Welcome

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

From the President.....

The end of year is fast approaching and with it the completion of secondary schooling for our Year 12 students. Congratulations to all graduating year 12 students and we look forward to hearing of your successes in your chosen fields in the years to come. Following on from our successful reunions of the Classes of 1984 and 2004 at the Race Day in May, we also had the classes of 1994 in August and a 1960-1965 reunion which was held in June. The 1960-1965 reunion reunited many past students who had not seen each other since they finished school. Their past teachers Mr Jack Lanham, Mr Rod Deeth and Mr Martin Linane also gave up their time to return to the School and reunite with their students of many years ago. Past students were also reunited in Townsville during October and Canberra in November. Current Headmaster Dr Phillip Moulds hosted these gatherings which coincided with other business commitments. We look forward to another active year in 2015 which will include the inaugural RGS Distinguished Past Student Award which acknowledges some School's students who have gone onto become exceptional leaders in their chosen field. I congratulate all the nominees and welcome this initiative which will be celebrated annually. I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to seeing you all in 2015.

Congratulations to Andrew Colvin (RGS 1987) who was appointed to Australian Federal Police Commissioner on 2 October. Andrew entered the Queensland Police Force after completing his studies at The Rockhampton Grammar School. Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said of the appointment: “This is a highly capable police force and it has an outstanding career police officer as its next commissioner.”
Len celebrates 100th birthday

In 1927 a young Len Tucker (RGS 1927-1929) arrived at The Rockhampton Grammar School for Junior schooling. Born on 7 June 1914, Len has now celebrated his 100th birthday surrounded by family and friends.

“Turning 100, it only happens once in a lifetime so you might as well celebrate it when you get there,” said Len, who still lives on his own at his property “Carinya” near Eidsvold.

“It's mainly about luck (turning 100). Having good health and good family and friends also goes a long way to helping be around this long.”

Even when Queensland Country Life photographer Sarah Coulton (who provided the photograph of Len on his property) turned up for a photo shoot he could not understand what all the fuss was about.

Len's family did suggest he stop riding horses and climbing windmills, but he still has his driver's licence that he received at Yaamba as a 14-year-old.

“Dad wasn't very good at driving, but he took me to the old sergeant there (Yaamba). I drove around the flat and back to the police station and got my licence.”

Len Tucker was raised at “Raspberry Creek” in the Shoalwater Bay district. His mum and governesses tried to educate Len, before sending him to RGS for School.

School Days
Near the close of school life,
Ere we venture in the strife
We think of all our pleasure,
Good friends and teachers true,
 Memories we'll treasure
All our love lives through.
L. E. T.

Rockhampton Grammar School Magazine
Vol. XIV, December, 1929. No. 11

“It was a bit sad leaving my family. We had our ups and downs at school and I used to like getting home when I could. It wasn't like today. Transport was a bit different back in those days,” Len said.

“My keen interest was in sport (cricket, tennis, athletics, football). I used to think I was better than I was. And I certainly wasn't the top of the class - more like the bottom of the class.

“I remember Headmaster Kellow. He was a strict old fellow. He didn't have a cane. Just a strap. You usually got it on the hands or somewhere else if you weren't so lucky. There was second in charge F Jardine, Cec Hadgraft and Joe Cook (“Cookie”),” Len recalls with a laugh. We had 30-40 boarders and only about just over 100 at the School. We used to go to church every Sunday. We didn't get much pocket money in those days. Two shillings a week.

Kellow controlled the handouts I think. It was a long way to St Paul's Cathedral or the Presbyterian Church.

“We also used to go to Girls Grammar on Friday nights for dance lessons. I don't know if we learnt much. The old mistress kept a good rein on us - under lock and key.” After three years of Junior School Len finished school.

“I got by then with what I learnt.”

Len joined the Old Boys’ Association after school and recalls he still has some of his badges somewhere in the house.

“I went back to the school about 4-5 years ago when my son took me to town. I didn't recognise the old place. There's been lots of improvements and that shows with more students there now.”

Len married his “good mate” Gean, who passed in 1998, and they had three sons, Peter, Glen and Jim. He moved to the Mackay/Nebo district in 1934 and made his home in the Eidsvold district on 2 July, 1959.

Len's family keeps a close eye on him and Blue Care helps with household chores.

“I have a very caring family and friends.

“I'm a bit slow these days - the age barrier has got me. I never thought about it (turning 100) until I got there.

“Looking out (from his home) it's a nice way to spend my last days knowing this is mine.”
Moore returns to rugby grassroots

Injured Australian Wallabies rugby union captain, and hooker Stephen Moore admitted it felt “strange” being back at the School he last visited when he finished Year 8 in 1996.

Stephen studied in Years 5 to 8 at The Rockhampton Grammar School, where during that time he was a member of the School’s Year 7 leadership team and loved playing sport.

“It’s strange being back here and looking in those classrooms,” said Stephen, who returned to his old School on 25 October as guest speaker at the School’s annual Rugby Presentation Night in the Spaceframe.

“My three sisters (Sarah, Katie and Suzanne) also went here. Islay Lee was the Headmaster and Steve Ryan was in charge of primary back then.”

“I remember the sports fields. I used to run around out there a bit playing cricket and rugby. I just tried to be involved with as much as I could in sport whether it was cricket, rugby, rowing or athletics and we did a lot of swimming.

“It’s pretty cool being back and it’s amazing seeing the new developments. Facilities at schools these days are mindblowing.”

Stephen, now based in Canberra where he plays for the ACT Brumbies, admits he was “OK” at rugby in his younger years but he was definitely brought down a peg or two when he started Year 9 at Brisbane Grammar School.

It was a different world to his early club rugby playing days at Mount Morgan and Pioneer clubs in the Rockhampton region.

“The rugby club in Mount Morgan was up the road from where we lived. I think I started so mum could get me out of the house and I took a liking to it,” Stephen said.

