



THE PERTH MODERNIAN e-NEWSLETTER



Issue 45, August 2020 (Vol 2 No 20)

WELCOME

2020 Annual Reunion and Concert

Hi

WELCOME to your 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

For further information

Telephone: (08) 6189 3690

www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au

info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

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

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PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

2020 ANNUAL REUNION AND CONCERT

at Perth Modern School

Sunday 13th September 2020

from 9.30 am to 3.00 pm

Don't miss this opportunity which is only 3 weeks away to experience a wonderful concert, catch up with past students over lunch, and reflect on past school days.

History Centre displays will open from 9.30am and the **Concert** will be held in the School Hall followed by the **Buffet Luncheon** in the Refectory.

Cost: Includes all food and drinks, admission to the Concert and \$10 donation to the Music Department.

\$55 Contributing Member (*One who has paid membership fee*)

\$60 Registered Member and Guests

\$35 SPECIAL OFFER for recent PMS graduates (from 2015 on) and partners

Add to the atmosphere of the day by wearing Mod memorabilia – a beret, tie, your uniform!

COVID-19 precautions will be in place!

PROGRAM:

TIME	EVENT
9:30	History Centre Displays Registration - please go to desk in Refectory, Parsons Building
10:50	Opening of the Beasley building. Take seats in the Auditorium
11:00	Start of the ceremony in the Auditorium - Welcome
11:02	Principal's address (Ms Lois Joll)
11:15	Orchestral concert from the School's senior music students
12:15	Address by the President of the Perth Modernian Society (Hon. Julian Grill)
12:25	Presentation of four Perth Modernian Society Honours Awards
12:38	Roll call by years
12:41	Conclusion of the ceremony
13:00	Walk to the Parsons Building for the buffet luncheon
15:00	Function closure

Your **RSVP by 6 September, 2020** is essential for catering purposes with payment for the function by online payment through **TryBooking**

(log into this TryBooking link www.trybooking.com/BKWFA and follow the prompts)

OR use the booking form here and mail ASAP to:

Annual Reunion Coordinator, Perth Modernian Society, 90 Roberts Road, Subiaco, WA 6008

Reunion Enquiries: **Mr Barrie Baker**, E: bakerz@inet.net.au Tel 08 9271 5184, M: 0450 391 941

Apologies: Please send to Hon. Secretary Deb Beresford, E: dberesford@inet.net.au, M: 0403 460 225

I am looking forward to seeing you there.

Hon. Julian Grill
President

WELCOME TO NEW COUNCIL PRESIDENT



The Hon Julian Fletcher Grill LLB JP

PMS student 1956-57

Julian attended Perth Modern School in 1956 and 1957 and was part of the victorious Australia Rules football side in each year. He graduated in Law from UWA in 1964 and was admitted to the bar of the WA Supreme Court in 1966. He was a legal partner of **John Wheeldon, PMS student 1942-46**, Federal Minister for social Security and Tom Evans the WA Attorney General.

In 1974, in recognition of the environmentally degraded nature of Kalgoorlie and surrounds he initiated the Kalgoorlie Boulder Urban Landcare Group. Its programmes are still run today by young professionals with substantial financial help from State and Local Government and the mining industry.

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DIARY DATES

Perth Modernian Society 2019 AGM
5:15 for 5:45pm, Mon. 19 October 2020
(Refer invitation in this Newsletter)

Guest speaker: Ms Jordan Bishop,
Ear Science Institute Australia. Topic:
*'Let's talk hearing: How we are educating on,
treating and researching hearing loss'*

REUNIONS

See news item for details

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

2020 ANNUAL REUNION

Sunday 13 September
(Refer invitation in this Newsletter)

History displays pen
Orchestral Concert
Lunch and Fellowship

CLASS (Year) REUNIONS

70 Year Reunion
Class of 1950

Contact: Fred Wilkinson, Tel. 08 9453 3554

See details in body of e-Newsletter

Class of 1970

Sunday 18 October

Golden Jubilee

Marmion Angling Club.

Contact: Barbara Mallett (née Culpeper)
(Contact details - see below)

Class of 1960

60th reunion

details to follow

Contact: Ed Lazarus

E: ejlazarus@bigpond.com

**Refers to Year 5(12) as core final year

2020

Class of 1990

Contact: Kevin Safa,

E: kevinsafa19@gmail.com

M: 0421 631 160

2021

Class of 1971**

50-year reunion

Start the ball rolling. Contact: Glynis McEwan

E: dunmac@inet.net.au

Organisers please contact

Barbara Mallett

through reunions@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

M: 0417 980 112

For further information visit

info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

PUBLICATIONS

e-NEWSLETTER

Do you have something to say?

Memories to share?

Where are YOU now?

