



# PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Issue 47, March 2021 (Vol 2 No 22)

## WELCOME

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](http://www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au)

[info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au](mailto:info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au)

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

## CONGRATULATIONS!



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

### A SPECIAL WELCOME

We offer a very special welcome to all new, and recently graduated students from Perth Modern School. You now belong to a Society that has many illustrious names and many outstanding achievements to its credit.

It is you and your peers, who in due course, shall carry our Society to even greater accomplishments and honour. We know that that shall be done by you with a regard for the greater good of our extended community.

We cherish each of you as new members and we trust that you shall cherish each other and make the Perth Modern Society a rich and personally fruitful association long into the future.

Yours sincerely,

**Hon. Julian Grill LLB, JP**

President, Perth Modern Society

E: [grill1@bigpond.com](mailto:grill1@bigpond.com), Tel. 0417 923 721

## DIARY DATES

### REUNIONS

See news item for details

### ANNUAL REUNION

Date: Early September 2021 (date TBC)

### CLASS (Year) REUNIONS

Organisers please contact Barbara Mallett through [reunions@perthmoderniansociety.org.au](mailto:reunions@perthmoderniansociety.org.au)  
For further information visit [www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au](http://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](mailto:newsletter@perthmoderniansociety.org.au)

#### Next Issues

**Copy deadlines for 2021**

(to be confirmed)

20 May

20 August

20 November

## CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT - 105 YEARS

### Mr Gordon Ambrose Ewers PMS student 1929-1933

Dear Gordon

I write on behalf of the Perth Modern Society in recognition of your 105th birthday and in recognition of your long and valued membership of the Society. We are proud of your association with Perth Modern School and your place in the distinguished alumni.

Your employment as Assistant Collector of Customs in WA speaks for your success in your vocation.

We have a photograph of you at the School on the occasion of your 100th birthday. You are one of the icons of the School and we wish you many happy returns.



Yours sincerely,

**Hon. Julian Grill LLB, JP**

President



### In this issue:

#### A SPECIAL WELCOME CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

105 Years  
2021 Australia Day Honours  
Year 12 Presentation Night Awards  
Class of 2020 Results

#### SPHINX SCHOLARSHIP AWAD PRESENTED 2021 REUNION CALL-OUTS MEMBERSHIP NOTICE - REMINDER and PLEA

Refer main article re your renewal

#### YOUR SAY

#### VALE

#### DIGITAL HONOUR BOARD

Modernians who died in the Service  
of their Country

#### SUBSCRIBE A FRIEND

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receive this FREE e-Newsletter

## 2021 AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

### Dr KENNETH FITCH AO PMS student 1945-1949

In the 2021 Australia Day Honours Ken received the **Order of Australia for distinguished service to sports medicine at the national and international level through a range of roles and to medical education.** He was **Perth Modern School Captain** in 1949 and tied for the Ambrose Cummins Cup as best all-round athlete in that year.

In 1979 Ken was granted AM (Member of the Order of Australia) in recognition of service to sports, received the Australian Sports Medal in 2000 for his involvement and significant contribution to sport and sports medicine at state and national level for many sports and recognised with a Centenary Medal on 1 January 2001 for service to sport and sports medicine.



### Dr ROY SCRAGG AM OBE PMS student 1937-38

Roy attended PMS in **2<sup>nd</sup>** and **3<sup>rd</sup>** year before the family left for Tasmania. Now living in South Australia, in the 2021 Australia Day Honours he was made a Member of the Order of Australia **for services to medicine, epidemiology and to medical associations.**

Dr Scragg was the founding editor of the PNG Medical Journal in 1955, Foundation Professor of Social & Preventative Medicine University of Papua New Guinea from 1970 to 1974 and Founding Director of SA Postgraduate Medical Education Association from 1974 to 1982.

He has served on ANZAAS, the Royal Australian College of Medical Administrators, Australasian Epidemiology Association, the Public Health Association of Australia, the ANZ Society of History of Medicine and has been a member of Rotary in PNG and in Adelaide as a Paul Harris Fellow.

Dr Scragg was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire **OBE for Public Services in Papua New Guinea.**

**Dr Roy Scragg, MBBS, Master of Public Health, MD** recently advised our readers through this newsletter, of his admission to the degree of **Doctor of the University of Adelaide (honoris causa).**

