

Our School

Established in 1911 as the first government high school in Perth, Perth Modern School focussed on co-educational academic ability, preparing students for entry to the University of Western Australia.

Over the intervening 110 years there have been a number of focus changes and developments, including:

- 1959** Last selective intake before the school became a comprehensive five-year high school
- 1968** Music became a focus
- 1999** Graduate College of Dance moved to Perth Modern School
- 1990** Home to Western Australia's main secondary centre for English as a second language
- 2007** PMS reverted to the original concept of a fully selective school for academic excellence
- 2011** PMS achieved Independent Public School status. School Board was established.
- 2011** PMS Centenary was celebrated.
- 2015** The *Tyler McCusker Sports Centre* was opened
- 2017** *Save Perth Mod* Campaign involving Modernians, students, parents and the general public to stop the WA Government's proposal to repurpose the School as a local secondary school. Succeeded!
- 2020** Successful fundraising campaign which started in 2016, enabled construction to commence of a 700-seat multi-purpose auditorium.
- 2021** Opening date of the new auditorium.

Modernians

As a successor to various earlier bodies, the Perth Modernian Society we know today was founded in 1995 by a group of people keen to preserve the history of Perth Modern School, at the same time as providing typical alumni organisation services to members.

- 1999** The landmark decision was made to create the Sphinx Foundation
- 2005** Launch of *Perth Modern School: The History and the Heritage* published by the Sphinx Foundation Inc.
- 2007** The Perth Modernian Society History Centre was established in the former Metalwork Centre
- 2008** The Sphinx Foundation Board established the Sphinx Scholarship Fund to support and incentivise worthy current students, including those with particular needs.
- 2014** Commencement of the *Modernian Fellow*, *Moderna Scola* and *Honorary Modernian* awards.
- 2017** Creation of the Perth Modernian Society Museum Association Incorporated.
- 2017** Revised Constitutions adopted for the Perth Modernian Society, the Sphinx Foundation Inc and the Museum Association Inc.

The Current Context

Education will always be in evolution – even more so in the digital age. The world of the first Modernians may seem far away from the environment faced by today's graduates, but both are parts of a continuum. The Perth Modernian Society accepts its changing roles to keep relevant.

The Society aims to support the school's academic excellence and reputation by honouring the achievements and traditions of past students, encouraging the aspirations of today's students, and helping to meet the challenges that will face the students of the future.

In essence, the Society aims to inspire and support the collegiality of staff, students and graduates of Perth Modern School.



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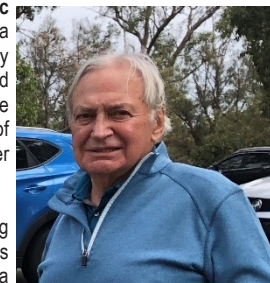


PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

Strategic Plan 2020-2025

FOREWORD

The inaugural Perth Modernian Society **Strategic Plan for 2014-2017**, was developed to secure a sustainable future for the Society, and particularly to ensure it stays as a relevant member-focused organisation. As a marketing and PR tool the compact-size made it easy to hand over copies of the Strategic Plan to our Members and other interested persons/organisations.



In early 2017, the whole future of Perth Mod hung in the balance due to the new W.A Government's pre-election policy to repurpose the School as a local secondary school and instead create a new high-rise school 'Education Central' in the Perth CBD for Gifted and Talented students. The ensuing very public outcry saw countless Modernians, students, parents and the general public take up arms – or pens and banners – and sign petitions, in the **Save Perth Mod** campaign. Without a doubt, this was the Perth Modernian Society's finest hour. By mid-2017 the Government abandoned its original plan and opted instead to build a new community secondary school in Subiaco – which when it opened in 2020 was named *Bob Hawke College* after one of Perth Mod's most celebrated ex-students.

After 2017, both Perth Mod and the Society were able to get back on track – indeed stronger than ever, culminating in the Autumn of 2020 with the sod-turning ceremony for a 700-seat multi-purpose auditorium. Then a real tsunami happened - the world-wide COVID-19 pandemic, with no end to its pain and disruption yet in sight.

Of course, this is a very sobering and unprecedented situation in which to be attempting to produce a credible 5-year Strategic Plan for our Society. Nevertheless, the task is now done to the best of the Council's ability. This Plan centres around **eight interrelated key Focus Areas**, the most important of which I feel are: Maintenance and growth of the Society's membership; and Provision to members of relevant and attractive benefits and services.

By respecting those who went before us and supporting those who follow, we acknowledge the great and special privilege of our education at Perth Mod.

