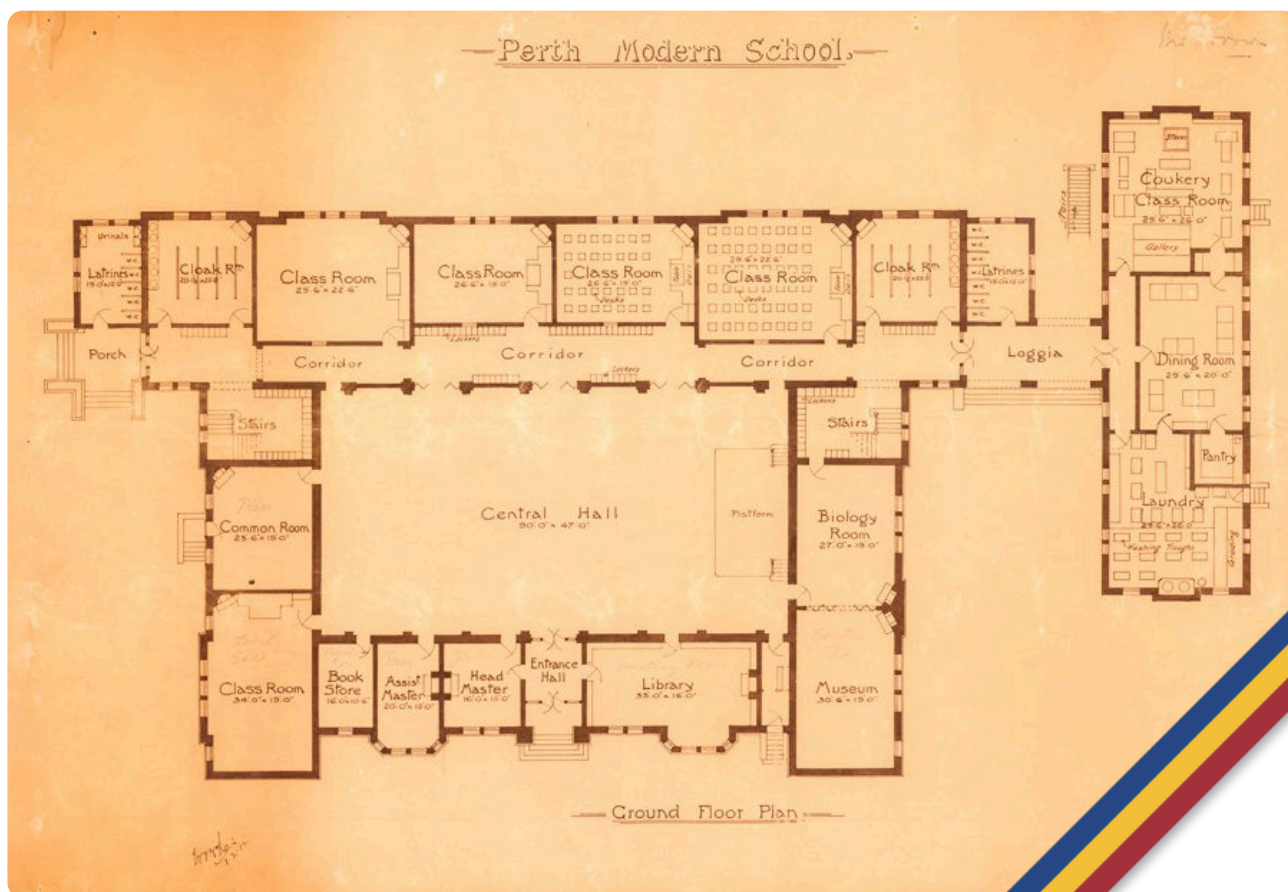




PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY
MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY



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REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Dr Robyn White

Continuing to Honour the History, Share the Heritage



INTRODUCTION

Throughout the past year the museum volunteers have again focussed on collecting, cataloguing and conserving artefacts and records relating to the history and culture of Perth Modern School. As in recent years, volunteers balance their time in the museum with time spent with international and domestic travel commitments. Extending our digital records to accurately display student and staff records continues to engage us as does the cataloguing of new acquisitions into our digital database. Researching further stories of alumni involved in military conflicts on behalf of our country is a never-ending quest as is research requested by the children, grandchildren etc of past students. Another stream of research undertaken by our volunteers includes that of identifying changes to the built environment of the school over its lifetime and with that, delving more deeply into the stories associated with the Heritage Trail around the school. Fortunately, we've enjoyed contact with many visitors (often donating artefacts) over this year – and collected even more family stories and information about the exploits of past students after they'd completed their secondary education. As we each learn new skills, we've been able to do so in a lively and cheerful environment. The Board of the Perth Modernian Society Museum Association wishes to thank all of our volunteers for their dedication and enthusiasm!