Send your news item, letters and/or photographs to ...

newsletter@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

Next Issues

Copy deadlines for 2020

e-Newsletter

Copy before 12 October

Magazine

Copy before 12 November

In this issue:

SUBSCRIBE A FRIEND

Click to invite a friend to receive this FREE e-Newsletter

MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

PLEASE CHECK

Have you completed or updated your

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION and/or

CHANGE OF DETAILS

Forms are available on the website

www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au

further information

info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

2020 COUNCIL OF THE PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au

The Hon Julian Grill,

President from March 2020

Ruth Barrett, Honours Awards

Dr Robyn White, Vice President from March

2020 and Museum Committee Rep

Barrie Baker, Functions

Deborah Beresford, Hon Secretary

Eve Broadley, Hon Treasurer

Peter Farr, Past President

Ian Jarvis, Communications to June 2020

Ed Lazarus, Communications/Membership

Barbara Mallett, Reunions Coordinator

Kate Lewis, Councillor from April 2020

Lois Joll, PMS Principal

Finance Committee

Barrie Baker, Convenor

Honorary Treasurers

Eve Broadley, Council

Peter Farr, Sphinx Foundation

Sharon Williams, Museum

Communications

In 1977 Julian entered State Parliament and retired in 2001. During that time he held variously named seats in the Eastern Goldfields and Esperance region for about 25 years up until 2001. He held numerous ministerial portfolios during this period, including Transport, Fisheries, Tourism, Agriculture and Economic Development. During most of his time as Minister he was on the budget sub-subcommittee. As Minister for Transport he reinstated trains on the Perth to Fremantle line, planned for a new line to Joondalup and for the electrification of the system. It was a rail revival in the metro area.

Julian has been chairman of several listed mining companies since leaving politics and has had a further career since 2001 as a corporate and government relations consultant. He took up the chairmanship of several ASX listed junior mining companies and set up a very successful lobbying business until 2007.

When he joined the Perth Modernian Society Council he was writing a book, and doing pro-bono legal and lobby work for good causes. [View Julian's Parliamentary profile](#)



Catherine (Kate) Lewis

New Councillor | PMS student 1977-81, PMS staff 1984-87

As a graduate of Perth Modern School, Kate Lewis has enjoyed an extensive career in music education and arts administration both nationally and internationally. After completing studies and a music scholarship (flute) at Perth Mod in 1977, Kate studied at UWA and was awarded a Bachelor of Music Education (Hons) in 1983. She then taught as a music specialist teacher at Perth Mod from 1984-1987. Kate was invited to join the Perth Modernian Society Council in April 2020.

INVITATION TO ATTEND



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

The Perth Modernian Society 25th Annual General Meeting

Date: 5:15 for 5:45pm on Monday 19th October 2020

President's and Treasurer's Annual Reports and Election of Councillors

Guest speaker: **Ms Jordan Bishop, Ear Science Institute Australia.**

Topic: 'Let's talk hearing: How we are educating on, treating and researching hearing loss'

Venue: Staff Room, Andrews Building

Perth Modern School

90 Roberts Road, Subiaco

COVID-19 precautions will be in place!

Councillor nominations and AGM Apologies: Please send to:

Hon. Secretary Deb Beresford, E: dberesford@inet.net.au M: 0403 460 225

THANK YOU



Ian Jarvis

PMS student 1954-58, Volunteer 2008-20

Ian was a Perth Modern School scholarship student 1954-1958 and became involved with the Perth Modernian Society in 2008 after attending the 50 year reunion for his year group. He served on the Board of the Sphinx Foundation briefly before joining the Council in 2009. He brought experience from 35 years of financial management, administration and IT development in Telstra and 9 years in LotteryWest to the decision making and activities as Convenor of the Communications Committee, and member of the Historical and Museum Committee.

Instrumental with Perth Mod classmate Peter Farr in bringing the Society into the cyber-age in 2009, Ian was thereafter responsible the next decade for the technical development and maintenance of the Society's portal and the Ex Student/Staff database (JED), compilation and distribution of the quarterly e-Newsletter and implementation of the Historical and Museum Collections database (MOSAIC). These all required regular attention to ensure their efficient operation and continuity.

He was honoured as a **Modernian Fellow** in 2016 for 'distinguished contribution to the Society and thereby the advancement of education at Perth Modern School'. It was with deep regret that Council accepted Ian's resignation from Council at its June 2020 meeting following several years of declining health. We wish Ian a comfortable retirement from a very busy life of valuable community involvement.

CONGRATULATIONS

Ross Ledger AM

PMS student 1950-53

The Queen's Birthday Honours 2020 included Ross Edward Ledger AM, for *significant service to the accounting profession, to wildlife conservation and to the community.*

Ross was appointed as a Director and was the inaugural Hon. Treasurer of the Sphinx Foundation Inc from 1995 up to 2005 when the publication [Perth Modern School: the History and the Heritage](#) was produced.

Bio: Born in Perth in 1937, he was educated at Nedlands Primary School where he achieved an entrance to Perth Modern School. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1961, was admitted as a Partner in 1963, and has served in his profession

info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au
Ed Lazarus, Membership/Communications Co-ord
Peter Farr, Member
Reece Harley, Facebook
Vacancy, IT support person/webmaster
Sallie Davies, Newsletters
newsletter@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

Functions Committee

Barrie Baker, Convenor
Deborah Beresford, Catering
Eve Broadley, Catering
Barbara Mallett, Photography
Ian Jarvis, Communications

Reunions Liaison

Barbara Mallett
reunions@perthmoderniansociety.org.au



SPHINX FOUNDATION INC.

