



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Issue 65, August 2025, Vol 4 No 7

WELCOME to your **Perth Modernian e-Newsletter**, Issue 65, August 2025, Vol 4 No 7

This newsletter offers two way communication with all registered members, volunteers, families and friends to bring you news, event details and articles from the Perth Modernian Society, its members and Perth Modern School. We hope you find its content both interesting and informative.



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

For further information
Telephone: (08) 6189 3690
www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au
info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au
All messages received either by phone or email are promptly forwarded electronically for further action.

DIARY DATES

REUNIONS

Class of 1959
In planning for November 2025

Class of 1965 - 60 years
Date TBA

Class of 1970 - 55 years
Saturday 25 October 2025

Class of 1975 - 50 years
Date TBA

Class of 1985 - 40 years
In planning for October 2025

Class of 2005 - 20 years
Saturday 1 November 2025
2pm - late

See **Upcoming Reunions** for details

CLASS/YEAR GROUPS
Are you planning a Class/Year Reunion for 2025?
We can help
for further information visit
www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au

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

NEXT ISSUES
Copy deadlines for
Issue 66, November 2025, Vol 4 No 8
20 November copy deadline for circulation by **1 December 2025**

Kadadjiny Dandjoo:

LAUNCH OF THE PERTH MODERN SCHOOL BUSINESS PLAN 2025-2029

On Wednesday 11 June, Perth Modern School proudly celebrated a significant milestone with the launch of its **2025-2029 Business Plan**, alongside the unveiling of a visionary PMS Campus Masterplan. Titled **Kadadjiny Dandjoo** - a Noongar phrase meaning Listening, Thinking and Learning Together - the Business Plan captures the spirit of unity and shared purpose that defines our school community. It outlines a bold and thoughtful direction for the next five years, grounded in tradition, driven by innovation, and focused on excellence and inclusion.



Complementing this, the Perth Modern School Campus Masterplan was introduced as a forward-thinking conceptual document, developed by EIW Architects with valuable input from Modernian Peter Farr and Associate Principal Philippa Roy, as well as many other stakeholders from the Mod community - students, staff, P&C, Museum, etc. While aspirational in nature, the 30-year Masterplan presents a range of ideas and possibilities for the future of our learning spaces - imagining what could be achieved when resources can be mustered.

The launch event was led by Principal Mitch Mackay, who acknowledged the collaborative efforts of Associate Principal Robyn Verboon, staff, students, and key stakeholders in shaping the Business Plan. A powerful Acknowledgment of Country and Smoking Ceremony was delivered by Ash Garlett Penfold from Corroboree for Life, setting a respectful and reflective tone for the occasion.



Ash Garlett Penfold gathers everyone for the smoking ceremony

The School also extends its sincere thanks to Amanda McGovern from Step Within Solutions - Leadership Consultant, Coach, and Team Development Specialist - whose expertise was instrumental in helping us shape our School Values and develop the Business Plan. The School was delighted to have Amanda join guests at the launch to celebrate this important moment with the Mod community.



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Acknowledgments

Thank you to all letter writers and contributors:

Ruth Barrett
Monica Brierley-Hay
Thalia Cole
Peter Farr
Pat Graham
Ian Hunt
Bob Johnson
Barbara Mallett
Malcom McCusker
Robyn White

Coordinator/Editors

Robyn White
Peter Farr

Layout

Stuart Gould
ShoreDigital

Later in the week, the Business Plan was also launched with the Student Council, who will play a key role as student advocates in bringing the plan to life and ensuring its values are reflected in everyday school life. This visionary document reaffirms the School's commitment to academic achievement, strong relationships, and a nurturing environment where every student is empowered to grow, lead, and thrive.



(Left) Shown at the launch, Health and Physical Education Mark Muir and Honorary Archivist Deb Beresford Humanities.



(Right) Social Science teachers Ray Driehuis and Rick McMahon with Modernian Peter Farr.

The School invites interested members of the Perth Mod community to explore the Business Plan and reflect on the values that are to guide Mod's collective journey forward. See: [Perth Modern School Business Plan](#)

2025 ANNUAL ORATION COMING UP



A Mod tradition that's now in its fifteenth year, the 2025 Perth Modernian Society Annual Oration will be delivered on 16th September by Ms **Sandy Anghie** to an audience of Sphinx Society members (students) and special guests. Sandy is the immediate Past President of the Australian Institute of Architects, WA Chapter and is also a former Deputy Lord Mayor of the City of Perth.

Accompanied by Peter Farr, Mitchell Mackay and Philippa Roy, Sandy made a tour of Perth Mod on 21st August visiting the Beasley Building, Andrews Building, classrooms in the Mills Building, Parsons Building and finishing up at the Cyril Tyler Auditorium and Sir Paul Hasluck Foyer. Sandy chatted readily with Mod students, including with the three 2025 Leavers shown in the photo.

MODERNIAN BIOGRAPHIES

Ross Kelly AM: A commitment to community service



Earlier this year, the 1955 students held a very successful 70th reunion. It was then that museum volunteers recognised Ross Kelly looking very relaxed as he enjoyed the get together.

We invited Ross to visit the museum. His story after his graduation from Mod is fascinating - and reflects not only his dedicated and innovative career but also a real commitment to "giving back" through community service - a value consistently espoused by school staff and alumni.

Following his Leaving Certificate, Ross obtained a PMG (PostMaster General) cadetship to study engineering at UWA, without which he would not have been able to continue his education.



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au

2025 COUNCIL

info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au
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Ian Hunt, *IT/Communication, Technology*
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Barbara Mallett, *Reunions*
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Mitchell Mackay, *Ex-Officio, PMS Principal*

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTING MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

\$40 per annum now due

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

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 further information info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au



SPHINX FOUNDATION INC.

2023-24 BOARD

sphinxfoundation@perthmoderniansociety.org.au
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June (née Appelt) and Graeme Roe



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INCORPORATED

2025 BOARD

museum@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

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Jeffrey Lai, *Board Member*
Ashleigh Blechynden, *Board Member*

Ex-officio:

President, Perth Modernian Society
Perth Modern School Representative

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

[History Centre and Archives]

Gay Albillos
Deborah Beresford, *Hon Archivist*
Frank Hedges
Ian Hunt
Robert (Bob) Johnson
Jill Lucas
Wendy McCallum
Deirdre Owen
Roger Stubbs
Loren White
Robyn White
Sharon Williams
Alison Woodman
Juliet Bruining

MUSEUM SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

facebook.com/perthmodernschoolmuseum
instagram.com/pmsmamuseum/

MODERNIAN HONOURS

awards@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

Modernian Fellow

Sallie Davies
Malcolm McCusker AC CVO KC
Donald Tyler *
Barrie Baker *
Ian Jarvis *
Peter Farr
Dr Kenneth Michael AC Cit WA

* Deceased

Moderna Scola Award

Deborah Beresford
Alan Porter *
Evelyn Broadley
Rosemary Pratt
Dr June Stephenson *
Robert Johnson
Anne Celia Christmass
Neil Anthony Coy
Roger Stubbs AM
Edward Lazarus
Barbara Mallett

* Deceased

He was somewhat surprised to find himself studying electrical engineering - not having previously heard of this field of study.

