Welcome

Welcome to the first 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 will acknowledge the achievements, celebrations and news of the School’s past students and also keep you posted on the achievements of today’s dynamic cohort of RGS 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. (Photograph courtesy of John Casey, circa 2012)

Regards

Meleisha Tennent (RGS PSA President 2013)

RGS PSA: Working for Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

The Rockhampton Grammar School Past Students’ Association has elected its committee for 2013-2014. Congratulations to the following office bearers:

President - Meleisha Tennent (1999-2003); (pictured right)
Vice President - Michael South (1971-1975);
Secretary - Scott Wilson (1983-1987);

A special thank you to outgoing President Diana McLellan (1977-1978) for her efforts and commitment to the Association. Diana was also previously Treasurer before becoming the Association’s first female President last year.
Duntroon honours

On the second Tuesday in June each year, the winter graduates of the Royal Military College – Duntroon are commissioned as lieutenants in the Australian Army. As officers, they have the legal authority to command, lead and manage Australia’s soldiers and are part of a long, proud history of duty, loyalty and service to the nation. This year, the Corps of Staff Cadets was commanded on parade by Senior Under Officer Darryl Clark (Class of 2010). Darryl held the appointment of Battalion Sergeant Major—the most senior cadet position—and was awarded the Sword of Honour for exemplary conduct and performance of duty. He has now taken command of his first platoon as a Lieutenant in the Royal Australian Infantry Corps. Also on parade was Staff Cadet Joel Bray (Class of 2009). Joel joined the

Hayley recruits success

Hayley James (Kenna, Class of 1993) spent her school years attending 12 different schools across three Australian states – The Hamptonport Grammar School days of Year 9 and 10 hold a special place in her hard and mind. Now a Founder and Managing Director of the blue chip executive search and advisory firm Ampersand, Melbourne-based Hayley “absolutely loved” her time at RGS.

“ar school was a very progressive environment with fantastic facilities and great people – Mr Vincent (Anthony Vincent, Deputy Headmaster) was a phenomenal leader and an inspiring person.”

“They RGRS were the best years of my school life – especially boarding. It was a beautiful school with a good balance between the structure, responsibility, empowerment and discipline. It also instilled strong family values.” Hayley arrived at RGS following in the footsteps of her brother Cameron (Class of 1990). Hayley later boarded at Geelong Grammar School for a short time before finishing at Melbourne’s Carey Grammar School. At school Hayley had a passion for running – sports psychology was the career goal until stress fractures and a minor break in her leg in Year 12 turned her attention to business. For Hayley, school was a daunting time having to perform at exams and sport. “I don’t think you can ever get enough coaching and support to help prepare students for post-school careers. In Year 12 you’re expected to make the ultimate career decision – do you travel for 12 months, go to university or start work.”

Hayley completed a Bachelor of Arts (marketing major), specialising in marketing and communications. Ampersand was born in August 2008 at the peak of the GFC (Global Financial Crisis). Small recruitment agencies were closing and the big companies were restructuring.

“We took a few deep breaths but we were determined, uncompromising and focused. It’s been a wonderful journey since with plenty of challenges and learnings, but also incredibly rewarding and stimulating.” The company has offices in Melbourne, Sydney, launched three years ago by her brother Cameron, and most recently, Singapore. Ampersand is now an Asia Pacific firm poised for continued growth. “The measure will now be the next five years of continued growth.”

Twenty years ago Hayley was no different to today's Year 12 cohort anxiously thinking of their futures. Hayley, a mother of two (Harper, 6) and Mimi (3) now has her own personal and career experiences – has some advice to others about to start their own journeys.

“Think laterally and challenge what you like doing. Be open to possibilities. Work out what you are passionate about and try to apply that to your career of choice. There are no right or wrongs when choosing a career path and nothing is final. Your career should evolve over the course of its journey. You need to be really focused on your goals and ambitions. You don’t have to have all the answers when you leave school, or university for ever.”

The continuous learning journey and search for a strong mentor also resonates strongly with Hayley. “You need a learning attitude. Life is about continual learning at every point of your life. Also having a good mentor at every stage of life is important. Learn from the best – for both their skills and them as a person.”

Connecting with London - Catching up with current RGS Headmaster Dr Philip Moulds in London during May were (from left) Sandy Forster (2001), Andrew McDonald for further information and to update your contact details.