BOARD

Barrie Baker, Chairman
Peter Farr, Hon Treasurer
Robert Gray, Hon Secretary
Nigel Hunt, Member
Vivian Wang, Member
Val Furphy, Associate Principal

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

APPEAL DONORS

(From Nov. 2019 to Aug. 2020)
Roger Atkinson
Barrie and Zoe Baker
Cheryl Bancroft
Laurie E. Best x 2
Max Bevilaqua OAM
Dr Cameron Bracks
Tony Chong
Elaine Davies
Amelia Olga Dixon Pugh
Malcolm Evans
Peter Farr
Inspirational Community Energy Project
(Stuart and Douglas Gould)
Hon Julian Grill
Joyce Hardy
Edward (Ted) Hayman x 2
Janet Holmes à Court AC
Rodney House
Nigel and Kate Hunt
Alex Ireland
Emeritus Prof. Philip Jennings
Dr Shane Langsford
Lorraine Laffer
Malcolm Lee QC
The Malka Foundation
Jeanette McQueen
Dr Mary Marshall
Mrs Gene Matthews
Dr Annette Mercer
Prof Con Michael AO
Gregory Mohen
James (Jim) Mondy
Dianne Moxham
Marilyn Muir
Prof Geoffrey Playford
Margaret and John Puzey
Pat Quiggin
Anonymous (1952 & 1953)
Lorraine Shepherd
Judyth Stephens
John Stone
Ray Thurloe
Walter Turnbull
The Donald Tyler Foundation
Meryl Watson ((née Williams)
Harold Wilkinson
Daryl Williams AM QC

 PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY
MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED

MUSEUM ASSOCIATION BOARD

Dr Robyn White, Chair
Sallie Davies, Minute Secretary
Sharon Williams, Treasurer
Lois Joll, Board Member
Jeffrey Lai, Board Member
Prof Alistair Paterson, Board Member
Vacancy, Board Member

2020 APPEAL - MUSEUM FUND DONORS

PMS Reunion Class of 1958

as: State Chairman, State and National Councillor and State Registrar of the Institute of Chartered Accountants; State Chairman, State and National Councillor of the Taxation Institute of Australia; Presented numerous papers to professional and business groups; Chairman of Finance, and Member of the Board of Management of Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital.

Ross was Managing Partner of the Chartered Accounting Firm of Hendry Rae & Court, where he worked from the age of 16. Leisure interests include squash, stamp and coin collecting, travelling, following football and cricket, and his family. A Paul Harris Fellow he became District Governor for Rotary District 945 for 1987-88 with the support of his business partners, family, office staff, and others while continuing full-time professional practice and remained an active Rotarian following his term of office as Governor.

REUNION – 70 Years

Class of 1950

There has been interest from some of the class of 1950 in holding a reunion in your 70th year since graduation. A plan is to gather in September in conjunction with the Perth Modernian Society (See Annual Reunion details above). If you have an interest in meeting at this or another event, or would like to assist with organisation, please contact: **Fred Wilkinson**, Telephone: 9453 3554 evenings; e-mail: sunpick@highway1.com.au

YOUR SAY

From: Dennis Bloomfield, student 1946-50

Re: Class of 1950

G'day, I am an old Modernian from the class of '50. I have just read your newsletter and as it is my birthday, I wondered how and how many of my classmates, who turned 87 this year, are still about. Do you have any registry of past students so far back? I know John and Mary Collins were in Sydney but I've lost track of the others. Let me know how I could link up with the survivors. Thanks

Ed: Please note the call above from Fred Wilkinson regarding celebrating 70 years since leaving the School.

From: Meryl Watson, née Williams, PMS student 1955-57)

Re: Donation to Sphinx Scholarship Fund

My years at Mod and the ongoing friendships made there were very formative and I'm very happy to be able to contribute to another student having this experience.

Ed: Thank you to Meryl for your donation and to the many generous contributors who would agree with you. Thank you for the Sphinx Scholarship Fund, and to the volunteer members of the Board of the Sphinx Foundation who are responsible for its administration.

From: Margaret Lockett

Re: e-Newsletter

Much preferable to send by email. Looks to be a great newsletter. Margaret

Ed: Council experienced some difficulties in the mail out of the previous e-Newsletter and mailed hard copies to many. It is hoped that the regular quarterly emails will be back on track for this next issue and you will receive it electronically.

From: Pamela McLean nee Banfield, PMS student 1959-60

Re: Change of email address

Thanks for the continuing news via the Modernian Newsletter. I look forward to receiving it at my gmail address. Kind regards, Pamela

Ed: It is always helpful to receive changes of address and I appeal to anyone else who has missed their regular issues since changing postal or email address to contact our newly appointed Communications Coordinator, Ed Lazarus on member@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

From: Kathleen Hos, PMS student 1958-62

Re: Where are you now?

I thought I would give you a quick update, in case anyone is interested. I was at PMS from 1958 to 1962 under my name Kathleen Hos. I have since been married - as Cath Margrain - and now have reverted to my name in the original Dutch spelling of Catlyne Hos. At the age of 75, I am quite proud to announce the publication of my first novel. I have been a writer most of my life - as a student, researcher, public servant and as an organisational psychologist with my own practice. But writing a novel has been the best fun and also a great challenge bringing it to publication. ... I have retired from professional life and enjoy living and writing in Albany. Thanks for your work on the Newsletter. I particularly found the articles on the ANZACS very moving. Catlyne

Ed: Congratulations on the publication of your first novel.