After graduating from UWA with honours, Ross was employed by PMG's Department - spending five years working as a telecommunications engineer and one year in the UK working in the research of new innovations. Throughout this time, Ross played competitive sports - cricket for UWA and football for West Perth (132 games including ten games representing WA, from 1958 until his retirement from football in 1965).

Ross then joined PA Consulting - initially as a Consultant in Perth: then as a Senior Consultant living in Indonesia and Singapore. After five years in South East Asia he returned to Perth as WA State Manager before moving to Melbourne as Director of Operations, Asia Pacific - responsible for overseeing PA's operations in 14 offices located across an area bounded by Denver to the east and Bangkok to the west.

At 51, Ross grew tired of the extensive travel associated with his role and returned to Perth where he continued to work initially as a freelance management consultant and ultimately as a director of a number of public and private companies. Shortly after returning to WA he also began working as a volunteer.

In 1994 Ross was asked to become the inaugural chair of the Fremantle Dockers Football Club. His extensive knowledge of management practices and systems as well as of football and its administration (following his retirement from football he served on the committee of West Perth) made him an appropriate choice. He stood down from this position in 1999.

18 months after retiring from the Board of the Dockers, he was elected as a Commissioner of the WA Football Commission where he served for a further eight years.

Almost 10 years after standing down as a Commissioner, Ross was co-opted onto the board of the West Perth Football Club as vice president under a deed of arrangement after the Club became insolvent.

Ross's other significant involvement as a volunteer was with the Clontarf Foundation, a "not for profit" organisation that exists to improve the education, discipline, self-esteem, life skills and employment prospects of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men.

Gerard Neesham (a teacher by training, inaugural coach of the Fremantle Football Club and founder of the Clontarf Foundation) left the Dockers and joined Clontarf Aboriginal College as a teacher in 1999. At that time the Clontarf Aboriginal College had the same problem with Aboriginal boys as other schools had - low retention, poor attendance, bad student behaviour and no educational outcomes. Results were so bad that the Catholic Education Commission had told the school that if it didn't improve it would be closed.

Shortly after joining Clontarf College, Gerard formed the view that given that Aboriginal boys were extremely passionate about football, it could possibly be used to attract more boys to the College, improve their attendance and behaviour and hence save the College from being closed. In August 1999 Gerard approached Ross and asked him to help set up, and raise the funds for, a Football Academy to be run independently of, and in partnership with, the College.

Ross agreed and an academy catering for 25 boys was established. The academy was an immediate success. By the beginning of the 2002 school year the College was full and there was a substantial waiting list of young men wanting to attend. The college had been saved from closure. New academies were established - initially in Kalgoorlie, then in Geraldton, then at Yule Brook school in Cannington. Ross stayed involved - managing the transition from a series of Academies into a Foundation; establishing and chairing a new board; developing the organisation structure and reporting systems needed to support programs that were growing rapidly and becoming more complex; and helping to raise the necessary funds.



Honorary Members

Alison Woodman
Tonya McCusker AM
Nigel Hunt
Brendon Dawson
Sharon Williams

Today the Foundation has 12,500 boys in programs in 170 schools Australia-wide; employs 600 staff members and raises \$85 million per year. While football (AFL in WA, NT, Vic and SA and Rugby League in NSW and Qld) is still an attractor, most boys now join to follow their older brothers and cousins - joining Clontarf and going to school is becoming "the thing to do". 80% of Clontarf's participants complete secondary school and 85% of these transition into employment (and many who don't have returned to communities where there is no employment available).

In 2009 Ross was named WA Citizen of the Year in the Community Service category. He stood down as chairman of the Clontarf Foundation and ceased his voluntary work in 2023 - a truly magnificent commitment to service.

Don Graham: Pioneer Telecommunicator

Donald Ernest Graham, born in 1933 to Mount Hawthorn couple Ted and Phyl, attended Perth Modern School from 1946 until 1950.

Throughout his years at Mod, Don's photo would not be found amongst sporting heroes but with those interested in amateur radio, and the school's radio club would remember him. Sphinx Vol 11, No 8, November 1950 p. 7 refers to talks given by him - so that Mod might take a little credit for his lifetime interest in radio and television, both professionally and as a hobby.

As all young men of his era, Don completed compulsory National Service and spent six months in the Air Force, honourably discharged as Wireless Maintenance technician.

On leaving school he worked with the PMG Department while deciding in which career direction to go. Communications Engineering was his choice which he studied part-time while still working full time; there was a wife and young family to be provided for.

Upon the arrival of television, Don immediately enrolled in the first classes available in Perth. With his wide knowledge of radio and TV he joined the former Australian Broadcasting Control Board, part of the Department of Transport and Communications, eventually becoming State Manager for WA. He was universally respected by his peers.

One of Don's duties was to check the operations of country TV stations to ensure no corners were cut so that all the folk who should be receiving good reception were actually receiving it. He could be miles away from a TV station taking readings and entering them into his notes. No iPads or mobiles then. One day, sitting in his car in the middle of nowhere, a tap on his car window! A police officer - another driver had reported seeing this car in the bush with a man slumped over the wheel!

Don was to complete all of the requirements and examinations to hold an Amateur Radio Licence before he was old enough to go on air. He had to wait for his 18th birthday in 1951 before he could use it - and use it he did for more than sixty years. His call sign VK6HK was known across the world. On one occasion, 5 April 2001, after he had turned on his microphone and called "CQ VK6HK" which invited anyone who heard it to reply, he had a response from Jordan and found himself swapping radio talk with King Abdullah. His children were most impressed!

Don and Pat's house was the only one in their suburb which boasted a forty-foot high steel tower, shaped like the base of a windmill. The top was festooned with aerials for coverage of many radio frequencies, cleverly engineered so that part of the top section could be tilted over to allow for maintenance. Following Don's passing, the tower and aerials were gifted to the Northern Corridor Radio Group at Whiteman Park where they are still standing high.

