



BLACKTHORN NEWS CENTENARY EDITION

April 2019 Vol XXXIX

Blackthorn Centenary - celebrating 100 years of
'A School on the Towers'

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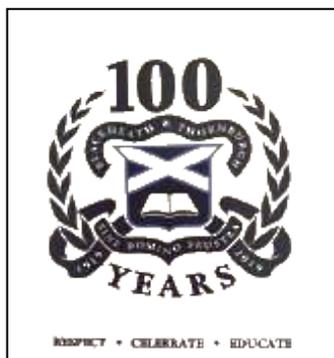
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BPSA President's message



On behalf of the BPSA committee and past students, I am delighted to contribute to this edition of the 'Blackthorn News'. Congratulations BTC on reaching such a significant milestone!

How extraordinary it must feel to be a student at BTC in this its Centenary Year, as it must have been for the first students in 1919. Could they have ever imagined 2019 and the changes which have occurred over the past 100 years? And what the next 100 years will be like!

In the past 100 years BTC has been responsible for educating over 9,000 students. The Wall of Achievement attests to the accomplishments of some of these remarkable past students, and, significantly, there are those recorded on our Memorial Fountain who are remembered for their unselfish and ultimate sacrifice for others. There are so many more who have also gone on to accomplish much in their working and personal lives and in their contributions to the betterment of society. For a small country-based school in tropical North Queensland, its success has been truly remarkable and many, no doubt, are proud to be considered its Alumni. The College can also take great pride in how its community of students, teachers, staff and parents have represented it over all those years. It was they who contributed to BTC in many ways and accorded much to its history, its culture, traditions and reputation. Indeed these traditions have often been enjoyed and carried on by different generations within the same family.

The wider BTC community is likened to a family. There are numerous reasons for this, but one which can be readily pointed to are the close personal friendships developed while at school. There are over 3,000 past students with whom we maintain contact out of the estimated 6,000 still alive. We are a sizeable family indeed and one which can benefit further from finding 'lost' friends. The BPSA's primary objective is good fellowship amongst past students and members of the BTC family. During 2019 and beyond the focus of our activities will be to refresh and enrich the already existing camaraderie and to reach out to locate and meet once again those with whom we have lost contact. We aim also to encourage interest and involvement as Alumni in the life, activities and progress of the College as it once was and for many continues to be "my school and yours".

For those who may have lost contact or are simply looking to rekindle past friendships, I cordially invite each of you to take the occasion of BTC's Centenary to reconnect with those you

made friends as a student and to celebrate your connection with the 100-year-old College. The BPSA assists with organising cohort/year reunions and local/regional reunions across Australia. All are especially invited to visit the College at some time to see the changes which have occurred at BTC to prepare its entry into the next century. The BPSA is assisting the College's Centenary Committee organise various events during 2019 to celebrate the Centenary of Thornburgh and during 2020 the Centenary of Blackheath. The traditional annual BPSA Reunion in August at the College will be one of the major special purpose Centenary events and promises to be exciting, memorable and celebratory.

To the present students, who, together with the teaching staff, keep alive the traditions and represent all that is commendable about this College, we past students hope you have a successful and enjoyable Centenary year. We look forward to celebrating it with you.



centenary celebrations

June commemoration weekend program

Friday 14 June

AM: Commemoration Assembly

Saturday 15 June

AM: Opening of the new Science Block

PM: Centenary Ball

Sunday 16th June

Sports vs All Souls School

August reunion weekend program

Friday 16 August

12:00 midday: Registration opens – payment for all BPSA 100 Years activities must be pre-paid. No payments will be accepted throughout the weekend.

Registration cost \$15.00

3:00 pm: Past students' choir practice in the Assembly Hall

5:30 pm: P&F Annual Fair. Please support the school by attending and purchase your evening meal from the Fair food vendors. Fireworks at 8:30 pm.

7:30 pm: Meet & Greet. Entry to this event will be by wearing the lanyard and name card received at registration.

BONUS! ... Along with catching up with old classmates and past students from across the generations, entertainment will include an Old Boys' and Old Girls' Concert. Put your thinking caps on now and prepare your item.

Saturday 17 August

From 8:30 am:

- Browse the archives in the BPSA museum upstairs in Thornburgh House.
- Shop for souvenirs at the pop-up shop on the front verandah of Thornburgh House.
- Follow the walking trail with historical interest points around the College grounds.

