

## WHAT HAPPENED IN 1922?

As far as Mount Albert Grammar School is concerned 1922 was our Foundation year, beginning a little later than usual due to an epidemic of typhoid fever. At home and abroad there were other events, some of them having reverberations to the present day.

There were notable political events in 1922. The Soviet Union was established with Vladimir Lenin Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Soviet Union. In Italy Benito Mussolini marched on Rome, finessed King Victor Emmanuel III and began setting up a Fascist government. One of the world's oldest empires began collapsing when Kemal Ataturk overthrew the Ottoman Sultanate and established modern Turkey. In the throes of a civil war, the Irish Free State was established. The UK abolished its Protectorate over Egypt and the independent Kingdom of Egypt was established under King Saud.

Going back more than 3000 years to another Egyptian King, in 1922 Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon discovered the only unlooted tomb in the Valley of the Kings, that of the boy Pharaoh, Tutankhamun.

In the literary world, James Joyce published *Ulysses*, Richmal Compton wrote *Just William*, the first of 39 William books, Hugh Lofting wrote the *Voyages of Doctor Dolittle*, T.E. Lawrence wrote *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, T.S. Eliot wrote *The Waste Land* and *Reader's Digest* was founded.

The *Jazz Singer* – the first 'talkie' was still five years away. In 1922 the BBC was founded and in New Zealand the first radio stations were heard, there was one in Auckland broadcasting for several hours per week. There were fewer than 1000 radios in New Zealand. Also in New Zealand there was the first Poppy Day, the Correspondent School was opened and William Massey's Reform Party was re-elected to government, and in Australia, Vegemite was formulated.

In the world of Science of 1922, insulin was discovered by Frederick Banting and Charles Best, Vitamin E was discovered by Herbert McLean Evans and Katharine Scott Bishop, Hermann Staudinger proposed and first used the term macromolecules. Niels Bohr received the Nobel Prize in Physics for the structure of atoms and the radiation emanating from them. Francis Aston received the Nobel Prize for Chemistry for the discovery of isotopes in many non-radioactive elements. The last Barbary lion was shot in the Atlas Mountains, the last Californian grizzly bear was shot and the Korean tiger was last seen in 1922.

Among those who died in 1922 were the explorer Ernest Shackleton, Pope Benedict XV, the inventor Alexander Graham Bell and the author Marcel Proust. At the other end of life there were some 1922 newborns who were destined for international fame.

The original Masters, all but one of them who came by car, would either have walked from home or from the tram or train. They would have been walking along a gravel street, Rob Roy Street. On their way to and from school they would have seen more horse-drawn vehicles than motor vehicles. They would have known about the events listed here which they would have gleaned from their reading of *The New Zealand Herald*, *The Weekly News* and *The Auckland Star*, the only source of information at the time. The coverage was much more comprehensive than present day newspapers.

As the School gears up to celebrate its centennial, 1922 seems increasingly remote. By the time the bicentennial comes around, 2022 will likewise seem distant and quaint.

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