



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Issue 64, May 2025, Vol 4 No 6

WELCOME to your **Perth Modernian e-Newsletter, Issue 64, May 2025, Vol 4 No 6**

This newsletter offers two way communication with all registered members, volunteers, families and friends to bring you news, event details and articles from the Perth Modernian Society, its members and Perth Modern School. We hope you find its content both interesting and informative.



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

For further information
Telephone: (08) 6189 3690
www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au
info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au
All messages received either by phone or email are promptly forwarded electronically for further action.

DIARY DATES

REUNIONS

Class of 2005 – 20 years
1 November 2025 at 3pm

Class of 1985 – 40 years
In planning for October 2025

Class of 1965 – 60 years
Date TBA

See **Upcoming Reunions** for details

Class/Year Groups

Are you planning a Class/Year Reunion for 2025?
We can help
for further information visit
www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au

e-NEWSLETTER

Do you have something to say?
Memories to share?
Where are YOU now?
Send your news item, letters
and/or photographs to ...
newsletter@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

NEXT ISSUES

Copy deadlines for
Issue 65, August 2025, Vol 4 No 7
20 August copy deadline for
circulation by **1 September 2025**

Issue 66, November 2025, Vol 4 No 8
20 November copy deadline for
circulation by **1 December 2025**

30th Anniversary of the Perth Modernian Society

About 30 members covering many decades at PMS came to the High Tea and had a very good celebration of the Society's first 30 years in the Staff Room at Mod on the afternoon of Monday 19th May. **Eve Broadley**, **Barbara Mallett** and **Deb Beresford** jointly did the catering which was delightful. One didn't notice too many sterling silver teapots but there was no shortage of good wines! **Barbara** and **Ian Hunt** had composed a continuous loop slide show covering the social side of the Society's history as well as the Save PMS campaign in 2017, and as no one present had seen all those images previously, the slide show held attention like a magnet. It included a video from the 2011 Centenary of a choir performing Moderna Scola on the school steps.

Vice President **Dr Robyn White** and Past President **Peter Farr** then took turns to reminisce about the past 30 years then moved on to anticipate "the future" – reference being made to the just recently completed PMS Campus Masterplan. We ended with a toast to the Society.

Some people left after the 30th birthday celebration but nevertheless we went on with a most informative AGM. **Stuart Gould** produced the Annual Report for the AGM which was very fine effort.



Secretary Deb Beresford, Vice President Dr Robyn White, and Prof Charlie Bloom (Vice Chair, PMS Board)



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OF THEIR COUNTRY

Acknowledgments

Thank you to all letter writers

and contributors:

Norman Chosid

Sallie Davies

Peter Farr

Robert Johnson

Phil Ledger

Barbara Mallett

Roger Stubbs

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Robyn White

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PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au

2025 COUNCIL

info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

Ruth Barrett, Honour Awards

Deborah Beresford, Hon Secretary

Eve Broadley, Hon Treasurer

Robyn White, Vice President, Museum Rep

Peter Farr, Sphinx Foundation

Ian Hunt, IT/Communication, Technology

TBA, President

TBA, Membership

Barbara Mallett, Reunions

Daryl Williams AM KC, Vice President

Mitchell Mackay, Ex-Officio, PMS Principal

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTING MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

\$40 per annum now due

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Have YOU completed or updated your

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

and/or CHANGE OF DETAILS?

Forms are available on the website

www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au

further information

info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au



SPHINX FOUNDATION INC.

2023-24 BOARD

sphinxfoundation@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

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Peter Farr, Director

Vivian Wang, Hon Treasurer

Robert Gray, Secretary

Danielle Jeyes, Director

Dr Annette Mercer, Director

Mitchell Mackay, School Representative

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

ANGEL YU

PMS Student 2008-2011

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology has earned an impressive reputation because of the way it has driven American innovation through visionary research, technological breakthroughs, and its powerful impact on the world's economy.

The incredible exploits of fictional characters *Howard Wolowitz* from Big Bang Theory and *Timothy McGee* from NCIS, both graduates of MIT have created a broad awareness of the Institute within the wider community.

Each year about 30,000 students apply for undergraduate entry and about 4% are accepted. In 2012 Modernian Angel Yu was one of the 4%.

Angel enrolled at Mod in 2008 and is well remembered for his engaging personality, his academic ability and especially his prodigious potential for pure mathematics. A potential which excited the interest and support of Professor Cheryl Praeger from UWA.

In 2011 Angel was Dux and received the major awards for mathematics and physics. He was also a member of the Australian team of six which participated (in the Netherlands) in the international Mathematical Olympiad and was awarded a bronze medal.

At MIT Angel completed a Masters of Engineering in Computer Science with an emphasis upon Machine Learning. His grade was 5.0/5.0. While at MIT Angel became an Undergraduate Researcher with the MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory and worked on robot operating systems and ways to protect users from malicious files. Papers he published included *Efficient Integer Vector Homomorphic Encryption and Distributed MCMC Inference in Dirichlet Process Mixture Models Using Julia*.

Angel completed internships with Box and Adobe before in 2016, joining the Google organization in San Francisco as a software engineer. He is now a Senior Staff Software Engineer and a Technical Lead Manager.

MATTHEW GROSVENOR

PMS Student 1998-2002

Matthew Grosvenor has recently contacted one of our volunteers. Matthew graduated from Perth Modern School in 2002 and moved to New South Wales to study Engineering/Science at the UNSW. Matthew earned a Cooperative scholarship and completed his university study after six years. While studying he reports that he became a fixture in the research labs at UNSW. He then completed a short time in industry before returning to research. He completed his PhD in Computer Networking at the University of Cambridge in 2016. Matt met his wife Evianne there and now lives in Sydney with their two children, Samuel and Thomas.

NEW OLD MODERNIANS – CLASS OF 2017

The **Class of 2017** has had a relatively short time to progress their careers and while studying, they experienced the disruption caused by Covid-19. Their experiences are diverse, and already many are making a significant contribution to Western Australia's resource industry either as engineers or as data analysts.

Significant too is the number who continue to undertake community service. Detailed below are the achievements of a small sample of the Class. The information was sourced from details former students have posted on LinkedIn or Facebook. There is a much broader range of achievements within the Class.



