



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Issue 51, February 2022 (Vol 3 No 1)

WELCOME

Hi

WELCOME to your *Perth Modernian e-Newsletter*, Issue 51, February 2022, Vol 3 No 1 offering two-way communication with all members, volunteers, families and friends. We bring to you news, event details and articles from the Perth Modernian Society, 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.perthmode.society.org.au
info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au
All messages received either by phone or email are promptly forwarded electronically for further action.

DIARY DATES

2022 ANNUAL REUNION and year groups REUNIONS

for further information visit
www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au

e-NEWSLETTER

Do you have something to say?
Memories to share?

Where are YOU now?

Send your news item, letters
and/or photographs to ...
newsletter@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

Next Issues

Copy deadlines for 2022

20 May
for circulation by 1 June 2022
20 August
for circulation by 1 September
20 November
for circulation by 1 December

IN THIS ISSUE:

*Thank you to all letter writers,
and contributors including:*

Barrie Baker
Ruth Barrett
Peter Dillon
Peter Farr
Julian Grill
Robert Johnson
Charmienne Vagg
Robyn White

Coordinator/Editor
Sallie Davies

A SPECIAL WELCOME



PERTH MODERN SCHOOL

Exceptional schooling. Exceptional students.

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC SCHOOL

Extract from School Website: www.perthmodernschool@wa.edu.au

MITCHELL MACKAY APPOINTED AS INTERIM PRINCIPAL



Perth Modern School welcomes interim Principal, Mitchell Mackay. He is joining us for 2022 from John Curtin College of the Arts where he is the substantive Principal.

Mitchell has worked with the WA Department of Education for 40 years and was the WA Education Awards 2021 Principal of the Year.

He has been the Principal of John Curtin College of the Arts for 16 years and during this time he was also Assistant Regional Director (2015) and Director of the School Improvement and Support Unit (2017). Previous to this he was the Principal of Rossmoyne Senior High School and Leeming Senior High School, Manager of Operations for the Fremantle-Peel District Office, and has been a Deputy Principal, Head of Learning Area Mathematics, Year Coordinator and teacher of Mathematics.

He has a Masters of Education in Educational Management and Administration and a Bachelor of Education in Mathematics and Science.

Fiona Tholet, also from John Curtin College of the Arts, is interim Associate Principal.

COVID-19 SCHOOL VISITOR INFORMATION - Please check with the School before visiting.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

Subscription received
CONTRIBUTING MEMBERSHIP
Welcome to New Contributors

Thank you for Renewals received

Robert Appleyard
Meredith Arcus
Barrie Baker
Zoe Baker
Kaye Barr
Marlene Barto
Mary Basley
Rose Bass
Laurie Best
Colin Binns
Merilyn Burbidge
John Blackburn
Peter Blaxell
Andrea Brittan
Kali Caramia
Andrew Cole
John Collins
Bruce Connor
Alison Dowley
Peter Farr
Helen Geijssell
Dane Gorn
Anne Greenhill
Rebecca Guy
Jean Harvey
Peter Hopper
Arun Jha
Philip Jennings
Mary Lake
Kent Logie
Barbara Mallett
Mary Marshall
Malcolm McCusker
Bruce Middleton
Pamela Millar
John Moffat
William Murray
Alison O'Dwyer
Kevin Parker
Bev Petterson
Patricia Quiggin
Lee Ranford
Arya Rao
Jennifer Richards
Victor Richards
Jaki Richardson
Donald Taylor
Albert Tognalini
Raymond Walls
Grahame Young
Maureen Young

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

- moved to replace it with a quadrennial contributing scheme of \$120 per quadrennium. Existing Contributing and any Registered members we could contact were invited to join this scheme. A significant proportion of these two groups demurred.
5. By about 2014 it was obvious that the Society needed to recruit from passing out Year 12 students, so a modified contributing scheme with, reduced payments for the first four ex-school years. was introduced. This was kindly supported by the School.
 6. Quadrennial Contributing fees were raised to \$140. A small number of Life and Honorary members were thrown in.

