



THE PERTH MODERNIAN e-NEWSLETTER



April/May 2020 - Issue 44 (Volume No. 19)

WELCOME

Hi

WELCOME to The Perth Modernian e-Newsletter offering two way communication with all members and potential members. We bring to you news, event details and articles from the Perth Modernian Society, its members and Perth Modern School. We hope you find the newsletter both interesting and informative.



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

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All messages received either by phone or email are promptly forwarded electronically for further action.

President's Message

Following the resignation of Prof. Geoffrey Soutar as President in February, I was honoured to accept the Perth Modernian Society Council's invitation to take over the reins as President.

Most of us have been in part or in full isolation from our friends and loved ones over the last few weeks. On behalf of the Council I express my empathy for all Old Modernians and their families in this situation. It appears that the crisis may go on for much longer. And we may have to continue to be patient. On the brighter side, it appears that Australians are weathering the pandemic well, with tolerance and understanding. The numbers of deaths show that Australian front line health workers are doing an outstanding job and the public generally are showing great discipline. It is not surprising, because Australians are near the top in most forms of endeavour. Your Council wishes all Old Modernians well in continuing to manage your personal part of the epidemic.

AGM: The Society's 25th Annual General Meeting was originally scheduled for Monday evening 25th May with a guest speaker Ms Jordan Bishop, Audiology Community Services Liaison from the Ear Science Institute Australia. However, when the restrictions on public gatherings were promulgated in March, the Hon. Secretary and I sought an extension of time for the AGM from the WA Commissioner for Consumer Protection. This request was promptly granted with a postponement allowed up to 31 October. So, when things are clearer regarding the easing of restrictions, the Council will confer to decide the AGM date and advise members.

Julian Grill

The Honourable Julian Grill, LLB, JP

President, Perth Modernian Society

Tel. 0417 923 721, E: grill1@bigpond.com

A SPECIAL ANZAC DAY TRIBUTE

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Brian Savvas (Sav), PMS student 1953-57 is the [creator, history researcher, scriptwriter, lyricist](#), part composer and executive producer of [August Watershed](#), telling the story of the first month of the First World War. A video production of 92 minutes, it has 35 pieces of purpose-composed music, of which 25 are songs.

The cast of **August Watershed** numbers more than 70 while contributions to the production have been from some 250 people in Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Wellington, Newfoundland, The Republic of Ireland, Britain, France, India, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

Brian claims August 1914 is history's most significant month.

August Watershed had its World Premiere in Melbourne on 20 November 2016, screening to a small invited audience. Brian is pursuing a venture to see established an Australian **National Internet Platform** through which such content can seek a global audience.

In 2011, PMS students **Jonty Coy, Fletcher Cox, Tom Carlyon, Fraser Kirton** and **Dillon Wong** recorded the song '**March to Mons**' for scenes depicting German and British soldiers converging on the Belgian town of Mons, and then on 23 August, engaging in the first major action by British troops on Continental Europe since Waterloo.

Monica Brierley-Hay and **Amy Fortnum**, 2011 PMS students also, contributed to the scene '**Wheel to the Marne**' singing in protest at German General Alexander von Klück for relentlessly driving his weary First Army in pursuit of the retreating French and British.

Roger Hey, now retired PMS Music Director, coordinated the students' contribution.

The final scene of **August Watershed** entitled '**A generation of young men**' shows photos of war memorials across the world including ours at Perth Modern School (provided by **Thalia Cole**) and in Kings Park.

Brian's maternal grandfather was **Major Alexander Elijah Clarke**. He served at Gallipoli, being awarded the **Military Cross**, for valour on the battlefield. That medal is in Brian's possession together with the Major's brass telescope he had on Gallipoli. The Major returned to Perth in December 1918. Eight months later, on 10 August 1919, his wife **Grace Clarke** died of the Spanish Flu, now being referred to in the media. That was the 6th birthday of her youngest daughter who, 21 years later, as **Alison Savvas** gave birth to Brian.