From: Jill Feutrell, family of student

Re: Leslie Thomas Blechynden, PMS student 1911-14

Thank you very much for your message sent earlier today regarding the forwarding to your colleagues my request about Uncle Leslie Thomas Blechynden. Please give [History Centre Volunteer] Bob a special thank you for making available to me very important information indeed. Best wishes, Jill (Blechynden) Feutrell

Ed: This letter refers to the Museum's recent response to the following request from Jill

Re: Sphinx badge help needed re LT Blechynden

... you as you may remember me through my contributions to the Perth Modern School Archives through Rosemary Ritorto Local Studies Librarian Town of Cambridge who alerted me to your interest in my Uncle Leslie Thomas Blechynden, a scholar at PMS just prior to his enlistment in World War One. My contribution was photographs of and comments about my Uncle Les, brother of my father. You helped me out with information in several instances, and also with discoveries of your own through the Archives - in particular with exciting info about the cadets in 1912 during the time Uncle Les was with them and a scholar at the School. I am hoping you can help me now with a query re the number 147 on the reverse of Leslie Thomas Blechynden's PMS Sphinx emblem badge, what significance the number may have had, where the badge would have been worn, and how and why.



Leslie was only 18 when he enlisted for service in WW1. I am working on a history of my own concerning Uncle Les and do want everything in it to be accurate and would love some help if you are able to give it. Best wishes, Jill Feutrell (nee Blechynden)

Ed: I wonder whether any of our readers can help with Jill's search for information about the badge. Perhaps it was the badge on the hats held by some of the cadets in this photograph including Leslie Blechynden who is second from the left in the front row

Ms Deborah Beresford
 Mr Colin Cook
 Mrs Gwynne Roberts
 Dr Irene Froyland
 Dr Lindsay Mullings
 Mrs Wendy McCallum
 Mr Barrie Baker
 Ms Jeanette McQueen
 Mrs Laurie Best
 Mr Michael R Cullen
 Mrs E.M. Roberts
 Mrs Joyce M Hardy
 Mr W.R. Thompson
 Mrs Barbara Howard
 Mrs Margaret Puzey
 Mr Andre Winarto
 PMS Reunion Class of 1959
 Mr Terence Hoffman
 Hon Julian Grill
 Mr David Morgan
 John Lane J.P
 Dr Jennifer Vanc
 Mrs Claire Mahoney
 Justin Harris
 Barbara Mallett
 Dr Robyn White
 Mr James H Davies (Jim)
 Ken Shular & Sharron Falconer
 Dr Frits Grader
 Mr Hai M Cao
 Dr Dianne Graham
 Mr Nilam Patel
 Sharon Williams
 Janet Williams
 Hon Daryl Williams AM QC
 Albert H Tognolini
 Dr Ken Fitch
 Mr Max Bevilaqua OAM
 Mr Christine Lawson-Smith
 Greg Robinson
 Jillian Thompson (née Farr)
 Mrs Robyn Nham
 Mr & Mrs Sartori
 Mr & Mrs Nathan Brown
 Dr Nathan Harvey & Dr Debra Palmer
 Brenda Newbey
 Mr John Stone
 Malcolm Evans
 Anonymous (2)

Museum Standing Committee
museum@perthmoderniansociety.org.au
 Sallie Davies, Chair
 Deb Beresford, Hon Archivist/Curator
 Gay Albillos, Hon Secretary
 Ian Jarvis, Hon IT Manager to June 2020
 Peter Dillon, Member
 Wendy McCallum, Member
 Robert (Bob) Johnson, Member
 Dr Robyn White, Member
 Sharon Williams, Member

VOLUNTEERS
Museum
[History Centre and Archives]
 Gay Albillos, Bio Index/Conservation
 Deborah Beresford, Hon Archivist
 India Creed, Student Heritage Guide
 Jim Davies, Bio Index
 Sallie Davies, Coordinator
 Peter Dillon, Science Collection
 Frank Hedges, Bio Index
 Robert (Bob)Johnson, Research
 Bill MacPherson, Archives
 Jill Lucas, General
 Wendy McCallum, Data entry
 Deirdre Owen, Archives
 Alan Porter, Science Restoration
 Roger Stubbs, Research
 Robyn White, Data entry
 Sharon Williams, Displays
 Alison Woodman, Research

MODERNIAN HONOURS
awards@perthmoderniansociety.org.au
Modernian Fellow
2014
 Sallie Davies
 Malcolm McCusker AC CVO QC
 Donald Tyler
2016
 Barrie Baker
 Ian Jarvis
2017
 Peter Farr
Moderna Scola Award
2016
 Deborah Beresford
 Alan Porter
2017

From: Heather Spurling (nee Bowen), PMS student 1952-56
Re: e-Newsletter, Museum and Obituary for Wilf Ewers

I love receiving the Perth Modernian and thank you so very much for your part in it. The last I spoke to you was when I was trying to visit the museum to see my mum's [Ruth Allen] biology work book. Various events including COVID19 gave prevented me from being in Perth to carry this out. However, I read with interest both the stories of those Old Mods who died in wars and those who have died recently. One of them was Wilf Ewers. [His niece, Patricia Ewers, was in my class in first year]. It so happens that my husband, Tom Spurling, has written Wilf Ewer's obituary ([Wilf Ewers.pdf](#)) and we were wondering if you might like to read it or use it in any way you see fit. Thanks ever, Heather Spurling
Ed: A copy of the Obituary herewith is on file and available in hard copy in the George Burvill Biographical Index. Thank you Heather.