9.00 am: Past Students' choir practice in the Assembly Hall

9:30 am: Sign-on for netballers and footballers in the Undercover Area

10:00 am: Dedication of Thornburgh House, with Past Students' choir item

10:45 am: Book launch – 'A School on The Towers' (second edition)

12:00 midday: Lunch in and around the dining room, cost \$10

2:00 pm: Past vs Present netball game in Undercover Area

3:00 pm: Past students' choir practice in the Assembly Hall

3:30 pm: Past vs Present rugby league football game on the Dam Oval

6:30 pm: Centenary Dinner

Sunday 18 August

9:00 am: Memorial Service

9:45 am: Church Service in the Assembly Hall including Past Students' choir item and announcement of Wall of Achievement recipients

10:45 am: Commemorative photographs

11:00 am: Morning tea, cost \$15.00

11:30 am: Blackthorn Past Students Association AGM

PLEASE NOTE: The total cost for all BPSA activities is \$40.00, to be paid in advance using the online booking system (see the insert for details of the online booking site). Payments can also be made by cheque or money order. NO direct debits accepted.

Membership of the BPSA and/or donations will be gratefully received before the August Reunion weekend. These payments can be made by direct debit, cheque or money order – see insert.

Please also see the insert also for the full Centenary Calendar of Events and details of how to obtain tickets for the Ball and the Reunion Dinner.

Any queries can be directed to bpsa@btc.qld.edu.au

Do you have an old Thornburgh football jersey or Blackheath sports uniform? Please dig it out and wear it or lend it to someone playing in the Past vs Present matches on Saturday 17 August.

reunion 2018 (17-19 Aug)

We broke with tradition quite a lot in 2018.

Firstly, we used an online booking system ...

www.visitcharterstowers.com.au and except for a few direct deposits, cheques and cash, it was a boon for the treasurer and a good practice run for the Centenary events.

There was a minor change of format for the Friday night 'Meet & Greet' to coincide with the BTC P&F changing their Fair from Saturday to Friday night. We were offered the running of the bar for the public as well as for the past students, while the P&F organised the barbeque. Past students registered, wandered around the Fair, and then formed conversation groups, eating and drinking on the dining room verandah.

The third break with tradition was the AGM. It occurred on Saturday morning, and all the changes to the Constitution were voted on and passed. This was followed by a sausage sizzle lunch and the traditional Past vs Present netball and rugby league games.

The fourth change was having the dinner in a less formal format at Thornburgh House – on the verandah, in the front room, and for those who wished, standing around 'barrels' on the lawn. Our barrels were 44-gallon drums donated by the Black family for a Young Men's Shed design project. In keeping with the change of format, the traditional roast was replaced with soup, finger food, and a fork meal, served graciously by a team of Blackheath boarders.

Wally and Libby Richards were our official guests and the class of 1968 was the largest group of returnees, after they had been chased up by Cameron Riggall and Judy Mewing (Landsberg). Judy and Cam proposed the toast to the Schools. Billy Rose, a young Charters Towers singer, provided enjoyable music for the evening.

On Sunday morning, Jean McCubben (McDowell) made us proud again as we admired her organisation of the Present boys with their flags, and this year, special medals to go with the names of the fallen soldiers, accompanied by her selection of emotive recorded music. At the following church service Wally Richards gave a very well thought out and entertaining address and Jean McCubben presented him with Honorary Membership of the BPSA. Hazel Macdonald (Kaesehagen) accompanied the singing of the Blackheath and Thornburgh hymns.

This year the recipients for the Wall of Achievement were Robert Chong for service to Business and International Relations, Robert Nicol for service to Engineering and Education, and Joe Cliffe (posthumously) for service to Community. Joe Cliffe was recognized in 2011 when the Board erected the Joe Cliffe Score Board on the top oval.