DONORS

Sphinx Scholarship Fund

Janet Holmes à Court AC
Dr Mary Marshall
Dr Irene Froyland in honour of Barrie B Baker
Nigel and Kate Hunt
Rodney House
Tine Adams
Hon. Julian Grill
Ross Ledger (R E & F J Ledger Charitable Trust)
Alison Dowley
Patricia Quiggin
Dr Mary Marshall
Robin Silsbury
Brenda Newbey
Dr Bruce Armstrong
Jennifer & Wilfred (Neil) Bardsley
Bryant Bice
Maureen (née Pavlinovich) & Grahame Young
Bruce Connor
Laurie Best
Stuart Gould
Douglas Gould
Barry Saker
John Lane
Robert L Matthews



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY
MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED

2025 BOARD

museum@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

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Sharon Williams, *Treasurer*
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Thalia Cole, *Board Member*
Jeffrey Lai, *Board Member*
Ashleigh Blechynden, *Board Member*

Ex-officio:

President, Perth Modernian Society
Perth Modern School Representative

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

[History Centre and Archives]

Gay Albillos
Deborah Beresford, Hon Archivist
Frank Hedges
Ian Hunt
Robert (Bob) Johnson
Jill Lucas
Wendy McCallum
Deirdre Owen
Roger Stubbs
Loren White
Robyn White
Sharon Williams
Alison Woodman
Juliet Bruining

MUSEUM SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

facebook.com/perthmodernschoolmuseum/
instagram.com/pmsmamuseum/

MODERNIAN HONOURS

awards@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

Modernian Fellow

Sallie Davies
Malcolm McCusker AC CVO KC
Donald Tyler *
Barrie Baker *
Ian Jarvis *
Peter Farr
Dr Kenneth Michael AC Cit WA

* Deceased



NAOMI CHA

Head Girl Naomi Cha enrolled at UWA to study psychology. In 2024 she completed a Bachelor of Psychology with first class honours. She describes herself as a 'passionate psychology honours student and research officer with a strong background in mental health training, crisis support, mentoring, and leadership'.

Naomi is a research officer at UWA with the CanARY Study which aims to establish whether cannabidiol (CBD) can reduce symptoms in young people at heightened risk for developing psychosis.

Naomi has also worked as a Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Trainer and is preparing for an internship with Lifeline WA.

SAGAR BADVE

The editors of the 2017 Year Book identified Sagar Badve as 'Most likely to become Prime Minister', inspired perhaps by his performance as Head Boy. That is yet to happen but so far, he has undertaken an interesting journey.

Sagar was awarded a John Curtin Scholarship to enrol at Curtin University from where he graduated with a Bachelor of Finance with a high distinction.

His preparedness to undertake community service attracted the attention of Rotary which successfully nominated him for a Georgia Rotary Student Program Scholarship which enabled him to study in the United States.

He attended Georgia State University and studied FinTech and Blockchain. A further scholarship from the Mannkal Economic Foundation enabled him to train as a financial analyst. Sagar has remained in Atlanta, Georgia and now works with Hive Financial Assets as a Data Analyst.



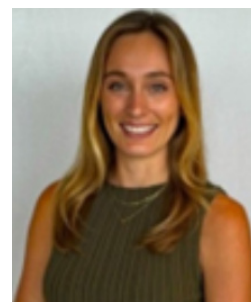
KATHERINE DUMAS

Katherine enrolled at UWA as a Fogarty Scholar to study Bio-medicine, Physiology and Sports Science. After a successful year she enrolled at the University of Adelaide where by 2024 she had completed a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery with an emphasis upon rural health. At the University of Adelaide, she was the President of the Adelaide University Rural Health Alliance.

MIA JUDKINS

Mia was awarded a prestigious Tuckwell Scholarship which enabled her to study at the Australian National University. At ANU she completed a Bachelor of Laws with Honours and a Bachelor of International Relations.

She now works as a solicitor with King and Wood Mallesons in Sydney.



ANDREW THANUR

After leaving Mod Andrew decided to study at the University of Melbourne. There he completed a Bachelor of Commerce with High Distinction. He then enrolled at the Melbourne Business School to complete a Masters Degree in Finance for which he was awarded a number of prizes.



Moderna Scola Award

Deborah Beresford
 Alan Porter *
 Evelyn Broadley
 Rosemary Pratt
 Dr June Stephenson *
 Robert Johnson
 Anne Celia Christmass
 Neil Anthony Coy
 Roger Stubbs AM
 Edward Lazarus
 Barbara Mallett

* Deceased

Honorary Membership

Alison Woodman
 Tonya McCusker AM
 Nigel Hunt
 Brendon Dawson
 Sharon Williams
 Brendon Dawson
 Sharon Williams

Andrew explains that his education has enabled him to develop 'a unique skillset in financial modelling and data analysis that helps translate complex economic concepts into strategic and actionable insights.'

Andrew now works as a senior consultant for the Nous Group, an international management consultancy.

OSCAR MCLOUGHLIN

In 2018 Oscar enrolled at Curtin University to study for a Bachelor of Laws but in 2019 transferred to the Australian National University. At ANU he completed a Bachelor of International Security Studies and a Bachelor of Laws with honours.

While a student he was an enthusiastic participant in extra-curricular activities associated with his fields of study. One of those was an internship with ANIP's Sea Power Centre which resulted in the publication of his paper, *Current and Future Legal Implications Regarding the Use of Military Drones Across Maritime Boundaries*.

After graduation Oscar worked on Cyber Security strategies before accepting a position as a lawyer with Ashurst, a global law firm.

**LACHLAN WANG**

Lachlan enrolled at UWA where he completed a Bachelor of Philosophy with Honours in Computer Science and Data Science. His dissertation was titled, *On structured fields as a proxy measure for similarity over semi-structured technical data*.

In 2019 he attended Canada's McMaster University. By the time his studies were complete Lachlan also had a Bachelor of Engineering in computer science.

During vacation periods Lachlan enriched his skills by undertaking employment relevant to his field. He was a Technical Support Specialist for the Department of Education. For Roy Hill he undertook digital orebody analysis. He was an intern for the Takor Group.

Lachlan is now a Senior Cloud Support Engineer for Amazon Web Services.

SANCHITA GERA

In the 2017 Sanchita predicted that by 2027 she would be meditating with Buddhists on a mountainside in Nepal. In 2025, it is obvious that unless something very dramatic occurs the prediction is unlikely to come true.

As early as Year 11 it was easy to predict that Sanchita would have a future in medicine. Following a research project at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medicine, Sanchita was chosen to represent Australia at the annual Beijing Youth Science Creation Competition.