DIARY DATES

2019 AGM

To be advised

Permission granted to

Defer to a date prior to

31 October 2020

REUNIONS

[See news item for details](#)

All being well, all reunions planned for 2020 will take place

2020 ANNUAL REUNION

Sunday 13 September

History Centre open

Orchestral Concert

Lunch and Fellowship

CLASS (Year) REUNIONS



Class of 1970

Sunday 18 October

Golden Jubilee

Marmion Angling Club.

Contact Barbara

Class of 1960

60th reunion

details to follow

Contact Ed

**Refers to Year 5(12)

as core final year

2020

Class of 1954

Contact Lee

2021

Class of 1971**

50 year reunion

start the ball rolling

Organisers please contact

Barbara Mallett through

reunions@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

For further information visit

www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au

PUBLICATIONS

eNewsletter

Do you have something to say?

Memories to share?

Where are YOU now?

Send your news item, letters

and/or photographs to ...

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Next Issues

Copy deadlines for 2020

e-Newsletter

Copy by 2 August

Copy by 12 October

Annual Report

Copy by 12 July

Magazine

Copy by 12 November

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2019-20 COUNCIL

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www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au

Prof Geoff Soutar, *President to Feb 2020*

Hon Julian Grill, *President from March 2020*

Ruth Barrett

Dr Robyn White, *Museum Committee Rep*

and Vice President from March 2020

Barrie Baker, *Functions*

Deborah Beresford, *Hon Secretary*

World War 1 and the pandemic that followed had a profound impact on the Savvas family.

While at South Perth Primary School, Brian learnt the violin occasionally sitting for music theory exams at PMS on Saturday mornings and during such visits, he would always look at our War Memorial. Then of course, for five years from 1953, it was ubiquitous. What it commemorates remains significant in Brian's life.

WAR MEMORIAL FACELIFT

2019 has been a momentous year for the PMS Museum and all volunteers associated with it. As reported previously the third grant received by the Perth Modernian Society Museum Association in 2019 was received from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Saluting their Service, for \$4,000. This grant was specifically identified to refurbish the School Memorial and seat – to re-point, clean and re-letter. In addition, a granite plinth with the names of the men whose names are not recorded on the original memorial, was to be added.

In finalising the names of the men commemorated here, the Museum Committee and the Board considered what should be adopted as the appropriate eligibility criteria for inclusion. Statements from the Australian War Memorial and the WA War Memorial at Kings Park and other sources, were considered. Both the Committee and Board affirmed as policy that the eligibility statement should read:

On this memorial are recorded the names of those alumni of Perth Modern School who died as a result of their military service to Australia during the Great War 1914-1918 [or, for another memorial, the appropriate military action].

As with the Australian War Memorial, Australians who died during these periods of conflict but were not serving with Australian armed forces may be included in the Commemorative Roll.

In November, we received a BankWest Grant for \$1000 through the votes you gave our endeavours. Their letter read "Congratulations! The public votes have now been tallied and Bankwest is happy to award you with a \$1000 grant to support Perth Modernian Society Museum Association Inc. The grant is given on the condition that it is used solely for this purpose." Thank you to everyone who submitted votes and/or canvassed others to support this initiative.

The Museum Association was overwhelmed when an alumnus family made a donation that ensured that the whole project could be completed early. The refurbishment of the memorial and seat was completed when with the plinth but that had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 virus. A huge thank you to manager Morad Sharif and his team at Midland Monumental Works for their great workmanship and cooperation.

We looked forward to ANZAC Day 2020 for the announcement and unveiling of the plinth.



OUR FORGOTTEN ANZACS



ARTHUR BACON PMS student 1912

Edited from "Forgotten Anzac – Arthur Bacon" by Neil Coy with material from the ADFA website
<https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson>

Without any doubt the saddest omission from the School's war memorial, and one of Perth Modern School's

Eve Broadley, *Hon Treasurer*
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Eve Broadley, *Catering*
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Angela Jones, *Research, Data entry*

most tragic personal stories of the Great War, is that of Arthur Bacon.

