



# PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Issue 54 November 2022 (Vol 3 No 4)

Hi

WELCOME to your **Perth Modernian e-Newsletter**, Issue 54, November 2022, Vol 3 No 4 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](http://www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au)

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

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

## DIARY DATES

### REUNIONS

**2023 ANNUAL REUNION**  
Sept. 2023 (date TBC)

### CLASS/YEAR GROUPS

for further information visit  
[www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au](http://www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au)

### 10 YEARS

#### Class of 2012

Sunday December 18  
3pm-6pm  
Cyril Tyler Auditorium Foyer  
Perth Modern School

### 50 YEARS

#### Class of 1973

early stages of organising  
a 50 year reunion

### 60 YEARS

#### Class of 1963

Envisaging stand-alone event

### 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 2023

**20th February for 1 March**

20th May for 1 June

20th August for 1 September

20th November for 1 December



## PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY



Welcome to all new Year 12 members, Registered and Contributing Members and thank you to our readers for your encouragement and support.  
A very special thank you to all our members who have volunteered, supported, encouraged and contributed to the continuing work of the Perth Modernian Society, the Sphinx Foundation and the Perth Modernian Society Museum Association during 2022.

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We wish you all a happy and memorable holiday season  
as we look forward to and prepare for the challenges ahead in 2023.

## VICE REGAL VISIT TO PMS

### Perth Modernian Society Annual Oration 2022



At the invitation of the Perth Modernian Society, His Excellency the Honourable **Chris Dawson** APM accompanied by Mrs Dawson, delivered the twelfth Perth Modernian Society Annual Oration on 14 October 2022. This was the first occasion that the Oration has been delivered in the new Cyril Tyler Auditorium rather than Beasley Hall thereby allowing a considerably larger audience this year.

Chris Dawson was a student at Perth Modern School, 1971-75. Following a distinguished career in the Police Force he was sworn in as the 34th Governor of Western Australia on 15 July 2022.

<https://govhouse.wa.gov.au/his-excellency-the-honourable-chris-dawson-apm>

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OF THEIR COUNTRY

#### Contributors

*Thank you to all letter writers  
and contributors:*

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Ruth Barrett  
Dorothea Bennie  
Peter Farr  
Stuart Gould  
Ian Lindsay  
Robert Johnson  
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Roger Stubbs  
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Robyn White  
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#### Layout

Stuart Gould, Peter Farr



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

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

#### 2022 COUNCIL

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

The Hon Julian Grill, *President*  
Dr Robyn White, *Vice President/Museum*  
Kate Lewis, *Vice President/ Webmaster*  
Deborah Beresford, *Honorary Secretary*  
Barrie Baker, *Membership/Sphinx Fdn*  
Ruth Barrett, *Honour Awards*  
Eve Broadley, *Honorary Treasurer*  
Peter Farr, *Past President*  
Evan Kennea, *Member*  
Ed Lazarus, *Communications*  
Salena Loasby, *Member*  
Barbara Mallett, *Reunions Coordinator*  
Ex-Officio, Mr Mitch Mackay, *PMS Principal*

#### CONTRIBUTING MEMBERSHIP

*New members/renewals since 20 August 2022*  
Kathryn Morris, student 1985  
Jan Thompson, student 1948-52  
Anne Lee, student 2012-15

#### 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)

His Excellency, chose as his theme '**The Power of One**' which he related to one of his former teachers, the late **Bobbie O'Sullivan**, and by providing opportunities for some questions from students which continued over morning tea in the **Sir Paul Hasluck** foyer.

The visitors seemed to enjoy themselves and appeared to be in no hurry to leave. A superbly positive article about the event (including several photos) has been posted on the Government House website – see  
<https://govhouse.wa.gov.au/the-power-of-one-governor-reflects-on-the-value-of-education/>

### THREE GOVERNORS AND A GOVERNOR GENERAL

Invited guests for the Oration included two former State Governors who were also former students of the School in 1954-55. The three Governors were photographed in the Sir Paul Hasluck Foyer, named in honour of former Governor General who was a PMS student 1918-22.



Mr Malcolm McCusker AC CVO KC; The Honourable  
Chris Dawson APM and Dr Ken Michael AC Cit WA

### PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY COUNCIL NEWS

The Society's President, **Hon Julian Grill, student 1956-57**, has retired from that role as from Nov. 2022. Despite his many other activities, Julian committed to the role of President and has very effectively led the Perth Modernian Council as we've transitioned through and away from the Covid environment. In 2022 we've seen the return of all Perth Modernian Society activities including the open AGM and Annual Reunion. Julian's inclusive manner and quiet advice has ensured an active Perth Modernian Society. Until the completion of the 2023 AGM, Vice Presidents Dr Robyn White and Kate Lewis will jointly lead the Society.

