



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Issue 57 August 2023 (Vol 3 No 7)

Hi

WELCOME to your *Perth Modernian e-Newsletter, Issue 57, August 2023, Vol 3 No 7* offering two way communication with all interested members, volunteers, families and friends. We bring you news, event details and articles from the Perth Modernian Society, its members and Perth Modern School. We hope you find the newsletter 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

**2023 ANNUAL REUNION
CANCELLED**

CLASS/YEAR GROUPS

for further information visit

www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au

60 YEARS

Class of 1963

Saturday 7 October 2023

(See further details in this newsletter)

70th BIRTHDAY PARTY

Class of 1970

Saturday 28 October 2023

(see further details in this newsletter)

Class of 1959

Monday 13 November 2023

(see further details in this newsletter)

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 2023

20th November for 30th November

CONGRATULATIONS Principal Appointed



Mr Mitchell Mackay recently informed Perth Modernian Society Councillors, Parents/ Caregivers and Students that *"It is with great pleasure that I announce to you all that I have been appointed as the permanent Principal of Perth Modern School. Over the last 18 months I have become very attached to the school, the staff and the students of this wonderful and unique organization. It is a great honour to be given the privilege of leading this amazing school and I am committed to lead it with integrity and the utmost professionalism."*

Perth Modern School has a long and successful history within Western Australia, and I will endeavour to honour this legacy and continue creating outstanding opportunities for the future of all our highly gifted students."

UN Youth Voice

Kshithij Chandrashekar

Perth Modern School student **Kshithij Chandrashekar** is the national UN Youth Voice winner. In the competition, which was held online, students are required to deliver a speech and then respond to questions by the judging panel. Kshithij, 15, chose the topic *"How can rapidly growing Australian cities be developed whilst maintaining natural and green spaces?"*



Principal of Perth Modern School Mitchell

said Kshithij was an amazing young man with the world at his feet. *"Kshithij has shown a high degree of commitment and dedication to reach this pinnacle and it's tremendous to see how he has honed his public speaking skills over the past few years to come out on top in this hard-fought national competition."*

See the full report at

<https://www.perthmodern.wa.edu.au/kshithij-is-national-un-youth-voice-champion/>

Da Vinci Decathlon

Students from Perth Modern School have been highly successful in their first Da Vinci Decathlon competition held at UWA. The Da Vinci Decathlon is a whole-day academic competition designed to challenge and stimulate the minds of school students.



IN THIS ISSUE:

CONGRATULATIONS
Principal Appointed
UN Youth Voice
Da Vinci Decathlon
DIRECTOR GENERAL MEETS SCHOOL BOARD
Recognition of Ms Lois Joll
PMSOC COUNCIL NEWS
Annual General Meeting and Report
REUNION NEWS
Class of 1958
Class of 1973
2023 Annual Reunion Invitation
Class of 1963
Class of 1959
Class of 1970
SPHINX SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS
DaVinci Decathlon Team Support
PMS Future Leaders, Future Founders
Program
YOUR SAY
MUSEUM ASSOCIATION NEWS
Annual General Meeting
Museum Volunteers Visit Kentian Archives
Update on Digital Honour Board
VALE
Tributes
MODERNIANS WHO DIED IN SERVING
COUNTRY

Contributors

Thank you to all letter writers
and contributors:

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Peter Farr
Irene Froyland
Wal Hall
Ian Johnson
Robert Johnson
Roger Stubbs
Robyn White
Sharon Williams

Coordinator/Editor

Sallie Davies

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Stuart Gould
ShoreDigital



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on 29 May 2023

TBA for 2024

2023 COUNCIL

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*
Salena Loasby, *Communication Marketing*
Barbara Mallett, *Reunions*
Daryl Williams, *Vice President*
Mitchell Mackay, *Ex-Officio, PMS Principal*

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

\$40 per annum now due

The Perth Modern School Year 10 team placed first for their year group, with the Year 7 and Year 8 teams placing third in their groups and the Year 9 team placing fourth. The winning team are now planning a trip to Sydney in September for entry into the national Da Vinci Decathlon. See the full report at <https://www.perthmodern.wa.edu.au/stretchy-thinking-wins-mod-team-a-da-vinci/>

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF EDUCATION MEETS THE SCHOOL BOARD

On 20th June 2023 the Director General of Education, **Lisa Rodgers**, accompanied by **Steve Watson**, the Assistant Director of Education, North Metropolitan Education Region held a cordial and productive meeting with the Perth Modern School Board, during which all attendees appreciated being given the opportunity to give their views on a range of PMS matters.



Left to right seated: Sharon Williams, Prof Paul Arthur, Jessica O'Sullivan (Deputy Chair), Avicknash Dayanandan, Emanuel Foundas
Standing: Robyn Verboon, Thomas O'Brien, Peter Farr (Modernians), Charlie Bond, Lisa Rodgers, Dr Bronwyn Rasmussen (Chair), Alana Dowley, Mitchell Mackay (Principal) and Monojeet (Jeet) Ghosh (P&C);
Absent was Dr Alistair Paterson

Subsequent to the meeting Steve Watson sent this message to Peter Farr (representing Modernians): *"I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you Peter for the gracious and respectful way you have supported the school during a difficult time. I am grateful for your experience on the Board to support the school."*

Recognition of Ms Lois Joll

On 15 August, through Council, Perth Modernians received the following advice from **Steve Watson, Assistant Director of Education, North Metropolitan Education Region** that *"The Department of Education recognises Ms Lois Joll's 11 years as Principal of Perth Modern School and her roles in the Department as Manager Post-Compulsory Academic Standards and Support and Director Secondary Education (for 7 years) as Moderator for the Arts at the Curriculum Council."*



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

COUNCIL NEWS

The first meeting of the 2023 Council of the Perth Modernian Society was held on the evening of 7th August in the Museum. The meeting welcomed the **Principal** and congratulated him on his substantive appointment as Principal of Perth Modern School. **Mr Mitchell Mackay**, was warmly congratulated on his appointment. He spoke of the many activities going on in the school.

Ian Hunt, as the Society's IT/Communications coordinator, is very pleased with the new arrangements for computers in the History Centre. A room adjacent to the Centre has been made available and fitted out appropriately. This will facilitate communications and record-keeping. The Council appreciates the School's cooperation in making this improvement.



CONTRIBUTING MEMBERSHIP

New members/Contributing Member renewals since 20 May 2023
Frederic Newman
Natasha Woodley
Christine Lawson-Smith
Donald Taylor
Neil(Cornilis) Boon

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 BOARD

sphinxfoundation@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

Nigel Hunt, *Chairman*
Barrie Baker, *Director*
Peter Farr, *Director*
Vivian Wang, *Hon Treasurer*
Robert Gray, *Director*
Danielle Jeyes, *Director*
Fiona Tholet, *Associate Principal*

DONORS

Sphinx Scholarship Fund Donations

from 20 May 2022
Barry Saker
Christine Lawson Smith
Dianne Moxham
Dorothea M Bennie
Dr Neil Bardsley
Fortescue Metals Group Ltd
Geoff Grewar
Dr Irene Froyland
Lesley Russell
Malcom Lee
Mary Marshall
Patricia Quiggin
PAYPAL Australia
Peter Blaxell
Peter Farr
Philip Jennings
Ray Thurloe
Rayma Pervan
Ross Ledger
Rotary Club of Northbridge
Walter Turnbull
Wendy McCallum



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY
MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED

2023 BOARD

museum@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

Dr Robyn White, *Chair*
Sharon Williams, *Treasurer*
Jeffrey Lai, *Board Member*
Monica Brierley-Hay, *Secretary*
Lois Joll, *Leave of Absence*
Nicola Reilly, *Deputy Principal, ex-officio*

The first few pages of the Museum Association's forthcoming publication, *Music at Mod*, were inspected with enthusiasm. **Roger Stubbs** and his team have done a wonderful job, and the Council looks forward to seeing the finished product later this year.

