Welcome Past Students’ Association Newsletter

Welcome to the March 2016 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 future newsletters 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.

From the President

Meleisha Tennent (RGS, 2003)

2016 is already beginning to look like a bumper year for events, with the RGS Past Students’ Association Race Day Committee finalising plans for the 2016 Race Day to be held on Saturday, 7 May 2016. This is always a great day and we welcome any of the alumni years looking to organise a reunion to consider joining us for a day out at the Callaghan Park racecourse.

The second RGS Distinguished Past Student Award Dinner was held on 12 March 2016 in the School’s Memorial Assembly Hall. Thank you to all those who attended and congratulations to all past students acknowledged on the night. Also, thank you to RGS Past Students’ Association Vice President Jason Smyth (RGS 1988) for assisting with this year’s presentations.

Upcoming All Years past student functions are scheduled throughout the year. Lance Currie (RGS 1959) is helping organise a Brisbane All Years reunion on 16 April with other past student functions to be held in Melbourne, Townsville and Canberra throughout 2016.

If you are interested in attending any of these functions or would like further information, please get in touch with the Past Students committee via paststudents@rgs.qld.edu.au.

The Past Students’ Association AGM is in June 2016 and I encourage anyone that is interested in nominating for a committee position to email the committee via the above email address.

I look forward to catching up with you all throughout our various events this year.

Welcome to the Class of 2015

The Rockhampton Grammar School Past Students’ Association welcomes new readers to this edition of The Grammarian - students from the Class of 2015. We welcome you and wish you all the best in your future endeavours in life. You are a Grammarian forever.

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Distinguished Honour: RGS Celebrates the School’s Past Students’

The RGS Distinguished Past Students’ Award Dinner was held in the Memorial Assembly Hall on Saturday, 12 March, 2016. The School honoured the following past students, their stories to be permanently displayed at the School. Nominations will soon be called for the 2017 awards. Please email paststudents@rgs.qld.edu.au for more details.

Jules Guerassimoff (RGS: 1954 - 1957)
Born to Russian immigrant parents in Thangool on 28 June 1940, Jules Guerassimoff was expected to study hard to get ahead in life. Sport and agriculture shaped his world. The 1957 RGS Capricornus yearbook described the rugby league player as “a very fine footballer. Has the most devastating tackle in secondary school football. He is a footballer who is a coach’s dream. He is faultless in cover-defence.” Guerassimoff was introduced to rugby union at the University of Queensland where he studied Agricultural Science. He made his Queensland debut in 1962 and played 79 games for his State. He made his Australian Test debut in 1963 in South Africa. The flanker played 12 Tests for Australia and played in a further 24 representative rugby games for Australia between 1963 and 1968. Guerassimoff still pulls on the boots as a 60-year-old in a Golden Oldies game. A talented athlete he was also a State javelin champion (1958, 1959, 1960). Guerassimoff completed his degree in 1961 followed by Honours (1963) and Masters (1965). He worked broadly in the global agricultural arena with various multi-national corporations, centred on research and development. Guerassimoff invented a natural pest control product which has been patented in many parts of the world.

Frederick Paterson (RGS: 1911 - 1914)
Frederick Woolnough Paterson was a Rhodes Scholar and theological student who became Australia’s first Communist Member of Parliament when elected to the Queensland seat of Bowen. Of his six years as a parliamentarian Fred Paterson said: “They were lively, interesting years... and I was able to make effective use of parliament as a forum for policies to assist the working class and other sections of useful people.” Born to a poor family of nine children in Gladstone, he was a brilliant student and won a bursary and scholarships which had him educated at The Rockhampton Grammar School, Brisbane Grammar School and the University of Queensland. While at RGS, Paterson received the Thomas Byrnes Memorial Medal in 1913 for achieving the top score in the State in the junior public examinations. As a Rhodes Scholar he graduated in Arts from Oxford University, with honours in Theology. Paterson’s interest in supporting the underprivileged whilst overseas and in Australia led to him being appointed a barrister-at-law. During this time he became an active member of the Communist Party.

Neville Hewitt (RGS: 1934 - 1936)
Born in Theodore on 19 October 1920, Neville Hewitt would become a decorated World War II airman followed by a long tenure in the Queensland Parliament. In World War II he joined the Royal Australian Air Force, reaching the rank of Flying Officer. Hewitt was aboard a Wellington Bomber when it was shot down over Tunisia. Rescued by a British patrol, he was awarded the Military Medal for initiative, courage and fortitude, and the Air Force Medal. Hewitt returned to the land before entering Queensland politics in 1956 when he was elected representative for Mackenzie for the Country Party. The seat of Mackenzie was abolished in the 1972 election and Hewitt moved to the seat of Auburn – a position he held until his retirement from politics in 1980. From 1969 to 1980 Hewitt held several Ministerial roles including the portfolios of Local Government, Marine, Aboriginal Affairs, Lands, Forestry and Water Resources. During his 12 years he was responsible for the introduction of the Brigalow Land Development Scheme, the construction of 10 major dams and mining developments in Blackwater and Moura. Hewitt also rode over 300 winners as an amateur jockey. A Fitzroy River bridge in Rockhampton, opened in 1980, is named in his honour.