“I was playing rugby for the same reasons back then as what I do now – spending time with mates and sharing memories, both the good and the bad times.”

A couple of years after school when Stephen was playing rugby at the University of Queensland he was asked to train with the Queensland Reds in 2003. Soon afterwards he was offered a full-time contact to the Reds squad.

“That was the beginning of my rugby career and I’ve played ever since.”

That was until a cruel blow sidelined the newly appointed Wallabies captain in June of this year. Stephen had been soaking up everything that surrounded being appointed the Australian Rugby Union Captain. He led his side onto the Suncorp Stadium field in Brisbane, proudly sang the national anthem and the whistle blew for the first Test against France.

Just minutes later Stephen was being carried from the field with his first ever “serious” injury.

“I was very proud and very honoured to get the opportunity to play for my country, and ultimately the opportunity to lead my team and country was a huge buzz.

The untimely injury was a matter of “disbelief” for Stephen.

“I was like did that really happen. I couldn’t believe it would happen because I’ve been relatively injury free in my career. It was all new for me to have a serious injury and in those circumstances as such.”

Just two days later Stephen underwent surgery on his knee and has since focused on the positives of being sidelined from playing duties.

“I’ve been open minded about it. You can’t focus on this (injury) and wanting to play rugby so I focused on the positives of getting to spend more time with my family and not having to travel as much. I never felt I’ve been robbed of an opportunity.”

(continued next page)
During his time away from playing duties Stephen has found valuable time to work with Brumbies coach, and former Wallabies player, Stephen Larkham in preparation for the 2015 season.

Stephen hopes to return from the knee injury in February or March next year and is well aware that he has to earn a start back in the team. There will be plenty of players ready to impress next year with a series of Tests leading into the 2015 World Cup in England.

“My main focus is getting back on the field and playing well for the Brumbies and Wallabies. I also know the Wallabies are a national team and you have to prove yourself every time you play for them.”

Stephen has committed to playing for the Brumbies until 2016 and will captain the side next season.

Stephen has also watched from the sideline as Wallabies off-field dramas and disappointing on-field results have dominated media headlines.

“It’s unfortunate what has happened.”

In regards to the resignation of Wallabies coach Ewen McKenzie, Stephen said you never liked to see things happen in a team where people are personally impacted. It’s happened and now everyone has to deal with it the best they can.

Stephen said the Wallabies recent results had also compounded the recent situation.

“If you can perform well on the field, and be organised off the field, and disciplined, it makes a difference.”

Praise was also forthcoming for his young replacement captain, Michael Hooper. He’s only 22. He was so young to do what he did and he’s done a good job. He’s also played well on the field the whole time.

Stephen is also welcoming an opportunity to work with new Wallabies coach Michael Cheika.

“I don’t know Michael very well but his record is terrific in Europe and Australia. He deserves an opportunity.”

He now hopes the Wallabies can regroup and focus on their World Cup campaign.

“Anything can happen at the World Cup. History has shown that. There’s not much between the top teams. We need to show consistency over the next 12 months, on and off the field.”

RGS appreciates Moore’s return

The Rockhampton Grammar School was grateful to Stephen Moore for making some time to visit his old School. Current students also welcomed the opportunity to show Moore around today’s School campus.

Thomas “TC” Cassidy (Rugby Captain):

“It was an incredible opportunity to meet Stephen. He is a player that I admire greatly and when I spoke with him he was very down to Earth. I’m sure all of the students and parents appreciated his candid insight when he answered the questions they had at the rugby dinner. Overall, his return to the School was an awesome experience.”

Alex Hopf (Rugby Vice-Captain):

“It was a great experience to meet Stephen and show him around. It was an awesome way to finish the year with meeting Stephen. He was a top bloke.”

(From top): Stephen Moore makes a premature exit from his Wallabies captaincy debut at Suncorp Stadium. Photo: Getty Images; Rockhampton Grammar School forwards learn some valuable lessons from the experienced rugby forward; Stephen Moore was guest speaker at this year’s RGS Rugby Club Presentation Dinner where he is pictured with past student Todd Wells (RGS Director of Co-Curriculum and RGS Open First XV rugby coach), RGS Headmaster Dr Philip Moulds and (right) Alan Pike (RGS Teacher in Charge of Rugby); Stephen receives a guided tour of RGS from Rugby vice-captain Alex Hopf (left) and Rugby captain Thomas “TC” Cassidy.
RGS cadets salute military careers

Days in The Rockhampton Grammar School Cadets were an integral part of School life for many students over the years. For three of these students - Bob Sayce, Peter Rose and Kwago Guria - it would also lead to fulfilling years in the Army.

In The History of The Rockhampton Grammar School, Centenary 1881-1980 it explains that the ongoing value of the RGS Cadet Corps to the Nation, The Community, The Australian Defence Force, The School and the individual, should never be underestimated. Cadets developed skills and discipline during weekly parades, range shoots, annual camps and leadership courses which enhanced the academic and sporting opportunities offered by the School.

In 1964 the three RGS Cadet Unit Officers were selected to join The Australian Regular Army to undergo training at The Royal Military College (RMC) Duntroon and The Officer Cadet School (OCS) Portsea. Each would become Colonels in their respective Defence Forces. Kwago Guria was from Papua New Guinea and joined RGS in his Senior year from Slade College in Warwick where he had been a CUO. Peter Rose entered RGS as a border in 1962 and Bob Sayce started as a day boy in 1960.

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Bob Sayce's story:
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Bob served in a number of staff and regimental postings, attended Australian Staff College in 1979 and Joint Services Staff College (JSSC) in 1986. He was seconded to the Department of Defence and then appointed the Director of Armament Procurement for the Army in 1988. In 1991 he commanded the Soldier Career Management Agency and was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross in 1994 prior to being appointed the Australian Army Adviser to the Court of Saint James in London in 1996. During this period he was an occasional guest lecturer at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, represented Australia as an official observer on a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Committee and undertook an operational visit to Bosnia.