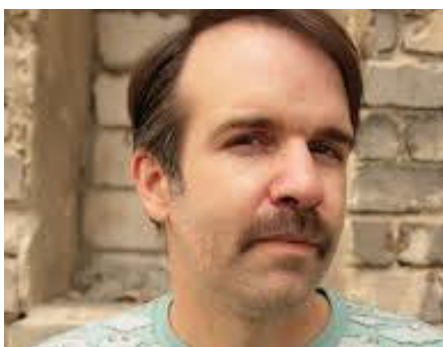
Official positions for the coming year were set in place. **Evan Kennea** is Council's new president; **Dr Robyn White** and the **Hon Daryl Williams** are our vice presidents. Continuing in the roles they have filled for some years are **Deb Beresford** (secretary), **Eve Broadley** (treasurer), **Barrie Baker** (membership), **Barbara Mallet** (reunions co-ordinator) and **Ruth Barrett** (honour awards).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members of the Perth Modernian Society met for the customary Annual General Meeting in the staff room in the Andrews Building on the evening of 29th May 2023. Once again, members of the Functions Committee ensured that those attending had no need for dinner – with more than sufficient hospitality available as members spent an hour renewing friendships. The newly printed copies of the **Perth Modernian Society Annual Report 2022** were available across the room and many retrieved hard copies to read as they collected for the formal meeting. At the meeting, Vice President **Dr Robyn White** presided in the absence of **Hon. Julian Grill** (President). This meeting is always an excellent time to reflect on the extent of connection existing across the School – we are incredibly fortunate to be able to link parent, school and alumni groups. Consequently, as well as the President's Report and the Financial Report this meeting also received reports from the Chair of the School Board, the Chair of the Sphinx Foundation, the Perth Modernian Society Museum Association Inc and the P&C (in the absence of Mr Monojeet Ghosh).

Once again, the composition of the Council of the Perth Modernian Society Inc will change in this financial year. **Julian Grill**, **Ed Lazarus** and **Kate Lewis**, all indicated their intention to retire some time ago. Each has contributed with enthusiasm and focus over the years of their tenure and will be missed. Ed has retired from the Council, but continues to act as a "sounding board" and support for Ian Hunt in his pursuit of an updated and stable ICT network. Similarly, Kate has indicated her availability as a support. Following the nominations and elections, the 2023 Council of the Perth Modernian Society Inc in accordance with the Constitution and the special responsibilities that each member will undertake will be determined at the first meeting following the AGM, on 7th August.

Following the formality of the AGM, the members were treated to a light hearted conversation/interview conducted by Council member **Evan Kennea** with **Dr Matthew Styles**, PMS student and now Head of the Classical and Cross-genre Saxophone Department, leading the fourth year music program and supervising Honours, Masters and Doctoral students at WAPPA, Edith Cowan University.



Having enjoyed similar class experiences in the same years at Perth Modern School (1984–88) and being introduced to the Music Specialist program by teacher (and retiring Council member) Kate Lewis, there was much hilarity as each recounted early music lessons and experiences with Kate as teacher. The conversation then moved on to Matthew's career and interest in contemporary and cross-genre music for the saxophone.

Dr Matthew Styles, has built a local and international career as a classical, jazz and "cross-genre" saxophonist, performing and teaching in the UK, Europe, Asia and Australia. Following his studies and performances in the UK, USA, Europe and Asia, Matt Styles realised that surviving on £12 (pounds) a week which included a diet of two-minute noodles, 29p cans of Safeway baked beans and £2.99 Bulgarian table wine, wasn't beneficial to his overall well-being and decided to return to a country where the sun was visible for more than one day of the year.



2 vacancies

Ex officio:
President Modernian Society

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS [History Centre and Archives]

Gay Abillos
Deborah Beresford, *Hon Archivist*
Jim Davies
Sallie Davies
Peter Dillon
Rebecca Guy
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

2022-2023 DONORS PMS Museum Fund

Thank you for your generous support

Dr June Stephenson
Mrs Laurie Best
Mr John Stone AO
Mr Barrie Baker
Sue Strutt
Beth Kallmeyer
Edna Youngman
Mr Geoff Grewar
Mrs Margaret Puzey
Ms Barbara Mallet
Janelle and Chris Coates
Dr Barry Saker
Mr John Lane M.P.S.P.H.CH.J.P
Mr Kai Wu
Mr Ralph Bilsby
Sharon Williams
Class of 1950-1954
Hon Daryl Williams AM QC
Mrs & Dr Valerie & Ken Fitch
Mrs E.M. Roberts
Ms Jennifer Carrick
Mrs Ruth Mickelson
Dr Robyn White
Roger Atkinson
Mr W. L Turnbull
Dr Mary J Marshall

MUSEUM SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

[facebook.com/perthmodernschoolmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/perthmodernschoolmuseum)
[instagram.com/pmsmamuseum](https://www.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

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

The Western Australian, Singapore and Tasmanian Symphony and Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestras also utilize Matthew as their principal saxophonist.

In 2004 Matthew received a Churchill Fellowship focusing on jazz and classical pedagogical and performance studies. He studied with Dr Otis Murphy, Dr Tom Walsh and Dr Eugene Rousseau at Minnesota University. In 2008, Dr Styles completed his Doctorate of Musical Arts at UWA discussing Schuller's idea of Third Stream Music and the cross-genre works of Mark-Anthony Turnage. He has presented his findings throughout Australia and Asia and more recently, has been investigating a holistic approach to saxophone injury prevention and rehabilitation.

REUNION NEWS

Class of 1958

At the last 1954-58 class reunion in Sept. 2021, a slight surplus enabled an offer to be made to the then Principal for our class to present a wall clock to go in the new auditorium. After considerable searching for the past 18 months class member Peter Farr managed to source an elegant looking battery driven clock (100cms in diameter) that is a scaled down replica of the fab clock in the Musee D'Orsay in Paris. It will actually go on the wall to the right of the donors' plaque, and hence close to the **Sir Paul Hasluck** foyer entrance.



The original clock in Musee D'Orsay in Paris as viewed from inside.

Presented to P.M.S. by the
Class of 1954 - 1958
June 2023

Presented to PMS in June 2023



The clock purchased by the 1954-58 Class Reunion Group

Class of 1973 reunion

Museum Volunteers were excited to receive copies of *Matrix Rebooted* – an updated Matrix magazine – the short-lived school year book produced by students of their days at the School. Two “Rebooted” versions provide the Museum and interested alumni with photographs and information written by current alumni – thank you to the authors for ensuring that this publication will remain in the Museum archives.

