



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

THE PERTH MODERNIAN e-NEWSLETTER



Feb 2020 - Issue 43(Volume 2 18))

WELCOME

Hi

WELCOME to *The Perth Modernian e-Newsletter* offering two way communication with members and potential members. We bring to you news, event details and articles from the 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.auinfo@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

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

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DIARY DATES

ANNUAL REUNION 2020

Sunday 13 September

History Centre open
Orchestral Concert
Lunch and Fellowship

REUNIONS

Class (Year) Reunions

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

2020

Class of 1954

Contact Lee

Class of 1970**

50 year reunion

PERTH MODECULES HAVE LANDED



Year 7 PMS Science students, led by **Dr Waters**, recently held their first **Perth Modecules** lunchtime laboratory involving several stations of **Balloon Science**. There was success with the balloon piercing.

Some things in this world just don't mix—dogs and cats, oil and water, needles and balloons. Everyone knows that a balloon's worst fear is a sharp object . . . even a sharpened wooden cooking skewer. With a little scientific knowledge about polymers, you'll be able to perform a seemingly impossible task—pierce a balloon with a wooden skewer without popping it. Suddenly piercing takes on a whole new meaning!
Adapted from:

<https://www.stevespanglerscience.com/lab/experiments/skewer-through-balloon>

L to R: Rosanne Arul Raja, Zoe Selsmark, Heidi Gstaettner, Asha Scaddan, Ethan Kelly, Ishika Balram

Contributed by **Mrs Tracy Enslin**, Science Teacher, Perth Modern School

HONOURING COMMITMENT

Established In 2014 the Perth Modernian Society Honour Awards pay tribute to voluntary contributions to the advancement of education at Perth Modern School.

- **Modernian Fellow** is awarded for distinguished service and numbers are limited
- **Moderna Scola Award** is presented for significant service in all fields of endeavour
- **Honorary Member of the Perth Modernian Society** is awarded for distinguished service by an individual not eligible for Society Membership



In December 2019, History Centre Volunteer **Robert (Bob) Johnson**, **PMS student 1961-65**, received a **Moderna Scola Award** for his significant service in negotiating the Perth Modernian Society Museum Association constitution through the process of incorporation, charitable status and DGR status and in leading a project group for current research of military history and refurbishment of the PMS War Memorial.

PMS parent and former member of the School Board **Nigel Hunt**, and his **KWM** colleague **Brendan Dawson** were recognised as **Honorary Members of the Perth Modernian Society** for distinguished *pro bono* service to the Perth Modernian Society Inc and its two registered charities the Sphinx Foundation and the Perth Modernian Society Museum Association Inc to meet new state and federal government legislative requirements for incorporated bodies.

AUSTRALIAN HONOURS 2020

Former PMS names were recognised in the Australia Day Awards for having demonstrated outstanding service or exceptional achievement.

Ronald Patrick Dullard OA, was named an Officer of the Order of Australia for distinguished service of a high degree to Australia or to humanity at large, to education in WA, local government and the community.

Eric William Lumsden AM, for service in a particular locality or field of activity or to a particular group for public administration and to planning.

Bronwen Jean Keighery AM, for services to conservation and the environment.

MODERNIANS WHO DIED IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY

*The sixth in a special series of articles prepared for publication by
Robert Johnson, PMS student 1961-65*

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

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 by 12 April
Copy by 2 August
Copy by 12 October

Annual Report

Copy by 12 July

Magazine

Copy by 12 November

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

**2018-19 COUNCIL
PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY**

www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au
Professor Geoff Soutar, *President*
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Eve Broadley, *Hon Treasurer*
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Finance

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Honorary Treasurers
Eve Broadley, *Council*
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Sharon Williams, *Museum Assoc*

Sphinx Foundation Board

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Nigel Hunt, *Member*
Vivian Wang, *Member*
Val Furphy, *Associate Principal*

Communications

info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au
Ian Jarvis, *Convenor/Portal/IT*
Ed Lazarus, *Membership*
Peter Farr, *Member*
Reece Harley, *Facebook*
Vacancy/IT support person/portal