Libby & Wally Richards and Jean McCubben



Col Wix, Meryl Ritchie, Jan Downes, Digger Downes, Phil Rains, Judy Mewing (Landsberg), Cam Riggall, David Price, Malcolm Pratt



Jason Heading, Max Batt, Jacob Robertson

mini-reunion roundup

Sunshine Coast Past students and their partners living on the Sunshine Coast and in Brisbane gathered again on Saturday 1st September 2018 at the Buderim Tavern for their annual lunch. The numbers were once again boosted by Brisbane residents, Moya Pennell (Dalling), David Coote and his wife Freda, Judith (Pratt) and David Ross. Others in attendance were Angus Anderson, Margot McCamley, Doug Patterson, Jocelyn Gould (Mann) and husband David, who is also the son of 'old girl' Jean Griffiths. Everyone enjoyed the delightful venue, spectacular views and great food, and the reminiscing, laughter and good cheer lasted well into the late afternoon. Numerous apologies were received including one from Graham Thomson. We hope we might see some more of you venture this way next year – same time, same place on the first Saturday (7th) of September in 2019.



Betty Holt (Krause, Roslyn McMullen, John Pratt, Minna and David Griffiths, Geoff and Fiona Chapman, Ivan Rybin, (Vanya), Robert and Kira Chong, Nigel Fairbairn.



Clockwise from left – David Ross, Jocelyn Gould, Doug Patterson, Moya Pennell, David Coote, Margot McCamley, Freda Coote, Judith Pratt, David Gould and Angus Anderson.

Sydney What a wonderful way to catch up – at the Bonjour Café in George Street, with twelve past students and friends of the College over a delicious afternoon tea. The Principal, Nigel Fairbairn, spoke on the creation and outfitting of the new Science Labs, and the renovation of Thornburgh House and the Archive Rooms, and the external painting of Thornburgh House. We also had the privilege of presenting Robert Kon Sian Chong with his Wall of Achievement Award, which had been announced at the Reunion Church Service in August.

Townsville In 2018, Townsville past students held two mini reunions and a Young Pub Night. Below is a photo of the Townsville BPSA mini reunion sub-committee:



Standing: Margaret Mills (Wheeler), Helen Hislop (Warren), Paula Renouf (Skelley) and Janet Goodwin (Landsberg). Sitting: Michelle Millican (Allison), Alice Clarke (MacDougall).

Melbourne Three Past Students attended the Melbourne Function on November 3rd, 2018. They were Geoff Chapman, Roz Landsberg and Kit Beale, all of whom are planning to return to the College during the Centenary. Also at the RAVC were Fiona Chapman, Mal Bell, Kit Beale's two daughters, and Nigel and Chris Fairbairn.

BTC mini reunion date saver

Sunday 28 April

FNQ Mini Reunion

2:00 pm, for afternoon tea at Sue Fairley's Lakeside Property, 85 Backshall Road, near Yungaburra

\$5 donation to BPSA

Contact Sue Fairley (fairleys@bigpond.com; 0417 735 724) or Elspeth Turner (elspethturner@bigpond.com; 0418 728 614).

MACKAY Mini Reunion

10:00 am to 12:00 midday at Pavilion Room, Shamrock Hotel, Nebo Road, Mackay

\$10.00 pp, for morning tea; option to stay longer

Contact Ian Ritchie (ianritchie@mcs.net.au; ianritchie2019@gmail.com; 0418 781 645)

Wednesday 1 May

TOWNSVILLE Mini Reunion

10:00 am at Carlyle Gardens, Beck Road, Condon

Morning Tea, cost \$15.00

Contact Margaret Mills (07 47 235134) or Alice Clarke (07 47 739303)

Friday 3 May & Saturday 4 May

TOWNSVILLE BTC Pub Night

6:30 pm until late at Riverside Tavern, Douglas
and

TOWNSVILLE BTC Recovery Brunch

11:30 am to 2:00 pm at Seaview Hotel, The Strand

Contact for both: Jay Goodwin

(missjmissj@hotmail.com; 0408 779 199)

Saturday 25 May

TOOWOOMBA and General Area 100 Year Get Together

11:00 am to 3:00 pm at The Barn, 1709 Flagstone Creek Road, Flagstone Creek

Light Meals/Snacks/Tea/Coffee. BYO if required

[Contact John Jenson \(btcjeno@gmail.com\)](mailto:btcjeno@gmail.com)

Saturday 7 September

SUNSHINE COAST Annual Mini Reunion Lunch

11:30 am at Buderim Tavern, Burnett St., Buderim

Contact Jocelyn Gould (Mann),

(jocelyngould@qldnet.com.au; 07 5476 7007) or

Doug Patterson (07 5491 7703)

calling all choristers



Did you sing in the choirs when you were at Blackheath and Thornburgh?

Have you sung in a choir since you left school?