There are two issues that I would like to briefly comment on in this newsletter.

The first is the very extremely slow renewal of memberships of the Society this year. The Perth Modernian Society (founded in 1995) has been a very successful body, but it was realised that there could be a hiatus of membership as declines in the original membership of the Society needed to be offset by new membership from the more recent eras.

Unfortunately, renewals have been lower than expected this year and our financial future is in some doubt. Now is the time to come to the aid of the party. We encourage everyone to please commit to membership again this year. If you haven't received, or have misplaced, a renewal notice (emailed on or about 26 January) then please send an email to Barrie Baker at: Info@PerthModernianSociety.org.au

The second issue is the standing down of Lois Joll and Val Furphy which happened on 22 November 2021. One of our alumni has written expressing the view that my sympathetic support of the Principal and Associate Principal in the last e-Newsletter was inappropriate, mainly because the investigation of Lois and Val was still underway. I accept the member's right to that view - this is an open and tolerant Society.

However, this issue has never been fair. It has now been in train for three months which I think is a long time. Nor has it ever been made publicly clear what issues are being looked into. Speculation continues which is unsettling in the interim to the Perth Modern School community. I hope that we can all agree that procedural fairness is essential, and also that the process should not be unnecessarily dragged out.

Hon Julian Grill
President, Perth Modernian Society
28 Feb. 2022

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As membership officer on the Society's Council, have the responsibility to communicate with members and assist them to pay their annual membership dues. This \$40 per year per member provides a major part in achieving the Society's annual budget.

I am supported by a Membership Subcommittee, Eve Broadley, Peter Farr, Ed Lazarus, and Society president Julian Grill (ex-officio). We are kept busy because of the following circumstances:

1. From inception in 1995, there have been two classes of members Registered and Contributing.
2. Registered Members are ex-students/staff, about whom we have/had some contact and other details.
3. Contributing Members paid a one-off lifetime enduring \$100 which was to build up into an enduring capital sum whose interest earned would fuel our activities.
4. By 2010 it was clear that that model would not financially work, so we





PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

2022 COUNCIL

info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

The Hon Julian Grill, *President*
Dr Robyn White, *Vice President/Museum Rep*
Kate Lewis, *Vice President/ Webmaster*
Deborah Beresford, *Honorary Secretary*
Barrie Baker, *Membership/Sphinx Found.*
Ruth Barrett, *Honour Awards*
Eve Broadley, *Honorary Treasurer*
Peter Farr, *Past President*
Ed Lazarus, *Communications*
Barbara Mallett, *Reunions Coordinator*
Ex-Officio, *PMS Principal*

MODERNIAN HONOURS

Awards@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

Modernian Fellow

2014

Sallie Davies
Malcolm McCusker AC CVO QC
Donald Tyler

2016

Barrie Baker
Ian Jarvis

2017

Peter Farr

2020

Dr Kenneth Michael AC Cit WA

Moderna Scola Award

2016

Deborah Beresford
Alan Porter

2017

Evelyn Broadley

2018

Rosemary Pratt
Dr June Stephenson

2019

Robert Johnson

2020

Anne Celia Christmass
Neil Anthony Coy
Roger Stubbs AM

Honorary Member

2016

Alison Woodman

2017

Tonya McCusker AM

2019

Nigel Hunt
Brendon Dawson

7. In 2020 the Membership Subcommittee was set up, and it introduced a flat rate of \$40 for all (Contributing) (minus Life, Honorary and Ex-student) members. Registered member numbers are rapidly declining.

8. Over the 27 years all this was happening, the electronic revolution has produced (thanks, Ian Jarvis and Sallie Davies) a sophisticated JED Access database system (Jarvis ex-Mod Database) to meet Museum requirements.

9. Technical consultants are also now working with us to upgrade JED to improve its efficiency and capacity to accommodate changing member ship requirements.