PERCIVAL JAMES (JIMMY) BOLAND
PMS student 1912-13



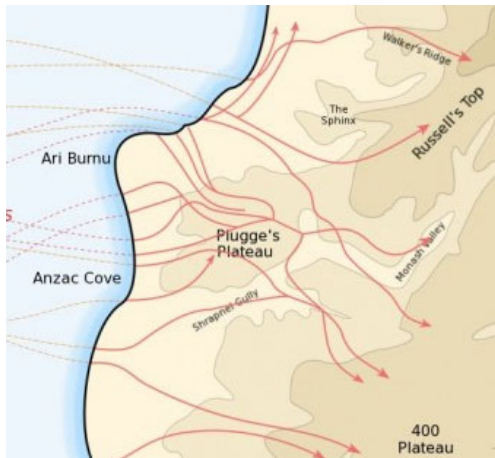
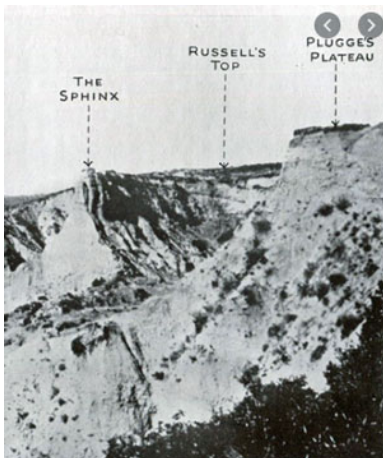
Jimmy Boland was born in Sailor's Gully, Bendigo, Victoria, on 2 July 1895 to parents James and Harriett. The family moved to Brown Hill in the Western Australian Goldfields and Jimmy attended Kalgoorlie Central State School. He sat for his Primary Examination in 1910 when he was 15 and obtained passes in Geography, English History and Algebra. Jimmy commenced at Perth Modern School on 26 February 1912 and left in December 1913 to begin a teaching career. He started with the Education Department in 1914 as a Monitor at Kalgoorlie South School. War was declared on 4 August 1914 and Jimmy enlisted two weeks later. He was assigned to the 11th Battalion. Jimmy underwent basic training at Blackboy Hill near Greenmount and embarked at Fremantle on the troopship *HMAT Ascanius* on 30 October 1914. The *Ascanius* formed part of a large convoy that transported 35,000 men to Egypt, arriving on 5 December 1914.

While in Cairo, 704 men of the Battalion marched to the Pyramid of Cheops on the morning of Sunday 10 January 1915 to be photographed. The photograph has become one of the icons of Australian military history.

After further training in the desert, the Gallipoli invasion fleet was transported on 1 March 1915 to the island of Lemnos, 120 kms from what became known as Anzac Cove at Gallipoli. Jimmy was now a member of C Company and his company commander was Captain Raymond Leane, one of Australia's most famous wartime leaders.

The fleet left Lemnos early on 24 April 1915 and sailed 120 kms to the Gaba Tepe area. The 11th Battalion consisted of 23 officers and 868 other ranks, a total of 893 men. It formed part of the landing force on 25 April and C Company was in the first wave. The early morning of the 25th was very dark and the sea like glass.

The C Company boats landed on and around the small promontory of Ari Burnu ("Bee Point"). The men ran across the beach under heavy fire. Some climbed the steep slopes of Plugge's Plateau to the south and others the slopes of The Sphinx further north. Jimmy Boland was one of them.



During the first three days of the landing the 11th Battalion lost 450 men killed, wounded missing or captured, a shattering 50% casualty rate. Jimmy Boland came through it physically unharmed. On 28 June 1915, Jimmy's luck ran out. The British were mounting an attack against the Turks at Cape Helles on the tip of the peninsula 20 kms from Anzac Cove. The Australians at Anzac were ordered to make a diversionary attack so that the Turks would not transfer troops from Anzac to strengthen their positions at Cape Helles.

Troops from A and C companies of the 11th Battalion were to cover an attack by the 9th Battalion on Snipers' Ridge at 1pm on Monday 28 June 1915. The 11th Battalion troops were ordered to lay along Silk Spur in the open, under aimed fire from the Turkish trenches in the vicinity.