Don operated on many frequencies with a special love for very high frequency (VHF). He was a founding member of the WA VHF Group (still in existence). He held office as President, then as a Life Member and Trustee of the Group.

He was also heavily involved in building radio satellites and was State representative for a group of Melbourne University students who built the first Australian satellite. This was not launched until the after equivalent government satellite. The local VHF Group also built a satellite, later launched with NASA. Computers were rare at that time, so the WAIT students would heavily book out time on the Institute computer at Bentley where Don and his crew would be found well after midnight.

Don was also a founder of the Perth Amateur Television Group, a member of the Wireless Institute, contributed to the Amateur Radio magazine and resurrected radio equipment for the Air Force Museum at Bullcreek. He assisted many a young amateur radio enthusiast, including the Perth Mod Radio Club and many more.

Don used his engineering expertise to set up a state-wide beacon network. The first beacon was established to help research on the propagation of radio waves in the International Geophysical Year 1957. He also made much of his own electronic equipment - then being very expensive to buy. He would order the components from the US and solder them at home before enclosing them into an aluminium box.



Don's final project was one of necessity - increasingly digital TV and others were taking up amateur radio frequencies. The Chirp Modulation or Real Time propagation indication and new beacon mode was born. As ever with amateur mates, the team worked on the issues with Don carefully laying out on his workbench the pieces to build the device - so that another amateur could more easily take over. In the March 2012 Radcom issue appeared a very technical article on Chirp Modulation authored by amateurs Phil Harmon and Andrew Martin, finishing with the message: *"This article is dedicated to the memory of Don Graham, VK6HK, a 6m pioneer and contributor to the development of the BK6RIO chirp beacon."*

Don was a quiet man, very family oriented and his passing in 2012 was a great loss. The family were amazed at the number of messages received back after the sad news was broadcast; not only from the Eastern staters but from the US to little Reunion Island off the coast of Africa. Many knew him best by his call sign.

Perth Modern School can be proud of their former student.

- Written by Pat, Don's wife of 54 years.

Noel Francis de la Hunty

I stumbled across Noel de la Hunty yesterday while looking up a guy who was awarded an Albert Medal after he sacrificed himself getting his men out from the *Voyager* when it was cut in half by the *Melbourne* in 1962.

Noel went to Mod 1945-47, did dreadfully, astonished his teachers by getting a six-subject Junior, left school, was charged and fined three pounds for attempting to avoid the 1950-59 conscription, was somehow selected for Portsea, graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant, served in Vietnam, was promoted to Captain, was wounded in an action for which he was awarded a Military Cross, instructed at Duntroon and retired a Lieutenant Colonel - what a story!

I can't find Noel on any of our Perth Modern School military service records. This would make him our 26th Vietnam veteran and 22nd survivor.

I look forward to contributing a comprehensive bio of Noel Francis de la Hunty in the near future.

- Bob Johnson

WEST LEEDERVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1965 - 60 YEAR REUNION

On Saturday 26 July, 15 members of the West Leederville Primary School Class of 1965 met at the Herdsman Lake Tavern for a delicious lunch and to celebrate 60 years since leaving primary school. Most of us are also Perth Modern School Class of 1970 alumni. Childhood photo albums were perused, and teenage pastimes like attending Gilkison's and Wrightson Dance Studios or the Drive In, were discussed.

Some of our teachers were quite harsh with us, but we all turned out pretty well in spite of it, don't you think?



UPCOMING REUNIONS

Class of 1959

The annual reunion will be held in November. Please contact Daryl at chloeb@iinet.net.au for information.

Class of 1965

A special 60-year reunion is planned for 2025. If you are interested, or can assist with providing connections to students from 1965, please contact Peter at peterstephenson48@gmail.com or phone 0412 715 546.

Class of 1970

Our annual get-together and 55-year reunion will be held at Marmion Angling Club on **Saturday 25 October**.

Class of 1975

This year group is currently organising their reunion to be held at the school including a visit to the school museum. Barbara Mallett is supporting the organisers. To register your interest please email barbara_mallett@hotmail.com

Class of 1985

A 40-year reunion is being organised to take place in October 2025. The organising committee are Sharon Harwood (Ross), Larisa Vanstien and Elena Marchant. Please email either Lvanstien@gmail.com or ellemarchant@hotmail.com to register your interest.

Class of 2005

A 20-year reunion will be held on **Saturday 1 November, 2pm until late** at Pirate Life Brewing, 440 Murray Street, Perth.

For more information or to RSVP:

Facebook: fb.me/1NVLDJO90OzxcAz

Email: madelinemyson@gmail.com

Phone: 0400 843 511

YOUR SAY

Request from a Modernian

Recently an alumnus asked whether the museum held copies of the 1977 (or thereabouts) recipe book distributed at the school (perhaps as a Music fundraiser?).

Sadly neither the Museum nor the Modernians have any record of the recipe book (we'd love to copy it if anyone has one).

Our alumnus particularly loved the coconut biscuit recipe and has since lost her book.

She would love anyone able to lead her to a copy - and so would we!!

If you can help, please email info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

Readers, do you too have something to say? Please address your comments to Robyn White (robynwhite5@hotmail.com).



Sponsorship Opportunity

SUPPORT ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND LEADERSHIP AT PERTH MODERN SCHOOL



Perth Modern School invites sponsorship for academic and leadership prizes presented at our annual Presentation Ceremony. This is a meaningful opportunity to support student achievement and be recognised within our school community.

Sponsorship Options

Award Type	Cost	Details
Individual Subject Awards (please see list below)	\$1,000 per subject (10 years of sponsorship)	Recipients receive a boxed medallion with engraving
Award for Academic Excellence (12–14 awarded each year)	\$10,000 (10 years of sponsorship)	Recipients receive an engraved crystal wedge
Principal's Award	\$5,000 (10 years of sponsorship)	Recipient receives an engraved crystal wedge and \$500 cash prize
Leadership Awards (7 Prefects & 8 House Captains)	\$12,000 (10 years of sponsorship)	Recipients receive an engraved crystal wedge or boxed medallion

Subject Awards for 2025–2034

Subject Awards available for sponsorship include:

- Accounting and Finance
- Ancient History
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Chinese Background Language
- Drama
- Engineering Studies
- English
- Food Science and Technologies
- Materials Design and Technology
- Mathematics Methods
- Mathematics Specialist
- Modern History
- Music
- Physics
- Physical Education Studies
- Psychology



Please email thalia.cole@education.wa.edu.au to register your interest!

