



# PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Issue 52 May 2022 (Vol 3 No 2)

Hi

WELCOME to your **Perth Modernian e-Newsletter, Issue 52, May 2022, Vol 3 No 2** 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.perthmoderniansociety.org.au](http://www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au)

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

All messages received either by phone or email are promptly forwarded electronically for further action.



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 20 June 2022

in the Staff Room, Andrew's Building at Perth Modern School  
5.15pm for registration and refreshments

AGM at 5.45pm

followed by the Guest Speaker

**Dr Ken Fitch, School Captain 1949**

**AO ASM CitWA**

*"Reflections on a Perth Mod Boy's Journey to the Sports Medicine Hall of Fame"*

### DIARY DATES

#### PMS CENOTAPH CENTENARY

Dedication of the War Memorial and Honour Board took place 100 years ago on Sunday 22 October 1922

#### 2022 AGM

**Monday 20 June**

5.15pm refreshments for 5.45pm meeting

**Ken Fitch**

GUEST SPEAKER  
in Staff Room, PMS  
Cecil Andrews Building

#### 2022 ANNUAL REUNION

Expected for mid September

#### REUNIONS

**(class/year groups)**

for further information visit

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

#### Class of 1992

Saturday 1 October

#### e-NEWSLETTER

Do you have something to say?  
Memories to share?

**Where are YOU now?**

Send your news item, letters and/or photographs to ...

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

#### Next Issues

**Copy deadlines for 2022**

20 August

for circulation by 1 September

20 November

for circulation by 1 December



#### IN THIS ISSUE:

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OF THEIR COUNTRY  
VALE

#### Contributors

Thank you to all letter writers  
and contributors:

Peter Dillon  
Peter Farr  
Julian Grill  
Robert Johnson  
Barbara Mallett  
Roger Stubbs  
Robyn White  
Loren White

#### Coordinator/Editor

Sallie Davies

#### Layout

Stuart Gould

## REUNIONS

Each year the Annual Perth Modernian Society Reunion is planned and promoted by the Council elected by Society Members. This is where many class/year groups, as identified by the final year when they were/would have been in 5th Year/Year 12, with the opportunity to meet others from the same year who then organise their own reunions.

The Council Representative for Reunions is **Barbara Mallett** and she is available to these groups to contact to guide you through the process and how the Society can assist with your planning. You will find more information on the website. Please read Barbara's message below:

### *Dear Perth Modern School Alumni*

2022 is a special year for you all as it is your "*DECADE JUBILEE*", or even your "*PLATINUM JUBILEE*".

Now that our borders are open and restrictions have been lifted, why not plan a reunion at the school?

*Perth Modern School* is unusual as a government school in Western to have a living and working ***Museum and History Centre onsite***. Many school records are housed there as well as countless artifacts, photographs, and memorabilia. A Museum volunteer can arrange to open the building and guide you through.

The school war memorial celebrates a century since its dedication ceremony and is a tangible record of the legacy of many past students.

The ever-growing school art and sculpture collection, a display of donor generosity, also showcases the work of talented students; you would certainly enjoy a guided school tour.

In keeping with the architectural harmony of the grounds, the new ***Cyril Tyler Auditorium*** offers comfortable seating during any orchestral concert and catering can be in the refectory or in several other suitable venues on the grounds.

A suitable date can be arranged with the school. Or if you prefer, you can plan your decade reunion to be part of the ***Annual Alumni Reunion in September 2022***, which would include a concert and catering. You wouldn't have to do a thing except to rally your classmates.

[Perth Modernian Society | Bringing together fellowship, scholarship and learning since 1911](#)

Contact: Barbara Mallett [reunions@perthmoderniansociety.org.au](mailto:reunions@perthmoderniansociety.org.au) for further information

## CONTRIBUTING MEMBERSHIP

### Thank you for 2022

#### Renewals received from

Jo Aldridge  
Marcelle Anderson  
Bill Burdett  
Daniel Butler  
Beverley Dodd  
Rosswell East  
Malcolm Evans  
John Ffarrington  
Irene Froyland  
Geoffrey Grewar  
Brian Hewitt  
Ian Jarvis  
Christine Lawson-Smith  
Carlo Manera  
David McDonald  
Jeanette McQueen  
Stephen Merralls  
Con Michael  
Ken Michael  
Kevin Moore  
Lyn Muir  
Geoffrey Playford  
Joan Robins  
Enid Rose  
Margaret Smith  
Colin Shilkin  
John Stone  
Walter Thompson  
Peter Wearne  
Shirley Wyburn

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Have you completed or updated your  
**MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION  
BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION  
and/or CHANGE OF DETAILS  
Forms** are available on the website  
[www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au](http://www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au)  
further information  
[info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au](mailto:info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au)







PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

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

#### 2021-2022 COUNCIL

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

The Hon Julian Grill, *President*  
 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*  
 Dr Robyn White, *Museum Rep*  
 Ex-Officio, *PMS Principal*

#### MODERNIAN HONOURS

[Awards@perthmoderniansociety.org.au](mailto: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

## YOUR SAY

**From: Carole Fielding, nee Bancelhon, PMS student 1974-75**

**Subject: Commos and Musos**

I was part of what was affectionately known as Commos (the common people) as opposed to Musos (music scholarship students). I have only been to a few functions over the years but noted most people there were mostly past scholarship students and older. Have non scholarship students been contacted? Or is there apathy amongst them as well? In 2025 it will be 50yrs since we graduated!