Amongst news relayed in *Matrix Rebooted*, is the recent establishment of an “East Coast” chapter of the Perth Modernian Society – with an initial meeting having taken place in Melbourne. Both Council and Museum members would be very happy to maintain contact with both groups!

STILL TO COME.....

Class of 1963 Reunion, 7th October

For alumni who graduated in 1963, your 60th reunion at the school will meet from 3 – 7pm on 7th October. There will be a tour of the school, the Museum will be open and refreshments will be provided afterwards in the Andrews Building. For more details and to register your attendance, please contact **Mary-Jane Whitehead (nee Jolley)**: email wongadale@iinet.net.au and mobile 0429 858 016.

Maryjane advises that 38 people have registered and another email will be sent out to entice others. The catering and photographer are organised and PMS **Principal Mitch Mackay** has agreed to welcome you with a school tour.

Class of 1959 Reunion, 13th November A Get Together for the Class of 1959

Following a successful function last year, the Class of 1959 is planning a Relaxed Get Together at the Claremont Tennis Club at 2.30 on Monday 13 November.



Honorary Membership

Alison Woodman
Tonya McCusker AM
Nigel Hunt
Brendon Dawson
Sharon Williams

Invitations have been sent to everyone for whom we have an email or snail mail address. If you have not received an email or letter please contact **Merv Lynch** (m.lynch@curtin.edu.au or 0478882304).

Class of 1970 Reunion, 28th October

The Class of 1970 is having a 70th birthday party at the MAAC on Saturday 28th October from midday. There will be a visit to the West Leederville PS at some stage. The contact person is **Ms Barbara Mallett**. Email to Barbara_Mallett@hotmail.com



PERTH MODERN SCHOOL

Exceptional schooling. Exceptional students.

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC SCHOOL

www.perthmodern.wa.edu.au
for School Board information

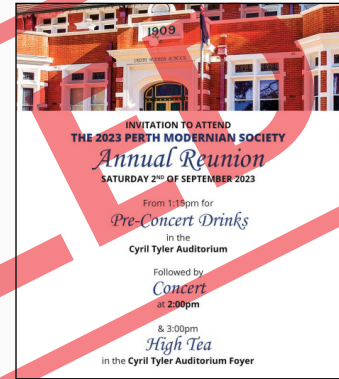
For those in Perth in early September, a reminder that the **2023 Annual Reunion** is to be held on **Saturday 2nd September 2023** at the school

YOU ARE ALSO INVITED TO VISIT The Perth Modernian Society History Centre and Museum



Open from 12 noon until 2pm.

Come and see several new displays and changes to the layout due to availability of extra room space.



COST (includes food, beverages, concert and donation to the Music School)

- **\$40 Contributing Member** (one who has paid membership fees)
- **\$45 Registered Member** and guests
- **\$35 Special Offer** for recent PMS graduates (from 2015 onwards) and partners

PAYMENT

- **Option 1 Trybooking**
- **Option 2** EFT Perth Modernian Society, BSB 036 022 (Westpac Perth) A/c no 429304 Include name, years

at Mod and name of accompanying person (if applicable)

- **Option 3** Cheque/postal order made payable to Perth Modernian Society and include name, years at Mod and name of accompanying person (if applicable)
- **Mail to: Ms E D Broadley**, Treasurer Perth Modernian Society, 36A Solomon Street, Mosman Park WA 6012

Queries and RSVP to: Eve Broadley 0417923156
broadleyeve@gmail.com



SPHINX FOUNDATION INC.

SPHINX SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS

The Sphinx Foundation Board gratefully acknowledges generous donations received from donors listed in this issue in the left column to the **Sphinx Scholarship Fund** since the June 2023 e-Newsletter. Fully funded scholarships created in 2023 at the Year 10 level are:

- The **Barrie B Baker Mathematics Scholarship**;
- The **Malcolm Evans Debating Scholarship**; and
- The **Peter Farr Psychology Scholarship** and **Bursary**.

Sphinx Scholarship Fund supports PMS DaVinci Decathlon team

Using funds supplied by the **Malka Foundation**, the Sphinx Scholarship Fund has agreed to a request from students and is providing \$2,000 to support for the Perth Modern School Year 10 Team to compete in the DaVinci Decathlon Nationals final competition. This contribution has been leveraged by the Sphinx Scholarship Fund (which has DGR status) securing another \$4,000 from the McCusker Charitable Foundation. Total support = \$6,000.

The DaVinci Decathlon is an international academic competition involving teams of eight students in each year group.



In Perth Modern School's first year of participation, a talented team of Year 10 Perth Modern School Students won the State competition in May, hence qualifying for the National competition in Sydney this September, for which they are diligently training. They will be competing in two days of demanding academic challenges. Students compete in teams across 10 disciplines: engineering, mathematics and chess, code breaking, art and poetry, science, English, ideation, creative producers, cartography and legacy.

PMS Future Leaders and Future Founders Program

Following on from the success since 2020 of the Entrepreneurship and Future Leaders Programs, generously supported by the Malka Foundation, the program has been refined and extended in 2023. In aiming to develop leadership and entrepreneurship skills in high school students, the program has been split into two separate but complementary courses: *Future Leaders and Future Founders*.

In running these two courses separately, Bloom (St Catherine's College, UWA) has been able to extend the reach of the program to more Perth Modern School students. Twenty-five students have been accepted into each of the Future Leaders and Future Founders programs, allowing students to choose whether to focus more on leadership or on business development and entrepreneurship. Thirteen students successfully applied to complete both programs, and a further 24 students applied to engage in one of the programs only, meaning that an expanded total of 37 students has been able to take advantage of the opportunity offered by Malka's philanthropic initiative.

Ms Helen Lydon, Innovative Learning and Teaching Coordinator PMS, recently graciously wrote to the Sphinx Foundation Board saying:

"On behalf of Perth Modern School, I once again extend my thanks and appreciation to the Sphinx Foundation and the Malka Foundation for their support of initiatives that extend and broaden our students' school experiences. They are truly fortunate students to be offered these wonderful opportunities."

"As always, we look for opportunities for our students to test and develop the skills they have learnt. Flowing from the skills learned in Future Founders and Future Leaders programs, I have encouraged students from last year's or this year's programs to compete in the Shark Tank eSchool WA Hackathon competition coming up in Term 4."

YOUR SAY

Requests for Information

From: Doug 'Roy' Edwards, PMS student 1962-63

Re: Names of teachers

Just wondering if you had a list of teacher's for years 1962/3 as this is when I attended particularly interested in one **MR BLACK** can't remember his first name also comes to mind **MR RICKERS** was a good teacher. I think he was Dutch, ta regards Roy.