Perth Modern School | Roberts Road | Subiaco | WA 6008 | Tel: +618 9392 6855 | www.perthmodern.wa.edu.au



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY MUSEUM ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

The museum volunteers have enjoyed a few very busy and fruitful months.

The ongoing work of the museum and archives has continued unabated. In the archive room, Deb Beresford, Deirdre Owen and Alison Woodman have continued to accession, archive and conserve student records and newly donated artefacts, and digitise photographs.

Ian Hunt has ensured that our digital work in the museum has continued without break - a change from the discontinuity of some earlier years. Ian has consistently upgraded the museum local internet network and computers to improve our capability.

Despite Jill Lucas being busy with her house sale and move, she has joined Wendy McCallum most weeks in adding student record data to the electronic data base. Wendy has maintained her commitment to the museum despite her daily drive to Joondalup Hospital to visit husband Bruce.

Gay Albillos has completed her organisation of the donated Sphinx magazines into complete sets of the magazines. A shoulder operation interrupted her work for a short time - now recovered she's quickly moved back into accessioning newly donated artefacts.

Bob Johnson meanwhile is continuing to work with other military historians - including some alumni - to expand on our own understanding and documenting of the experiences of our alumni who participated in Australian military conflicts. He continues to be amazed when he finds yet another alumnus who has participated in an Australian military conflict.

Throughout the past term, the Museum has enjoyed welcoming a number of visitors to view the displays, talk with volunteers about their time at school or querying those of their relatives. Often visitors are dropping by to donate items that belonged to parents who attended the school. Syliva and Gillian Westera (1948 and 1983) came by to donate items to the museum as did June Richardson (Mum was Faith Clayton), Ken Tobin to see the displays and talk a little about the time he and Barbara spent at Mod (1961) and Arthur Spartalis (1965) to donate books related to his art interest.

In early August our volunteers contributed to a grant application through the WA Community Heritage Grant process, within the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. While the results of the application will not be known until October, the process of completing the documentation enabled the volunteers to better understand the elements required to successfully create digital access to the Heritage Trail around the school. The Heritage Trail was first created by Sallie Davies in 2014-2015 and each year volunteers and students trained by the school, successfully accompany visitors to the school as they tour the buildings and grounds. In creating QR coded signage across the school site, visitors will be able to fully engage with the history and the heritage of Perth Modern School at their own pace and in greater depth than with an accompanied guided tour.

Meanwhile the Board of the Perth Modernian Society Museum Association Inc continues to meet, review and support the activities of the volunteers. Our meetings are online and in person since many members of the Board work full-time, donating their time and expertise to the Board.

Currently, Monica Brierley-Hay has almost completed her Masters of Laws at London University College and will return to Perth in September. Ashley Blechynden is on maternity leave from her work with the Commonwealth after baby Eleanor arrived in July, and Sharon Williams remains in Bendigo supporting her parents while her father undergoes treatment. Jeff Lai, Thalia Cole and Robyn White continue to commit to the Museum Association in Perth! It is a credit to modern technology and the commitment of our Board members that the work of the Board has been able to continue despite our disparate activities!

A reminder to readers that visits to the museum on Monday mornings during school terms are very welcome. We love to show off our displays and to research your family connections. As always, we also welcome anyone who wishes to join our volunteer group.



SYLVIA & GILL WESTERA

As the June winter set in, the museum volunteers were very pleased to welcome special guests Sylvia Westera (nee King), a graduate of 1948, and her daughter Gill, a 1983 graduate of Mod. This visit had been planned for some time, so to finally welcome them both to the museum was very special.

Both Sylvia and Gill have wonderful memories of the school. Sylvia arrived from Perth Girls in very different days to those of Gill. Gill, as a music student, identifies the music tour to Singapore as a very special time, as was being part of a performance for Princess Di and Prince Charles. For both women, the friendships made at school and the education that led to further study at UWA and work as librarians in school and University was very special.



Sylvia particularly wished to visit the museum so that she might donate her silver Sphinx hatpin and her jacket pin to our collection. Well prepared for the day, each had been cleaned and polished to perfection. In addition, Sylvia and Gill donated the school jacket worn by both Sylvia in 1947-48 and by Gill in 1979-83. It is in remarkably good condition with the school pocket. Gill was also able to donate her school keyring as well as Sphinx magazines from the early 1980s.

Sylvia and Gill spent some time looking around at the displays in the museum and talking with volunteers. They really made the day very special for us all.



The Westera jacket with Gill's keyring



Sylvia's hat pin and jacket pin

KEN TOBIN

As the winter rain set in (again), the museum volunteers were pleased to welcome Ken Tobin (1960-61) - visiting from his home in Florida. Ken has been travelling around Australia over the past month or so, visiting the many friends and relatives he's been unable to see over recent years. His time in Perth has been spent with tennis and school friends as well as relatives.

Ken recalls that Modernians who shared classes with him would have seen him as more focussed on his budding tennis career than academic learning at school. However, as an Emeritus professor, Ken's CV following his days at school is quite remarkable.

On the advice of counsellors at Graylands Teachers College, Ken achieved a Certificate of Teaching and embarked on his teaching career at Northampton Junior High School. He aspired to become a maths and science teacher, but his training had been in elementary teaching - so that the assignment at Northampton was a challenge (fortunately supported by a knowledgeable Principal). In 1966 returning to the city to Applecross SHS, Ken enrolled at the WA Institute of Technology and completed a Bachelor of Science, majoring in applied physics - as he maintained, greatly improving his teaching of physics and science. In 1970 Ken spent a year in the UK - experiencing the then innovative Nuffield science curriculum.

At this time, he married Barbara Limb (1957-61). On return to WA in 1971, Ken completed his Master's degree in applied physics with a major in physics education, while being employed in the Curriculum Branch of the Education Department - providing curriculum materials for teachers across the state. Following two years of curriculum development, Ken returned to Applecross SHS until in 1974 he was appointed lecturer in science and mathematics education at Graylands Teachers College. However about eighteen months later, Ken won a promotion to Lecturer A at Mount Lawley College. By this time, Ken had realised that a doctoral degree and active research was required if he was to have a future in higher education.

In 1978 Ken left for the University of Georgia to study for his doctoral degree in science education. On return in 1981 Ken resumed work at Mount Lawley College but in 1983 was appointed as senior lecturer in Science Education in the Science and Mathematics Education Centre (SMEC) of WAIT.

Incidentally, SMEC was created by Modernian Prof John De Laeter (1946-50) in order to improve the funding available for science and mathematics education. In 1986 Ken returned to Athens Georgia as a Fullbright Scholar - and was advised to apply for a position at Florida State University. He did so and won the position of full professor in science education in 1987. Ken also became Head of Department of Science and Mathematics Education. He and his family immigrated to the USA at that time. The Tobin Family remained in Florida for ten years.