Her presentation centred on the way a rupture in the ear could be treated by the insertion as a silk scaffold rather than more complex surgery. She won a silver medal.

Sanchita studied medicine at UWA and graduated in 2023 and practises at Royal Perth Hospital. She is also a member of the research team at the Kids Institute where she is investigating future global child mortality projections caused by increasing climate change based on different shared socio-economic pathway climate projections.

**ROBERT (BOB) TWEEDIE**

The 2017 Year Book got it right when they rated Bob Tweedie as the 'Most Talented Muso'. Bob graduated with honours from the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts in 2022. A member of the Western Australian Youth Jazz Orchestra (WAYJO) for 7 years Bob is now building a significant reputation as a jazz pianist and composer. He also plays trumpet.

He appears regularly at the Ellington Club and features in the Perth International Jazz Festivals. Like all emerging artists he has experimented with the formation of several performing groups including the Jazz Collective, Bad Neighbours, The Bob Tweedie Quartet and the Colourful Zoo Magic Trio.

He has previously been a Composer in Residence for WAYJO and is currently its Assistant Musical Director under the leadership of Gemma Farrell, another Modernian





FYNN OPPERMAN

Fynn is a graduate of the University of Melbourne where he first earned a Bachelor of Science in Engineering and Mathematics and was the Chancellor's Scholar. He then completed a Master of Engineering with First Class Honours. While a student he was invited to join ACRUX-2 a project within the Melbourne Space Program which designed and built a satellite.

Fynn now works as a mechanical engineer with RayGen. RayGen is an innovative company which specializes in the provision of large scale low-cost renewable energy through the provision of solar collectors and batteries.

ANNUAL REPORT



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

Our 2024 Annual Report was presented at our 30th Annual General Meeting on Monday 19 May 2025, and is now available on our website:

www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au/wp-content/uploads/WEB-Modernian-Society-Annual-Report-2024.pdf

HISTORY WAS MADE EIGHT YEARS AGO



Public Thank You from the Perth Modernian Society

The **Perth Modernian Society Inc.**, representing the alumni and former teachers of Perth Modern School, welcomes the announcement on 13 June 2017 by the Premier Hon Mark McGowan and Ministers Hon Sue Ellery and Hon Rita Saffioti that Perth Modern School is to remain on its existing heritage site in Subiaco as Western Australia's only fully selective academic government school.

We are grateful that the McGowan Government has decided not to change Perth Mod's role and that this decision has been managed in a respectful and timely manner. It is very rare for any government to reconsider an election policy and the McGowan Government's decision to change the Education Central policy after a preparedness to listen to the community's concerns, is gratefully recognised and we thank them. This school has an international reputation for excellence and this decision is resonating very widely.

Perth Mod opened to students in 1911 and was to pioneer a modern education where the sciences and modern languages were to be on an equal footing with classical education. In 1912, the school introduced entrance examinations in response to the high demand for places. In 1959 Perth Mod lost its selective entry status and this was not restored until 2007. In 2017 Perth Mod's supporters stood up to be counted, and were heard. We recognise and thank YOU for all your magnificent efforts.

The parents of the existing 1300+ Perth Mod students were concerned about maintaining continuity of quality education for their children. Alumni and others involved in preserving Perth Mod were concerned about its heritage and outstanding record for producing students who excelled in many fields of endeavour of national and international significance. But more broadly there was a groundswell of people who wanted to support the history and heritage of the first Government co-educational senior secondary school in Western Australia.

'Save Perth Mod' became a very public cause, and the Society extends its profound thanks to everyone who supported Mod in its hour of need. They wrote a never-ending stream of Letters to the Editor, and they very willingly signed our petitions - in fact over 10,000 persons did so from Port Hedland in the north to Albany in the south. This reinforces our view that Perth Modern School has earned the unique position of being held in the highest regard across Australia as a school which is merit based and provides students regardless of their family background or personal circumstances with the highest quality public school education to allow them to achieve their potential.

14,000 Modernians across Australia and around the world commend the McGowan Government for having listened to concerns about the 'Education Central' proposal and taken the widespread community feedback into account in developing a revised direction that leaves intact the wonderful institution that is so well recognised that it is fondly called 'Perth Mod' or just 'Mod'.

The Perth Modernian Society also thanks the many **Members of Parliament** from all sides, and **City of Subiaco Councillors**, who listened to the **students**, their **parents**, the **P&C Association**, the **Perth Modern School Board**, and **Modernians** and the general public. We are eternally grateful to the journalists and editors of the print and electronic media who saw it as their professional responsibility to shine a light on the issues about which the Perth Mod stakeholders were so concerned.

The McGowan Government's welcome announcement to save Perth Mod was not only an important victory for democracy, but importantly, allows Perth Mod to continue its tradition of exemplary education for high-achieving students, who come from all corners of this State to be educated in a Government school which is open to all students regardless of circumstances. It also means that the valuable support services that the **Perth Modernian Society** and the **Sphinx Scholarship Fund** provide to Perth Mod will continue stronger than ever, for the benefit of our state, our nation and the global community.

The Society records it's thanks to the public and the State Government most sincerely. We look forward to supporting the Government in the pursuit of quality public education in WA.

May I encourage and welcome all former students and staff who are not already registered to join the Perth Modernian Society.

Peter Farr, President



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY



SPHINX FOUNDATION INC.

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#1722250713-1278





A small group met on Wednesday 26 March and remembered the many friends we have lost over past years. A number of others were unable to join us due to limited mobility and family commitments. It is sad to note the loss of three more of our fellow 1955ers in recent weeks, Beth Henry, Rod 'Gus' McLeod and Adrian Egginton.

Thank you for the following comments from those who did catch up and reflected their feelings on the day:

"Although there were only eleven of us it was a great success and you were certainly missed. I particularly was able to talk to Ross Kelly for the first time and found out about the great work he has been doing with indigenous schooling."

I was also able to re-acquaint with Ian Lindsay whom I see quite often and I also met Ian Scott for the first time and learnt of his years with elite swimming and the City Beach museum. I see all or the girls from time to time although it was particularly refreshing to catch up with Laurel whom I have not seen for some time. All in all a great success and enjoyed by all I am sure. Thank you for your organisational skills once again. They were greatly appreciated."

"Thank you for all your work in organising the lunch, and everyone was sad that you weren't able to make it, particularly after doing all the organising. We all enjoyed the catch-up and lunch."

"I hope that I will be able to attend the next meeting that you may organise."