Over the last month, Ed Lazarus and I have sent 264 letters and emails out to you all. At the time of writing, 48 have responded (18%).

A much stronger response from current members is essential if we are to bring in the remaining 80% of our annual budget. Please use the **Annual Payment Form** to support the Society which is doing so much for the School on your behalf.

- Barrie Baker, Membership Officer

YOUR SAY

From: Ruth Barrett, nee McWhinney, PMS student 1952-56

Subject: 1952-56 Reunion

Rayma (nee Richter) Pervan's name was inadvertently omitted from the list of people at the 1952-56 reunion at Deepwater Point on Sept. 10th last year. I hope there might be room in the newsletter to include an apology for this oversight (probably mine!) and this photo of Rayma with Laurie Best on that occasion. Thanks so much! Regards, Ruth



Laurie Best (nee Terrill) with Rayma Pervan (nee Richter) share their memories on the day

From: Olga Miragliotta, nee Karlson PMS student 1952-56

Subject: 1952-56 Reunion

Thank you for newsletter. I especially remember the names of some of the guests who attended the 52/56 reunion. Thank you for the memories. Olga

From: George Cresswell, PMS student 1953-54

Subject: A sincere thank you to Robert Johnson

Thank you for the piece that you wrote on Leslie George Studman. Very informative and moving. Regards, George

From: June Clough, PMS student 1958-59

Subject: Newsletter

Please note change of address. Love getting the mag, June



SPHINX FOUNDATION INC.

2022 BOARD

sphinxfoundation@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

Nigel Hunt, *Chairman*
Barrie Baker, *Member*
Peter Farr, *Member/Investments*
Vivian Wang, *Hon Treasurer*
Danielle Jeyes, *Member*
Associate Principal

DONORS

Professor Shirley K Randell AO
Dr Shane Langsford
Dr Mary Marshall
Malka Foundation



Sphinx Scholarship Fund



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY
MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED

2022 BOARD

museum@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

Dr Robyn White, *Hon Chair*
Sharon Williams, *Hon Treasurer*
Sallie Davies, *Minute Secretary*
Alistair Paterson, *Board Member*
Jeffrey Lai, *Board Member*
Monica Brierley-Hay, *Board Member*
2 vacancies

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

[History Centre and Archives]

Gay Albillos
Deborah Beresford, *Hon Archivist*
Jim Davies
Sallie Davies
Peter Dillon
Frank Hedges
Robert (Bob) Johnson
Bill MacPherson
Jill Lucas
Wendy McCallum
Deirdre Owen
Roger Stubbs
Loren White
Robyn White
Sharon Williams
Alison Woodman

DONORS

PMS Museum Fund

\$2000 Grant received from



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

Volunteer Grants Program 4
For equipment purchase



PERTH MODERN SCHOOL

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



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY
MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED



SPHINX FOUNDATION INC.

From: Lawrence Nheu, PMS student 2017-21
Subject: Thank you for Sphinx Foundation Scholarship

I wanted to thank you so much for the mathematics scholarship which you awarded me in December 2019. I used the funds to attend an Australian Maths Trust School of Excellence camp, which I thoroughly enjoyed and found very mathematically interesting and challenging.

I continued to work hard on mathematics in Year 11 and 12, and was awarded Certificates of Excellence in both Methods and Specialist in my WACE exams in November 2021. I used both maths scores in achieving the Beazley Medal WACE 2021.



Beazley Medallist Lawrence Nheu with Interim PMS Principal Mitchell Mackay, 2022

This year I am studying direct pathway medicine at UWA and have chosen maths for all my elective units. I am very proud to have attended Perth Modern School and extremely grateful for this scholarship. All the best, Lawrence

The Board of the Sphinx Foundation advises that Lawrence Nheu was Dux of 2021 and winner of the Beazley Medal, and since then the top Fogarty Scholarship. Yet Lawrence is much more than that! A real character. His letter shows the important role of Sphinx Scholarships in encouraging and financing

extra roles. Lawrence is an amazing lad who judging by the Year 12 presentation ceremony on 20 November where every time his name was called out for an award he received a spontaneous massive ovation from his peers. He was absolutely beaming. It is obvious that Lawrence is a great ambassador for Perth Modern School.

