



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

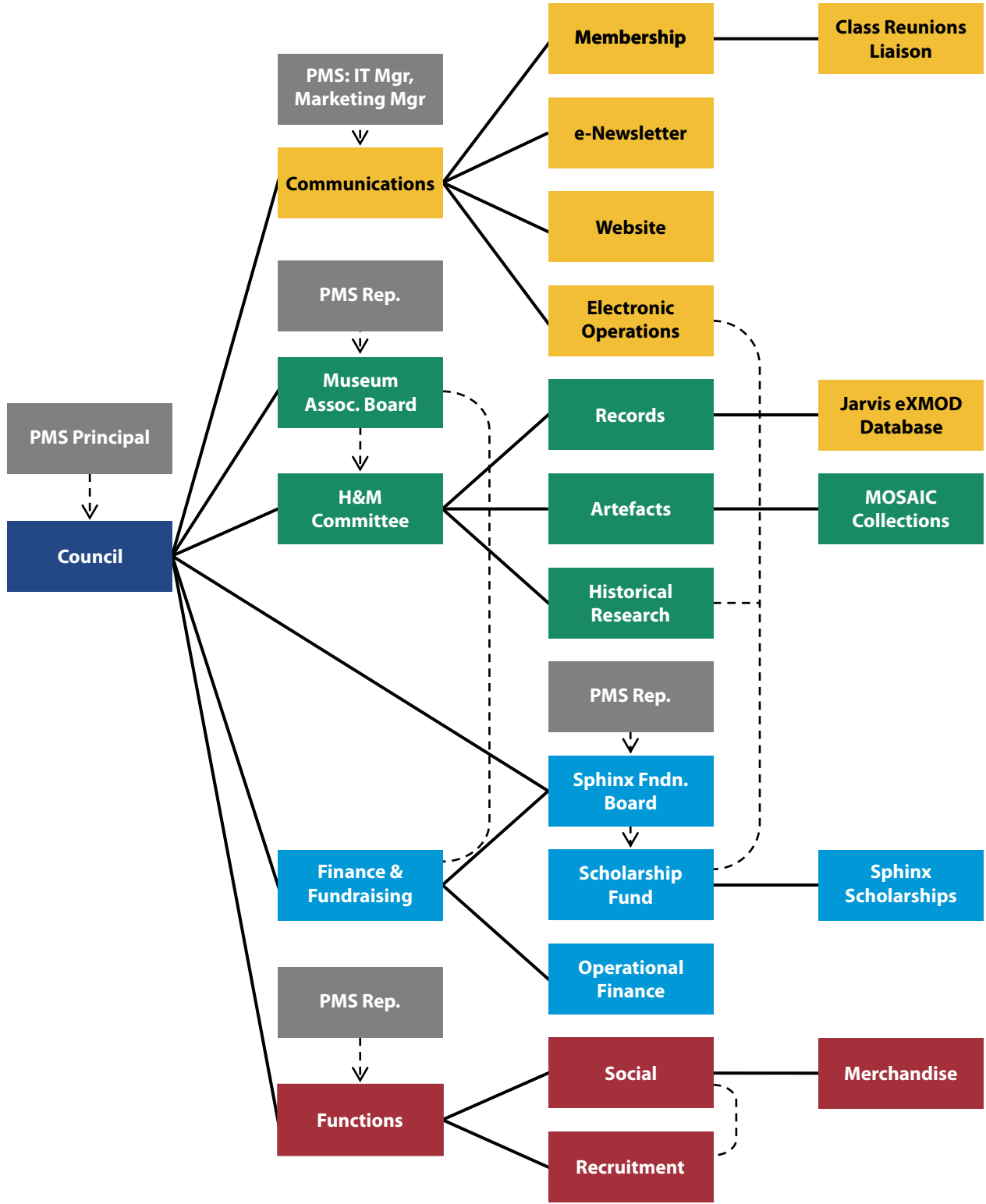


Annual Report 2024





Organisational Structure



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

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Annual Report 2024

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The **primary object** of the Perth Modernian Society (Inc) is the advancement of education for the benefit of the community as a whole. In undertaking the primary object this Society of former staff and students (alumni) must have regard to the educational principles and practices of Perth Modern School from its inception to the present and which may guide the School in the future.

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 to 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.



Council's Report



The Perth Modernian Society which represents the alumni (students and staff) of Western Australia's earliest government secondary school to offer courses to matriculation level, continued in 2024 to provide many services to members, the School and the wider community. Included in this list of activities in 2024 were four issues of the quarterly eNewsletter jointly edited by Stuart Gould, Roger Stubbs and Peter Farr and which goes out to a contact list of some 1,800 alumni around Australia and overseas.

GOVERNANCE AND COMPLIANCE

Since the 2024 AGM (held 27 May 2024), the Council comprised: Evan Kennea (President), Mitchell Mackay Ex-Officio (PMS Principal), Dr Robyn White (Vice-President), Hon Daryl Williams (Vice-President), Peter Farr, Barrie Baker, Eve Broadley (Hon. Treasurer), Deborah Beresford (Hon. Secretary), Barbara Mallett, Ruth Barrett, and Ian Hunt. The Society is grateful to all Councillors for their dedicated efforts. It is also recorded with appreciation that most of these people have served long periods on the Council. Councillors' profiles may be found on pages 28-32 of this Report.