GRANTS AND FUNDRAISING

While the activity in and related to the museum is undertaken solely by volunteers, the use of digital technology and physical materials in conserving, cataloguing and displaying artefacts means that the Museum continually requires funding. We consistently apply for grant funding for the completion of special projects but otherwise rely on our annual fundraising appeal in order to meet our recurrent costs.

For some people, the annual appeal is not an appropriate time to donate but there is a real intent to support the Museum activities at some time in the future or to donate for a particular project. A Bequest strategy has been developed and details can be found on the alumni website at perthmoderniansociety.org.au/index.php/museum.

2024-2025 Donors

Sheila Robinson	Mrs Wendy McCallum
Mr Ross W Kelly AM	Dr Robyn White
Edna Youngman	Mr Greg Calcutt
RL Matthews	Mrs Margaret Puzey
Laurie Best	Mrs Sallie Davies
Dr Brian Hewitt	Dr Mary J Marshall
Sharon Williams	Dr Roger Atkinson
Mrs Glenice Munro	Hon Daryl Williams AM KC
Dr Neil Bardsley	Mr Walter L Turnbull
Mr Ross Ledger AM	Jeanette McQueen

GOVERNANCE AND COMPLIANCE

Throughout the 2024-25 Financial Year, the Board of the Perth Modernian Society Museum Association Inc. included:

Dr Robyn White	Chair
Mrs Sharon Williams	Hon. Treasurer
Ms Monica Brierley-Hay	Hon. Secretary
Mr Jeff Lai	Board Member
Ms Ashleigh Blechynden	Board Member
Ms Thalia Cole	Board Member (reserve Hon. Secretary)
Ms Robyn Verboon	Associate Principal, Perth Modern School, ex-officio
President, Perth Modernian Society	ex-officio

Throughout the year, the Board met four times (once per term). All meetings were available through Microsoft Teams as well as face-to-face.

Over the course of the year BAS statements have been submitted quarterly to the ATO (Australian taxation office). Following the 2023-24 Annual General Meeting, the Annual Information Statement required by Consumer Protection (WA) and the ACNC was uploaded in October 2024.

COLLABORATION

The Perth Modernian Society Museum Association Inc. recognises that our Museum is a part of a wider community of both alumni and local community. As such we continue to welcome connection to the organisations and individuals with similar focus.

- The Museum has maintained its membership of the Australian Museums and Galleries Association (AMAGA). Our updating of our digital entry on the Collections WA website is a long-held ambition.
- Our connection with the Kentian Society (Alumni from Kent Street Senior High School) and other schools has continued.
- Through Bob Johnson's research on military history we continue to form connections with other entities. These include UWA Historical Society, RSL Clubs and the National Military Museum.
- Over 2025 – 24 the Museum Association participate in a new partnership with the City of Subiaco as part of the City's "See Subi on Sunday" free guided walk program. The School and Museum were showcased on Sunday 9th March 2025.



Maureen speaking to visitors on March 9

RETIREMENTS

Frank Hedges

Over many years, Frank Hedges has arrived on Monday mornings to support the work of the Museum. Frank was a student of Perth Modern School, 1948-52, served with the Australian Federal Government Diplomatic Service and later in the office of the State Ombudsman. On retirement, being resident in Perth and still in contact with a number of school mates (including Jim Davies), Frank was persuaded to join the museum volunteers.

As a volunteer, Frank is respected and his presence valued. Always with a smile and laugh, Frank can lighten any room – and has done so frequently in his consistent Monday morning visits to the museum! He is a man of many stories and extensive and interesting fields of conversation. Between these, Frank has been busy updating the Burvill Files. These are the “hard copy” artefacts kept in the museum – letters, newspaper articles, book references and other articles from magazines etc. Over the years Frank has carefully updated the organisation of each file as well as maintaining and expanding the collection. As the donation of articles occurs every week, there has always been much to be achieved and Frank has been diligent in his focus.

Frank’s recent lack of transport has restricted his capacity to volunteer in the museum. However, his efforts for so many years have been wonderfully effective and we thank him.



Roger Stubbs

Roger Stubbs has enjoyed an extensive association with Perth Modern School – so we were disappointed but not surprised when he announced that he must retire to devote more time to the needs of the independent retirement village in Bunbury that he and Pam are now members.