Regards, Carole

**From: Jeanette McQueen, PMS student 1957-61**

**Subject: Class/Year Group Reunions**

As a result of our 60th reunion held last September, the "girls" decided that they would like to meet more frequently. We then decided to meet for lunch every three months, with our first lunch being held on the 3rd December 2021 at Zamia Café, with twelve in attendance. Our second lunch held, again at Zamia Café, on the 18th March, with fourteen booked to attend.

Finally I was interested to see the name **Charm Vagg** mentioned, as Vagg is an unusual surname and my maternal grandmother was Hilda May Vagg. Perhaps she could contact me if she thinks there may be a connection (my ancestor was a convict).

Regards, Jeanette

**From: Jo Aldridge nee Murdoch, PMS student 1952-26**

**Re: A wonderful surprise**

I had a wonderful surprise a few days ago - a rather battered envelope, re-addressed and rather damp arrived in my mail box from an organization I had not known existed. "The Perth Modernian Society Newsletter", Issue 49, August 2021 had arrived.

Not only that, but it happened that one of the contributions to this publication was a letter from Ruth Barrett who I knew as **Ruth McWhinney**. Both Ruth and her friend **Tricia Kotai-Ewers** were in the same class as myself at Cottesloe Primary School and were together in our first year at Mod. **Jill Farr**, who is also mentioned, I remember well. This blast from the past has stirred many memories and I hope to have future editions of this letter in my mailbox. I enclose a modest donation towards this service.

I was sad to leave Mod in 1954 but family circumstances required it. I have, however, had an interesting and varied life: - two marriages, three children, a BA and Dip Ed from Melbourne Uni. Followed only one year of teaching before I took another turn, went into partnership running a restaurant in country Victoria - very successful and also very tiring - moved to Bruny Island, Tasmania to renovate an extremely run-down caravan park in an extremely beautiful part of the world - also very successful and not quite so tiring. Now, definitely retired and very much enjoying the delights that Tasmania has to offer, particularly the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra of which I am an enthusiastic subscriber.

I look back on my three years at Mod with respect, gratitude and affection. I might add that the Home Economics teacher (whose name I can no longer remember), was a considerable help in the cooking skills department, but all the teachers were so good and I am forever grateful for those three years, they have been a solid base for the rest of my life.

Jo Aldridge (nee Murdoch)



SPHINX FOUNDATION INC.

#### 2022 BOARD

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

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





PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY  
MUSEUM ASSOCIATION  
INCORPORATED

#### 2021-2022 BOARD

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

Dr Robyn White, *Hon Chair*  
Sharon Williams, *Hon Treasurer*  
Alistair Paterson, *Board Member*  
Jeffrey Lai, *Board Member*  
Monica Brierley-Hay, *Board Member*  
Lois Joll, *Leave of Absence*  
Nikki Reilly, *PMS representative*  
**1 vacancy**

#### 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

Mr Barrie Baker  
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Ms Joan Robins  
Dr Barry Saker  
Dr June Stephenson  
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Edna Youngman  
Thank you for your generous support



PERTH MODERN SCHOOL

Exceptional schooling. Exceptional students.

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC SCHOOL

[www.perthmodern.wa.edu.au](http://www.perthmodern.wa.edu.au)  
for School Board information.

**From: Marjory Wise**

**Re: Gordon Wise, PMS student 1942-46**

On a visit to Perth some years ago when Dr Robyn White was School Principal, my husband, Gordon Wise, made a memorable visit to her. It meant the world to him. He was in a wheelchair having suffered a serious stroke some years before. At the age of 97, on October 4, 2021, Gordon passed away peacefully having become very frail.

He had had a very full and satisfying life and my son and I have asked various old and new friends to give us tributes or memories in order to help us compile a Memorial booklet. The first contribution is from his oldest and best friend, fellow Modernian, Jim Coulter, with whom he did pilot training and also flew in the same Squadron stationed in West Wales. It was very nice to read the obituary in the Modernian last year. I have since then asked the Communications lady not to send "The Modernian" as Gordon is not here to read it. With warm memories of meeting the Principal,

Yours sincerely, Marjory Wise.

### SPHINX SCHOLARSHIP FUND AWARDS - UPPER SCHOOL 2021-2022



2021-22 Sphinx Foundation Scholarship Awardees

On 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022 a well-attended Year 11 assembly was held in the School's very beautiful Beasley auditorium during which the Perth Modernian Society's President **Hon Julian Grill** and Sphinx Foundation Board members **Nigel Hunt**, **Vivian Wang** and **Peter Farr** presented 40 scholarships and bursaries worth on average \$900 to Perth Modern School Year 11 students. Each awardee received a special

certificate along with a Citation that honours the particular donor(s) who have made the award possible.

The awards covered these learning areas: ARTS & TECHNOLOGY; ENGLISH; HASS (Economics-Accounting, Social Sciences, Psychology, Politics and Law); INNOVATIONS; MATHEMATICS; MUSIC; PHYSICAL EDUCATION; SCIENCE as well as EQUITY/NEEDS BASED scholarships. Normally the awards for Upper School students would have been presented at a whole of school assembly in mid-February, but that event had to be cancelled this year due to COVID restrictions on gatherings at schools. Following the assembly, some of the students chatted with Board members and PMS Principal **Mitch Mackay** and Associate Principals **Fiona Tholet** and **Nicola Reilly** in the McCusker Board Room (see photo below).

With 14 Sphinx scholarships previously awarded in December 2021 for needy students who started in Year 7 this year, plus another 31 students getting their awards renewed from previous years, the total this year came to **85** awards worth **\$90,000**. Since its inception in 2009 the Sphinx Scholarship Fund has enabled a remarkable total of **400** scholarships and bursaries to be awarded to the value of \$291,000, plus Principal's Discretionary Bursaries to the value of \$21,000 making a total of **\$312,000**. The total assets of the Scholarship Fund now stand at **\$1.4M**.