Mitchell Mackay (Principal) or Deputy Principal Robyn Verboon attended Council meetings during 2024 and kept the Council well informed on the major happenings at the School.

Since the inception of the PMS Board when PMS became an Independent Public School, the Society has been invited to nominate one of the Board's community members, a role filled since 2018 by Peter Farr.

The Society's Incorporated Association's registration number (IARN) is A1004735K. Under the Western Australian Associations Incorporation Act (2015) there is a requirement to submit an annual Information Statement to Consumer Protection (WA Associations Online), and this was done after the Society's 2024 AGM.

OVERVIEW OF PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY COUNCIL NEWS

2024 Annual General Meeting

Attendance was around 30 people. At the conclusion of the formal part of the meeting, the guest speaker, Keith Kessell, Modernian (1958–1962) from the Scholarship era was interviewed by President Evan Kennea. The audience learned that Keith has enjoyed a richly varied career in a number of sectors including the media, politics, business and The Arts. Keith and Evan provided an extremely entertaining dialogue that identified the paths taken in Keith's enormously varied career. The following short bio identifies key elements of Keith's working life: *'Keith Kessell has considerable experience in media and government relations, policy development and issues management. From the middle of 1980s until 1993 Keith worked as a senior adviser in federal politics. He began his career as a journalist for West Australian Newspapers and also worked on ABC radio. He was a senior executive at Wesfarmers Limited until his retirement in 2008 from the position of Executive General Manager, Corporate Affairs. His responsibilities included oversight of the Wesfarmers Arts programme.'*

2024 Annual Reunion

The 2024 Perth Modernian Society Annual Reunion (all years) was held on Saturday August 31st. With a relatively small group of attendees (30) a very animated afternoon of drinks/refreshments was thoroughly enjoyed. Primarily from the first scholarship era, many friends were able to enjoy each other's company and catch up on news. The school music department provided Modernian reunion attendees with complementary tickets to the final Senior Concert for 2024. Those reunion attendees who accepted this offer thoroughly enjoyed an excellent evening's entertainment.

Membership Renewal

There is a great need for the completing Year 12 students to join the Alumni body. While the Council is trying hard to increase paid up membership, it seems that the younger members are not renewing after their first four years incentive discount. The School and the Society are considering improved ways to better explain the importance of paid membership.

MODERNA SCOLA AWARD

At the 2024 AGM, Modernian **Barbara Mallett** (1966-1970) (pictured here with **Dr Robyn White**, Vice President) was the deserving recipient of our Moderna Scola Award. In 2010, Barbara joined the Council of the Perth Modernian Society, where, on the Functions Committee, her organisational skills have been invaluable. She has taken an active role in organising events such as the Annual General Meeting and the Annual Reunion, and especially year group reunions, contacting alumni, inviting them, and assisting them, to coordinate events with their peers.



ANNUAL ORATION

Monday 4 November 2024 saw Perth Modern School hosting the 14th consecutive Modernian Oration in the Cyril Tyler Auditorium. Organised every year by Modernian Fellow Peter Farr, the speaker for 2024 was Ms Kirsten Rose, Deputy Chief Executive of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), who spoke on a very current topic *"The art and science of navigating fake news and alternative facts."*

In the large audience were Year 11 students, members of the Sphinx Society, parents of Sphinx Society members, Modernians, and staff. In speaking about her career, Kirsten said "I work at CSIRO now, but I'm not a scientist by training. I studied art history and European history at university. These subjects gave me critical skills—like analysing perspectives and questioning narratives—still relevant in my role today."



Kirsten Rose responding to questions moderated by the joint MCs

A strong point made by Kirsten in her Oration was that *"Ultimately, curiosity and critical thinking are the tools that will help us navigate these challenges"*, and also that *"Being curious means going beyond what's presented at face value and asking: Where's the evidence? Who supports this? Why does it matter?"* She challenged the students to *"Stay curious—but don't stop there. Use your curiosity to ask tough questions and actively combat misinformation."* Kirsten ended by saying: *"I know that your school motto means 'Knowledge is Power'. I couldn't agree more, and my call to action for you is to use that power to help navigate the uncertainties of today AND how we build a better-informed society for tomorrow"*.



Pictured with Kirsten Rose (centre) and Principal Mitchell Mackay (second from left) are Modernians Peter Farr (past President), Ruth Barrett and Hon. Julian Grill

This was the third occasion that the Oration has been delivered in the new Cyril Tyler Auditorium rather than Beasley Hall thereby allowing a considerably larger audience.

History

The tradition of the Annual Oration was inaugurated by the Hon. Justice Michael Kirby in 2011, and distinguished speakers since have included Modernians Janet Holmes à Court AC, Emeritus Professor Ross Garnaut AC, Elizabeth Gaines, Professor Shirley Randell AO, Professor Bruce Armstrong AM, His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson APM, and Eric McCrum OAM.

PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY MUSEUM ASSOCIATION INC

The Museum Association Incorporated provides funding to advance heritage, culture and education through underwriting and operating the Perth Modernian Society Museum. Perth Mod is unique amongst public schools in WA in having an extensive data base and collection of artefacts that are available for display in the museum. Over recent years several staff members have coordinated with the Museum so that displays and biographies may be visited by student groups and its material integrated into the School's curriculum. In this way the memories of past students/staff and some traditions are kept alive and relevant in the minds of today's students. By respecting those who went before us and supporting those who follow, we acknowledge the great and special privilege of receiving a secondary education at Perth Modern School.



Thanks to the assistance of the Principal and the efforts of Ian Hunt, the room immediately adjoining the Museum now contains a professional standard IT rack containing the museum network server, etc. Ian has also ensured that computers have been updated via various charitable avenues as well as installing a new scanner (thanks to the Federal Volunteers Grant enabled by our local member Kate Chaney MP.)

During 2024 sales continued of the **Music at Mod** book – this magnificent book having been launched in December 2023 in Beasley Hall. The Museum Association would welcome further sales. This is the fourth history book about Perth Mod to be produced since 2005, which in itself is probably a record for any Australian school.



SPHINX FOUNDATION AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Sphinx Foundation is an avenue by which current Perth Mod students from families that are struggling financially or for other reasons, can be helped in material ways, and also many sponsored awards are made to completing Year 10 students who have done exceptionally well in a particular subject area - the money enabling books or other resources to be bought, or a conference or foreign languages tour to be attended. Teachers and admin staff have been directly involved once again in letting students know what assistance is available.

The Sphinx Scholarship Fund commenced in 2008 and with wonderful support from alumni, supporters, and the corporate sector, combined with astute investments, its total assets stood at \$1.5M at end of 2024.

104 Scholarships and bursaries were paid out in 2024 and totalled \$110,800 - a six percent increase on the total of \$104,500 in 2023. In summary:

Category	Awardees	Value at 1 Feb 2024 (\$)
Lower School awards	17	18,500
Upper School awards	47	42,300
Renewals	40	47,000
Principal's Discretionary Bursaries		3,000
Total	104	110,800
School Dux and Runner Up (Yr 12)	2	1,500



Mahi Singh Goraya (Yr 10) – awarded The Shirley Randell Social Sciences Scholarship – and her proud mother.

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

In 2024, a special once off award was created and called the **Lesley Parker Equity Scholarship**. It recognised the long service of a distinguished Modernian, Emeritus Professor Lesley Parker on the Year 7 Equity Scholarships selection panel. Lesley also delivered the annual Perth Modernian Society Oration in 2016 titled 'Reflections on being a Modernian'.

Since its inception in 2009, the Sphinx Scholarship Fund has enabled the lifetime award of a remarkable total of 550 Sphinx Scholarships and Bursaries, the total value of which had reached at December 2024 the remarkable sum of \$788,000.

The awards are very much appreciated by the students and their parents, as illustrated by this sample of a thank you note to the Sphinx Foundation Board from an incoming Year 7 student:

Thank you for your generosity in allowing me to be a recipient of the Sphinx scholarship. I truly appreciate your support to help me thrive throughout my years of high school.

I am a student who is proud to learn and make our environment a better and safer place to learn. I enjoy putting smiles on others faces and strive to continue making that happen at Perth Modern School. Learning new things gives me encouragement to keep doing what I love and I will work as hard as I possibly can to properly thank you for the opportunity you are giving me. I hope to use this money to buy my first laptop to help me with my studies.

The Sphinx Foundation Board members have over the years established collaborative arrangements with the Fogarty Foundation, Mannkal Foundation, the McCusker Charitable Foundation and the Malka Foundation. For example, in 2024:

- The Bloom Future Leaders and Future Founders programs at Perth Modern School developed leadership and entrepreneurial skills for 33 Year 9 and Year 10 students, improving their self-awareness, communication, goal setting, and problem-solving abilities. The annual program is funded by the Sphinx Scholarship Fund using a major donation from the Malka Foundation; PMS is the only public school in WA to receive such funds.
- The Tournament of Minds initiative involved 28 students in training workshops, with 21 competing at the event, promoting creativity, teamwork, and innovative thinking across disciplines such as Language/Literature, Social Sciences, STEM, and the Arts.
- Financial and moral support from the Sphinx Foundation, along with the other three Foundations listed, enabled a team of five students and two teachers to represent Australia at the ISSDC Global Space Design Challenge at NASA, where they secured a runner-up position and a PMS Year 9 student won the Anita Gale Creative Genius Award.



The 2024 ISSDC Australian team from PMS during their trip to Kennedy Space Centre as part of the ISSDC competition

The Sphinx Board congratulated the Modern School team not only on the second place, but their initiative in deciding to enter, their hard work in preparing as well as organising the necessary fundraising.

VALE MODERNIAN FELLOW DONALD TYLER

The Perth Modernian Society Council together with the Sphinx Foundation Board and the School executive team, were all sad to note the passing in April 2024 of Donald Tyler who was a key donor to the Sphinx Foundation who made a unique contribution to both the School and the Sphinx Foundation over a long period through his incredible generosity. The Tyler-McCusker Sports Centre, the Cyril Tyler Auditorium, and multiple Donald Tyler Scholarships exist because of Don Tyler's giant legacy to Perth Modern School.

OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY

In 2025, our beloved Society will celebrate the 30th anniversary of its foundation and some special events will be organised by the Council to celebrate the many landmark achievements over those three decades.

THE FUTURE

The Perth Modernian Society is most pleased to be an integral part of the fabulous Perth Modern School Community. However, the many services provided by the Society, the Museum Association and History Centre, and the Sphinx Foundation, are only made possible by the dedication of many volunteers and donors; the challenge now is for lots of capable younger Modernians – staff and students, to join in this great work.

Robyn White

Dr Robyn White

Vice President

Date: 26 March 2025

Peter Farr

Peter Farr

Past President

Date: 26 March 2025

PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY (INC)

ABN 26 086 852 570

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

Statement of Accounting Method

This is not a general purpose financial report. It is a special purpose report prepared for the Members of the Society to enable compliance with the Corporation Act and the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936.

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Prepared by Eve Broadley, Hon. Treasurer.

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
Current Assets		
Bank	18,976	22,005
Sundry Debtors	987	569
Total Assets	19,963	22,574
Liabilities	0	0
Accrued Expenses	0	1,010
Net Assets	19,963	21,564
Member Funds	19,963	21,564



PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Income	2024	2023
Functions	1,006	0
Interest	419	271
Subscriptions	4,347	7,158
Donations	0	158
Refund Museum Association expenses	0	1,666
Expenses to be refunded Sphinx/Museum Association	766	569
Miscellaneous	0	40
Total Income	6,538	9,862
Expenses	2024	2023
Donations	0	0
Function catering and labour	853	513
Function equipment hire	0	0
Silver badges	0	0
Printing, stationery and postage	0	557
Computer & communication costs	6,050	4,464
Insurance	1,066	549
Trophies	162	355
Sundry	145	
Total Expenses	8,276	6,438
Operating Profit (Loss)	-1,738	3,424



STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Cash Flows From Function Activities	2024	2023
Receipts from function activities	1,006	0
Payment to suppliers	-853	0
Net function cash inflows	153	0
Cash Flows From Other Operating Activities	2024	2023
Receipts from members	4,347	7,158
Payments to suppliers	-8,432	-5,428
Donations received	0	158
Donations made	0	0
Interest received	419	271
Refund Museum Association expenses	484	1,666
Miscellaneous	0	40
Net operating cash inflows	-3,182	3,865
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held	-3,029	3,865
Cash at beginning of year	22,005	18,140
Cash at end of year	18,976	22,005

The Council has determined that the Society is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in the notes to the financial report.


In the opinion of the Council:

1.

The financial report presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Perth Modernian Society (Inc) as at 31 December 2024 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2.

At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Perth Modernian Society (Inc) will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Council and is signed for and on behalf of the Council by:



Dr Robyn White
Vice President

Date: 24 February 2025



Eve Broadley
Treasurer

Date: 24 February 2025



Sphinx Foundation

Annual Report

As recorded below, the Foundation had another successful year. A highlight was that in December 2024 the MALKA Foundation confirmed funding of \$38,000 which is supporting the Entrepreneurship and Leadership Program for 35 year 9 and year 10 Students. Peter Farr has continued to put significant effort into maintaining the MALKA Foundation relationship on behalf of the Sphinx Foundation as well as being active in monitoring and providing input into the structure and delivery of the program that funding is used to support. The leadership programme has now been run successfully for five years and is well regarded by participants and is an ideal extension offering for students of the quality that make up the PMS cohort. In addition, The MALKA Foundation is also to again provide \$22,000 towards scholarships. The Sphinx Foundation is very grateful for the tremendous support from the MALKA Foundation and the strong relationship that has been built up.

Alongside the Fogarty Foundation, the McCusker Foundation and the MALKA Foundation, the Sphinx Foundation provided \$4,000 towards the PMS Year 10/11 team which competed in the International Space Settlement Design Competition finals in Florida at the Kennedy Space Centre (photo right). The total support from the various foundations was \$25,000 and this assisted the team to attend the competition and come home having placed overall runners up, as well as an individual award for one of the PMS team. The Board congratulates the team on their efforts in deciding to enter, their hard work and for taking advantage of what was clearly an amazing experience and something the Sphinx Foundation was very pleased to be involved with as it showcases the exceptional talent at Perth Modern School. A number of members of the Board attended a presentation by the team on their design and where they explained what being in the competition environment was really like as well as their overall experience of the journey from the initial idea to producing a design (see photo on page 14).



The 2024 ISSDC Australian team from PMS during their trip to Kennedy Space Centre as part of the ISSDC competition

The Board was pleased that the 2024 Annual Appeal launched in May 2024 brought in some \$19,800 (excluding the \$60,000 from MALKA), notwithstanding the ongoing cost of living impacts. The Board is reviewing strategies to access a wider donor base, including seeking to engage corporates, charitable foundations, and PMS graduates in addition to those who have been ongoing regular supporters of the Sphinx Foundation.

Further the Management Expense Ratio for the funds invested by the Foundation for financial year 2024 continued to be pleasingly very low at 0.24%, which is another outstanding result and reflects the voluntary contributions of time by the Board and careful management of expenses.

The Sphinx Foundation was represented by one or more Board members at a number of the key events at the School across 2023/24, including the Year 10 Scholarships Assembly, Entrepreneurship 'pitches', the Perth Modernian Society Annual Oration, and the Year 12 Graduation Ceremony.