WHY MODERN SCHOOL?

Have you ever wondered why our school was named "Perth Modern School"?

Over the years, I've often been asked and asked others. The descriptor "Modern" is not a usual descriptor for our schools. Generally, our combined understanding has been about the curriculum offered as the new government senior secondary school was established. Unlike the existing non-government schools, which offered a classics curriculum, Perth Modern School offered the sciences, modern languages and adopted a logo with a modern language base (French). This was new, different and modern.

A recent visitor to the Museum has provided us with another perspective. Mr Peter Carleton visited us in November 2021 and was kind enough to follow up with a USB copy of a very relevant book by Francisco Ferrer (in 1908)





and translated to English by Joseph McCabe (1913) and to donate a bronze image of the author to the Museum.

Francisco Ferrer was a Spanish educator, shot by Spanish authorities in 1909 as the leader of the Barcelona insurrection of 1909. After much international controversy, in 1912 the Supreme Military Council of Spain recognized that there had been no evidence for this injustice, restored his property and accepted his innocence.

Ferrer abhorred violence, having taken part in an unsuccessful revolution in his youth. He hated the unequal distribution of wealth in Spain at that time as well as the role of the Church in politics. He resented the ignorance, poverty and squalor associated then with such a large proportion of the Spanish population.

His way forward, was to devote himself to the education of children for a peaceful, rationalistic and scientific mindset. To this end, he established a free, coeducational school in Barcelona where instruction would be based on rigorous logical thinking.

Ferrer identified his new school in Barcelona (1901), as The Modern School and

published frequent Bulletins to parents and friends, articulating the values upon which he based his leadership and direction of the School.

An early Bulletin describes the new Modern School programme

“The mission of the Modern School is to secure that the boys and girls who are en-trusted to it shall become well-instructed, truthful, just, and free from all prejudice.

To that end the rational method of the natural sciences will be substituted for the old dogmatic teaching. It will stimulate, develop, and direct the natural ability of each pupil, so that he or she will not only become a useful member of society, with his individual value fully developed, but will contribute, as a necessary consequence, to the uplifting of the whole community.

It will instruct the young in sound social duties, in conformity with the just principle that “there are no duties without rights, and no rights without duties.”

In view of the good results that have been obtained abroad by mixed education, and especially in order to realise the great aim of the Modern School — the formation of an entirely fraternal body of men and women, without distinction of sex or class — children of both sexes, from the age of five upward, will be received.

For the further development of its work, the Modern School will be opened on Sunday mornings when there will be classes on the sufferings of mankind throughout the course of history, and on the men and women who have distinguished themselves in science, art, or the light for progress. The parents of the children may attend these classes.

In the hope that the intellectual work of the Modern School will be fruitful, we have, besides securing hygienic conditions in the institution and its dependencies, arranged to have a medical inspection of children at their entrance into the school. The result of this will be communicated to the parents if it is deemed necessary; and others will be held periodically, in order to prevent the spread of contagious diseases during tile school hours.”

This initial outline makes many statements consistent with the principles with which Perth Modern School operated in its initial years:

- School curriculum was focussed on logical thinking, science was promoted and the curriculum was non religious
- The school was co-educational at a time of majority single sex schools in WA and internationally
- The School enrolled students of any class background sharing classrooms and activities
- The School was free to all students
- Ferrer also espoused a principle of “no rewards and no punishment” in his school – seeing this as creating yet another system of inequality. Mr Brown, our first Principal, seemed to be of a similar view, with the abolition of corporal punishment. It’s interesting too, that the School did not celebrate Dux students for many years.

Ferrer’s principles of his Modern School spread further into Spain – and schools were independently established in Malaga, Seville, Tarragona and Cordoba as well as in smaller towns around Barcelona.