In 1997, having been involved in urban science education projects, Ken was able to accept a tenured full professor position in the Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania, strengthening his commitment to urban education. In 2003, Ken was recruited to join the Graduate Center of the City of New York University (CUNY) in Urban Education as Coordinator of Science Mathematics and Technology. When he retired from CUNY, Ken had completed sixteen years supervising doctoral students and undertaking research in Urban Education.



Ken and Barbara retired to central Florida - not far from their son's residence. Ken continued to work, publishing and co-researching (he has published over 400 books, book chapters and journal articles and has been cited more than 17,700 times). Ken had begun formal studies of Shin Jyutsu in 2014 and continues to do so, along with studies in Integrated Iridology. He uses both JSJ and iridology in ongoing studies of wellness, mindfulness and more broadly, contemplative inquiry. Upon his visit to the museum, as you can see from his photo - he is a great advertisement for both fields of learning! We thoroughly enjoyed Ken's visit!

ARTHUR SPARTALIS

Arthur Spartalis came into the school on 11 July and donated various items including a book entitled "*A Survey of Western Australian Art from 1696*". Arthur was a student from 1961 to 1965. His family comes from Kastellorizo, a tiny Greek island 700 kilometres from Athens and four kilometres from the Turkish coast.

Arthur graduated from ECU with a Bachelor of Education, taught at Geraldton High School in 1972, South Fremantle from 1973 to 1976, Mod from 1977 to 1980 and then was appointed Senior Master at South Fremantle in 1982. He resigned from the Education Department at the end of 1982 and commenced trading as *Arthur Spartalis Fine Arts* in Subiaco. He retired in 2019.



Art Dealer



Jag Lover

Arthur was interviewed by John Bannister of the Subiaco Museum in 2007 and recounted the story of being cornered by four thugs on Modern School's oval. Thinking he was "a goner", he was astonished to watch the thugs suddenly retreat over the fence. As a greatly relieved Arthur turned to walk back to class, he saw one of his Year 9 students, Sam, standing behind him, tall, powerfully built, silent, ready. The story is on page 16 of the transcript of the interview at: <https://collections.wa.net.au/sites/default/files/records/2024-07/43-2008.109-2008.109%20OH%20Transcript%20-%20SPARTALIS%2C%20Arthur.pdf>

- Bob Johnson

KAREN MCDONOUGH

A quick visit to take photos of her old school, and an interesting conversation with "Sondo" (Mr Sorensen) - a PE teacher who "just rocked up to us" - led to Karen McDonough (nee Newing, 1990) emailing late at night to request a visit to the museum. Fortunately, we were able to meet her at the museum on the Wednesday afternoon as she and her brother David Newing (1986) arrived.

Karen has been visiting from the USA (her home is near Philadelphia) in order to catch up with West Australian relatives. David has retired to Cervantes. Both Karen and David recall school as a really positive experience - but are sad that they've been unable to keep in contact with school friends.



The siblings arrived from the UK and successfully made the transition to Australian schools and Perth Modern School. David's school friends graduated in 1986 although he left school after Year 10. Karen remains unsure as to whether she commenced year 12. 1989-90 was a difficult time for the Newing family. With her Mum desperately ill, Karen was required to help at home. Mrs Newing became the first Western Australian woman to successfully receive a liver transplant in 1990 in Melbourne - a relief to the family that enabled them to move on. Having left school in Year 10, David joined the navy. On return he has settled in Cervantes. Karen is firmly settled in the USA with three children.

Karen would love to catch up with any students who remember her from their school days. Her email contact (she's now returned home to the USA) is kmcdonough006@gmail.com.

NEW "IRONBAR" TUCKEY MEMOIRS

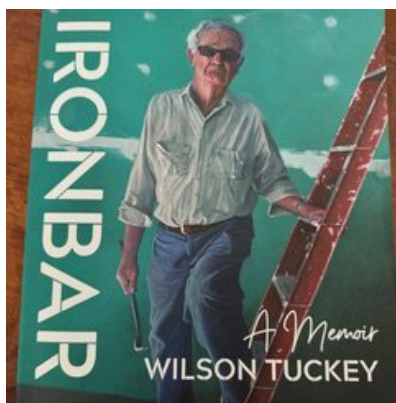
A recent email arriving via our website provided the Museum Association with a wonderful donation bringing joy and hilarity to our volunteers!

Alumnus Wilson "Ironbar" Tuckey (student 1951) has finally committed his memoirs to paper - creating a wonderful book filled with memorable and often lesser-known incidents experienced as a student at Mod, businessman, publican, politician and in "retirement." Wilson has a very clear memory of these events - and describes his experiences vividly and with humour - he is a wonderful teller of stories!

Wilson has donated a number of his memoirs to the Museum Association so that we might sell these to alumni and others interested in a slice of personal history interlinked with that of Australia's politics and culture of the day.



Wilson Tuckey with wife Jen



Wilson suggests that a sale price of \$50 would be appropriate. These books will be available to buy via an email contact to museum@perthmoderniansociety.org.au and to pick up at the school reception (or mailed at additional cost).

Only several chapters in, Wilson's memoirs are providing our volunteers with very clear memories of the Perth of our youth!



Thank you to the volunteers, families and friends who have forwarded/alerted us to the following information and memories of former PMS students and staff for publication and/or inclusion in Museum records

Name	Year at PMS	Position	Deceased
Brian Stitt	1946 - 1947	Student	
Dr Rosemary Vivienne Cant (nee Neville)	1951 - 1955	Student	9 June 2025
Patricia Birchmore (nee Fitzgerald)	1953 - 1957	Student	26 January 2025
John Owen Stone	1942 - 1946	Student	17 July 2025
Michael Rogers	1998 - 2025	Staff	25 July 2025
Kent Miller Logie	1952 - 1956	Student	2 August 2025
Jill Marie Thomson	1959 - 1963	Student	17 July 2025

TRIBUTES



MICHAEL ROGERS **PMS Music Teacher 1998-2025**

It was with great sadness that the school community received the following message from the Associate Principal, Ms Robyn Verboon on Friday 25th July 2025.

"It is with deep sadness that I share the news of the passing of our music teacher and colleague, Mr Michael Rogers.

Mr Rogers was a respected and valued member of the Perth Modern School community since 1998. Over nearly three decades, he inspired generations of students through his passion for music and deep love of learning. With a background in jazz and a heart full of creativity, he brought joy and meaning to countless lives through his teaching. He truly loved making music with his students — a sentiment deeply felt by those who had the privilege of learning from or working alongside him.