It doesn't matter – it's about having fun!

Would you like to be part of a Past Student Choir for the August Reunion? Please consider it.

Register your interest with Jay Goodwin (Landsberg): missjmissj@hotmail.com

Jay will send you music chosen for the Dedication of Thornburgh House and the Church Service, in parts for soprano, alto, tenor and bass, or just 3 parts, with men combined as baritone.

local heroes

Ann Gibbon

National Trust of Australia
(Queensland) Heritage Awards
Volunteer of the Year 2018



Ann Gibbon was named the National Trust of Australia (Queensland) Heritage Awards Volunteer of the Year on Thursday in Brisbane at the old Museum in Bowen Hills. Environment Minister Leeanne Enoch said the occasion honoured government agencies, councils, organisations, companies and individuals who help protect, preserve and value the State's heritage.

"I congratulate all the winners of this year's National Trust of Australia (Queensland) Heritage Awards and thank them for their tireless efforts in preserving and promoting our outstanding heritage places."

Mrs. Gibbon was described as a tireless National Trust of Australia (Queensland) volunteer who leads a dedicated group of volunteers at the Zara Clark Museum in Charters Towers, keeping the important collection of artefacts and memorabilia open to the public.

Mrs. Gibbon was selfless in her acceptance of the award. "You don't do these things on your own and I want to acknowledge that I have got a team behind me," she said. "I was thrilled, but I was also thrilled for the whole body of volunteers who keep the Museum going."

A strong appreciation for the past and its preservation for the future drew Mrs. Gibbon to the work.

"I became involved because of my love of history", Mrs. Gibbon said.

It has been this same love of history that has kept Ann involved with the Blackthorn Past Students Association. She has been involved in the Executive of the Association for over twenty years, first as Treasurer, then as a Committee Member, and, more recently, Archivist for the Association's memorabilia and paper records. This role she accepted when asked by Mr. Peter Black, then President of the BTC Foundation to organise items held into a single unified collection. Hopefully, 2019 will see the fulfillment of their dreams and the collection can finally be shown as they have always dreamed.

2019 sees Ann again recognised for her efforts in Cultural Heritage with an award in the Australia Day awards for the Charters Towers and District Regional Council.

Ron Donnell is a BTC past student (1948 – 1951), who at 85 is actively involved in the Joyful Foundation, inspired by his daughter Joy who tragically died of cancer at the age of 52. Joy Donnell was a guidance officer and psychologist who helped and inspired children in North Queensland, and in the 6 years since her death the charity formed in her name has provided stationery packs, uniforms and 'buddy benches' to thousands of students.



Ron is determined his daughter's legacy and good work will continue: "We get enjoyment out of helping kids ... there are three students we know of that Joy helped who are now university graduates. They may not have got there without Joy's help, so we need to keep that going." To contact the Joyful Foundation or make a donation, please call 0439 772 053.

BTC celebrates the exceptional achievements of people who have passed through our classrooms and onto greater things. If you know of someone worthy of being nominated for the Blackheath and Thornburgh Wall of Achievement, contact the school for a nomination form:

Wall of Achievement Committee

c/- Blackheath & Thornburgh College

PO Box 339, Charters Towers QLD 4820

Em: enquiries@btc.qld.edu.au

Local heroes

Dorelle Fox (Cowan)



Dorelle was a student at Blackheath from 1960 to 1963. In 1997, after being a nurse, a farmer's wife and mother of three, a champion ballroom dancer and running a general store for 13 years, Dorelle took up archery and the rest, as they say 'is history'. In 2002 she broke four individual world records at the

World Field Archery Championships in Scotland, and then again in 2006 she broke all three of her current world records at the same championships being held in Australia at Hervey Bay. Since then she has collected World Gold medals in Germany in 2010, Argentina and Australia in 2016, and South Africa in 2018. Dorelle shoots veteran bare bow recurve (no sights) for which she has won multiple Masters Gold medals. She has won the Townsville City Council Veteran Sportsperson of the Year award on four occasions (2003, 2007, 2010 and 2013) and has been recognized for her contribution to sport on the BTC Wall of Achievement.

Dorelle has a full teaching studio underneath her home in West End and the Townsville Archery Club has recently acquired the leasing rights to the old Tennis Club, next to her house, from the Council, and will convert it into an outdoor Archery arena.

