



# PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Issue 62, November 2024, Vol 4 No 4

**WELCOME** to your **Perth Modernian e-Newsletter, Issue 62, November 2024, Vol 4 No 4** 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](http://www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au)  
[info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au](mailto:info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au)  
All messages received either by phone or email are promptly forwarded electronically for further action.

## DIARY DATES

### REUNIONS

#### Class of 2014

**Saturday 21 December 2024**

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](http://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](mailto:newsletter@perthmoderniansociety.org.au)

### NEXT ISSUES

**Copy deadlines for**

**Issue 63, February 2025, Vol 4 No 5**

**20 February** copy deadline for circulation  
by **1 March 2025**

**Issue 64, May 2025, Vol 4 No 6**

**20 May** copy deadline for circulation by  
**1 June 2025**

**Issue 65, August 2025, Vol 4 No 7**

**20 August** copy deadline for circulation by  
**1 September 2025**

**Issue 66, November 2025, Vol 4 No 8**

**20 November** copy deadline for circulation  
by **1 December 2025**

# Congratulations!

## ANISH BADGERI

### Inaugural Geoff Gallop John Monash Scholarship Awardee



Congratulations to Anish Badgeri (Class of 2012 Head Boy and HASS Teacher at Mod from 2020-2022) who has been awarded a prestigious John Monash Scholarship for 2025.

The John Monash Scholarship is awarded to individuals with exceptional capacity for leadership and potential for community impact. It provides support for outstanding Australians to undertake studies at an overseas University in their chosen area of expertise.

Anish hopes to study in the UK to further his understanding of education policy leadership and

reform to make meaningful improvements to public education in Western Australia.

Premier Roger Cook said - "Congratulations to the inaugural Geoff Gallop John Monash Scholar, former Perth Modern student Anish Badgeri. I look forward to seeing his future achievements."

## NEW OLD MODERNIANS

Another article in our series about the new generation of Modernians which celebrates the achievements of a small selection of students who graduated in 2012. The information about each was sourced from their entries on LinkedIn.



### Ryan Bunney

No-one can fail to be impressed by the scope of the Square Kilometre Array project which will put Western Australia at the forefront of cutting-edge research into the universe. Ryan is part of that project.

Ryan is a Research Software Engineer with the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research. He is well qualified for the task for he completed a PhD at the University of Western Australia in data intensive astronomy.



## IN THIS ISSUE

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### Acknowledgments

Thank you to all letter writers and contributors:

Peter Farr  
Garry Glover  
Janice James  
Robert Johnson  
Barbara Mallett  
Roger Stubbs  
Elizabeth Venema  
Robyn White  
Ethan Yap  
Perth Modern School

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PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

[www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au](http://www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au)

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Held on Monday 27 May 2024

#### 2024-25 COUNCIL

[info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au](mailto:info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au)  
Ruth Barrett, *Honour Awards*  
Barrie Baker, *Membership*  
Deborah Beresford, *Hon Secretary*  
Eve Broadley, *Hon Treasurer*  
Robyn White, *Vice President, Museum Rep*  
Peter Farr, *Sphinx Foundation*  
Ian Hunt, *IT/Communication, Technology*  
Evan Kennea, *President*  
Barbara Mallett, *Reunions*  
Daryl Williams AM KC, *Vice President*  
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](http://www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au)  
further information  
[info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au](mailto:info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au)

Before he undertook his current role Ryan worked as a graduate teaching assistant, lecturer and as a software engineer.

He is a recipient of the Westpac Future Leaders Scholarship.

### Eduardo Arteaga Guadarrama

Eduardo describes himself as a 'driven decarbonisation professional'. He works as a consultant with Energetics, a company which develops strategies to address climate change and achieve significant improvements in energy management.

His completion of a Master of Professional Engineering (electrical and electronic engineering) at UWA prepared him for his current role as did employment by companies with similar ambitions.



### Emma Congear

Before joining Woodside Energy as an Environmental Engineer, Emma completed a Master of Professional Engineering (Environmental Engineering) at UWA.