Hon. Julian Grill

President

Perth Modernian Society

13 September 2020



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

Vision

To be a vibrant, respected and valued alumni organisation that values inclusiveness, educational excellence, and collegiality.

Mission

To provide opportunities to connect Modernians; preserve history and traditions of Perth Modern School; and support and encourage current students and staff to achieve their personal best.

Values

Modernians share the core values of Perth Modern School, in addition to ensuring inclusiveness and relevance for past, present and future members of the Perth Modernian Society.

Members of the Perth Modern School community share, model and promote these core values:

- Respect Yourself
- Respect Others
- Respect the Space.

PMS Emblem and Motto

The **Sphinx** was a legendary, mythical creature considered to possess great knowledge.

The Perth Modern School motto, *Savoir C'est Pouvoir* acknowledges the tremendous value of knowledge within our society.

Both the School emblem and motto reflect the way that Perth Modern School strives to empower its students through fostering a lifelong love of learning.

FOCUS AREAS	OBJECTIVES (<i>What we aim to do</i>)
Society Membership	<i>Maintenance and growth of the Society's membership.</i>
Member Services	<i>Provision to members of relevant and attractive benefits and services.</i>
Governance	<i>A sound and effective system of governance within the Society and its 'arms', e.g. the Sphinx Foundation and the Museum Association.</i>
Financial Sustainability	<i>A financially sound and sustainable Society.</i>
School & Community Support	<i>Innovative and relevant involvement in and services to the School and the Community.</i>
Resource 1: Office Bearers	<i>Maintenance of full complement of competent office bearers.</i>
Resource 2: Volunteers	<i>Availability of sufficient high quality, informed volunteers in order to fulfil Society's aims and needs.</i>
Resource 3: Information, Communication & Technology	<i>Provision of information, communication and technology infrastructure to meet current and future needs of Society</i>

STRATEGIES (<i>How we plan to go about achieving aims</i>)	EVALUATION (<i>How we monitor success or otherwise</i>)
<i>Advertise events (particularly annual reunions) and services. Use existing records, networks and data-base to increase outreach. Broaden contact information for individual members (e.g. email, postal, telephone). Record data in year groups (in addition to alpha) to aid contact tracing.</i>	<i>Records show increasing membership. Information on members is up-to-date.</i>
<i>Provide occasions for members to meet, e.g. annual reunion, year reunions. Via regular newsletters/e-newsletters disseminate relevant information about events, members, Society concerns and relevant research, and information about the School. Council to provide appropriate responses to formal and informal feedback, and honorary awards for outstanding service to Society or School.</i>	<i>Feedback invited – formal (surveys) and informal (members' oral and written comments). Documentation and regular review of comments and responses. Monitoring of numbers attending functions.</i>
<i>Observe current best practice in Council's procedures and those of its related 'arms'. Council to be comprised of members able to fulfil and further its objectives. Practice to conform to Society's Constitution. Annual calendar of Society's activities to be available.</i>	<i>Monitoring of feedback from general membership. Open discussion on Council of successes and failures – weaknesses addressed. Biennial self-evaluation of Council's activities.</i>
<i>Council to i) arrange for annual subscription collection from members; ii) draw up and implement annual budgets; and iii) pursue new fund-raising initiatives. Regular monitoring of income and expenditure against budget.</i>	<i>Financial reports at regular meetings of Council. Annual verification of accounts. Monitoring of information re regular subscriptions. Increasing capital in Sphinx Foundation account to fund Scholarships/Bursaries.</i>
<i>Maintain positive relationships with School, School Board, P. & C Association, and Community.</i>	<i>Monitoring of interactions. Informal feedback. Maintain file of press cuttings</i>
<i>Job Descriptions for key roles, Succession plans in place. Proactive management of Society's events, procedures, and current and future needs.</i>	<i>All Council positions filled. Council members operating according to legal requirements and Society's Constitution.</i>
<i>Ensure that experience of volunteering is rewarding for all involved. Show appreciation for effort and encourage esprit de corps. Seek media involvement in highlighting volunteers' endeavours, research, etc.</i>	<i>Positive relationships within volunteers' groups, and between Council members and volunteers as shown by formal (surveys) and informal evaluation.</i>
<i>Actively seek informed practitioners to assist in this field. Maintain reliable, up-to-date ICT platforms.</i>	<i>Council to undertake biennial audit of infrastructure in order to monitor services provided, and adequacy of equipment, procedures and personnel.</i>