Editor: *Doug's request has been forwarded to the Museum's Hon Archivist for attention.*

From: Vanessa Sampson (nee Sameja), PMS student 1996-90

Re: Names of students

Hi, I attended Perth Mod and graduated in 1990 and I would like to get a list of the students in my year. Is this something that you can provide me? Kind regards, Vanessa

Editor: *Vanessa's request has also been forwarded on to the Museum Volunteers.*

From: Jack Dees, PMS student 1969-70

Re: Contacts with old school mates

Hi, I was at Mod for just 1 year, from July 69 to July 70. We immigrated from England and my parents split up. I was dragged kicking and screaming back to England. I am hoping to do a bucket list trip to WA and I was wondering if you had a network of alumni so I might be able to get in touch with them. Thanks in anticipation, Jack

Editor: *Your email arrived the very day that I was writing a report for The Perth Modernian e-Newsletter about a recent Reunion for the Class of 1973 held by your former year group at PMS just this month. You will find a copy of our February newsletter on the website at www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au along with earlier copies. I have registered your email address on our database and will ensure that the next issue is sent to you. If you can provide me with names of people you would like to contact, I will forward your correspondence to them. Alternatively we will forward your email to the names of members for whom we hold current email addresses.*

From: Jack Dees

Thank you for your email, I look forward to the next edition with my old school mates' reunion. It's strange it was only a year of what is now a long life but it left a big impression on me that I'll never forget. Thanks for your time too, Jack



From: Emily Gunson, PMS student 1969-73

Re: Music at Mod book

I was interested to see your promo for a new book on music at Perth Modern School. I was a special music student 1969-1973. I graduated with 100 percent score in Music for the Leaving Certificate, and I was informed that I had the highest score in the entry tests. I am the only member of my intake class of 40 who is a professional musician on the instrument I studied at Mod (flute). I never heard anything regarding the preparation of this book, and I'm assuming my name is probably not even mentioned. Very disappointed. Dr Emily Gunson

Response from the Author: *As the volunteer author and sole researcher of Music at Mod I have been asked to respond to your recent email. The preparation of the text was a challenge, for very few official records of who was in the program were kept. After exhaustive efforts, a list of 2000 former students was assembled from Yearbooks, concert programs and Facebook searches, well short of the more than 2500 who must have entered the program. We also identified networks maintained by groups of former students who assisted with very useful information. Given the dispersion of former students and the scope of the task, much of the research undertaken was 'desktop'. Much of the book is a narrative of events but we have devoted a chapter to former students who succeeded in a musical career. There were many more, but we chose a representative sample of 95 or so former students. We tried to achieve a balance across the years and between vocalists and instrumentalists. A condensed potted biography of each is included. Unfortunately most are fairly reductionist but that was the nature of the task, otherwise we would have ended up with a book of 1000 pages. You are one of the former students whose achievements are included. Thank you for your interest. Let me know if you feel I have synthesized your linkedin entry incorrectly.*
Regards, Roger Stubbs



Music at Mod, a new book researched and compiled by museum volunteers led by **Roger Stubbs**, traces the history of the students and teachers of the Specialist Music Program at Perth Modern School from 1968 to 2010, with an outline of music at PMS 1911-67 previously researched by **Ian Lindsay**.

Publication is expected late in 2023. The Perth Modernian Society Museum Association is seeking to estimate the demand for this special publishing event. Please register your interest at <https://www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au/music-at-mod> or by email to: museum@perthmoderniansociety.org.au



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY
MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Perth Modernian Society Museum Association Inc was held in the Museum on the afternoon of 7th August. This meeting was available for members to attend either in person or online. Several Board members who continue in full time work, attended online as did our long time leader and volunteer, **Sallie Davies**.

The primary business successfully achieved at the meeting, was to present the Museum Association's Annual Report for the financial year 2022-23 and to provide an end of year financial statement. For readers who would like a copy of the Perth Modernian Society Museum Association Inc Annual Report, 2022-23, please contact us at museum@perthmoderniansociety.org.au to send it to you.

Recent weeks have seen the number of artefacts donated to the Museum multiply. On one Monday, a black plastic rubbish bag was found outside the door. Initial thoughts were that this would be something a cleaner had left. On investigation, volunteers found multiple copies of older Sphinx magazines, School newsletters and photos - always welcome into the Museum. Volunteers love new donations.



However, it would be terrific to be able to acknowledge the donors properly. Please leave your name and relationship with 'Mod', donations – and contact details – for our volunteers to follow up for further information if needed. All donations can be dropped off when the Museum is open on Monday mornings 9.30am to Midday during the School term, or to Mod's main Reception during School hours (addressed to the MUSEUM).

PMS Museum Volunteers Visit Kentian Archives

A number of our Museum Volunteers thoroughly enjoyed a visit to Kent Street Senior High School Archives. The Kentian Archives team have been working quietly since 1992, gathering, collating and archiving school records, photos, films, newspaper articles, programs, uniforms - anything of interest relating to the 80+ years of the school's existence. We thank them for their time and really enjoyed sharing experiences. We also enjoyed the yummy food by Cafe4teen which is operated by the Certificate II Hospitality students for staff and guests (people like us) each Thursday recess. We understand the Year 11 students prepare the food prior to service. The Year 12's then take over to sell the food and serve customers. How lucky were we! All enjoyed our café style coffees, dishes and sweet treats whilst catching up.

Thanks to all who made our visit memorable.



Pictured above from left to right top row: Bill (Kent St), Loren, Ross (Kent St). Lower row: Wendy, Robyn, Pat (Kent St), Paul (Kent St). Photographer: Sharon.

UPDATE ON DIGITAL HONOUR BOARD



A notice was placed in the Can You Help section of The West Australian of Monday 15 May 2023 advising of the addition of a nominal roll to the digital honour board at <https://honour.perthmodern.wa.edu.au>.

Responses to the notice resulted in seven names being added to the Vietnam component of the Digital Honour Roll. These are **Noel Bell** and **Ron Bratt** (PMS 1959-61), **Peter Manucci** (1963), and **Jeff Edwick, Peter Waldeck, Greg Watts** and **Craig Woodhouse** (1960-64).

On this anniversary of Australian withdrawal of troops from Vietnam it is fitting that we report that there are now 18 names of Vietnam veterans on the nominal roll and four on the Honour Board.

Total numbers are 1,612 on the nominal roll and 153 on the Honour Board. The website has been visited 13,100 times since it went live three years ago.

ABC Radio Interview with Vietnam Vet Peter Manucci

To commemorate the 57th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan on 18 August 1966, ABC Radio Perth interviewed former Modern School student Peter Manucci on the Afternoons show on 720AM on Friday 18 August. Peter was born in Rastatt in Germany in 1947. His parents obtained passage to Australia as displaced persons soon after the end of World War 2. After attending CBC Perth/Trinity College in 1961-62, Peter attended Mod in 1963 and passed his Junior Exams at the end of the year.

Peter joined the Army in 1965 and served in Vietnam from May 1966 to May 1967 with the Royal Australian Artillery in several roles. During the Battle of Long Tan he was the signaller on duty for 103 Field Battery and played a vital role in providing the 108 men of D Company, 6 Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, with Artillery support while they were defending themselves against over 2,500 well-armed enemy soldiers. He passed on the information to the surveyors who would plot the information and forward the target information to the guns. Peter served in Queensland, Victoria and the ACT and retired from the Army as a Warrant Officer Class 1 in 1985.

Peter then joined Woolworths Supermarkets where he managed three suburban stores followed by roles in Training & Development and Human Resources. Due to PTSD he had to cease employment in Feb 2007 at the age of 60.