* Jules was present to accept his award at the dinner. Jules lives in Brisbane and continues his strong passion for rugby.

* Frederick Woolnough Paterson (3 June 1897 – 7 October 1977)

* Neville currently lives in Rockhampton, however, due to poor health was unable to attend the dinner. His award was accepted by his son, Ian Hewitt (RGS 1969).
RGS connection at Brisbane firm
Brisbane legal firm McCullough Robertson has become home for several RGS past students. Matt Bradbury (RGS 1995) and Brad Russell (RGS 1983) are both Partners in the firm while Alex Skilling (RGS 2009) has started as a Graduate with McCullough Robertson.

Pictured from left: Alex, Brad and Matt.

Simon Price inspires audience
Simon Price (RGS 1999) was guest speaker at the RGS/Suncorp Business Breakfast in Rockhampton in March. Simon spoke on the importance of mental wellness and provided inspiring words on sharing his battle with depression.

Graduates pursue careers
RGS 2015 graduates Hamish Cowan (below left) and Sean Polley (below right) are following their career ambitions. Hamish received a Business Information Systems Scholarship at the University of NSW while Sean was accepted and enlisted in the Australian Army in Townsville.
Ian Bloxsom (RGS 1954) is unsure why some twists of fate intervened in his life, but he has made the most of those opportunities in his music career.

“Looking back I’ve had a lot of luck with my music,” Ian said.

A man with a passion for music, especially jazz, Ian was a member of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra from 1966 to 1979 – and beyond that time when called up. Playing in the percussion section of the orchestra, it has been jazz that always struck a chord with Ian.

“It’s very complicated in one way and very simple in another.”

Back in 1966 Ian was playing at the fine-dining Wentworth Hotel, an establishment frequently visited by the likes of the Packer family and other high society.

One day a friend gave Ian a xylophone. He knew the scales having been taught by his mother.


“That book changed my life completely.”

The book provided every excerpt for symphonies that required a xylophone, including the popular Percy Grainger composition *Shepherd’s Hey*. Having his customary beers after a night’s performance at the Wentworth, Ian took a call from Richard Miller, from the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

“He called me and said ‘I hear you have a xylophone. Do you have the Morris Goldenberg book?’ and I said yes. He asked if I’d looked at the Shepherd’s Hey excerpt in the back. I had. Can you come in Monday to play with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra?

“My mum had taught me piano and I think I was the only child at school that did music. I had to go to Girls Grammar for lessons.

“It was the most fun gig we ever did. There were fights, gun shots, knives produced but no one ever came near the band.”

“I eventually gave away music because the pressure was too much for me.” Later in the Cadets, Ian helped restore the animal skins on the drums and eventually helped establish a School drum and fife band.

“That’s where I (the love for percussion) started,” said Ian, and it provided a musical outlet at RGS.

He would later join the Rocky City Band, a marching band, and continued with self-taught music.

Ian played Saturday night dances at the Criterion Hotel, owned by his parents, with Ian on drums, mum (Jessica) on piano and dad (Charles) on trumpet.

The passionate musician later moved to Brisbane for university and with a drum kit by his side Ian was a founding member of the well-known jazz band, *The Varsity Five*.

“It was very exciting times and very different from today,” Ian said.

“You go to a club today and see someone playing records and shouting. In those days if someone only had a gramophone it didn’t cut it. A live band was popular.”

During the day Ian was continuing his Arts/Law studies at university and had work as a law clerk. At night he was playing drums in nightclubs from 9pm to 2am.

“I was paid five pounds a week as a law clerk, wearing my suit and tie. Playing at Tommy’s Nightclub I was paid 30 pounds a week.”

Ian was then a member of *The Stan Walker Trio* which consisted of piano, bass and drums.

“It was like doing a jazz course at the conservatorium,” said Ian of the talents of his fellow musicians. They would play before lawyers, doctors, crooks, cops, merchant seamen and sailors from various navies, who had tied up their ships along the Brisbane River.

“It was the most fun gig we ever did. There were fights, gun shots and knives produced but no one ever came near the band.”

American concert promoter Lee Gordon called on Ian and his band as the “local act” for curtain raisers to performers like (continued next page)
Claire Mactaggart (nee Wyland, RGS 1992) loves to share someone else’s story. Claire, who now has three daughters at RGS, was the guest speaker at the RGS Senior School Writer’s Club during Term 1 to draw on her experience as a freelance writer.

Claire has written for lifestyle magazines including Country Style and Queensland Homes.