Arthur Bacon was born on 24 September 1896. His family lived in a town site called Darling Range Quarries and his father operated a bluestone granite quarry at Gooseberry Hill. The School's war memorial is built from granite from a nearby quarry. Arthur was educated initially at Midland Junction State School and then Guildford Grammar, where he passed the Senior Certificate. He enrolled in Perth Modern School on 7 February 1912. Arthur's academic success at Modern School enabled him to study electrical engineering at UWA, at that time a fairly new and exciting field.

Arthur enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces on 7 June 1915 and was assigned to the 16th Battalion. The Battalion had suffered 70% casualties by the end of the first week at Gallipoli and Arthur was to be one of the reinforcements. He was given less than six weeks' training before he arrived at Gallipoli during the last phase of preparation for the August, 1915 offensive. The 16th Battalion was set the most demanding of objectives, the capture of Hill 971, which was the highest point on Sari Bair Ridge. The attack failed with Arthur being wounded in the face. He was evacuated to a military hospital on Lemnos Island and then to Reading Hospital near London, England. He returned to the Battalion on 27 December, 1916.

In the spring of 1917, Australian troops on the Western Front were brought to the Hindenberg Line for the first time for a planned breakthrough at Bullecourt. The battle began on 11 April 1917 and the 16th Battalion was involved in another disaster as the British tanks, key to the attack plan, broke down before reaching the front lines. The Australian 4th Brigade, comprising the 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th battalions, suffered 2,339 casualties (80%) of the 3,000 men committed to the action. Arthur received a second gunshot wound to the face on the first day, this time causing temporary damage to an eye. After recovering at Le Havre in France, Arthur returned to his unit on 11 June 1917.

He was wounded for a third time near Ypres in Belgium on 6 August 1917, on this occasion sustaining a gunshot wound to his left foot. As a surviving Gallipoli campaign veteran, Arthur had the right to wear an embroidered capital letter "A" over his unit colour patch, signifying that he was an original ANZAC. By this stage of the war, few were left who were eligible for this honour and those who did commanded significant respect. Arthur rejoined the 16th Battalion from England on 31 December 1917, survived his second winter on the Western Front, and was promoted to Lance Corporal on 10 April 1918. He was killed in a minor action at Bellenglise, 60kms east of Villers Bretonneux, on 18 September, 1918. His body lies nearby in the Jeancourt Communal Cemetery Extension.

There are several sad ironies in Arthur Bacon's fate. Having survived through so many failed attacks, he died in the midst of a victorious action by his unit. He is buried at a site that few would bother to stop to investigate, let alone pay their respects. The cruellest irony of all is that Bellenglise was the 16th Battalion's last action. Arthur was killed on what would have been his last day in combat. He was also the last Modern School boy to be killed in action in the Great War.

DOUGLAS ROY CHIDGZEY PMS student 1912

Douglas was born in Albany in 1896. He was the son of an orchardist, and with the family home having moved to Dinninup, he attended Bridgetown State School before joining the Agriculture course offered by Perth Modern School in 1912. This course was started in 1911 with about 12 students, and Prof Pfister had sent to Rothamstead Agricultural College for cereal seeds which were planted in the south west corner of the grounds. There was a shed for a laboratory and a store room. The course embraced chemical science, domestic science, commercial and agricultural subjects.

Military records revealed previous military service in Junior Military Cadets in Perth. As a 20 year old farmer from Blackboy Hill he enlisted in 1916 as a Private in the 10th Light Horse Regiment, 24th Reinforcement. His Unit embarked on board HMAT Clan Corquodale, from Fremantle. Trooper Douglas Roy Chidgzey was killed in action in Palestine on 30 April 1918. With no known grave, his death is commemorated at the Jerusalem Memorial, Jerusalem War Cemetery, in Israel.

