



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

Malcolm James McCUSKER AC CVO QC
Student at Perth Modern School from 1954 - 1955

MODERNIAN FELLOW 2014

Malcolm James McCusker was born in North Perth and his secondary education was gained at Hobart High School and Perth Modern School. He studied Law at the University of Western Australia. His contributions to education at Perth Modern School have been both financial and personal. Some were made through the **Sphinx Foundation Inc.** and others directly to the School.

In May 2010, at the instigation of Malcolm and Tonya McCusker, the McCusker Charitable Foundation made a significant donation to the **Sphinx Scholarship Fund**. The majority of this gift funds, in perpetuity, an annual *McCusker Scholarship (Academic Excellence)* awarded to an entry level student who displays academic excellence but whose opportunities and educational success are likely to be limited by personal or financial need. The Scholarship supports the successful student through to Year 10. A separate portion of the donation was used to establish the *Perth Modernian Society Bursary Fund* to support deserving students with particular difficulties not apparent at the start of their time at the school. The bursaries are awarded discretely by the Society or the Principal, on the grounds of merit and need.

The philanthropy of Malcolm and Tonya has stimulated contributions from other ex-students, resulting today in a strong and effective fund that is unique amongst public secondary schools in Western Australia.

Malcolm McCusker also supports the School directly. Leading up to the occasion of the School's centenary celebrations in 2011, he was responsible for the refurbishment of the former School Library - now fittingly known as the McCusker Room. Again when the School launched an appeal for the new Health and Fitness Centre, the McCuskers were early and substantial contributors. Other Modernians have been motivated by Malcolm's example and made their own contributions to the School and to the Perth Modernian Society. Importantly, his support has been more than just financial. Malcolm shows a keen interest in the activities of the School and the students and offers personal support in a very significant way.

When appointed as Governor of Western Australia in 2011, Malcolm served as the patron for a large number of organisations and events, including being the Patron of Perth Modern School. In this latter capacity he gave his support to many School events. Whenever possible he has attended the first assembly of each school year to make presentations to the Sphinx Scholarship winners. Not only does this lend gravitas to the event, but by his manner and example he provides inspiration to students and others.

Malcolm has been enormously supported in all of this by Tonya McCusker who has also contributed in many ways on her own account, thus making a great team. Accordingly, their joint efforts have inspired others to do their part to further such vital causes as quality public education and philanthropy.

In 2011, Malcolm and Tonya used their experience to assist the Society in establishing the annual **Perth Modernian Society Oration** which is attended by the more senior students, representative staff and invited guests. To date, four distinguished Australians have presented this Oration, and learnings thereby pass from one generation to the next.

Malcolm has been honoured by the Queen, the nation and by his profession, but today we honour him for his contribution to education at the Perth Modern School. Indeed, the Perth Modernian Society Awards Committee stated that "*Malcolm's outstanding contributions to the State, Perth Modern School and the Perth Modernian Society, demonstrate a commitment over and above any expectations.*"

Malcolm McCusker you have made a significant contribution to the Society and thereby to the advancement of education at Perth Modern School.

The Perth Modernians Society is pleased to bestow upon you the honour of MODERNIAN FELLOW.

This award entitles you to particular consideration in all Society matters and functions.