Welcome

Welcome to the March 2015 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 rmc-donald@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)

2015 is already shaping up to be a very busy year for The Rockhampton Grammar School Past Student’s Association as well as the greater School Community.

Congratulations to Brittany Langa (nee McKee), a 2003 graduate, who has been elected Labour MP for Keppel. Kicking off the events calendar for the year is the Inaugural Past Students’ Dinner on Saturday, 21 March, 2015 where we will be recognising outstanding achievements and contributions by Past Students.

The All Years Brisbane Reunion will take place at the Irish Club, Brisbane on Saturday, 2 May. Once again thank you to Lance Currie for coordinating this event and I encourage past students of all years to attend the function as you will gain an interesting insight into many RGS generations.

The excitement of Beef Australia 2015 will once again converge on Rockhampton from 4-9 May. Good luck to all students competing in events and assisting throughout Beef Australia week.

The Past Student’s Association’s main event for the year, the Race Day will be held at Rockhampton’s Callaghan Park on Saturday, 16 May, and promises to be a fantastic day out.

I look forward to catching up with you all at the various events throughout the year.

Lest We Forget

2015 marks 100 years since the World War I battle of Gallipoli. Among those who lost their lives in that part of the world were Rockhampton Grammar School students. Past students also served their country in other battles that followed. Some returned home to family and friends while others were not so fortunate. Today RGS past students still proudly serve in our Defence Force. Lieutenant Colonel Neil Grierson (RGS 1990) is just one RGS past student serving in the Australian Army (report, pages 7-8). We also remember young lives lost and remembered reports, pages 9-10. RGS students will again march in this year’s ANZAC Day parade and the School will also host an ANZAC service.

In this edition

National Security Watch .................. 2
RGS Distinguished Past Students .......... 3-4
International Diplomat ................. 5
Rowing Honour .......................... 6
Serving their Country.................... 7-10
Ice Hockey Dream Comes True ........ 11
RGS Memories: Paul Boland........... 14-15
RGS Today ................................ 16
From the Archives: Bradman Visit..... 16
Andrew Colvin: Watching over our national security

Andrew Colvin (RGS 1987) goes to work each day preparing to deal with some of the best and worst situations in life. Every day presents its own challenges. It’s just part of the job when you are Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police (AFP). Commissioner Colvin kindly scheduled some time into his busy calendar to capture some of his RGS memories and his thoughts on the top job.

25 years in the AFP has allowed me to see many wonderful places, experience things that some may never consider possible and be a part of some of the best, and unfortunately worst, life has to offer.

I spent a large portion of my career in Sydney, working on serious and organised crime, particularly narcotic importations, money laundering, politically motivated crime and terrorist financing. I guess not a lot has changed in that these are still all challenges the AFP faces today – along with a whole range of new and emerging threats.

In 2002, it was a tragic event that would change the course of my career. I was enjoying my life as an investigator, but when the Bali Bombing occurred I was thrust into the international arena and became responsible for many aspects of the ongoing investigation into the attacks of October 12. In many ways this was one of the most difficult times in my career, but it also shaped a leadership style that would stay with me to this day.

Policing is often thought of as the response to given disasters, the ones who pop up to mop up and lock up but the role is far deeper than that. Quite often in a time of crisis it will be the police that need to provide first level support to victims, as first aiders, counsellors and friends. It is a role in that your mere presence may be celebrated or chastised and where every single day is different.

The AFP employs scientists, computer experts, photographers, educators, lawyers, psychologists and health and fitness trainers amongst a host of other specialists. The role is evolving, and the greatest thing about the career I have had is the variety.

The police officer of the future will look very different in the skills they develop, but they will always share the same community sentiment of our predecessors. Each and everyday members of police forces around the country do magnificent things in some of the most difficult of circumstances – largely due to a belief of community.

I don’t get back home as much as I would like, but enough to bring back fond memories of my time growing up in Frenchville and time spent at Grammar through the 80’s.

I’m not sure any of my old teachers would have the same fond memories of me, or any at all for that matter, but I do recall Computer Science with Mr Houston, Geometrical drawing and perspective with Mr Raatz and trying to avoid Mr Cotterell in the hallways when we were out of line. I guess much like policing, what I view of Rockhampton Grammar these days is that while the content and students may be largely unrecognisable to years gone by, the values and traditions that make up its success remain. Whether with the academic, sporting or cultural programs, community spirit is entrenched through Grammar’s values of fairness and integrity (coincidentally two of the AFP’s core values) and their desire for students to ‘Grow in Character and Scholarship’.

Much of the grounding for what we become in life is developed at the school age. I was fortunate enough that my time at Rockhampton Grammar gave me my very first insights into life as an emerging adult. It is a part of my history that I am confident helped lead to where I have landed today, and what I may achieve in the future.

Macte Virtute Et Litteris
The Rockhampton Grammar School has a long and proud history. This year the School has started acknowledging some of its past students’ who have gone on to make a difference in their endeavours. Many past students have gained success in their chosen fields. This is to acknowledge these students and create awareness among others of their efforts and achievements. The inaugural RGS Distinguished Past Students’ Award Dinner was held in the Memorial Assembly Hall on Saturday, 21 March, 2015. The School honoured the following past students, their stories to be permanently displayed at the School. Nominations will soon be called for the 2016 awards. Please email paststudents@rgs.qld.edu.au for more details.

**Captain Francis Fairweather**
(RGS: 1900 - 1907)
Photograph: Australian War Memorial

Francis Edward Fairweather answered the British Empire’s call to serve in World War I. Joining fellow enthusiastic young Australian soldiers, Francis Fairweather would be promoted to Captain and win a Military Cross.

He lost his life on the battlefields of France on 29 September 1918, aged 27. The battle was one of the last Australian actions of the war. In one of his final writings, Captain Fairweather noted:

(28 September, 1918)

“Tomorrow we are to take part in the greatest and most important battle that we have yet been in, for we are to assault the Hindenburg Line, the famous trench system which the Germans have boasted is impregnable.” Armistice was called on 11 November 1918.

Captain Fairweather was recommended for his first Military Cross on 16 June 1917 and recommended for a Bar to the Military Cross on 3 March 1918. The Australian War Memorial is now the custodian of letters written by Captain Fairweather during the campaign.

Captain Fairweather is buried at Templeux-le-Guerard British Cemetery.

Prior to the war 23-year-old Francis Fairweather was a public accountant. He never married.

**Fitzroy Jardine**
(RGS: 1910 - 1913)
Photograph: Australian War Memorial

Fitzroy Jardine, born on 3 March 1896, was a man who achieved in many facets of his life. Named after Rockhampton’s Fitzroy River after it was in flood at the time of his birth, Jardine would become entwined in The Rockhampton Grammar School, as a student, Prefect, teacher and, still to this day, the School’s longest serving Headmaster (1936-1964).

However, it is also the other facets of Fitzroy Jardine, away from RGS, where he also made a name for himself.

