

FOUNDERS DAY - OPENING DOORS

People travelling along Paxton Street will notice the stunning photograph on the wall of the Performing Arts Centre advertising the School including the words: "Opening Doors since 1888". On April 16 the School will celebrate the one hundred and twenty-eighth occasion of opening doors to the community of, not only North Queensland, but overseas countries as well. Two of the initial acts legislated by the parliament in Brisbane in 1860 were to, firstly, set up an Education Act which placed all primary schools under a central authority and, secondly, a Grammar Schools Act which provided for the establishment of a grammar [secondary] school in a locality where a sum of not less than £1000 had been raised. Inspired by the hard work of some prominent Townsville citizens, namely Aplin, Stanton, Bundock, Walker and Willmett the required amount was raised, School House was built plus the Headmaster's residence and the School was ready to open its doors on Monday, 16 April 1888.

The first ever advertisement for the Townsville Grammar School was published in a local paper in March 1888. What was not mentioned in the advertisement was, for the purposes of instruction, the school was to comprise three divisions: the Upper School consisting of Forms V to VI, the Middle School consisting of Forms III and IV and the Lower School consisting of Forms I and II. All students in the Upper and Middle School had to study Latin, Greek and either French or German. In addition to the languages mentioned all students had to study English, Ancient and Modern History, Geography, the elements of Logic and Political Economy, Mathematics and the Natural and Physical Sciences. Drills and gymnastics were also part of the curriculum. At the first Speech Day, Mr E.F. Upward [Interim Headmaster] stated how important German and French were to the curriculum: the French were in New Caledonia and the Germans in New Guinea.

1888 — Second Term.

Aplin	Henry
Aplin	Arthur
Brand	David
Bath	Henry
Booth	James R.
Butcher	J. A.
Clayton	C. C.
Clayton	W. G.
Dean	J. H.
Gordon	J.
Gordon	W.
Hamilton	F.
Hamilton	E.
Henry	Ad. (Arthur)
Henry	A. D. (Dick)
Hopkins	S.
Isley	B.
Jack	R.
Norris	E.
Patler	R. A.
Prichard	W.
Trenfield	H.
Trenfield	K.

On the first day twenty-three students were welcomed by the two staff members, E.F. Upward, the Interim Headmaster, and D.C. Anstey, the assistant master. A roll was taken and the archives are indeed fortunate to have the original copy of the roll [see attached]. Twelve boys followed Mr Upward, from St Johns, the school he had founded in 1884. St Johns was a private mixed secondary school in Walker School and situated just beyond what is now the School of Arts in Walker Street. Research has shown that of the twenty-three students, nine were boarders. They were the Aplin brothers, the Gordon brothers, the Hamilton brothers, whose parents were all squatters in the local area, and the Trenfield brothers from Ravenswood and Prichard from Charters Towers. The day students had parents from a range of occupations including editor of the local paper, a police inspector, a butcher, a geologist and a solicitor.

It is also interesting to note the age range of the students enrolling in 1888. T. Gordon was the oldest at nineteen years of age while S. Hopkins, A.F. Islay and R. Jack were ten years of age. The majority of students were in the fourteen to fifteen year range. Islay and Hopkins were both to have a long association with the School. Islay was Secretary of the Old Boys' Association until the 1940s and Spenser Hopkins served on three occasions as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, retiring in 1960. He has a building named after him at the School and there are still direct descendants of the Hopkins' family presently enrolled at the School.

The reputation of the School soon spread and by the start of third term 1888 ten more students had enrolled. Eight of the new enrolments were boarders, six from the Charters Towers region, one from Hughenden and one from New Zealand. One of the new enrolments was G. Jones who has the distinction of being the first student to leave Grammar. He left after the first month and the reason given was that he could not read and write. Somehow he had missed out on undertaking the entrance examination when enrolling. He would certainly have struggled with a curriculum that included languages!

The doors opened wide in 1889 when fifty-seven new students enrolled at the School. Among those enrolling were W.S. Boyd from Ripple Creek, [Herbert River] who went on to achieve a first class honours degree at the University of Sydney as well as winning the University Medal for General Proficiency; E.C. Earl from Cooktown who later became a long standing mayor of Cairns with the suburb of Earlville named after him; and R.L. Henderson [Ingham] who studied medicine in Edinburgh and Dunedin before winning the Military Cross in World War One.

Over the next few years the School opened the doors to many students who went on to make their mark in society. J.D. Henry enrolled in 1890 and has the distinction of enrolling more times than any other student in Grammar's history. He enrolled again in 1894 and after failing his Junior Examination enrolled again in 1896, again without success. After serving in the Boer War, before becoming an opera singer, he enlisted in World War One winning the DSO and OBE [Military] and being MiD on three occasions. F.T. Perkins [Mackay] enrolled in 1891 and has the distinction of being Head Boy for four years. After graduating from the University of Sydney he was appointed Head of the Armidale School and in 1915. He was later appointed the Founding Head of Cranbrook School in Sydney.

Two further prominent enrolments in the early years were John McKelvey [Ravenswood] and Fred Timbury [Charters Towers]. Both McKelvey and Timbury were Dux of the School in their final years and both went on to study at the University of Sydney. McKelvey became a well-renowned surgeon in Sydney and was knighted in 1935 for his services to the medical profession. Timbury became a solicitor and represented Australia at rugby union and Queensland at cricket before moving to Roma in 1911 to follow his interest in the developing gas industry. He became the mayor of Roma on a couple of occasions and, in later life, was a great advocate of the Bradfield Scheme writing a book on the merits of the scheme.

The connection to the School for the above did not end with their graduating from Grammar. They were all grateful for the School "opening their doors" and, in turn, gave something back to the School. In later years S. Boyd and J. McKelvey donated sums of money for prizes to be awarded at Speech Day as did S. Hopkins who left a generous bequest in his will. F.T. Perkins, who acted as a pall bearer at the funeral of Mr Hodges', his Headmaster, was later to write that his tenure as a Headmaster was very much influenced by Mr Hodges and Mr Rowland.

Thousands of students have passed through the doors of the School over the years but in opening the doors in 1888 it certainly gave boys, and later girls, the opportunity to enjoy a fine education.

ARCHIVAL SNIPPET: In Volume 1, Number 2 of the 1897 School Magazine Mr Hodges, in his annual report states that during the year all the masters and boarders had been affected by "dengue" during the year. In the light of the present concerns about the zeki and dengue threat it is interesting to note that dengue has been around for a long time.

TOWNSVILLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS.

The above School will be opened on **MONDAY**, the 16th of **APRIL**, and it is desired that the Names of Pupils may be sent in to the Secretary, **MR WAREHAM**, at an early date as possible, in order that all suitable preparations for their reception may be made.

The minimum age of pupils is 8 years, and they will be required to pass a very elementary examination in Reading, Writing from Dictation, and the first two rules of Arithmetic.

The School Fees for each quarter (payable to Mr Wareham during the first week of the quarter) are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
(a) For each Boy over 12 years of age	4	4	0
(b) For each Boy under 12 years of age	3	3	0
(c) For Resident Boarders in addition to School Fees	11	11	0

In case of two members of the same family attending the School, a Reduction of 10s 6d each, and in the case of three members or more £1 1s each will be made from the School Fees specified in paragraphs (a) and (b).

E. FINNIMORE UPWARD, L.L.M.
Head Master.

MR BILL MULLER
School Archivist