Jodie Fisher

Jodie comes from Normanton in Western Queensland and was a BTC student from 2007 – 2011. When she completed her schooling she attended the University of QLD at Gatton. Jodie worked as a jillaroo on cattle stations at Cloncurry and in WA, and then to Iffley, 480km north-east of Mount Isa and 700km west of



Cairns where, at 23, she became the youngest female in the company to ever be offered the position of Head Stockman. After sustaining severe brain trauma in a mustering accident, Jodie has fought her way back to an 'almost normal' existence. Her story is one of courage and commitment to recovery, making her a poster girl for Brain Injury Australia. She has also turned her adversity into an opportunity to raise awareness of the challenges for health and disability service delivery to Australia's most decentralised population.

"It was just after morning smoko and we were shifting the mob when a weaner - a young cow - broke. I was



hazing the weaner back into the mob when my horse hit the weaner with its chest and flipped. I lead with my head into the ground. I was unconscious, blood coming out of my ears."

"When I first got out of hospital I couldn't do hardly anything that I used to do. So I thought of how I could make myself useful. So I decided to use my sewing skills that I have only ever had time to use in Christmas holidays. I started making and selling little kids cloth hats to raise money for Brain Injury Australia in the hope that in the future that everyone has the good outcome that I did instead of some of the terrible possibilities that we were told of." Thanks Jodie, for the money you've raised and for the story of recovery you've shared!



The Blackthorn Past Students Association is proud to publish stories about the lives and achievements of past students. While the Wall of Achievement recognises those who have been publicly acknowledged for their service, there are many others who have led interesting lives, done exceptional things and contributed to their community in extraordinary ways.

If you would like to see someone's story in the BPSA newsletter, please send your contribution to bpsa@btc.qld.edu.au

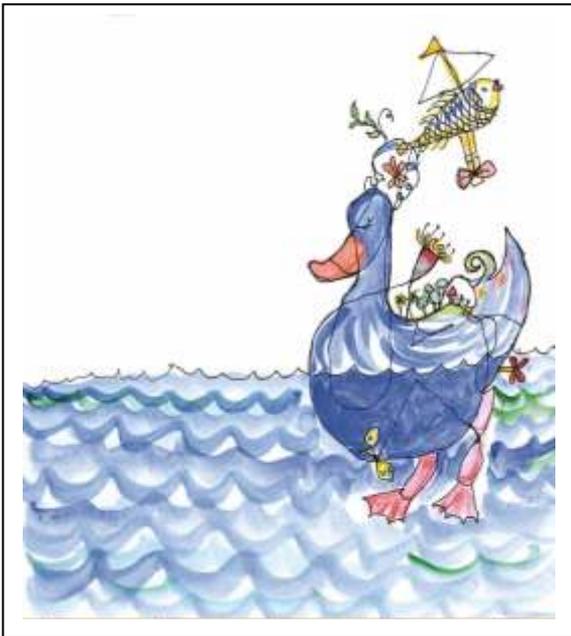
local heroes

Belinda Broughton

"I had decided to be an artist at the age of nine and I worked on that aim throughout my boarding school years. I hated boarding school. Seriously! Luckily, after school, I grew out of my social ineptitude and into a confidence that allowed me to enjoy life and people.

"After Blackheath, I studied art in Toowoomba where I partook of all the usual higher-educational extra-curricula offerings and then came to South Australia where I still live. I have three children, two older stepsons and a daughter: they all lived with us. My husband and I ran a successful small business designing and manufacturing educational toys for the preschool market, under name *Janek Toys*. We stopped it a few years ago, after my husband had heart surgery.

"In the meantime both of us were, and still are, practicing artists. I have produced 11 solo shows and my work has sold well. Currently I am working on installation art and art with humour.



"Duck with the world on its back"

"In 2003 I was invited to write poems for wall display in an art exhibition called *Red and White*. I realised that not only could I write poetry on any subject, I also loved it. It felt like coming home. While still at Blackheath, I showed some of my earliest poems to my English teacher. Miss Landsberg was always very supportive of my writing, despite my unreadable scrawl and atrocious spelling. She secured my first publication, in an anthology called *Youth Writes*.