"This tardy reply is to thank you for organising the get-together which we all enjoyed greatly. It was an excellent venue and we chatted for over two hours over a good meal. It was interesting to share our journeys over the 70 years, and the group has achieved much in quite diverse directions. I think we'd all like to gather again at some stage, but an 80th reunion sounded a bit optimistic. I guess the photo may appear in the PMS newsletter as an encouragement to keep up the links."

"Thank you again for arranging our gathering. I'm so sorry you couldn't join us. The waitress took a really good photo didn't she? It really was good to meet up with those we rarely see and meet others we didn't even know."

"Perhaps we could have another event later in the year. 70 years is special and we become less able to attend functions as time goes on"

"It was interesting to catch up with people, particularly the men, with whom I've had no contact and to renew contact with Pat, Norma and Jennie, with whom I flatted 68 years ago. I hope I'll be in a position to attend any further catch ups we may have."

"The lunch was enjoyable and interesting."

This feedback indicates to me that another gathering might be worthwhile.

We can certainly share our individual 70th years of life experiences with old school friends, add to the mailing list and make new friends. For those who are still able to travel, we may be able to arrange something if we know when you are coming to Perth. It may be possible to arrange a "Catch up on-line" if you cannot make it to the venue or you would like to set up an email chain. Please let me know if you are interested in staying in touch. Your thoughts are always welcome.

- Sallie Davies

UPCOMING REUNIONS

Class of 1965

A special 60-year reunion is planned for 2025. If you are interested, or can assist with providing connections to students from 1965, please contact Peter at peterstephenson48@gmail.com or phone **0412 715 546**.

Class of 1970

The Class of 1970 will continue meeting annually for their October get-together.

Class of 1985

A 40-year reunion is being organised by Sharon Harwood (Ross). She has requested that the reunion be advertised here and on our website. Please contact Sharon at sharwood6714@yahoo.com.au or phone **0414 835 156**.

Class of 2005

The Class of 2005 would like to hold a 20th reunion on **Saturday, 1 November at 3pm**. Please contact Madeline Myson to register your interest. Email: madelinemyson@gmail.com Tel: **0400 843 511**



From: Geoff Taylor
A Reader's Request:

May I ask for a small piece in the next newsletter, please?

Would any members be interested in jointly exploring the possibility of setting up a boron neutron capture therapy (BNCT) facility in Perth, as a means of treating some brain cancers but also with promise for treating several other forms of cancer. It may be that other emerging therapies are as effective, or more effective, but that is a matter for discussion. The therapy has been used in Japan for over 35 years, and is now available in Taipei, Xiamen and Helsinki with more units being installed elsewhere such as in Spain. There is a Korean and a US maker. If it was decided to go ahead, I am sure some of the funds could be raised by public subscription. I have prepared a précis with some key references if any reader is interested.

Thank you, Geoff Taylor, class of 1960.

Please contact me at geofft474@gmail.com

Readers, do you too have something to say? Please address your comments to Robyn White (robynwhite5@hotmail.com).

MUSEUM MATTERS



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY
MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED

2025 continues to engage our museum volunteers with some wonderful donations and visitors while we all continue to update and extend our records.

On the afternoon of Sunday 9 March, Perth Modern School featured in Maureen Gathercole's program of Walks Around Subiaco. (See *Subiaco on Sunday*). She and I led a community walk of about fifty people around the school site, with access to some of the heritage buildings. A number of Modernians as well as interested community members, attended. The museum was open and museum volunteers spoke with participants, answering many questions relating to Perth Modern School. A wonderful way to enjoy a bright sunny March afternoon!



People begin to gather on the school oval



Maureen addresses the attendees in the museum



A challenge over recent years has been our preservation of the many Sphinx magazines donated to the museum. These provide an incredibly rich source of information about the culture of the school across the years. The editors' comments of early years, the descriptions of individual and year group activities, photographs, the poetry and literature included, the letters – so much description in every book. We've collected many magazines in varying condition and continue to do so. Late last year having completed the accessioning and the appropriate display of our book collection, Gay Albillos has concentrated on the Sphinx collection. This has involved the preservation of some copies in poor condition but very scarce – which has required delicate work with Japanese paper and some hand sewing. This work has been followed by collating books into order by year and properly archiving them. Gay's work has finally brought order and conservation to a critical component of our physical collection.

Meanwhile, Loren is working with Tonia Clarke (library staff member) to create a display in one of the library display cases that current students regularly visit. As well as information about the Modernian organisations, the display includes science equipment, a sports blazer and texts and will be regularly updated. Deb and Deirdre continue with accessioning and conserving new donations. Currently, (under the supervision of school staff), they are busy archiving the records of 2023 students. Wendy and Jill are busy adding to our museum student and staff data base, Alison is adding photographs to our digital records and Frank is busy adding to our physical archive - the Burvill Files. Bob has been busy with further military service research and visitors to the museum. His links with the wider community on all things military is adding to the accuracy of data held in Canberra as well as with local RSL etc organisations. We continue to be grateful to Ian Hunt for his ongoing skill in improving and adding to our IT capacity each week!

And again, we are always ready to support new volunteers who would like to spend a Monday morning in the museum.

- Robyn White

VALE

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

Name	Year at PMS	Position	Deceased
Elizabeth (Beth) Henry	1951 - 1955	Student	2 April 2025
Rod (Gus) MacLeod	1951 - 1955	Student	20 March 2025
Adrian Egginton	1951 - 1955	Student	28 March 2025
Douglas Bridge	1959 - 1963	Student	15 December 2024
Denis Wylks	1954 - 1958	Student	24 December 2024
Frances Barnes (née Waters)	1945 - 1949	Student	17 December 2024
Edwin Dewar	1954 - 1958	Student	28 February 2025
Annemie McAuliffe (née Davies)	1955 - 1959	Student	7 May 2025
Clive Kendrick	1982 - 1994	Senior Master of Music	12 May 2025

TRIBUTES



CLIVE WALTER KENDRICK
PMS Senior Master of Music 1982-1994

The memory of Clive Walter Kendrick (Mira Mar, Western Australia), who passed away on May 12, 2025 at the age of 84, will forever remain in the hearts and minds of those touched by his presence in their lives. A remarkable educator and mentor whose influence shaped the lives of so many of Perth Modern School.

Clive became the Senior Master of Music in 1984 having already made an impact the year before in an acting capacity. His leadership saw the expansion of the Specialist Music program, increasing student intake and introducing a structured three-year cycle program of camps, tours and local study years.

