August - RGS Middle/Senior School Musical - The Addams Family (Pilbeam Theatre)
• 9-10 September - Westech Field Days (Barcaldine)
• 12-13 September - RGS Primary School Musical - The Little Mermaid (Pilbeam Theatre)
• 22 October - RGS Past Students’ function in Townsville. Contact Rachael at rmcdonald@rgs.qld.edu.au
• 30 October - RGS Distinguished Past Student Award nominations close
• 4 November - RGS Past Students’ function in Canberra. Contact Rachael at rmcdonald@rgs.qld.edu.au

2015:
• 21 March - RGS Distinguished Past Students’ Dinner at RGS
• 4-9 May - Beef Australia, Rockhampton (Visit the RGS display and watch our Show Team compete)