The awards are greatly appreciated by the PMS students and their parents, as illustrated by the following sample of de-identified thankyou emails recently received by Board members:

*Dear Mr Nigel Hunt and the Sphinx Foundation Board,*

*On behalf of my parents and myself, I would like to thank everyone involved in the selection process for **The Jean and Jim Cundill Creative Writing Bursary** for considering my application. This is such a great opportunity, and I will use it to further my English capabilities. I love reading and writing. English literature is one of the subjects I am most excited about entering in year 11. I feel extremely honoured to accept this scholarship.*

*Kind Regards,  
<Student name> 17 May 2022*

*Dear Mr Baker,*

*I am sincerely honoured and grateful to have been selected as the recipient of the **Perth Modernian Society Visual & Performing Arts Bursary** for 2022. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity, which has now opened gateways of opportunities that enable me to expand my horizons in my passion, visual arts. Upon graduation, it is my hope to pursue a career in the design sector and strive toward my dream of working in the entertainment industry. Receiving this scholarship motivates me to continue striving to the best of my ability in all my subjects, especially visual arts. Furthermore, it inspires me to continue doing what I love and chase after my dreams! Thank you again for your trust and willingness to award me this bursary.*

*Sincerely,  
<Student name> 18 May 2022*

*Dear Gai and the Sphinx Foundation,*

*On behalf of <name>, I'd like to thank you for the awarding of **The Raymond Dingle and Gai Harris Equity Scholarship**. The letter arrived this morning – one of the few times that <name> has received a personally addressed letter – and she read with wonderful surprise the results of her application. It took quite a while and a few readings for the news to sink in. <name> was buzzing with excitement. I've asked <name> what it means to her to be the recipient of this award. She replied that it was a great surprise and makes her feel special. I believe this award will give <name> a boost and reaffirm her already wonderful attitude to learning. As parents, my wife and I feel very blessed that <name> has fitted in well and is enjoying her experiences at Perth Modern.*

*Thank you and best wishes,  
<Parents' names> 14 May 2022*



*Sphinx Foundation Board members, PMS Principal **Mitch Mackay** and Associate Principal **Fiona Tholet** chatted with students in the McCusker Board Room after the presentation*





PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY  
MUSEUM ASSOCIATION  
INCORPORATED

MUSEUM SCIENCE PROJECT

Treasures from the Past

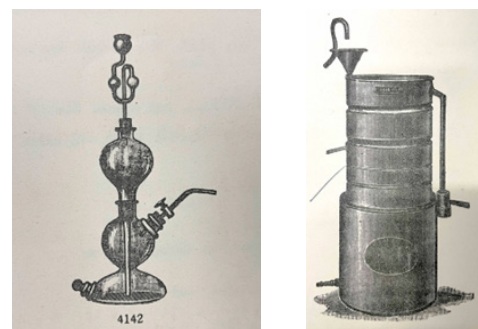
The museum has recently received a large collection of school science equipment that is now surplus to current school needs, but was a significant part of student science experience in the early to mid 20th century. This equipment adds to the science collection donated to Perth Modern School in the mid 1980s by the then science superintendents – ensuring that we hold a very wide variety of classroom science apparatus.



Extra display place is being created in the school museum to show this equipment and to allow current students and interested public to link in to the past experiences of life in the science classroom. The Kipp's apparatus and continuous bench top copper still pictured are some of the items that will be on display along with digital links to sites giving examples of their role in school science experiments.

The Kipp's apparatus was used to generate many gases for investigation while the still demonstrated a technique for separating liquids; notably alcohol.

Museum Volunteers **Peter Dillon** and **Loren White** are working carefully to identify and display as much of the newly recovered artefacts as possible, while continuing to research accurate apparatus names and their function.



MUSIC@MOD - THE MUSIC HISTORY RESEARCH PROJECT

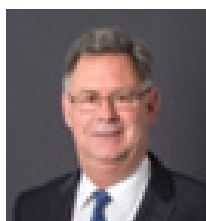
Amanda Lewis and Professor John Bertram

When we recall the former students of the Specialist Music Program so often we focus only upon those who have had successful world class musical careers such as **Richard John** student 1984-88, **Emma Lysons** (now Matthews), student 1984-88, **Lisa Outred**, student 1982-86 and **Ben Jacks**, student 1988-92. There are so many others who became very successful academics, scientists, engineers and lawyers.

As part of the music history project, this month I have made contact with Dr **Amanda Lewis** student 1996-2002 and Professor **John Bertram**, student 1968-1972.