"After *Red and White*, I began writing in earnest. I have won a number of competitions and have been published in numerous anthologies and journals in Australia and overseas. I have two published books of poetry. *Sparrow: Poems of a Refugee* was published in 2015. It was short-listed for The Adelaide Festival Award for an Unpublished Manuscript. It is my husband's stories told in his voice and is, I am told, a good read. My son was making a film about his father, using the poems, when he died in 2016. You can view the trailer at www.vimeo.com/137911084. His wife and friends are hoping to finish the film.

"In 2018 *A Slip of the Tongue* was published and is well received. It contains more auto-biographical poems including some from my time at Blackheath. Be warned that section of the book is about growing up, though not all poems in first person are autobiographical. But do you remember the old Presbyterian church with the elderly woman at the back who could bellow louder than the whole school? Pity she was off key. She also makes an appearance."



Belinda Broughton & Ervin Janek – partners in art and life.

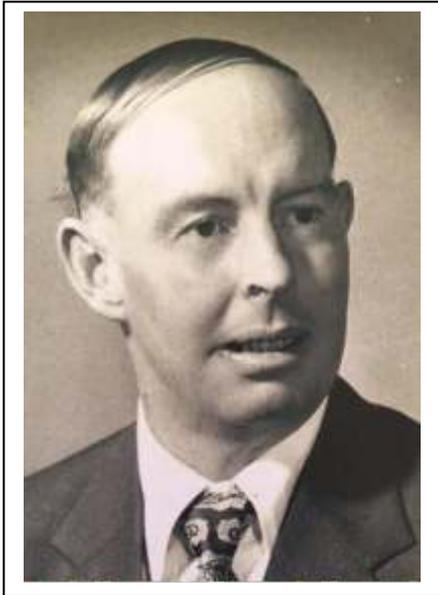
Belinda's books can be purchased at *Grand Secret Books* in Mosman Street, or ordered through bookshops, online booksellers or from the publisher, Ginninderra Press. She can be contacted by email through her blog at www.belindabroughton.wordpress.com.

Can anyone recall this hero of the Past vs Present netball game?



Peter Adam Black OAM

Peter Black was born in Charters Towers to Archie and May Black on 20th December 1934. He departed this life peacefully at home on 29th May 2018. He is survived by his wife Dulcie, their children Dallas, Sue and David, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



"Service to Local Government", an obituary by Ann Gibbon

Peter was enrolled as a boarder at Thornburgh College, aged ten, in 1945, and stayed until 1952. He was Captain of Thornburgh College in 1952 and in the same year was Dux of the College. He has a long history of involvement with the College and he was President of the B.P.S.A. committee at the time of the Golden Jubilee.

He served on the Dalrymple Shire Council from 1961 to 2001, for many years as the Chairman/Mayor. During this time he was the driving force for many community projects within both the Dalrymple Shire and the Charters Towers City Boundaries. Serving as Mayor from 1973 until 2001 his Council was responsible for such. He actively served the community as a member of the Lions Club, the Friends of the World Theatre and as a contributor to youth and education through his involvement with Blackheath and Thornburgh College and All Souls and St. Gabriel's College.

With forty years of service to the Shire, it is believed that Peter was the longest serving, sitting Councillor in Australia. Peter was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for his service to the community and in 2007

James Cook University honoured him with an Honorary Doctorate of Letters for his service to the North Queensland community. Below is an essay on leadership for the 1952 Blackthorn magazine, written by Peter in the year that he was captain of Thornburgh. It provides and insight into the kind of man that Peter was to become.

"An institution is but the lengthened shadow of one man."

The men who are successful in business are the men who can be depended upon to see a job through and to make sure it has been done properly. They are wanted, sought for, and given leadership. They are scarce and sought after by the keen men in business – they reap the biggest rewards. "Near enough" is never good enough. It implies the execution of a job below the standard or which we are capable. Second rate standards are self-imposed handicaps, preventing us from achievement.

A leader must be human and be fair. He must never pretend to be infallible; he profits by mistakes. More than where he is going to knows how he is going to get there. By premeditation and not procrastination he forges ahead. He is an enthusiast and the urge to follow him comes from the desire to share in his enthusiasm.

Primarily he is a good administrator – he delegates authority and leaves responsibility to the individual. He is not a one-man show – he is the welding force behind group achievement. He understands people and consequently knows how to handle them.

He is a good teacher and a better student. It is often because of his ability that he moves to lead a larger group or bigger enterprise. He has that priceless ingredient, a sense of humour. He knows that often a laugh will save a situation - ease tension, when nothing else will. He is generous by nature and gives credit where it is due. He is tolerant and respects the rights of others – their right to express their ideas to follow their consciences.