One of his most significant contributions was incorporating the Kodály Method into music instruction at Mod, recognising the voice as a powerful tool for musical literacy and collaboration. His dedication to choral excellence enriched the school's music program, fostering an environment where students thrived in their musical development.

Beyond administrative and educational innovations Clive was a guiding force for many young musicians offering support and mentorship that extended far beyond the classroom. His legacy lives on in the hearts and talents of those who had the privilege of learning under his leadership.

Upon his retiring from his 35 year teaching career, Clive had the time and energy to pursue his love affair with wood. Clive studied with West Australian Master Turner, Dean Malcolm, to truly develop his technique in art of woodturning.

His skill and artistic ability was acknowledged by his inclusion in the inaugural selected Wesfarmers Fine Wood Awards in 1997, the highly prestigious Premier's Gift Commission in 1998 and the invitational 25th Annual Alice Craft Acquisition in 1999. His entry of a sculptural piece titled 'Desmonda's Wedding' in the 'Inspirations in Wood' exhibition in Denmark, Western Australia, also won the wood turning prize. In 2003, his work was exhibited in 'Splinter – New Directions in Fine Wood' presented by FORM.

A gentle, humble, artistic, and devoted soul has left the world's stage — a remarkable man who made a lasting impact: an extraordinary educator, musician, woodturning craftsman, culinary master, and so much more.

Condolences are extended to Jenny, Clive's wife and life partner, and to the Kendrick family



Photo: AMA WA

DR DOUGLAS BRIDGE **PMS Student 1959-1963**

By the time he died Dr Douglas Bridge had established a remarkable reputation as a pioneer of palliative medicine from which thousands of people benefited. He was instrumental in the establishment of palliative medicine as a recognised speciality. Douglas had a significant role in the education of other medical practitioners both in Australia and overseas. By the end of his career, his achievements resulted in his receiving some significant honours. But there were a number of steps along the way.

At the end of his first term at Mod Douglas had failed to impress, for his form teacher determined that he was 'inclined to be lazy'. But there was little doubt that he was a remarkable student. He sat for seven subjects in the Leaving Examinations and passed with distinction in six and was awarded a General Exhibition. Douglas graduated as a doctor from the University of Western Australia with post graduate qualifications in internal medicine and tropical medicine.

Douglas had a strong Christian faith which informed the way he practised medicine. Between 1977 and 1979 he worked for a rural health project in the Khulna district in Bangladesh and became fluent in Bangla. He also worked in Nepal. Repeated lung infections brought his valuable work with villagers in great need to end, and he returned to Australia. Later he would become a frequent visitor to Bangladesh to promote palliative medicine.

Upon his return Douglas worked at Fremantle Hospital where he became aware of how poorly provided for, were patients hospitalized with terminal illnesses. As sometimes long-term patients, traditional nursing care did not provide for their emotional, spiritual and physical needs. As a consequence, the rest of his career was dedicated towards the provision of effective palliative care.

Early initiatives provided palliative care at Fremantle Hospital to support the initiative by the Rev. Dr D Macadam and the Silver Chain, to establish a domiciliary care service for cancer patients. Eventually four beds at Fremantle Hospital were located within a domestically styled ward in which the methods of treatment changed. When the Cottage Hospice was established in Shenton Park Douglas became its medical director. He particularly emphasised the need to address the emotional and spiritual needs of terminally ill patients.

Douglas had an established practice but he also accepted other positions.

In 1993 Douglas was appointed as a specialist palliative care doctor at Royal Perth Hospital, a position he held for twenty years. Beyond RPH he played a clinical leadership role in palliative care departments across WA.

He was appointed as a Clinical Professor at UWA's School of Medicine and Pharmacology. As his reputation grew Douglas accepted invitations to visit places like Taiwan and mainland China to appear at conferences and to participate in training programs.



In 2013 Douglas became with the Lien Collaborative in Bangladesh in a program to improve palliative care in that country. As a result, palliative medicine was then taught by medical schools and better use was made of morphine. He continued until 2018. By this time, he had been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease but for many years he was able to continue his work.

In 2018 he was awarded the Australian Medical Association (WA)'s prestigious Hippocrates Award.

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians' awarded Douglas the College Medal in 2020.

The ANZPM made Douglas an Honorary Life Member in 2021, 'for his selfless contribution to the Society and the Specialty, both as a founding member of ANZSPM and in his capacity as Chair of the Australian Chapter of Palliative Medicine 2015-2016'.

Good palliative care helps patients and families avoid both overtreatment and neglect of treatment. It enhances patient autonomy and decision-making capacity by improving symptom control and empowering patients to participate in their care.
Dr Douglas Bridge

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National Servicemen Norm Chosid
(trumpet), David Black (euphonium),
Lyle Bowden (trombone)

LYLE BOWDEN PMS Student 1949-1953

The death of Lyle Bowden was recorded in the last edition of The Modernian but at the time there was insufficient information to write a tribute. Since then, fellow student Norman Chosid has shared his fond memories of Lyle.

It was sobering to reflect that the ranks of our 1949-53 cohort (PMS Issue 63) have been further depleted. While it featured a well-deserved tribute to David Black, I'd like to add a few words to the stark message 'Deceased' for Lyle Bowden. Lyle Albert Bowden marched to a different drumbeat.

With an intellectual capacity matched only by the brightest of his peers, Lyle was often quick to challenge the establishment mores of the time and more often than not, this did not endear him to the teaching staff or student body. He did not suffer fools gladly and carried this trait through to his adult life.

Amongst many other interests, Lyle was passionate about modern music and introduced a small group of devotees to the cool sounds of Gerry Mulligan and Chet Baker. He actually persuaded David Black and Norm Chosid to join him playing in an Army Band while in 'Nashos' 1955.

He will be remembered for his genuine loyalty to friends and love for his three children.

An oral history project undertaken in 2013 which documents the history of Control Data Australia provides a small window into Lyle's career. Control Data Australia was a major provider of computer services in Australia in the 1960s and 70s.

Lyle completed a Bachelor of Psychology and had a cadetship with the Post Master General (before it was divided into Telstra and Australia Post) and was enrolled to complete an MA in industrial psychology. He was appointed as senior research officer (in Melbourne). He met a colleague in a pub who offered him an opportunity to work with computers about which he knew nothing.

Lyle was sent on a three-month training course in programming and system design. Lyle failed the course, 'because of something which occurred', but his supervisor had confidence in him. He allocated a task which required him to design a system to track faults in PMG lines by computer. Cutting edge stuff at the time.