In 1906-07 reactionaries in Barcelona and Spain imprisoned Ferrer – charging him with attempted assassination. He was released after international outcry confirmed the absence of any evidence and his absolute innocence.

However this attempt to rid the country of his presence served to disperse his principle of rational education further afield through the establishment of The International League for the Rational Education of Children.



It was following this period of imprisonment that Ferrer wrote a small, very personal volume articulating his experiences leading up to establishing the school and clarifying the kind of pedagogy that such a school practiced.

And the influence of the Rational School movement in Western Australia?

With a Director of Education (Cecil Andrews) from Scotland and our first Principal recently arrived from England, it is conceivable that the work of Ferrer was understood. Ferrer had visited the UK in 1909. Might his teaching and principles have reached our educators? Certainly there is a synchronicity between the early curriculum and pedagogy of Perth Modern School and Ferrer's Modern School in Barcelona.

Francisco Ferrer, *The Origin and Ideals of the Modern School* 1913
Retrieved on February 3, 2010 from dwardmac.pitzer.edu
Translated by Joseph McCabe
London: Watts & Co, 17 Johnson's Court, Fleet Street, E.C., 1913.

A GIFT FROM WALTER AMOS GARDHAM

Perth Modern School Manual Arts Teacher 1911—1930

Walter Gardham was one of the 16 founding teachers of Perth Modern School. He moved from London to Western Australia in 1902, settling in Kalgoorlie as a manual training instructor. In February 1911, Mr Gardham was appointed as the Head of the Woodworking and Mechanical Drawing Department at Perth Modern School, and remained there until his death in 1930.

Recently, the volunteers responsible for the Perth Modernian Society History Centre Science Collection began a special project. This followed the discovery of a wooden box of developed emulsion glass plates which had been stored in a cupboard in the Science Collection since being donated by family members who were former students at the School.

Volunteer researcher and photographer, Peter Dillon, was able to carefully prepare the silver coated glass negatives, convert them into digital images and produce photographic prints, now on display in the History Centre.



The original glass plates were in two sizes —3 x 4 inches and 6 x 8 inches - and the pictures would have been taken with a wooden box camera very similar to the one in our Museum collection donated by Gardham family members.



History Centre records enabled contact to be made with Mr Gardham's family, and reunite these photographs with the original donors, who were delighted to see these precious family memories.....all taken over a 100 years ago! Some images were of his wedding and honeymoon in 1899, his early life with his family in Kalgoorlie, and later in Subiaco, not far from Perth Modern School.



Walter Gardham's family were thrilled to have these glass negatives remain in our Museum Collection, and are a valuable historical record, as well as a wonderful insight into one of Perth Modern School's original teachers.



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
Wilfred Robert (Bob) Paget	1955-59	Student	28/07/2021
Leslie (Les) Cohen	1940-44	Student	21/06/2021
Trevor Walter Mills	1949	Student	28/11/2021
Roy Graham Bennett	1948-52	School Prefect	29/11/2021
Reuben Peter Neeson	2005-09	Student	01/12/2021
Joan Kathleen Garstone (nee Lilly)	1955-56	student	01/01/2022
Gavin Raymond Maxwell	1954-56	Student	16/01/2022
Major General Ronald (Ron) Alwyn Grey AO DSO	1943-47	Student	20/01/2022
Pamela Rosalind (nee Brain) Bednall	1944-45	Student	23/01/2022
Peter Abraham Smetana	1950-51(4/5)	Student	12/02/2022
Peter Graham Flavel	1950-54	Student	26/02/2022
Dr Victor Thompson (Vic) White AM	1941-42	Student	01/08/2021

Major General Ronald Grey, AO DSO : AFP Commissioner 1983–1988

Major General Ronald Alwyn Grey, AO, DSO was a senior Australian Army officer who served as Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police.

