



## PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

**Neil Anthony Coy**  
**Teacher at Perth Modern School from 2007**

### **MODERNA SCOLA 2020**

A graduate of the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts, Neil Coy holds a Bachelor of Music (Performance) from Edith Cowan University, and has continued to be involved in the life of the University, lecturing in units including Ensemble Direction and Conducting. He is committed to research in the area of instrumental music. As a trombonist, Neil has performed professionally in Perth for over 30 years, both as a casual member of the Western Australian Symphony Orchestra, and also with many visiting opera, ballet and musical theatre companies.

Neil is employed by the Department of Education (WA) directing several bands and orchestras, including both the Senior Wind Orchestra and Symphony Orchestra of the prestigious Perth Modern School music program. Neil also teaches classroom music at Rossmoyne Senior High School where pedagogy adapted in part from the Kodály methodology is practised.

Neil was appointed to Perth Modern School in 2007 as co-director of the music program. He has worked with the orchestra, eliciting wonderful performances from the students, and assisting in the organisation of tours which have earned international acclaim. The concert at the annual reunion, much of it put together by Neil, has given joy for many years, always enhanced by Neil's sense of fun and his affinity with the music students. Neil's musically talented son, Jonty, has in the past participated in these performances. A celebration commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Modern School's Specialist Music Program was held at the Perth Concert Hall in 2018, showcasing the achievements of the students and their teachers over this long period. The success of the evening, and the educational program that led to it, was due in no small part to Neil's dedication.

Neil used the opportunities offered by music tours to Europe with the students to research ex-students of Perth Modern School who died in the Great War. The information he garnered has been shared with the School and the Museum and Historical Association, and has been made available more widely in school publications. Neil became aware that, perhaps because of their education and perceived abilities, Modernians were over-represented in more dangerous areas of battle, and consequently in the greater numbers of deaths for their cohort in the services. Other researchers have built on Neil's findings, and he has continued to support them. Using his own research, Neil has developed a website relating in particular to biographies of ex-students who served their country at war. His website is used in class studies, especially preceding Anzac Day.

Over many years Neil has supported and enhanced the exceptional music program at Perth Modern School. Additionally, his research into the School's military history, his published material and his use of technology to enhance learning, have all helped to make information available to students and to the wider community. Neil has thereby shown himself to be an educator in every sense of the word.

**Neil, you have made a significant contribution to the community and to Perth Modern School.**

**The Perth Modernian Society is pleased to bestow upon you the honour of *MODERNA SCOLA*. Your name will be permanently recorded on the Moderna Scola Honours Board in the Society's History Centre and Museum.**

**This award entitles you to particular consideration in all Society matters and functions.**

13 September 2020