Emma describes herself as a 'collaborative, resourceful, and passionate Environment Engineer with over 6 years of technical experience wanting to contribute to a sustainable future'.

At Woodside she has worked on projects which limit damage to North West shelf assets from cyclones and currently supports the Pluto Expansion Project.

### Ella Gorman

Ella works for ANROWS, the Australian National Research Organisation for Women's Safety, an organisation dedicated to find ways of reducing violence against women. She is a research officer. Previously she has worked on initiatives to address issues associated with the well being of young Aboriginal people, Aboriginal health and social equity.

Ella first completed a Bachelor of Arts in psychology (with honours) at UWA before completing a PhD at Murdoch. Her thesis was on Aboriginal health and well-being.



### Abby Haslehurst

Abby is a director with Deloitte Access Economics and is a qualified and very experienced organisational psychologist. Abby describes her role as follows. 'I specialize in policy and systems-level research, evaluation, and intervention. My expertise lies in systems thinking, organizational design, behavioural change, and change management. I have successfully applied these skills across various sectors, including health, human services, criminal justice, not-for-profit, and education'.

To qualify for her role, Abby completed a Masters Degree in Organisational Psychology at the University of Queensland.





SPHINX FOUNDATION INC.

#### 2024 BOARD

[sphinxfoundation@perthmoderniansociety.org.au](mailto:sphinxfoundation@perthmoderniansociety.org.au)

Nigel Hunt, *Chair*

Peter Farr, *Director*

Vivian Wang, *Hon Treasurer*

Robert Gray, *Director*

Danielle Jeyes, *Director*

Annette Mercer, *Director*

Mitch Mackay, *School Representative*

#### DONORS

##### Sphinx Scholarship Fund

Fortescue Ltd.

Noel Kagi

Lesley Parker-Reynolds

Shirley Randell

Rotary Club of Northbridge



#### Louis Hurley

Louis is a free-lance opera singer (tenor) based in ydney. He has performed for the Pinchgut Opera Company, at the Adelaide Festival and with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. The recipient of many awards, Louis became the inaugural The Humanity Foundation Taryn Fiebig Scholar through Pinchgut Opera.

Louis first completed a Bachelor of Music at WAAPA before he received a scholarship to study at the

Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London where he completed a Master of Music. In London he performed as a soloist at Wigmore Hall and at the Barbican Hall with the London Symphony Orchestra.

## REUNIONS

### Class of 1970

Barbara Mallett writes that:

*On Saturday 12 October 2024, seventeen members of Class of 1970 gathered at the Marmion Angling and Aquatic Club to catch up on old times and to find out more about the different paths our lives have taken us. Some were local but others had travelled from Yarloop, Bridgetown and Pinjarra. Although we were not the "scholarship kids", the academic knowledge and expertise we had to share was astounding, not to mention sports and talents ranging from flying, shooting, professional fishing, gardening, music, painting, cooking to knife sharpening. What an interesting mob we certainly are and what a privilege to have been able to have such a good start in life at Perth Modern School!*



Sisters Anja and Raelene Hohol



Mr and Mrs Riegert



Jim Mouzalidis and Liz James

### UPCOMING REUNION - Class of 2014

The Perth Modern School Class of 2014 is having its 10 Year reunion on **Saturday, 21 December 2024 at 6pm.**

**Venue:** Hylin Back Bar, West Leederville

**Price:** \$25

Tickets can be purchased at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/10-year-reunion-perth-modern-school-class-of-2014-tickets-1007357723067>

Please contact **Jasmine Jansen** ([jasminejansen98@gmail.com](mailto:jasminejansen98@gmail.com)) for details.