The outbreak of World War I saw Fitzroy Jardine enlist as a pilot with the Royal Naval Air Service in 1917. In 1918 he transferred to the Royal Air Force where he served with distinction as Acting Flight Commander and Flight Navigating Officer with the 243rd Squadron in France.

During the war he was mentioned in Dispatches and received the Oak Leaf Cluster. After the war he would later attend Sydney University where he won scholarships for physics, chemistry, geology and geography, winning a University Medal. He carried out geological and physiographical investigations in the Torres Strait, Queensland coastline and Kosciusko tableland.

His research findings were published.

**Cecil Hadgraft**
(RGS: 1917 - 1922)
Photograph: University of Queensland

Cecil Harry Huddleston Hay Hadgraft was born on 8 June 1904. Cecil, advised by then Headmaster and mentor Henry Kellow, repeated his Senior year but would twice be awarded dux of the School. His academic pursuits led to the University of Queensland where he would initially study Science before returning, after teaching at RGS, to graduate with first class honours in English. Cecil would go on to become a leading university lecturer and literary critic. By 1947 he was publishing critical articles on Australian literature and reviewing books for the Australian Broadcasting Commission.

In 1948 he lectured in the evenings in the department of English at UQ and in 1951 he delivered the Commonwealth Literary Fund lectures in Queensland and next year was chief examiner for the State’s public examinations in English. He was promoted to lecturer in 1955 and senior lecturer in 1958.

Having been asked to select Australian short stories for the Angus & Robertson’s anthology Coast to Coast (1960), in 1962, the same year he became a reader at UQ, he introduced courses in Australian literature and edited a series of 19th Century Australian texts.

**Adrian Holmes**
(RGS: 1941)

Growing up in the Dawson Valley town of Theodore, Adrian Frederick Holmes was born on 30 May, 1926. A well respected man through many facets of his life, his natural ability at boxing would lead to Olympic representation.

Adrian won two Queensland and two Australian boxing titles. Next he would represent Australia.

Boxing in the light-heavyweight division at the 1948 Olympic Games in London’s Wembley Arena, misfortune would cost Adrian an Olympic medal. Leading on points in the closing seconds of his bout against Cia from Argentina, the fight was halted when Holmes fell to the ground. It was later revealed he had a fractured ankle. It was the last time he ever boxed.

Adrian was the final man picked on the Australian boxing team to compete in London. He became their last man standing. And it was his hometown of Theodore which raised funds to help get him there. Adrian excelled in all sports at The Rockhampton Grammar School before the war years forced him to return home to assist in the family shop. After boxing Adrian became a well respected stock and station agent in the Central Queensland Region.

Dinner photographs, page 4.
Black delivers on Queensland debut

It’s been a big start to 2015 for Maddison Black (RGS 2014). Starting university studies at the University of Queensland has been combined with sporting commitments including national Crossfit challenges and representing the Queensland White rugby union team at the Youth Sevens National Championships in Sydney. Black, who is also a Queensland touch football representative, scored four tries at the championships as the Queensland White team posted 2 wins, a draw and lost 17-12 to eventual champions NSW Blue.

Further accolades for 2014 Dux

The hard work continues to reap in the accolades for RGS 2014 School Dux Emily Pryor. Last month Emily, who is now studying medicine at Monash University in Melbourne, received one of the inaugural Queensland Curriculum & Assessment Authority’s QCE Achievement Awards. Emily was one of 25 students across the State to win a Distinguished Academic Achievers award. This category included students who achieved:

- an OP1;
- an A on the QCS Test
- Very High Achievements in at least 20 semesters of Authority subjects
- additional tertiary entrance information, including QCS Test performance
- additional level of achievement information; and
- total QCE credit, including credit achieved for Authority subjects, university subjects, VET diplomas and advanced diplomas.

2015 RGS Distinguished Past Student Awards Dinner - 21 March

Pictured:
(top row, l-r): Frank Luck and Jules Guerassimoff; Brittany Lauga (nee McKee) and Pam Hadwen; Brian and Mark Wheatley;
(2nd row, l-r): Brad Beasley and Meleisha Tennent; Gladstone Holmes, Mark Birkbeck, Stewart Holmes; Hugh Grant;
(3rd row, l-r): Robert Davis and Geoff McIntyre; Lance Currie.

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Diplomacy leads to worldwide work

Ask Michael Hoy (RGS 2001) to sum up his experience since graduating from Grammar and he’d say “lucky”. “Since leaving Grammar, I’ve been lucky enough to meet presidents and prime ministers, travel to some 40 countries, visit an Australian army base in Afghanistan and star on a Vietnamese game show,” Michael said.

After Grammar, Michael took up a scholarship to study at Bond University on the Gold Coast. At Bond, Michael found his RGS experience instrumental. “Like Grammar, Bond’s intimate environment encouraged students to get involved in all parts of campus life,” said Michael. “RGS gave me the confidence to throw myself wholly into co-curricular life, often at the cost of my studies!”

While at Bond, Michael relaunched the university’s rowing club, started the annual oratory competition, ran the music and choral clubs, and served two terms on Bond’s Student Council. Graduating with Bachelors in International Relations and Commerce, Michael joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra in 2005.

The decision to become a diplomat was almost accidental. “I went to a careers brief and happened on a presentation by serving Australian diplomats. The idea of representing Australia overseas appealed instantly to my curiosity and desire to travel.”

In Canberra, Michael joined the department’s graduate program while studying a Masters in Trade Law part-time. In 2008, he was assigned his first diplomatic assignment in Hanoi. “I had imagined myself in Paris or Geneva, but fate intervened and sent me to Vietnam. I never looked back,” Michael spent one year becoming fluent in Vietnamese before leaving for Hanoi.

As a political officer at the Australian Embassy, Michael was charged with interpreting Vietnam’s secretive Communist political system as well as managing the Australia-Vietnam human rights dialogue. He was also put in charge of the Embassy’s cultural program, bringing Australian artists and musicians to Vietnam. But his big break came thanks to music and again to RGS. “A Hanoi friend encouraged me to learn a Vietnamese song,” recalled Michael. “I drew courage from my time playing piano for RGS singers and picked a traditional song about Hanoi. Some Vietnamese newspapers picked it up, and suddenly I was the story, for a very brief moment.”

Michael’s surprise fame led to an invitation to appear on a charity version of Vietnam’s Who Wants to be a Millionaire. “My first challenge was understanding the questions, and then things got worse,” said Michael. He didn’t become a Vietnamese millionaire.

From Hanoi, Michael returned to Canberra before leaving for another embassy, this time in Kabul. In Afghanistan, Michael treasured the opportunity to monitor Afghanistan’s tenuous political situation, while working alongside Australian troops at the Australian base in Uruzgan province.”

In Kabul, Michael again put his musical experiences to use. “I remembered how much fun we’d had jamming at RGS, so I asked around for other musicians in Kabul. Eventually, we had enough for a cover band. We named it ‘Five Eyes’ after the Australia-US-UK-Canada-NZ alliance, because we had a band member from each country. We didn’t break the charts, but we rocked out the embassy bars.”