Rifle and machine gun fire came from their front and flanks. Artillery shells exploded above the men and rained shrapnel balls down on their backs. Sometime between 4pm and 5pm the survivors lying out on Silk Spur were called in. The diversionary attacks had cost the Australians 87 killed and 203 wounded. Jimmy was one of those killed.

Captain Leane wrote to Jimmy's parents and described Jimmy as "a brave man" who "was

extremely popular with his comrades."

Jimmy Boland is buried at Shell Green Cemetery near the beach. He was killed four days before his 20th birthday and was the first former student of Modern School to be killed in World War 1.



Sallie Davies, Newsletters
newsletter@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

Functions Committee

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

Reunions Liaison

reunions@perthmoderniansociety.org.au
Barbara Mallett

Board of the Perth Modernian Society Museum Association Incorporated

museum@perthmoderniansociety.org.au
Dr Robyn White, *Chair*
Sallie Davies, *Deputy Chair/Secretary*
Sharon Williams, *Treasurer*
Lois Joll, *Board Member*
Jeffrey Lai, *Board Member*
Prof Alistair Paterson, *Board Member*
Vacancy, Board Member

Museum (H&M) Committee

museum@perthmoderniansociety.org.au
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Gay Albillos, *Hon Secretary*
Ian Jarvis, *Hon IT Manager*
Wendy McCallum, *Member*
Robert (Bob) Johnson, *Member*
Robyn White, *Member*
Sharon Williams, *Member*
Peter Dillon, *Member*

VOLUNTEERS

History Centre and Archives

Gay Albillos, *Bio Index/Conservation*
Deb Beresford, *Hon Archivist*
Jim Davies, *Bio Index*
Sallie Davies, *Coordinator*
Peter Dillon, *Science Collection*
Frank Hedges, *Bio Index*
Ian Jarvis, *IT Manager*
Robert (Bob) Johnson, *Research*
Angela Jones, *Archives*
Bill MacPherson, *Photo Scanner*
Wendy McCallum, *Data entry*
Deirdre Owen, *Archives*
Alan Porter, *Science Restoration*
Roger Stubbs, *Research*
Robyn White, *Data Entry*
Sharyn Williams, *Displays*
Alison Woodman, *Research*

MODERNIAN HONOURS

Awards@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

2014

Modernian Fellow

Sallie DAVIES
Donald TYLER
Malcolm MCCUSKER

2016

Modernian Fellow

Ian JARVIS
Barrie BAKER
Moderna Scola
Alan PORTER
Deborah BERESFORD
Honorary Member
Alison WOODMAN

2017

Modernian Fellow

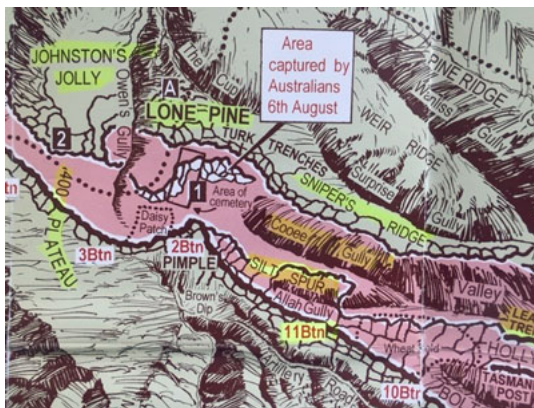
Peter FARR
Moderna Scola
Evelyn BROADLEY

2018

Moderna Scola

Rosemary Pratt
Dr June Stephenson

2019



LEST WE FORGET

A full copy of Jimmy Boland's story may be obtained from the Perth Modernian Society Museum Association by emailing museum@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

YOUR SAY

From: Eric Alcock, PMS Principal 1992-99

What a tremendous, vibrant organisation the Society is and congratulations to all, including yourself, for the effort this has taken. Eric Alcock, former PMS Principal

Ed: *Thank you Eric for taking time to send these encouraging words.*

From: Helen Modra, PMS student 1961-62

Hello from Geelong. I was at Mod 1961-62 – actually the story about my getting a scholarship but not getting to Mod till three years later is rather interesting and I could write a few words about that sometime. I also want to contribute a notice for the 'Vale' section so it'd be good to know when to send contributions. Always good to peruse your website. Mod was an extremely important part of my life and I'm still in touch with a couple of friends from those days.