**Kate Lewis, student 1973-77, Vice President**, has announced her retirement from the Council after the completion of the 2023 AGM. Kate's time with the Council has been marked by her focus on expanding our membership with improved digital connection as well as her tireless support for all Society activities. A third notice of retirement has been received from **Ed Lazarus, student 1956-60**, who took over the role of Communications Officer on the resignation of Ian Jarvis due to his declining health. Ed previously served as Membership Officer for several years. Ed has been a long serving member of the Council and has always supported Perth Modernian Society activities - even when his roles have required an enormous additional commitment of time and energy.

Julian, Kate and Ed have each served with commitment and creativity in their roles on Council for several years and will be greatly missed.

*The Perth Modernian society Council is very pleased to advise that the Honourable Daryl Williams AM KC was co-opted as a member of the Council at its Nov. 2022 meeting. Daryl was PMS School Captain in 1959, studied law at UWA, LLB(Hons), and attended Oxford University, BCL(Hons), as Rhodes Scholar for 1965. Many will remember that Daryl entered Federal Parliament as Liberal MHR for Tangney in 1993. He became Australian Attorney General in the Howard Government.*



Daryl Williams with Bob Kucera, President of the  
National Trust, and Frank Hedges, PMS Museum  
Volunteer at the Cenotaph Centenary  
Commemoration ceremony on 22 October 2022







Sphinx Foundation Inc.

#### 2021-2022 BOARD

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

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

#### DONORS

##### Sphinx Scholarship Fund

from 20 May 2022

Prof Shirley Randell AO  
Noel Kagi



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY  
MUSEUM ASSOCIATION  
INCORPORATED

#### 2021-2022 BOARD

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

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

#### MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

##### [History Centre and Archives]

Gay Albillos  
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

#### DONORS

##### PMS Museum Fund

*Thank you for your generous support*  
Laurie Best  
Dr June Stephenson



Councillors were recently saddened to receive news of the passing of **Ian Jarvis, PMS student 1954-58**, Modernian Fellow 2016, former Councillor and hardworking contributor to the Society and the Museum, passed away on 22nd September 2022. Ian was awarded Modernian Fellow 2016 for his outstanding contribution to the development of the Perth Modernian Society. He was someone for whom we all held great respect and affection who did so much for the Perth Modernian Society and its members.

After serving for a brief time as a Member of the Board of the Sphinx Foundation, Ian became a regular Museum Volunteer and Council Communications Manager. A generous and thoughtful man who was always happy to advise. For more than 10 years, he was a stalwart in fixing everything to do with IT and beyond, a "go to" person for advice in Museum affairs. Ian made an enormous contribution to the Museum with his technical knowledge and the patience to explain it to those of us less talented together with great friendship and stories. He happily and willingly dealt with problems that arose with the MOSAiC Collections Database in our pioneering phase. Nothing was too much trouble when it came to handyman skills when his help was needed.

As an extremely active volunteer in all aspects of the establishment of the History Centre, Ian provided the Museum with the **Jarvis ex-Mod Database (JED)**, an excellent database which remains his legacy to the Museum, its volunteers and the Perth Modernian Society. He is sadly missed.

#### YEAR 12 PRESENTATION NIGHT



The Year 12 Presentation ceremony on 19th Nov 2022 was held for the first time at the Perth Convention Centre where 270 students graduated before an audience of 1,370 people. (These students were new Year 7s in 1st term 2017 when the State Government announced it was going to make Perth Mod a local high school and relocate its Gifted and Talented program to a new high rise building in North-bridge. Fortunately, a very public campaign succeeded in stopping this "thought bubble" as Janet Holmes a Court described it at the time!)

*Photo top: Huda Zaidi collected a remarkable eight awards.*



*Tae Geddes - winner of the inaugural John Christmass Choral Music Scholarship in 2020 seen with her happy parents: her father Michael who was Convener of the Music Parents Group this year.*

#### REUNIONS 2022

##### 2022 PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY ANNUAL REUNION (all years) Saturday, 11 September 2022



*PMS Senior Symphony Orchestra performance*



*Class of 1962 celebrated 50 years*



## 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 Members

2016

Alison Woodman

2017

Tonya McCusker AM

2019

Nigel Hunt  
Brendon Dawson



High Tea was served



and Museum Association Chair Dr Robyn White welcomed History Centre Visitors

More photos are available at

<https://www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au/index.php/society/reunions/>

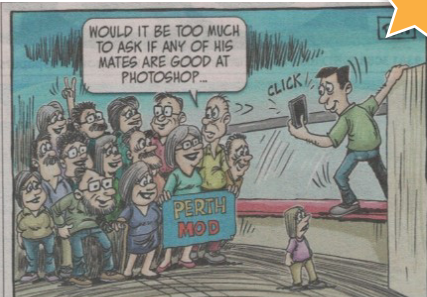
### Class of 1970

Held their annual reunion on Saturday 5 November at the Marmion Angling Club. 21 attended along with a long list of apologies. One student flew from Melbourne and came virtually straight from the airport. **Alan Cressie** finished his cycling fundraiser coast-to-coast and sent apologies from NSW where he was resting at his sister's place. In 2023 we all turn 70, so will have another party to celebrate.