When Roger and Pam (nee Breeze, student at Mod 1955-59) married, Roger was immediately a part of Pam’s alumni group. However, as a very successful English teacher and Head of Department, he later became even more connected to the school. Following his relief teacher duties at Mod having retired from full time teaching, when the school building program commenced in 2006 (in preparation for the new selected students), Roger applied and was accepted as the school’s coordinator for that programme. Roger’s experience as Mayor of Armadale (thirteen years) and his knowledge of town planning and building codes, ensured his credentials for this role. Since that time, Roger has committed to roles associated with the school – researching, writing and editing the 2018 book *“A Celebration of Contribution: Tales of courage, commitment and creativity of Modernians 1911-1963”*, researching and writing the *“Music at Mod”* book in 2023, and most recently editing the Perth Modernian e-Newsletter. Roger’s presence (even from Bunbury) is already missed by volunteers – although every now and then he continues to enrich the e-Newsletter with articles about past students and their achievements.



THANK YOU

Throughout the year, the Museum has again benefitted from absolute support by the School staff and administration. Led by Principal Mitch Mackay, school staff members have been thoroughly committed to our needs and our volunteers have welcomed all student visits and queries from staff members. Ms Robyn Verboon, Associate Principal, has attended our Board meetings and provides us with excellent insight into the school activities while contributing further innovative ideas to our discussions. We are most fortunate to enjoy such collaboration.

The members of the Council of the Perth Modernian Society have continued to encourage us and provided additional connections. Our IT/web master Stuart Gould is a wonder who consistently reminds us of important improvements in our digital presence.

Our Board members continue to provide enthusiasm and essential expertise throughout our deliberations. Each ensures that our decisions are well founded: Jeff Lai with his focussed understanding and advice about networking and software, Monica Brierley-Hay for her legal understanding, Ashleigh Blechynden for her understanding of administration and extending our research capabilities, Sharon Williams and her energy and comprehensive financial advice and Thalia Cole for her understanding of communications and marketing. This year has been especially demanding for several of our Board members. Sharon has been in Bendigo since February, supporting her parents and their farming activities as her father faces a major health battle. Monica has been in London until September 2025 whilst completing her graduate studies and Ashleigh has recently delivered her gorgeous daughter Eleanor. Despite such diverse circumstances, no one has missed a meeting nor missed providing reports as required for each meeting. Thank you all!

Special thanks to our volunteers, without whom the museum and archives could not function. Deb Beresford is our honorary archivist who ensures new donations are properly accessioned and conserved – with Deirdre Owen working alongside maintaining the archives. Alison Woodman spends Monday mornings with Deb and Deirdre in the archive room adding photographs to the digital catalogue. Ian Hunt spends his time between the archive room and museum – ensuring that the digital network is always operational. He continues to work on continuous improvements to our network and digital operations. In the museum, Wendy McCallum and Jill Lucas update the student database, steadily adding the details of past students. Gay Albillos has mastered the MOSAiC cataloguing system and ensures that new book donations are accessioned, conserved and easily located. Loren White oversights the science collection as well as attending to the new display area outside the Parsons Library. Bob Johnson meanwhile, spends endless hours continuing his military service research – now having identified over thirty Vietnam veterans of the school. The generosity of our volunteers in committing their energy, skills and friendship on every Monday morning, is absolutely appreciated!



Bob Johnson at his desk



Gay Albillos managing two screens

2024-25 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Sharon Williams, Hon Treasurer

The Perth Modernian Society Museum Association (PMSMA) Incorporated uses cash accounting which records revenue when money is received and expenses when money is paid. The Association is a registered small charity having annual revenue under \$500,000. The financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the PMSMA as at 30 June 2025. At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable. The 2024/2025 financial year was the fifth full financial year of the Association and our fifth fundraising campaign in May/June of 2025.