Cheers, Helen M. Modra PhD

Ed: *Thank you Helen, your Vale contribution is included in this issue. You will continue to find the due dates for copy for the e-Newsletters listed in the left hand column of each issue. We look forward to receiving further contributions from you for publication.*

From: Norm Chosid, PMS student 1949-53

Just a short note to tell you I always enjoy receiving the newsletter, regardless of how relevant a particular edition might be to myself personally. The tyranny of distance makes it awkward to take advantage of opportunities to meet up with former school colleagues. However, coming from the class of 53, I am encouraged to read that the pre-50's are still getting together!

Thank you once again for all your efforts. Norm Chosid, Sydney (49 - 53)

Ed: *We continue to strive to bring our many alumni together to honour the history and share the heritage of Perth Modern School in addition to catching up with former classmates.*

From: Dorothy Bennie, nee James, PMS student 1949-52

I always enjoy reading the newsletter. Brings back so many happy memories. For the last few years I've been singing with the Retired Teachers' Choir. We meet in the Teachers' Union Building just across the road from Mod. I complained to the Union the other day that they should have a photo of the school on the wall together with some of the others they have. When I think how close we came to losing the school I think it should definitely be there in pride of place. Anyway, thanks again for the newsletter. Regards, Dorothy Bennie (Dot James).

Ed: *Here's hoping they have heard your proposal.*

From: Andrea Turner, PMS student 1966-67

Will you please tell me the 1st year when Mod changed to 6 yrs high school. I left in 1967 end of 3rd form for Sydney. Did my 1967 class finish at 5th in 1969 or the new 6th in 1970? Hope someone has answered this question many times. Thanks for the email. Cheers Andrea Turner

Ed: *The first intake of Year 7 students to Mod was in 2017. Although this changed the number of years in high school to six, and the class levels to 7-12 when primary school Yr 7 classes moved into secondary schools across the state.*

From: Shirley Randell, nee Izett, PMS student 1953-57

I have a feeling I missed out on at least one newsletter this year - please let me know my status. I enjoy catching up with PMS news so much and send congratulations to all who contributed to this one. Kindest regards, Prof Shirley Randell AO, PhD, Hon DLitt, FACE, FIML, FAICD, FIPAA

Ed: *Your message was forwarded to our Communications Manager and I trust you will receive this issue.*

From: Jean Burton, nee Margrain, PMS student 1980

I have chosen to unsubscribe because the newsletter demographic is still a bit older (generationally) than me, and therefore I don't find much interest or relevance. I don't mind seeing what's happening in the school now, but the alumni bits are not interesting.

Thanks, Jean Burton (nee Margrain 1980)

Ed: *Thank you for your feedback re the Perth Modernian Society e-Newsletter which is much appreciated. We recognize that what is happening in the School today is reported in the School Newsletter and may be accessed by interested former students on request.*

The Perth Modernian team greatly appreciate help and feedback from volunteers who are in touch with what may be of interest to their contemporaries and we endeavour to publish what is received and considered appropriate. Your comments are a timely reminder that we must all continue to encourage members and friends to contribute items for publication.

REUNION NEWS

On Thursday Jan 16th there was an impromptu, informal get-together of Modernians from the 1952-56 cohort. The excuse was a brief visit by Denham Pole and his wife Mali from Sri Lanka. It wasn't possible to contact many people, and some couldn't come at very short notice. Here are some of those who made it. You might like to include them in the e-newsletter.

Honorary Members

Nigel Hunt
Brendon Dawson

Moderna Scola Award

Robert Johnson

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

From 24-Nov-19 to 24-Feb 20

Registered

Fran Giangliulo (Comito) 1975-77 Student



News and information available at
www.perthmodern.wa.edu.au

e-NEWSLETTER

Thank you to all contributors including:

Eric Alcock
Deborah Beresford
Thalia Cole
Jenny Crowe
Tracy Enslin
Frank Hedges
Robert Johnson
Ruth McWhinney
Helen Modra
Roger Stubbs

Coordinator/Editor

Sallie Davies

Compiler

Ian Jarvis



The Perth Modernian Society (Inc) gratefully acknowledges the support of Lotterywest for strategic planning and computer hardware.