On return to Australia in 1999 he retired from the Army. A Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, he spent the next 11 years as the Manager of a Post Graduate Department in The Faculty of Law, Australian National University. He co-edited ‘The Fighting Fourth’ and has contributed to a number of military histories including the Australian War Memorial oral and written histories of the Vietnamese campaign. Bob is involved in Legacy, The Royal Australian Regiment Association and is the Patron of The Australian Defence Force Trackers and War Dogs Association. He is married to Margaret. They have two sons who attended the Canberra Grammar School and graduated from the ANU.

Peter Rose story:
It was quite a shock to learn, early in my Junior year at Chinchilla State High School, that our family was moving to Aramac which had no secondary school and that my sister and I would be sent as boarders to schools in Rockhampton! The sweetener for me was that my destination school supported a Cadet Unit! It was School cadets that caught my imagination. Responsibility was assigned early, the Cadet Unit staff were outstanding
The Grammarian

(even to the extent that Cadets showing promise were encouraged to participate in CMF weekend camps in the bush) and the August school camps and end-of-year promotion camps catered well for a young man’s thirst for adventure. It now seems not surprising that in Sub-Senior year I applied for and was awarded scholarship entry to the Royal Military College Duntroon. My academic performance prior to graduation from Duntroon as a Lieutenant in the Royal Australian Engineers enabled me to complete a Master of Engineering Science degree at the University of New South Wales in 1969 before deploying to Vietnam as Engineer Officer with the 1st Australian Civil Affairs Unit. Marion and I married in 1970. Two years of engineering in the (then) Territory of Papua and New Guinea were followed by two years as an exchange instructor in England at the Royal School of Military Engineering. Back in Australia I worked in engineering, personnel management and strategic planning roles until, almost at the 30-year mark and at the rank of Colonel, I left the Army. Since that change of career I’ve worked with a university’s post-graduate research centre, with World Vision in the provision of development assistance to countries beyond Australia, in publishing and in Christian chaplaincy. It was by distance education that I completed both my theological studies and a Master’s degree in Creative Writing. Ordained deacon in 2004, I currently exercise ministry among the Duntroon community and as a chaplain in Australia’s Parliament House.

Mali protects cultural identity of the Pacific

In the 1960s a group of students from Papua New Guinea captured the hearts of their school mates. Mali Voi (RGS 1960-63) was just one who remains in the memories of those from that era. Following his time at RGS Mali became a primary school headmaster and would later become Assistant Director, Secondary Education in PNG and then a National Cultural Director for Papua New Guinea. The following year he was appointed a member of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) Oceanic Cultures. Mali would later join UNESCO as a sub-regional cultural adviser working in Samoa – appreciating the rituals and constitutions of other cultures. For over 30 years Mali addressed cultural and heritage issues in the Pacific region. He is a firm believer that youths and elders must maintain an interest in their Pacific cultures and heritage to keep traditional languages alive. Mali retired from UNESCO in 2008. He returned home to PNG to take up Barramundi fishing. Bob Sayce and Peter Rose have good memories of Mali from their school days. An outstanding all-rounder, Mali was popular with both the boarders and day students.

Kwago Guria story:
Kwago graduated from OCS in December 1965 and served in PIR as a Platoon and Company Commander in PNG. During the 1970’s he was selected for accelerated senior staff training including JSSC, to prepare him for a senior leadership role in the development of the PNG Defence Force following Independence. He was appointed Defence Attaché at the High Commission of PNG in Canberra before his retirement.

Kwago, Peter and Bob represented their Colleges in a number of sports. Kwago probably still holds the Javelin throwing record at ISCAM. Peter and Bob took up long distance running and were Hash Masters at JSSC during their respective years. Bob played representative touch rugby until he was 50. He now has a replacement knee!
Ben Ryan (RGS 1999) has always had a competitive nature and he persisted in his quest to become an AFL umpire – a dream which is now a reality.

The field umpire has controlled 65 games in the AFL since first gaining selection on the umpires’ roster in 2011 making his umpire debut in a Gold Coast Suns game. This season Ben has umpired 22 games.

“I had so much nervous energy. I remember I went to bounce the ball and I bounced the ball into the backside of Jared Brennan (Suns),” Ben said.

It was a road of persistence with plenty of bumps along the way before Ben’s AFL umpire dreams were realised.

Ben is an AFL umpire but he is also a sports fan and relishes the opportunity to be on the field at the same time as some of the greats of today’s game.

“Every week I get to see players do amazing things on the field. You also get to watch the up and comers of the game and think these kids are going to be good one day,” Ben said.

“Having the opportunity to watch Gary Ablett play up close is awesome. I’m still an active footy fan and still love watching footy for enjoyment.”

While playing AFL for Brothers during his school days at The Rockhampton Grammar School, Ben also had his first taste of umpiring. His dad Steve (former Head of Primary School, RGS) would be umpiring so Ben would often jump in as a boundary or goal umpire.

“It was all about being around footy and making some pocket money,” Ben said.

Ben gradually worked his way up to umpiring senior games and had to decide if he wanted to keep playing or umpiring AFL. But really his real interest was in basketball and one day hoping to play for the Rockhampton Rockets.

In 2000 Ben was umpiring Senior football in Rockhampton and would travel to Brisbane a couple of times a year to umpire State League games.

In a bid to further his umpiring career Ben moved to Brisbane in 2001 where he umpired lower division games before being appointed to his first State League game in 2003. Eventually he umpired a State League grand final in 2005.


“At the end of 2005 I thought I was ready for the AFL but looking back, and now knowing what’s involved, I was a bit naive and wasn’t really ready.”

In 2009 and 2010 he was nominated to attend AFL umpire trials. He missed out both times. They were six-week trials which included fitness tests and umpiring NAB games.