Bridgetown Notes. Bunbury Herald 22 May 1918
(From Our Correspondent)

Douglas Chidgzey was a son of Mrs Chidgzey, of Dinninup, and brother of Frank, George, Percy and Vernon. Mrs Moore, of Preston, and Mrs Jones, of Waroona, were sisters. Vernon enlisted with his brother, and is doubtless now in Palestine. This brave soldier was but a young man, and grew up in Bridgetown. He was a lad of much promise, and stirring character. — Trove

ERNEST DANIEL TIMMINGS PMS foundation student 1911

Ernest was born in Jarrahdale in 1895. He attended James Street State School and lived with his mother, Agnes Marion Timmings (nee McGregor) at 19 Hooper Street, West Perth. He entered Perth Modern School as a foundation student joining other 16 year olds in the science course, in February, 1911.

He enlisted in the AIF on 1 May 1916 at the age of 20. His service number was 17444 and he was appointed to the Army Medical Corps (AMC). His previous service in the Militia included three and a half years with the 22nd Army Medical Corps including 10 months at the Base Hospital in Fremantle.

Private Timmings embarked at Fremantle on 29 June 1917 on the ship HMAT A30 "Borda". He disembarked at Plymouth, England, on 25 August 1917 and was sent to France on 1 October 1917. He was transferred on 8 October to 3rd Field Ambulance (the same unit in which John Simpson Kirkpatrick, the man with the donkey, served at Gallipoli).

The unit was based at Wittenhoek in Belgium when Ernest was gassed on 5 November 1917. He was transferred to England and admitted to the 1st Western General Hospital at Fazakerley in Liverpool (aka Toxteth Park Military Hospital, now the Aintree University Hospital) on 14 November 1917. Notes on Ernest's hospital records while in Liverpool include "Shell gas poisoning", "? debility – later an occasional sibilant in chest".

On 14 December 1917 he was transferred to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford in Kent for treatment. He was transferred from there on 31 December 1917 to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott near Salisbury, a

Bill MacPherson, *Archives*
Wendy McCallum, *Data entry*
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Alan Porter, *Science Restoration*
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Sharon Williams, *Displays*
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MODERNIAN HONOURS

awards@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

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Donald Tyler

2016

Modernian Fellow

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Alan Porter

Moderna Scola Award

Alan Porter
Deborah Beresford

Honorary Member

Alison Woodman

2017

Modernian Fellow

Peter Farr

Moderna Scola Award

Evelyn Broadley

Honorary Member

Tonya McCusker AM

2018

Moderna Scola Award

Rosemary Pratt
Dr June Stephenson

2019

Honorary Members

Nigel Hunt
Brendon Dawson

Moderna Scola Award

Robert Johnson

convalescent facility. On 2 January 1918 Ernest was classified as B.1.A, that is, fit for service in lines of communications in France, but not in the front line.

On 19 March 1918 Ernest was discharged from No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott and transferred to the Overseas Training Brigade, also in Hurdcott. On 28 March 1918 he was transferred to the Australian Army Medical Corps Overseas Training Brigade in Parkhouse, England.

On 26 April 1918 he re-joined the 3rd Field Ambulance, then based at St Sylvestre Cappel, a small village six kilometres north of Hazebrouck in France. Hazebrouck had been defended with great determination by the 1st Division from 13 April 1918 to 30 April 1918 against intense German attacks that were a part of the German "Spring Offensive" of 1918.