In 2014, Michael transferred to Brussels to be closer to his fiancé and fellow diplomat, Heather. They both now work at the Australian Mission to the European Union, where Michael manages Australia-Europe cooperation on energy. In July, Michael joined a team of Australian diplomats in Kyiv to respond to the MH-17 tragedy. Michael is mindful of having represented Australia in three countries: Belgium, Afghanistan and Vietnam - where Australia’s armed forces have served with distinction.

“It makes you mindful that Australia has a long tradition of backing up its international commitments with more than just words.”

The other consistent theme of Michael’s experience since RGS has been taking opportunities as they come. “I was lucky to have parents, teachers and friends who supported my interests and passions. It showed me what was possible if you just ‘had a go’.”

Clockwise from above: Introducing former Governor-General Quentin Bryce in Vietnam; Tarin Kot military camp; Vietnam, Who Wants to be a Millionaire; Afghanistan Maranjan Royal Tombs, Kabul, Afghanistan; RGS in 2011
Cameron Allen (RGS 2002) has been appointed to the World Rowing Federation (FISA) Commission. The Rowing Australia Competition Manager - Events, joins FISA's Events Commission.

Cameron was one of three Rowing Australia officials appointed, joining a further five Australian representatives on the world rowing governing body.

Among the major Australian-based events Cameron has worked on includes the Sydney International Rowing Regatta and the 2014 World Rowing Masters Regatta. “I have thoroughly enjoyed working on two major World rowing events hosted in Australia in the past year and I look forward to taking my learnings from those events, along with our domestic competitions, to the Commission and contributing to what I’m sure will be a lively and diverse group,” he said.

The volunteer role initially includes four days of back-to-back meetings in London in early March along with attending regattas in Asia, including the South-East Games and Olympic qualifying regattas, as a technical delegate to ensure “everything is up to scratch”.

Cameron will also this year assist in coordinating Rowing Australia Olympic qualifier regattas which will include another former RGS rower, Sasha Belonogoff (RGS 2007).

After growing up around Monto, Moura and Tambo, Cameron was first introduced to rowing as a Year 9 boarder at RGS. Cameron rowed for RGS from Year 9 to Year 12.

“He still remembers being in Year 9 and watching guys like David Galley and Ian Becker row for RGS. They both went on to represent Australia at Junior World Championships,” Cameron said.

In Year 12 Cameron was Rowing Vice-Captain - he also remembers missing the nationals that same year after he “wrecked” his knee playing soccer. “Rowing’s a really addictive sport, it gets in your blood,” Cameron said.

“I always enjoyed being part of a crew and you always had to remember you were only as strong as your weakest member. You have to work together.”

Cameron continued rowing at Emmanuel College at UQ for four years where he was also the Rowing Convenor for the College rowing programme. Cameron stopped rowing after that time, but continued coaching in schools around Brisbane before being appointed to the events role with Rowing Queensland in 2008.

“Rowing has been great for my career,” Cameron said.

Cameron's current role with Rowing Australia deals with anything on the water.

“I look after racing, umpires, entries, draws and timing systems - basically anything to do with a boat or rower.”

And having seen many courses around the world Cameron is also full of praise for the Fitzroy River course, even if he admits he could be “biased”.

“I always remember Brom (Alan Bromiley, RGS former rowing coach) saying appreciate where you row and once you’ve seen other rowing courses you understand that.

“You have a high quality course right at the shed and a fully-buoyed course is much rarer than people think in Rocky.

“It’s flat, quite protected and you can row all year round.”

Rockhampton’s Fitzroy River will host the 2015 State Championships in June and RGS rowers will be on the water.
Still proudly serving our country

Walking into the School’s Memorial Assembly Hall you cannot help but notice the names etched into the marble memorial. The names of young men who proudly went to serve their country in World War I, some never returned home to their families and friends. This year we remember 100 years since the fateful battles at the onset of World War I. Many RGS past students would lay to rest in this part of their world, far from home. Lest We Forget. Since that time others have served in the Australian Armed Forces in many battles. Some returned home while others did not. Today our past students continue to serve their country, whether it be on foreign soil or carving a career at home. Lieutenant Colonel Neil Grierson (RGS 1990) shares his journey, so far, with the Australian Army.

It’s hard to imagine now, some 29 years after I started my time as a Grade 8 Army cadet in The Rockhampton Grammar School Cadet Unit that my budding interest in the military would still be continuing in 2014 and beyond. I remember fondly the good times at RGS and on and off over the past few decades I have been in contact with some of the other students that were in the Cadet Unit and the staff that were involved with the unit.

I graduated from RGS in 1990, leaving the Cadet Unit as one of the Unit’s Cadet Under Officers with the knowledge that in one way or another I would be heading into the Army (much to the concern of both my ex-Royal Australian Navy parents). On graduation it looked like I had been accepted as a recruit into a fledgling program that was being run by the Royal Military College (RMC) at Duntroon. This course was in effect a three month pre selection activity that would either result in my appointment as an Officer Cadet at RMC or entry as a Private into the Army. After three months of assessment which entailed everything from basic military training, white-water rafting, mountaineering and abseiling and lots and lots of walking including a trek from the outskirts of the Australian Capital Territory to Melbourne, I was fortunate enough to be selected to be appointed as an Officer Cadet at RMC. 18 months later I graduated from the College as a Lieutenant into the Royal Australian Corp of Transport and posted to the 10th Terminal regiment based at Mosman in Sydney – a far cry from Koongal in North Rockhampton.

With my early career focussing on the Army’s Maritime and Port management and some domestic logistic work I have been fortunate to have had a wide and diverse career. My first few years in the Army were heavily focussed on managing my Platoon operating along the East coast of Australia on shore and along side the Navy. I then moved to Central Victoria to Puckapunyal and then to the North of Tasmania managing domestic and operational heavy transport. Highlights included being involved in the relocation of the Army’s Leopard Main Battle Tanks by rail from South Australia to Darwin and spending two months based out of a Road House in Cagney Part supporting the central Australian military resupply route during the major Kangaroo 95 exercise.

As my career progressed I found myself back in Sydney on posting and then deployed to East Timor for 6 months supporting Australia’s effort in the fledgling nation. I was fortunate to work both for an Australian Unit and then as an aide to the Second in Command of the United Nations Mission during my time deployed so I was able to see much of the country when travelling during the operation. On my return to Australia I was then promoted to Major and posted as the head of the Army department permanently on board the Royal Australian Navy Ship HMAS Kanimbla. Of the 24 months I was posted to the ship I spent 22 months at sea or overseas and deployed twice to Iraq, was involved in Border protection operations to the north of Australia and conducted training exercises on Australia’s East Coast (this was particularly amusing to my parents – I was effectively Australian Navy for two years!). Following my subsequent posting as the head of the Army’s Driver Training School for two years, once again in central Victoria, I then undertook a 12 month promotion course in Canberra.