“In 2011 I fortunately got on the panel. It was one very cool moment to get that phone call saying I was on the AFL umpires panel,” Ben said.

During his time in Brisbane (2011-2012) Ben umpired 27 AFL games before relocating to Melbourne in February. Inter-state games dominate his schedule with five games in Sydney, three at the Gold Coast, and one each in Canberra and Perth.

Ben didn’t miss a round this year.

Being a field umpire has always been Ben’s preferred umpiring position.

“Umpires train for their own specific disciplines,” Ben said.

“We (field umpires) don’t run as much as the boundary umpires but we’re involved with more decision making and pressure during the game. Ten to 20 times a game we blow the whistle, but we’re making thousands of decisions and there’s so many things you have to think about with every contest. “Making the right decision is not that difficult, but the ball moves so quickly and there’s so many players around the footy – the challenge is getting yourself in the right position.

Ben has praise for most of the AFL players.

“We have very few issues with players. If someone gets frustrated, but doesn’t step over the line, you don’t tend to mind that.

“I understand the notion of competition. This is their career and the stakes are greater for them.”

Ben has also worn the full brunt of coach frustrations.

“I don’t deal with them much on match day. I just read about it in the paper the next day and that can be frustrating. They’ve got super high pressured jobs. Sometimes they’re right (on umpire comments), sometimes they’re wrong.”

Ben also needs thick skin to manage taunts from passionate AFL fans in the stands.

“I don’t hear too much – it’s more noise on mass. “You hear the personal comments when you’re coming off the ground and some fans can go off their head at you.
Ben’s AFL dreams turn into a reality

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“Sometimes spectators can forget that I’m just a school teacher who’s umpiring on the weekend and trying to just do my best.”

Some of his most honest critics can be his Brighton Grammar School junior school students when Ben returns to his PE teacher duties every Monday morning.

“The boys get stuck into me if they noticed I missed a few things in the game,” Ben said.

“They love talking to me about footy and ask me about the decisions I made in the game.

“The School has been really supportive of my footy. If I didn’t have that support it would be difficult to marry the two (teaching and umpiring) up.”

A week in the life….

Monday – Friday: PE teacher (junior school) at Brighton Grammar School, Melbourne.

Monday – umpire training 5.30pm – 8.30pm (Fitness, Coaching and Video Analysis)

Tuesday – fitness session (run, ride, swim or recovery)

Wednesday – umpire training 5.15pm – 8.30pm (Fitness, Coaching and Video Analysis)

Thursday – massage

Friday – light run, prepare for a game (usually every second week on a plane for inter-state games)

After game – Recovery run. Beach walk at St Kilda Beach (not fun in Winter). Analyse match and send feedback to coaches.

RGS to honour past students

Many past students of The Rockhampton Grammar School have made significant contributions to their community, state and nation since the School was first established in 1881.

The RGS Distinguished Past Student Dinner on Saturday, 21 March, 2015 at RGS will honour these men and women. This honour recognises the actions and achievements of Past Students who have gone above and beyond what could be reasonably expected, and in doing so, encourages aspirations and ideals of the highest community standards and values.

Nomination categories include:

• Community Service and Leadership;
• Academic and Professional Excellence; and
• Sporting and Cultural Excellence.


For further information contact Rachael McDonald at RGS at rmcdonald@rgs.qld.edu.au

RGS Headmaster champions past student

The Rockhampton Grammar School first opened its doors to students in 1881 and during that time has educated (in the broadest sense of the word) many students who have succeeded in their chosen path in life.

The inaugural RGS Past Student Award provides the opportunity to recognise and acknowledge our School’s students who have gone on to make a difference in their endeavours.

“The Rockhampton Grammar School has a rich tradition and over the years our past students have proved high achievers whether it be academically, in the sporting field or becoming community leaders. It is now time to honour the efforts and passion of these students,” Dr Moulds said.

“I encourage you to support this award, not just in 2015, but in the years ahead to help honour our past students and create awareness among others of their efforts and achievements in life.”
Daniel plans his career post uni

Preparing to finish his second degree at Bond University on the Gold Coast, Daniel Krause (RGS 2011) has a plan for life after university studies. Daniel is nearing the end of his Bachelor of Sustainable Environments and Planning degree having earlier completed a Bachelor of Business, majoring in Marketing. It has been a rewarding journey so far for Daniel who received a Bond University Collegiate Scholarship after finishing at RGS.

“I have always had an interest in business and the hospitality industry, but I developed an interest in planning through studying graphics and geography at School. I also have a general interest in sustainability,” Daniel said.

Daniel still appreciates the time his graphics teacher, Steve Latham, gave up for his students. “Nothing was too hard for him and he would give everything a go. I remember one of my assignments being building a cello in CAD. Steve sat there for quite a few hours with me working on it.”

During his RGS days Daniel was also Marketing Director on the first Grammar Global committee, which successfully staged the first Carols in the Frame, and was also Hospitality and Golf captain. Also a former School music captain, who played cello, percussion and piano, Daniel also remembers his time with the School’s music program then under the direction of Dr Michelle Waller, including being a member of the School’s inaugural USA Music Tour in 2011. That was Daniel’s first ever visit overseas, but his future career ambitions firmly lie in regional centres.

“I hope to gain employment in the planning industry in local government and I’m currently looking at Rockhampton Regional Council, or anywhere else in regional Queensland,” Daniel said.

“Regional areas are a good starting point with an opportunity to really develop and contribute to communities.”

“I think Rockhampton can change the way the city is seen from outside. There’s an opportunity to move Rockhampton forward from a big country town into a more modern city. A CBD revamp and greater emphasis on the river would be a good starting point. Rockhampton already does well building on its heritage but it really has the potential to do much more.”

“You want to make places that are more walkable and where people feel they can congregate as a community.”