To evaluate software required him to become proficient in the computing language COBOL (Common Business Orientated Language). Later Lyle would claim to be the Australian 'COBOL Guru' and on his recommendation the PMG adopted its use. He trained other PMG staff. 'I came straight out of University without any knowledge of computing and I was responsible in each of three years to convert 25 people into working professionals.' As his reputation grew Lyle also advised the Department of Defence on how it could use COBOL.

Lyle worked for the PMG between 1962 and 1967 and was head-hunted by Control Data Australia. He worked with them for ten years during which time he was sent to the United States seven times to share his knowledge and to receive further training.

Lyle's greatest contribution to Control Data Australia was his technical expertise. Often programs had to be loaded by punched cards each time a computer was used and the needs of individual organizations needed to be tailored. Lyle was able to analyse and adapt computer programs and routines to best suit his client's needs often saving very considerable sums with his innovations. Such initiatives were not always well received at company headquarters in Minneapolis.

Major sales often resulted from the technical advice he was able to provide organizations like BHP which purchased from Control Data Australia rather than IBM. Other major clients included the University of Melbourne, the SGIO in Queensland, Main Roads and the Health Department in Western Australia, the Department of Defence and the CSIRO. After he left Control Data Australia Lyle worked as a consultant and at one time returned to Western Australia to work with the Building Management Authority.

During his time at Control Data Australia Lyle worked closely with Tony Blackmore, a Modernian. Initially Tony worked on technical issues but subsequently became the organization's sales manager.

Source: conservancy.umn.edu/items/ec6466c3-8de8-41e6-8770-3681ea3f48a6

ADRIAN FREDERICK WILLIAM EGGINTON **PMS Student 1951-1955**

Adrian arrived in Australia from England with his mother in 1946 to join his father, Frederick. Frederick had served with the Royal Navy and applied to remain in Australia following his discharge.

Adrian qualified as a teacher and between 1960 and 1967 completed his country service in Albany, Margaret River and Narrogin. In 1970 he returned to Perth and was appointed to Hampton Senior High School as Senior Master of History where although some sources suggest he was Senior Master of Geography and Economics. In 1977 Adrian became a Deputy Principal and after one year in Merredin was appointed to Cyril Jackson Senior High where he would remain until 2007.

Lorraine Hams wrote of her experience of working with Adrian, 'A wonderful Deputy to me for 19 years. I could never have wished for a better right-hand man. Memories of his brilliance as an educational leader who cared for all staff and students...'

As a youngster Adrian developed a strong interest in all forms of transport which remained with him. He recalled that as a child he was allowed to drive a full-sized bus at the then Guildford Aerodrome and at times, under the supervision of the skipper, permitted to steer the Coode St Ferry. But the highlight was operating some of the controls on the Avro Anson which flew between Rottnest and Maylands Aerodrome. Presumably the pilot was the legendary Jimmy Woods. While at the University of Western Australia Adrian enlisted in the University Squadron of the RAAF and after graduation continued as a reservist until 1967. During that time, he undertook pilot training as part of his National Service. He achieved the rank of Flight Lieutenant.

Adrian had a strong commitment to the Anglican Church of Australia and held many positions such as a lay reader, pastoral assistant, parish secretary and as a member of vestries, especially within the Parish of Swan. The early interest in transport that Adrian showed was reflected in his long-term membership (44+ years) of the Bus Preservation Society which is now based at Whiteman Park. Adrian was determined to contribute to the preservation and promotion of Western Australia's road passenger heritage. The Society has an impressive collection. Adrian acted as archivist, driver, cleaner and odd job man.

In a few words Adrian's brother Nigel captured the essence of the man whom he described as 'mentor, role model and volunteer with an endearing eccentricity and passion for people, planes, busses and cars. A gentle Christian soul...'