At the successful completion of this course I was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and served for two years in Canberra as the aide to the General who commanded the Australian Defence Forces logistic capability. This job provided a unique insight into how challenging it is to support a Defence Force of 50000+ personnel both in Australia and on operations and saw me travel extensively across the globe with highlights including visiting Japan, the UK and a moving service for ANZAC Day at Villers-Bretonneux in the north of France.
Still serving and still enjoying what I do!
Leutenant Colonel Grierson

The next three years were arguably the highlight of my career to date as my family and I (my wife Rebecca and our 4 children) moved to Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea where I was embedded as a Staff Officer working for the Head of Logistics of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force. The opportunity to live and work in such a beautiful yet challenging environment, which included travelling to some of the most remote and spectacular jungle in the world, walking the Kokoda Track and observing a live volcano at Rabaul first hand, was fulfilling both personally and professionally and my family and I were all sad to depart after my posting concluded. On our return we moved to central Victoria once more and most recently I have been posted as Army’s Senior Representative in Tasmania, based out of Hobart, where I will continue to serve until the end of 2015 when my family and I will once again pack up and move to where the Army sends me next.

With close to 25 years in the Australian Army, like all careers I imagine, I have had amazing experiences and periods of more moderate and mundane activity. I can honestly say that though I did not expect to have had such a long and fulfilling career, and one that still continues. There have been few times, if any, where I have wished for anything else. Still Serving and still enjoying what I do!!
Lest we forget

The marble memorial in the School’s Memorial Assembly Hall reads the names of past students who served their country in World War I. It’s a timely reminder of a generation past and young lives lost forever. Some fell in France and Belgium while others farewelled families at Gallipoli. During the Gallipoli campaign over 3000 Australians lost their lives. Among them were Rockhampton Grammar School past students including:

**Walter Byron James Pattison**, aged 27. 9th Infantry. 10 May, 1915.
Walter Pattison was the first Rockhampton-born soldier to die in the Gallipoli campaign. Walter Pattison died at Heliopolis hospital of leg wounds he received in action at Gabe Tepe, on the Gallipoli Peninsula. Letters penned to his family from the hospital described him as being cheery, but blood poisoning had set in and medical staff were forced to amputate his left leg. Walter Pattison was a law clerk before he became Second Lieutenant Walter Pattison and embarked from Brisbane on 24 September 1914. He was buried at the Cairo War Memorial Cemetery in Egypt.

**Wilfred Rotherham Gower**, aged 18. 5th Battalion. 28 August, 1915.
Born in Springsure, Wilfred was a school teacher and the son of William and Emily Gower. Wilfred embarked Brisbane on 16 April, 1915 and joined the 15th Battalion reinforcements in Gallipoli on 16 June, 1915. Wilfred was reported missing on 8 August, 1915 before a Court of Inquiry held in the field on 6 April, 1916, pronounced fate “killed in action, Gallipoli, 8 August, 1915”. He has no known grave. His war medals included 1914-1915 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal.

*Source: https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au*

Private Geoffrey Broome was the second son of William and Frances Broome, of the Athelstane Range. He had previously served in Cadets and Citizen Military Forces. The Queensland Figaro newspaper (Saturday, 26 June, 1915), wrote that Geoffrey had passed both junior and senior University examinations creditably. A few months before he enlisted he accepted an appointment with the Mt Morgan Gold Mining Company and was studying to qualify for an electrical engineer when he volunteered for service.

Enlisting in September, 1914, William served in the 1st Australian Light Horse. In January 1915 he was promoted to Lance Corporal and was wounded in action on 10 May 1915 before being discharged from hospital on 21 May. On 29 May he was promoted to Sergeant before being reported missing at Gallipoli on 8 August, 1915.

*Source: https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au*

**Clive William Tilbury**, aged 30. 15th Battalion. 8 August, 1915.
Clive started at RGS in 1901 at the age of 16 and left in December 1902 before further being educated as a grazing selector and in 1914 was a grazier near Rockhampton. He embarked from Brisbane on 16 April before being killed in action on 8 August. It was not until May 1916 that the family received official advice of Clive’s death. In 1921 the Base Records Office wrote to Clive’s father, James Tilbury, requesting any correspondence that may assist them in locating the grave of Clive. James responded “He was last seen alive at Suvla Bay on 7/8th August 1915 and (I am informed) his company, I presume with others, was sent out to draw the enemy’s fire, pending relief which, owing to some blunder, never arrived, and there were no survivors”. *Source: Tilbury Lineage and https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au*

At the outbreak of war Harold Colquhoun was a teacher at Leichhardt Ward State School, with the school later unveiling a marble tablet in his memory. Harold Colquhoun left for the front on 21 September 1914. His journey started in Egypt before arriving at Gallipoli. He was twice wounded prior to being killed in action. He was first reported as missing, next as being a prisoner of war and finally his mother received a cablegram saying her son was in hospital in England. As the weeks went by she received no word from him and cabled military authorities who found that the man in hospital was another soldier named Colquhoun and that her son had been killed. *Source: Rockhampton Bulletin. Friday, 23 February, 1917*  

*Excerpts of letters written home by Wilfred Gower and William Higson are featured on page 10.*
Letters from the frontline

The below words from Wilfred Gower and William Higson are included in the book, Heroes All, by Bronwyn Tarrier.

Wilfred Rotherham Gower:  
Words from the late Private, writing to his father Mr W. M. Gower, Headmaster of Allenstown State School, on 19 June 1915:  
"... We have not been in the firing line yet; but we are mighty close to it. Shrapnel flies over our head and around us every day, but I have not been hit so far, although several in the gully have. We found a shrapnel pellet in our dug-out after we had gone down the hill for safety, and another fellow sitting on the side of our dug-out had a pellet land just alongside him, so it relieves the monotony now and then. I am living next to Clarice (William Clarence Higson), He is our section commander here. We all have dug-outs on the hill, more or less safe from shrapnel, and there is one thing—we have not so far had to contend with snipers...Paper, envelopes, and cigarettes are very scarce here... We will all develop into rabbits, I think, burrowing into our dug-outs when ever shrapnel comes over us, as we can hear them coming, luckily. We cook most of our own food now, and it tastes nice. Our ration is bacon for breakfast, a slice each and some hard biscuits with jam and a small piece of cheese for tea. We get half a loaf of bread twice a week if we are lucky, and we get bully beef stew for dinner, but we are getting fit on it. ... We do sapping here now and then sometimes it is dangerous; but we have not been hit yet. I see they give an account on one of the Australian papers of the battle; but they call these hills slopes. Well they are cliffs-steeper than Mount Archer—and rather of that formation. Fancy doubling up there with snipers all round and the Turks entrenched on top commanding all sides.... I am still with Clive Tilbury. He was sick for a while in hospital, but is better now. Give my love to all at home.”