The audio clip of the interview is at <https://www.facebook.com/perthmodernschoolmuseum/>. Peter tells his story in a short video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NqKcljWb9t4&list=PLCmZwFTGkNHumZCTSy8qxwgvZ1zu-QP8W&index=2>. See also <https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/797598>.





Peter "Manooch" Manucci on the Radio in Vietnam, 1966 or 1967



Peter and Justin Langer, 2023



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY
MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED

VALE

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

NAME:	YEAR at PMS	Status	Deceased
Ronald John Bratt	1959-61 (Yrs 1-3)	Student	11/05/2023
James Merrick Hubble	1955-59	Student	21/05/2023
Colonel (Retired) Albert George Owens	1939-43	School Prefect	28/07/2023
Clifford Sinclair Rocke	1951 (4th yr)	Student	03/06/2023
Angela Dungey, nee McCrae	1948-52	Student	04/07/2023
Geoffrey Ogden	1952-56	School Prefect	05/07/2023
Dawn Lovell Gardiner, nee Hedges	1943-47	School Prefect	05/07/2023
Dr Judyth Watson OAM	1953-55 (Yrs 1-3)	Student	09/07/2023
Merilyn Burbidge, nee Awde	1959-63	Senior Girl Prefect	14/07/2023
Alexander Donald (Don) Taylor AM	1941-43 (Yrs 1-3)	Student	26/07/2023
	1961-63	Teacher	
Kevin Horace Parker AC RFD KC	1950-54	Student	31/07/2023
General Sir Philip Harvey Bennett AC	1944-45	School Prefect	01/08/2023
Denis Neil Sharpe	1953-54 (Yrs 4,5)	Student	11/08/2023

TRIBUTES

MERILYN BURBIDGE nee AWDE
PMS student 1959-63, Senior Girl 1963

The Class of 1959 is sorry to inform Modernians that our Head Girl, Merilyn BURBIDGE (Nee AWDE) died on 14 July 2023 after a long battle with cancer. Merilyn was a gentle and supportive leader at Mod and a quiet but energetically active citizen in the community. She will be widely missed.



On the 3rd of August a memorial service was held for former head girl **Merilyn Awde** (m.Burbidge) at Pinneroo Memorial Park, an apt location given her love of the natural environment.

Amongst those from her year who attended were **Heather Coate, Pam Breeze, Irene Froyland, Dianne Briggs, Judy Wilson, Jan Mitchell, Sue McDermott, Beth Guyton and Alex Errington.**

Friends were surprised when Merilyn was diagnosed with the pancreatic cancer that ended her life because of her commitment to personal fitness. Aged sixty she competed in the Rottneest Channel swim.



As a long-time member of the Stadium Snappers Masters Swimming Club she received a national award for reaching a target of 3,000,000 swum metres. She was rated amongst the top ten in Australia in a number of categories including the 400 metres breaststroke.

Merilyn completed a science degree (zoology) and a diploma of education. Her marriage to noted biologist Dr Andrew Burbidge took her on journeys to every continent to explore their mutual interest in matters environmental and ecological. A highlight was a visit to the Galapagos Islands and the Amazon. Friendships were made which endured which is why her service was streamed to Canada, the United States, Germany, England and Sri Lanka.

While for many years Merilyn's sharp focus was upon providing an enriched family life for her three children she also found time for extensive volunteer activities and community service. For 35 years she delivered Meals on Wheels. She was a long time active member of the Friends of Kings Park. She served as a committee member of parent organizations at her children's schools. Merilyn made 325 blood donations.

In retirement Merilyn and Andrew enjoyed an active life that reflected their interest in the environment. They completed the Cape to Cape Walk, the Three Capes Walk, the Coast to Coast Walk and walked along the Great Ocean Road track. An achievement of which Merilyn was proud was the completion of her walk along the Bibbulmun Track from Kalamunda to Albany. Inspired by the experience Merilyn and Andrew accepted responsibility for maintaining a section of the track near Denmark.

Her association with Mod continued in practical ways. For example, some twenty years ago when former classmate **Del Power** (m.Bussell) needed constant support and supervision Merilyn organised respite for her husband and recruited former students to gather with her for picnics and lunches. Del passed but the tradition established endured until Merilyn became too ill early in 2023. Head Girl until the last.

"As our Head Girl you gave us leadership and support, and we are thankful."

The Class of 1959, Perth Modern School

Wednesday, 19 July 2023 Published in The West Australian

KEVIN HORACE PARKER AO KC **PMS student 1950-54**

Kevin Horace Parker was born in Kalgoorlie WA in February 1937 and received his later primary education at South Perth State School before entering Perth Modern School in 1950. He graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Laws from the University of Western Australia in 1958 and then commenced a long and distinguished career in law. Having been appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1977, he was Solicitor-General of WA from 1979 to 1994. He served as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Western Australia from 1994 until December 2003, when he was appointed by the United Nations as a Permanent Judge of the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague.



His Excellency the Hon Kevin Parker AO RFD

Kevin delivered the 2012 [Perth Modernian Society Oration](#) to senior students.

JUDYTH WATSON OAM **PMS student 1953-56**

Judyth died on the 9th of July and was typical of so many Modernians whose lives have been focussed upon making the world a better place. She enrolled at Mod in 1953 and left in 1955 to train as a nurse. Some years later she decided to undertake tertiary studies and by 1977 had achieved a Bachelor of Science with first class honours at UWA.



*Judyth Watson delivering the
2017 Perth Modernian Society Oration
to senior students*

Her success led to the completion in 1982 of a doctoral thesis which explored issues associated with workers compensation. Her studies had great significance for they informed the preparation of the occupational health and safety legislation that has transformed so many workplaces.

She was part of the wave of women candidates in the 1980s who successfully contested elections to the Legislative Assembly. In 1986 she became the member for Canning, later Kenwick, and was to spend ten years in State Parliament. During that time she was a member of the Cabinet. At various times she held ministerial responsibility for Aboriginal Affairs, Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs, and Seniors and Women's Interests.

When she left Parliament Judyth undertook a range of responsibilities within the community.

She became Head of the Council of Official Visitors which protected the interests of involuntary patients. and worked with groups protecting the victims of domestic abuse. There were a number of others but the issue closest to her heart was the plight of refugees who had come to Western Australia with hopes of a better future.



She was instrumental in the formation of CARAD, the Centre for Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Detainees. Judyth was a board member of the Refugee Council of Australia until 2013.

Judyth was awarded the medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Queen's Birthday 2019 Honours List, 10 June 2019, for service to the community of Western Australia, and to social justice.

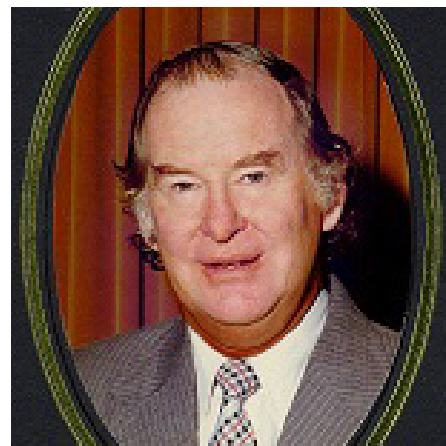
ALEXANDER DONALD (DON) TAYLOR AM **PMS student 1941-43, PMS teacher 1961-62**

Don was born in Kalgoorlie in 1928 to Lily Irene (née Jennings) and Alexander Taylor. He was raised in Perth, attended Perth Modern School, on a Soldiers Scholarship and was a state basketball player in his youth and completed his leaving at night school. He studied teaching at the University of Western Australia and Claremont Teachers College, and after graduating, worked at Applecross Senior High School (1959-60) and Perth Modern School (1961-62). He later worked as a rural education officer with the Junior Farmers' Council.