Now calling Balcomba home, near Marlborough, Claire has some simple tips for aspiring freelance writers:
1. be reliable and dependable. Follow through and be accurate;
2. be politely persistent
3. start getting published now and think of new ideas all the time;
4. keep upskilling;
5. develop good working relationships; and
6. seek internships.

On graduating from RGS Claire started a Bachelor of Business at the University of Queensland before realising her love of writing.

"I eventually ended up where I was meant to be," Claire said.

Claire started Journalism studies at university and would integrate her business and journalism knowledge in her early work career with Regional Development before returning to her country roots. It was during a gardening group visit to a place in Calliope when Claire discovered a garden that had to be shared with a wider audience and, with the permission of the garden’s owner, approached Country Style and her freelance career has since flourished.

Ray pens life’s experiences

Reverend Dr Ray Barraclough (RGS 1958) grew up on a farm near Clermont before finishing his schooling at RGS.

On 11 April the Dean of St John’s Anglican Cathedral in Brisbane will formally launch Ray’s latest collection of poems - Poems for Pilgrims and Other Travellers.

The words draw on Ray’s work in outback Queensland and Palestine.

After completing school Ray’s working career started as a high school teacher before being ordained as an Anglican priest in the Brisbane diocese. From 1979 to 1988 he was the Anglican Chaplain at the University of Queensland and from 1989 to 1993 served at St George’s College, Jerusalem, where Ray was a senior lecturer. Ray and his wife Dorothy lived in Jerusalem from 1989 to 1993. During that time they witnessed the first Palestinian uprising and the first Gulf War.

On returning to Australia Ray was appointed a lecturer in New Testament at St Francis’ Theological College in Brisbane. During the 1970s and 1980s Ray was also a strong advocate for indigenous justice.

POEMS FOR PILGRIMS AND OTHER TRAVELLERS

Ray Barraclough

Dizzy Gillespie and Sarah Vaughan. When Tommy’s folded Ian did what he could to earn money for his family – driving trucks, delivering fish, working the wharves and driving a van for Brisbane City Mission.

One day he packed his drum kit and a bag of clothes into his Fiat 600 and drove to Sydney to help find a better paying job to support his young family. He would gradually make a name for himself in Sydney’s music scene and was later joined by his family.

Ian has played in orchestras and bands, played recording sessions for movies and commercially on pop records.

He played on albums for Richard Clapton, Air Supply and Dragon – and many more.

“Sometimes I sit in a pub now, hear a song and go “that’s me playing”,

Ian played in musical theatre, for shows performed by the Australian Ballet, Sydney Dance Company and many Broadway musical numbers, and played in the band on the Mike Walsh Show, a variety show in the 1970s and 1980s.

Andy Williams, John Denver and Linda Ronstadt are other artists he has performed with.

Ian was also in the jazz/rock band Crossfire (1974-1983) that toured overseas through India, Europe, England, Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines and the United States, including a performance at the famous Montreux Jazz Festival in 1980 in Switzerland.

“Today I teach the boys the process of why we love playing music along with respect for the music and respect for themselves,” Ian said.

“Music is always something you can do for yourself. It’s also a lot of fun.”
Jessica Kahl: Creating Big Dreams

An engineering student with a drive to attract more young women to the profession.

Design always sparked the interest of Jessica Kahl (RGS 2012).

In 2011, with an interest in being a fashion designer, Jessica attended the Whitehouse Institute of Design in Melbourne for work experience. The atmosphere didn’t work for Jessica but she still wanted to pursue design so she thought of engineering.

The following year her studies changed focus and her creative passion morphed into starting a Bachelor of Engineering at CQUniversity in Rockhampton in 2013.

“Engineering is creative and rewarding. You get to see it and implement your own thoughts,” Jessica said.

“It’s challenging. There’s always something new. Engineering is also about networking, teamwork and good communication. You always need to be looking out of the box and find out how to get your team to work collaboratively.

“Just like at school, it’s always good to push yourself and go for more leadership roles.”

Jessica continues to push herself and has taken her university studies a step further.

While studying Jessica has also taken on the role of educating secondary school students about the university’s engineering programme and she is also daring to “Dream Big”.

Jessica is the founder of the not-for-profit Dream Big Project, a movement established to promote engineering to female school students (in Years 10, 11 and 12) and to raise an awareness of the career opportunities in engineering.

“The Dream Big Project wants to inspire and motivate youth to pursue their passion,” Jessica said.

“In my first year at university I started videoing my life. I wanted other kids to see what it was like as a first year engineering student – the antics you get up to, the study, the people you meet.”

CQUniversity supported Jessica’s drive to promote engineering and was quick to harness her energy as a CQUniversity Student Ambassador.