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY  
MUSEUM ASSOCIATION  
INCORPORATED

#### 2024 BOARD

[museum@perthmoderniansociety.org.au](mailto:museum@perthmoderniansociety.org.au)

Dr Robyn White, *Chair*

Sharon Williams, *Treasurer*

Monica Brierley-Hay, *Secretary*

Thalia Cole, *Board Member*

Jeffrey Lai, *Board Member*

Ashleigh Blechynden, *Board Member*

Matthew Healy, *Deputy Principal*

Ex-officio:

President Modernian Society

#### MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

##### [History Centre and Archives]

Gay Albillos

Deborah Beresford, *Hon Archivist*

Sallie Davies

Frank Hedges

Ian Hunt

Robert (Bob) Johnson

Bill MacPherson

Jill Lucas

Wendy McCallum

Deirdre Owen

Roger Stubbs

Loren White

Robyn White

Sharon Williams

Alison Woodman

#### MUSEUM SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

[facebook.com/perthmodernschoolmuseum/](https://facebook.com/perthmodernschoolmuseum/)

[instagram.com/pmsmamuseum/](https://instagram.com/pmsmamuseum/)

#### MODERNIAN HONOURS

[awards@perthmoderniansociety.org.au](https://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



### 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

### Honorary Membership

Alison Woodman  
Tonya McCusker AM  
Nigel Hunt  
Brendon Dawson  
Sharon Williams

## PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY ANNUAL ORATION

The Deputy Chief Executive of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) Ms Kirsten Rose was the eminent speaker who presented the 2024 Modernian Oration. She spoke on the very current topic **'The art and science of navigating fake news and alternative facts'**.

Kirsten explained that although she worked at the CSIRO, she was not a scientist by training. She had studied art history and European history at university, subjects which gave her critical skills like analysing perspectives and questioning narratives. Both skills were relevant in her current role.

A strong point made by Kirsten in her half-hour delivery was that, 'Ultimately, curiosity and critical thinking are the tools that will help us navigate these challenges', and that, 'Being curious means going beyond what's presented at face value and asking: Where's the evidence? Who supports this? Why does it matter?' She challenged the students to 'Stay curious—but don't stop there. Use your curiosity to ask tough questions and actively combat misinformation.'



Kirsten Rose responding to questions moderated by the joint MCs

Kirsten ended her address with the advice, 'I know that your school motto means Knowledge is Power. I couldn't agree more, and my call to action for you is to use that power to help navigate the uncertainties of today and ask how we can build a better-informed society for tomorrow?'

The power of Kirsten's address provoked many questions from enthusiastic students the answers to which explored her topic more deeply.

The Oration was given in the Cyril Tyler Auditorium before an audience of Year 11 students, members of the Sphinx Society and their parents, Modernians and staff.

Kirsten took the opportunity to speak with individual students at morning tea which was served in the Sir Paul Hasluck Foyer. About to leave, three students cornered Kirsten with a final question, 'Why and how did an Arts person like you migrate across to Science?'

Kirsten sent a note to the Principal and Peter Farr with these gracious words:

*I am so grateful for the opportunity to provide the oration and to meet the Modernians, members of the Sphinx Society and of course your phenomenal students. The students were absolutely fantastic, and their engagement and insightful questions were a testament to their interest and understanding of the topic. I flew to Canberra later in the week to front Senate Estimates — and I assure you, the questions from your students were more insightful and challenging than those from the Senators. Thank you again for the opportunity and please let me know if there's any way I — or CSIRO — can support the school in the future.*

## HISTORY

The tradition of the Annual Oration was inaugurated by the Hon. Justice Michael Kirby in 2011, and distinguished speakers since have included Modernians Janet Holmes à Court AC, Emeritus Professor Ross Garnaut AC, Elizabeth Gaines, Professor Shirley Randell AO, Professor Bruce Armstrong AM, His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson APM, and Eric McCrum OAM. It is organised each year by Modernian Fellow Peter Farr.



Pictured with Kirsten Rose (centre) and Principal Mitchell Mackay (second from left) are Modernians Peter Farr, Ruth Barrett and Hon. Julian Grill.

## REFLECTION

Since its official opening three years ago, the Cyril Tyler Auditorium has proven to be a winning venue for events such as this, with its splendid acoustics, comfortable seats, exceptional IT facilities and large stage, supported by the orchestra pit, foyer and green room.