From: Mark Browne, family of student
Re: Gwyneth Smith, PMS student 1940-44

I am Gwyneth Smith's nephew (to whom you send these newsletters). I sadly inform you that Gwyneth passed away last Wednesday 27 May at the age of 92. Gwyneth was an extremely proud old "Mod" and maintained lifelong friendships with some of those she went through school with, from 1940 to 1944. Of particular note among those friends is Dr Nerida Dilworth, AM, who was a prominent doctor at Princess Margaret Hospital) and who also sadly passed away last year. Oddly enough, Gwyneth flew from Melbourne to Perth in 2007 to attend what we thought to be a 50th celebration of their time at Perth Modern School (perhaps it was a different celebration because it doesn't equal 50 years) and would have done so, except that she suffered a major heart attack and stroke before the event while staying in Perth. Fortunately Gwyneth survived and recovered to live on to now, always interested in all things to do with the school ... please do not remove Gwyneth's name from your mailing list as yet, as we will continue monitoring the email address for a time until we can sort everything out. The family would like to send in a "Vale" entry for your newsletter with some biography attached because Gwyneth did have an interesting and full life.
Ed: We look forward to receiving and publishing Ian's contribution for our records.

From: Gary Russell-Brown, student 1956-58
Re: April 2020 Modernian eNewsletter

I am wondering if a friend who I lost contact with quite some years ago, Lynn Owen Kirkham, was an old Modernian? Lynn passed away recently and if he was indeed from Mod and you have not yet been advised I can offer some insight into his interesting life. Kind regards, Gary
Ed: Written at our request, Gary's tribute to his friend has been included in this issue.

SPHINX SCHOLARSHIP FUND UPDATE



SPHINX FOUNDATION INC.

Scholarship Fund Donor Acknowledgements (21 Nov. 2019-19 Aug. 2020) (see list on left side)

The Board of the **Sphinx Foundation Inc** comprises Barrie Baker, Peter Farr, Robert Gray, Nigel Hunt, Vivian Wang, and Associate Principal: Val Furphy represents the Perth Mod Principal. Barrie, Peter and Vivian are Modernians and Nigel and Robert are parents of PMS students.

It is most pleasing to report to Modernians that despite the most difficult economic times that many people face this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Annual Giving Appeal has gone well, with Modernians raising \$26,000 to August 2020, which will be of great help encouraging worthy students to get the most out of the educational and community service opportunities that Perth Modern School provides. Special donations are making possible some Science Bursaries In memory of the late **Dr Phil E. Best**

In addition, \$70,000 has been donated collectively by long-standing supporters **Tony Chong** and the **Donald Tyler Foundation**, and \$35,000 by the **Malka Foundation**. In a new innovation exclusive to Perth Mod, \$15,000 of the Malka Foundation gift is being used to fund Leadership and entrepreneurship courses for eight PMS students and conducted by the Mannkal Foundation and psychology consultants from 'Critical Components'.

The Sphinx Foundation Inc Board and PMS are enormously grateful to the donors, who have recently provided very generous financial support to the Sphinx Scholarship Fund and listed in the column on the left.
Contact: Barrie Baker, Chairman or Peter Farr, Treasurer

MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF HISTORY AND HERITAGE IN 2020



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY
 MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
 INCORPORATED

The past months have been challenging for all of our community. Hopefully our alumni have managed to stay well and active despite various forms of lockdown. Our Museum observed operational rules in accordance with State and Federal Government requirements – so that we closed for most of the weeks of April and May. Fortunately we were able to open the Museum for **Isaac Kidogi's Year 10** classes. These students were developing their skills in using augmented reality software with some wonderfully creative results. Our challenge now is to value these new technologies and exhibit some of these student outcomes.

Since our re-opening we have welcomed several alumni to the Museum, each with their own stories and memories of the school and their experiences, often with donations of artifacts. Visitors are not always able to visit our Museum when volunteers are present on Monday mornings. Several have contacted us ahead of time and organized to visit at an alternative time with one of our volunteers. We will always make time to ensure alumni and families are able to visit us.

Sadly, one of our long-term volunteers for the Museum and The Perth Modernian Society, **Ian Jarvis**, has not been able to return to the Museum. He is already very missed from our Monday volunteer group and we all wish him a recovery from his long-term illness.

While our Museum volunteers were unable to attend the Museum for some time, the Museum Association Board members continued to work towards our first fundraising venture. The Board felt that it was critical to continue with this fundraising, despite the community challenge of Covid-19. Emailed and mailed brochures were finally distributed on May 22nd.

Evelyn Broadley
2018
Rosemary Pratt
Dr June Stephenson
2019
Robert Johnson

**Honorary Member
2016**

Alison Woodman
2017
Tonya McCusker AM
2019
Nigel Hunt
Brendon Dawson

**Subscriptions received
CONTRIBUTING MEMBERSHIP**

New

(all 2019 grads)
Sean Butcher
Rishi Chinnasamy
Emily Crock
Matthew Dean
Ethan Dowley
Taylor Fenner
Morgan Fletcher
Camille French
Luca Fry
Eliot Guneratne
Maia Harlap
Victoria Henderson
Katrina Hooper
Jasmine Hunt
Babette Jacobs
Reef Kitaef
Bailey Knell
Nivin Kumarepeli
Jasmine Laghinha
Melissa Lee
Matthew Lim
Alioth Paciente
Adam Paolo
Devansh Patel
Alice Rosario
Nathan Sarenic
Sarthak Shukla
Millie Smith
Nathan Townshend
Mike Webster
Luke Whittome
Benjamin Woods
Claire Yeap

Renewals

Peter Farr
Julian Grill
Rod Mason

We have been absolutely overwhelmed with the outcome of our first mail out – and amazed by the generosity of our alumni, parents and community, especially in such stressful times.