On 22 January 1919, Ernest was transferred to the Army Pay Corps with the 1st Division in France, on 28 April he was transferred to England and on 6 September he embarked on the "Berrima" for Australia, disembarking at Fremantle six weeks later on 18 October 1919. Exactly three months later on 18 January 1920 he was discharged from the AIF in Perth. He was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Ernest died on 26 February 1927 at Edward Millen Repatriation Hospital in Victoria Park. His death certificate states that he was a clerk and that he died of tuberculosis and heart failure. There is no indication in his records that the effects of being gassed in 1917 contributed to his death. However, it was not unusual for the victims of gas to have their immune systems debilitated to the extent that they were more susceptible to diseases such as tuberculosis.

FRANK BENJAMIN WILLIAMSON

PMS foundation student 1911

Born in 1898, Frank lived with his orchardist parents in Gill Street, Cottesloe Beach and attended Cottesloe State School. He was 13 when he entered Perth Modern School as a foundation student in 1911. His father is listed as Norwegian and living in Gill St in his enlistment form.

Before the war Frank was employed as a clerk. He was listed as missing at age 17. His enlistment Form is dated 1915, and his age recorded as 18 years 11 months. Although the record in the Australian War Memorial's Roll of Honour identifies him as only "Frank Williamson", details on his enlistment form (address, age) confirm that he is Frank Benjamin Williamson.

Private Frank Williamson, 3954, served with the 51st Battalion which was raised in Egypt in the first week of March 1916, as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 11th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 11th, the 51st was predominantly composed of men from Western Australia. The battalion became part of the 13th Brigade of the newly-formed 4th Australian Division.

Arriving in France on 12 June 1916, the 51st moved into the trenches of the Western Front within a fortnight. It fought in its first major battle at Mouquet Farm in August and September, and suffered casualties equivalent to a third of its strength in both of the attacks (14 August and 3 September) it launched. After Mouquet Farm, the battalion saw out the rest of the year, alternating between front-line duty, and training and laboring behind the line. This routine continued through the bleak winter of 1916-17.

Private Frank Williamson, 3954, 51st Battalion (Infantry), Australian Army, 1914-1918, was killed in action, 3 September 1916 in France and remembered at Regina Trench Cemetery, Grandcourt, France, AWM145 Roll of Honour cards, 1914-1918 War, Army

eNewsletter

e-NEWSLETTER

Thank you to all contributors including:

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Roger Stubbs
Robyn White

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SCHOOL BOARD

Dr Ken Michael AC, *CHAIR*

HENRY (Harry) WILLIAM WULFF

PMS foundation student 1911

Henry (Harry) William Wulff was born 18 March 1894, in Broken Hill. His family came to Western Australia when the Kalgoorlie gold fields were booming.

Henry was a Modern School foundation student, commencing on 1 February, 1911. His home address is shown as Boundary Street, South Kalgoorlie and his lodging address as 186 Park Street, Subiaco. The school's records show that he entered Perth Modern School from Normal School along with others in his class who had attended Normal School for one year and generally sought to complete their studies to qualify for a teaching career.

"A normal school is a school created to train high school graduates to be teachers. Its purpose is to establish teaching standards or norms, hence its name. Most such schools are now called teachers' colleges; however, in some places the term normal school is still used".- Wikipedia

His academic preferences or achievements are unknown but he left the school in November 1911 and appears to have enrolled to study at UWA. His father, John Wulff, was a carpenter who lived in Kalgoorlie. Although Henry's Army enlistment form shows his first name as "Harry", his Perth Modern School enrolment card shows it as "Henry".

Henry enlisted in the Army at Blackboy Hill near Northam on 24 October 1916 when he was 22 years and seven months old. His AIF Medical History form shows his birthplace as Broken Hill, NSW. He was examined by an Army doctor in Kalgoorlie on 24 September, 1915. He was five feet nine inches (175 cms) tall and weighed 145 pounds (66kgs). By the time he enlisted in the AIF Henry was a school teacher.