### Subscription received CONTRIBUTING MEMBERSHIP New (40)

Meg Adams, 2015-19  
Rex Adams, 2015 -20  
Huxley Berry, 2015-20  
Hunter Booth, 2015-20  
Hugh Calligan, 2015-20  
Joel Chee, 2016-20  
Dylan Crowe, 2016-20  
Claire Doan, 2016-20  
Annisa Endro, 2015-20  
Casidhe Gerrish, 2016-20  
Prisha Goel, 2015-20  
Jenny Guigayoma, 2015-20  
Michelle Hedge, 2017-20  
Vito Huang, 2016-20  
Jasper Jackson, 2015-20  
Akash Jayaram, 2015-20  
Sharvin Jeyendran, 2017-20  
Christopher Leak, 2015-20  
Raymond Li, 2015-20  
Rexton Han Ly, 2015-20  
Lachlan MacNeill, 2015-20  
Nicholas Mahoney, 2015-2020  
Blake Mathieson, 2015-20  
Yosef Papp, 2015-20  
Evan Phillips, 2015-20  
Regina Raharjo, 2015-20  
Hasindi Chitara Ranasinghe, 2015-20  
Genevieve Ryan, 2015-20  
Lucas Ryan, 2015-20,  
Tisha Shah, 2015-20-  
Jay Sharmar, 2015-20  
Macy Sharp, 2015-20  
Ava Shaw, 2015-20  
Chrisjoseph Shibu, 2015-20  
Aryan Siddharth Singh, 2015-20  
Zachery Thexeira, 2015-20  
Alexandra van Schie, 2015-20  
Rickson Wielian, 2015-20  
Dave William, 2015-20  
Rohan Williams, 2015-20  
Owen Winarto, 2015-20

## YEAR 12 PRESENTATION NIGHT AWARDS



The School would again like to thank Modernians for continued support of the PMS Year 12 awards ceremony. Thanks go to the **Perth Modernian Society** for the sponsorship of the **Literature Award**, this year presented to joint winners **Nicholas Mahoney** and **Alexander Robertson**. The School Dux was **Ryan Joseph Anson** and we thank the Modernians and Sphinx Foundation for their support of this award.



## Annual Renewals received (45)

Geoffrey Robert Appleyard, 1952-56  
Prof. Bruce Konrad Armstrong AM, 1957-61  
Roger James Atkinson, 1956-60  
Barrie Brentnall Baker, 1954-58  
Kaye Denise Barr, 1961-65  
Josette JONES (Bell), 1950-52  
Patricia Edna Bevan, 1950-52  
John Howard Blackburn, 1950-54,  
Evelyn Dianne Broadley, 1958-60  
John William Burdett, 1952-56  
Joan ROBINS (Clare), 1950-54  
Rebecca Anne GUY (Clarke), 1991-95  
Anthony William Cooper, 1954-58  
Douglas John Stewart Cross, 1956-59  
Roswell John Stuart East, 1958-62  
Malcolm John Evans, 1958-59  
John Peter Farr, 1954-58  
Gilbert Charles George, 1963-67  
Stuart Gould, 2007-11  
Hon. Julian Fletcher Grill, 1956-57  
Patricia Helen QUIGGIN (Hardwick), 1948-49  
Dr. Brian Edwin Hewitt, 1957-61  
Rodney George House, 1954-58  
Dorothea Margaret BENNIE (James), 1949-52  
Clement Robert James, 1965-69  
Dr. Philip John Jennings AM, 1954-58  
Noel Kagi, 1965-66  
Edward (Ed) David Lazarus, 1956-60  
Catherine (Kate) Lewis, 1973-77, teacher  
1984-87  
Carlo Manera, 1951-52  
Zoe Elizabeth BAKER (Matthews), 1954-58  
James Mondy, 1948-50  
Kevin Aubrey Moore, 1952-56  
Jeffrey Vernon Needham, 1945-49  
Geoffrey Robert Newman-Martin, 1956-60  
Dr. Marilyn Annette MERCER (O'Riley)  
1958-62  
Prof. Geoffrey Playford, 1948-52  
Amelia Olga DIXON-PUGH (Pugh), 1950-51  
Enid Constance ROSE (Riley), 1944-46  
Gay Elizabeth ALBILLOS (Rodda), 1954-58  
John Andrew Rodgers, 1954-55  
Daisy Helen HARRIES (Spencer), 1954-58  
Raymond (Ray) Lewis Stapledon, 1948-50  
Oleg Szlichta, 1967-71  
Dr. Walter Ross Thompson, 1964-65

### REGISTERED MEMBERS Contributing Members

649 with email,  
141 Post mail

### Registered Members

1486 with email receiving e-Newsletters  
approx. 2000 Post Mail

### 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](http://www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au)  
further information  
[info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au](mailto:info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au)



## CLASS OF 2020 RESULTS



### PERTH MODERN SCHOOL

Exceptional schooling. Exceptional students.  
INDEPENDENT PUBLIC SCHOOL

### Dear Modernians

Perth Modern School students this year have achieved the highest ever median ATAR recorded in WA, with all students in the cohort (243) achieving a median ATAR of 97.55 compared to the State median of 81.65.

The Class of 2020 also achieved two more State records, with 21 General Exhibitions achieved and 72 students attaining an ATAR of 99+. In addition, six Subject Exhibitions were awarded to five students.