The Grammarian

RGS Reunions

The Rockhampton Grammar School welcomed home the Class of 1993 on 24-25 August. Earlier in the year students from the Classes of 1988, 2003 and 2008 also caught up in May while an “All Years” catch-up was also held in Brisbane in April.

If you need help arranging school functions for your school reunion please get in contact with the RGS Communications and Development Officer Rachael McDonald at rmc当地rgs.qld.edu.au or phone 4936 0776.

Reunion Calendar:
- 4-6 Oct, 2013 - Class of 1973 at RGS Saturday, 2 Nov, 2013 - RGS Brisbane Function, Irish Club, 175 Elizabeth St (12pm-2pm). Contact Rachael McDonald at rmc当地rgs.qld.edu.au
- 5 April, 2014 - All Years Catch-up, Irish Club. Contact: Lance Currie (Class of 1959) at lfcurrie@yahoo.com or phone 0402 094 912.
- Class of 1994 (August 2014)
- Class of 1984 (date TBA)
- Class of 1981 (date TBA)

Could past students please contact Rachael McDonald for further information and to update your contact details.

Treasured memories from the 1940s - Lawrie Waller


Trackside for 10 year celebration - The Class of 2003 joined over 300 people at the annual Rockhampton Grammar School Race Day on 18 May. The old school days were also remembered with a BBQ dinner at the RGS Rowing Club, a school tour and a visit to Ritamada. Thank you to Meleisha Tennent and Britany Lauga (nee McKee) for helping organise the event.

The Class of 2003 later - Class of 1993

RGS “Scaffold Alley” moment leads to life-long career

As Lawrie Waller (Class of 1946) draws closer to his 83rd year he hits the email to share some memories of his time at The Rockhampton Grammar School.

Having last visited the school about 40 years ago, one of his memories was at that time the School had recently returned to becoming a co-educational school again.

“Headmaster Jardine, Maths lecturer KC Gilham, Prefect Pat Seeney came vividly to mind as I type this,” Lawrie writes.

“I also note with pleasure that the School logo and motto remained unchanged and I wonder if “Brats” still have to learn the School war song”. All I seem to recognise of the buildings is the bell tower above the main entrance and wonder if the bell still signals assembly, etc.”

Lawrie recalls the Saturday morning “release” to the city for a few hours shopping.

“For this outing we were allowed to have 2 shillings maximum – doled out to us by Headmaster in the main assembly room.

“Simplicity of this amount was required for the return bus fare. While we were required to take the bus to the city many would choose to walk back to save the money. This would also allow some of us to escort the young lady we had met at the post office corner, back to the Girls’ Grammar School.”

It was a little bit of a pity for the young man from Cracow, whose working life was spent in this area to attend a lecture, or be in Scaffold Alley or quietly reading the notice board.

“One day toward the end of my junior year I was chasing a friend who had a letter of mine and who had run through the Assembly Hall, when I saw the Headmaster emerge from his office. I was beside the notice board so I stopped abruptly and assumed the air of being intensely interested in the information displayed on the notice board.

“I immediately noticed a brochure headed “A CAREER IN RADIO” when I heard Headmaster say in his unmistakable voice – “Waller are you interested in a career in the PMG’s (Postmaster-General’s Department)”. The ensuing conversation left me in no doubt that Headmaster Jardine thought I would be well advised to apply for one of the Technician-Training positions. I did apply and due in no small measure to my RGS education, was duly appointed and started my career. Lawrie’s time with the PMG had him based in Brisbane, Rockhampton (on the old Post Office building in East Street), Melbourne and Adelaide. Lawrie later arrived in Sydney with his wife Nita and children Robyn, Cameron, Scott and Heather where he held an engineering position with the new defunct Overseas Telecommunication Corporation.

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Until he retired in 1992, as a Director Corporate of OTC, Lawrie travelled extensively to most of the world’s capital pursuing Australia’s commercial and technical interests in International Telecommunications. Lawrie still lives in Sydney today and writes:

“My professional career can best be characterised as a journey that took a barefoot kid from a two-room State School in Cracow to being the Australian representative on the INTELSAT* board in Washington DC. It has been a long, satisfying and exciting journey that commenced in earnest on the day I avoided a visit to Scaffold Alley at RGS.

“My very best wishes for the continued growth of the RGS with the sincere hope that the school will impact as profoundly and positively on the lives of its students as it did on mine.”

– Lawrie Waller.