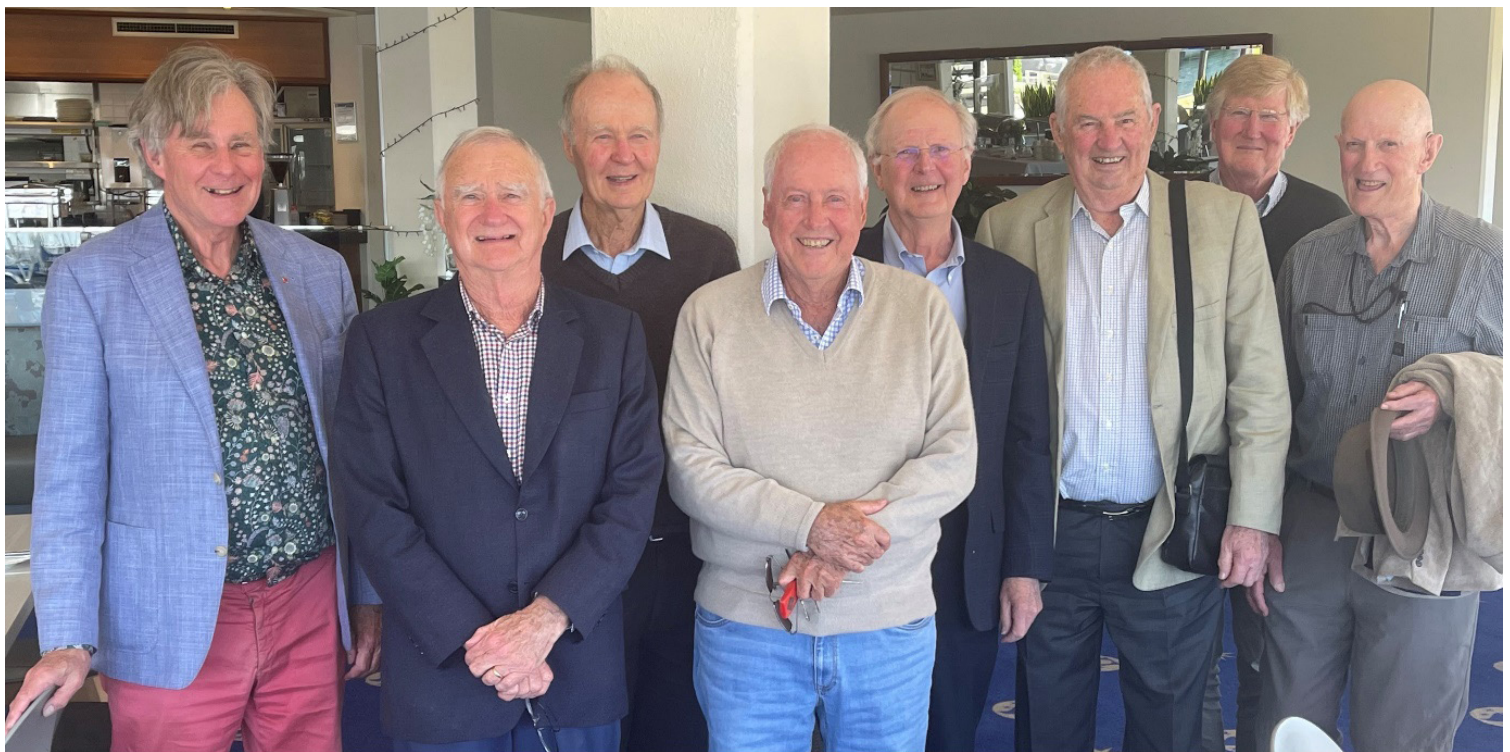


EDWIN (ED) DEWAR PMS Student 1954-1958

Dr Edwin (Eddie/Ed) Dewar, who grew up in East Perth and started at Perth Mod in 1954, passed away on 28 February 2025 after a battle with illness. His legacy will continue for many years to come in medical circles (Kwinana and Medina where he was a GP and Obstetrician), sport (player with both the Subiaco Football Club and Kwinana Cricket Club, golfer and sailor), and with his synonymous Whitby Falls stud name carried throughout many trotting breeding lines in WA. He also had a great passion, amongst many, for fishing.

A large number of Ed's family and friends, including PMS Class 1A mates, attended a Celebration of Life for Ed on 13 April at the University Club.

Phil Ledger who knew Ed for about 72 years, delivered a fine eulogy about Ed's personality, saying in part: *"A talented sportsman, Ed was vice-captain of football at Modern School, First Eleven wicket keeper and an outstanding poker player on Cadets afternoon. A few of us, some later notables, were spirited into the Ammunition Hut under specific orders from our army superior. He was a guy about two years older than us. Not sure whether this was in the curriculum but it was pleasant. The knowledge acquired playing poker was invaluable in later life."* He reminisced saying *"Ed had a big grin, one that never really failed him. Certainly not on the day he thrashed Keith Harper on the Subiaco football ground. Ed was about 19 years of age and Keith Harper was a champion Australian League footballer who was the current state captain. Ed scored the 3 maximum points for the Sandover medal that day. There was a lot of grinning to be had!"* *"Thank you Ed. You are missed."*



Class 1A (1954) reunion in October 2021: Ed Dewar (centre) flanked by Peter Farr, Phil Ledger, Phil Jennings, Ken Cullen, Ron Groves, Mal Lee and Peter Goss



The hundreds of tributes to Ed on Facebook included sentiments like these: *"Sorry to hear he was our family doctor for years delivered our 2 daughters. Sympathy to his family" and "Had an emergency, no family car available so Dr Ed drove me the Fremantle hospital for treatment. Now that's service. Our family doctor for many years."*

His story in the WA harness racing industry began in the 1970's when he took a leap of faith and purchased New Zealand mare Remit for \$10,000. Remit went on to win 11 races for Ed Dewar in WA, and her name still continues to feature in the pedigrees of many of her descendants. Described as *"a true gentleman of the sport"*, Dr Dewar, ran his breeding stud at Whitby Falls Stud for more than four decades.

Contributed by Phil Ledger and Peter Farr

Ed Dewar was made a Life Member of the Western Australian Standardbred Breeders Association in April 2024. (Ed was also a Life Member of Gloucester Park Harness Racing).



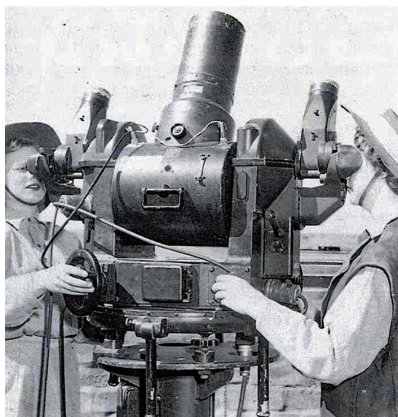
FRANCES BARNES (née Waters)
PMS Student 1945-1949

Frances died on the 17th December 2024. Despite an approach to her family little is known about Frances's life, but a snippet of information she lodged with the Museum provides an intriguing insight into her early achievements and an insight into Australia's experimental weapons program.

As a teenager Frances experienced some challenges. From Tambellup, her father Frank died in 1939 affected by injuries from WWI. Her mother moved to West Leederville and while Frances was at Mod, she too died.

An enigmatic entry on her record card indicates that in October 1949 she attended an interview with 'Comm', presumably the Commonwealth Government. The interview must have been a great success for by February the following year she was employed as a Computing Assistant at the secretive Long-Range Weapons Establishment in Salisbury South Australia.

Frances and six other young women had responsibility for plotting the trajectories of rockets and bombs tested at Woomera Rocket Range using data from radar, high speed cameras and Doppler recordings. Long before computers were readily available it was necessary for them to process complex equations on small accounting machines.



Young women operating a kinetheodolite at Woomera around 1950

Their role was crucial to the success of the weapons testing programs that had begun in response to the Cold War.

Frances lived in a hostel and whenever the young women visited the male dominated Woomera, they were required to wear army gear and eat in the officer's mess to avoid any problems with the 'other ranks' stationed in a remote location.

A web page (adelaideaz.com/articles/salisbury-wre-women-do-vital-work-as-computers-tracking-woomera-rocket-tests-and-satellites-during-1950s-60s) provides more detailed information about the important role played by the Computing Assistants. It features a photograph of seven young women, presumably one of them is Frances.

DENIS GILLON WYLKS
PMS Student 1954-1958

After he left Perth Modern School Denis graduated with an Associateship in Architecture from Perth Technical College which was then only institution to offer architecture courses until the University of Western Australia established its faculty in 1965.

Denis first practised in Perth and Sydney. He gained overseas experience by working in Cambridge and Edinburgh before settling in Canberra.

Denis practised in Canberra for well over thirty-five years and was a director of LBW Architects Pty Ltd. His firm specialized in residential development and had a particular interest in modifying traditional Canberra homes.