GOVERNANCE AND COMPLIANCE

The Directors during 2024 were:

- Peter Farr

Robert Gray

Nigel Hunt

Danielle Jeyes

Vivian Wang

Dr M. Annette Mercer

Mitchell McKay
- Member

Secretary

Chairman

Member

Treasurer

Member (appointed 12 November 2024)

Observer, PMS Principal



MEETINGS

The Board met on the following occasions in 2024:

- 6 May 2024 - Ordinary Meeting
- 12 November 2024 - Annual General Meeting
- 12 November 2024 - Ordinary Meeting

Between meetings, considerable business was conducted by email or telephone.



2024 ISSDC Australian team's presentation to Sphinx Foundation Board Directors, representatives of the Fogarty, Malka, McCusker and Sphinx Foundations, parents, PMS teachers and PMS Principal Mitchell Mackay

ASSISTANCE FROM THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

The Board would like to again acknowledge the cooperation of the School in the administration of the Foundation, especially with the allocation of clerical assistance principally for the Sphinx Scholarship scheme, and Helen Lydon's supervision of the Entrepreneurship and Leadership programs.

As the number and complexity of Scholarships and Bursaries has increased over the years, the additional effort made by staff at the School to make possible student selection and manage associated financial and clerical tasks is no small task and that work is gratefully acknowledged.

The Principal, Associate Principal Philippa Roy, and Marketing Manager Thalia Cole have all enthusiastically supported the activities of the Sphinx Foundation again across 2024. Their participation and support is much appreciated a team effort.

SPHINX FOUNDATION INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

The SF Investment Committee, comprising four Directors, was in place across the 2024 year and provided advice to the Board on a number of investment related matters. Its overall function is to provide selection and management advice to the Treasurer and the Board on the diversification, risk, and return performance on the SF portfolio of investments.

SPHINX SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES - AS AT 1 FEBRUARY 2025

With the assistance of Roger Stubbs and Barrie Baker, the Board played a big part in the process of advertising for and selecting scholarship and bursary winners. Scholarships/Bursaries selected in Term 4 of 2024 to be taken up in February 2025 were as follows:

Incoming Year 7 Students - Equity Awards (17) totalling \$19,650

- The McCusker (Academic Excellence) Scholarship
- 3 x The MALKA Foundation Year 7 Equity Scholarship
- 3 x Don Tyler (Equity) Scholarships
- 5 x Perth Modernian Society (Equity) Scholarships
- The Raymond Dingle and Gai Harris (Equity) Scholarship
- The Ling and Chris Hayes (Equity) 3 Year Scholarship
- 3 x Perth Modernian Society Year 7 (Equity) Bursaries.

Post Year 7 Students - Equity Awards (5) totalling \$6,900

- The Doss Family Scholarship
- The TLC 'Be Inspired' Scholarship
- Jim Leslie Equity Scholarship
- 1 x The MALKA Equity Scholarship (Senior School) Scholarships
- The Ross and Fran Ledger Scholarship

Most disappointingly, there were insufficient applications for four other equity scholarships.

Post Year 7 Students - Academic Excellence Awards (37) totalling \$30,750

- The Jean and Jim Cundill Creative Writing Scholarship and Bursary
- The Daniel Girling and John Down Music Scholarship and Bursary
- The Don Tyler Physics Scholarship and bursaries; Don Tyler Biological Sciences Scholarship and bursaries; Don Tyler Chemistry Scholarship and Bursary; Don Tyler Computer Science Scholarship; Don Tyler Innovations, Entrepreneur and Independent Research Scholarship and Bursary
- The Barrie Baker Mathematics Methods Scholarship; The Barrie Baker Mathematics Specialist Scholarship; The Barrie Baker Mathematics Scholarship, and Mathematics Bursary
- The Perth Modernian Society Visual and Performing Arts Scholarship and bursary
- The Perth Modernian Society Elite Physical Education Scholarship
- The Perth Modernian Society Elite Physical Education Bursary
- The Fortescue Metals Group Mechatronics Engineering (Upper School) Scholarship
- The Fortescue Metals Group Mechatronics (Upper School) Scholarship
- 1 x The Fortescue Metals Group Mechatronics Engineering (Upper School) Bursary
- The Shirley Randell Social Sciences Scholarship
- The Malcolm Evans European Languages Scholarship, The Malcolm Evans Asian Languages Scholarship, and The Malcolm Evans Languages Bursary
- The Ling and Chris Hayes Economics-Accounting Scholarship
- The John Christmass Choral Music Scholarship
- 3 x The Dr Philip E Best Science Bursary
- The Hunt Family Politics and Law Scholarship
- The Peter Farr Psychology Scholarship and Bursary
- The Perth Modernian Society Elite Physical Education Scholarship and Bursary
- The Perth Modernian Society Visual and Performing Arts Scholarship and Bursary
- The Malcolm Evans Debating Scholarship
- The Lesley Parker Equity Scholarship (once off award, August 2024 - \$3,200)



Mahi Singh Goraya(Yr 10) – awarded The Shirley Randell Social Sciences Scholarship – and her proud mother.