*INTELSAT-International Telecommunications Satellite Organisation, from 1964 to 2001 was an intergovernmental consortium.
Mark dives in for RGS Scuba Club support

Mark Hawley (Class of 1975) has a passion for deep sea diving and he wants more generations of students at The Rockhampton Grammar School to also share this experience.

“I wasn’t good at cricket and football, but this was something I could do and it’s just as rewarding and challenging,” Mark said.

Mark kindly donated to the School four complete sets of scuba diving equipment, plus cylinders and diving computers.

Mooloolaba-based diving company Sunreef Scuba Diving Services, the group Mark now dives with, donated two of these cylinders.

This equipment will further enhance the safety aspects of the School’s dive program.

The generous donation evolved after a chance meeting between Mark and RGS teacher Barry Mullane (Head of Science) during a scuba diving trip in Bali.

“Barry said he worked at the Grammar School and I asked if I could help in any way because the scuba diving during my time at the School has been really good for me,” Mark said.

“You’ll never get something up and going if someone doesn’t do something and I probably wouldn’t have done diving if I had not started at Grammar.”

Mark’s diving passion has taken him to beautiful and remote locations at Vanuatu, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Bali, Heron Island, Lady Elliot Island and has completed 100 dives in Indonesia.

“Scuba diving is physically challenging and once you’re over 50 you have to keep yourself fit. It’s also a chance to meet new people and travel to different places.”

Mark was a 15-year-old when teacher Adrian Evans introduced the scuba diving program into the school in 1973. Trips to Keppel Island, Humply Island and diving off Ritanama were highlights of the course.

16-foot aluminium boat “The Ritamada” was the mode of transport.

“We’d be in the School pool with three scuba tanks doing our lessons.

“Were the only school in Australia at the time that did diving.”

Mark will work with the RGS Scuba Club to Cairns in the school holidays (September - October) to join the School’s annual dive trip.

They will board a Pro Dive boat for a three day, two night live-aboard trip to the outer Great Barrier Reef. Students will have the opportunity to complete 11 dives and while on the reef some students will complete their Advanced Open Water course and the Enriched Air Nitrox course.

“Students are now able to dive off the school boat “Ritamada” and we were diving at every opportunity on Saturdays and Sundays to ensure that all the students going on the Cairns trips completed their Open Water certification,” Mr Mullane said.

“I expect that the certified divers will dive at least once a month from the school boat and I would also like the students to have the opportunity to travel to local dive sites such as the ex-HMAS Brisbane, off Mooloolaba.

Bell twins excel in Australian surf lifesaving waters

Rockhampton twins Miranda and Sam Bell (Class of 2009) are still finding success in the water as they prepare to represent Australia in surf lifesaving.

Competing at the Australian Life Saving National Championships in Brisbane, the duo won 14 individual medals at the pool revolver nationals.

They also set six new individual Australian records between them.

Miranda now has 54 gold medals at the national championships.

Miranda also recently contested the Maui Channel Crossing and won the Waikiki rough water swim in Hawaii. This was followed by the International Waikiki rough water swim in Hawaii.

Some of today’s RGS diving enthusiasts (from left) Charlie Lang (Year 12), Stella Lisle (Year 11) and Ashmar Barbour (Year 11).

RHGS 1980s musicians going strong

Back in 1987 the “Diamond Dogs” were rocking the stage at RGS.

These musical talents continue to hit the stage with bass player Matthew Engelbrecht (Class of 1988) returning to Rockhampton’s Pibleman Theatre last September.

Matthew is still on bass, but is now playing with former Powderfinger front man, Bernard Fanning - joining his “Departures” solo tour.

Matthew is not the only “Diamond Dogs” band member whose musical talents have appealed to Fanning.

Drummer Duane Billing (Class of 1988) played on Fanning’s first solo album, ”Tea and Sympathy” back in 2005.

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RGS Memories - Mark Coome

Mark Coome (Class of 1980) has a scratchy memory when it comes to recalling contributing to a school time capsule, which was buried in February 1981.

The discovery of a letter written by the former School Captain provides the evidence.

“Here’s a thing (written article) from me that I wrote back in 1980 – that’s proof I knew about the time capsule,” Mark said.

Items from the School’s past, now living in an old picnic basket in a School office, include a red rugby tie and rugby under-19 premiership pennant, an old school uniform, an honour tie, old photographs, letters, a leave slip and a yearbook.

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