### Class of 1982



 **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



### Ultimate generosity

We were a happy group of 14 students from Perth Modern School who celebrate still being together since our graduation in 1957 (now 62).

We enjoyed a delicious luncheon at C Blu at the Ocean Beach Hotel where we meet every year. The definitive photo is always taken, so we asked a fellow diner (there with his lovely Year 1 daughter) if he would be kind enough to do it for us.

Not only did he do it perfectly, even climbing on a nearby ledge for a better shot, but later we were told that he had settled our complete bill for meals and

drinks. We were all completely overwhelmed by this unexpected gesture of magnanimous kindness and generosity.

We are trying to trace him to thank him personally, but until then, he may read our newspaper. The world is a far better place with people like this complete stranger benefactor with an incredible heart of gold.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. We will try to pay it forward somehow.

Wendy Diana Watts  
Riseley Street, Ardross

### Class of 1992

The Class of 1992 had a 30 year reunion on the afternoon of **Saturday 1 October 2022** at Perth Modern School, where they also visited the History Centre.



Article from Suburban Post





### Class of 2011 celebrated 11 years

On the evening of Friday 11th November, the Class of 2011 got together at Perth Modern School for a highly anticipated reunion. The event was a huge success, with over 50 people (including some partners and children) gathering to share their stories of life beyond school. The Museum also proved to be a hit later in the evening, with some very appropriate displays celebrating the school days of the first academically-selective year group in almost 50 years.



### Class of 2012 will celebrate their first 10 years

The Class of 2012 is shortly having their 10 year reunion. It will be held on **Sunday December 18** from 3pm to 6pm at the Cyril Tyler Auditorium Foyer at Perth Modern School. Contact Head Boy (2012), Anish Badgeri, for more information: [Anish362@gmail.com](mailto:Anish362@gmail.com)

### DON'T WAIT FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO ORGANISE A CLASS/YEAR REUNION

If you are interested in exploring the possibility of organising a reunion for your class or year group for 2023 or beyond, please contact Barbara Mallett who will advise how she can help facilitate this.  
[reunions@perthmoderniansociety.org.au](mailto:reunions@perthmoderniansociety.org.au)

### Class of 1963 - 60 year reunion

Mary-Jane Whitehead (nee Jolley), Year 12 and school prefect, 1963, [wongadale@iinet.net.au](mailto:wongadale@iinet.net.au) envisages a stand-alone event, rather than being folded into the PMS Annual Reunion.

### Class of 1973

The Class of 1973 is in the early stages of organising a 50 year reunion. Please contact Brett Wright, [mail@millwright.com.au](mailto:mail@millwright.com.au) or Julia Moody, [juliamoody@iinet.net.au](mailto:juliamoody@iinet.net.au) for more information.

For more information, please visit <https://www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au/index.php/society/reunions/>

## YOUR SAY

### ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER...

#### From: Dorothy (Dot) Bennie nee James, student 1949-52

Thanks again for the newsletter. I find it a fantastic reminder of those special years of my life when I was at Mod. It's great to read of all the achievements of past students. Best wishes, Dot

#### From: Jenny Bardsley nee McKenzie, student 1950-54

Congratulations to you and any others involved in such an excellent newsletter. Thank you for publishing our tributes to Adrienne and Ildy. Kind regards, Jenny

#### From: Wendy Watts nee Snow, student 1953-57

You are to be warmly congratulated for the superb newsletter as well as for your years of devoted work so beautifully outlined in the Museum Report. Thanks also to Stuart for the excellent format - great photos and clear outline. We are fortunate to have so many maintaining these records, our heritage. With best wishes and gratitude, Wendy

### AGAINST ALL ODDS ...

#### From: Barbara Mallett, nee Culpeper, student Class of 1970

#### Re: Alan Cressie's ride for Compassion Australia, Indian Ocean to the Pacific

Last year you published an article on this but they couldn't go because of border closures etc.....until now! He has just crossed the South Australian border. He sent a daily blog via Facebook, which is really good. **"Cressies ride coast to coast"**. Today he fell off his bike because he had to swerve to avoid a snake on the Nullarbor. The person behind him fell as well. He was saved by his helmet and only sustained mild bruising (thank God for that). The estimated arrival date on the East Coast was October 20.