Michael faced a long illness with remarkable courage and grace. His strength and resilience were an inspiration to many.

Beyond the classroom, Michael was known for his warmth, humour, and genuine interest in others. He was a devoted father and grandfather, enjoyed playing soccer, and valued staying active. His connection to our school was especially meaningful, as his daughter was also a student at Perth Modern.

Please join us in keeping Michael's family, friends, and students in your thoughts as we remember and honour his life and legacy."

A number of recent and past students and staff have quickly reacted in contacting the Perth Modernian Society with messages of surprise and sadness. Michael was respected throughout the school community with his mischievous sense of humour and wonderfully memorable jazz and choral performances (especially on the retirement or departure of fellow staff members). While in remission, Michael continued working alongside his music department colleagues and students, doing what he loved - passing on his love of music to the next generation.

Some Tributes:

"I interacted with Michael many times whilst we were both at Mod. He was a lovely, passionate man, with a terrific relationship with his Music students, and an innovator in computer-based Music education. He will definitely be sadly missed." (Ian Hunt)

"I am so sorry to hear of Mr Rogers' passing - he taught me in year 9 or 10 and was the most lively, supportive and wonderful teacher - a huge loss to so many and especially of course his family. I would love to include a short message of condolence from afar." (Monica Brierley-Hay, from London)



On Wednesday 14th August, a memorial was held at the school in Michael's beloved Beasley Hall. Past and present students and colleagues alongside family members filled the Hall, to reminisce and reflect. Jazz Band 1 played, we heard recollections from Eliza and Eleanor Rogers and Mitchell Mackay, the Trio Sonata played during an unforgettable slide show, and a Year 12 choir of Michael's students sung *You'll Never Walk Alone* – a song taught to them by Michael in Year 7.

Michael's children - James, Eliza and Eleanor - provided us with some lively instances of Michael's inimitable sense of humour and love for musical performances at any time and in any place, then gave their own rendition of the bedtime song (*Old Paint* by Loudon Wainwright) so often sung to them by Michael. A wonderful opportunity for everyone present to reflect and honour the life of an incredible musician.

RIP Michael.



Colleagues past and present: Rick McMahon, Steve Lowry, Cheryl Lindorff and Alan Bertram



Michael's children Eleanor, James and Eliza performing 'Old Paint'



JOHN OWEN STONE **PMS Student 1942-1946**

A most distinguished Modernian and WA's 1951 Rhodes Scholar, John Owen Stone passed away in mid-July in Sydney, aged 96.

John was born on 31 January 1929, eldest of two sons of Horace Joseph Stone, a wheat farmer, and his wife Eva Sydney Mylee, née Hunt, a primary school teacher. His childhood was spent near Korbel, a tiny railway siding in the central wheat belt of WA, 250 kilometres east of Perth. He started school at Cargill Street State School, Victoria Park, and then attended the local State School at Korbel.

His parents divorced when he was twelve, and John and his younger brother Basil (also a Modernian) moved to Perth with their mother. Stone gained a scholarship to 'that remarkable intellectual nursery', the Perth Modern School. John played cricket in the First XI, was captain of hockey, and a school prefect. In the Leaving Examination he secured a distinction in every subject he sat, and received Exhibitions for Maths A and B and for Physics.

Educated next at UWA (BSc Hons), he was President of the Guild of Undergraduates, and selected in the Australian Under 21 hockey team. Next, he went to Oxford (First Class Honours in Philosophy, Politics and Economics). He then joined the Australian Treasury in 1954 in London for two years. In 1954, in London, he married Nancy Enid Hardwick, a biochemical researcher, whom he had met at UWA. They would have a daughter and four sons.

John was an outstanding economist who rose to the powerful position of Secretary to the Treasury in 1979 to 1984, with his signature on all our bank notes. He was seconded to the IMF and the World Bank. In a second career, he was also elected to the Senate representing the National Party for Queensland, from 1987 to 1990. The portrait photo above of Senator Stone was taken circa 1989.

John had lived at Lane Cove in NSW with his wife Nancy for many years. John was a constant donor to both the Sphinx Scholarship Fund and the Museum Association. It's wonderful to know that he regularly kept in touch with his *alma mater*, and was kind enough to support these very worthy causes. He attended the gala Centenary dinner in 2011. John was truly magnificent in the *Save Perth Mod* campaign in 2017, *inter alia* writing a stinging two-page letter to the Premier, which was so strong I think it would have impacted McGowan's belated decision to back down on the controversial (no win) issue.

It's fabulous that two photos in the photo montage published in The West on 19 July, showed him in front of the Beasley Building.

Our School Patron and Modernian Fellow, Malcom McCusker AC CVO KC wrote this tribute:

"John Stone was a superb Australian, a credit to Perth Modern School and to Western Australia. He graduated from Mod in the same class as Bob Hawke, another Rhodes Scholar - who had to wait a year after Stone, who outshone him both scholastically and athletically, as Stone once told me, not boastfully, just as a matter of fact. That class was a stellar year, and produced a number of top people. John Stone was one of them."

In his eulogy delivered at John's celebration of life in Sydney on 30 July 2025, ex-Prime Minister Tony Abbott commenced by saying: *"It's hard to find any sphere in which he did not excel"*, and ended by saying: *"Inevitably there is a sense of loss. But really, we should be uplifted and inspired by this life that testifies to so many wonderful possibilities, if only we are happy to 'have a go', which John always was. There's a figure of speech referencing 'drips wearing down stone'; I like to think John was a stone wearing down drips"*.

Editor: A fuller description of John's career may be found in the third Perth Mod history book: *'A Celebration of Contribution'*, pages 247-248.

- Peter Farr



ANNEMIE MCAULIFFE (NÉE DAVIES)
PMS Student 1955-1959

As the Second World War escalated to the North of Australia, a number of families fled south, and not only did Australia benefit from this forced migration, but so too did 'Mod'. Annemie's mother was on the last ship to leave Singapore, and Annemie was born shortly after her arrival in Perth. A few of our year (now known as the 59ers) shared such a history, having fled from Latvia, Lithuania, Dutch Indonesia, and in Annemie's case from Malaysia, but by the time they reached High School they were just 'our friends'.

Annemie Davies was a fun, active, creative and self-confident member of our year. Fellow students still talk of her "naughtiness". She seems to have got away with a Sloppy Joe and Desert Boots instead of the uniform strictly enforced on the rest of us. Somehow her plea as a "poor migrant" was accepted if perhaps not believed. Whatever her excuse, Annemie spent many lunch times in the first mistress's room, and since 'Elsie' was not only the first mistress, but also our maths teacher, Annemie ended up being very good at maths.