These are qualities of good leadership. In his early career a leader may not have all these traits, but he will have some of them. Given honesty of purpose and ambition he will develop the rest. It may take years, but achievement will be of value to more than himself. He may not achieve brilliance. Nevertheless, if he is destined to fame he will surely realise the truth of Carlyle's words – "all rising to great places, is by the winding stair." But where are the leaders to come? – for Australia needs men of this calibre. The responsibility falls on the shoulders of the up-and-coming generation; on every student who leaves our school and a hundred others similar, this year. With the benefit of a good education, an appreciation of the cultural aspects of life, and a religious background we shall be failing in our obligations to Queen and Country if we do not try to lead.

David John Clinker

19 June 1937 – 21 November 2018



Dave Clinker was born in England, moving to South Africa as a child. He had an amazing work history in (then) Rhodesia, on a farm, in the Police Force, as an athletics coach, a mines manager, and in marketing. When he migrated to Australia with wife Jeanie and daughters Robyn and Lee in 1983, he used these skills as a travelling salesman in NSW and as a manager for a mining equipment company in Mt Isa.

Dave came to BTC in 1988; he and Jeanie (who became the resident matron of Thornburgh Sick Bay) and his beloved motor bike, were to become an integral part of the College family for the next nine years. From 1989 Dave was the Bursar; he oversaw the accounts, the monies in and out, plant and building maintenance, the ancillary staff administration, kitchen and grounds as well as being secretary to the Board of Governors.

As an active P&F member he then became its treasurer; he was also actively involved in the BTC Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. His daughter Lee, who was captain of Blackheath in 1990 and a gold D of E recipient, remembers how he brought dozens of eggs out to an expedition on the above-mentioned motor bike, on an unsealed bush road, and didn't break any. Like everything in Dave's life – just another task, well done. RIP Dave – you'll be missed.

in memoriam

- Doug John Temperley (BTC 1934-35); 1919—2013
- Gregory Pearson (BTC 1968-70); 1952—2017
- William (Bill) Kenneth Acton (BTC 1963-67); 1949—2017
- Mary Breddon (Tudehope); (BTC 1961-62); 1946—2017
- Marjorie Ursula Fulton (Hartwell); (BTC 1954-55); 1940—2017
- Gerald Roy Porter (BTC 1957-58); 1944—2017
- Siang (Robert) Tan (BTC 1952-55); 1936—2017. Also known as Albert.
- Keith Shaw McCubben (BTC 1964); 1950—2017
- Phillip John Kay (BTC 1990-93); 1977—2017
- Audrey Lorraine Harris (BTC 1960-65); 1951—2017
- Eve Mary Mann (Allingham) (BTC 1954); 1942—2017
- Marshall Jayasuria (BTC 1925-31); 1915—2018. Marshall lived 103 years.
- Lewis Hooper (BTC 1940-43); 1928—2018
- Marcus Jack Burbidge (BTC 2015); 2001—2018
- Peter Archibald Black, OAM (BTC 1945-52); 1934—2018
- Charles Arbouin (1943-44); 1928—2018
- Lorna Ursula Lynch (Love) (BTC 1941-42); 1929—2018
- Frank Patterson (BTC 1961-62); 1947—2018
- Ron Wistor Wakely (BTC 1949-50); 1934—2018
- Owen David Bell (BTC 1948); 1934—2018
- Sevese Morea (BTC 1959-62); 1947—2018
- Maxwell Kenneth Henry Land (BTC 1948); 1934—2018
- Ray Campbell (BTC 1946); died 2018
- Denise Martin (1985-89 + 1991-92) Denise was a member of staff.
- Nancy Martin (1933-36); 1924—2019
- Stephen Connolly (BTC 2015-16)
- Elma Whiteing (Hoy) (BTC 1946); 1933—2018