As at the 30 June 2020, we have received \$17995.00 in donations from our incredible community. Thank you to all who have contributed. We now feel able to work with appropriate professional support to extend our accessibility for our community.

While we can recognize fundraising as our major source of income for the future, volunteers continue to apply for grant support where available. Following our 2019 success in securing grants from the Department of Community, (updating computer hardware in the Museum) Lotterywest (upgrading software for the Museum IT) and the Department of Veterans Affairs, Saluting Their Service and Bankwest (re-furbishing the WWI Memorial and WWII seat), we have applied for additional grants to the Department of Veterans Affairs (to refurbish the Honour Boards in the Beasley building and to develop a digital Honour Board), the National Libraries Association (for a grant to enable a professional evaluator to review our Museum Collection with a view to advising us on future directions) and to the WA History Foundation (funding to research and create a history of Music at Mod).

In creating a financial base that includes donation as well as focused grant monies, we hope to further extend our capacity to provide a rich diversity of data available for families, researchers and the public to better understand the course of society, culture and education towards the present. – Robyn

**Modernians who died in the service of their country
Number 8 in a special series of articles prepared for publication by
Robert Johnson, PMS student 1961-65 and Museum Volunteer**

JOSEPH BASS MILLER

PMS Student 1936-37



Pilot Officer Joe Miller and the other nine crew members of Catalina A24-49 climbed aboard the large twin-engine aircraft and took off from Groote Eyelandt at 3:45pm on Friday 28 April 1944. They flew slightly west of north, heading for Marokwari in north-western Dutch New Guinea. Their mission was to lay mines in Marokwari harbour to disrupt Japanese shipping. They were never seen again.

Joe Miller was born on 10 May 1922 to Percival and Margaret Miller of 12 John Street, Mt Lawley. Joe attended Mt Lawley Primary School and then Perth Boys School. He commenced at Perth Modern School on 27 February 1936 and left in June 1937. During his time at Mod he was absent due to illness on numerous occasions which may have accounted for his low academic results.

Joe was employed by the Perth Roads Board from 6 June 1937 to 24 December 1940. His duties included accounts clerk, relieving cashier and general office duties.

Joe enlisted in the RAAF in Perth on 26 April 1941, fourteen days before his 19th birthday. He was 5'5" (165 cms) tall with a fair complexion, fair hair, blue eyes, single and was living at home.

Joe was assigned to RAAF aircrew with the rank of Aircraftsman Second Class (AC2). Within a month he was promoted to Leading Aircraftsman and posted to No. 1 Wireless Air Gunners School in Ballarat, Victoria. He graduated from the six-month course on 8 December 1941.

Joe was then posted to No. 2 Bombing and Gunnery School at Port Pirie in South Australia on 12 December 1941. He was appointed a Wireless Operator Air Gunner on 8 January 1942 and promoted to Temporary Sergeant.

After three more brief postings, in March 1943 Joe was sent to No. 3 Operational Training Unit at Rathmines, NSW, the RAAF's main seaplane training unit during World War 2. Flight crews were trained on Catalinas and Kingfishers. During this time Joe was promoted to Temporary Flight Sergeant.

On 20 August 1943, Joe was posted to 11 Squadron, a Catalina squadron based in Cairns, Queensland. Between August 1943 and April 1944 he flew on 31 operations, 14 of which were bombing Japanese bases and shipping, and laying mines in enemy-held harbours. He also flew on 11 other operations. Joe was granted a Commission in the Citizen Air Force on 31 March 1944 and was therefore discharged from the RAAF. Joe, now a Pilot Officer, continued to serve as a Wireless Air Gunner including on the ill-fated mission to Marokwari. Marokwari is in north-western Dutch New Guinea, now West Papua, as shown in the map below.

Map showing Manokwari, Groote Eylandt, and Horn Island

eNewsletter

e-NEWSLETTER

Thank you to all letter writers, and contributors including:

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Sallie Davies
Peter Farr



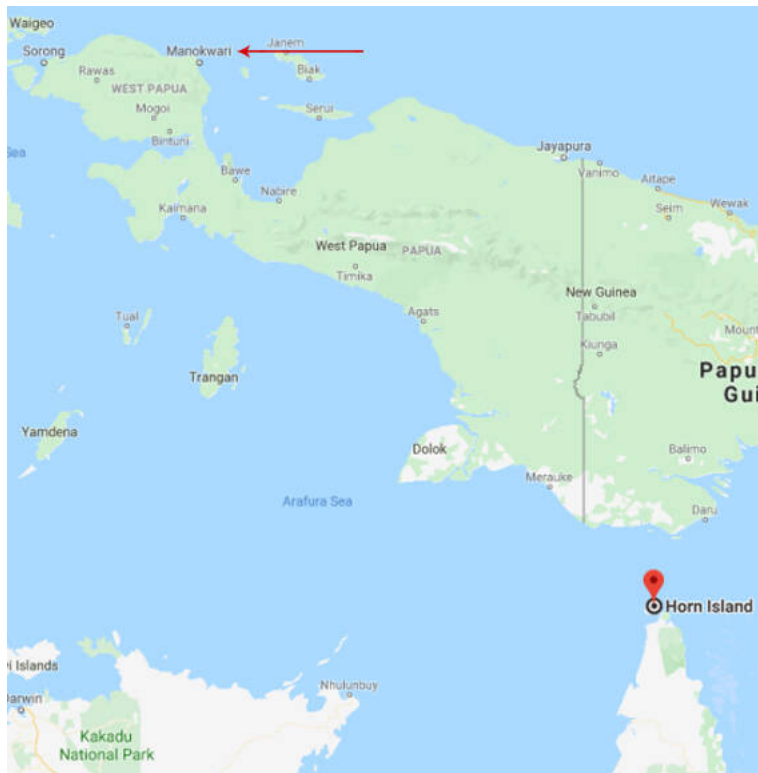
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Source: Google Maps

In 1947, an investigation by a Searcher Party of the RAAF concluded that the Catalina disappeared while en route between Groote Eylandt and Manokwari and probably did not reach Manokwari. The Searcher Party was headed by Squadron Leader Keith Rundle, one of Australia's most experienced and persistent searchers.