Alan completed his ride coast to coast on Wednesday 19 October 2022. They have raised almost \$1,000,000 for Compassion Australia and 9 children have been sponsored. He said they were interviewed on Channel 9. Kind regards, Barbara



## PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY MUSEUM ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED



**ESTHER (ESSIE) PICKERING**  
PMS student 1914-1918

Research in the archive for the forthcoming publication Music at Mod has revealed a glorious photograph of Essie Pickering. Essie was a contralto and her considerable talent emerged when students presented a series of patriotic concerts in World War I to raise funds for the Red Cross. Music Teacher A.J. Leckie was quick to recognize her abilities and accepted her as a private student. Essie later worked as a music teacher and performer. She later gave recitals on the fledgling radio station 6WF and was its first female announcer. Essie travelled to England for further studies at the Webber Douglas School of Singing and Dramatic Art. After her marriage to a merchant ship's officer, Archie Drummond, Essie returned to England where

she made her home. Post World War II she visited Australia and performed as Esther Drummond. Like fellow Modernians Kim Beazley (sen), Jim Coulter and Gordon Wise, Essie was an active supporter of the Moral Rearmament movement.

### 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
Irene Therese Blackman, nee Gottlieb	1959- Yr 4 only	Student	03/10/2021
Barbara Marguerite Valentine, nee Stephens	1950-51 Yrs 4/5	Student	26/06/2022
Carlo Manera	1951-52 Yrs 4/5	Student	26/08/2022
Esther Eva Maria Kingsmill	1973-76	Classroom Music Teacher	10/09/2022
Gillian (Jill) Adrienne Kloppe, nee Boucaut	1954-58	Student	14/09/2022
Leslie (Les) Edelman	1950-54	Student	15/09/2022
Walter Andrew Corish	1956-60	Student	19/09/2022
Norman N Rich (Sydney NSW, age 100+7mths)	1934-38	Student	20/09/2022
Ian Munro Jarvis	1954-58	Student	22/09/2022
Dr Owen Isbel	1949-53	School Prefect	04/10/2022
James (Jim) Mondy	1948-50 Yrs 1-3	Student	13/10 /2022
Ruth Levene, nee Levi (England)	1952-56	Student	24/10/2022
Brian John Elliott	1951-52	Student	15/11/2022

### TRIBUTES



**RUTH LEVENE (née Levi)**

Ruth Levi, the daughter of Jewish refugees, was the youngest of three children. She attended North Perth Primary School before gaining entry to Perth Modern School, following in the footsteps of her brother Mashie. In 1957 Ruth joined the first students at UWA's new School of Medicine, but soon decided that her interests lay more with psychology.



She met fellow psychology student Malcolm Levene, and they married in 1960. After a few years, and accompanied by their two small children, Caitlin and Ivan, Ruth and Malcolm went to England to pursue their studies, and settled there permanently. Both worked as psychologists, recruiting for the Department of Defence. They developed a successful screening test which was used in several countries, including the US.



The Levenes lived in Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, UK, in a magnificent converted barn surrounded by a beautiful garden, woods, and acres of fields. Music and art were prominent in their lives, and they were extremely hospitable. They travelled widely, and for a time had a time-share in Florida. Ruth kept in contact with a number of her former schoolmates, and she and Malcolm visited Perth regularly. In 1996 Ruth attended the celebrations for the 40th anniversary of her cohort's final year at Mod. Having come furthest, she had the honour of cutting the cake. In 2011 Ruth came to see her brother Mashie, who was very ill. He died soon afterwards.

By 2005 Malcolm was showing distressing signs of dementia. He passed away in 2008, and within a few years it became apparent that Ruth was succumbing to the same disease. At first she managed with live-in carers, but in 2018 she went into full-time care, visited often by family members. Ruth died in October 2022, soon after her 83rd birthday. The live-streamed video of her funeral service was made available to family and friends in Perth. Ruth's bright manner, warm friendship, and generous hospitality will long be remembered by all who knew her.

- Ruth Barrett

### DR OWEN ISBEL

Dr Owen Isbel (1949-1953) passed away recently. He was a Prefect at Mod, and excelled at cricket, rugby and football. Graduating from the UWA Medical School in 1960, he served as a resident medical officer at Fremantle Hospital before moving to general practice in Collie in 1962. In those years, rural GPs had to develop a wide range of skills and be prepared to work long hours. However, he immersed himself in community activities and took on various executive roles over the next three decades. Owen retired in 1991 and with his wife Lee moved to Busselton where he again became prominent in community activities and enjoyed his hobbies of fishing, golf and wood turning. After numerous health problems, he died peacefully in October.

- Ian Lindsay

### CARLO MANERA

*"Deepest sympathy to Lorraine on the sudden loss of Carlo. He was an achiever across so many fields with a ready smile for everyone. A true gentleman who will be sadly missed by his Perth Modern School colleagues of the 1952 Leavers Group."*  
Published in The West Australian, Friday 2 September 2022

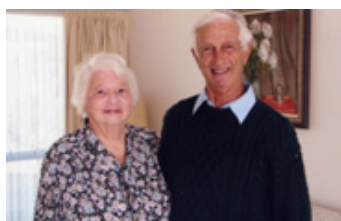
### JAMES MONDY

It is with sadness that I advise of the passing of James (Jim) Mondy, 10.8.1935 -13.10.2022.