General

- Principal's Discretionary Bursaries (\$3,000 per annum)

Renewals

- Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10 - 41 awards totalling \$47,000

Scholarships and bursaries paid out on 1 February 2025 totalled \$108,000 (cf the total paid out on 1 February 2024 was \$109,300).



ANNUAL FUNDRAISING APPEAL – 2024

The annual Sphinx Scholarship Fund appeal letters realised donations in 2024 of \$19,800.

\$28,000 was donated by the Malka Foundation for scholarships and bursaries, as well \$32,000 to support Leadership Development and Entrepreneurship Programme expenses for selected Perth Modern School Year 10 students.

The number of donors in 2024 was 26, of whom 23 (88%) were repeat donors, meaning that 12% were new donors to this cause. This successful year brought the number of people who have donated to the Scholarship Fund over time to approximately 688. Their involvement since the inception of the Fund in 2009 is greatly appreciated by the Board and helps to keep the Directors enthused to contribute even more to public education.

As noted above, expanding the donor base is high on the Board’s strategic agenda.

COMPLIANCE

In 2024 BAS statements were submitted quarterly to the ATO by the Treasurer.

The Sphinx Scholarship Fund is independently audited by AMW Audit. The audit was completed in November 2024 with no adverse findings.

Investments held as at 30 June 2024 complied with the permitted range as per the Scholarship Fund’s Investment Policy.

Following the 2024 AGM, the Sphinx Foundation completed and lodged the 2024 Annual Information Statement, on time and as required, to the ACNC (Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission) and the WA Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Associations Branch.

FINANCIAL REPORTS – SUMMARY

Sphinx Foundation Inc.

The Net Cash at bank as at 31 December 2024 was \$8,577 (cf December 2023 \$7,764).

Sphinx Scholarship Fund

Income and Expenditure

In calendar year 2024 the Sphinx Scholarship Fund income (after allowing for the change in market value of investments and unrealised capital gains/losses), amounted to \$139,400 and expenses totalled \$156,500 giving a net (paper) loss of \$16,600 (cf calendar year 2023 – net earnings of +\$126,400). The reason for the loss was the negative change in market value of unlisted property trusts (-\$109,800).

Balance Sheet

As at 31 December 2024, the Sphinx Scholarship Fund’s Current Assets = \$157,300, Long Term Assets = \$1,326,800, Total Assets = \$1,484,100, and the Net Cash at Bank = \$154,700.

Notes: The Sphinx Scholarship Fund is presently supporting many different groups of awards, and the Fund holds shares in 18 ASX listed companies as well as 13 unlisted trusts, and cash at bank. As a consequence, management of the Fund is necessarily quite complex and very time consuming.

VALE - MODERNIAN FELLOW BARRIE BRENTNALL BAKER

Barrie was there at the very beginning of the Sphinx Foundation and on behalf of the Board, I would like to again formally express our thanks and acknowledge Barrie’s significant contribution in his role as Chair and member of the Board of the Sphinx Foundation from 2000 to 2023, and a driving force of the Sphinx Scholarship Fund. Barrie continued in 2024 to assist with the Year 7 scholarship selection process, showing once again his spirit of community service and dedication to make a positive difference to many talented young people’s lives. At the 2024 AGM (12 November 2024) the Board unanimously voted to appoint Barrie Brentnall Baker, as a Life Member of the Sphinx Foundation Inc. by reason of his distinguished service to Perth Modern School, the Perth Modernian Society, the Sphinx Foundation, or the public or any section of it. Most sadly Barrie passed away on 6 February 2025 and a Life Membership certificate was presented posthumously to Barrie’s widow Zoe and daughters Mirriam and Ruth.

VALE - MODERNIAN FELLOW DONALD TYLER

The Board was sad to note the passing in April 2024 of Donald Tyler who was a key donor to the Sphinx Foundation who made a unique contribution to both the School and the Sphinx Foundation over a long period through his incredible generosity. One additional Donald Tyler Equity Scholarship is to be established from 2025 to recognise his giant legacy to Perth Modern School.

CHALLENGES AHEAD

- Disappointingly, there were insufficient applications for four of the Year 10 equity scholarships in 2024.
- Several tasks that Barrie Baker routinely handled are being transitioned to other Board Members and Volunteers.
- Contributions from the traditional donor base of Modernians has fallen since its peak level of donors in 2017. Expanding the donor base is high on the Board’s strategic agenda.
- Managing partnerships with outside organisations/funders.
- Investment values and returns continue to be adversely affected by interest rates and global economic uncertainty.
- Investment management: management of the Scholarship Fund is necessarily quite complex and very time consuming.

Nigel Hunt

Chairman

Sphinx Foundation Inc.