Jessica’s first Dream Big Event was held at CQUniversity’s North (Continued from next page)
Educating the next generation of female engineers

(Continued from previous page)
Rockhampton campus in February this year (2015).
The “girl’s only day” helped give the girls confidence in completing technical design projects including 3D printing and Robot C programming. Students also had the opportunity to listen to presentations from female engineers from Aurizon, Cardno, Stanwell Power Station and CQUniversity. All encouraging their audience not to be intimidated by mathematics studies at school.

“The stereotype is changing in all professions, including now having more males in nursing,” said Jessica, who has welcomed the increase in the numbers of women wanting to study engineering at CQUniversity.

“It’s inspiring and motivating that youth are pursuing their passions regardless of what employment field.”

Jessica admits, even from her school days at The Rockhampton Grammar School, she was driven – maths was not her strong suit and plenty questioned her decision to pursue engineering studies.

Entering the male-dominated employment sector of engineering is a challenge Jessica has welcomed – and it has spurred Jessica to help attract more women to the engineering field and not let barriers stand in their way.

The Cadet engineer with Calibre Consulting, in Rockhampton, was also a National Big Idea Winner in 2014 with CQUniversity’s Pallet House Design.

Once Jessica has completed her Engineering degree she hopes to specialise in project management within the engineering industry.

“I like the process of managing people. In order to manage people you have to know the basis of how things work and that’s why you need a degree like engineering to understand jobs.

“I’m a people person. I like networking and showing initiative. You can’t get anywhere in life if you’re not thinking on your feet.”

Jessica also has a desire to help those more disadvantaged than herself and one day hopes to also establish a business, tapping into her creative flair, that can help raise valuable funds for people struggling in society.

There are also dreams to make the Dream Big Project a “proper” business that would create some “quirky” products with the profits going back into running future Dream Big events.
The Class of 1990 Reunion was held on 17 October 2015 and the Class of 1995 Reunion returned to RGS on 31 October 2015. If you are interested in organising a reunion for 2016 contact the School at paststudents@rgs.qld.edu.au.

The Classes of 2006 and 1986 will reunite on the weekend of 7 May.

Anthony Vincent (pictured above), Arthur and Aileen Kelly (pictured left) attended the Class of 1995 Reunion at the RGS Rowing Club; (below) Matt Bradbury, Bradd Dillon, Toby Hower and Todd Wells; (below left) Nathan Hume, Ben Miller and Rachael Milnes (nee Trump); (left) Megan Holloway, Jaclyn Ray (nee Bracewell) and Melinda Nicholas.

(From left) Brendan Seymour, Bruce Reilly, Al Corr and Matt Ray catch up at the Class of 95 Reunion.

Class of 1990

Jilanne Kelly (nee Byrne), Megan Saussey (nee Christensen) and Michelle Scott

Class of 1990

Jason Facer (left) and Todd Lynch

Matt Fairley remembers his boarding days at RGS.
In pictures - Past students

Left: Sasky Stewart (RGS 2006) and Lance Currie (RGS 1959) caught up during Lance’s holiday to Toronto, Canada. Sasky is based in Toronto as Director, Communications and Marketing, with the Canadian Women’s Hockey League and is an In-Game Social Media Coordinator for the National Hockey League.

Above: Gary Larson (RGS 1984) returned to RGS has guest speaker at the RGS Rugby Presentation Dinner, held in the Spaceframe during October. Gary caught up with last year’s RGS rugby captains before the ceremony (pictured from left) Blake Augustine, Harry Gambling, Ben Ramsey and Connor Tansey.

Right and Far Right: Diving enthusiast Mark Hawley (RGS 1975) joined the RGS SCUBA Club’s dive trip to Vanuatu in September. RGS staff and students joined the trip where they also provided supplies for a local school. Mark also joined the group the previous year when they dived off Cairns.

Above: RGS past students meet for breakfast in Canberra;

Right: David Dunlop, 100, relives his RGS school memories with current Headmaster Dr Phillip Moulds at the Canberra breakfast.

Above: Talking careers and study with RGS Year 9 students last term were (from left) Brooke Austen (RGS 2013, studying drama at the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane), Charlie Lang (RGS 2013, electrician with Trecs Electrical in Rockhampton), Catherine Irwin (RGS 2013, studying communications in Brisbane) and Matthew Dennis (RGS 2013, engineer with Calibre Consulting in Rockhampton).
Home for Rory Robertson (RGS 1992) is now a cattle station in north Queensland, back to his family roots when he grew up on a property near Baralaba. It is a long way from his high-profile economist days with Macquarie Bank. Time has also moved on since Rory found himself on the streets of New York City trying to come to terms with what was unfolding before his eyes. Here are his words from September 11, 2001:

“This is my account of some of the terrible things that happened in New York City today, followed by some thoughts on the financial-market implications.

Like many others, I was way too close to the action. I am pretty shaken, though have not even a scratch. Thank you to all those who called to see that I am okay.