Each year the Perth Modernian Society sponsors the Annual PMS Dux Award via the Sphinx Scholarship Fund. Peter Farr and Nigel Hunt received a gracious note of thanks from this year's winner:

*I am honoured to have received the Perth Modern School Dux Award, and I would like to thank you for your generosity in sponsoring this award. I appreciate your support, which will motivate me to continue working to the best of my abilities and help fund my future education. I strive to represent Perth Modern School values in the future by continuing to be diligent in my studies, and support the community around me. Again, thank you so much for your contribution.*

Sincerely,  
Ethan Yap

**Garry Glover** 1953-1955, sent this delightful message from England:

Dear Editor,

*I have been receiving your/our Newsletter for many years. It arrives with great joy and interest for me and shines a light on that period of life where so much changes and the foundations are laid for what was then a future we could never predict. I visit the period of only the 3 years I attended PMS 1953-1955 as one of my most fortunate and memorable. It was due to a Soldier's Scholarship from North Perth State School (my father served in the Great War of 1914-18 in France). I was born 1940, he died from injuries in 1945 and Repatriation and Legacy supported my mother and me throughout. I remain eternally grateful and carry guilt as an all-Australian boy spending my gift as an ex-pat in the UK 1967 to the present. It has been said by old mates that the IQ of Australia went up when I left and the UK went down.*

*I can thank PMS in its contribution to my future and can now wallow in that past. Old friends such as Theo Bredemeyer of blessed memory are no more, I have a photo of 2F with all the names and wonder what happened; names such as Felix Spittel, Geoffrey (Geoff) Adam I recall with others as I now forget the names of colleagues I worked with in London. Mr Strauss, the sports master gave me a life-long love of cricket and Mr Sampson, the Head passed a comment "Don't you ever clean your shoes Glover?". I was meticulous following such a put-down and remain grateful as I do to Mr Anderson, our German teacher and others. Your email brings this all to life.*

*I was a parcel attached to my widowed mother and returned with her to Sydney attending Sydney Boys High School for 2 years 1956-57 and then did Medicine at Sydney University with House jobs at Sydney Hospital, failing the FRACS primary exam and then retaking it in London 1967 becoming a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons (FRCS) in 1969. Married with children I remained in the UK becoming an ENT Head and Neck Surgeon at Mt Vernon and Northwick Park Hospitals in London retiring 2005. My Eucalyptus Niphophila tree outside my study window can see me typing this email. I remain a proud Australian, forever grateful to what I was given at PMS as the foundation. Sadly a visit to my home-land is no longer a possibility, I was never a Pom although I confess to supporting them in cricket. If anyone remembers me, I wish you and share with you happy memories.*

Sincerely,  
Garry Glover



*I found this class photo from 1954. I am the one in the centre of the 2nd row with a white tie (odd, I was never a rebel) with Cameron Bracks on my right and John Gartrell on my left. Names flood back, Geoffrey (Geoff) Adam next to Gartrell. Garry*

**Readers, do you too have something to say?**  
Please address your comments to Roger Stubbs ([rstubbsbunbury@gmail.com](mailto:rstubbsbunbury@gmail.com)) or Robyn White ([robynwhite5@hotmail.com](mailto:robynwhite5@hotmail.com)).





## MUSEUM MATTERS

The past term has been another busy time for our Museum volunteers. Activities on Monday mornings in the Museum have continued as donations of artefacts and visitors arrived. The book collection has now been completely catalogued and displayed on shelves. As **Gay Albillos** has worked with the extensive collection, she has discovered a number of damaged books. **Bob Crowe** (1957) has volunteered to mend these and last week received the first five books to be repaired. Gay now aims to create complete collections of Sphinx for the archive room and museum. The museum does possess a digital copy of all Sphinx magazines from 1914 to 2016. Sadly, not all year groups produced a Sphinx Yearbook.

Volunteers at the Museum enjoyed the opportunity to hear the school Annual Oration, organised by the Perth Modernian Society on Monday 4th November. A week later, the Remembrance Day ceremony conducted at the school cenotaph. The school's choir and orchestra added to the solemnity of the occasion.