Five students recorded a perfect ATAR score of 99.95 - **Jake Cho, Akash Jayaram, Ryan Joseph Anson, Leosha Trushin and Savindi Wimalarathne.**

Our Head Boy, **Dylan Crowe** and Head Girl, **Julia Aguinot**, both achieved 99+ ATARs and Dylan also received a General Exhibition, which was a wonderful result considering the responsibility they held throughout the year as part of their leadership roles.

Many of our top performing students were also involved in a variety of co-curricular activities throughout the year including community service, school musicals, bands and ensembles, debating and other undertakings.

I am delighted with these results - achieving a median ATAR of 97.55 is a tremendous group effort by the Class of 2020. Together with our dedicated staff and supported by parents, our students inspire and support each other to be their best which is a winning combination.

Thank you for your continued support of our school.  
**Lois Joll, Principal**

## SPHINX SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PRESENTED



Sphinx Scholarship and Bursary Certificates were presented by **Barrie Baker** and **Peter Farr** to a record number of **43** Year 11 students at the whole school assembly on Monday 15th Feb.

The value of these awards was \$38,000 which will undoubtedly considerably assist these very talented students - pictured below after the ceremony - to achieve their academic best





PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

#### 2020 - 21 COUNCIL

[info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au](mailto:info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au)

The Hon Julian Grill, *President*  
 Dr Robyn White, *Museum and Vice President*  
 Kate Lewis, *Webmaster and Vice President*  
 Ruth Barrett, *Honour Awards*  
 Barrie Baker, *Sphinx Foundation and Membership*  
 Deborah Beresford, *Honorary Secretary*  
 Eve Broadley, *Honorary Treasurer*  
 Peter Farr, *Past President and Sphinx Foundation*  
 Ed Lazarus, *Communications*  
 Barbara Mallett, *Reunions Coordinator*  
 Lois Joll, *ex-officio. PMS Principal*



SPHINX FOUNDATION INC.

#### 2020-21 BOARD

[sphinxfoundation@perthmoderniansociety.org.au](mailto:sphinxfoundation@perthmoderniansociety.org.au)

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



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY  
 MUSEUM ASSOCIATION  
 INCORPORATED

#### 2020-21 BOARD

Dr Robyn White, *Chair*  
 Sallie Davies, *Minute Secretary*  
 Sharon Williams, *Treasurer*  
 Prof Alistair Paterson, *Board Member*  
 Jeffrey Lai, *Board Member*  
 Monica Brierley-Hay, *Board Member*  
 Lois Joll, *Board 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*

in Years 11 and 12. New awards this year are: **The Hunt Family Politics & Law Scholarship**, three **Dr Phil E. Best Science Bursaries**, and three **Malka Equity Scholarships** (Senior School). **32** Scholarships for students in Years 8, 9, 10 were also renewed at a value of \$39,000, and **14** Scholarships and Bursaries have been awarded to incoming Year 7 students at a value of \$15,000 this year and \$52,000 over the life of the respective awards. \$2,000 was provided for Principal's Discretionary Bursaries.

All up then, in February the Sphinx Scholarship Fund distributed \$94,000 to some 90 students – a record monetary amount made possible by generous Modernians and philanthropists. The latter since 2020 includes the **Malka Foundation** which in 2021 is also underwriting 20 upper school students to do the intensive **Mannkal Leadership and Entrepreneurship** program.

Accountability: Note that all scholarship funds are lodged with the PMS Finance Office to ensure that the funds are spent for permitted purposes only. Also, upper school awardees are required to make a report at the end of their Year 12 on how they have used and benefitted from the funds they received.

## 2021 REUNION CALL-OUTS

### CLASS (Year) REUNIONS

Organisers please contact Barbara Mallett through [reunions@perthmoderniansociety.org.au](mailto:reunions@perthmoderniansociety.org.au)

- **2021 - Class of 1958, 'Turning 80' reunion**  
**Date: Saturday afternoon 4<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2021 (TBC) at PMS**  
**Contact:** Peter Farr, E: [farr.peter@farr.com.au](mailto:farr.peter@farr.com.au), M: 041 990 5864, or Wendy McCallum, E: [wmccallum@inet.net.au](mailto:wmccallum@inet.net.au)

- **2021 - Class of 1971, 50th Anniversary Reunion**  
 Who would like to be the Class of 1971 contact person for your Golden Jubilee Reunion? We have received many enquiries from people desiring to re-connect with classmates. Please contact **Barbara Culpeper** (Mallett) [reunions@perthmoderniansociety.org.au](mailto:reunions@perthmoderniansociety.org.au). The new PMS multi-purpose auditorium will be opening and it will be an exciting year.