One early report mistakenly stated that the Catalina was lost in an accident off Horn Island and this error is reflected in several subsequent documents that relied on the report.

Another Old Modernian, Wing Commander John (Jack) Daniell (PMS 1931-35), served in 11 Squadron. Jack died fourteen months earlier on 28 February 1943 and in similar circumstances. Catalina A24-25 with Jack in command did not return from a 17-hour patrol in the Coral Sea area. The Catalina was discovered in waters off the Queensland coast south of Cairns in 2013 by Cairns diver Kevin Coombs. An article on Jack appeared in the September 2019 newsletter. Both Jack and Joe lived in Mt Lawley.

References

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=5247682>

"A MYSTERY UNSOLVED... The Loss of Catalina A24-49" by Bob Alford and Tony Morgan, Avonmore Books, South Australia, 2015.

<http://nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au/veteran?id=1057245&c=WW2#R>

EDITORIAL NOTE: We apologise for the inadvertent omission of the final paragraph of the **Keith Dickinson** article from the seventh article in this series in Issue 44 of the "The Perth Modernian" e-Newsletter. It should have continued,

On 6 March 2011, sixty-eight years after Keith died, the Minister for Defence, the Hon David Feeney, announced that Keith and 19 other servicemen who were killed escaping the Japanese would be posthumously awarded a Commendation of Gallantry. Keith's son, Douglas, said, "It's wonderful that he is recognised. Six months after the war the watch was sent to us. If only that watch could talk." Keith was 39 when he died and he is buried in the Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery in Myanmar.

LEST WE FORGET

VALE

Thank you to the many members, families and friends who take the time to advise the Museum of the passing of former staff and students of Perth Modern School. Your information is much appreciated for our records and valued by our readers.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Years at PMS</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Deceased</u>
Elinor Joyce Wardrop (née Pitcher)	1946 4th year	Student	16/07/2016
Roy Maxwell Atkinson	1972-77	Staff	06/01/2018
Susan Mary Eadie (née Halley)	1951-52 yrs 4,5	Student	14/01/2019
Philip Hanley Codde	1939-42 Yrs 1-4	Student	04/03/2020
Lynnell(Lynn) Owen Kirkham #	1957-61	Student	12/04/2020
John Francis Forrester	1970-72, Yrs 1-3	Student	14/04/2020
Mavis Norgard (née Jackson)	1939-41 Yrs 1-3	Student	11/05/2020
Colleen May Humpleby (née Moffatt)	1948-50 Yrs 1-3	Student	13/05/2020
Elizabeth (Kaye) Kay (née 'Kaye' Sullivan)	1948-50 Yrs 1-3	Student	18/05/2020
	1975	Staff	
Gwyneth Smith	1940-44 Yrs 1-3	Student	27/05/2020
James (Jim) William Hurst #	1953-54	Student	12/06/2020
Geoffrey Norman (Geoff) Fernie #	1947-51	Student	19/06/2020
Ian Dudley William Hollings	1951-52	Student	20/07/2020
Leslie Ernest Smith AM #	1951-53 Yrs 1-3	Student	04/08/2020

See Obituary below

OBITUARIES



Lynnell (Lynn) Owen Kirkham, PMS student 1957-61
Engineer, Teacher, Organ Builder, Researcher 26/6/1944 - 12/4/2020

Born into an engineering family - his father, Bill, owned motor vehicle engineering businesses in Subiaco- Lynn developed an early passion for all things associated with cars, especially fast ones. After earning a scholarship to Perth Modern School (1957-1961) he spent his spare time completely rebuilding a 1949 MG Y Type which was completed in time for him to proudly drive as soon as he was able to get his licence.

At the same time he was involved with designs and building of a speedway car owned by his father that became hugely successful at Claremont Speedway. Lynn commenced his Mechanical Engineering studies at UWA in 1963, researching the then rather obscure field of electromagnetics which was the basis of his PhD.

At around this time Lynn developed an interest in pipe organs and their mechanics. He assisted in the installation of the Perth Concert Hall organ and the maintenance and tuning of the instrument. Probably with a sense of frustration with the organs electronic controls and their inability to maintain its tuning, he set off to Germany to learn the latest available technologies for these instruments. He became convinced that direct mechanical linkages, using modern materials, would provide superior sound quality. He put his skills to use with a commission from local organist, Annette Goerke, to build her a traditional pipe organ, importing parts from the best worldwide suppliers and making many of them himself.

Lynn's never ending desire for perfection was rewarded a little later by a commission to build a much larger organ for Trinity College. This was his pride and joy - an achievement that he was extremely proud of. He also restored the Guildford Grammar School organ, installing new and ingenious mechanical linkages to improve the sound.