Despite a year of intense activity there are always things that need to be done that remain undone. Any new volunteers are most welcome to join us on Monday mornings for good company, fascinating finds and an opportunity to preserve our valuable heritage.

As the weather warms and we begin to see Christmas decorations, our museum volunteers wish all Modernians a very happy and healthy festive season.

### Visitors

Over recent weeks a number of visitors have dropped into the museum. Mr Christian, a local resident, saw the sign to say that the museum was open and dropped in for a look. He has close connections to the school. His uncle was the school's first gymnastics teacher and physical education master. His grandfather helped construct the first classrooms. Several students and staff members have also arrived to see what is available in the museum – and some keen to visit again with more time available. Recent donations include a pair of fencing epis once used by Modernian **Roy Edinger** (1919-1923).



Donations left at the school reception include a number of Sphinx magazines, student biology workbook (we're amazed at the drawing skills of students) and photographs. We're always delighted to receive such donations – especially when "surplus to needs" for families. Leaving your name and contacts at the school reception alongside these donations make it easier for us to thank you appropriately.

In October, John Burgess, son of **Eric Edward Burgess** (1922-1923) visited the Museum as part of the research he is undertaking on his father's life. Photo taken whilst John was engaging with our volunteers and discovering information on his father's years at Mod.

In September volunteers enjoyed meeting **Natalie Kulynycz** (1992-96). Natalie was taken on a mini tour of Mod. Natalie was a music scholarship student who specialised in the saxophone. Natalie is pictured with a donated windcheater (not hers) from her school years. Natalie's brother, **Stephan Kulynycz** (1989-1993) also attended Mod.



### Perth Modernian Society Museum Incorporated - Board News

The Board of the Perth Modernian Society Museum Association (PMSMA) met for its scheduled meeting and also for the annual AGM on 7th November. At the AGM the 2023-2024 Annual Report was presented and accepted. This Annual Report 2023-24 is now available on the Perth Modernian Society website at:

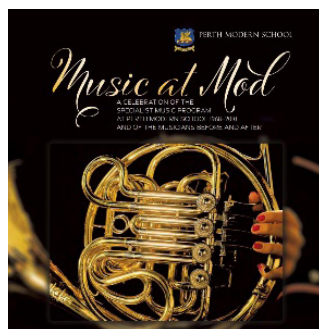
<https://www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au/index.php/museum/museum-association-annual-reports/>



The Board meeting was very pleased to hear from board member Jeff Lai who reported that Ian Hunt (our IT volunteer extraordinaire) had stabilised the museum digital network and that all technology was functioning well. He also reported that Ian is very happy with the improvements that Ross Lovelady has envisaged for the museum student data-base. The Board thanked the museum volunteers and requested that they continue to work on current projects.

### Campus Project

The Board of Perth Modern School recently determined that it was time to create a Campus Masterplan. This will focus on the school's current situation regarding grounds, buildings and encumbrances, strategically look to the challenges, opportunities and priorities and create a campus uplift strategy. The Board has contracted EIW Architects to work with the school community to create the masterplan. Sharon Williams and Robyn White attended an initial presentation by Philip Idle (EIW) in September and we were very pleased to see Philip plus his colleagues Chloe Summers and Reka Balogh visit the museum only a few weeks later. The team was able to interact with volunteers to better understand our activities and the extent of the collection – and to review the spaces in which we work. On request, the museum volunteers have written a 20-page “potted history” of the school to further inform the architects.



### Our Book – A lovely Christmas Present

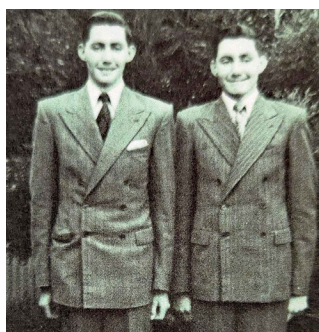
Our Museum volunteers and Board are incredibly proud of the beautiful book that records the history of the specialist music program at Perth Modern School and the musicians before and after. Sales of the books are continuing steadily – but books do remain to be sold. The Museum Association is subsidising the cost of each book by ~30% – ensuring these are affordable as well as beautiful. Books are available to purchase at the Museum, at the School's main reception or via our website at [www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au/music-at-mod](http://www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au/music-at-mod). Orders can be posted.