Daniel, who is also the Bond University representative for the Planning Institute of Australia Gold Coast branch, said planning was all about knowing your community and where your community came from. As for the future planning of The Rockhampton Grammar School, Daniel thinks the only way may be up.

“I think they’ve got it pretty right for now.”

Daniel is also putting his Business Degree to good use conducting marketing and development work as a volunteer for the Rockhampton-based not-for-profit organisation, Fitzroy River and Coastal Catchments.

Daniel will first plan to continue his successful university studies. Here are some tips from Daniel to help get through university studies:

1. Get a good balance between academic work and everything else;
2. Don’t get stressed over academic work and don’t let it get to you;
3. Have a good relationship with your lecturers;
4. Develop a network of student colleagues and work hard.
Hayden has all the tricky moves

Hayden Truelson (RGS 2013) has outgrown his backyard at home after mastering the art of “tricking”. So what is “tricking”? Mostly described a mix between martial arts and gymnastics tricking is judged on difficulty, length and variations.

The CQ University first year multimedia student has fast become a master at this dynamic aerobic sport, this year winning the invitation-only All Star Games in Las Vegas where he beat some of the world’s best in this discipline.

Not bad for someone who only started tricking three years ago after he was sitting at home and stumbled across a YouTube clip.

“I just went out in the backyard and tried to do this trick. My first attempt was pretty bad,” Hayden said.

“I think I’ve now destroyed all the grass in our backyard,” Hayden said.

Backyards have now been replaced by “battles” in gymnasiums where competitors are placed in four corners awaiting their opportunity for a run through to produce their highest level of difficulty twists and turns.

Each competitor can have five runs each.

“When I first started I used to get dizzy, but it’s pretty good now.”

It was new territory for the natural sportsman who the closest he had come to this type of aerobic discipline previously was one year of trampolining many years ago. Hayden was also called on to perform some impressive moves in School musicals over the years.

Hayden, who trains at Rockhampton’s Victoria Park, said people can get into tricking to show off to their friends, for training purposes or just to have fun.

Want to see for yourself what tricking is then check this out - http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=UCv9XCoW2A-EzJn2iz-3B1cw

Book to record Neville Hewitt’s life

There are many facets to the life of Neville Hewitt (RGS 1938) so when Rockhampton’s Jessica O'Neill agreed to write a book on his life the tricky part was knowing where to start.

A war veteran, politician, jockey and a family man with a great love for the land Neville Hewitt, 94, has led a busy life.

Jessica (pictured right) was introduced to the Hewitt family through his grandchildren when the family suggested it would be a good idea to record Neville’s life. She first met Neville in 2012.

What started as a “few sporadic recordings” grew into a bigger plan and with the research near completion it’s time to piece the history together.

“He’s a very humble man and told me things his family had never heard before. Initially I had no idea how big or how long this book would take me,” Jessica said.

“I really got into the research, particularly around his political career.”

Growing up as a country boy, values of hard work and respect for family life are some of the Neville Hewitt qualities Jessica has been introduced to.

“As a person he never wants to be in the limelight but wants accuracy. He did a lot of things we don’t realise in Queensland and they can’t go unrecognised. He’s never the one to say ‘I did it’. Hard work was his way to success.”

We will keep you posted when Neville’s book is completed.

RGS parent shares love of learning and land

DINGO’s Louise Dunne is a mum, “bushie”, teacher and former president of the RGS Boarder Parents Association.

The mother of RGS past students Fraser (2009), Laura (2011), Meghan (2013) and Lawson (Year 11) shared her passion for education and life on the land in the latest edition of the Ruth magazine (available in newsagents).

Louise, from “Tarcoola”, believes the land and education are inextricably linked - both great connectors in our lives that, cared for properly, sustain and nourish ourselves and our communities.

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

Nicole Gardiner (RGS 2009) has landed her dream job, investigating evidence for the Northern Territory Police. Secretly watching CSI episodes on television as a 10-year-old sparked Nicole’s interest in the profession. “I don’t go to crime scenes looking that glamorous, but I really love the science work in the labs,” Nicole said. “It’s about wanting to help the people who can’t help themselves. I’m a voice for the victims.”

Nicole graduated from Griffith University in 2013 with a Bachelor of Forensic Science (majoring in molecular biology)/Bachelor of Criminology and Criminal Justice - in the top 5% of her class. Combining legal studies at university, along with learning from forensic scientists who work in that field, helped better prepare Nicole for the outside world. Only six months later she was on the job as a forensic biologist for the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services - investigating crime particularly in Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA).

This includes:
• Screening items for the presence of biological and physical evidence
• Performing an extraction method in order to extract DNA following the screening process
• Quantifying the sample to assess how much DNA is present
• Amplifying any DNA in the sample
• Running the samples through a capillary electrophoresis machine in order to read the fragments of DNA in any given sample
• Producing a readable DNA profile that can then be compared to reference samples or persons of interest in the police investigation.

Nicole’s first forensics job has so far met all expectations – providing a strong connection between interests in both the criminal justice system and science. “Forensic science is a piece of the puzzle,” Nicole said. Nicole deals with many indigenous-related forensic cases and, being based in the Northern Territory, she also gets a few crocodile cases.

“We get to do everything in the Darwin lab from screening to the analysing stage. We get all the cases in the Northern Territory,” she said.

“It can be hard, on a human level, to understand and if I was naive before this job I’m certainly not now.”

RGS past students met with the School’s current legal studies students at the Laws Service Mass held at Rockhampton’s St Joseph’s Cathedral in July. The service acknowledges the Opening of the Law Year. Attending the service were (pictured above, from left) Rockhampton District Court Judge, His Honour Judge Paul Smith, RGS legal studies teacher Miss Jasmine Minogue, Anna Barnard, Madison Smith, Aidan Nagle, barrister Steve Deaves (RGS 1987), solicitor Ben Wright (RGS 1988), barrister Maree Willey (nee Duggan, RGS 1995), Tom Cumming, Darcy Walmsley, Oliver Crow and Judge, The Honourable Justice McMeekin.