**Amanda Lewis** has a PhD from UWA. She used x-ray crystallography to examine the bimolecular interactions in molecular mechanisms of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and motor neurone disease. She was recruited by the Stahlberg Research Group in Switzerland to assist its research of the structural analysis of the human brain in patients suffering from Parkinson's Disease. She was also a key member of the transformational Homeward Bound Project designed to promote the leadership skills of women in scientific research. Amanda observes, *'that apart from personal discipline, the music program was integral to instil confidence and the courage to step outside one's comfort zone. Getting up on stage to perform in front of your peers time and time again with the sole purpose of being critiqued...that really takes courage and builds resilience! The program also created strong bonds for me - four of my closest friends are the ones I made from the music program at Perth Mod over 20 years ago now!'*



**John Bertram** is the Professor of Anatomy and Developmental Biology at Monash University. His major research interest is the human kidney. He completed a first class honours degree in science at UWA followed by a PhD in histology and pathology at Flinders University. He has also completed a leadership course at Warwick University and a doctorate in medical science at Monash. He and his collaborators have undertaken ground breaking research that has established Monash University as a world leader in developmental biology research. There is much more to the story, but perhaps we can end with John's memory of his time at Perth Modern School, *'My 5 years at Mod were amongst the happiest of my life - wonderful teachers and students, a lot of music and academia and an enormous amount of fun!'*



*Number 15 in a special series of articles researched and prepared for publication by  
Robert Johnson, PMS student 1961-65 and Museum Volunteer*

### **In Commemoration of the Sinking of HMAS Sydney in 1941** **Eric Redmond, PMS student 1932-34, and Frederick Schoch, PMS student 1934**



Eric Redmond



Fred Schoch

On 19 November 1941 the Australian light cruiser HMAS *Sydney* engaged the German auxiliary cruiser *Kormoran* in waters 200 kilometres west of Shark Bay, Western Australia. Both ships were destroyed and the *Sydney*'s entire crew of 645 men were lost. Signaller Eric Redmond and Engineer Lieutenant Fred Schoch were two members of that crew.

After working as an insurance clerk, Eric joined the Royal Australian Navy at Fremantle on 17 February 1938 for the standard period of 12 years. He underwent initial training at HMAS *Cerberus* south of Melbourne. He passed the Ordinary Signaller course on 5 October 1939 and was posted to the destroyer HMAS *Stuart* a week later. Eric was promoted to Signaller on 27 November 1939 and served on the *Stuart* as a Signaller until 19 May 1941.

During that time, the *Stuart*, under its legendary commander Hector Waller, was part of the 10th Destroyer Flotilla with *Vampire*, *Vendetta*, *Voyager* and *Waterhen*. It was famously called the "Scrap Iron Flotilla" by the Germans because of the age of the ships. The flotilla did sterling work resupplying the troops through Tobruk and other ports on the North African coast, and bombarding enemy installations and transport. In July 1940 the *Stuart* led the 10th Flotilla during the Battle of Calabria in which the Italian navy sustained significant damage. During the battle of Cape Matapan in late March 1941, the *Stuart* torpedoed the Italian cruiser *Zara*. The battle was an overwhelming victory for the Allies.

Eric served on the *Vampire* for two months in mid-1941, returned to *Cerberus* in July 1941 and was then posted to *Sydney* on 22 October 1941. It is likely he joined the ship in Fremantle on 10 November 1941 when it returned to port after a patrol in the Indian Ocean.

#### **Frederick Schoch**

Frederick Harold Schoch was born in Geraldton on 4 September 1918 to Frederick Sr and Merle. His father taught at several country schools and Fred attended primary school at No. 1 Saw Mill School in Deanmill, Coolgardie State School and Kurrawang State School. He then attended the Eastern Goldfields High School from 1930 to 1933 for his first four years of high school. When his father was transferred to Cookernup near Harvey, Fred transferred to Modern School to undertake his fifth year, commencing in February 1934. He successfully completed his Leaving Certificate exam in November of that year. Fred enrolled in engineering at the University of Western Australia in 1935, lived at St George's College, and completed his five-year degree course in August 1939. In December 1939 he accepted a position as Assistant Engineer at Cooperative Bulk Handling.

Fred joined the Royal Australian Navy Volunteer Reserve on 1 October 1940 as an Engineer Sub-Lieutenant. He transferred to the Permanent Naval Forces on 13 August 1941 with the rank of Temporary Sub-Lieutenant (Engineer) on probation and was posted to HMAS *Sydney* on the same day. On 15 October 1941 the *Sydney* returned to Fremantle after patrolling in the Indian Ocean and he and Mary Elizabeth (Betty) Ross were married in Claremont that afternoon. The *Sydney* sailed the following day, returned to Fremantle on 10 November and departed the next day for its rendezvous with the *Kormoran*. Fred and Betty had barely four days of married life together.

#### **The Battle**

The *Sydney* had returned to Australia in February 1941 after distinguishing herself under Captain John Collins in the Mediterranean, in particular by the sinking of the Italian destroyer *Espero* and cruiser Bartolomeo Colleoni in 1940.



HMAS Sydney



SKS Kormoran

Captain Theodor Detmers, the commander of HSK *Kormoran*, Germany's largest auxiliary cruiser, described the encounter with HMAS *Sydney* and the *Kormoran* in his book, "The Raider Kormoran". The *Kormoran* was sailing towards Shark Bay on "a beautiful day with warm sunshine" looking for its eleventh merchant ship to sink. At 3:55pm a ship was sighted and identified as a cruiser of the "Perth" class. Captain Detmers knew he was slightly outgunned by the enemy ship but surprise was on his side as the *Kormoran* was disguised as the Dutch merchant ship "Straat Malacca".

Captain Detmers, hoping to entice the *Sydney* in closer, played for time by sending confusing signal flag messages and radio calls. *Sydney's* commander, Captain Joseph Burnett, with guns trained on the suspicious-looking ship, ordered the *Kormoran* to stop and gradually sailed closer. At 5:30pm the range was around one kilometre and the *Sydney* "had come practically to a standstill". Captain Detmers ordered the Dutch flag to be lowered, the German naval war flag to be raised, and "gave the order to open fire both to my gunners and the torpedo batteries."