27 June:  
"I have been at the front last, so I know a trifle of what it is like. We landed at Gaba-Tepe after a quiet dark trip of six hours. We had all lights out, and no noise was allowed. At day break we landed after having had the thrill of rifle fire near us, but over our heads. We formed up on the beach and marched to our valley. Just then Abdul suddenly woke to our presence and sent several shells along the beach, but they burst harmlessly into the sea about twenty yards away. I may mention though, that a large percentage of us ducked with much speed, and I was one of them. We are comparatively safe now, as we were in safety trenches, and so reached our valley. Abdul or his guns kept quiet until I got settled to it, and then sent a few more; but I was getting used to them. Soon after one burst ahead, and we ducked, with reason, as another fellow sitting on a dug-out where we were was just missed by six inches. We burrowed into the side of the hill and formed a fairly safe little dug-out, but when they commenced to shell the gully we got down the hill. ... Yesterday a shell burst off the pier just as I was on the ship out in the Bay, and it killed four and wounded thirteen. I was lucky. I have not been very bad. I have got dysentery and expect soon to be back in the firing line. It was no good staying in the gully with dysentery and the cases getting fairly numerous. ... We expect to be in the firing line in a week or fortnight’s time, so I will be sure to get out and leave this before then...”

William Clarence Higson:  
Writing to his parents Mr and Mrs WE Higson from the First Australian Hospital, Lemnos Island, early in June 1915 says:  
"Just a line to say I am well and all here. I have been wounded in the arm with a bullet and in the leg with shrapnel, but both are right now. We have given the Turks all they want right from the word ‘go’. Sunday, 25th April, was landing day, and the boys from the land of the Southern Cross started on what looked like an impossible task, but all went well. The Third Brigade landed first, and included in that is the Ninth Battalion Queenslanders. Our colonel is highly pleased with us and said we have been specially mentioned in dispatches. The slaughter has been awful, and some of the chaps have been smashed up beyond recognition. The enemies losses are thousands more than ours. Turkish prisoners say they would surrender only for the German officers. Now that Italy is in, I think it will make a difference, but our position here is as safe as a bank.”

RGS students honour the past

The Rockhampton Grammar School’s Year 6 students will continue a tradition on their annual visit to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra in November.

Many soldiers lost their lives at ages, not much older than today’s young students finishing their secondary school.

The primary school students each select a fallen soldier before researching their story and then finding their name at the War Memorial and placing a poppy by the soldier’s name.

RGS Head of Primary Mr Geoff Hadwen said in November this year 75 Year 6 students will embark on a nine day Canberra tour. One of the most significant events that take place is the visit to the War Memorial.

“The War Memorial just on its own is a very educational, sombre and moving experience for our students. However in recent years we have provided the students with the opportunity to research a past student who has made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. This research is done by visiting the War Memorial web site,” Mr Hadwen said.

“On our visit, just before the closing ceremony, we provide each of our students with a poppy and time to locate this RGS Student on the Wall of Remembrance. The 2-3 minutes of reflection they have has a profound impact on so many of our students. Some students opt to place a poppy on a past family member. We even had a student place a poppy at the Police Memorial beside a fallen police officer who was a family friend.

“It is a very emotional afternoon for many and deepens the ties of our students with those who have gone before at RGS.”
Sasky keeps her cool on the social media front

Growing up in the hot and humid Rockhampton climate was a far cry from Sasky Stewart landing her dream job – working for the National Hockey League (NHL) in their Toronto office.

Sasky (RGS 2006) always had a passion for hockey and it was inline hockey that was the next best thing to ice hockey while living in Rockhampton.

Sasky played inline hockey, along with her brother Sam (RGS 2007), playing in three national championships – including the boys team when she was 12.

“I had been playing inline, then I saw ice on TV and just fell completely in love with it. Now 12 years later I work for the NHL so it’s kind of mind blowing to me,” said Sasky, who now works in the NHL as an in-game social media.

Ice hockey gig is a dream come true

“This means 3 or 4 nights a week I work out of the “Situation” room, the ultimate man cave where we watch every game and the goal review team works, and cover all the hockey on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and other platforms),” said Sasky.

“When I was younger, I was obsessed with the NHL and any friends from school would remember my bedroom being completely covered with hockey pictures that I’d printed and taped over the walls. I had always told people that I’d make it to the NHL one day, and to be here now, working with the NHL is a dream come true for me and also completely nuts.

“I’m the only Australian in the Toronto office, I don’t know about NY but I reckon probably there too, and my accent gets a lot of attention.

“I’ve just come back from the WHL’s Everett Silvertips, which was a bug I got from there on out! That’s where I got my first taste of social media do post-game interviews, all that kind of stuff. We’d lose a great connection to the NHL Media world. We’d lose someone that gave their all to the sport just to see it flourish.

“The internships I took didn’t really exist. The internships go: in sport – you have to do them! In sport, no one will hire you without internships and so many students don’t think of that in Australia. The more you do the better jobs you get!”

Sasky also interned in Brisbane with a sports agency called International Quarterback, working with athletes like Michael Clarke and Mark Schwarzer. It was during this time Sasky joined the Australian Ice Hockey League (AIHL) board to run events and digital media.

“I was the first female to join the board and its youngest member (aged 20),” Sasky said. Earlier Sasky had been involved with the AIHL starting with photography for the Blue Tongues (Gold Coast) before looking after websites, media and first aid.

Sasky has also worked for Octagon Sports, working with the likes of Mark Webber, Alan Border and on the TV Series Rexona Australia’s Greatest Athlete. After her brief stint in Sydney, Sasky moved to Melbourne taking up the events role with Football Federation Victoria.

“Here I ran football (soccer) events for the Victoria region as well as helping operate the Melbourne Victory Women’s team in the National Women’s Football League (W-League).

“I got the chance to work on National Youth League and A-League games as well as helping manage the volunteer forces for FIFA World Cup Qualifer - Australia vs Iran,” Sasky said.

Sasky’s only brief detour from sport was as Digital Marketing Manager with Lincraft, however, during that time she still volunteered in sport spending 2014 with the AIHL team the Melbourne Mustangs when they won the Goodall Cup for the first time.

“In addition, I produced a podcast on the AIHL called “It’s All Goodall” that is basically the most popular one going around,” Sasky said.

It was this passion and commitment to the AIHL that had Sasky dubbed in many circles as “The First Lady of Australian Ice Hockey”.

Hewitt Media, a sports website, said on Sasky’s departure from the AIHL: We’d lose the AIHL’s International Advocate. We’d lose a great connection to the NHL Media world. We’d lose someone that gave their all to the sport just to see it flourish.

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On the bench for the WHL’s Everett Silvertips; (left) In the Press Room for the NHL’s Washington Capitals.

“Make up for it now though by being an administrator and I hope a good one!”

And for someone who did not enjoy PE Sasky has made a career out of sport since leaving RGS.

Leaving School Sasky studied Law and during summer breaks travelled to North America twice, firstly for an internship with the NHL’s Washington Capitals and the following year to the WHL (Western Hockey League’s) Everett Silvertips near Seattle.

And it was from pure determination that Sasky landed the work.