When the ACT and New South Wales introduced house energy rating schemes Denis took a deep interest in matters of thermal performance undergoing specialized training which enabled him to establish the energy rating of individual homes and multi-unit developments. He became an associate of exemplary energy partners a consultancy which advised upon development projects.

Denis died on 24 December 2024.



Classmates Denis Wylks and Peter Farr at the National Museum of Australia (Canberra), May 2021



The editors received news of the passing of distinguished Modernian and former Perth Modernian Society Council member Annemie McAuliffe when this edition was complete.

A suitable tribute to Annemie will appear in the next issue.

MODERNIANS WHO DIED IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY

*Number 27 in a special series of articles researched and prepared for publication by
Robert Johnson, PMS student 1961-65 and Museum Volunteer*

FREDERICK BRITAIN BORRETT **PMS Student 1931-32**

Flight Sergeant Fred Borrett was the pilot of one of a group of aircraft flying across Nigeria in February 1942 when the leader spotted a storm moving towards them. He ordered the group to take avoiding action. While all of the other aircraft responded, Fred's aircraft flew into the storm.

Early Years

Fred Borrett was born on 16 November 1914 in Bunbury, Western Australia, to Harry Britain Borrett and Emily Eliza Borrett (nee Harvey). Fred's younger siblings were born in Kalgoorlie: Arnold in 1918, Carmen in 1919 and Sturt in 1920. The family moved to Mt Lawley, a suburb of Perth, and Fred undertook his first three years of high school at Perth Boys School, passing his Junior Examinations in five subjects in 1930.

Fred transferred to Modern School in February 1931, sustained injuries in a motor vehicle accident in June 1931 and was hospitalised for a month which interfered with his studies. Although he did poorly in all of his term exams, he surprised his teachers by gaining his Leaving Certificate in four subjects at the end of 1932.

After leaving school, Fred obtained employment in Perth with radio station 6AM-6PM-6KG as a clerk/announcer. His father, Harry, died in 1938 at the age of 58.

Military Service

Fred's employment with the radio station came to an end in 1939 with the outbreak of war. He moved to NSW and joined the RAAF on 27 May 1940 as an Aircraftman 2nd Class. He completed several training courses and was promoted to Leading Aircraftman on 25 July and Sergeant in November. He was transferred to RAAF Pearce north of Perth in February 1941, an opportunity to visit his family prior to being sent overseas.

Fred arrived in the Middle East in May 1941 and was posted to No. 211 Squadron RAF at Aqir in Palestine (now Israel). The Squadron flew operations against the Vichy French in the Syria-Lebanon Campaign before being withdrawn in June to RAF Heliopolis outside Cairo in Egypt. Fred was promoted to Flight Sergeant on 1 September 1941.

After a month at Middle East Headquarters, Fred was attached to the legendary No. 11 Squadron RAF and served with it from December 1941 to early February 1942, engaged in the bombing of armoured units, troop concentrations and supply columns.

From February to June 1942 Fred again served at Middle East Headquarters and was then transferred to the Aircraft Delivery Unit (ADU) on 3 June 1942. During this time Fred had been assessed as being of "very good character" and his proficiency as a pilot was rated "satisfactory".

At this time, British attempts to send aircraft from Britain to the Middle East were met with fierce resistance by German and Italian forces in North Africa and in the Mediterranean. The ADU was established to enable aircraft to be flown, or "ferried", from Takoradi in the British colony of the Gold Coast (now Ghana) to Cairo, a distance of almost 6,000 kilometres. The journey was made over six days with rest and refuelling stops along the way.



On 18 August 1942 aircraft delivery convoy 474 flew from Takoradi to Lagos. Fred and his crew of two were flying in Blenheim BA597. On the following day, 19 August, the convoy was flying from Lagos to Kano and encountered a line squall across their path near the town of Osogbo, approximately 200km north-east of Lagos. The squall was moving towards the convoy. The convoy commander signalled the convoy to return to Lagos to avoid the squall. All of the aircraft responded except for Fred's, which flew into the turbulence and disappeared.



Photo taken between December 1941 and February 1942 of Fred (on the right) and friends near Sidi Barrani, Egypt

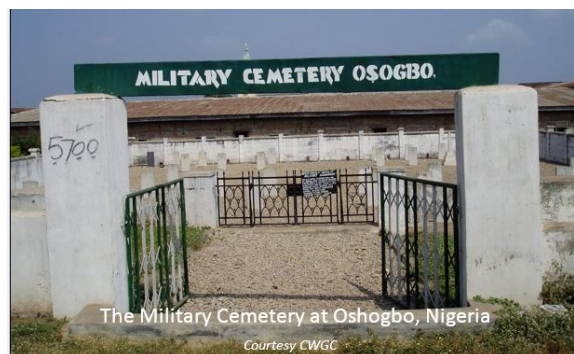
www.awm.gov.au/collection/R1707159



Map showing flight route Takoradi-Lagos-Kano and the towns of Osogbo and Ogbomoshos

aircrewremembered.com/borrett-frederick-britain.html

The wreckage of the aircraft and remains of the crew were found approximately 12km north of Ogbomoshos. Fred and his crew were buried two days later in the military cemetery at Osogbo.



The Military Cemetery at Osogbo, Nigeria

Courtesy CWGC

aircrewremembered.com/borrett-frederick-britain.html

His parents arranged for his epitaph to read:

PEACE, PERFECT PEACE. "FREDDIE" YOU DIED THAT WE MIGHT LIVE

Fred was 28 when he died.

Fred's Brothers

Fred's brother, Arnold, was a 23-year-old clerk in the WA Treasury Department when he enlisted in the RAAF in Perth on 31 March 1941. He trained as a Wireless Operator/Air Gunner, sailed to the UK and was posted in February 1943 to No. 15 Squadron RAF in Cambridgeshire.

Two weeks later, after two years of intensive training, Stirling BF378 was shot down over the Netherlands and Arnold was killed. He died on 19 February 1943, a week after his 25th birthday and exactly six months after Fred's death. Their mother, Emily, having already lost her husband, received two heartbreaking telegrams within six months.

Fred's other brother, Sturt, enlisted in the RANVR on 31 January 1941 when he was 20. He qualified as a Telegraphist and served at several Navy installations. He married Joan McGrath in 1945 and was discharged from the Navy on 10 January 1946. Sturt died in Morley on 19 June 1984 aged 64. The rest of Emily's story is not known.

LEST WE FORGET

A more detailed and fully referenced version of this article is on the Honour Board at honour.perthmodern.wa.edu.au