Students awarded for vocational studies

Catherine Irwin and Rielly Stokes (RGS 2013) were this year honoured by the Australian Government as recipients of the Australian Vocational Student Prize for 2013. Catherine (pictured right) completed a Certificate III in Beauty Studies, Certificate II in Hospitality and Certificate I in Work Education.

Catherine said her study pathway gave her a creative outlet and helped broaden her horizons for job prospects. She plans to start a double degree in Business and Media and Communications at QUT next year.

Rielly (pictured left) completed a Certificate III in Fitness and Certificate I in Work Education.

Rielly, who is studying Exercise and Sports Science at the University of Queensland, said it opened up more doors for employment opportunities after School. This prize recognises the achievements of students who completed their senior secondary studies while undertaking a vocational education and training in schools program. This prize promotes the benefits of vocational education and reflects the commitment of the School to making vocational learning a valuable and rewarding experience for students. Each recipient receives a certificate and $2000.
The Grammarian

Leadership duties at uni

Tamasin Mcarthur (RGS 2011) is among the RGS past students leading the way at their University colleges. Here is Tamasin’s story:

I hold three positions at Cromwell College: Resident Assistant (RA), All-Age Representative and Dancefest Convenor (cultural role). RA is my main role. Convenor positions are voted in by the students of the College whilst RA and All-Age Rep require a formal application and interview process and are ultimately decided by the Principal and Dean of Students of the College. As an RA I am employed by the College with my role mainly involving the pastoral care of the girls in my corridor, as well as looking out for the whole college and completing nightly “lock-up” (security procedure), when being the “resident on duty” once every 17 days (roster system). All RA’s are trained in many aspects, including first aid, working at College events, emergency response and CPR and are also role models and active participants in the College community (academics, social, sporting and cultural). We attend weekly meetings with the Dean of Students to discuss important College issues and ultimately ensure our community is a welcoming and safe one. The all-age representative position ties in nicely with RA, as it focuses on planning non-alcoholic events/alternatives that can cater for and include all College residents.}

Former Rockhampton Grammar School captain Sheridan Spark (RGS 2013) has dreams and ambitions to chase. This year while working in the RGS Primary School department, Sheridan’s current focus is on achieving her track cycling dreams. This year the wheels were set in motion with her Australian debut. This is Sheridan’s story:

“I have wanted nothing more, since I was four years old, than to earn the right to compete for Australia. Making the Junior Worlds Team to represent Australia in Seoul, South Korea, has certainly been an unforgettable experience. I remember receiving a phone call whilst I was still at the Kenrick Tucker Velodrome with my coach Ken Tucker, and immediately after I became aware I had made the team, I just broke out the happy dance moves on the spot.

My journey has seen me make many new friends and I have experienced some ups and downs along the way, which have combined together to have made this experience one that I have learnt a huge amount from. I travelled to Melbourne frequently to complete training camps with the rest of the Australian Sprint Team, whereby on one camp, I spent just under three weeks sleeping on an airbed and training intensively each day before heading off to compete at the Adelaide GP.

There have been so many people who have supported me during my Junior Worlds campaign, and I cannot thank them enough for all their help. Without the generous support from Cycling Queensland, the Queensland Academy of Sport and my family; none of my trips to Melbourne, Adelaide and Seoul would have been possible. I also have the support of my strength coach, Glen Hanson, my cycling coach Ken Tucker and many others from the Rockhampton Community.

After coming away from the Championships being ranked 9th in the World for the Keirins, 10th in the 500m Time Trial, qualifying 13th for the sprint and fighting my way back to top ten, and coming away with 4th in our Team Sprint, I am pretty happy to conclude that I learnt so much from both the coaches and the other riders at the Championships. However, like every athlete who wants to be the best in their chosen field, I’ll strive to better my results in the elite ranks and look to making my country proud as I endeavour to work hard and achieve my lifelong dream of being an Olympian for Australia.
Claudia has the look for fashion success

Whether it’s running around on a netball court for the Queensland 21 years and under team or commenting on the latest fashion trends, Claudia Jones (RGS 2011) is right in the game.

The Bond University graduate (Bachelor of Communications, Public Relations major) has started the ball rolling with fashion career dreams. With a prime position near the catwalk Claudia has this year already analysed the latest fashion trends at the Mercedes Benz Fashion Festival in Brisbane.

Already working for Fashion Weekly, Claudia also recently featured in the Lorna Jane worldwide promotion for Get Active Day (pictured top right) - http://www.lornajane.com.au/activetoday. Claudia laid the platform for a career in the fashion industry during her university studies.

“I interned with a few different fashion companies and magazines. Through doing this I was offered the opportunity to attend and work at all kinds of fashion events. The best part about working in the industry is that it is such a fast paced environment and it also gives me the opportunity to be creative, which is something I enjoy very much,” Claudia said.

A highlight in Claudia’s young career has included featuring in the Lorna Jane Active Nation Day Campaign.

“It was such an amazing experience and it sent out a great message too.”

“I grew up being heavily involved in sport, so being active has always been a part of my life. From working for Lorna Jane I have learnt how important it is to live an active and healthy lifestyle, luckily I have been surrounded by like-minded women everyday who have made it so much easier.”

Alex Russell promotes latest film

Alex Russell (RGS 2004) returned to Rockhampton during October to promote his latest work, Believe Me.

The film, a comedy-drama about a college student turned con artist who hopes to profit from naive churchgoers, opened in New York on 26 September to great reviews. Alex, 26, graduated from the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) before heading to the US to further his career.

Blazer sparks memories...