PERTH MODERN SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

News and information available at
www.perthmodern.wa.edu.au
(as listed on the above website)



SPHINX FOUNDATION INC.

Scholarships and Bursaries

2020 Upper School Awardees

Ann Cao
Arthur Caspelherr
Elle Chentang
Bridie Dempster
Kailai Dong
Shay Dowley
Kirra Geddes
Chathumi Hettiarachchi
Loan Ho
Ryan Jeong
Claire Lee
Raymond Li
Lawrence Nheu
Hannah Pemberton



Dr Denham Pole with his daughter Esmeralda (Zelda), a lawyer in Brisbane; Coral Easter/Stewart, Jan Smith/Waddell, Laurie Terrill/Best and John Ffarrington, Dr Richard Lugg

VALE

Name	Years at PMS	Position	Deceased
Patricia Ivy Seaby (nee Richardson)	1947-50 (1-3)	Student	17/11/2019
Brian Edmund Williams	1992-2019	Staff	29/11/2019
John Desmond Modra	1959-60	Student	??/11/2019
Eric Lawson	1946-50	Student	1/12/2019
Marilyn Joyce Saunders (nee Richter), Canada	1954-58	Student	13/12/2019
Eric William Thomas Lumsden AM	1961-65	Student	15/12/2019
Leslie Ann Cole (nee Arthur)	1940-44	Student	15/12/2019
	1953-57	Staff	
Wayne Stanleigh (Bruney) Brune	1970-74	School Prefect	17/12/2019
Dr Raymond Dingle	1948-52	Student	11/01/2020
Trevor John Pitcher	1947-51	School Prefect	15/01/2020
Ivan Glennister (Glenn) Peate	1953-54 (4-5)	School Prefect	22/01/2020
Vice-Admiral David Willoughby Leach AC CBE	1941 (1 st Yr)	Student	19/01/2020
Helen Wells	1980s	Staff	
Una Braithwaite Mackie (nee Wise)	1939-41 (1-3)	Student	12/02/2020

Footnote:

Obituaries for **Eric Lumsden**, **David Leach** and **Ray Dingle** have recently appeared in "The West Australian" and copies are held on file in the George Burvill Index. We thank all contributors to this segment of the e-Newsletter. Your help in contributing to Museum records is very much appreciated.

A PERSONAL TRIBUTE TO THE LATE RAY DINGLE

Ray and I were classmates at Mod from 1948 to 1952. We were shipmates during our Navy National Service days (as was the late **Dr Peter Staer**). We continued our UWA studies - Ray was well known for his green Ford Prefect, foreshadowing his lifelong interest in classic cars, mainly of the MG variety. Our paths diverged but we kept in touch with the occasional letter and family news. Unknown to me, but not to **Ken Watson**, Ray was already achieving some fame (see: PMS The History and The Heritage) but he was not one to talk about his achievements, neither then nor in later life.

Ray had an entrepreneurial streak which manifested itself in various ways - after his time with Bell Telephone Labs he based himself in Sydney, he set up a company called Pacific Semi Conductors which dealt in parts for laser printers, involving production arrangements with companies in Taiwan - among his staff was a lady by the name of Gai Harris, who after some time became his life partner. Ray bought a nursery in Canning Vale, selling to Coles and Woolworths here. I used to see Ray in North Sydney on some of my visits there and one of my memories is visiting him in Union Street and seeing the toilet with bottles of Grange Hermitage stuffed in it. In later years Ray put his wines into 'secure' storage in Sydney but an inside job saw the end of that (insurance covered the loss).



Ray in effect retired, but was tempted by an offer from an American friend to go to Bangalore in India to set up a company there to take advantage of the boom in Hi-Tech. Gai accompanied him and while there they holidayed in Sri Lanka and became attached to the country and its people, so much so that they purchased property there in Mawella on the south coast and in Galle Fort. At about the same time Ray and Gai purchased a Macadamia farm in Northern New South Wales, near Byron Bay, which they ran themselves. There, in his spare time, Ray was stripping and repairing one or two of his cars in a shed on the property. One of his great regrets was that he never got to enter the Italian Mille Miglia.