**HMAS Sydney approaching Kormoran on her starboard quarter (right rear) at 5PM.**



**At 5:30PM fire was opened on Sydney.**

The first salvo from the *Kormoran* "scored direct hits on the enemy's bridge and in his artillery control post", requiring each of *Sydney's* four main turrets to be independently operated. The *Sydney's* first salvo missed the *Kormoran*. The raider's underwater torpedo tube despatched a torpedo that struck the *Sydney* near its bows causing a large explosion which put the two forward turrets out of action. The *Kormoran* fired its next eight salvos without any answering fire from the *Sydney*, ruining the bridge where Eric Redmond was on duty and destroying the *Sydney's* engine room where Fred Schoch was stationed. The *Kormoran's* anti-aircraft weapons were used with devastating effect as they poured fire along the *Sydney's* deck and superstructure.

At 6:25pm Captain Detmers gave the order to cease fire. The *Sydney* "was over ten thousand yards distant; drifting rather than sailing, and little more than a flaming wreck." Shots from one of *Sydney's* rear turrets had set the *Kormoran* on fire and Captain Detmers ordered his ship to be abandoned and scuttled. There were no survivors from the *Sydney*. Of the *Kormoran's* crew of 399, 318 survived the battle and were interned as prisoners of war, firstly in Harvey and then in Victoria. One crew member died in captivity. And so passed two fine young Australians who had made the supreme sacrifice for their country. Eric was 22 when he died and Fred was 23.

## LEST WE FORGET

### References:

- PMS Archives

### Books

- Bathgate, Greg and Shepherd, Phil, Oversight, Battle With Raider Resolved, Boolarong Press, Brisbane, 2014.
- Detmers, Theodor, The Raider Kormoran, 2nd Edition, William Kimber, London, 1959.

### Internet

- Eric Redmond's Service record <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/View-Image.aspx?B=4507874&S=2&R=0>
- Fred Schoch's service record <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=5218707&S=3&R=0>
- Battle of Cape Matapan [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Cape\\_Matapan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Cape_Matapan)
- HMAS Stuart [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMAS\\_Stuart\\_\(D00\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMAS_Stuart_(D00))
- Part 1 of the story of HMAS Sydney <https://www.navy.gov.au/hmas-sydney-ii>
- Part 2 of the story of HMAS Sydney <https://www.navy.gov.au/hmas-sydney-ii-part-2>
- Engineering Heritage Western Australia <http://ehwa.wikidot.com/people:schoch-fred>
- Carnamah Historical Society and Museum [https://www.carnamah.com.au/teachers?starts\\_with=S&page=62](https://www.carnamah.com.au/teachers?starts_with=S&page=62)
- German Auxiliary Cruiser Kormoran [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German\\_auxiliary\\_cruiser\\_Kormoran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_auxiliary_cruiser_Kormoran)

### Further reading

- Mearns, David, The Search for the Sydney, HarperCollins, Pymble, NSW, 2009.
- Olson, Wesley Bitter Victory: The Death of HMAS Sydney, University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, WA, 2000.



## 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
Sylvia Mary Watson (nee Harley)	1949-53	Student	23/10/2020
Dr Victor Thomson White AM	1941-42	Student	01/08/2021
Victor Vlahos	1966-68	Student	22/02/2022
Peter Graham Flavel	1950-54	Student	26/02/2022
Dr Denese Elizabeth Playford	1978-82	Student	15/03/2022
Valma Rose (Val) Huck (nee Williams)	1945-49	Student	16/03/2022
Dorothy May Quinn (nee Grantham) aged 99	1935-39	Student	16/03/2022
James Arnold (Jim) Leslie	1948-52	Student	26/03/2022
Neil Alfred Hammer	1953-54	Student	26/03/2022
Florence Joan McIntosh (nee Havel)	1938-40 (yrs 3-5)	Student	31/03/2022
Stephen Gary Sinnot	1966-70	School Prefect	27/03/2022
Malcolm John Evans	1958-59 (yrs 4/5)	Student	29/03/2022
Janice Margaret Kelly (nee Allen)	1950-52 (yrs 1-3)	Student	03/04/2022
Dr Peter Dean Breidahl	1940-44	Student	11/04/2022
Murray John Leeder	1956-57 (yrs 4/5)	Student	23/04/2022
Loxley Gordon Cabassi	1951-53 (yrs 1-3)	Student	29/04/2022

## TRIBUTES

### LOXLEY GORDON CABASSI

My husband Loxley Gordon Cabassi won a Scholarship to attend Perth Modern School in the year way back in 1950 he was there for three years could you please insert in your next newsletter that sadly he passed away on the 29th of April 2022.

Sadly I can't tell you who he knew at Mod or what year he was in but when he received the newsletter he use to enjoy them and say I knew so and so etc etc. He had a muscle disease and was confined to a wheel chair for many years and couldn't get out to enjoy the school reunions along with many other outings. - Sincerely, Margaret Cabassi

### MALCOLM JOHN EVANS

After 37 years in the Western Australian Police Force he reached the rank of Chief Superintendent while Principal of WA Police Academy. In recognition of his distinguished service Malcolm was awarded the National Service



Medal (NSM) and 2 bars. He subsequently set up a private security company that serves the resources sector in Australia and several overseas countries. He was a long-standing Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management. The photo at right was taken in 2018 on the occasion of Malcolm being honoured for over 30 years' membership of AIM (WA).

Malcolm's mottos were "*A busy life keeps the mind active*" and "*Leisure is adventure before dementia*" - such as bush trips throughout Australia. Malcolm Evans was a strong donor to the Sphinx Scholarship Fund appeal since its launch in 2010, and also to the funding appeal for the Tyler McCusker Sports Centre, and as well he was a Platinum donor to the *Raise the Roof appeal* for the Cyril Tyler multi-purpose auditorium, which opened in 2021.