At about 8.45am, we were on the ground floor of the World Trade Centre Marriot listening to the breakfast speaker at the NABE (National Association for Business Economics) conference when what turned out to be the first hijacked plane hit our tower.

There was a bit of a bang and the building shook. We all looked at each other across the table, wondering. Earthquake? Presumably everyone else was also thinking about the 110 floors above us. Then the building shook again. Everyone ran for the door and then the foyer. The move was reasonably orderly. I noticed dust and smoke coming from one lift well; probably it was a bomb (as in 1993), I thought? I was terrified, but okay.

Everyone was keen to get out into the street, but we didn't really know how frightened to be. On getting to the foyer, you could see the debris outside on the ground. Hotel officials told people not to go outside, as things might still be crashing down. Maybe five minutes later, people moved outside and we could see the hole near the top of the building. And the fire. It was a mind-numbing sight.

Thousands of people were spilling out into the street from buildings in the financial district, but none of us had much idea what had happened. Someone said it was a missile; another said a helicopter had crashed into the tower. So it might have been an accident?

I didn't have a clue what to do. I guessed the conference was over. Growing crowds were milling around. Like everyone else, I kept looking up, marvelling at the hole and the fire near the top of the first tower. I didn't see people jumping out, but many were talking about it. I noticed a car torn in half and an engine that seemed to have flown out of nowhere. I tried to ring Gwen and Matt (they knew I was in the WTC today) to let them know I was okay. The mobile wouldn't work but eventually Gwen got through, and she contacted Matt at work for me. I tried to ring my brother in Brisbane, but the mobile wouldn't call out.

I figured I would walk downtown away from the WTC and then walk to midtown via the East side. As I started to move away, I observed debris here and there, the sorts of things you would expect to see when a passenger plane explodes. I was maybe 250 yards from the WTC when I looked up and saw the second plane fly directly - maybe 150 yards - above me. Instantly, I knew it was going to hit the tower. I didn't watch, I didn't see it hit. I just ran, maybe 50 yards towards an alley behind a building, terrified that the debris could easily carry to where I stood.

As I ran, I heard the explosion as the second plane hit. I made the alley, and hugged the near-side of the building. My thought was that the building was high enough to block out any flying objects, but looking around the alley I could see bits and pieces from the first plane. A young Japanese woman stumbled into the alley, crying and very distressed. We hunkered against the wall. I put my arm around her shoulder and told her that we were safe, at the same time hoping that we were. It was like being in the middle of a disaster movie; it was hard to credit what was unfolding all around.

(Continued next page)
After waiting a few minutes, I started walking quickly to the bottom of the island, before heading East and then uptown. Looking over my left shoulder, I could see the holes in the two towers, and the fires. My head was still spinning. People in the street were watching, some crying, most stunned. One guy walking beside me said the US was now at war; I said that it would have been a terrorist group, not a nation, that had attacked. He said it didn't matter.

My brother Alisdair called, and I said I was fine. He asked if the buildings were still standing. I said yeah, marvelling at how little the first tower had shaken, given that it was hit by an airliner. I was nearly back to midtown when someone said that the WTC had collapsed; I said no, it was hit by two planes. He said no, a tower had collapsed. I got home and watched the second tower collapse live on TV; I also saw replays of the plane that had flown above me. Scary. My main thought is that many thousands of people would have been standing nearby watching before the first building suddenly came crashing to the ground. It might have been an hour after the first hit, so there would also have been hundreds of police and firemen working in the area. I thank my lucky stars that I was on the ground floor and so was able to leave the building pretty quickly. I thank my lucky stars that I moved out of the area after the second plane hit, well before the buildings started collapsing, sending many football fields of rubble crashing through the streets. I shudder to think how many hundreds, probably thousands of people have been killed today. This is huge human tragedy.

World Trade Centre site, 2015

On the School beat -
Manon Barwick returns to School for official duties

Manon Barwick (RGS 2005) is now walking the beat of a different kind on her return to The Rockhampton Grammar School.

Senior Constable Barwick is the School’s new Adopt-A-Cop and the Police prosecutor admits she loves being back at RGS.

"I can’t believe it’s been so long since I left School,” Manon said.

“I had such good friends at School and I’m still good friends with them today.”

Manon arrived from Middlemount as a boarder in Year 8 and continued boarding until Year 12 when her family moved to Rockhampton.

“I loved boarding. I grew up with two brothers so basically boarding was like a whole new family,” Manon said.

After finishing School, Manon studied Japanese and International Studies at the University of Canberra. The worldwide Economic Financial Crisis (EFC) hit as Manon completed her university studies and work opportunities were sparse in that field.

Manon decided to join the Police Force, completing her training in Brisbane.

“I wanted to do something where I could make a difference in the community,” Manon said.

“I didn’t know what to expect (with the Police Force) but it’s something that’s not boring, you can assist the community and it has allowed me to personally develop. There are also options to do so many different jobs within the Police Force.”