### Museum Visiting Hours and Social Media

Our Museum is open from 9.30am until midday on Mondays during school terms, or by appointment. Other times may be arranged by phoning (08) 6189 3690 or by emailing [museum@perthmoderniansociety.org.au](mailto:museum@perthmoderniansociety.org.au).

For those on social media you can also follow Museum news and events on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/perthmodernschoolmuseum>.

## ROY DESMOND EDINGER (1952-53)



Recently Jenny Edinger, daughter of Roy, wrote to inform us that, “Our family would be pleased if the Perth Modernian Society Museum Association would accept Dad’s rapiers.” Jenny believes her father used these during his time at Mod. Does anyone have any recollection of fencing at Mod as a sport or club during 1952/53?

She informed us that her father’s preferred sport was rugby which he fondly remembered playing. Evidently, in one hard fought match he broke his collarbone during a tackle but didn’t realise it was broken until after the match! Roy married Barbara and was father to Bronwyn, Jennifer (Jenny) and Heather. Roy passed away peacefully in February of 2015.

Roy’s twin brother, Murray (1952-53), also attended Mod and their father Roy Snr was also a Mod graduate (1919-1923). Roy is pictured on the right with Murray. Roy and Murray both attended their 50 year class reunion in 2003. All three, Roy Snr, Roy and Murray, became pharmacists.

We thank Jenny and the Edinger family for the very kind donation.



*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	Deseased
Daisy Harries née Spencer	1954-1958	Student	14/10/2024
Margaret Cook née Cameron	1950-1954	Student	9/09/2024
Max Walters	1944-1948	Student	August 2024
Ronald (Gus) Ferguson	1947-1948	Student	August 2024
William (Bill) Towers	1959-1962	Staff	12/11/2024
David Black	1949-1953	Student	23/11/2024

## TRIBUTES



### **DAISY HARRIES (née Spencer)** **PMS Student 1954-1958**

Daisy Harries attended Perth Modern School between 1954 and 1958 but her links to Mod go far deeper in a way that is almost dynastic.

Her grandfather Walter Gardham was a manual training teacher at the school from its inception in 1911 to 1930. Her mother Marion was a Modernian as were her Aunt Lily and her Uncle Geoffrey. Grandchildren Cameron Harries and Rachel Harries also attended Mod. Daisy proudly sported a Mod numberplate on her car and she and husband Elwyn frequently made the trip from Bunbury to attend the Annual Reunion.

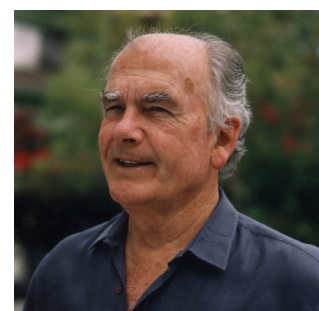
Daisy ranked well amongst the scholarship winners in her year and achieved a distinction for music. It was almost inevitable that she would become a highly regarded teacher of music and an enthusiastic supporter of activities musical.

Daisy spent most of her married life in the South West and taught music at schools in Bunbury and Busselton. But her influence went far beyond the classroom. She taught many students privately and was a driving force in the Bunbury Youth Chorale and the annual eisteddfod. So many tributes after her death recognized her contribution to a range of musical initiatives that enriched the city in which she lived.

Her support of her community went beyond music. She is fondly remembered for her active and enthusiastic contributions, often as an office bearer, to Bunbury Youth Care, the Country Women's Association, Probus, her local church, and the University of the Third Age.

### **RONALD (GUS) FERGUSON** **PMS Student 1947-1948**

On graduation as an architect in 1955, Ron Ferguson, popularly known as Gus, won the Morawetz Travel Prize. It enabled him to spend time in Europe and Africa and then to work in London on the then new Barbican development. The ideas and experiences he absorbed informed many of the values that led to his becoming one of Western Australia's most distinguished architects. He wanted to produce buildings which were contextual, universal and enduring.