29 April 2025



Museum Association Annual Report



ABN 73 761 561 543

Continuing to Honour the History, Share the Heritage



Some of our superb volunteers - Deb, Chair Dr Robyn White, Loren, Wendy & Jill

INTRODUCTION

2024 saw our museum volunteers enjoy another uninterrupted focus on extending the museum collection – both in cataloguing new physical artefacts and in developing our digital collection. As the constraints of recent years become memories, our volunteers now balance their time in the museum with international and domestic travel commitments. The conservation of our artefacts and their display, alongside maintaining an accurate catalogue and expanding the alumni data-base, form the ongoing work of the museum volunteers. Specific research adds another layer – such as the military history of alumni, research into the achievements of individual alumni and research about the school experiences of students in days long past. There remains an unending wish-list of new research, new displays, collections of new oral histories and so much more! Volunteering at the museum provides every individual with a whole new set of goals and challenges – as well as a wonderfully convivial space to revive friendships and enjoy memories. The Board of the Perth Modernian Society Museum Association wishes to thank all the volunteers and the Museum Committee for their focus and unrelenting commitment to the work of the museum.

GRANTS AND FUNDRAISING

Although the active participants in operating the Perth Modernian Society Museum Association are all volunteers, the need for appropriate digital and physical resources for the conservation, archiving and display of artefacts does require ongoing funding. Updating our IT equipment and software, providing connectivity, (being an alumni organisation we cannot use the Education Department networking), accessing military records, accessing library records where required, identifying and purchasing protective stationery for precious aging documents, procuring storage for archiving – the list is extensive and often expensive. The Association accesses two sources of funding. Primarily our annual fundraising appeal includes emailed and mailed brochures and an accompanying letter to alumni and friends of the museum in the first half of each year. In addition, each year our volunteers review the variety of grants available to organisations, hoping to find one appropriate for our work or a specific project.

For some people, the annual appeal is not an appropriate time to donate but there is a real intent to support the Museum activities at some time in the future or to donate for a particular project. A Bequest strategy has been developed and details can be found on the alumni website at perthmoderniansociety.org.au/index.php/museum.

2023-24 Donors

Wendy Horne
Sue Strutt
Bryant Bice
Karen Stanley
Sallie Davies
Rhonda Williams
Sylvia Power
Bruce Herriman
Jane Law
Helen Dilkes

Daphne Williams
Mrs Pat Long
Dorothea Bennie
Beth Kallmeyer
Mr Robin Silsbury
Edna Youngman
Sharon Williams
Dr Neil Bardsley
Dr Christine Lawson-Smith
Mrs Wendy McCallum

Mr Barrie Baker
Mr John Stone AO
Dr Robyn White
Mr W. L Turnbull
Hon Daryl Williams AM KC
Mr Ross Ledger AM
Mrs Margaret Pinchback
Mr Michael R Cullen

Thank you sincerely for your donation for Museum projects and activities which will enhance the work of our volunteers to preserve and conserve our collections, bring stories and information to more families and friends electronically and to honour and share the heritage of Perth Modern School.

In the 2023-2024 financial year, we have been successful in procuring a Commonwealth Volunteer grant of \$2000. Offered through our local Federal member for Curtin (Kate Chaney) we applied for this grant at her invitation in August 2023. In December 2023 we were informed of our success, with the grant money deposited into our account soon afterwards. The Association requested this grant for purposes of upgrading our digital equipment and its success was incredibly welcome!



Member for Curtin Kate Chaney MP with Principal Mitchell Mackay and Museum Chair Dr Robyn White

PROJECTS COMPLETED AND CONTINUING IN 2023-24

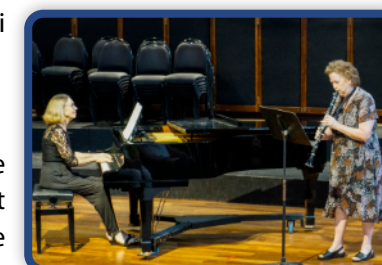
Throughout this year volunteers in the Museum have completed a variety of projects.

Music at Mod Book Sales Continue

The beautiful book "Music at Mod" has earned high praise from music alumni and its purchase price has been subsidised by ~30%.

At this time, there are still copies of the book unsold (but fewer than 100!)

Over the year, the Museum volunteers were able to support and provide information to families researching members who had attended and taught at school. This is most rewarding work as the Museum inevitably learns more about our alumni through this communication.



For further information on other tasks completed and ongoing see the **Museum Committee Report** on page 24.



Communication and Collaboration

The Perth Modernian Society Museum Association recognises that our Museum is a part of a wider community of both alumni and local community. As such we continue to welcome connection to organisations and individuals with similar focus.

- The Museum has maintained its membership of the Australian Museums and Galleries Association (AMaGA). Our updating of our digital entry on the Collections WA website is slowly commencing.
- Our connection with the Kentian Society (alumni from Kent Street Senior High School) and other schools has continued.
- Through Bob Johnson’s research on military history, we continue to form connections with other entities. These include the UWA Historical Society, RSL Clubs and the National Military Museum.
- We are delighted to announce a new partnership, with the City of Subiaco, as part of the City’s ‘See Subi on Sunday’ free guided walk program. Perth Modern School and the Museum were showcased on Sunday 9 March 2025 with approximately fifty people participating in the guided walk around the school and museum.

GOVERNANCE AND COMPLIANCE

Throughout the 2024 year, the Board of the Perth Modernian Society Museum Association Inc. included:

Dr Robyn White	Chair
Mrs Sharon Williams	Hon Treasurer
Ms Monica Brierley-Hay	Hon Secretary
Mr Jeff Lai	Board Member
Ms Ashleigh Blechynden	Board Member
Ms Thalia Cole	Board Member (from May 2024)
Mr Matthew Healy	Deputy Principal, Perth Modern School, ex-officio
Mr Evan Kennea	President, Perth Modernian Society, ex-officio

Throughout the year, the Board met four times (once per term) and all meetings were available through Microsoft Teams as well as face-to-face.