“The internships I took didn’t really exist. The first one in Washington I created a package and mailed it to every single NHL team to try and get in. I ended up emailing it to the owner of the capitals (who’s address I had) and he rang me up one day and said yep no problem. We’ll find a space for you! The second internship, I’d met the GM and Media guy the previous year when I visited a friend and they’d taken me on a tour of the team. So I emailed them and offered to come for free for 3 months. Who’s going to say no to that? They didn’t! In Washington I did mostly media stuff, working with the social media team, so helping create content, update the website, do post-game interviews, all that kind of stuff. That’s where I got my first taste of social media which was a bug I got from there on out!

“In Seattle/Everett, I did just about everything! A WHL team has a staff of maybe 10 to 15 people. I worked across the PR/media, digital, events, marketing, operations all of it. As far as internships go: in sport - you have to do them! In sport, no one will hire you without internships and so many students don’t think of that in Australia. The more you do the better jobs you get!”

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The School’s newest building, the Birkbeck Building, was officially opened by the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Sir Peter Cosgrove, AK MC (Retd) on Friday, 13 March. Attending the opening were (pictured from left) Thomas Birkbeck, MaryAnn Birkbeck, Mark Birkbeck, Sir Peter Cosgrove, Lady Cosgrove, George Birkbeck and Greg Birkbeck.

Parliamentary duties call Brittany

Brittany Lauga (RGS 2003) has embarked on a new career path as the ALP’s Member for Keppel following the State Government election: “It is such an honour and privilege to be elected as the new Member for Keppel. I put my hand up to run for Keppel because I’m a passionate Central Queenslander, and I believe we need a strong, energetic representative in State Parliament – someone who will work hard every day for our region. I love this region and I have been frustrated that we don’t get our fair share. We haven't had the benefit of a strong voice standing up for us. I am young, passionate, energetic and I have big vision for our region: I plan to stand up for:

1. Excellent health care services across the region
2. More full-time jobs for our region, including apprenticeships for young people.
3. More teachers in our schools – we currently have overcrowded classrooms in many schools
4. Improvements to local infrastructure
5. Protecting the Great Barrier Reef – we rely on tourism to the southern Reef, so we need to protect this important natural asset.”

RGS is also represented in Federal politics by Ken O'Dowd (RGS 1968, Member for Flynn) and Stuart Robert (RGS 1987, Member for Fadden, Assistant Minister for Defence)
**Casey gets a different perspective on magazines**

An internship at The Australian Women's Weekly is giving Casey Henderson (RGS 2013) a first-hand insight into the world of public relations.

Casey (pictured left working behind the scenes during work experience) was first introduced to the leading Australian magazine after the School offered her a placement of a week's work experience at the Women's Weekly in July 2013.

“I jumped at the chance,” said Casey, who was originally keen on pursuing a journalism career.

“I also completed another week of work experience with The Australian Women's Weekly this year and this was when I decided that my strengths really lie with public relations, communication, fashion, promotional endeavours and working with people to develop a stronger link with the wider community.

“During my work experience I was lucky enough to actually work on a photo shoot which featured in the September issue.”

Casey, who worked in the School's library this year, said the work experience involved working in fashion, helping with photo shoots, finding accessories and running clothes back to high profile stores.

“I really wanted to gain even further experience in this industry and this is when I applied to The Australian Women's Weekly for an internship,” she said.

Casey received confirmation of the job offer in September from Mattie Cronan, Style Director at The Australian Women's Weekly and starts this month.

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**Rowers hit the beaten track**

During their School years at RGS Ben Morley (RGS 2008), Sasha Belonogoff (RGS 2007) and Nik Belonogoff (RGS 2011) were right at home on the water with their rowing commitments.

Late last year The Morning Bulletin reported that the outdoor enthusiasts were taking a break from their respective pursuits for some off-season training while also helping make a difference in remote Australian communities.

Looking for adventure, Sasha created the Red Dust Ride - an 800km cycling trip from Brisbane to Rockhampton, via Toowoomba, Miles, Taroom and Moura.

In the process the outdoor adventurers raised $3500 for indigenous communities.

Sasha said not all Australians experience this luxury of access to knowledge and facilities that make healthy living easy and fun.

“We were lucky... to be born into an environment that promotes and supports healthy living,” Sasha said.

“Even though it was a physical challenge (including the punishing Toowoomba Range), it was just really enjoyable.”
As I sit with iPad in hand looking down the winding road of my past life two things immediately come to mind. My youth and Macte Virtute Et Litteris being translated at the time to “Grow In Manliness And Learning.” My school motto would influence me for my future life of extended learning and being considerate to others.

In 1956 I was in my Grade 8 class of 4 students at the small Marlborough school when the heavens opened up pouring huge amounts of rain upon the cattle property of Mount Stewart where I lived. This made it impossible for my parents to get me to school lessons 8 kilometres away as the roads became constant quagmires. So a decision was made to send me to The Rockhampton Boys Grammar School beginning second term, becoming a boarder and Grammar Grub. There I joined many other country students, hearing the nightly mournful cries of curlews and howling dingoes to sleeping in military style accommodation of Blue dorm on the closed in verandah section. Who could forget a daily cold shower for two terms. Very happy days reminiscing to myself about the RGS turning us into young men preparing us for adult lives.

The first student I was introduced to on arrival was Bob Dawson, who became my good friend and confidant at school and post Grammar days, whose hobby was pulling old radios to pieces and rebuilding new ones. He went on to own his own Radio and TV business. I had a fascination at home wondering how a collection of glowing glass bottles and tin cans inside a wooden cabinet could pick up radio stations from the other side of the world so Bob gave me my first lessons on radio building. I built myself a 1Q5GT one valve radio but it only gave little more amplification than a Crystal set and ate expensive batteries not impressing my parents. Many young students owned crystal sets listening to either 4RK or 4RO to the top 40 of the time while in bed at night time. I soon convinced my parents to take me to my second cousin Wes McLean's radio shop in Alma Street to buy me a Qplus crystal set. These little wonders needed long aerials to pick up stations so if possible we connected them to the steel wire that passed through the school tower to ring the bell to wake us, calling at meal times, lessons, assemblies and prep classes and whatever other reason for calling us was required. Even stringing wire to the top heights of the Pine Trees out front of the school wouldn't receive 4MK unless one enjoyed the luxury of a good portable radio. My grandfather Bill Butcher Snr. came to my rescue buying me a second hand portable that picked up Brisbane stations on dusk briefly. I was able to hear, the then popular DJ Bob Rodgers play the latest top 40 on 4BK.

Sports was a big thing at the RBGS and St Brendan’s was our foe in all areas of inter school competition, especially Rugby League so the senior team led us to many victories and we sounded a deafening war cry on many occasion of karakedy karakedy, kara, kara etc. It was an excitement just to get out of school on bus excursions to Yeppoon to watch a game. A few pineapples often followed some of us on our return.

The antiquated buses with their crash gear boxes struggled to return up the steep slope of Archer Street, so many of us would step off and run beating it to the top of the hill for excitement. I don't need to say what happened to us when we were called to Mr Jardine’s office after the event. Our sporting great at the time was John Kaputin. I was a keen tennis player from living in the country first attending school at Marlborough with a young Rod Laver. It was quite the preferred game in the country.