- **2021 - Class of 1961, 60th Anniversary Reunion**  
 Please contact Jeanette McQueen. E: [jmcqueen@pecs.net.au](mailto:jmcqueen@pecs.net.au), mobile: 0416 177 975

## MEMBERSHIP NOTICE - REMINDER and PLEA

Annual membership renewal notices were emailed or mailed in Jan. 2021 to 230 4-year Contributing Members whose memberships were due for renewal as Annual Memberships at \$40 pa. It is cause for great concern that only **39 (=17%)** of these members had renewed their membership by 28 Feb. 2021.

The Society is aware that around half the email recipients did not open the email. If you are one of these, or received a notice and have yet to renew, could you **PLEASE** send an email to [member@perthmoderniansociety.org.au](mailto:member@perthmoderniansociety.org.au) and the renewal form will be gladly re-sent to you.

## YOUR SAY

**From: Marjorie Glanville (nee Taylor), student 1955-59**  
**Re: Can you remember...?**

Thank you for the latest edition of the PMS newsletter; as always, very interesting. Hopefully one day I'll get to a reunion; keep your fingers crossed! I have a query: there is a photograph of Mrs Pamela Stubbs, PMS student 1955 - '59, which were our years. What was her maiden name? I'm sure when you tell me her name I will remember it but I can't recall it at the moment.

I have a little joke here.



## MODERNIAN HONOURS

[Awards@perthmoderniansociety.org.au](mailto:Awards@perthmoderniansociety.org.au)

### Modernian Fellow

2014

Sallie Davies  
Malcolm McCusker AC CVO QC  
Donald Tyler

2016

Barrie Baker  
Ian Jarvis

2017

Peter Farr

2020

Dr Kenneth Michael AC Cit WA

### Moderna Scola Award

2016

Deborah Beresford  
Alan Porter

2017

Evelyn Broadley

2018

Rosemary Pratt  
Dr June Stephenson

2019

Robert Johnson

2020

Anne Celia Christmass  
Neil Anthony Coy  
Roger Stubbs AM

### Honorary Member

2016

Alison Woodman

2017

Tonya McCusker AM

2019

Nigel Hunt  
Brendon Dawson

I say to people who have not yet reached seventy, "When you turn 70, I shall send you a card saying 'Welcome to the seventies! It's not as bad as you might think', because now if you forget something you simply look at people and say, 'Well, now that I'm in my seventies you don't expect me to remember anything, do you!' {a} It gets a laugh and {b} it gets you off the hook.

Wish I could have started doing it years ago, in class, for example, when I'd just been asked something and couldn't come up with the answer.

I live in Victoria but work in NSW, which means I've had all the fun {!?!} of the border crossing, luckily about to end. I suppose you could say I'm living in the healthiest part of the unhealthiest state. Should have stayed in WA!

Yours, Marjorie

**Editor:** The name you are searching for is Pamela Breeze

## VALE

Thank you to the many volunteers, members, families and friends who forward information and memories of former PMS students and staff for publication and/or inclusion in Museum records.

| NAME:  | YEAR at PMS       | Status           | Deceased   |
|--|-------------------|------------------|------------|
| Ralph Lewis Brockman                         | 1951-55           | School Captain   | 12/11/2020 |
| Roma Menir Shilling ( née Neame)             | 1936-40           | Student          | 22/11/2020 |
| Geoffrey (Geoff) Pilgrim                     | 1959-60 (yrs 1,2) | Student          | 22/11/2020 |
| Thomas (Tom) Appleyard                       | 1944-46           | Student          | 03/12/2020 |
| Margaret Joy (Margot) Attwater (née O'Dwyer) | 1951-55           | Student          | 07/12/2020 |
| Brian Klopper                                | 1953-54           | Student          | 14/12/2020 |
| Joy Regan (nee Whiteman)                     | 1941-42           | Student          | 23/12/2020 |
| Dr Graham Raymond Raad                       | 1945-46           | Student          | 29/12/2020 |
| John Kipling (Kip) Grieve                    | 1949-50 (yrs 4,5) | Student          | 30/12/2020 |
| Stuart Michael John Kounis                   | 1980s             | Student          | 07/01/2021 |
| Nicholas (Nic) Katavitis                     | 1980s             | Staff (Science)  | 10/01/2021 |
| Patricia Jean (Trisha) Kotai-Ewers OAM       | 1952-56           | School Prefect   | 17/01/2021 |
| Beryl Hume                                   | 1945-49           | Senior Girl 1949 | 18/01/2021 |
|  | 1957-65           | Maths Teacher    |            |
| Clarence (Clarrie) Tilbrook                  | 1945-46           | Student          | 20/01/2021 |
| Dawn Helen Barry (nee McHarrie)              | 1942-46           | School Prefect   | 24/01/2021 |
| John Bryant (Sam) Gannon OAM                 | 1960-63 (yrs 1-4) | Student          | 08/02/2021 |

## RALPH BROCKMAN

### PMS student 1951-55, School Captain 1955

#### Tribute by classmate **Ross Kelly:**

I first met Brocky in 1950, at the age of 12, on a Friday afternoon at Woodville Reserve – a park just down the road from my old school; the North Perth Primary School. North Perth was playing an Aussie Rules footy game against Inglewood Primary and I was playing in the centre. Ralph was captaining Inglewood and I played on him I can't remember who won the game, but I can still see Ralph's number – it was number 1. I spent most of the game looking at it, chasing it while he proceeded to deliver a "best on the ground" performance.