As many of you would know the 2004 tsunami destroyed large swathes of the Sri Lanka coast and many of the fisherfolk near Ray's area of Mawella lost their houses and boats - Ray set out to help the recovery process and began fund raising on a large scale. One of his endeavours was to donate one of his classic MG's for raffle in Sydney - from memory that raised \$50,000 for the relief effort. One of the first of his philanthropic gestures! The memory of Ray and Gai and Ray's children lives on in their Sphinx Foundation donations.

Ray and Gai turned their Mawella property into a beach front tourist venture of some standing. They also developed the run down Galle Fort property into another tourist venture - Jim Leslie and I were among the first guests there when we went to celebrate Ray's 80th birthday - sadly just before we got there, Ray contracted Dengue Fever and was very ill - we celebrated at an hotel with a vacant chair for Ray at the head of the table - with one of his jackets on the chair. Ray survived the dengue and took to enjoying life again. He began studying French at the Sorbonne with the aim of one day living in Paris.

Ray was a bon vivant who really enjoyed the finer things of life!

Ray and Gai sold all their property in Sri Lanka and resumed life in Byron Bay which has been their Australian base for a long time - only to be confronted by the new challenge of Ray's ill health culminating in his death on 11 January 2020. In a note to me, Gai said she will miss this interesting and challenging man - as will we all who knew him. Frank Hedges

WAYNE STANLEIGH BRUNE (aka Bruney), PMS student 1970-74

Wayne was born in Swan Districts Hospital on 21st February, 1957 and grew up in Nollamara. He showed strong

Tommaso Puccini
 Beau Scadden
 Inbam Selvaganapathy
 Khusal Shah
 Saad Shah
 Edie Simpson
 Micah Sinclair
 Daisy Smith
 Sithum Somarathna
 Kaitlyn Tjahyadi
 Hana Trinh
 Hoang Trinh
 Oneli Weerasinghe
 Amelie White
 Keith Wong

musical aptitude, playing piano and piano accordion. In 1970 he was awarded one of only 35 Music Scholarships to study at Perth Modern School. That year, Wayne and his sister, Leanne, also appeared on Channel 7's *Stars of the Future* playing a piano accordion duet. They won their heat but declined a later invitation to perform on Channel 7's *Telethon*.

Wayne enjoyed his five years as a 'Mod Muso' studying violin, playing in the orchestra conducted by renowned violinist **Ashley Arbuckle** and singing in choirs conducted by the late John Christmass. He participated in many extra-curricular activities, including Music Camps in Bunbury, Geraldton and Narrogin. In 1973 he was elected as a Prefect by his peers. Wayne's final year at Mod was marked with distinction: he achieved the top ranking in his class in both Physics and Chemistry. Another highlight for Wayne was playing a violin solo in the orchestra at the Perth Concert Hall. He is remembered by his peers with admiration and affection: as a smart, capable, athletic student who was great fun and a good friend.



Wayne lived life to the full as a young adult. After leaving Mod, he commenced Engineering and Teaching courses, established a bricklaying business and bought his first house by the age of nineteen. He then rode his motorbike across the Nullarbor, before working on a tin mine in Tasmania. There, he took up the challenge that he thought would be his for life. Wayne decided to follow in his father Stanleigh's footsteps by joining the Navy. Wayne passed the rigorous selection process for military pilots. He completed No 1 Flying Training School in Melbourne, when many did not, flying the CT4 piston engine trainer. He then returned to WA to train on Macchi MB-326H jets at No 2 Flying Training School. At the RAAF Pearce Air Base, he found the pilot training, the night flying and the tests absolutely amazing.

Sadly, an injury acquired during pilot training meant Wayne's flying days were over far too soon and he left No. 109 RAAF Pilot's Course and returned to civilian life without being able to fulfil all the wonderful promise he held. Even though he was dealt this blow as a young man, Wayne took it all in his stride and handled the rest of his life's journey with good intention and a great sense of humour. He remained a gentleman to the end. Wayne passed away, surrounded by his family singing him Christmas carols, on December 17th, 2019. He is sadly missed by his family, friends and Class of 1974, who have many fond memories of their happy school days together. Many of them attended his funeral and they will be celebrating Wayne's life at a dinner in his honour on his birthday, every 21st February.