Ron Grey was a career army officer who attained the rank of Major General in 1978. He served in Borneo, Korea, and had a number of tours of duty in Vietnam. For his service in Vietnam he was made a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order and was awarded the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm.

During his five-year term with the AFP, Mr Grey served for one year as the chairman of the management committee of the Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence and led the Australian delegations to the Interpol annual General Assembly meetings.

In May 1987, he became the first Australian police commissioner to make an official visit to the People's Republic of China. His understanding and appreciation of international cooperation led to a major expansion of the AFP's overseas liaison officer network during the period he was Commissioner, increasing the number of countries in which the AFP had posts from three to 12. He was also responsible for focusing government on the cost of crime and the resources required to cope with it.

Another legacy of Mr Grey's military background was a recognition of the value of strategic and tactical intelligence in the fight against organised crime.

In 1988, Grey was commissioned to undertake a review of the rescue services in New South Wales. The recommendations of his review were implemented by the New South Wales government in 1989. Grey died on 20 January 2022, at the age of 91.

A Tribute to Joan Garstone (nee Lilly)

Born in 1939, Joan passed away peacefully on 1st January 2022 following a short illness. Joan was much loved by husband Roy of 61 years. They had three children, ten grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Joan lived in Kalamunda then went to Perth Girls High School, Modern School and Claremont Teachers College. Her first and only appointment was to Margaret River. She was a typical school teacher and married local dairy farmer, Roy Garstone.

Like many other young school teachers of her ilk, Joan was very active in teaching and participation in sports, especially hockey, in the area- As well Joan was heavily Involved in the local op shop in more recent years.

Joan and Roy retired from dairy farming to live in Cowaramup with a beautiful garden and fruit trees. Joan loved to cook.

The last time Joan made the trip to Perth to meet up with our group of school friends from Perth Girls and Modern was November 2019 Charm Vagg nee Feakes often called in to Cowaramup and was always made welcome. A number of school friends viewed the funeral service, which was held in Busselton, online. A dear friend, sadly missed.



Number 14 in a special series of articles prepared for publication by
Robert Johnson, PMS student 1961-65 and Museum Volunteer

ALAN MONTGOMERY LUTZ, DFC PMS Student 1936-37

Recently a woman approached a History Centre volunteer regarding her Uncle Bob, an English Flight Lieutenant who served in the RAF during World War 2. She said that Bob flew in 156 Pathfinder Squadron in 1943 with former Perth Modern School student Alan Lutz and that she had some information that may be helpful. That conversation led to Alan's story being chronicled in this edition.

Alan was born on 25 March 1920, lived with his parents Charles and Agnes in Kenwick and undertook Years 4 and 5 at Mod in 1936 and 1937. His oldest brother, Carl ("Bill"), was at Mod in 1926-27 and his next oldest brother, Robin ("Bob"), attended in 1930-31, both completing Years 4 and 5. Alan's cousin, Alfred, attended from 1925 to 1929. Only one of these fine young men survived the war.

An appendicitis operation kept Alan away from school for most of June 1937. However, he still managed to matriculate at the end of 1937 with passes in Latin, English, History, Maths A and Maths B.

Alan was a prominent golfer and won a WA Golf Club championship. He was working at accounting firm Merry and Merry as an audit clerk when he enlisted in the RAAF Reserve on 12 June 1940. He then enlisted for full-time service in the RAAF Citizen Air Force on 6 January 1941 as an Airman Pilot with the rank of Aircraftman Class 2.

Alan graduated from No. 5 Initial Flying Training School at Pearce on 28 February, 1941 and was promoted to Leading Aircraftman. He then attended No. 9 Elementary Flying School at Cunderdin, graduating on 1 May 1941. He departed from Sydney for Canada on 20 May 1941 for further training under the Empire Air Training Scheme.

Alan attended No. 2 Service Flying Training School at Uplands near Ottawa in Ontario from 21 June to 1 September 1941, graduating second in his class. With his pilot's wings on his chest and newly commissioned as a Pilot Officer, Alan was attached to the RAF and embarked at Halifax, Nova Scotia, for the UK on 9 September 1941, arriving there two weeks later.