He came to prominence in 1961 when his innovative design for the Hale School Memorial Hall was accepted. It was the first time in Australia that off-form concrete had been used as a total and complete finish. The building attracted awards from the Architecture and Arts magazine and RIBA (Bronze Medal).

A commission to design the Law School at the University of Western Australia followed. Completed in 1967 the Law School established design values that have been repeated in twenty buildings across the campus, many of which feature his signature off-form concrete. In 2010 the Law School building was awarded the 2010 Australian Institute of Architects Enduring Architecture Award.

Gus was now regarded as the leading campus architect in the state and designed buildings for technical colleges and other universities including Murdoch. But his expertise was not limited to educational establishments. From 1970 and into the 1990's, Gus and his practice had responsibility for the redevelopment of housing on Rottnest Island (Wadjemup). The end result was the equal of any Mediterranean paradise. As part of his work, he documented the historic buildings on site and published two books about them.

In 1978 Gus was made a Life Fellow of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects and in 2000 was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Architecture by UWA. Aware that when young he had benefitted from the generosity of others, he provided for a generous travel scholarship for students of architecture.

The information above was drawn from an obituary written for Gus by Andrew Murray which appears in Architecture, AU. Those who would like more information may like to follow the link:

<https://architectureau.com/articles/vale-gus-ferguson/>

## **JUDITH ALCOCK (née Wilson)**

### **PMS student 1954- 1958**

Judith Ann Wilson, known as Judy, won a scholarship to Perth Modern School in 1954. Later that year she was the awarded the girls' Shell Scholarship, and presented with a bike, of which she was very proud.

At Mod, after a first year of general subjects, Judy chose the Science and Maths stream. On Matriculation Judy attended Graylands Teachers' Training College, and her first appointment in 1963 was at Avonvale Primary School, Northam. It was there she met Eric Alcock, also a young teacher, and they were married two years later.

Judy and Eric had three children, Paul, Peter and Kathy and were actively involved parents in all of their various activities. Judy was extremely organised and found time to give them a loving and stimulating environment.

Tragically Judy and Eric lost their daughter, Kathy on Christmas Eve. Judy threw herself into working on a voluntary basis to helping other parents who had lost children in drug related ways to come to terms with their grief. She accompanied them to court inquiries if required. Judy worked closely with the Palmerston Association for 23 years, and was on their Board for several years, having to retire from this dedicated work 9 years ago, due to ill health. After six years of medical consultations with many specialists, she was finally diagnosed as suffering from an unusual presentation of Motor Neurone Disease, in which her speech and fine motor movements were severely affected.

Judy died peacefully at Bethesda Hospital on May 13th, 2024, aged 81 years. She is sadly missed by her many family members and friends.

The Perth Modern School community extend their condolences to their former Principal, Eric Alcock, and his grieving family. Judy's peer group from the 1959 graduation year remember her as a fun friend, a loving mother and a caring and brave woman.

Vale Judy

*Obituary prepared by Janice James (nee Mitchell)*

## **MAX WALTERS AM**

### **PMS student 1944-1948**

Max attended medical school in Adelaide from where he graduated with distinction in 1948. He became a member of the Royal Australian College of Physicians in 1959. He worked within the pathology department at Royal Perth Hospital and in 1963 became a founder member of the Royal College of Pathology (UK) in 1963, and subsequently a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australia.

It is in the area of pathology that Max had his greatest impact. His expertise and potential were recognized by the Nuffield Foundation which granted him a Dominion Travelling Fellowship in 1964. In 1968 he was granted a US Public Health Service international postdoctoral fellowship which took him to Boston.

After a period as a lecturer in UWA's pathology department in 1971, Max became its professor of pathology. It was the time when all of the university's laboratory departments relocated from Royal Perth Hospital to the Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre, providing Max with the opportunity to develop a combined academic and practical pathology service, a unique concept at the time.