“One of my clearest early-childhood memories was being wrapped in a black and red striped blazer on a bitterly cold day with the wind coming from the direction of the then-active quarry in Canning Street towards my Grandmother’s house in Fitzroy Street, in what I believe had to be about July or August 1944. (It had to be 1944, and the westerlies blow in August.) For a young man approaching his fourth birthday and insisting on playing outside, and with wartime clothing rationing in full swing, I guess an old adult-size blazer tied on with a dressing-gown cord was as effective as an army greatcoat. On commencing at RGS in 1955 I remarked to my Dad that the then current blazers, dark serge with red trim, were not as lairy as the striped one he wore at RGS.

Dad promptly corrected me. The red and black striped number was not an RGS blazer, it was an Old Grammarians’ blazer.

Dad appears in a rowing crew photo which was most likely early 1930s before he went to north Queensland to work. The Old Grammarians had a high-set clubhouse with rowing-shell storage below, on the low bank of the Fitzroy River in Quay Street. It was a popular venue for dances, wedding receptions etc until one of the floods undercut its footings and it was in danger of falling into the river. The building was shifted to the RGS in 1957 and used as a recreation hall. I remember Antil Wills coming to see Dad around that time, Dad said it was Old Grammarians business, and I think it was about winding up the Old Grammarians Club.”

(see clubhouse photos on last page)
RGS today...

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

**Year 7 Building**
The School's new Year 7 building, on Archer Street near the swimming pool, is getting the final touches before welcoming Year 7 students into the secondary school system in 2015.

**Sharing knowledge**
RGS past student Bruce Saxby (RGS 1973) returned to the School last Term to meet with Headmaster Dr Phillip Moulds and Mrs Lynda Kennedy, Assistant Head of Middle School, Year 7. Bruce recently retired as Principal at Bremer State High School in Ipswich. In 2013 Bremer State High School, a co-educational school with about 1700 students, was selected as one of the pilot schools for the move of Year 7’s to secondary school.

**Athletics**
Congratulations to Eleanor Gambling (Year 12) who won her girls high jump event at the Secondary Schools State Athletics Championships in Brisbane during October. Fellow Year 12 student Robert Taylor placed second in shot put. They will both represent Qld at the nationals in Adelaide in early December.

**Cricket**
Lachlan Knuth (Year 11) and Jack Baxter (Year 8) attended the inaugural Michael Clarke Cricket Academy program at Scots College in Sydney during September. The Academy included four days of training and mentoring followed by a 50-over match between Academy participants on the final day.

RGS School Musicals produce memorable performances

**THEATRE**
The Rockhampton Grammar School students once again exceeded all expectations in this year producing spectacular musical theatre performances at Rockhampton’s Pilbeam Theatre. Secondary school students performed *The Addams Family* in August, astounding the audiences with their acting, singing and dancing ability along with an amazing set. The Primary school also had their turn on stage, performing every two years. This year they performed *The Little Mermaid*. An array of colourful costumes consumed the stage with an array of enthusiastic sea creatures. Once again helping create the spectacles were a cast of talented off-stage performers from set and costume designers to choreographers to light and sound technicians.

**USA Music Tour**
Over 50 RGS students, staff and parents joined the School's USA Music Tour last month with highlights including performing live in New York City and Disneyworld, Florida. The group was also guests of The Juilliard School, a world renowned dance, drama and music school in New York City. While in New York City touring staff member Geoff Hadwen (Head of Primary) caught up with RGS past student Jake Brown (RGS 2010). Jake currently has an internship with a company in New York City until the end of December.
Sasha’s on course for 2016 Olympics

Sitting on the Fitzroy River early on a Thursday morning Olympic rowing aspirant Sasha Belonogoff (RGS 2007) was impressed at the numbers of rowing enthusiasts hitting the water in his home city of Rockhampton.

Sasha made a quick visit home this week between rowing commitments to catch up with family and also allowed time to return to his old school and catch up with Rockhampton Grammar School rowers.

“I just spoke about (to the students’) that even though I’ve climbed the ranks in rowing a lot of that is due to my enjoyment of the sport and having fun along the way,” Sasha said. “I wasn’t the best rower at RGS in Year 8 and 9. For me in Year 8 rowing was a chance to go on the river and muck around in a boat. In Year 9 I started doing a few more regattas and then attended my first nationals in Year 10. Obviously the competitive element is more attractive now.”

Fresh from winning a bronze medal with James McRae in the men’s double scull at the World Rowing Championships in Amsterdam Sasha, 24, said his long-term goal of making the Australian Olympic team in 2016 was on track.

“I’m in a position now that if I can stay there I should be at the Olympic Games,” Sasha said. “But also for me it’s about not just going to the Olympics but doing well there.”

Australian rowing team selection occurs over the four years leading into the next Olympics with the final team announced in April of the Olympic year. The international challengers for Australia’s rowers are growing in strength and Sasha has also noticed an improvement on Australian waters.

“Rowing in general seems to have gained a lot more depth and quality over the past 10 years,” Sasha said. “I always keep my eyes on the Grammar kids since I left school. I’m interested in watching their events at nationals and each year you notice the numbers are a lot bigger and the quality continues to improve.”

Sasha said it was also good to see more Rockhampton schools supporting rowing programs and the Rockhampton Fitzroy Rowing Club attracting more rowers. The growing competition at this year’s Rockhampton Schools Regattas has been a testament to the growing local interest in rowing.

“It’s nice seeing more people and different clubs on the water. It used to just be a handful of people out there.”

The Canberra-based Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) athlete first tested the rowing waters in 2003 when he started schooling at The Rockhampton Grammar School.

Vale: Arthur James Birkbeck

In honouring Arthur Birkbeck’s long and successful association with the School the newly constructed building on Archer Street, which will next year be home to the Secondary School’s Year 7 classes, will be named the “Birkbeck Building” in honour of the Birkbeck family’s involvement with The Rockhampton Grammar School.