Jim was a past student of Perth Modern School and a regular donor to the Sphinx Scholarship Fund. Kind regards,  
Derek Mondy (Son)

### NORMAN RICH

Norman worked on major aid projects in developing nations and in later years practised as a Consulting Engineer in New South Wales. He held senior positions with British Consulting Engineers on large projects in Africa, the Caribbean and Asia including 4 years in the last, working on the (then) world's largest dam project. In latter years he was a Director of a consulting engineering firm in Sydney, acting as project Engineer/Director on a range of major civil engineering projects and studies. After retirement, Norm founded a public transport lobby group, liaising with administrative and operational staff of transport utilities. This generated a 1992 Premiers Award for community service.



### IAN MUNRO JARVIS - Eulogy

Ian was an only child attending Nedlands Primary School and it was a very happy day for Ian and his parents when in October 1953 his name appeared in **The West Australian** along with 120 other 12-year-olds announcing he had been successful in the Entrance Examination and had thereby won a place at Perth Modern School to start in Feb 1954. In a strangely worded memo, the Education Department had warned teachers *"that the arithmetic papers for the Entrance Exams in August 1953 would be designed to test the child's ability to manipulate vulgar and decimal fractions and percentages extended to simple interest and profit and loss"*





As Ian said in an article about him in 2020: *"I enjoyed the challenges of Mod, and I was one of a large group of students from Nedlands Primary School, so I had great friends, many of whom I still keep in touch with."*

At Perth Mod the school had an imaginary dividing line to separate boys' classes from the girls. The new first years were arranged alphabetically – Class 1A was the first half of the alphabet for boys so Ian's desk and mine were very close and that's where our friendship began and continued for the next 68 years. I did not find out at the time that Ian's father died of the consequences of tuberculosis when Ian was only in 2nd year high school, which would have been very hard for the family. As Ian recalled many decades later *"It meant I took on all the repair and maintenance jobs at home, and I decided I wanted to be an engineer"*

Ian and I both enjoyed science and related tech matters and we were in the Camera Club where we learnt how to use cameras, develop films and make prints in the dark room, which was pretty exciting for young lads like us, and we both retained a lifetime interest in photography, and in Ian's case later in life he spent over 20 years as a part time wedding photographer.

In those days it was compulsory for boys in 4th and 5th year at Perth Mod to do either Army Cadets or Air Force Cadets. As Ian recalled, *"I really enjoyed Army Cadets. We drilled weekly at school and also spent some weekends at the Northam Army Camp."* Ian was the signals corps sergeant, and as he said *"we used a large battery-operated wireless, spreading ourselves in small groups around the school site. We soon discovered we could tune into some of the local radio stations, which made our exercises even more enjoyable!"*

Ian was a science cadet and during his lunch break he was responsible for making up various solutions used in the chemistry labs. Ian made a terrible mistake one day of adding water to hydrochloric acid! The bottom came off the bottle and it splashed over the bench, taking off the varnish, and over his khaki Army Cadet uniform and made holes in his army boots. The splashes on his woollen uniform turned purple. I can't imagine what far-fetched stories he told the Army Captain that arvo and his Mum when he got home from school!

In 1958, Ian passed his Leaving Certificate and he and I followed in the footsteps of Modernian Ross Kelly in winning a Postmaster General Department's Cadetship to attend UWA and study Electrical Engineering. For many of us in those days, it was the first time a family member had gone on to university and it opened up a new world for us.

Each long summer vacation the PMG Department Training Engineer would arrange for us Cadet Engineers to have on the on-the-job training usually in a telephone exchange or line depot. However, at the end of 3rd year Uni Ian and I were successful in getting a placement on an exciting microwave project in NSW. So, we travelled over to Sydney and rented an apartment in Elizabeth Bay near Kings Cross, and Ian bought a Buick V8 so we could get around. You need to know that this was the first time either of us 20-year-olds had ever left WA and had to fare for ourselves. We had a grand time meeting lots of flamboyant people who lived in Paddington or the Cross. Of course, working on the inaugural Sydney to Canberra microwave system was great for our development and our maturity.

Back at UWA for the tough 4th year Engineering course, Ian said decades later that he spent too much of his time working behind the scenes for the University Dramatic Society, doing lighting and anything electrical, and left university at the end of that year.

Ian worked for the PMG, Telecom Australia and Telstra for some 35 years. He was Forms Officer and pioneered a lot of the computer work in the database and management systems area

Ian was Finance Manager in Telstra's Finance and Accounting Department then in Network Design & Construction. But when he took leave in 1993 for a trip to Europe and the UK, restructuring took place and his job was abolished. He took a redundancy package and undertook some IT Consultancy, with the Australian Postal Institute, the Water Authority, and finally for Lotterywest for what was to be a six-month contract, and stayed nine years, developing and finally managing their corporate data and reporting.