Six months passed before I spoke to Ralph again, this time at cricket practice conducted by our Maths teacher and Sports Master **Eric Strauss**, during our first week at Modern School.

That day, and in the years that followed, Ralph demonstrated that he was an even better cricketer than footballer – initially playing cricket for the Modern School under-16s (in those days the University Cricket Club's underage team); then rapidly progressing through the ranks to the point where, in his final year at School, he played several A Grade games alongside Eric, who played A Grade cricket for the University Cricket Club, although Ralph's teacher was then his mentor. Later Eric became one of his lifelong friends.

## eNewsletter

### e-NEWSLETTER

Thank you to all letter writers, and contributors including:

Ruth Bararett  
Deb Beresford  
Sallie Davies  
Peter Farr  
Julian Grill  
Robert Johnson  
Catherine Lewis

### Coordinator/Editor

Sallie Davies

### Formatting and Proofing

Pete Farr

### Publication

SHOREDIGITAL

 **PERTH MODERN SCHOOL**  
Exceptional schooling. Exceptional students.  
INDEPENDENT PUBLIC SCHOOL  
[www.perthmodern.wa.edu.au](http://www.perthmodern.wa.edu.au)  
for School Board information and further results

After leaving School Ralph elected to study pharmacy at Perth Technical College. Because he didn't attend UWA, he couldn't continue to play cricket with the University Club. Accordingly he transferred to the Mt Lawley Cricket Club where he continued to have a fruitful cricket career.

It goes without saying that Ralph was a power in School cricket – playing in the First Eleven for the final three years of the five years he was at school and captaining the team in its final year.



**Class of 2020**  
**99.95 ATAR**

*Jake Cho*  
*Akash Jayaram*  
*Ryan Joseph Anson*  
*Leosha Trushin*  
*Savindi Wimalarathne*

**General Exhibitions:**

*Ryan Joseph Anson*  
*Caroline Tsang Kwong Hong*  
*Akash Jayaram*  
*Nethma Wimalarathne,*  
*Shin Yi Wong*  
*Regina Raharj*  
*Tanisha Dunuwille*  
*Jason Feng Li*  
*Aakash Annadurai*  
*Alan Lee*  
*Ishita Kanodia*  
*Prisha Goel*  
*Yitong Li*  
*Ezekiel Goh*  
*Dylan Crowe*  
*Aryan Gupta*  
*Jason Zi Ran Li*  
*Daniel Marns*  
*Hariharan Shankar*  
*Braedyn Koh*  
*Su-Jyn Hia*

**Subject Exhibitions:**

*Drama: Blake Mathieson*  
*Economics: Savindi Wimalarathne*  
*Engineering Studies: Manol Ivanov;*  
*English: Jas Choo*  
*Literature: Jas Choo*  
*Japanese: Second Language: Tatiana Ng*



In 1952 he was also selected in the State Schoolboy's Team that represented Western Australia in a carnival played on the Sydney Cricket Ground. Four of his classmates also made the side – Len Thomas, Harry Kuhaupt, Les Smith and me. What a trip it was! First time out of the state, first time on an aeroplane, first time in a city anywhere near as big as Sydney, walking across that massive bridge we barely knew existed, travelling up to Newcastle on the longest train we'd ever seen, playing on the iconic Sydney Cricket Ground, shaking hands with Australia's newest test cricketer, Richie Benaud, and chatting with Richie's employer, the legendary Stan McCabe, at Stan's sports equipment shop in the centre of Sydney. I still get quite excited when I think about that trip and I'm pretty sure that Ralph did too.

And, of course, in the winter there was football. Brocky was a member of the first XVIII in his final two years at school, during which time the team went undefeated. Out of school he played with distinction in the East Perth underage competition.

Lest I give the impression that his achievements were confined to sport, I assure you that nothing could be further from the truth. Then, like now, Modern School was a selective School and Ralph also excelled in class, consistently finishing among the top 10% of the students in his year.

In his final year he was made **School Captain**, pictured here with fellow 1955 Prefects seated in centre front row next to Headmaster Noel Sampson.

For a while after leaving School, we continued to play football together at Maylands

Inglewood but gradually our paths diverged. We studied different courses at different institutions, played cricket at different clubs and played football in different competitions.