He was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia in 1968 to represent the seat of Cockburn. He served as a minister in the government of John Tonkin, including as Deputy Premier from 1973 to 1974 and later served as Administrator of Christmas Island from 1986 to 1990.

After the 1971 election, which saw the election of a Labor government, he was made Minister for Housing and Minister for Labour in the new ministry. In a ministerial reshuffle in October 1971, Taylor's titles became Minister for Labour, Minister for Prices Control, and Minister for Tourism. He was additionally made Minister for Immigration in February 1973.

When Taylor retired from parliament in August 1984, he served on the Judiciary and Parliamentary Salaries Tribunal from 1984-86, and then was briefly chairman of the Authority for the Intellectually Handicapped. From 1986-90. He served as Administrator of Christmas Island, an Australian external territory in the Indian Ocean. He was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 1991 Australia Day Honours, for *"public service and service to the Western Australia parliament"*



SIR PHILLIP HARVEY BENNETT AC KBE(M) LOM DSO **PMS student 1944-45**



Lieutenant-General P H Bennett OA DSO paying an official call on Governor General Sir Zelman Cowen on Appointment as Chief of the General Staff, 17 February 1982



Her Majesty the Queen, escorted by the Governor, following her first official review and address to an ANZAC Day observance in Australia, Hobart on 25th April 1988

PMS student 1944-45, School Prefect 1945, Sir Phillip Bennett had a distinguished military career which began with his selection to attend the Royal Military College at Duntroon. Following his graduation in 1949 he served with the forces of occupation in Japan. He was posted to Korea in 1950 where he was wounded in action. Until Australia entered the Vietnam War, he filled a variety of roles. He trained with the Royal Marines and was then posted to Portsea, Victoria, where he became chief instructor. In 1968 he commanded the 1st Battalion when it was serving in Vietnam. A series of promotions followed and in 1984 Sir Phillip was appointed the first chief of the Australian Defence Force. After his retirement in 1987, he was appointed to the position of Governor of Tasmania. In retirement, Sir Phillip has given his active support to a number of organisations, including the Australian War Memorial Foundation.

Phillip Bennett entered fourth year at Perth Modern School in 1944 having gained a Junior certificate from Fremantle Boys High School during World War II. In February 1946 he left Perth to attend the Royal Military College at Duntroon. By joining the Army, he was following a family tradition. His father, Cyril, was a sergeant in World War I and fought at Gallipoli. He enlisted again in World War II and had the rank of captain.

At the conclusion of his three year course at Duntroon, Phillip was posted to the 67th Infantry Battalion which was serving with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan. From 1950 to 1952 he served with the 3rd Battalion in Korea where he was wounded in action.



The newspaper account of his wounding said that Phillip was one of the first two Australians to be wounded in the Korean War. A Korean soldier had approached him to surrender, but instead produced a hand grenade from behind his back. Quick action by Phillip enabled him to shoot the Korean and to use his body to shield most of the explosion from the grenade. Towards the end of the Korean War, Phillip became a tactics instructor at the School of Infantry.

Before he was posted in 1965 to army headquarters in Canberra, Phillip again served overseas. He was an adjutant with the Pacific Islands Regiment in Papua New Guinea. In 1957 he was attached to the Royal Marine Commandos in the United Kingdom and served with them in Malta and Cyprus. His experience qualified him to be made officer in charge of the 2nd Commando Company, a position he held until 1961. From 1962 to 1965 he was chief instructor at Portsea's Officer Cadet School in Victoria.

When the 1st Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment was sent for its second tour of duty in Vietnam, Phillip was in command. He was awarded a Distinguished Service Order for his service in Vietnam. Upon his return from Vietnam, Phillip received further promotion and undertook a number of courses that were designed to prepare him for higher responsibilities. First he attended the Australian Staff College, followed by courses at the Joint Services Staff College and the Royal College of Defence Studies, both in the United Kingdom.

Upon his return he became Assistant Chief of Defence staff, Chief of the General staff, and in 1984 Phillip became the first person appointed to the newly created position of Chief of the Defence Force, responsible for all three services. He retired from the services in 1987.

Upon retirement he was sworn in as Governor of Tasmania. It provided General Sir Phillip Bennett with a number of challenges, for it was at this time that an inconclusive state election result created some constitutional difficulties in Tasmania. As Governor he had to adjudicate the circumstances in which the Gray Government fell, to be replaced by a coalition between the Australian Labor Party and the Greens. He retired from the position in 1995.

Since 1995 Phillip has served as the first chairman of the Australian War Memorial Foundation, patron of the 2nd Commando Association, and national president of the Order of Australia Association. Phillip's service has been recognised by the award of a number of very significant honours. In 1985 he was made a Companion in the Order of Australia, and in 1982, a Knight Commander in the Military Division of the Order of the British Empire. The government of the United States of America made him a member of the Legion of Merit (degree of Commander) in 1983, and in 1985 the Republic of Korea awarded him an Order of National Security Medal. The University of New South Wales made Phillip an honorary Doctor of Laws in 1995 for his contribution to military education and the Australian Defence Forces Academy. Similarly, the University of Tasmania awarded him an honorary Doctor of Laws. He was the inaugural Chairman of the Australian War Memorial Foundation and was elected National President of the Order of Australian Association in March 1997. He has been the Patron of the 2 Commando Association since 1985, Patron of The St John Ambulance in the ACT since 1996 and a Member of the Board of the National Museum Foundation when it is formed later this year. General Sir Phillip Bennett recently became the inaugural National Patron of the Royal Australian Regiment Association and looked forward to renewing his many links with former Members of the Regiment

COLONEL (Retired) ALBERT GEORGE OWENS **PMS student 1939-43**



The embodiment of an officer, a scholar and a gentleman, Colonel (Retired) Albert George Owens, a former Director of the Australian Army Psychology Corps, died peacefully on 28 May, 2023, aged 96. While his father, George "Staunch" Owens, was Perth's most celebrated footballer of the 1920s, it was clear that his son George's interests were more academic than physical. George's academic prowess was recognised early when he was selected to attend Perth Modern School, and then the University of Western Australia to study Zoology. However, once there, he developed a greater interest in the relatively new science of Psychology and that is where he stayed.

World War II was a watershed for the emerging profession of psychology in Australia. During the war and its aftermath, a small band of psychology graduates demonstrated the value of their professional expertise to the war effort and to the post-war reconstruction training of veterans. George, then 20, was recruited directly from the University of Western Australian into the Australian Army by Ted Campbell who was working to set up the new Army Psychology Service. Ted Campbell's confidence in the young George Owens was not misplaced.

