



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

Dr Kenneth C. Michael AC CitWA Student at Perth Modern School 1954–1955

MODERNIAN FELLOW 2020

Dr Kenneth Michael was born in Perth, the son of immigrants from Kastellorizo, Greece. Ken attended Highgate Primary School, Perth Boys School, and Perth Modern School in 1954–55. He returned to Modern School as its inaugural Patron and has been a Community Representative on the School Board for ten years. He has served as Chairman of the Board 2018-2020. As State Governor designate in 2005, Ken Michael launched *'Perth Modern School: The History and the Heritage'* - the first historical publication undertaken by the Sphinx Foundation under the auspices of the Perth Modernian Society.

Ken graduated in civil engineering from the University of Western Australia and completed his PhD degree at Imperial College of Science and Technology in London. He rose through the ranks of Main Roads WA to become Commissioner of Main Roads WA 1991-97. WA's excellent arterial road system is one of his important legacies. For 13 years Ken chaired the East Perth Redevelopment Authority and as well he was a member of the Economic Regulation Authority. Ken served as the thirtieth Governor of Western Australia from 2006 to 2011.

Ken's commitment to community service is outstanding and includes being former Chairman of the Western Australian Museum. He was appointed to liaise with residents of Yarloop regarding the town's future the after the disastrous fires of January 2016, and formed a State Recovery Coordination Group. He chaired the Australian Defence Force Assistance Trust and Broome Future. He is state patron of The Boys' Brigade and former Chairman and President of the West Australian Cricket Association (2016-2019). Ken was an inaugural member of the Quay Club of the Fremantle Football Club ('the Dockers'), and in 2006 he was named the club's Patron. He has been a member of the National Trust since 2015. Previously Deputy Chairman of Council, he became President of the National Trust of Western Australia in 2019. Ken has held Board roles with the Rotary Club of Perth, Hellenic Australian, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Cancer Council of WA and the Centre of Leadership and Management.

Ken has received several high awards in recognition of his contribution to his profession and the community. He was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 1996, and was elevated as a Companion of the Order of Australia in 2006. He was named Western Australian Citizen of the Year in 2001, and received the Centenary Medal in 2003 for "service to the public, engineering, and the Greek community". In 2007, he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Letters from UWA.

Ken was elected to the University of Western Australia Senate in 1998 and became Pro Chancellor later that year. He served as Chancellor of the University from 2001 to 2005. The Ken and Julie Michael Building on the corner of Fairway and Cooper Street, Nedlands, honours Ken and his late wife for their significant contribution to the University. Ken chairs the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research, a joint venture between UWA and Curtin University formed in 2009 to support Australia's bid to host the world's largest radio telescope, the Square Kilometre Array.

Ken's pursuit of excellence in all spheres of his life, his contribution to Perth Modern School and to education at the highest level, and his substantial service to the community over a long period, are exemplary.

Ken, you have made a long and significant contribution both to the community of Western Australia and Perth Modern School.

The Perth Modernian Society is pleased to bestow upon you its highest honour – the award of MODERNIAN FELLOW. Your name will be permanently recorded on the Modernian Fellows Honours Board in the McCusker Room at Perth Modern School. This award entitles you to particular consideration in all Society matters and functions.