news & noteworthy

trophy cleaning team

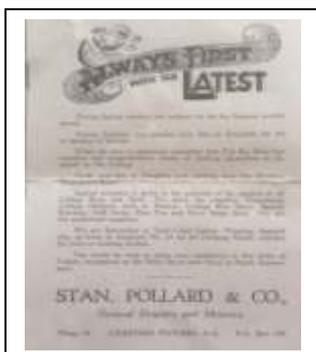
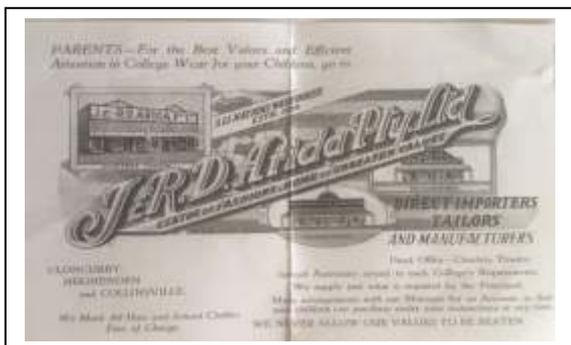


Once a year, a team of generous and dedicated ladies gather together on the last Friday of second semester, which last year was June 29th, for their annual trophy cleaning activity. This involves: 1. removing all the trophies from the glass fronted cupboards, 2. cleaning the glass, 3. vacuuming the shelves and bottom of the cupboards (Margot Nimmo usually has this job), 4. washing the trophies, 5. applying the silver polish and then rubbing it all off again, and 7. arranging them back in the cupboards.

Hazel MacDonald says that they don't always put them back the way they had been, but there is always balance in the arrangement.

Those taking part on 29/6/2018 were Kristine Patterson, Ann Gibbon (Patterson), Hazel MacDonald (Kaeshagen), Margaret Mills (Wheeler), Helen Hislop (Warren), Margot Nimmo (Clarke), and Lorraine Robertson, who would like everyone to know that she has had bestowed upon her, the great honour of being made an Honorary Member of the BPSA.

remember these?



The list of a boarder's requirements was still the same in 1960 as in 1926, with the exception that in 1926 boarders of both schools were also required to take towels, sheets, pillow cases and serviettes. Girls also needed a tennis racquet!

excerpts from the archives

November 1930:

“Special mention should be made of the House Gardens of this year. The House Masters and a group of gardeners from each house have worked with great enthusiasm, and all deserve the high commendation they received from the Curator of the Rockhampton Botanical Gardens, Mr. R. Simmons, and from our good friend Mr. Fred Haddrell, who acted as judges in the competition for the Daking Smith Cup. Marks were allotted on three occasions – in June, August and November, and Adam Black House was declared the winner. Here again our boys have learned many lessons and reaped many advantages which are not to be measured in terms of results and prizes.”

May 1930:

Thornburgh Agricultural Farm

“The scheme of establishing an Agricultural Section of Thornburgh College began seven years ago when, under Council approval, Rev R.E. Bacon acquired 130 acres of land suitable for a dairy farm to be managed solely for College students. The farm is conveniently situated a short distance from Thornburgh and has a permanent water supply.

The College Council at its last meeting in 1929 adopted the recommendation of the Education Committee that Mr. Bacon during his year as Acting Principal of Thornburgh should arrange classes in (a) Principles of Agriculture, (b) Animal Husbandry, (c) Elementary Farm Engineering and (d) Horticulture. Provision has now been made for inclusion of these subjects in the Schedule of Studies for the Junior Public Examination Certificate – endorsed in the Agriculture Section.”

The Blackheath and Thornburgh Vegetable Garden

“For nine years the vegetable garden for the two Colleges has been at Blackheath. With the commencement of the College Farm proper at the beginning of 1930 the Council decided to make the Kitchen Garden a part of the College Farm. The supply of fresh vegetables for the total family of Thornburgh and Blackheath, consisting of over 270 persons, is a consideration. It is not only to be viewed in North Queensland just from a cost point of view, but a liberal supply of fresh vegetables means so much as a factor unto health of boarding schools.”

The Jersey Herd and Milk Supply

“Practically all the milk required for the two Colleges has been supplied for some years by the College Farm, also butter, eggs and pork. It would be quite practicable to supply all the butter and eggs required on account of the excellent cold storage facilities in Charters Towers, but for the time being, limited capital is a consideration. Those competent to judge regard the College Grade Jersey Herd as one of the best in North Queensland, and this year, certain friends of the Colleges have made it possible to import from England pure bred stud Jerseys to further build up a Thornburgh Stud Book Herd for the future.”

Investigations into the history of the Thornburgh Agricultural Farm are ongoing; please send any relevant information or social history to bpsa@btc.edu.qld.au