As students we enjoyed the camaraderie of each other and on occasions got up to hijinks and also blamed for pranks we weren’t responsible for. We trapped bandicoots around Campion House, our dormitory in Grade 10, snuck out to the corner shop across the road, hid banned food in our lockers and sometimes were caught by surprise inspections hiding birthday cakes. Who could forget Mr. Wills’ FX Holden being found on the Devi one Sunday morning when we woke and being held in assembly until the culprits owned up then finding some of the other Masters were the pranksters the night before.

I was one of the three or four terrors referred to by Masters at the time, continued next page
Melanie beefs up support for event

Melanie Kirk (RGS 1994, Year 9) has a passion for helping educate the next generation on all things beef.

Raised on cattle properties in the Callide Dawson region, Melanie is responsible for coordinating the WIN Television Beef Australia 2015 Schools Program in Rockhampton from 4-9 May. Melanie is helping develop kindergarten and school competitions that feature beef cattle themes, including where beef comes from, to unsung heroes of the beef industry.

The Grammarian

Page 15

continued from previous page

joined by Errol Campbell (Drippy), Ian McWha (Chooky) and Bob Dawson. School work was of high importance and some days a few of us enjoyed free time while we sat in our class room either studying or participating in other subjects being taught.

To stave off boredom I became involved in French lessons which wasn’t one of my subjects but prepared me in the future silently understanding my mother and aunt who had been French teachers in their younger days trying to hide private conversations held at night time before retiring to bed.

Music was another enjoyment of mine as I was learning classical violin in Rocky before my RBGS days so I was sent to the Girl’s Grammar twice weekly to further my musical lessons. One day I was practicing in the library when Ian (Keg) Blossom walked in so I became a member of his rehearsal group playing what is now referred to as soft jazz or middle of the road. Ian played the best boogie piano and went on to make a name for himself playing drums and percussion in Sydney. I crossed over to trumpet after becoming an adult playing in small Jazz groups in Brisbane and environs. Dance lessons were another school

excitement held in winter time at the Girls Grammar from the music of a wind up gramophone and occasionally either the girls or the boys would hold a general dance night at individual schools. Who remembers the dance teacher’s voice “you boys are dancing with the same girl too many times. I want you to choose another partner.” A time when young hearts began fluttering becoming infatuated with a particular dance partner.

Once per month those of us whose homes were within a short travelling distance via road, rail motor or slowly travelling nightly mixed passenger and goods train, the midnight horror as it was called in my case were given the luxury of monthly leave weekends to enjoy time with parents and the excitement of putting a saddle on a horse or visiting country friends.

Often those who lived far away were invited to spend the weekend with those who could get home. Bob Dawson enjoyed a weekend at my home. Ian McWha another, not able to make it home always. Once my time arrived to leave Grammar I relocated to Brisbane becoming an apprentice auto electrician and instrument technician but didn’t enjoy this field of work. I returned to college gaining honours in electronics specialising in industrial design and diagnostics within Electrical Engineering. Eventually I opened a business and 40 years later, aged 72, I retired.

Shop class: (l-r) Bob Dawson, Paul Boland, Hugh McMaster, N Kenyon. Shop class: (l-r) Bob Dawson, Paul Boland, Hugh McMaster, N Kenyon.

Visit RGS at the expo

There is also an opportunity to create a promotional film at the event while photography and art competitions are also on offer. Melanie will also coordinate the “Kids Space” at the event ensuring entertainment, workshops, activities and school tours run smoothly throughout the week.

“As a teacher and a beef producer I’m motivated to educate our future generations about our great beef industry,” Melanie said.

“I understand that there are multiple competing priorities for the classroom teacher. The school competitions have been designed to fit seamlessly into the classroom and link to the Australian Curriculum, feature criteria and contain a wide range of teaching resources across a variety of media.

“I am hopeful teachers will embrace these competitions and engage their students. I also hope we can expose as many students as possible to the beef industry and if they only take one new thing away about the event I will have fulfilled my role with pride.”

Beef Australia 2015 is the Australian beef industry’s national exposition and is the biggest and most comprehensive cattle industry exposition in the country, according to Beef Australia 2015 CEO Dennis Cox.

“It is a celebration of all facets of the beef industry in Australia and facilitates new trade and export opportunities by exposing our local supply chain to international industry leaders,” he said.

“Beef Australia 2015 is major economic contributor to and part of the social fabric of Rockhampton and Central Queensland communities. For local producers, Beef Australia 2015 is contributing to the future sustainability of the industry by investing in their education through our seminars program and supporting their engagement with the latest technical research. And for Rockhampton businesses, the influx of visitors from around Australia and overseas delivers millions of dollars into the local economy.”

See it, taste it, love it - Beef Australia 2015 is a chance for the general public and Australian consumers to enjoy all things beef. As well as the traditional cattle competitions featuring almost 5000 head from 30 different breeds, the week is also about having fun.

Mr Cox said Beef Australia 2015 will feature nightly live entertainment, a gala ball, fashion parades, celebrity chefs, and premium restaurants.

“There will be a new focus on beef as a delicious and nutritious product to be enjoyed by the consumer. Beef Australia 2015 will feature Australian and international celebrity chefs, who will be cooking up a storm for visitors during the week, and then later promoting to their home media audiences the importance of the beef industry and Central Queensland as a destination.”

For more information on the WIN Television Beef Australia 2015 Schools Program please visit: http://beefaustralia.com.au/learn/beef-for-kids/

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

**Seniors top of the class**
Congratulations to the Class of 2014 with seven students receiving OP1s. Once again 100% of the 169 eligible students at RGS were issued a Queensland Certificate of Education.

**Farewell to long serving staff**
At the end of Term 4 the School farewelled 3 long serving staff at The Rockhampton Grammar School. Jim Houston, Anna Zantiotis and Kathy Miller all retired after many years at the School. The School also farewelled teaching staff Devon Naeser, Heidi Reece and Bronwyn Thomson.

**Year 7s enter Secondary School**
In 2015 The Rockhampton Grammar School welcomes Year 7s into the Secondary School joining Years 8 and 9 in Middle School while Senior School is Years 10, 11 and 12. Over 90 new Year 7 and 8 boarders started this year. Pictured below is incoming Year 7 boarder Nicholas Storey with his parents Megan and David. Nicholas’ sister Imogen is in Year 12 this year while older sister Madeleine graduated in 2012.

**Athletics: Nationals**
Robert Taylor (Year 12, 2014) won a silver medal in the under-18 men’s shot put at the Australian Secondary School Championships in Adelaide after throwing 17.77m. Fellow Year 12 student Ellie Gambling placed sixth in the under-18 girls high jump (1.66m).

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**2015 RGS School Leaders Appointed**

The Rockhampton Grammar School has appointed its School leaders for 2015. Captains are Anke Bezuidenhout and Jake Austen. Vice Captains are Marissa Buchanan and Kennedy Tjandramulia.


Pictured from left: Kennedy Tjandramulia (Vice Captain), Marissa Buchanan (Vice Captain), Anke Bezuidenhout (Captain) and Jake Austen (Captain).

