



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

THE POWER OF ONE – GOVERNOR REFLECTS ON THE VALUE OF EDUCATION

His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson APM, Governor of Western Australia

The Governor joined a long and distinguished list of alumni to deliver the Perth Modernian Oration for 2022, and his remarks signposted his future priorities as well as reflections on the value of education.

This was the first occasion in which the Annual Oration has been delivered in the Cyril Tyler auditorium allowing a considerably larger audience.

The theme for his remarks was 'The Power of One', and in this case, he recalled the positive impact that one particular teacher, the late Bobbie O'Sullivan had on him during his time as a student at Perth Modern School, and in his civil service career afterwards.

The Governor spoke candidly to fellow alumni, staff and students that he was not an outstanding student or school leader during his time at 'Mod', but that mentors and teachers saw in him 'leadership potential'. With that special teacher, he shared a deep compassion for Western Australia's Aboriginal people and a strong belief in the State's young leaders.

"I am committed as Governor of WA to advocate in support of better outcomes for our Aboriginal people. And I am a firm believer in the promise and potential of our young people."

In a lively Q&A with students, moderated by Head Prefects Avicknash Dayanandan and Emanuel Foundas, there was an exploration of topics including the challenges facing law enforcement, and advice on how to find a mentor in life.

The Governor commended Perth Modern School for its more than a century-long role in developing our future leaders, and reaffirmed his belief in and support for good public education in Western Australia, as part of a wider call to shore up faith in and support for public institutions in our State.



Following the Oration, the Governor and Mrs Dawson spoke to students, teachers and Modernians over morning tea in the Sir Paul Hasluck foyer of the auditorium.

Post Script - A superbly positive article about the event (including several photos) [has been posted on the Government House website](#). Coverage was also given in the Suburban Post – see below. This is very good publicity not only for Perth Mod, but for public education in WA.

Three governors walked into a room

Last Friday Perth Modern School hosted three former students who have served as WA Governor.

Current WA Governor and former Modernian Chris Dawson was visiting the school to deliver the annual Modernian Oration.

Fellow Modernians Malcolm McCusker, who was Governor from 2011 to 2014, and Dr Ken Michael, Governor from 2006 to 2011, also attended the oration.

Perth Mod principal Mitchell Mackay said it was incredible for one public high school to have produced three State governors.

"In addition to three WA governors, Perth Modern has also produced a Governor-General in Sir Paul Hasluck," Mr Mackay said.

Governor Chris Dawson, centre, with former governors Malcolm McCusker, left, and Ken Michael.