Manon will visit the School throughout the year discussing key community issues with senior students, including the “One Punch Can Kill” message, road safety and other important community messages.

Manon will also find a familiar face on her rounds with youngest brother Jack (RGS 2013) working in RGS boys’ boarding while studying at CQUniversity.
The game has changed, but not team spirit

Frank Luck takes a closer look at a 1943 photograph of The Rockhampton Grammar School Senior Football Team. Asked about his memories of that team Frank shakes his head in silence, his immediate thoughts turn to those who are no longer with him.

He then recalls the red and black woollen school ties, the grey suits and their school badges.

“It was always a thrill and an honour playing for the School,” Frank said. “We only had one oval and no grass on it. There was a cement cricket pitch in the middle so in the football season we would just cover it with dirt.”

Wild grass grew on the oval mixed with the stony, hard clay soil. “Back in the February the School provided sickles for the boys to break the long grass up. The oval was never watered. It just relied on local showers.”

Frank believes the games were “very tame” back in his day compared to today’s game. “You tackled someone and just rolled off them and it was virtually just one man tackles,” Frank said.

RGS would play games against Rockhampton State High School and Christian Brothers in the middle of the School year. Training was held after school and consisted of tackling, running with the ball and practicing scrums. They would also play games against the Junior team. Games were played on a Friday afternoon “I either rode my bike or the boarders would walk down.”

“We had our own jerseys and had to do our own washing. The boarders never washed their jerseys. You knew when they were wearing their jumpers – there was no deodorant back in those days. Wills (Coach, Antil Wills) would sometimes wash them for the boarders.”

“The School provided oranges at half time. We had no waterboys. “Life was more simple then. You played for your School and wanted to win, but there was no pressure. After the game we just went home. There was no debrief session. And then we would just turn up for training again.”

However, like today, it was the team spirit that still puts a smile on Frank’s face. “It was a very close knit group and we relied on each other a lot. If you didn’t play it affected the team,” Frank said.

“We played football in winter and cricket in the summer.”

Some things don’t change over time. Frank’s association with the School continued after his student days. Frank was a member of the RGS Board of Trustees from 1979 to 1997. In his last four years he was Chair of the Board.

### The RGS Senior Football Team (1943):

- **Back Row**: L Smith, J Hauff, F Luck, M Ivers, D Booth;
- **Second Row**: J Derrington, I Kellet, N Jensen, R Harris, R Gower, C Keune;
- **Front Row**: K Fawkner, T Crittenden, Mr Abel (Sports Master), W E P Harris (Captain), Mr A Wills (Coach), J O Harris, G Stuart;
- **Absent**: R Oxenham, P Seeney, N Yates.

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**RGS - Testimonials**

The Rockhampton Grammar School would like to hear from you on how the School helped guide you towards your studies and careers in life. If you are interested in providing some words, and a photograph of yourself, please email information to Rachael McDonald at paststudents@rgs.qld.edu.au

*Help inspire the next generations of RGS students*
The talented voices of Rockhampton Grammar School past students feature in the Gondwana Chorale’s debut recording, SOAR.

Sophie Gregory (RGS 2011) and Corbin Thorne (RGS 2010) join the recording artists.

SOAR is Gondwana Chorale’s debut recording and presents a programme typical of the ensemble – a rich and varied collection of repertoire with a strong focus on contemporary Australian compositions which lies at the heart of Gondwana’s ethos.

The music on this disc ranges from the Spanish Renaissance to present day Australia, including Paul Stanhope’s Lament to St Cecilia, a technically demanding tour de force of emotional intensity commissioned for the choir in 2013 for its European Tour.

Sophie is studying her fifth year of medicine at James Cook University in Townsville and also performs with the Barrier Reef Orchestra.

She remembers participating in this recording back in 2013, working on the soundtrack for two weeks.

“As always, it was a lot of fun to be a part of the Gondwana National Choral School, with such challenging repertoire, learning alongside other amazing musicians,” Sophie said.

“The three consecutive days in the recording studio was utterly exhausting, however it has been incredibly rewarding to finally hear the finished product!

“Working with such fine musicians, and alongside renowned conductors, made the experience so memorable, despite the long days of constant singing.”


Lauren renews cricket passion

Queensland Country selection has reignited Lauren Shackleton’s passion for cricket.

Lauren (RGS 2012) represented Queensland Country at the inaugural Australian T20 Country Championships in Mt Gambier, South Australia, earlier this year.

A round robin competition played over five days, Queensland played against Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Northern Territory and East Asia Pacific.

Queensland posted wins over Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia and suffered a final over loss against East Asia Pacific in their semi-final.

The left-arm medium pace bowler, currently living in Rockhampton, produced her best figures against South Australia taking 2 for 6 off 3 overs.