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**State selection**

Congratulations to RGS Year 12 students Lucy Blair, Georgia Saunders and Imogen Storey on gaining selection in the Queensland girls eight rowing crew to trial for the Australian Junior team. The trials will be held in Sydney in mid-April following their National championships appearance for RGS, also at the Penrith course. RGS Rowing head coach John Smyth will coach the Queensland crew.

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**2014: The year of Wheatley House**

Wheatley dominated Inter-House Sport in 2014 winning both the Secondary and Primary Cross Country, Athletics and Swimming Carnivals. They also won Inter-House Rugby Union, Water Polo and Dancefest competitions.
RGS Reunions

The Rockhampton Grammar School welcomed home the Class of 1994 for its 20 year reunion on 2 August, 2014. This reunion included a School tour and BBQ function at the RGS Rowing Club. Reunions planned for 2015 include the Classes of 2005 (10 Year), 1995 (20 Year), 1985 (30 Year), 1975 (40 Year) and 1990 (25 Year).

If you have milestone reunions approaching in 2016 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 this year be held on Saturday, 2 May, 2015, at the Brisbane Irish Club in Elizabeth Street starting around midday. This is a great afternoon to catch up on RGS stories from across a range of generations. For further information or to RSVP for the function please contact Lance Currie at lfcurrie@yahoo.com

Reunion Calendar:
- All Years Reunion (Brisbane, 2 May, Brisbane Irish Club, Elizabeth St)
- Class of 2005 (15-17 May)
- Class of 1975 (23 May)
- Class of 1985 (5-7 June)
- Class of 1990 (5-7 October)
- Class of 1995 (23-25 October)

Please email paststudents@rgs.qld.edu.au if you require further contact details for the above reunions.

Births, Vale and Marriages

BIRTHS: Liam Mulry (RGS 2000) and wife Karlee (right) welcomed Hunter Robert Mulry on 13 January 2015 weighing 7 pound, 15 ounces. Hunter is a brother for two-year-old Cooper.

VALE: Idau Tau (RGS, 1964)
Words by Geoff McIntyre, former classmate
Idau and his fellow PNG students were most welcome and highly regarded boarding students at RGS. I shared four of Idau's six years boarding at RGS from Grade 7 in 1958 to Junior in 1962. Idau continued to Senior in 1964. We have fond memories of Idau, having thoroughly enjoyed his company especially during the primary school years when we were a small class group and mostly boarders until along came David Orr - our only day student. It is very well expressed in the various photos and especially in the swimming carnival photo with Ian Osborn. We were great mates. Idau and I shared a double deck bed on the louvered veranda section of Blue dorm in sub junior year 1961 - Idau had the bottom bunk, probably because he was bigger than me! He was a skilled sportsman in all sports with plenty of support from everyone. Like all of us in 1959, Idau was “recruited” by Mr Ryan for the Verse Speaking Choir.

Middle right: Idau pictured with Ray McGhee at RGS; Bottom right: Idau pictured with Geoff McIntyre and Ian Osborn at an Inter-house swimming carnival

RGS survives Tropical Cyclone Marcia

Cyclone Marcia left her impression on The Rockhampton Grammar School on Friday, 20 February. While the buildings withstood her fury the School grounds bore the brunt of the damage. Thank you to the School’s dedicated staff, students and families who helped with the clean-up to get RGS back up and running again. Also, thank you to all the well wishes from afar.

The fig tree still stands, minus some branches

The Grammarian
Upcoming RGS Events

- 2 May - RGS past students gathering at the Irish Club, Brisbane.
- 4-9 May - Beef Australia, Rockhampton (Visit the RGS display and watch our Show Cattle Team compete)
- 7 May - RGS Suncorp Breakfast Series (Growing the next generation of Q’s Agn-Business leaders)
- 15-17 May - Class of 2005 (10 Year Reunion)
- 16 May - RGS Race Day (Callaghan Park)
- 23 May - Class of 1975 (40 Year Reunion)
- 5-7 June - Class of 1985 (30 Year Reunion)
- 10 June - Past Students’ Association AGM (5.30pm, Islay Lee Learning Centre)
- 21 July - RGS Suncorp Breakfast Series (Medical diagnosis: A four year med school for Rockhampton)
- 8 September - RGS Suncorp Breakfast Series (Thriving arts: Thriving city)
- 17 October - Class of 1990 (25 Year Reunion)
- 23-25 October - Class of 1995 (20 Year Reunion)

Former RGS history teacher captures the stories of wartime

Gillian Watch Whitall has always had a passion for history. The former RGS History and English teacher (1990-2009) also worked on the QCS team for many years with Ms Denise Wright. Following her retirement from teaching, Gillian decided to write a biography of her great uncle, Fred Reeve, who fought at Gallipoli. Gillian launched her book, From Gallipoli to the Skies, in February to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landing. Gillian has written the book based on Fred’s letters and says it is a story about the importance of family ties and how essential they were during those times of war. About the book:

- After basic training in Egypt, Fred was shipped to Gallipoli where his transport was torpedoed en route. He would spend many hours in the water before being rescued. He joins the fighting at Gallipoli before being evacuated and follows his dream of joining the Royal Flying Corps in 1916. He is flying over France when his plane comes down and he is killed. Book copies are available from Amazon.

Cricket Legend Visits RGS

The Cricket World Cup is a long way from cricket in 1931, however, the name Sir Donald Bradman will always be etched in Australian cricket history. Below is an insert from the Capricornus in December, 1931.

On Wednesday, April 15th, Mr. C. Snelling, Chairman of the Rockhampton Cricket Association, brought Don Bradman up to the school. Mr. Bradman spent about two hours and during that time recounted many of his cricket experiences both in England and Australia. He was much interested in Plum Warners’ book, “The Fight for the Ashes”, which Mr. G. G. Harrap, the well-known London Publisher, sent to the school as a memento of his visit. This book contains the signatures of the members of the English team and also of the author and of the publisher. Mr. Bradman borrowed the book and returned it before leaving Rockhampton. After Mrs. Kellow had entertained the visitors and the staff to afternoon tea, Mr. Bradman went down to the cricket ground where the members of the school team were introduced to him. Mr. Bradman thereafter spent a good half-hour demonstrating his various scoring strokes and the different types of bowling against which certain shots had to be played. Mr. Bradman was kindness and courtesy itself, and spared no pains to make himself understood by repeating the strokes at the request of various members of our team. Towards the end of his demonstration, the famous cricketer delighted and astonished the boys with an exhibition of spin bowling. Particular noteworthy was a kind of back spin, in which the ball, having been bowled towards the batsman, came back towards the bowler when it struck the pitch. Mr. Bradman asked about the individual performances of the team and showed himself extremely anxious to help the boys with his experience and advice. During his demonstration the Headmaster’s younger daughter took some snaps; she was very delighted when one of them was reproduced in the “Evening News”. On his departure, “Three cheers for Don Bradman,” were given with hearty goodwill.