He was involved in volunteer roles with the Perth Modernian Society since 2008 and served on both its Council and the Sphinx Foundation Board and the Museum Committee. In 2008/09, Ian and I collaborated in bringing the Society into the electronics age by writing the detailed specification for the Society's Portal/Website and supervising the contract for its delivery, facing and overcoming many hurdles along the way.

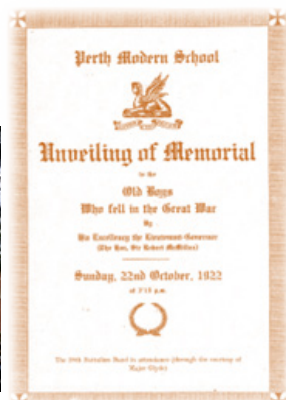
Regrettably, in 2018 Ian's health began to fail badly and an emergency meeting about IT systems alarmingly concluded at the time *"Over dependency on one person (Ian) who is unfortunately now indisposed."* He eventually got a lot better and we were all grateful for the next four years that Ian was around, but 22nd September was indeed sad news of his passing. As you can see, Ian and I led closely parallel lives and I along with many other Modernians will greatly miss our old school friend. But as a wise Aboriginal Elder in Broome often said to me *"It's the Legacy we leave behind that matters"*. Ian's life's work is done and he is assuredly leaving a wonderful legacy. His parents and Faye would be very proud of what he made of his life and his good works will continue not only through his beloved children and grandchildren, but also through the not-for-profit organisations that he helped so profoundly.







#MilesTweediePhotography



#MilesTweediePhotograph

In the Commemorative Address, **PMS Principal Mr Mitch Mackay** (photo next page) reflected on his thoughts each day as he walks to his office through Beasley Hall past a small display in memory of David Walter Stewart, PMS student and inaugural School Captain in 1911 who had just commenced a teaching career at Subiaco State School. A photograph of David going off to war sits on the Commemorative Chair donated by the Old Modernians' Association depicts "a young, strong, proud, intelligent, already a proven leader in the school, with the world at his feet ..."

The Sphinx August 1916

"Our first captain, Dave Stewart, is now attached to the 3rd reinforcements of the 44th, holding the rank of Sergeant. Dave is in camp, what he was at school – a good-hearted and popular fellow-student, and we wish him God-speed."

## COMMEMORATIVE ADDRESS



**PERTH MODERN SCHOOL**

Exceptional schooling. Exceptional students.

### Centenary of the Cenotaph and World War I Honor Board

Mitch Mackay continued: "We live in a very lucky country where our lives have not been affected by the horrors of a World War. This has not been the case for those who came before us. Those who have made the ultimate sacrifice so that our generations can enjoy the privileges of our freedoms.

On the 4th of August 1914 the school was brought together in the Great Hall and it was announced by the Principal that Great Britain was at war with Germany. Most students looked to this with great enthusiasm and some immediately joined up with the Australia forces. It is hard to imagine the emotion of that day. The excitement and the unknown of what lay before them.

The expectation of duty that was placed on those young shoulders. These sons of a young nation, with the belief that they were off to a great adventure, sailed from the Port of Albany to do their bit for the war. After training in Egypt near the Sphinx and the pyramids, Australia landed its forces at Gallipoli in April 1915, and Australian soldiers began their time fighting for our country.

Those who fought in Gallipoli changed forever the way we saw the world and ourselves. They created for Australia a lasting sense of national identity. Those who survived Gallipoli, many of them, our young boys, went on to fight for a further 3 years on the Western Front. Many did not return home. And those who returned, rarely talked of the horror they had experienced.





Every morning when I walk to my office I go past the cabinet in the Great Hall and see the photograph of David Walter Stewart. He was the Inaugural School Captain in 1911. He is standing there in the photo in his army uniform, young, strong and proud. An Intelligent and proven leader with the world at his feet. He enlisted in 1915. In the 1916 August edition of the Sphinx magazine, it mentions, *"he is in camp and holding the rank of Sergeant. He is what he was at school, a good-hearted and popular fellow and we wish him God-speed and a safe return"*. He was killed in action in Messines in Belgium in June 1917 at the age of 22.

I look at that photo of a proud young man and I reflect on the opportunities I have had since I was 22. I think of my amazing wife and children and the success I have been fortunate to have in my career. All these opportunities and a legacy of a family and a future were denied to this young man in that one instant in 1917, while doing his part for the country and a family he loved. I think of his mum and dad and the sorrow of not having their son return and what could have been, and the loss to Australia. I read a letter from his mother, Amelia, asking the army for his personal effects to be returned and the response to her that none could be found. He lies in Flanders Fields.