Financial Report as at 30 June 2025	
Cash Receipts and Payments for the year 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025	
Cash Receipts	\$
Donations from Former Students/Parents	5,295.05
Interest	3,656.19
ATO - Refund of GST	341.00
Music at Mod Sales (including postage)	1,261.35
Total Cash Receipts	10,553.59
Cash Payments	
Printing, Postage and Stationery	90.78
IT software, Licenses, upgrade & AMaGA Membership	692.69
Training & Admin Costs – MOSAiC	183.00
Grants – Volunteer Grants	526.19
Music at Mod Book	33.00
Bank Fees	129.97
Insurance	532.80
Total Cash Payments	2,188.43
Surplus/(Deficit)	8,365.16
Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2025	
Current Assets	\$
BOQ operating account	18,529.92
BOQ term deposits	76,445.76
Total Assets	94,975.68
Liabilities	0
Net Assets	94,975.68
Members' Funds	
Opening balance as at 1 July 2024	86,610.52
Plus surplus for the period	8,365.16
Closing balance as at 30 June 2025 PMSMA Accounts	94,975.68

MUSEUM COMMITTEE REPORT

Museum Volunteers at Work

OVERVIEW

The Museum Standing Committee has continued to operate in accordance with the requirements set out in the updated 2022-24 Forward Plan reviewed and adjusted by this Committee and approved by the Board at the February 2022 meeting. Throughout this year, the Museum Committee and Board recognise that their responsibility now is to document the new forward plan for 2025 – 2027.

2024-25 REUNIONS

While the work in the Museum has been uninterrupted over this year, the number of reunions and community activities has diversified. The Perth Modernian Society determined that the 2024 Annual Reunion would be on August 31st as an afternoon tea. Along with the reunion, the school's Music Department invited attendees who wished, to attend the final Senior Concert – an incredible evening of music enjoyed by us all.

On March 9th, the museum volunteers were pleased to host a "Sunday in Subi" walk around Perth Modern School. Led by Maureen Gathercole, a group of about fifty people assembled on the oval. With keys to the many buildings, we walked across the oval, visiting the gym, Andrews building and Beasley building as well as viewing other school buildings before finally visiting the museum. Guests stayed talking to museum volunteers Bob, Robyn and Loren for some time as they examined the displays.

On 26th March a small group of eleven members of the class of 1955 met for a very convivial lunch. A few members who had been in contact with the group were unable to attend, but the day provided another opportunity to reestablish connections.

To celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the Perth Modernian Society establishment as well as the AGM, about 30 members covering many decades at PMS came to the High Tea and had a very good celebration in the Staff Room at Mod on the afternoon of Monday 19th May. There was no shortage of excellent food and good wines! Barbara Mallett and Ian Hunt had composed a continuous loop slide show covering the social side of the Society's history as well as the Save PMS campaign in 2017, and as no one present had seen all those images previously, the slide show held attention like a magnet.

We are continuing to support year groups who wish to conduct their reunions off-site from the school. Several have requested the Museum to open during the same afternoon so that alumni can review photographs and articles in the Sphinx's and other artefacts – enjoying the comprehensive reminder of their days at Mod.



Visitors on March 9



Perth Modernian Society AGM



ONGOING VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

IT Delivery, Networking etc

We struggle to recall how our Museum operated before the arrival of Ian Hunt. He has provided us with a stable platform for the remote network, ensured that digital software is backed up weekly, is always available for queries and continues to research the most effective ways in which we might convert paper records into digital records that will save them from damage by overhandling. There are so many different hard copy records to digitise, we can see no end to our need for Ian's support!

Archives

The Museum archives are curated by Honorary Archivist Deb Beresford alongside her able assistant Deirdre Owen. As new donations are received by the Museum, Deb and Deirdre catalogue and accession (into our software MOSAiC) these before appropriately conserving and storing them.

Photographs

The digitising and cataloguing of photographs is undertaken by Alison Woodman. This is an incredibly time-consuming activity and we are grateful for Alison's persistence! Being able to find photographs via MOSAiC then saves enormous time when displays are being created or family members request information about their forebears.

Book and Sphinx Collections

Over the past two years, Gay Albillos has undertaken a massive organisation of the books and Sphinx magazines donated to the Museum. Books are now catalogued and easily found while the Museum and Archive rooms now share three complete sets of Sphinx magazines.

Military Commemorative History

Bob Johnson continues his research into all military history related to alumni of Perth Modern School. Bob's work extends far beyond the Monday mornings in the Museum. The Nominal and Honour Roll found on the school website, details the 153 former students who have lost their lives in the service of their country as well as the Nominal Roll including 1,614 students who served and returned home.

George Burvill Biographical Index

The old Pound cupboard in the Museum holds a multitude of files of the George Burvill Index. Here, hard copy information (letters, newspaper articles etc) is filed under alumnus names through the efforts of Frank Hedges and sometimes Loren White.

Data Entry into JED

Wendy McCallum and Jill Lucas make up an exceptional team volunteering and effectively updating files. The digital student data base lacks much information for the years post 1961 – which is gradually being rectified.

Science Collection

Loren White is continuing to refurbish the science collection. Identifying, cataloguing and making usable various pieces of equipment is requiring some research and innovation.