Flight Lieutenant Lutz Avro Lancaster similar to the one Alan flew with 156 Squadron

After experiencing a Scottish winter with 20 Operational Training Unit (OTU) at Lossiemouth training on Wellington bombers, Alan was posted on 25 March 1942 to 12 Squadron at Wickenby near Lincoln. From there he flew on 31 operations over Europe when RAF losses were averaging around 5% an operation, making survival highly unlikely after 20 operations. During this time, he and another Wellington captain, Eric Utz from NSW, received press coverage as "The Old Firm of Utz and Lutz".

When aircrew completed a tour of 30 missions they were "rested" from operations for six months. On 1 September 1942, Alan was promoted to Flying Officer and two weeks later he was posted to 27 OTU as an instructor. His "rest" consisted of training inexperienced pilots on old aircraft no longer fit for operational use. During this period, both Alan and Eric Utz were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for their work with 12 Squadron.

On 22 June 1943 Alan was posted to 156 Squadron at Warboys, 130kms north of London. This Lancaster squadron was one of the four inaugural squadrons that formed the elite Pathfinder Force, highly skilled at marking targets for the Main Force bomber squadrons. Alan flew on 15 operations with the Squadron. Uncle Bob's Flying Log Book shows that Alan flew on 13 of those operations with Bob as his Flight Engineer. They bombed the heavily defended targets of Cologne (twice), Hamburg (four times), Mannheim, Nuremburg (twice), Milan (twice), Peenemunde and Berlin.

On the night of 6/7 September 1943, the RAF sent 404 bombers to attack Munich. Bob was not flying with him on that operation. Alan's aircraft took off at 7:50pm and was not heard from again. It was one of 16 aircraft that did not return. Alan was awarded his greatly-revered Path Finder Force Badge posthumously two days later.

Path Finder Force Badge



Alan's Lancaster was shot down just before 1am on the 7th by a Focke-Wulff 190 A-6 night fighter flown by Hauptmann Friedrich-Karl "Nasen" Müller of Jagdgeschwader (Fighter Wing) 300. Müller was a highly decorated pilot credited with shooting down 30 Allied aircraft during the war, two of them on that night and two on the previous night.

Alan and his crew were buried in a common grave in Durnbach War Cemetery 44kms south of Munich. He was 23 years old when he died. His brother Robin and cousin Alfred were both killed on operations with the RAF, Robin on 15 July 1942 and Alfred on 4 March 1945. Carl survived the war, returned home, died in 1993 aged 83 and is buried in Karrakatta cemetery.

LEST WE FORGET

On 17 January 1943, Bob completed a full tour of 30 operations as a Sergeant Flight Engineer with 97 Squadron and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal. After being commissioned as a Pilot Officer, Bob was posted to 156 Squadron. He flew with Alan Lutz on 13 operations over Germany and Italy between 28 June 1943 and 27 August 1943. On 21 September 1943, he was promoted to Flight Lieutenant, appointed Squadron Flight Engineer Leader and assigned to another crew. He was later awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Bob was shot down and killed on his 57th operation on 23 June 1944.

Squadron Leader Eric Utz, DFC and Bar, was killed on operations over Germany on 5 April 1944.

Alan's DFC citation states, "This Captain of aircraft has participated in attacks on several of the enemy's most heavily defended targets. Pilot Officer Lutz invariably descends to the lowest possible altitude to identify his targets and to ensure the accuracy of his attack. He has displayed high courage and devotion to duty."