He subsequently served as the dean within the faculty of medicine and upon advisory boards, panels and research foundations.

That Western Australia enjoys diagnostic pathology services of outstanding quality, may be attributed to the teaching, inspiration and mentoring provided by Max.





Jill's father gave her a photo taken in 1944 in Stalag Luft 3, a prisoner of war camp near Sagan in eastern Germany immortalised in the film *"The Great Escape"*. The photo was of her father and 10 of his fellow POW's or Kriegies, most of whom were from WA.



Stan Thomson is 2nd from the left and Stan Payne is 6th from the left. Two Old Modernians have also been identified in the photo, Keith Murdoch (second from the right in the slouch hat) and Reg Spear (fourth from the left).

**Keith Alexander Murdoch** was born in Kalgoorlie in 1914 and attended Modern School from 1927 to 1931. He graduated from UWA with a Diploma in Commerce in 1936 and intended to become an accountant. Keith worked for the Perth Roads Board when he enlisted in the RAAF in June 1940. He married Marjorie Thomas later that year.

Keith trained as a fighter pilot in WA, Canada and England and was posted to 450 Squadron in Egypt on 6 June 1942 flying P40 Kittyhawks. Three weeks later on 26 June during his ninth flight on operations, his aircraft was shot down near Mersa Matruh in Egypt. He was captured and sent to Stalag Luft 3. He was promoted to Flight Lieutenant during his captivity and was discharged from the RAAF on 27 November 1945. He served in the RAAF Reserve until 1960 and died in Mosman Park on 10 August 1965 at the young age of 51.

**Reginald Sydney Spear** was born in Leederville in 1911 and attended Modern School from 1924 to 1928. He would have been in 4th Year when Keith was in 1st Year. He was a school prefect in 1928, a keen sportsman and a Bronze Medallion surf lifesaver. He graduated from Claremont Teachers College in 1931 and taught at several schools before he enlisted in the RAAF on 3 February 1941.

Reg trained as a navigator in South Australia and was sent to the UK in October 1941 for night bomber training. He was posted to 104 Squadron in Egypt in June 1942 and on the night of 12/13 July, his Wellington bomber was shot down over Tobruk. Reg was captured and sent to Stalag Luft 3. After three years as a POW, he was released on 2 May 1945 and flown to England. Now a Flight Lieutenant, Reg stayed in the RAAF until 1948. He moved to Victoria, married Elizabeth (Liesl) Gartenberg and raised a family. Reg died in 1980 aged 68.

**Stan Thomson** was also in a Wellington which was lost on a raid to Tobruk, force-landing south of Sidi Barrani in the desert on the night of 19/20 August 1942, five weeks after Reg's capture. A navigator, he was on his 24th operational flight. He went back into the burning aircraft to retrieve the crew's life-saving water supplies. Stan returned home as a Flight Lieutenant in late 1945 and had three children with Molly. Jill was the second of two girls. Her older sister, Robyn, attended Modern School from 1954 to 1958. Stan and Molly were invited to the Perth premiere of *"The Great Escape"* in 1963. After arriving home, Stan said ruefully and with a half-smile, "I didn't know there were that many Yanks in the prison." Stan died in 1985 aged 72.

**Stan Payne** enlisted in the RAAF in January 1941. He was serving as an air gunner in 106 Squadron on a raid on Leipzig on the night of 19/20 February 1944 when his Lancaster was shot down over Germany by a night fighter. He baled out, was captured and taken to Stalag Luft 3. Stan returned home a Flight Lieutenant and was discharged in January 1946. He resumed teaching and became a headmaster in 1976. Stan died in 1984 aged 64.

Another veteran in the 2023 reunion photo is **Noel Bell** who served in the infantry in Vietnam in 1967 and 1968. Noel is in the rear row, third from the left.



A more detailed and fully referenced version of this article is on the Honour Board  
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## Seasons Greetings



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

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thank all our readers and contributors for their  
support this year.

**We wish all of you a safe and enjoyable  
Festive Season, and a Happy New Year in 2025.**