However in those days Perth was a pretty small place and we were able to keep track of each other and continue to meet intermittently.

Then I went to live and work overseas. We didn't see each other much for a number of years. On my return to Australia we reconnected through the Lake Karrinyup Golf Club where we were both members. We had many, many happy times there together.

How do I sum up the boy I went to school with all those years ago? Obviously he was an outstanding sportsman and an exceptional student. He was also down to earth and despite having many reasons not to be so, was unaffected, even humble. He was universally liked. Above all he was a leader, and continued to be so for the rest of his life.

**Dr PATRICIA KOTAI-EWERS OAM MA Phil PhD**  
**PMS student 1952-56**

Patricia (Trisha) Ewers, born July 17th 1939, was the only child of Jean (née McIntyre) and John Keith Ewers, both Modernians and both teachers. Keith was also an author. Trisha attended Cottesloe State School (1945-51) and Perth Modern School (1952-56). At Mod she became a prefect, played hockey for the school, and edited the Sphinx magazine. She went to UWA and Teachers College, and was appointed to Collie Senior High School to teach French.

Trisha married Peter Kotai, and they had three daughters – Haede, Kate and Clara. Peter and Trisha moved to Trisha's childhood home in Peppermint Grove: they built a new home for her parents at the rear of the large block, and extended and modified the original house. Trisha taught French at several metropolitan schools, both state and private. Her marriage to Peter didn't last, but they remained friends.



Trisha continued her studies, gaining a M.A. Phil. Her Ph.D. was based on the history of the Fellowship of Writers (WA), a history she had lived: both Trisha and her father were long-term presidents of FAW(WA). When her mother's mental health declined, Trisha became interested in dementia. She recorded sufferers' conversations and turned their comments into free verse, producing a book, Listen to the Talk of Us. In 2015 Trisha was honoured with a Medal of the Order of Australia for services to literature, and Alzheimer's research.

Trisha died on January 17th 2021 after many months of indifferent health.

Trisha included her family of 3 daughters and 4 granddaughters in her Lifetime Achievements:

- Soloist with WA Ballet company - understudying Terri Charlesworth in Giselle.
- Secretary Craft Association,
- Singing with the Perth Oratorio Choir for 20 years.
- President of Fellowship of Australian Writers WA for 15 + years.

Her contribution to the 2005 publication Perth Modern School: the History and the Heritage provided readers with an understanding and historical record of the achievements of other writers who were also students at PMS.

## **BERYL HUME**

### **PMS student 1945-49, Teacher 1957-58**

Beryl was Senior Girl at Mod in her final year, and was awarded a Maths A, Maths B and Applied Maths Exhibition on her Leaving Exam results. Beryl's brother Brian Hume followed her in winning a scholarship to PMS (1947-51). She went on to complete BSc with Honours, and DipEd at the University of WA, studied at Claremont Teachers College and achieve MA (Maths) at Washington University in Seattle, USA.

After teaching briefly at John Curtin High School and tutoring at UWA, she returned to Mod to teach Maths in 1957-58 was then appointed Maths Lecturer, then Senior Lecturer at UWA 1959-87.

Along with several other PMS mathematicians (Malcolm Hood, Gene Matthews and Barrie Baker), Beryl was a foundation donor in 2015 to create the Perth Modernian Society Mathematics Scholarship and Bursary, which are open to students completing Year 10 at Mod. In this way Beryl's legacy continues to shine at PMS. Readers are invited to share further tributes to Beryl in the next issue of this Newsletter.

## **JOY REGAN (nee Whiteman)**

### **PMS Student 1941-42**

#### **A granddaughter's tribute**

Joy went on to become a school teacher following in the footsteps of her father. She married a war veteran in 1957 and had two children. A wonderful grandmother and great grandmother known as "Ma". She was a proud Perth Modernian and Australian wearing a clip on koala when she travelled overseas.

Always elegantly dressed with her dancing shoes on. Such a strong and remarkable character who left an impression on anyone she met. Visiting Perth Modern School over the years with her second blazer. She loved getting the newsletter and in recent times we read it to her when she was unable to any longer. I am her proud granddaughter. Thank you,  
**Shellice Regan**

## **DAWN HELEN BARRY (nee McHARRIE)**

### **PMS student 1942-46**

Dawn, b 21.8.1929 – d.24.1.2021 was a vivacious, fun-loving, adventurous, highly intelligent friend of mine.

Dawn won the Shell Scholarship, played hockey, was Faction Captain of Gold and shone intellectually. Wife of Peter Barry, Academic Registrar Churchlands Teachers' College, In the Floreat area where the Barry family lived, Dawn was known, respected and loved as a caring, talented pharmacist who eventually retired at 70 years of age.

As a widow Dawn travelled widely with her favourite trip being to the Antarctic in 2003. She also included Tibet and the Everest Base Camp in her travels. Dawn was the proud mother of 4 children, 11 grandchildren and 3 great grand-children.