In 2016 Malcolm made another significant gift to the Scholarship Fund and said at the time that through Rotary International he has come to appreciate the importance in the working world of knowing languages other than English. Hence, he agreed to the proposal for an academic excellence scholarship in the area of foreign languages to be awarded to a student completing Year 10, and who wishes to pursue this area of study in Years 11 and 12 at Perth Modern School.

The inaugural Malcolm Evans Foreign Languages Scholarship was awarded in Dec. 2016. By 2022, twelve PMS students had benefited. Malcolm took ill and was hospitalised in 2021. After a lengthy illness, Malcolm passed away in March 2022, survived by his loving wife Roberta (Bobbie). Malcolm has left an outstanding legacy at Perth Modern School.



## MURRAY LEEDER

Born in Perth on 28 December 1940, former teacher, racing writer and West Perth league footballer Murray Leeder died in Perth after a long illness, aged 81. He taught from 1960-65 at Jolimont Primary School, in 1966 at Harvey Agricultural High School and in 1967 at Westminster Primary School in WA.



Murray Leeder played 103 games for West Perth, 1960-70 and was a life member who loved everything red and blue. It is fitting that the Perth suburb of Leederville was named after his great great grandfather, William Leeder, as was West Perth Football Club's home ground, Leederville Oval. One of his proudest sporting moments came in 1968 at the height of his WANFL days, when he was named in the Galahs, a national team that toured Ireland.

*"Murray moved from Perth to the Northern Territory in May, 1974, to accept a teaching position with the Commonwealth Government. In all, his career was to include four years in Melbourne and six in Perth in the vocation for which he developed a passion that never left him. As with life in general, Murray was an 'everyman' at the blackboard, specialising in most subjects, including mathematics. He taught at Moil, Rapid Creek, Ludmilla, Berrimah, Berry Springs, Humpty Doo and Larrakeyah primary schools and helped establish the one at Woolaning, near Wangi Falls." — Ashley Hornsey, former NT News sports editor*

He wrote for the Northern Territory Newspaper from 1996 to 2002 and was highly regarded in the media and throughout the racing industry. Before joining the NT News, Murray worked on the defunct Darwin Star and on ABC radio and television. He also self-published at least two largely biographical record.

Murray's ashes were laid to rest at his beloved Finniss River property in the Northern Territory.

*"The storyteller of days gone by in the NT, when Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs were genuine outback towns. Loved working with you Murray and recalling the good old days, particularly your description of the Timber Creek race meeting where everything was controlled by one man. The years with you at the NT News in the early noughties were fun and a time to learn. Sympathies to the Leeder family. - Grey Morris, former sports editor and journalist at the NT*

## JAMES (JIM) ARNOLD LESLIE BE(Hons) FIE Aust, FICE

Jim died in Melbourne on Saturday 26 March. Jim grew up in Cottesloe, went to Perth Modern School, then UWA and graduated as a Civil Engineer. Two of his first jobs were on the Narrows Bridge and the Standard Gauge Railway. Jim was an exceptional engineer - he was soon attracted to work with Maunsell Partners in Melbourne and was involved in many overseas projects. Before that, while working in Canberra, he met and married Pat Pye with whom he had a daughter and three sons. In their spare time Pat and Jim ran a cattle property in Greta, Victoria.

Jim became managing partner of Maunsells. Jim was a canny investor and a Carlton tragic. Sadly Pat passed away before Jim who is survived by his children and twelve grandchildren. In his retirement Jim spent some time reconnecting with school and work friends and was a frequent visitor to Perth. Like many of us, Jim loved Rotto. Fondly remembered by **Ken Watson, John Cochrane, Ray Purdy, Carlo Manera, Brian Appleyard and Frank Hedges.** Funeral Service streamed on [smct.org.au](http://smct.org.au) - Published 4th Apr, 2022, The West Australian

## DR VICTOR THOMSON WHITE AM

Vic will be remembered fondly and gratefully by many thousands of patients, and many hundreds of medical students, midwives, residents, registrars, general practitioners, and co-consultants 'who he taught or mentored. He was renowned not only for his clinical skills but also for the respect, courtesy and kindness that he showed to all. His name will always be associated with King Edward Memorial Hospital, but the impact he made extends far beyond.

Victor White died peacefully on 1 August this year at the age of 96. For those in the medical community who knew him, he would be considered a West Australian legend. He was born in Western Australia, and attended Nedlands Primary, Claremont Central, and Perth Modern Schools. After his first year at the University of Western Australia, he completed his medical degree with honours at the University of Melbourne, where he resided at Ormond College. After an internship in Melbourne, he took up resident positions at Fremantle and King Edward Memorial Hospitals (KEMH), before travelling to the UK to undertake specialist training. He returned to Perth in 1954 as one of its first specialists in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, thus commencing a long and distinguished career dedicated to the practice, promotion, and development of O&G in Western Australia.



Vic's name will always be associated with KEMH, where he was an honorary or visiting consultant for 38 years. He participated in or chaired many hospital committees and services including the Clinical Association and Hospital Board. His pivotal role in establishing and supporting the Oncology service at King Edward Memorial is widely recognised. He was a tutor and examiner for The University of Western Australia, a member of the State Council of the AMA, and undertook many regional and national College roles. He became a foundation Fellow of the Royal Australian College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and a member of its first council. He served on or advised many other state committees and spent 16 years in the Australian Army Citizens Military Force, attaining the rank of major. In 2008, he was awarded Membership of the Order of Australia (AM), *'for service to medicine in the fields of obstetrics and gynaecology through clinical, teaching and administrative roles and contributions to a range of professional organisations'*.