Here at Perth Modern School in 1922, after the last post was played the headmaster, Mr. J Parsons recited the honor roll for those whom Death had met while they were yet boys. With a mixture of pride and sorrow, the relatives of the fallen and the scholars formed a guard of honor around the newly erected Cenotaph.

The Cenotaph was placed here so that as we walked past it each day, we would always remember the sacrifice of those students. 148 Modern School boys had joined the colours. Of that number, 23 were killed.

Those who raised the money and built this memorial Cenotaph and the Honor Board were profoundly affected by the loss of their young men and dedicated it to these brave souls. It commemorates the bravery and the self-sacrifice of these young men and reminds future generations of the freedoms that we enjoy today.

The spirit of these young lives, lives on through Perth Modern School. Today we reflect on these student's courage and sacrifice -

- To give us all strength in the face of our own troubles.
- To Resolve our own conflicts peacefully.
- To have greater tolerance for other's differences.
- And to help build a more peaceful world.

And so, we dedicate ourselves today, to the memory of our fallen students and soldiers. For their ultimate sacrifice and their eternal place in the hearts and minds of all those who are proud to be part of Perth Modern School.

Lest we forget."

**Mitchell Mackay, Principal**  
22 October 2022

PMS teacher 1989-2003, Mr Peter Hopper, as President of the Subiaco-Shenton Park RSL Sub-Branch read the following poem taken from *"The Sphinx"*, December 1919 and published in *Perth Modern School Voices from "The Sphinx"* and laid a wreath for the RSL Sub-Branch.



## THE SCHOOL WILL NOT FORGET

Is there no tribute that the School can pay  
To those who died for Freedom and for Truth?  
Who at the Empire's call gave up their youth,  
And set their feet in manhood's sterner way?  
They never will return to us – and yet,  
When perishes the glory of their name?  
What passing years can dim their deathless fame?  
What future ages teach us to forget?  
The greatest tribute that the School can pay,  
Is e'er to strive towards the high ideal,  
That led her sons to war – and ever feel  
The faith of those who sleep so far away.  
To try to live, whatever be the price,  
Within the spirit of their sacrifice.

- Helen Mayne, PMS student 1916-19





#MilesTweediePhotograph



#MilesTweediePhotograph



#MilesTweediePhotograph

## PERTH MODERN SCHOOL VOICES FROM "THE SPHINX"



### Letter of Appreciation

We just wanted to record our sincere appreciation of the efforts that Perth Modern School went to in remembering the service of their former students in World War 1, in particular our late Uncle John Shaw Anderson.

We thought you put together a wonderful program of commemoration that truly honoured the sacrifices these individuals made. The time and effort that everybody contributed to this project has amazed us and it was lovely to listen to the current students, current Principal and Perth Modern School Senior Wind Orchestra. It was nothing short of outstanding.

Three of Uncle John's sisters and one brother also attended Perth Modern School. They would often reminisce about their time there and spoke so highly of the experience. Uncle John was particularly proud of his school and the opportunity to represent the school in enlisting to fight in the war. My mother and I have now seen firsthand, why they were so proud of such a fine school.

Please pass on our deep appreciation to all those involved and to those that put together the booklet, which will now become a valuable part of our treasured family memories.

Kind regards, Elissa Everingham and Helen d'Alton



#MilesTweediePhotography

Rear left to right: Shirley McInnes, Rhys Gray, Kevin Wulff, Roy Fieldgate.  
Front left to right: Nan Cornish, Elissa Everingham, Helen d'Alton, Valerie Fieldgate.

- Nan Cornish, Shirley McInnes and Rhys Gray are brother and sisters; their uncle is **Ivor Rhys** who was killed in France in 1918, aged 21.
- Kevin Wulff is the great-nephew of **Henry Wulff** who died of the effects of gas poisoning in Perth in 1922, aged 28.
- Helen d'Alton and her daughter Elissa Everingham are descendants of **John Anderson** who was killed at Gallipoli in 1915, aged 19.
- Valerie Fieldgate is the great-niece of **Leslie Little** who was killed at Mouquet Farm in 1916, aged 20.





### A Gift for the Museum

My uncle, **Ivor Rhys** (head boy 1915), was one of those students killed in WW1. In fact I am named after him, my Christian names being Rhys Ivor. In 2015 my grand daughter Katie Andrews (then aged nine) prepared a very impressive journal on the life of Ivor Rhys, as an entry in an Australia wide history competition. Afterwards she gave the journal (complete with attached woollen red poppy!) to myself. I would like to pass this journal to the museum, thinking that my uncle would consider the school the best place for a record of his life to be retained. Katie agrees with this decision. Could you kindly advise if you are willing to accept the journal, possibly before, during or after the ceremony on Saturday. My two sisters, **Nan Cornish** and **Shirley McInnes** will also be attending on Saturday. **Rhys Gray, 1952-1956.**



#MilesTweediePhotograph

The stories of these and numerous other students who died as a result of their service in both world wars, Malaya and Vietnam can be found on the school's digital honour board at <https://honour.perthmodern.wa.edu.au/> and a video recording of the event is available to view on <https://www.facebook.com/perthmodernschoolmuseum>

### Comments on Facebook

#### From: Sanjay

One of the most moving speeches I've heard in a while! Brought tears into my eyes. Thank you Mr Mackay. Your speech was very powerful.