Early in his career George was posted to Japan, to "assist with recruiting" for the Commonwealth Occupation Forces. While there, he also spent time in Korea providing support to the allied forces during that war. He later served with great distinction during the Vietnam War as an in-country adviser to the government of Thailand and, by extension, that country's Western Allies. These early career experiences laid the foundation for George's lifelong fascination for working in and with other cultures. After retiring from the Army, George followed his interest in all things Thai, pursuing a university degree in Thai language and culture.



The pinnacle of George's long and distinguished military career was his appointment as Director of the Australian Army Psychology Corps in 1976. This position gave him unfettered access to the senior military leaders, and they routinely sought his advice on all manner of things. Without fail, George's introduction was "My analysis of the research data shows that...". For George, measurement always took precedence over opinion.

In the 1960s George became interested in the selection and assessment of personnel for service in Antarctica, and the need for greater care when selecting personnel to work in such harsh and isolated conditions. Through his links with British, American and Canadian researchers, George knew work was already being done in those countries, and when the Australian Antarctic Division asked the Army for assistance, it was to George they turned. It became one of his abiding interests and resulted in several scholarly works including the publication of his work in a Master's thesis entitled *The performance and selection of men in small Antarctic groups*. George's approach to the issue drew attention from across the world. After meeting George and reading his scientific reports, the renowned British Antarctic explorer, Sir Vivian Fuchs, wrote that he had "never seen a more clear-eyed view of the issues involved with selecting and supporting personnel for Antarctic service". For several decades after that the Australian Army Psychology Corps assisted the Antarctic Division with selection, performance assessments and the debriefing of personnel on return to Australia.

George's contributions to the psychological profession ranged far beyond the confines of Australian Defence Headquarters in Canberra. He was a key member of the executive of the Technical Cooperation Programme, or TTCP, a collaborative, five-nation, research exchange program between the US, UK, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. In this role he was able to introduce to the Australian Army cutting edge ideas including the development of computer adaptive psychological testing that used the predictive power of computer algorithms to more quickly and accurately determine a person's ability level when compared with pencil and paper tests.

When George retired from active military duty after 36 years in uniform (well, mostly in a civilian suit) he was the longest serving officer in the Australian Army. George was not only passionate about psychology as a scientific discipline, he was also committed to psychology being formally recognised as a profession and its practise being regulated with appropriate legislation. To these ends, he devoted a lifetime of service to the peak professional bodies in the country, firstly the British Psychological Society and, on its inception, the Australian Psychological Society. He was a foundation member of the APS; a member of the Society's first Council; a Fellow of the Society; and a Life Member of the Society. In 1976-77 George served as the APS National President.

Away from psychology, George had a number of passions which he pursued with vigour, including golf, Asian culture and languages, philosophy, music, particularly opera and Wagner's *Ring Cycle*, fine wines and single malt Scotch whisky. Although a very even-tempered person to work with, George's equanimity did not accompany him on the golf course. He would become increasingly infuriated that someone who was enormously gifted in so many spheres, had no competence in the seemingly simple task of hitting a small, stationary white ball into a hole in the ground.

George Owens has left an enormous legacy for the profession of psychology both nationally and internationally. During his full and fruitful life, he touched the lives and hearts of many people and made a truly positive contribution to a better world. He is survived by his widow, Johanna, his children, Terry, Janet and Sarah Louise, five grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Contributed by Wal Hall and Ian Johnston;
former Directors of the Australian Army Psychology Corps

RONALD JOHN (Ron) BRATT **PMS student 1959-61**

Ron was born in Perth in 1946 and attended the Wembley State School and Perth Modern School. After school he joined the navy where his specialty was marine engineering. As an engine room mechanic, his position was known in the early days as a stoker.

He went to Collie after more than 20 years of service with the Royal Australian Navy, retiring with the rank of Chief Petty Officer. He became MUJA Power Station's first fire and emergency response officer. He is remembered by his Muja colleagues as a great trainer and team leader who became involved in mine rescue competitions, many of which were won by his team. He was known as a good listener, jovial, good spirited and a pleasure to work with.

Ron saw service during the Vietnam War, when he was a member of the crew on board the destroyer HMAS Vampire, an escort of the troopship HMAS Sydney, which carried troops to Vung Tau, Vietnam. The Sydney, on its 14th trip to Vietnam from Australia when under escort by Vampire, was fondly known by soldiers as the "Vung Tau ferry".

With a service number of R65463, Ron was a member of the Collie-Cardiff RSL, and will be remembered always there, and by the many friends he made in Collie.



Ron wearing his service ribbons including the Australian Active Service Medal with Vietnam clasp (far left) the Vietnam Medal (second from left) and the Vietnam Service Medal (third from left).
<https://www.colliebulletin.com.au/obituaries/ron-bratts-well-spent-life-of-service>

JAMES MERRICK HUBBLE
PMS student 1955-59



Born in Beaconsfield in WA in 1942, Jim Hubble became a talented left-arm fast-medium opening bowler and capable lower-order batter. He played 24 First Class matches for Western Australian between 1964-65 and 1974-75, accumulating 69 wickets at 28.71. He was picked for Australia's tour of South Africa in 1966-67 and, despite missing out on a Test call-up, reinforced his credentials by taking 5-74 against Eastern Province.

An ankle injury picked up during his days of School cricket saw him retire in 1967-68, but he returned via Club cricket and earned selection for the final three matches of WA's triumphant 1972-73 Shield campaign. Hubble played an important role in WA's 1967-68 and 1972-73 Sheffield Shield championships before retiring in 1974-75.

From The Sphinx, June 1956 UNDER 16 CRICKET No. 1 Team.

"During the past season the Modern School No. 1 team performed very creditably. They won the Western Division Competition, thus earning the right to meet Bassendean in the Interzone Final. In this, however, we were unable to repeat our earlier triumphs and suffered a rather heavy defeat by 7 wkts. and 23 runs. ...Thanks are extended to Mr. Feldman who looked after our team, and to Mr. Strauss for his coaching and encouragement throughout the season. Hubble and Feldman are to be congratulated on their selection in the State Schoolboys' Cricket Team."



Back Row : J. Thornton, M. Leader, J. Hubble, D. Currie, N. Ryan.
Centre Row : P. Ledger, W. Smith, R. Green, N. Tolcan, M. Feldman.
Front Row : Mr. Strauss (Coach), J. Vakman, K. Punch (Capt.), K. Darragh (Vice-Capt), D. Vial, Mr. Calcutt (Sports Master).

Photo November 1957

DAWN LOVELL GARDINER nee HEDGES
PMS student 1943-47, School Prefect 1947

"...passed away peacefully on Wednesday 5th July, 2023 at Aegis Alfred Carson Lodge, Bay Road, Claremont. Beloved mother of Eric and Katharine, grandmother of Colin, Alexander, Martin, Ava and Nikolas, sister of Frank Hedges and David Hedges (deceased). She will be deeply missed by her family, with extended family all through WA. Special thanks to all staff at Alfred Carson for many years of excellent care. Funeral to be at Karrakatta on Thursday 13th July 2023 at 3.15pm.