He was posted to the 16th Battalion, a largely Western Australian unit, and served in France in 1917 and 1918. He died in Edward Millen Repatriation Hospital in Victoria Park, WA, on 23 April, 1922, when he was 28 years old. The Edward Millen Hospital, previously a maternity hospital, was used during and after WWI as a Repatriation Hospital where ex-soldiers received ongoing treatment for their war caused injuries and conditions. Did he suffer from being gassed? Did he have long term wounds the effects of which led to his death? Did he catch pneumonic influenza (although by 1922 the worst of the epidemic was over)?

The battalion spent much of 1917 in Belgium advancing to the Hindenburg Line. The battalion, along with most of the 4th Brigade, suffered heavy losses at Bullecourt in April, when the brigade attacked strong German positions without the promised tank support. In March and April 1918, the battalion helped to stop the German Spring offensive. The battalion participated in the great allied offensive of 1918, fighting near Amiens on 8 August 1918.

Peter Farr (Alumni Rep), *DEPUTY CHAIR*
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 Lois Joll - *Principal*
 Dr Nicholas Waldron
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 Professor Paul Arthur
 Veena Mendez
 Dr David Zhang
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 Matt Birney
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 Chris Rapley (*Staff Rep*)
 Elisabeth Gerber (*Staff Rep*)

This advance by British and empire troops was the greatest success in a single day on the Western Front"

AWM 1922 First World War Embarkation Roll - Harry William Wulff: Ship number: 7328 Private 16 Infantry Battalion - 24 to 27 Reinforcements (January-November 1917) First World War, 1914-1918 29 January 1917 Fremantle HMAT Miltiade

Harry died in Edward Millen Repatriation Hospital in Victoria Park, WA, on 23 April, 1922, when he was 28 years old. Research carried out at UWA seems to indicate that his name appears on the University of WA Honour Board as H.WOLFF.

WULFF.— The Friends of the late Mr.HENRY WILLIAM (Harry) WULFF,late of the Education Department, Perth, formerly Warrant Officer, 16th Battalion, A.I.F., are respectfully invited to follow his remains to. the place of inter..... " – Trove

A poor quality photo on the web of Harry's headstone at Karrakatta shows one of the military type, featuring the rising sun symbol of the AIF. One usually sees these on the graves of those whose death is attributed to the war. His name is not listed on the Australian War Memorial's Honour Roll but perhaps it should be?

LEST WE FORGET



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY
 MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
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This feature was made possible by the interest and dedication of all Museum Volunteers with a willingness to share the history and honour the heritage of Perth Modern School.

Principal Contributors: Neil Coy, Bob Johnson, Brian Savvas, Roger Stubbs, Robyn White
 Compiled by: Sallie Davies

THE FORWARD PLAN

The Board of the Museum Association has recently submitted a grant application for Stage 2 of this project which is to develop an electronic Honour Board to include the stories of the 151 Perth Modernians who died as a result of their service to Australia. A future project is to expand that Honour Board to include all the 1,592 Perth Modernians who served their country in times of military conflict and who survived the experience. As with the Australian War Memorial, Australians who died during these periods of conflict but were not serving with Australian armed forces or as official war correspondents may be included in the School's Commemorative Roll. If you are interested in joining the team to work on this next project please email museum@perthmoderniansociety.org.au. The format of the stories is the same as the story on Keith Dickinson in this edition. A list of typical research sources will be provided along with a case study illustrating the use of the research.

FRANCE REVISITED

'T is many years ago since last I stood
 Upon this spot, and gazed across the plain,
 Which now is covered o'er with golden grain,
 But then 't was sodden with brave England's blood.
 The ploughshare has effaced the trenches' line,
 and now the grass grows green where heroes fell.
 And through these trees, all scarr'd with shrapnel shell,
 Play happy children of a peaceful time.
 But the rough wooden crosses still remain,
 Mute witness of man's mightiest war.
 Nations may fall, and Empire's rise again.
 But nature's work goes on just as before,
 Proving that all man's efforts are in vain,
 To alter the least code of her great law.