Vic's sporting achievements are less well known, yet he won the WA state schoolboys' hurdles in 1942, setting a record he held for nine years. During the wartime years he played for Claremont in the underage West Australian Football League. At Ormond he earned a Hockey 'blue' and was selected in the combined Australian Universities Hockey team. With his flaming red hair and his name 'White', he was often affectionately known as 'Red, White, and Blue'. He continued to play for the University Associates Hockey team in Perth.

Vic was loved by virtually all who knew him. He is much mourned by his wife Rhoda – with whom he had a long, loving, and successful marriage for over 67 years – by his children Phillip, Jane, Michael and Stephen, his grandchildren Tristan, Emma, Sophie, Cait, Cam, Thomas and Sarah, and his step grandchildren James, Mathew and Jessica. He is mourned also by me, who knew him as a teacher and father-in law, and his three daughters-in law, Carol, Kim, and Maureen, along with his great grandchildren, his extended family, and wide circle of friends. He instilled in his family his love of life and knowledge, and supported and encouraged them in all their endeavours, leaving a wonderful legacy.

- Neville Gibbs MBBS, MD (UWA), FANZCA, MSc (Oxon), Medicus, September 2021

### **DENESE ELIZABETH PLAYFORD**

Associate Professor, BA (Hons), PhD WA, MCS Regent Coll. Denese was Associate Professor of Medical Education at UWA, BA in Psychology, PhD in Anatomy and Physiology. Master of Theology, and Professor, UWA Medical School, Rural Clinical School.

Denese Playford passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on Tuesday March 15. She was very clever and a most articulate person. She had a beautiful singing voice, played the violin and a PMS student 1978-82 as a member of the Specialist Music Program.

Elevated to a full Professor of Medicine UWA late last year, she was a medical educator for The Rural Clinical School of WA, immediate past co-ordinator of Scholarly Activity for The School of Medicine, and stream co-ordinator for Service Learning in the School of Medicine.

Denese Playford was co-recipient of a Carrick Award for Programmes that Enhance Learning – Innovation in curricula. Learning and Teaching, which discussed transformative learning in a rural clinical school, co-recipient of WA Premier's Awards for Creating Jobs and Economic Prosperity, and Strengthening Regional Western Australia.

For her work with medical students, she received a number of Faculty Awards for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning. In 2017 she was awarded a national citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning in the national University Awards for University Teaching.

Denese's publications have focused on the transformative impact that educational intervention can have on graduate's workforce choices. She was Australasian Associate Editor for the Rural and Remote Health journal.

<https://www.uwa.edu.au/news/Article/2022/April/Vale-Professor-Denese-Playford--->

### **Educating-hearts-and-minds**

Denese Playford, valued rural communities and saw them as deserving of the best health care and education. Through her life's work in teaching, research, coordination, and mentorship, she advanced rural health care delivery across Western Australia and inspired many to do the same.



Denese always spoke of the importance of being intellectually rigorous in academic life, and she committed herself to this path from early on. She completed her first degree – a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Psychology – at the University of Western Australia in 1986, before returning to UWA to complete her PhD in Anatomy and Psychology from 1988 to 1992.

During these years she also completed a Master of Theology through Regent College in Vancouver. She was first appointed to an academic role as a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the Network Centre of Excellence based at McGill University, remaining there for three years in the mid 1990's. On return to Australia, she worked briefly at the University of Notre Dame's Broome campus before joining UWA again in 2002. From then until the time of her death she remained committed to rural medical and health care education in the Faculty of Medicine, first working for General Practice and the Combined Universities Centre for Rural Health and then joining the Rural Clinical School of Western Australia (RCSWA) in 2006.



Over her academic career at UWA, Denese progressed steadily from her first appointment as an associate lecturer in 2002, becoming an Associate Professor in 2009 and promoted to Professor in October 2021. During this time, she received many awards for her work, and she especially valued those that related to her teaching or resulted from direct student nomination. In 2012 a Citation for her outstanding contribution to student learning was awarded by the Commonwealth Department of Education and Training. In 2020 she was honoured as a Senior Fellow in the UK-based Higher Education Academy.

Her intellect, curiosity and fruitful partnerships resulted in her publishing 61 articles in the peer-reviewed literature. Her first was a study of the optic nerve of frogs in 1993, but she quickly became an author focused on rural health issues and medical education, including work in high impact journals such as BMC Medical Education, BMC Health Services Research, Medical Teacher and Medical Education. She also had papers published in the Medical Journal of Australia, Rural and Remote Medicine and the Australian Health Review. She published across a range of topics such as retention of rural medical workforce, medical student training and the initiatives of the RCSWA. As a result, Denese's research has been cited 523 times to date by authors from around the world, with her highest citing paper being *Impact of the Rural Clinical School of Western Australia on work location of medical graduates* which was published in The Medical Journal of Australia in 2014. Before she died, she wrote to a fellow academic commenting that her papers focusing on the RCSWA were "really fun to write because it's a joyful thing to talk about positive outcomes!"

In her work as Unit Coordinator for RCSWA, Denese provided day-to-day leadership for the School's curriculum design and implementation, assessment and teaching. She was the urban face of the school, contributing to UWA committees and to liaison with the RCSWA's two partner universities of Notre Dame and Curtin. At the time of her death, she was a current member of 11 committees, and was the chair of four of these. At times discussions in these committees would have been rigorous and heated, but Denese's approach was to always try and ensure that everyone's comments were valued. She was a constant voice calling for innovation and excellence in rural medical education, arguing strongly for a bespoke rural generalist-based curriculum; for the deep engagement of students in curriculum redesign; and for assessments that really did measure what rural communities valued and students needed to learn. She argued for education of the heart as well as the mind. She was a special champion for Aboriginal Health education, for equitable delivery of care, and for developing meaningful partnerships between community-based organisations and rural people with the University to improve services and outcomes.