#### From: Lozz Miki

A truly moving and heartfelt ceremony

## MODERNIANS WHO DIED IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY

Number 17 in a special series of articles researched and prepared for publication by  
Robert Johnson, PMS student 1961-65 and Museum Volunteer

### Remembering Charles Anderson

PMS 1929-33



Charles Vernon "Chas" Anderson was born in Narrogin on 24 April 1916 to parents Nicholas and Agnes Anderson. He attended primary school in Narrogin and then entered Perth Modern School on a scholarship on 5 February 1929. He was described by his teachers as "*One of the better lads*", "*Promising in all ways*", "*A nice personality*" and "*A good worker*".

Charles was an eager participant in school activities. He served in the cadet unit for two years, and in his final year he was a school prefect, an editor of *The Sphinx* magazine and the chair of the school's Literary Society. Charles was also a member of the School's tennis and football teams and the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI cricket team. At the end of 1933 he received his Leaving Certificate in eight subjects, with an emphasis on mathematics and science.

Charles commenced an engineering degree at the University of Western Australia in 1934 and was in residence at St George's College while undertaking his studies.

On 20 September 1938 he enlisted in the Active Citizen Air Force for training as a pilot and received a commission in September 1939. He was placed on the Reserve list in November 1939 in order to complete his degree. On his return to the Active list in December 1940 he was posted to No. 25 (City of Perth) Squadron RAAF as a Pilot Officer on Wirraway two-seater aircraft at the newly built Pearce Air Force Base 40 km north of Perth. Wirraways were training and general-purpose aircraft manufactured in Australia based on a US design.

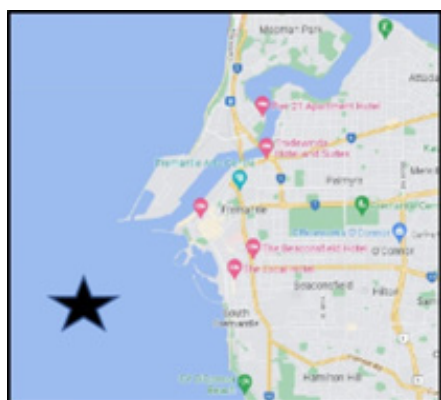
### Wirraway A20-176 similar to A20-125



Source: <https://www.jetphotos.com/photo/10423050>

Between 4 January and 17 February 1941 Charles completed seven anti-submarine patrols from Pearce. On Wednesday 19 February 1941 he was assigned to Wirraway A20-125 with 19-year-old Flying Officer Ronald Sykes. With Ronald in the Pilot's seat, they took off on a training exercise at 8pm, working in cooperation with an anti-aircraft searchlight unit in the Fremantle area. Searchlights were used to track enemy aircraft, indicate them to anti-aircraft gunners and night fighters, and dazzle aircraft crews. *The West Australian* newspaper of 20 February takes up the story:

*"The aircraft had made several circuits within the radius of the searchlight beam when it appeared to bank, and then crashed into the sea. A large crowd had been watching the work of the two units and they waited breathless as the plane dropped. Then, out of the beam of the searchlight, they lost sight of it, but a few seconds later a muffled explosion reached their ears. Within a few minutes of the crash, naval cutters put out from Fremantle to begin searching for the wrecked machine, and they were assisted in their task by the searchlight which had been co-operating with it. This light constantly swept the sea in a radius around where the plane was last seen and it was assisted by units mounted elsewhere in Fremantle. Shortly afterward an aeroplane appeared and it dropped several flares over the water in a vain attempt to locate possible wreckage."*



Location of Crash South-West of Fremantle

One view was that the pilot was blinded by a search light coming on when the aircraft was at the bottom of its dive and he was disoriented with little or no time to adjust. The wreckage of the aircraft was found in six metres of water three kilometres south-west of the south mole at Fremantle by a fishing boat called "Sydney".

The bodies of Charles and Ronald were recovered and a Coroner's Inquest in March found that both men died as a result of the injuries they had sustained in the accident. The RAAF Directorate of Training's *"Summary of Flying Accidents"* for February 1941 was less circumspect: *"Pilot came below 500 feet, became confused by searchlight beam, low altitude over water, no lights or references below him. 2 killed. Disobedience of orders."*

Charles was laid to rest by his parents in Karrakatta Cemetery. He was 24 when he died.

## LEST WE FORGET

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