PUBLISHED 8th Jul, 2023, Published in The West Australian



The first Science class for girls 1947



Member of 1947 PMS Basketball (Netball) team

GEOFFREY OGDEN
PMS student 1952-56



Geoff Ogden was born in 1939, lived in Dalglish and attended Subiaco Primary School where he succeeded in gaining a Government High School Entrance Scholarship to Perth Modern School. In 1956 he was a School Prefect (*last in back row R*) and a member of the First XVIII Football Team (*First in back row of photo on right*). The Sphinx of that year recorded the following:

G. OGDEN (Rover, Forward) - A great trier, and a very reliable goal kicker. Worked hard to eliminate lack of certainty in ground play. Co-operative and selfless team player.

His Leaving Results gave enabled him to enrol for a Pharmacy course at Perth Technical College.



As a fully qualified Pharmacist Geoff became the local Pharmacist in Katanning. In 1978 he purchased a residence built by George McLeod, a respected local businessman and designed by Architect M Cavanagh of Perth in 1912. Geoff restored the property to almost the original heritage condition. An article published in the Great Southern Herald on 3 December 2012 tells us much about Geoff's life and family at that time:

"Kathleen and Geoffrey Ogden opened the doors of their more than 100-year-old house to guests at the weekend. Motivated to raise money for the local Anglican Church, the couple hosted an art exhibition and 'open garden', attracting about 150 people. Geoffrey and Kathleen have lived in the house for more than 35 years and it is believed to be one of the oldest houses in Katanning. Mr Ogden was happy to share his beloved space for a good cause.

"Any artwork that was sold, 10 percent went to the church," he said. "We also had a couple of lotteries where visitors could win a painting or services donated by businesses around town."

"The two-day event featured 90 artworks painted by artists across the region including Maxine Potter, Bernard West and Katanning Primary School art teacher Angela Ohlsen. Guest enjoyed the soothing sounds of the cello and the flute, provided by the Ogdens' granddaughters Genevieve, 17 and Madeleine, 15. The Ogdens are fans of classical music but Mr Ogden admits it is Mrs Ogden who has the green thumb.

"Kathleen favourite part of the house would have to be the garden," he said. Mrs Ogden's careful tending of the garden over three decades is evident through the stunning colours boasted by her rose collection. Mr Ogden said the property also featured a variety of native plants. "It's a grand old place that has been kept in good condition," he said."

DENIS NEIL SHARPE **PMS student 1953-54**



*Sorry to have to let you know that **Denis Neil Sharpe** passed away on August 11th at RPH. He had been having breathing trouble for the last 3 years and it finally took him. He had been an excellent husband and father to two girls, Andrea & Sandy and his 3 grandchildren, Jarod, Lindon & Amber, whom he adored. As it happened nearly a week ago, it will take some time for things to ever get close to normal in our family.*

*Apart from our lovely family, we both travelled to some wonderful destinations over most of our marriage. He was a Hamersley Iron Purchasing Officer for about 17/ 18 years and before that, at CIG, he also taught Purchasing and Supply Management for many years, at TAFE which helped him through his time with Hamersley Iron. He worked until the age of 70 and enjoyed golf in his retirement but had played it for most of our life in Embleton. We lived in Mallion Street, Embleton most of our married life and Denis changed our small home to double the size of the original. He used to organise our street breakfasts at a nearby restaurant, over the years and back then he was known as the mayor of Mallion Street.
Regards, Lois Sharpe*

MODERNIANS WHO DIED IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY

*Number 20 in a special series of articles researched and prepared for publication by
Robert Johnson, PMS student 1961-65 and Museum Volunteer*

RAYMOND EDGAR HOLGATE **Perth Modern School Student 1930-34**

On the morning of Thursday 29 October 1942 two Harvard trainer aircraft took off from the Royal Air Force base at Summit in the Sudan. At approximately 11am the two aircraft accidentally collided. Both pilots bailed out but only one survived.

Raymond Edgar Holgate was born in Hunters Hill in Sydney, NSW on 17 August 1917 to Christopher Edgar and Millicent Emma Holgate. He attended Knox Grammar School in North Sydney in 1926 and 1927, and Belmont Primary School in Perth in 1928 and 1929. On 11 February 1930 he commenced at Modern School. The family lived in South Perth.

Ray completed 1930, 1931 and 1932 at Modern School and passed his Junior Examinations in nine subjects. He was well thought of by his teachers and glowing comments grace his record. Ray commenced 4th Year in February 1933 but left at the end of March to commence employment with the English, Scottish and Australian Bank Limited, possibly to assist with the family's finances during the Great Depression of the 1930's. His father's death while a passenger in a car at a level crossing near Kellerberrin in October 1934 would have increased his financial responsibilities to his family.

Ray enlisted in the RAAF Reserve in Sydney on 17 July 1940 when he was 22. He was still employed by the ES&A Bank, now in the Branch Inspectors Department in King Street, Sydney. He had used his academic ability to qualify for membership of the Commonwealth Institute of Accountants and the Australian Institute of Secretaries. He was living in Mosman when he enlisted but later moved to Cremorne.

Ray transferred to the Permanent Air Force six months later on 6 January 1941 when he was 23. He was stationed at No. 2 Initial Training School at Lindfield near Sydney. He gradually worked his way through the air crew training programme at several RAF bases and was granted a commission in the RAAF with the rank of Pilot Officer on 20 October 1941.



Ray departed from Australia for the UK on 13 November 1941 and arrived there six weeks later. After several short periods of duty at locations in the UK he was posted to RAF Middle East Command and sent to Cairo on 2 April 1942. At this time the Germans were pushing the British eastward out of Libya into Egypt, threatening Cairo, the strategic port of Alexandria and the vital oil fields of the Middle East. He was promoted to Flying Officer on 20 April 1942.

Ray served briefly with the RAAF Liaison Office in Cairo and on 8 October 1942 was posted to No. 71 Operational Training Unit (OTU) at Summit, a regional town in Sudan more than 2,000 km south of Cairo and 700 km north-east of Khartoum.



Map showing Alexandria and Cairo (Egypt); Khartoum and Summit (Sudan).

Ray's first flight with 71 OTU was on 19 October 1942. Ten days later he took off in a Harvard Trainer on what was to become his last flight. Pilot Officer Edwin Hayes of Queensland was also in a Harvard on a training flight that morning. At some point the two aircraft collided and both pilots bailed out. Edwin Hayes landed safely; however, Ray's parachute did not open and he was killed when he hit the ground. The two aircraft crashed about five kilometres north of Summit.



North American T-6 Harvard VH-TXN single engine military training aircraft from World War II. ©123RF.COM used with permission.

Ray was buried in Gebeit War Cemetery, 28 km north of Summit. In 1955 the Commonwealth War Graves Commission transferred his remains to Khartoum War Cemetery. He is commemorated on Modern School's World War 2 honour board and on its digital honour board at <https://honour.perthmodern.wa.edu.au>. Ray left behind two sisters, two aunts, two uncles and the young woman to whom he was engaged, Phyllis Brooks of Mosman. Honouring Ray's commitment to others, his mother arranged for the following words from Acts 20:24 to be written on his headstone: "He counted not his life dear unto himself". A young man of considerable promise, his life was tragically cut short when he was only 25.

LEST WE FORGET