H.MAYNE Taken from The Sphinx, April 1919

MODERNIANS WHO DIED IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY

The seventh in a special series of articles prepared for publication by Robert Johnson, PMS student 1961-65 and Moderna Scola

In February 1943 a group of three half-starved, badly treated Australians escaped from a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp in Burma (now Myanmar) and attempted to reach India. One of those men was Keith Dickinson.

Keith was born in Collie, WA, on 24 December 1903. He commenced second year at Modern School in February 1916 and left after his fifth year in December 1919. During his four years at Mod he earned good results and received warm commendations from his teachers. He passed the Junior Exam in six subjects in 1917 and the Leaving Exam in five subjects in 1919.

In 1922 Keith was a Cadet Surveyor in the Department of Lands and Surveys. In the 1920s he worked in the Denmark and Margaret River areas. In the 1930s he worked in Kalgoorlie, then he relocated to Victoria and worked for Bendigo Mines. He subsequently joined Victorian Rivers and Water Supply. When he resigned to enlist he received a watch from that organisation which is now in the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

Keith joined the Army in Melbourne on 3 June 1941. He was living in Bendigo and married to Kate Cecilia. Artillery needs surveyors and Keith was appointed to the 2/15th Field Regiment. The 2/15th was deployed to Singapore in 1941, arriving on 15 August. Gunner Dickinson was sent two months later, arriving on 5 October 1941. He was initially posted to the General Base Depot in Singapore.

The Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941 and invaded Malaya the following day. Keith was sent to join the 2/15th in Malaya on 8 January 1942 when British forces (mainly UK, Indian, Malayan and Australian units) were retreating down the Malayan Peninsula. From 14 January the 2/15th was in almost constant action providing artillery support for the infantry. By the end of January, the British forces had retreated to Singapore Island.

The Japanese invaded the Island on 8 February 1942. The 2/15th inflicted heavy casualties on the Japanese during the next few days. However, the Japanese bombed and strafed the Island without retaliation and the British commander surrendered his forces on 15 February 1942. Keith was interned in Singapore, then later sent to work on the Thailand-Burma Railway where conditions were dreadful. Of the 556 officers and men of the 2/15th who became prisoners, 294 (53%) died.

Keith worked on the railway in several camps in Burma. One was at Thanbyuzayat and another was further north at Thetkaw on Bilu Island. An article in The Bendigo Advertiser on 24 April 2011 described what happened to Keith: "Gunner Dickinson and two other citizen soldiers, Private Alexander Bell and Major Alan Mull, escaped from the Thetkaw railway work camp in February 1943 in an attempt to walk to India. But 80 kilometres into the walk Gunner Dickinson collapsed from exhaustion and the Japanese recaptured him. He was taken back to Thanbyuzayat and shot." Keith was killed on 2 April 1943. In the following days Mull and Bell were also killed by the Japanese.

LEST WE FORGET



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

COUNCIL NEWS

At its meeting on 16 March 2020, Council accepted with regret the resignation for family reasons, of Prof Geoff Soutar as President of the Perth Modernian Society. Hon Julian Grill has agreed to serve as President until the 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM postponed due to COVID-19, new date TBA).

REUNIONS

- **2020 Annual Reunion** is scheduled for Sunday 13 September:

- **Class of 1970** is having their 50th golden Jubilee Reunion on Sunday 18 October at the Marmion Angling Club. Contact: Barbara Culpeper, barbara_mallett@hotmail.com
- **Class of 1960** is to have their 60th reunion with details to follow, contact Ed Lazarus ajlazarus@bigpond.com

SPHINX FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Courtesy of the splendid generosity of the Malka Foundation, funding of \$20K pa was recently guaranteed to the Sphinx Foundation Board for at least the next three years to increase the dollar value of all entry level (Year 7) scholarships/bursaries, together with the creation of two new needs-based scholarships (Year 8 and Year 10). Furthermore, the Malka Foundation will provide funding of \$15K pa for at least the next three years to cover the delivery by the **Mannkal Economic Education Foundation of Entrepreneurship and Leadership** programs for nine PMS students. The benefits of this new partnership are expected to be very significant for PMS. The grant was made possible because the Sphinx Scholarship Fund has DGR status with the ATO, and an excellent track record of managing donations and responsibly allocating scholarships.