Publication and Social Media Presence

The Museum members contribute articles and check on historical facts for the Perth Modernian Society e-Newsletter and Perth Modern School Newsletter.

Sharon Williams and Robyn White manage and create content for the Museum's social media presence.

Heritage Trail

Originally researched and devised by Sallie Davies, this trail is valued by the school community. We have recently submitted a grant application to the WA Community Heritage Grants requesting support to install metal QR coded signage at locations along the trail, linked to the appropriate digital site, so that visitors might self-guide across the campus.



MUSEUM VISITORS AND DATES

The Museum is open to the public on all Monday mornings during school term time. When visitors are unable to attend on a school Monday, emails to the museum can provide a negotiated time to visit.

2024	
17 July	Mairwen Chapman (father Norman Rich, 1934-38)
29 July	Anne and Stewart Coles: parents of John Peter Coles (1984-88)
29 July	Beryl Morris: daughter of Gwyneth McLennan (nee Love, 1926-30 and staff member 1967-76) who donated some beautiful black and white photos, school certificates, two shields and 25 Sphinx magazines
31 July	Dr Meredith Arcus (1972-76)
5 August	Hon. Kate Chaney MP – Federal member for Curtin visited the museum
5 August	Julie Doncon (nee Green, 1968-72) donation of long-playing vinyl record of the Perth Modern School Choristers at the Concert Hall
6 August	Bunbury Senior High School staff visit to discuss establishing and maintaining an alumni connection plus museum
31 August	Volunteers support Modernians for the Reunion High Tea
10 September	Volunteers attended the Lecture Theatre for an architect presentation about the future School Master Plan and their process
16 September	Architects visited the Museum to better understand its significance
16 September	Natalie Kulynycz (1992-1996) visited to revisit memories
16 September	Maths teacher and sustainability interest visited
7 October	John Burgess (father Eric, 1922-23)
13 November	Bob Crowe visited – to collect some books to conserve
2 December	Juliet Bruining (daughter graduated 2024) to volunteer

2025	
9 March	"Subi on Sunday" walk of Perth Modern School and visit to the museum
10 March	Funeral for Barrie Baker, in Mt Lawley
7 April	Mollie MacLeod and Lyn Serventy donated a blazer worn by Dominic Serventy
28 April	Ralph Bilsby dropped off more Sphinx magazines
19 May	Margaret and Doug Walshe
26 May	Ruth Barrett donated books
9 June	Dr Ian Abbott (once junior colleague and now writing about H G Andrewathe)
9 June	Ross Kelly AM to interview and see the museum
16 June	Sylvia Westera (nee King, 1948) and Gillian Westera (1983) donated artefacts
30 June	Rosemary Lynch, Millstream – to discuss IT work to digitise the Heritage Trail





Natalie K (1996) modelling a windcheater worn by students during her school years



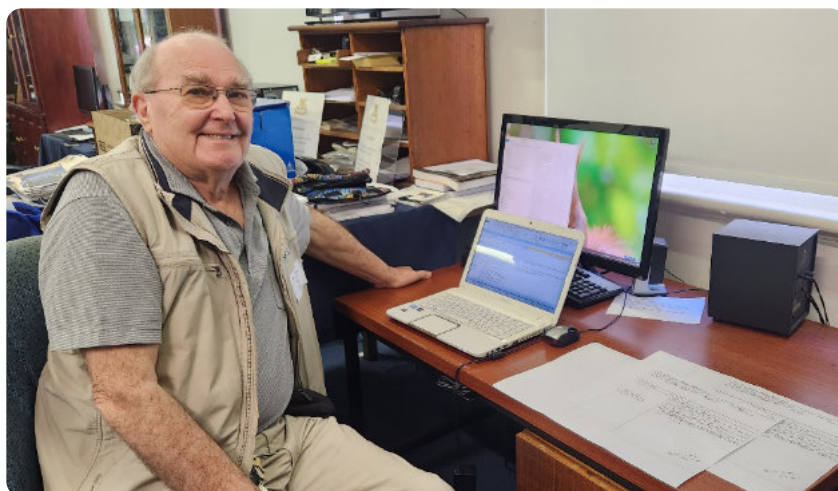
Rapiers donated by Jenny & family (Father Roy D Edinger, 1952-53)



Julie Doncon (nee Green, 1968-72) with her long-playing record



Gwyneth McLennan (nee Love) Sphinx Magazines donated by Beryl Morris



John Burgess during his visit researching his father Eric (1922-23)