Hats, either panamas or berets, were part of our uniform and we were supposed to wear them, not only when we went to the lunch shop over the road, but even when we travelled to and from school. On our pushbikes most gripped their panamas in one hand as they rode, but Annemie was criticised for not having hers. Her excuse, not being able to keep it on when riding, resulted in the retort 'well if you managed to develop a bump of intelligence you might manage to keep your hat on'. While many of us were terrified of 'Elsie', Annemie brought a twinkle to her eye.

Annemie did well at school and would have liked to have studied architecture at UWA, but at the time, it was largely considered inappropriate for women. It is reported that her father said that no daughter of his would be up a ladder on a building site, so Annemie studied Classical Arts instead. With a focus on Librarianship, she moved easily to an appointment at WAIT (now Curtin) where she is reported to have had a strong positive influence on many nervous students.

It was after the end of her first marriage, and with responsibility for a small child, that Annemie Gilbert's career "took off". We next see her when she was managing the WA Trade Office in London, responsible for oversighting Trade and Investment between WA, the UK and Europe. But her heart was more in Asia than Europe and working with the Keating Government she managed a Sister State Arrangement between Surabaya, East Java and Western Australia. As part of her responsibility, she set up the WA Trade Office in Indonesia.

Never one to stagnate, when she moved back to Australia she reconnected with a longtime friend, lawyer Kerry McAuliffe, and they married and moved to the Goldfields for several years, before finally settling back in Perth. It was then that Annemie was most active in supporting the Modernians. She served on the Modernian Council for many years and was involved in planning reunions for the 59ers. In this period, there was a push to move the school to a high rise in the city and to put aside its name and history. The Modernians were strongly opposed to this and Annemie is one of those remembered as being at the front of the successful resistance.



Through all these career focused years, Annemie was always active in creative endeavors. She had a growing reputation as a painter, working for pleasure, undertaking commissions and inspiring and leading others. Her works can be seen in buildings around Perth and Fremantle.

Moving on from 'paint on paper', Annemie developed an interest in the artistic aspects of printing. She was a leading figure in the establishment of *The Swan River Print Studio* in the Heathcote precinct of Melville. When the group acquired its historic and amazing print machine, Annemie experimented with the complexities of artistic printing. Unfortunately, the cancer she had been fighting now weakened her and she was unable to operate the machine.

For a while, Kerry did the muscle work but in time she had to give up even this form of creativity. Determined to spend her time creating and sharing, she set about learning to crochet, intending to make blankets for cancer patients, but it was not to be. Annemie died on 7 May 2025.

To the Modern School 59ers, Annemie provided energy, support and friendship. She was important to us and we will miss her.



Annemie (right) with Deb Beresford at the 2014 Mod Annual Reunion



JILL MARIE THOMSON
PMS Student 1959-1963

Jill was born in Perth on 19 July 1946 to Stan and Millicent (Molly) Thomson. She had an older sister, Robin, who was at Modern School from 1954 to 1958, and a younger brother, Peter. Her father was a Navigator in the RAAF during World War 2 and was captured by the Germans after a raid on Tobruk in 1942. He spent three years in Stalag Luft 3, "The Great Escape" camp, with two other Modern School students, Reg Spear and Keith Murdoch. Jill was diminutive in size but not in personality and her father dubbed her the "pocket battleship".

Jill went to Wembley Primary School between 1952 and 1958, Modern School from 1959 to 1963, and then Claremont Teachers College. She was an artist at heart and taught the joys of the subject to students in Boulder and Victoria Park before heading for London in 1971 when she was 24. She turned 25 that year in a campsite in Spain. Between 1971 and 1974 Jill lived in Hendon and taught at schools in the area while taking the opportunity to check the sights. London was expensive and she shared the house with other teachers, and blow-ins from Oz including this one.

Returning to Perth in 1975, Jill married Colin (they divorced in 1990), had Kate, taught at metropolitan schools, then transferred to Dunsborough Primary School where the family had a much-loved holiday home. After retiring from teaching, she relocated to Perth, bought a house at the bottom of the hill in Ferguson Street in Maylands and set about turning it into a combo art gallery/greenhouse/community centre. She had a way of turning semi-strangers into neighbourhood friends and she had pleasure doing that with the "Ferguson Bottom" crew.

Jill last walked Mod's hallowed corridors in 2023 when the class of 1963 held their 60th annual reunion. It was a noisy, vibrant, laughter-filled affair. The photo above is from the group photo which appeared in the February 2025 edition of the newsletter.

Kate has inherited her mother's literary and artistic talents as well as her deep-seated sense of social justice, environmental responsibility, vitality and zany sense of humour.

Jill was injured in a car accident in Midland on Monday 14 July and passed away three days later, two days before her 79th birthday. She is greatly missed.

- Bob Johnson





KENT MILLER LOGIE
PMS Student 1952-1956

In 1996 the Perth Modern School cohort of 1952-56 celebrated its 40th anniversary with a gathering in the Beasley Building, and the launch of a booklet, *Looking Back*. Among the contributions was an entry from Kent Logie. He wrote that he thought of Mod as five great years of fun with friends, intellectual stimulation, teenage idealism and over-confidence, which laid a fine foundation for a full life. Kent certainly lived a full life! He was a trained teacher, with degrees from UWA, and later an MA from Illinois, USA. His extensive professional experience included principalship of a school in Papua New Guinea.

He taught for 15 years before co-founding a parent-run primary school in Nedlands. For 26 years Kent lectured in Music Education at WAIT/Curtin University. He had a particular interest in the Dalcroze Method, which emphasises active listening to music, holistic response using rhythm and space, and creative improvisation with voice, body and/or instrument.

He was an early adopter of computer-aided learning. For over 20 years he directed the Wanneroo Civic Choir. Kent enjoyed travelling, but was also a devoted family man and keen gardener. For over 70 years he was a member of Claremont Baptist Church. Unfailingly optimistic, he had friends everywhere, and will be much missed.

- Ruth Barrett

DR ROSEMARY VIVIENNE CANT (NÉE NEVILE)
PMS Student 1951-1955
School Prefect 1955

Died on 9 June, 2025 recently a resident of Clontarf, (NSW) formerly of Nedlands. Rosemary was aged 87 years. The loved and loving wife of Graeme, mother and mother-in-law of Peter and Jane, Simon and Kellie, Grandma to Griffin, Isabel and Roy, sister of John and loving aunt to Ann, Jenny and Susan.