“I love the game of cricket and to be selected in the team has given me the motivation to make the move to Brisbane to further pursue my cricket,” Lauren said.

Lauren has been playing cricket since 2006 and during her school days at The Rockhampton Grammar School

Kerry donates to School science

The School is very grateful to Kerry Wassell (RGS 1972) and Bureau Veritas International Trade Australia, located in Gladstone, for the company’s donation of more than 1000 pieces of scientific glassware including beakers, measuring cylinders and flasks to RGS.

Some of the equipment will be used in the School’s science labs.

“I know the School well and am aware of the high standards its students aspire to,” said business manager, Kerry.

Bureau Veritas conducts testing, inspection and certification environmental services to mining, marine and other industries all over the world.
Here is a snapshot of what is happening at your School today:

**Ag Graduation**
Representatives from AgForce Queensland and Emerald Agricultural College attended the RGS Certificate II in Agriculture graduation at Belmont Station last term. This year students have started their Certificate III studies at Belmont.

**RGS Sports Honours**
Students were recognised for their sporting achievements at the annual RGS Sports Dinner in Term 4. Major award winners were: Senior Sportsman of the Year - Blake Moore (touch football); Senior Sportswoman of the Year - Lucy Blair (rowing, netball); Junior Sportsman of the Year - Cameron Clark (swimming); Junior Sportswoman of the Year - Georgia Henderson (rowing); Senior School Non-Core Sportsperson of the Year - Grace McDonald (baton twirling); Middle School Non-Core Sportsperson of the Year - Jacob Spark (surf lifesaving).

A Cultural Presentation Afternoon also acknowledged RGS students across areas including music, musical, mooting, hospitality, chess and Optiminds.

**School Captains - new and old**
The end of an era was welcomed by the start of a new era in Term 4. Farewelling RGS were 2015 School Captains Anke Bezuidenhout and Jake Austen along with Vice Captains Marissa Buchanan and Kennedy Tjandramulia. Leading the School in 2016 are School Captains Katherine Campbell and James Martin along with Vice Captains Angela Fordyce and Conor Howland. Prefect elects for 2016 are: Catherine Cassidy, Michael Chamberlain, Harry Gambling, Sophie Harris, Sarah Mackenzie, Gabrielle Matthews, Campbell Miller-Waugh, Hanah Mills, Connor Roberts, Amie Shann, Lydia White and Emma Wong.

**Farewell to Lynda Kennedy**
RGS Assistant Head of Year 7 Mrs Lynda Kennedy retires at the end of Term 1 after over 14 years service to The Rockhampton Grammar School. Mrs Michelle Rundle takes on the role as Assistant Head of Year 7 with Mr John Crossland appointed Assistant Head of Year 8.
Mr Arthur Kelly remains Head of Middle School and Head of Year 9.

**House Sport**
Term 1 Inter-House Sport renewed house rivalries for another year. There was no cyclone to stop the 2016 secondary swimming carnival with Wheatley (pictured above right) taking out the honours. Jardine (above left) claimed the title in Term 4, 2015, after being washed out, and blown away, earlier in the year.
Seth Tregea (Year 2) was full of pride when he presented some Rockhampton Grammar School history to his fellow Year 2 students this year. Wearing a ragged old RGS rugby league jersey and sharing black and white photographs, Seth's talk centred around his Great Uncle Bill (William Richardson, RGS 1956).

Bill, now 75, hailed from Blackall and was the youngest of 14 children. He was the only member of his family to attend the School. He was involved in rugby league, cross country, athletics and cadets. In 1956 he was also an Olympic Torch Bearer.

Seth was quick to point out something different in Great Uncle Bill’s rugby league photograph. His face had been cut out of the photograph and later stuck back in there. He explained that Bill had cut out his photo because it was the only photo that would fit in a girl's locket.

Old Capricornus Yearbooks were also presented to the class with Seth explaining that Bill had crossed out his player description because it wasn’t very nice.

Bill was surprised his memories are living on at his old School through his great nephew. “I think it’s pretty good really,” Bill said. “I hope they washed the jersey before he put it on.”

Bill was 14-years-old when his parents put him on the train to attend RGS. “You couldn’t put your head out the window, or even open the windows on the train or you got covered in soot from the coal,” Bill said.

It was “awkward” for Bill, from a poor family, arriving at the School on his own and finding himself alongside students from influential families. Many holidays were also spent at School where he helped tidy up the yards. Sport and the cadets kept him busy.

Bill remembers cutting out his photo for a girl, and getting it back, Bill also remembers his Olympic Torch Relay experience. “You had to run a mile in six minutes to be eligible and then wait to see if you were selected,” Bill said.

Bill was presented with a Torch Relay medal from Rockhampton Mayor Rex Pilbeam for his efforts on the Rockhampton to Gladstone relay leg. The medal was a replica of the bronze medal from the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. Unfortunately for Bill the medal ended up in a girlfriend’s glory box. The relationship didn’t last and he only ever saw his medal again in a jewellery shop window back in Blackall.