MULTI-PURPOSE AUDITORIUM

In early April, the **PMS Principal Lois Joll** was delighted to advise the School community: *"I wanted to share the wonderful news with you that the tender process for the 700 seat multi-purpose auditorium project has been finalised. Inevitably, the cost is a little more than we had hoped so we have had to exclude the lift for the lift shaft, some stairs (there will be a ramp), the props stores and some AV equipment in the first stage. We will continue to fundraise and include these items as the money becomes available. Without your support this project would never have come to fruition. Thank you!"*

YOUR SAY

From: Diane Matthews for Gary

I'm Gary Matthews' wife and carer - I wanted to print off your excellent newsletter for both Gary and Geoff Gleadell but it is too large for the window to find the edges and also it won't print onto A4 but rather cuts off content. Can you either please send a smaller size version or explain how I can reduce your email to size. I've tried changing to landscape rather than portrait and also A5 but neither work. Thanks, Dianne

Ed: *Any difficulties in relation to format can be addressed by returning to the top RH corner of the page and click 'View Online'.*

From: Heather Anderson. (nee Webb, student 1965-67

Thank you for the informative e-Newsletter. Great to read. I attended Perth Mod from 1965-1967 inclusive doing a professional course in class 1:3, 2:3 and 3:3. I was wondering if you have any record of students from those years and from those classes who have been in contact for a reunion or just to exchange news of those times spent at school? With regards, Heather

Ed: *You are looking for the Class of 1969.*

From: John Lane, student 1962 -66

Do not receive newsletter how do I do so. Am I a member? Regards John

Ed: *Thank you for your enquiry. I have checked our records to find that you are indeed a Contributing Member and should have been receiving the e-Newsletter since registering.*

A magazine hard copy was mailed to you in 2018 but as no email was recorded for you, you have not received any electronic mail from us since your membership was registered.

No magazine was produced in 1919 other than the Annual Report and a copy of this is available through the website. The issue has now been rectified with our sincere apologies for this omission. I have forwarded a copy of the most recent e-Newsletter to you. Thank you for bringing this to my attention.

VALE

Thank you to members who have alerted us to the recent deaths of the following colleagues:

Name	Years at PMS	Position	Deceased
John Desmond Modra (Melb., VIC. aged 76)	1959-60	Student	21/11/2019
Wilfred Ernest Ewers (aged 101)	1932-36	Student	27/02/2020
Peter John Hawkins	1950-54	Student	07/03/2020
Mollie Baird (nee Faulkner)	1931-33	Student	01/04/2020
Dr Alison Margaret Gregg (nee Barr)	1952-56	Student	01/04/2020
Kenneth John Pickering	1950-54	Student	01/04/2020
Brian (Brog) Terence Falconer (Victoria)	1946-50	Student	02/04/2020
Hon James (Jim) George Clarko AM AE JP	1962-66	Teacher	07/03/2020

Dr Alison Margaret Gregg, nee Barr, PMS student 1952-56

If you happen to spot the book *'Carnarvon and Apollo: One Giant Leap for a Small Australian Town'* (Dench and Gregg) in a bookshop window, you will find that Alison was joint author with Paul Dench who eventually became the Station Manager..

Hon James (Jim) Clarko AM AE JP, PMS teacher 1962-66

Served the community as a City of Stirling Councillor and later as Liberal MLA for Karrinyup 1974-89, and Marmion 1989-96. He held numerous Ministerial and Shadow Portfolios and served as Speaker and Government Whip.

[Members' biographical register](#) | [Mr James George Clarko](#)