REFERENCES

PMS archives

Internet:

156 Squadron RAF <http://www.156squadron.com/sqnhistory.htm>

AWM DFC <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/R1719232>

AWM Roll of Honour <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/R1719232>

CWGC <https://nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au/veteran?id=1054878&c=WW2#R>

Bomber Losses: <https://losses.internationalbcc.co.uk/loss/217293/>

Daily News 1/11/41 <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/78569998>

Daily News 7/8/42 <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/78297231?searchTerm=alan%20lutz>

Daily News 24/10/42 <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/78300718?searchTerm=alan%20lutz%20dfc>

Daily News 19/12/42 <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/78302128>

Daily News 8/10/43 <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/78461737?searchTerm=alan%20lutz>

DVA Nominal Roll <https://nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au/veteran?id=1054878&c=WW2#R>

Frederick-Karl Muller <https://www.luftwaffe.cz/mullerfk2.html>

Irish Examiner mass grave photo <https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/arid-30918709.html>

Imperial War Museum <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/life-and-death-in-bomber-command>

Jagdgeschwader 300 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jagdgeschwader_300

NAA service record <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=5239701&S=9&R=0>

RAF Bomber Command Aircrew https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RAF_Bomber_Command_aircrew_of_World_War_II

Recommended Reading:

It's Never Dark Above the Clouds by Syd Johnson, DFC and Bar, a former PMS student and Pathfinder pilot.

Pathfinder by Air Vice-Marshal Donald Bennett CB, CBE, DSO, the Australian who established and led the Pathfinders during World War 2.

Pathfinder, the Peter Isaacson Story by Denis Warner. Peter Isaacson AM, DFC, AFC, DFM, served in 156 Squadron prior to Alan Lutz's arrival. He flew a Lancaster under the Sydney Harbour Bridge on 22 October 1943, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Isaacson#/media/File:Lancaster_Q_for_Queenie_flies_under_Sydney_Harbour_Bridge_1943.jpg





At 5.30 p.m. on Thursday, February 3rd about 400 people assembled at the State Reception Centre in King's Park for the launch of Secret State, written by the President of Perth Modernian Society, Julian Grill. The invitation described the book as 'an exposé', 'a contribution to the legal, political and social history of WA', and 'a revealing account of Julian Grill's long battle with the CCC and its impact on the lives of many innocent people'. Well-known faces from the media and from politics were present, and an air of excitement prevailed.

The book was officially launched by Steven Penglis, Senior Counsel. Other speakers were Tom Percy, Queen's Counsel; Paul Murray, columnist and former editor of The West Australian; and Brian Burke, former Premier. Julian Grill thanked the many people who had assisted with the research

involved in the writing of the book. Singled out for special mention were Malcolm McCusker, Matt Birney, and Julian's wife, Lesley. All were present, and all were warmly applauded.

Given the varied personalities involved, the term 'political divide' might come to mind, but there was praise and also censure for various prominent politicians of all persuasions, and different positions along the political spectrum were represented. The theme of the speeches was common, apolitical, and delivered unequivocally: we should have a deep suspicion about the role and efficacy of bodies such as WA's Corruption and Crime Commission as currently constituted. Parallel bodies in other states have similar problems. If hearings are open, which is usually the case, allegations that are made are inevitably sensationally aired by the media. Because of this, the subject's career and family may be destroyed, his or her physical and mental health may be ruined, and lives may be lost to suicide – and yet many allegations are never proved. Often no charges result, no convictions are recorded, cases are dismissed. Speakers at the launch made the point that if wrongdoing is alleged, the police should be able to investigate.

Last year, controversially, WA's Parliament passed a special law to enable a former Chief Commissioner to be reinstated in our Corruption and Crime Commission. On the federal front, whether our country needs a body to investigate alleged corruption, and if so, how that body should be set up, are matters currently under discussion. Via Secret State, a record of his own lived experience, Julian Grill provides a view of what can and does go wrong if the legislation behind such a Commission is inappropriate. Whatever one's political views, it's important that people are aware of the issues.

At the time of writing, owing to the floods in SA, Secret State was not widely available in WA, and a formal review of the book has not been possible. However, Julian Grill's ten years of research and documentation, and his contribution to the discussion of these matters, should be acknowledged. He has helped to bring an important issue, so very relevant to our time, to public attention. - Ruth Barrett