In 1968 Arthur Birkbeck became the first full-time Secretary, with the Secretary and his administrative staff having offices at the School. In addition to recording the minutes of Board meetings and tending to the financial administration of the School, as did previous Secretaries who were also accountants, Mr Birkbeck acquired the added responsibility of the management and administration of catering, domestic, grounds, maintenance, and office staff, aside from other administrative tasks which arise from time to time. In the book, The History of The Rockhampton Grammar School. Centenary 1881-1980, the then Secretary was described as “Mr Birkbeck’s conscientiousness is not only to his job as Secretary, but to the School”.

Mr Birkbeck was also a working member of the Parents and Friends Association, the Grammarians Rowing Club and the Grammarians Soccer Club. Mr Birkbeck was also a long serving councillor for Livingstone Shire Council and left a partnership in a local accountancy firm to take up his position as Secretary.

Mr Birkbeck’s three children, Gregory, Mark and Lisa all attended RGS as did his grandchildren Stuart (RGS 2006) and Thomas (RGS 2009) Birkbeck. Mr Birkbeck was aged 78.
**RGS Reunions**
The Rockhampton Grammar School welcomed home the Class of 1994 for its 20 year reunion on 2 August. This reunion included a School tour and BBQ function at the RGS Rowing Club. Reunions planned for 2015 including the Classes of 2005 (10 Year), 1995 (20 Year), 1985 (30 Year) and 1975 (40 Year).
If you have milestone reunions approaching in 2015 please get in touch with the School for any assistance. Please contact RGS Communications and Development Officer Rachael McDonald at rmcdonald@rgs.qld.edu.au or phone 4936 0776.
The annual RGS Brisbane function will next year be held on Saturday, 2 May, 2015, at the Brisbane Irish Club in Elizabeth Street. This is a great afternoon to catch up on RGS stories from across a range of generations. For further information or to book a start at the function please contact Lance Currie at lcurrence@yahoo.com

**Reunion Calendar:**
- All Years Reunion (Brisbane, 2 May, Brisbane Irish Club, Elizabeth St)
- Class of 2005 (2015, 15-17 May)
- Class of 1985 (2015, Date TBA)
- Class of 1975 (2015, Date TBA)

**Unexpected Reunion:**
Julie Lowen (RGS 2013), a German exchange student at RGS, had a surprise school reunion earlier this year whenAlexander Connell (Year 1) was holidaying in Germany with his family. Julie lives in the small German town of Traben-Trarbach. Julie still keeps in touch with students and families she met during her Australian visit.

**RGS School Reunion (Class of 1994)**
Friendships were renewed and school stories flowed as the Class of 1994 returned to The Rockhampton Grammar School in August. Memories were relived as the past students enjoyed a school tour before heading to the RGS Rowing Club for a BBQ dinner.
Thank you to reunion coordinator Danielle Shaw (nee McKee) for her efforts in organising the event.

(Clockwise from top): Class of 1994 returning students gather at the Islay Lee Learning Centre; John O’Brien and Shane Page; Renae Spanner (nee Sibson), Jane Henney (nee Pender), Amy Kilfoyle, Selina Harris (nee Morrison); Jane O’Brien (nee McLaren) and Kylie Nolan; Jane Maclean (nee Shannon) and Alistair Shannon. Photos from Ben Holgate (MSP Photography)

**Past student functions**
Headmaster Dr Phillip Moulds hosted past student functions in Townsville (22 October) and Canberra (4 November) during his visits to these parts of the country for Boarder Association meetings and the RGS Year 7 and Year 6 end of year School trips to Canberra.

Townsville (l to r): Mikaela Todd, Katie Marsden, Ronelle Andrew (All RGS 2011)

VALE
Ken Jacobson (RGS 1964)

Dr Desmond Neville Bottcher
(24/4/1919 - 15/7/2014. Former RGS School doctor)

Bryson Mayne (RGS 2000).
Vale: 13/7/1985 - 26/8/2014

Carly-Mae Pye (RGS 2005)
Vale: 26/1/1988 - 14/10/2014

Photograph: The Morning Bulletin

A leading jockey in Rockhampton, Carly-Mae tragically lost her life on 14 October following a track work fall at Rockhampton's Callaghan Park the previous day. Carly-Mae was a gifted jockey and also a champion equestrian rider.

A State champion on the equestrian circuit before beginning her racing career in 2006, Carly-Mae went on to ride almost 200 winners across Queensland. This included two wins on star Rockhampton galloper Rocky King at Brisbane's Eagle Farm last year.

Based at Alton Downs, Carly was also a member and instructor at the Yeppoon Hack & Pony Club where she was a role model to young riders.

WP (Bill) Logue: (RGS, 1940)
Vale: 24/10/2014

WP Logue was a School Prefect in 1939 and 1940. He won the School's Kellow and Wheatcroft prizes for his academic performance. WP Logue was a member of the RGS teaching staff in 1941 before continuing his teaching at Scot's College (Warwick) and was on staff at Anglican Church Grammar School (Churchie) from 1948-1987.

From the archives...

The final construction stages of the Spaceframe (the former and current assembly area) nears completion in 1993. A different approach is preferred in today's construction industry.

Flooding move along School history

Mr W Reiman, from Brisbane, sent the following photos of the original RGS Rowing Club on the banks Fitzroy River. The site was prone to flooding, the top photo was taken in February 1954. The building was opened in 1937 with the first floor home to the Old Grammarians' Club while the ground level housed the Old Grammarians' Rowing Club. The building withstood the flood of 1940 and was damaged by fire in 1952. After substantial damage in the 1954 flood the building was two years later donated to the School and relocated. The bottom photo shows the original position of the clubhouse. The School's rowing club is now located near the Rockhampton Ski Gardens, Harman Street.

Events Calendar

2015:
• 21 March - RGS Distinguished Past Students' Dinner at RGS
• 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 Team compete)
• 16 May - RGS Race Day (Callaghan Park)