

OLD BOYS' MAGAZINE - NOVEMBER 1935

When the first School Magazine was published in June, 1897 it was driven largely by past students who wanted a publication that would not only keep past students up-to-date with events at the School but also act as a forum of what activities past students were involved in on leaving Grammar. Until the outbreak of World War One, there were, in most years, two magazines published but after the war this fell away and School Magazines were published at irregular intervals. For example, between 1919 and 1935 only six magazines were published. Many factors can be attributed to this but the major reasons would be the effect that the War had on past students who had left Townsville and, for various reasons, would not return and also for the fact that the School was suffering severe financial problems during that period.

In 1935 the Old Boys decided to publish their own magazine independent of the School. The driving force behind the new publication was a group of prominent past students A.H.Tait, R.E.A McKimmim, G.V.Roberts and A.S.Grose. In fact, A.S.Grose was the Head Prefect at School in 1897 and one of the first editors of the School Magazine. In the first editorial in the Old Boys' Magazine the editor wrote: *"It is hoped that, from now onwards, a Magazine will be issued regularly. Space does not permit the publication of notes on all Old Boys, or the regular activities of the Association, but, with the regular issue of a Magazine, most Old Boys will be located, and brief items regarding them should be of interest to all who were at T.G.S. This, of course, does not mean that the School Magazine will be discontinued. When it issues, our notes will be incorporated in it."* For all the interesting motives of the Association this was the first and only Magazine published in the history of the Old Boys Association.

The prime aim of the Old Boys was to raise money to aid the School. In 1935, two such activities were carried out, a Ball and a Smoke Concert. The Ball would have been one of the highlights of the Townsville social calendar. It was held at the Palais Royal and the hall was decorated with the School flag on the central archway while T.G.S.O.B. was lettered in gold across a black background, relieved by yellow wisteria and floodlit. The centre row of lights was hung with wisteria and bignonia venusta, an ornamental plant of orange flowers, were on the alcoves on either side. Dances during the night included the Hic Hok Hike, the Bend Over, the Muscle Grinder and with a sporting theme, the "Footbrawl" Fox Trot and the "Leg Glance" Fox Trot. The highlight could surely have been the Rowland Roll. Past students making fun of their Headmaster! The night made a profit of £42.

The Smoke Concert was held at the Roof Garden Café and entry was 2 shillings. Smoke Concerts were traditionally a male only affair and had their origins at the Oxford and Cambridge Universities. It was a gathering of gentlemen who would wear their smoking jackets and listen to live performances from a variety of artists. It was also an opportunity for the men to discuss the political and economic issues of the day. At the Old Boys' Smoke Concert the participants were encouraged to wear a blazer with their newly designed Old Boys' badge which cost 7 shillings. It is also interesting to note that five senior boys from the School were invited to the Smoke Concert. The annual Old Boys versus School cricket match was held the following day; a fixture which the Old Boys won.

When Mr Hodges took up his role as Headmaster in 1889 the first sport he introduced was cricket. The sport was taken up with great enthusiasm by the students and in the 1890s and the first decade of the twentieth century Grammar School and Grammar Old Boys were leading teams in the city. The School team was bolstered by staff whose cricketing ability was of the highest standard. As with many aspects of the School, sport fell by the wayside during the war years and in the 1920s. Cricket again flourished in the 1930s and the 1935 Old Boys' Magazine is particularly proud of the two Old Boy teams playing in the local competition. The Saturday team, led by Dom Martinez, were competition leaders as was the senior team that played on a Sunday. It is not surprising that the senior team was successful as they had two Queensland State players in Alan Tait and Glen Baker in the team. Alan Tait was to be Chairman of the School Trustees during World War Two and Glen Baker was killed in New Guinea during that conflict.

The prime aim of the Old Boys was to support the School financially whenever possible. This was particularly evident when financial help after Cyclone Leonta (1903) helped re-build what is now School House. The attached set of accounts from 1934-35 is a reflection as to where the funds were going and makes for interesting reading. For many years the school curriculum followed the England model of grammar school with languages, geography, history, and English the main subjects. By 1935 there was a move to commercial training for girls hence the two typewriters donated and science with the donation of the spectroscope. The Old Boys also financed an annual scholarship and, in 1934, this was provided to Chester Parker, a student who was to go on to become the second Rhodes Scholar from the School. He was tragically killed in World War Two while serving with the British Navy in the Mediterranean.

Year ended 31/3/34, Spectroscope	£22	1	6
10/6/34, Typewriter	30	0	0
10/10/34, Repairs to Pav.	6	1	0
10/10/34, Speech Night Sports Prizes...	4	4	0
29/10/34, Cricket Mats	11	14	0
29/10/34, C. J. Parker Scholarship	37	16	0
3/9/35, Speech Night and Sports Prizes,	4	4	0
6/8/35, School Magazine	15	0	0
1/10/35, Second-hand Typewriter	15	0	0
1/10/35, Second Cricket Wicket	15	0	0
Total	£161	0	6

SMOKE CONCERT,	
AT ROOF GARDEN CAFE,	
FRIDAY, November 29th., 1935.	
—	
A Special Programme of Good Artists.	
—	
DONATION, 2/-.	
Refreshments Supplied by Association.	
<small>D. W. HASTINGS & SONS (PTY. LTD.) PRINTERS, TOWNSVILLE</small>	
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MR BILL MULLER
School Archivist