He became a full time Mechanical Engineering Lecturer at UWA, teaching mechanics and dynamics. Lynn's approach with students was based on "chats" with them to go over possible errors they may have been making, rather than pointing out mistakes after the event. He led the annual Gledden Tour to Europe for final year students. The first time the engineering faculty had done so. In 2002 Lynn was awarded the UWA's Teaching Excellence Prize for Honours supervision.

In 2000 UWA commenced their quest for success in an international SAE Motorsport competition. At the student's request, Lynn joined the team, coaching them in mechanical design. He spent untold hours with them working on the latest race car designs. When a request for funds for an autoclave to bake the car's carbon fibre chassis was declined, the group went ahead and invented their own way to cure the product without an autoclave. They would later sell this technology to Boeing. In 2008 his students brought home the World Championship with their project.

Lynn retired in 2009 and finally got around to marrying his life partner, Kerry Tayman in Paris. Lynn will be long remembered as a shy, self-effacing and modest quiet achiever; a great inventor, designer, supervisor and mentor who was passionate about his students.
Gary Russell-Brown, PMS student 1956-58(1-3)

Geoff Fernie, PMS student 1947-51

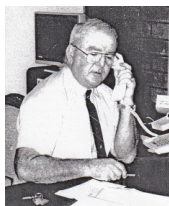
Geoff graduated as a Bachelor of Engineering (civil). In 1957 he was employed by Consulting Engineers Maunsell & Partners as a junior site engineer on the Narrows Bridge construction.

With his wife Lee, he was transferred in 1960 to Maunsell's London Office, working on the design of the Commonwealth Avenue Bridge in Canberra and the Batman Bridge in Tasmania. Upon his return to Australia, first to Canberra and later Melbourne, he developed Maunsell's Australian bridge design practice.

His projects included the prestressed concrete approach viaducts to the West Gate Bridge and work on bridges in Hong Kong and New Guinea. Geoff eventually became a director of Maunsell's Australian and International firms. Geoff moved to Perth in 1972 as resident engineer on the Stirling Bridge, Fremantle, reactivating his association with contractor Clough Engineering that began on the Narrows Bridge.

An increasing awareness of environmental issues led to his managing several multidisciplinary teams to develop Environmental Impact Statements for projects including the Yeelirrie Uranium Project, North West Shelf and Olympic Dam. His final projects prior to retirement were the Redcliffe Bridge carrying the Tonkin Highway over the Swan River and as environmental coordinator for Fluor-Maunsell on the Dampier-Bunbury gas pipeline.

Lee and Geoff retired to Walpole, an ideal location for close involvement in National Park management. They had a mixed-species tree farm at Northcliffe. Sport has always been an obsession, earning Geoff a Full Blue in cricket as a member of three University Cricket Club A-grade premiership teams. Geoff enjoyed a form of masochism, golf, as well as fishing off the south coast. *[Source: UWA Graduates Assn.]*



James (Jim) Hurst, PMS student 1953-54

From Museum records:

After Modern School I spent two years at Graylands College before commencing my teaching career at Balingup in 1957 on my 20th birthday, I retired from the Education Department in August 2003 as the richest man in education - rich due to a loving wife whom I married in 1959, four lovely daughters and eleven wonderful grandchildren. What else could one ask for on retirement? My family has always been the no 1 and most important phase of my life.

The second phase was my profession. My years in teaching involved principal positions since 1969 in at Dandaragan, Carcoola, Koorda, East Maddington, Como, Huntingdale, Kinlock, Kardinya, Canning Vale and Kensington. I was fortunate to be awarded the Outstanding Principal of the Year in 1994. I believe I was always a principal who was involved in all aspects of school life and my philosophy was to 'listen to every voice, no matter how small'.

The third phase of my life has been sport. I was awarded an Australian Sports Medal for service of Australian Football and my contributions to sport in 2000. I took part in the Queen's Baton Relay prior to the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne in 2006. I am a life member of SFFC, South Fremantle District Development Council, East Fremantle Cricket Club and the South Fremantle Warriors Development.

Programme which I established in 1992. I've been involved in senior Premierships at both South and East Fremantle Football Clubs and was a team manager of the West Coast Eagles team in 1987 - the inaugural year. I've also been in the same position in State of Origin sides in 1986 and 1990.

I have many fond memories from each of the phases of my life and retired happily in Riverton with my wife Carol in the home we built in 1964. - Signed permission to publish 21/08/2012

Leslie (Les) Ernest Smith, PMS student 1951-53, received AM in 1998 for service to the community, particularly as the inaugural Electoral Commissioner for Western Australia. His career as recorded in our files speaks for him:

- 1953-69 Personnel and Industrial Relations, Office of the Public Service Commissioner;
- 1969-71 Migrant recruitment and Selection, Office of the Agent General in London;
- 1971-80 Industrial Relations, Public Service Board;

1976-80 Deputy Director and Director;
1980-83 Assistant Under Secretary, Department of Labour and Industry;
1983-87 Executive officer and Director, Special projects, Dept. of the Premier and Cabinet;
1987-95 Inaugural Independent Electoral Commissioner for WA
1996-2001 Consultant to State Public Sector Agencies which included assignments for: Commissioner for Public Standards, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Fair Trading, Commissioner of Police, Auditor General, Water Corporation, Water and Rivers Commission, Director General - Family and Children's Services, Legal Aid Commission, Law Reform Commission, Legal Practice Board

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