BRIAN WILLIAMS, PMS Teacher 1992-2019



Brian Williams (R) at work

Brian Williams was on the English staff from 1992 almost up to his recent death in early December this year. Students and staff remember his expertise but, more importantly, his encouragement and interest shown in his students. I would appreciate this being noted somewhere in the Society's records.
 Eric Alcock, PMS Principal

ERIC LUMSDEN AM, PMS student 1961-65

Eric Lumsden who died in December 2019 attended Perth Modern School from 1961 to 1963. After leaving school Eric qualified as a Town Planner and began a stellar career which would have a profound impact upon strategic planning in Western Australia and especially the Perth Metropolitan Region.

In the 1980s he became the Chief Executive Officer of the then Shire of Swan and guided its transition to city status. It was an exciting time for Swan as fundamental changes took place; the enormous demand for residential lots in locations such as Ellenbrook, the expansion of Perth Airport, the closure of the Midland Workshops and the introduction of a planning scheme for the sensitive Swan Valley.

The City and its neighbours benefitted from Eric's commitment to strategic planning which provided an orderly process for development, supported by the provision of necessary infrastructure. He left behind a City which had undergone remarkable change when he became the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Melville.

The challenges at Melville were of a different kind and arguably did not make the best use of Eric's talents so it was no surprise when he accepted an appointment as Director General of the Department of Planning and later the Chair of the Western Australian Planning Commission. In those roles and in his role as Chair of the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority (formed in 2011, now Development WA) Eric drove his vision for planning which would make proper provision for population growth, generate affordable housing and transform Perth into a vibrant place. Planning is often controversial, but Eric was always insistent that the public interest should prevail over the wishes of individual property owners and developers. He achieved much because of his ability to ensure cross agency collaboration. That he was able to do so is a tribute to the regard in which he was held. After retiring from the Chair of the Planning Commission Eric was an obvious choice to become Chair of the Commissioners appointed when the Perth City Council was dismissed. Sadly the illness which ultimately took his life forced him to give up that role before his work was complete.

Eric received many honours and accolades. Two of the most notable were the Public Service Medal in 2005 and in 2018 the Institute of Public Administration's Patron's Award, its highest accolade. He was also a Life Fellow of the Planning Institute of Australia. Shortly after his death, it was announced on Australia Day, that he had been made a Member of the Order of Australia.

JOHN DESMOND MODRA, PMS student 1959-60

John Modra (Sept 1943-Nov 2019) was at Mod in IV7 and V7. He was in the Air Force cadets and was also a keen runner and member of various musical productions.

John became a qualified mechanical engineer while working for Chamberlain Industries, B.Eng. (Hons) UWA and moved to Melbourne in 1971 to join the Caterpillar Company. He later worked for Kenworth Trucks; the (Federal) Automotive Industry Authority; the (State) Environment Protection Agency and the (State) Department of Industry, Innovation and Regional Development. He gained a Master of Engineering (Environmental) from Melbourne University and was particularly interested in vehicle noise and later automotive industry policy; in the latter he made important contributions at Federal and State levels.

John married Anne, a radiographer, in 1973 and the marriage brought two daughters, Penny and Lucy, two sons-in-law and two grand-daughters. He was a loved and loving family man and so proud of all of them! Penny is an editor and sought-after teacher of grammar (have a look at thegoodcopy.com.au) while Lucy is a consultant in Intensive Care medicine.

John was extremely musical and studied classical clarinet from an early age. In Melbourne he was active in Clasax, the Clarinet and Saxophone Society of Victoria, Inc, and smaller groups where he practised and performed regularly. He also had a lifelong passion for cars and was a keen spectator at various Melbourne Grand Prix. John had an irrepressible sense of humour which served him well, and which endured until his Alzheimer's was quite advanced.

John Modra was the only son of Edward John and Violet Modra, both late of Floreat, and my cherished brother and only sibling. Remembered forever with great love and gratitude!

Helen M. Modra (Geelong, Victoria).

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