“The story goes her brother swapped it (the medal) for some marbles or something.”

Still calling Blackall home Bill admits he would not recognise the place (RGS) today but he is pleased that Seth and his sister Ava (Year 5) are both in his old sports house of Kellow and that the Cadets are still going.

The Grammarian
WEDDINGS:
Ian Kennedy (2007), the son of soon to be retired Head of Year 7 Mrs Lynda Kennedy and retired RGS teacher Bob Kennedy, married Caragh Morgan in Caversham Gardens, Perth, Western Australia on 5 December 2015. The wedding party then went on a boating cruise down the Swan river before disembarking at Caragh’s parents house for drinks on the balcony prior to the reception. Ian is currently employed as a medical practitioner with Ramsey Health in Brisbane whilst Caragh is in her final year of her Law degree at Griffith University.

VALE: John Purcell OAM (RGS, 1945-1948):
Raised in the Longreach district John was the eldest of four boys and as an 8-year-old arrived at The Rockhampton Grammar School.

John finished his schooling at The Southport School where he was an active sportsman playing cricket, swimming and rowing before working as a jackaroo in western Queensland. Married to Miriam in 1960 John raised his family in the Clarke Creek district. He successfully fought for a primary school to be established at Clarke Creek and was one of the founding members, and two-term president, of the Cattlemen’s Union.

He would also lead and represent pastoralists by signing the Cape York Land Use Agreement in February 1996.

John also served on the CALM board and the Cattle Council of Australia. John retired to and later married Mary Greene before taking on the role as chair of Property Rights Australia (PRA). He retired from that role in 2009. John was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in 2012 for his contribution to agripolitics.

John’s children Patrice, Verena, Jason and Rebecca all attended The Grammarian. Patrice and Verena both went on to attend RGS where they both graduated in 1980.

W. J. McClanachan (Bill) (RGS, 1956-1957):
Bill arrived at RGS in February 1956 and remained a student for two years before returning to the family sugar cane farm at Walkerston near Mackay.

Bill carried the 1956 Olympic Torch, for one mile at 2am in the morning on the old dirt road, twenty miles south of the Monument at Croyden Station. (West of St Lawrence).

At School, Bill took part in Athletics and Rugby League and was a member of the Cadets. Bill traded his last load of cane on 2nd September 2015. Our thoughts are with Jill and his family. (Bill McClanachan - 1941-2015).

Patrick Michael Green (RGS, 1942-1943):
Patrick attended RGS 1942 and 1943. He lived in Yeppoon and travelled by train every day. He passed away on 17th October 2015 at 87 years of age.

On leaving school he joined the Police Force but later moved to the ANZ Bank for a long and distinguished service. Pat was a long time and distinguished member of the “Bernborough Club” and for many years was the Patron and active player of the Stafford Bowls Club. Pat and his wife, Mayzie, lived in West Chermside for over 45 years. (Patrick Green - 1929-2015).

FROM THE ARCHIVES
It was the start of a new century as The Rockhampton Grammar School celebrated the year 2000.

Chelsea Crawford was Dux of the School. School Captains were Trent Lincoln and Elizabeth Morris while Vice Captains were Amanda Lindeman and Douglas Burnett.

Islay Lee was Headmaster and Ken Coombe the Chair of the Board of Trustees. The Headmaster’s Speech Night address of 2000 made mention of Michael Hoy (Year 11) who was one of 50 young Australians aged between 15 and 24 years to be selected to form a Round Table of Australian Youth in Canberra. The Government uses this forum to help develop general policies and specific policies that will affect Australian youth. (Michael is now a foreign diplomat for the Australian Government).

The Headmaster also made mention of the passing of Mr Robert Mackay Brown, the man who gave the School Ritamada, who died aged 92 years in the May of 2000.

In his his Valedictory Dinner address Mr Lee said: “...it’s a tough world out there and Robert Fulghum (American author) was right when he wrote that all you really need to know about life, you learned in Grade One - When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands, and stick together.”

Upcoming RGS Events
- 16 April - Past Student Function in Brisbane
- 7 May - RGS Race Day at Rockhampton’s Callaghan Park. (Hosted by The Rockhampton Grammar School Past Students’ Association)
- 7 May - Reunions for Classes of 1986 and 2006
- 13 - 14 May - Callide Show (Biloela)
- 20 - 21 May - Capella Show
- 24 - 25 May - Clermont Show
- 27 - 28 May - Springsure Show
- 29 May - Past Student Function in Melbourne
- 15 - 17 June - Rockhampton Show
- 7 - 9 July - AgGrow Field Days (Emerald)
- Upcoming past student functions in Townsville and Canberra later this year (dates to be confirmed)

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