Dawn was a special friend to many people but always referred to me in her later years as "my very best friend". The feeling was mutual and I miss her already.

**Jill Stuart Lucas**



**JOHN BRYANT "SAM" GANNON OAM**  
**PMS student 1960-63**

A former Australian cricketer who played in 3 Tests from 1977 to 1978. He made his debut for Western Australia in 1966-67, making an immediate impact with 6 for 107 against South Australia. In the Queen's Birthday Honours list in June 2017 he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to cricket. Readers are invited to share further tributes to Sam in the next issue of this Newsletter.

**NICHOLAS (Nic) KATAVATIS**

**Senior Master in Science (Biology and Human Biology) for many years**

Nic died on 10 January aged 94. He is remembered by all at Perth Modern School during the 1980s as a lovely man, highly respected by the students who nicknamed him 'Kitty' Katavatis. He always wore a white lab coat. At the end of one year the students dyed one pink and he obligingly wore it.

Readers are invited to share further tributes to Nic in the next issue of this Newsletter.

**ROMA SHILLING (nee NEAME)**

**PMS student 1936-40**

Roma was elected Life Member of the Australia New Zealand Association of Visually Impaired in recognition of her work in this field. In 1942, she commenced work as a teacher of the blind, in East Victoria Park and went on to become Principal of Sutherland Special School for Blind and Visually Impaired when it was established and retired in 1983.

Highlights of her work were reflected in her Life Memberships of Noah's Ark Toy Library for Disabled, the Association for the Blind (including Guide Dogs), the Australian and New Zealand Association Teachers of Visually Impaired.

Readers are invited to share further tributes to Roma in the next issue of this Newsletter.

**BRIAN KLOPPER**

**PMS student 1953-54**

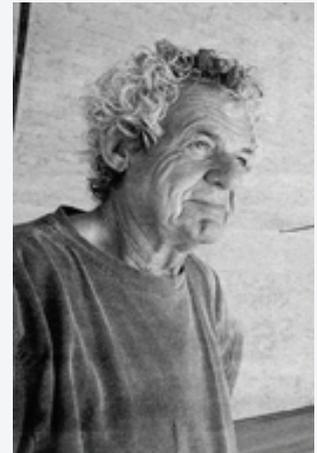
This tribute below was written by Peter Hobbs, WA Chapter President, Australian Institute of Architects

Brian Klopper was one of WA's great architects of the latter 20th century. He pioneered the re-use of buildings, such as warehouses and factories, into inner city living apartments in Fremantle and Perth, all before the phrase "adaptive re-use" was coined. He invented two material standards: the now ubiquitous steel window, and cut limestone cavity blockwork, both of which are now industry standards.

He led the way with re-cycled materials before sustainably and embodied energy were even thought about.

He mentored a generation of architects with his generous spirit of sharing and teaching.

Brian created an enviable body of work, underpinned with rigorous modernist planning clothed with an Arts and Crafts sensibility.



From modest means in Northam, he was educated at Perth Mod and then at Perth Tech. He had a fierce intellect, always questioning and challenging, a love of ideas accompanied with an extraordinary appetite for life. On behalf of the entire architecture community, we send our love to his architect sons Matt and Sam, and to the rest of his family.

Footnote: Brian Klopper's work was the subject of an exhibition at the University of Western Australia in 2012. An outspoken architect/ builder, Klopper developed a cult following for his idiosyncratic houses of rustic inventiveness in urban settings. An architect/builder/developer, his work, firstly in Subiaco and later in Fremantle, is largely single and multi-residential. This is what the late Marcus Collin wrote about Brian in 2012:

*"Klopper attained something approaching cult status in the 1980s, with real estate agents advertising certain properties as "Klopperesque." His persona closely matches his work, and the words rugged, forthright, outspoken, bush philosopher, bush lawyer, bush businessman and imposing (six and a half feet) come to mind when thinking of him, as well as articulate, intelligent and well-read. His reaction to the predominant professional style of black clothes (dark grey if you are an individual) and architectural jargon such as 'paradigm', 'learning vessels', 'infinity plans' etc. is simple - 'bullshit'."*





PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY  
MUSEUM ASSOCIATION  
INCORPORATED



DIGITAL HONOUR BOARD

<https://honour.perthmodern.wa.edu.au/>

Volunteers in the PMS Museum History Centre have been working on a digital honour board to commemorate the 151 former students who died as a result of their service in World War 1 (29), World War 2 (118), Malaya (1) and Vietnam (3). It has been posted on the school's website and is the result of the accumulation researched information by a considerable number of people since 1915. The project was funded partly by donations to the Perth Modernian Society Museum Association and partly by a grant from the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

The honour board can be sorted by column which provides some poignant information. For example, sorting by Date of Death and then Unit shows that both Leslie Little and Frank Williamson commenced at Modern School when it opened in 1911, served in France in the 51st Battalion, and died within three weeks of each other in 1916. Leslie was 19 years and 11 months old and Frank was 17 years and 10 months, the youngest of the school's students to die as a result of their service. Clicking on their names shows that they both died in the fighting at Mouquet Farm in France. Our continuing research will gradually fill the remaining empty cells and there is a feedback form for readers to let us know of any errors.