Her Funeral Service was livestreamed by Simplicity Funerals Balgowlah at ceremonycast.com.au/rosemarycant

- First published in *The West Australian*, 14 June 2025

MODERNIANS WHO DIED IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY

*Number 28 in a special series of articles researched and prepared for publication by
Robert Johnson, PMS student 1961-65 and Museum Volunteer*

THE SACRIFICE OF THE RUTHERFORD FAMILY

Laura Rutherford had three sons serving in the RAAF in World War II. She received two telegrams within three months in 1942, the worst telegrams a mother could receive. They informed her that two of her three sons had been killed in training accidents in the UK.

EARLY YEARS

Bernard Rinian Roy Rutherford, known as Rinny, was born on 22 August 1919 in Wolverhampton, England to Stamford and Laura Rutherford. Stamford had served in France during the First World War as a Captain with the Staffordshire Regiment. Laura volunteered with the British Red Cross Society and Order of St John in Egypt for 14 months. The family migrated to Australia in 1924. Stamford farmed in Victoria until moving to Perth where he operated a garage and repair shop. They lived in South Perth.





Laura



Stamford

Rinny attended Wesley College and passed his Junior exams in five subjects in 1934. He completed his fourth year at Perth Modern School in 1935 but left in August 1936 and obtained employment as a clerk at Elders. He furthered his education at Perth Technical School in 1937 and 1938 where he earned his 2nd year certificate in wool classing. He enjoyed various sports and outdoor activities, including hockey, football, tennis, swimming, running, and rifle shooting.

Ian Townley Rutherford was born in Wolverhampton, UK, on 9 February 1921, a year and a half after Rinny. He passed his Junior exams in six subjects at Perth Boys School in 1935 and passed three Leaving subjects at Modern School in 1937. He enrolled in a Bachelor of Engineering degree at UWA in 1938. His enlistment form shows five Leaving subjects so he must have passed two supplementary Leaving exams over the 1937-38 summer break.

Thomas Alan Rutherford, known as Alan, was born on 3 August 1922 in Brampton, England, a year and a half after Ian. He passed his Junior exams in nine subjects at Perth Boys School in 1938 and undertook fourth and fifth years at Modern School. He began well in 1939 and his form teacher remarked that he was "a good, all-round lad"; however, his work gradually deteriorated and he failed to gain a Leaving Certificate at the end of 1940. His parents divorced during this time and that may have had an adverse effect on his studies. He was captain of his faction in fifth year and played cricket and hockey for the school. He was also keen on football, tennis and surf lifesaving.



1940 Cricket Team. Alan Rutherford is in the back row, second from right.

MILITARY SERVICE

Rinny was serving part-time in the Militia as a Signaller when he enlisted in the RAAF in Perth on 6 January 1941 when he was 21. **Alan** enlisted in the RAAF in Perth on 3 February when he was 18½, four weeks after Rinny. Rinny underwent instruction at No. 5 Initial Flying Training School in NSW in January and February followed by Alan in February and March. Alan caught up with Rinny on 3 April when they were posted to No. 9 Elementary Flying Training School at Cunderdin, 160 kms east of Perth. On graduation they were posted on 2 June to No. 4 Service Flying Training School in Geraldton.

After successfully completing the course, Rinny and Alan were awarded their Flying Badges on 24 July, reclassified as Airman Pilots on 19 September and promoted to Sergeant. They were given pre-embarkation leave in Perth in October and embarked for the UK from Newcastle in November 1941. They arrived via the Panama Canal to a wintry England on 17 February 1942.





Rinny



Ian



Alan

Their paths separated in England when they were posted to different units for advanced training and to acclimatise them to UK flying conditions. Rinny was posted to RAF Leconfield in Yorkshire on 30 March 1942. Seven weeks later, on 19 May, he was flying solo in an Oxford trainer in formation with another Oxford when tragedy hit. The wing of the other aircraft struck the tail of Rinny's aircraft which caused it to dive into the ground at 10:30am near Pear Tree Farm, Burton Fleming. Rinny was killed. The other aircraft managed to land safely. Rinny is buried in Leconfield (St Catherine's Church) Cemetery. He was 22 when he died.

Alan was posted to two advanced units before finally arriving at No. 54 Operational Training Unit at RAF Charterhall, near Duns, in Berwickshire, Scotland on 2 August 1942. A week and a half later, on the night of 13/14 August, he climbed aboard a Blenheim light bomber along with his Navigator, Sgt James Kidd, RAF. They were operating out of Winfield, a night fighter training station and a satellite airfield to Charter Hall. After lifting off at 1:30am on Friday the 14th, the aircraft suffered a partial engine failure which caused it to strike trees beyond the end of the runway. This resulted in the failure of the other engine and the subsequent crash. Both Alan and Sergeant Kidd were killed instantly. Alan is buried in Duns Cemetery. He had just turned 20.

Laura's inscription on Alan's Commonwealth War Graves headstone reads:

*To the World an airman, to me the world.
His brother Rinian is buried at Leconfield, Yorks.*

The inscription on Rinny's headstone reads:

*To the World an airman, to me the world.
His brother Alan is buried at Duns, Scotland.*

Accidental deaths were surprisingly common in the wartime air forces. Modern School lost 89 flyers during World War II, and 30 (one in three) were due to accidents, often because of bad weather and night training flights.

Ian applied to enlist in the RAAF in April 1942 as a radar mechanic but was not accepted until 16 November 1942, a common delay at that time. He was posted to several radar schools for training and then two radar stations in NSW. He was promoted to Leading Aircraftman in July 1944. In May 1945 he was posted to Air Defence Headquarters in Sydney and he was discharged on 8 February 1946.

Ian married Dorothy June Peace Woods in Claremont in 1948 and graduated from UWA with a Bachelor of Engineering degree in 1950. Ian was living in Dianella when he died on 16 November 1970 at the young age of 49. Dorothy died in 2019 aged 94.

STAMFORD AND LAURA

Stamford married again in 1941 to Constance Pearse and served in the RAAF as a Flight Lieutenant at Pearce Air Force Base from 1942 to 1945. He was described as "a keen and conscientious officer who carried out his duties to entire satisfaction". He was living in Claremont when he died on 13 July 1964 aged 76. He is buried at Karrakatta. Laura was living in Mt Lawley when she died on 8 December 1964, five months after Stamford and 22 years after her two boys. She was 70 and is also buried at Karrakatta.



A more detailed and fully referenced version of this article is on the Honour Board
at honour.perthmodern.wa.edu.au