As a colleague and mentor, she changed many people's lives. One RCSWA staff member called her "our elder", recognising the contribution she made to the growth of so many others. She supervised student projects, Masters and PhD studies, and was a vigorous contributor to the development of research skills and productivity within the School, especially through the Graduate Certificate in Rural and Remote Health and the Scholarly Activity stream which she designed and delivered for many years. She cajoled some into enrolling in higher studies, encouraged others to collate their activities as a single academic body of work, reinvigorated those that were flagging with their research, and cheered on as people succeeded. She was always confident in her rural colleagues' abilities, even when they themselves doubted. Her optimism in others got many through times when they wondered if they were up to the job.

Outside her work in WA, Denese was also a respected member of the Federation of Rural Australian Medical Educators, FRAME, where she was described as "*one of the most thoughtful, humble and tenacious rural health academics ever encountered*". Her contribution to the changed future of rural health care delivery through her impact on hundreds of students over many years has been recognised by the FRAME leadership team as they too reflect on her life and say goodbye.

Denese's family were important to her and she valued her roles as sister and aunt. In an online memorial gathering soon after she died, friends and family from around the world told stories of her generosity, her fierceness in the face of perceived injustice, her loyalty to them in all their ups and downs, her love of travel and her openness to all the world had to offer. Her UWA colleagues of close to 15 years have also shared stories of how she rejoiced in their marriages and parties, organised fine dining celebrations, visited after the births of babies and marvelled as the children grew. She also helped them to mourn the losses of dear colleagues and friends.

In recent months, she had been corresponding with a mentor about Greek philosopher Aristotle's teachings.

It seems fitting to conclude now by acknowledging Denese's death, the sadness of her colleagues, and the grief of those who loved her, with a quote from him that captures Denese's approach to life and her contribution to our world:

*"Where your talents and the needs of the world cross, there lies your vocation."* — **Aristotle**

Vale Denese Playford 16/05/1965 – 15/03/2022

## PETER DEAN BREIDAHL



BSc (Melb) 1949 MB BS (Melb) 1951

MRACP 1957 MCRA 1957 FRCR (Eng) 1958 FRACP 1968, FRACR 1971

Peter Dean Breidahl was born in Stawell, Victoria in 1927, the son of Dr Harold Breidahl and Ethel Grace (nee) Dean. His early education was at Perth Modern School and then at the University of Western Australia, going on from there to the University of Melbourne to complete his medical course.

After extensive training in Melbourne and overseas, Peter was appointed in 1960 as a Radiologist at the Royal Perth Hospital and at the same time Head of the Department of Radiology at the King Edward Memorial Hospital (1960-62). From 1962-1971, he served as a radiologist at the Princess Margaret Hospital for Children. Peter gave continuous service to the Royal Perth Hospital from 1960 until his retirement in 1992 - a total of 32 years. He helped to establish an X-ray Department at the Rehabilitation branch of the Hospital. Partly as a result of this association, he became very interested in the functional and structural anatomy of the spinal vertebrae and in particular the thoraco-lumbar junction. A whole series of informative papers in association with Dr Kevin Singer, a Bio-Engineer at Curtin University, resulted.

Peter gave freely of his time to the Royal Australian College of Radiologists, was its Thomas Baker fellow in 1959, held many offices in the West Australian branch, was an examiner for the College from 1975-1982 and its President 1989-1991.

He married Norma Rae Waters, a Royal Perth Hospital trained nurse, in 1955 and they have four children: two sons and two daughters. One son trained in medicine and like his father, is a radiologist. One daughter is a trained nurse. Peter had a number of interests outside of medicine. He grew grapes and trees at Margaret River, liked good music, played tennis and even laid claim to being the world's oldest body surfer at Margaret River. Peter retired in 1992 and was appointed an Emeritus Consultant Radiologist at RPH.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### The Great Race of 1940 R (Bob) W Atkinson, PMS student 1938-40

The 1940 Junior Mile took on a particular significance for myself and my very good friend, both then and now. Somehow we had managed to "lay a book" on certain aspects of this most important event. Not on the actual result of the race, but on the finishing efforts of three of the contestants. To protect the "guilty" the other two will be known only as "A" and "B".

Clients were invited to back either to finish ahead of me. In the unlikely event that we failed to complete the course, the one who lasted the longest would be deemed the winner, as things turned out, a most important proviso. Just what prompted the whole affair is lost in time, possibly some debate or challenge during our lunchtime discussions.

Sports Day dawned and the big race was soon a reality. At first the three contestants seemed to be running well within themselves. In the straight for the first time - **Vern Carter** showed encouragement from the crowd. Lap 2 and the pace is beginning to take its toll. Down the back straight - what joy - "A" pulls out. One down and one to go.

Into the straight again, Vern's cries ringing in my ears "*You can do it Ack*", "*Keep going Ack*."

Round the turn past the Chemistry and Physics labs and into the back straight yet again.

Suddenly "B" can go no further and retires. My relief knew no bounds. Somehow I managed to complete another 20 or 30 yards and victory was ours.

How much did we win? ... About four shillings and sixpence.

Who actually won the race? ... Do you know? - I can't remember.