The next stage of the digital honour board project is to link each name to a short biography similar to the profiles that have been appearing in the newsletters over the last two years. The stage will be to develop a Nominal Roll to commemorate the 1,592 students who served and survived the experience. The University of Western Australia Historical Society has recently released a similar nominal roll of UWA World War 2 survivors consisting of 1,401 names at <https://www.web.uwa.edu.au/uwahs/uwa-ww2/nominal-roll>  
Robert Johnson

## MODERNIANS WHO DIED IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY

Number 10 in a special series of articles prepared for publication by Robert Johnson, PMS student 1961-65 and Museum Volunteer

### PMS student 1934-35

Roy David Maconachie was born in Dundee, Scotland, on 31 May 1920. His father, David, was a grocer and the family home was at 1282 Hay Street, West Perth. He had red hair and was known to his younger sister Rhoda and brothers Norman and Gordon as "Big Ginge".

Roy commenced at Mod on 6 February 1934 in second year. He was a good student and at the end of 1935 passed his Junior examinations in English, French, History, Maths A, Maths B, Physics, Chemistry and Geography.

Roy enlisted in the Army at the Claremont Showgrounds on 6 December 1940 aged 20. Roy's father died in 1940 and he nominated his mother, Flora, of 53 Government Road, Bassendean, as his next-of-kin. He was employed by Goldsbrough, Mort and Company as a clerk at the time of his enlistment.

WX9801 Roy was appointed to the 2/4th Machine Gun Battalion on 9 January 1941 and qualified as a Signaller on 1 May 1941. During that time, he became engaged to Irene Gilby of Shenton Park. On 30 December 1941 the Battalion departed from Darwin for overseas service, arriving in Singapore on 24 January 1942.



By this time the Japanese had pushed the remnants of the British forces down the Malayan Peninsula and onto Singapore Island. The gunners of the 2/4th Machine Gun Battalion fought hard and well defending the Island but suffered heavily. Between 8 and 15 February the 2/4th had 267 casualties including 137 men killed or missing. Two of those were PMS students **Manson Butcher (1936-39)** who was killed on 11 February aged 19, and **Benjamin Hansen (1925-27)** who was killed on 12 February, aged 29.

The survivors became prisoners of war (POW) when the British commander, Lt General Percival, surrendered all British forces on 15 February 1942.

POW #1067 Roy Maconachie was interned in Changi gaol until 8 July 1942 when, as a member of "B" Force comprising 1,495 Australians, he was transported to Sandakan in North Borneo (now Sabah) to construct a military airstrip. On arrival 10 days later, they marched 13kms to Sandakan No. 1 POW Camp.

The construction work was hard and conditions were hot. Their clothes and boots disintegrated and their rations were at bare survival level. Tropical illnesses such as malaria, beriberi and tropical ulcers, and an absence of medical supplies, took a severe toll. Regular random thrashings by the "bash gangs" resulted in more deaths. A runway was completed in September 1943. However, frequent Allied bombing put the airstrip out of action by December 1944.

In early 1945, the Japanese High Command ordered that no prisoners were to survive the war. Those still able to walk were sent on three series of death marches through the mountains to the town of Ranau, 260kms from Sandakan. The first series of marches occurred between January and March 1945. They comprised 470 prisoners in 10 groups of around 50 prisoners each. Prisoners who collapsed from exhaustion were killed or left to die on the track.

#### Sandakan-Ranau Route



#### Where Roy Died



Roy was in the second series of marches which consisted of 536 prisoners. Roy left the Sandakan camp with the first group on 29 May 1945 and died 42kms from Sandakan on either 3 June (AWM, CWGC and Silver) or 5 June (NAA) from acute enteritis (inflammation of the small intestine). He was one of the 353 who died on the track.

The final march began on 9 June 1945. Only 75 of the remaining 250 prisoners at Sandakan were able to walk. None survived 50kms. When they fell a Japanese guard shot them. The remaining prisoners at Sandakan were either killed or left to die of sickness and starvation.

A handful of prisoners escaped while on the marches or from Ranau. Six of these, all Australians, survived. They are the only survivors of the 2,434 Allied prisoners sent to Sandakan, 1,787 of whom were Australians. The Sandakan death marches remain the greatest single atrocity committed against Australians in war.

Roy was 25 when he died. He is remembered on Panel 18 of the Labuan Memorial.

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