Over the course of this year, BAS statements have been submitted quarterly to the ATO (Australian Tax Office). Following the Annual General Meeting, the Annual Information Statement required by Consumer Protection (WA) and the ACNC was uploaded in November 2024.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2023-24

The Perth Modernian Society Museum Association (PMSocMA) Incorporated uses cash accounting which records revenue when money is received and expenses when money is paid. The Association is a registered small charity having annual revenue under \$500,000. The financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the PMSMA as at 30 June 2024. At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable. The 2023/2024 financial year was the fifth full financial year of the Association and included a successful grant application and our fourth fundraising campaign in May/June of 2024.

Cash Receipts and Payments for the Year 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

Cash Receipts	\$
Donations from former students/parents	7,853
Entertainment book commission	14
Interest	3,346
ATO - Refund of GST	3,161
Music at Mod Sales	11,912
Other – Volunteer Grant 2023-24	2,000
Total Cash Receipts	28,286
Cash Payments	\$
Printing, postage and stationery	793
IT software, licenses, upgrades & AMaGA membership	516
Training & admin costs – MOSAiC	143
Grant – volunteer grant	1,933
Music at Mod book	26,248
Bank fees	163
Insurance	274
Furniture & fixtures – Museum Open Signs Inc. design	541
Other	146
Total Cash Payments	30,756
Surplus / Deficit	-2,470

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2024

Current Assets	\$
Bankwest operating account	13,821
Bankwest term deposits	72,790
Total Assets	86,611
Liabilities	0
Net Assets	86,611
Members’ Funds	\$
Opening balance as at 1 July 2023	89,081
Subtract deficit for the period	-2,470
Net Assets	86,611



RETIREMENT

Sallie Davies

After what seems to have been a lifetime of connection and commitment to Perth Mod, Sallie Davies has signalled that it's time for her to retire from her active role. While all volunteers connected with the Perth Modernian Society, the Museum Association and the Sphinx Foundation were very sad to hear of her decision, there was a feeling of inevitability.

Sallie Hicks was a student at Mod, then taught at the school alongside her future husband Jim Davies, also a Modernian. Sallie retired from her prominent role with Volunteers Western Australia in 2002 and Mod then became the beneficiary of her leadership, energy and enthusiasm.

The Sphinx Foundation asked Sallie to coordinate the PMSoc Publication Working Party. Her leadership gathered together the diverse interests that wished to contribute and ensured that *Perth Modern School: The History and the Heritage*, published in 2005, was a great success.

Sallie continued to actively support the Perth Modern Society but her special interest was always the History and Museum Committee and she focussed upon researching events and collecting stories. Under her leadership The Perth Modernian Society Museum Association Inc. was established which meant that the museum may now receive grants and tax deductible donations. Dedicated display space in which the museum is now located was negotiated with the school. Curated displays are provided for current and former students, and visitors to the school. Valuable records which were once dispersed around the school have been brought together in the museum and in a separate archive.

Perhaps Sallie's greatest contribution has been to establish a digital database. In collaboration with Ian Jarvis a searchable database has been established in which the names of former students and their achievements are recorded. A separate searchable database catalogues images, documents and artefacts.

Recently, health issues have restricted Sallie's ability to be present in the museum. However, she has worked online incessantly to update the data base and to field queries and to answer phone calls. Even in her now "retirement", Sallie is likely to email volunteers most days - passing on relevant information and providing answers to questions...

The alumni of Perth Modern School are indebted to Sallie Davies for her absolute commitment to ensuring that the people associated with the school and their stories are not lost. For the volunteers, her continual suggestions for improvement will be missed.



VALE - SPECIAL MUSEUM VOLUNTEER

Jim Davies, PMS student 1948-52, PMS staff



Earlier this year, we lost a well-respected long-term volunteer committed to all things Perth Mod. Jim Davies was a student at the school, qualified as a teacher in 1955 and returned to the school as a teacher (1961) where he met another alumnus in Sallie Hicks, to whom he became engaged and then married. The young couple were then posted to several rural locations. Jim later returned to Mod as Deputy Principal (1981). Jim took early retirement in 1992 and in addition to the many interests enjoyed by retirees, began to contribute as a volunteer with the emerging Perth Modernian Society. He served Kings Park as a guide but when Sallie accepted responsibility for Mod's Museum, increasingly devoted his energies to the Museum. For many years until the end of 2023, every Monday would find Jim hard at work maintaining the Burvill Biographical Index. Our

volunteers would agree that perhaps Jim's greatest asset was his calm, cheerful personality and dry sense of humour which helped maintain everyone's enthusiasm to contribute. The following tribute says it all, 'A cheerful and resolute friend and foundation volunteer at the museum/history centre at Perth Modern School. Jim readily shared his experiences and knowledge yet was happy to listen. Student, teacher, Deputy Principal and long-term volunteer, loved and respected by all - a true Modernian.'

THANK YOU

Every year in the museum our volunteers thoroughly enjoy engaging with visitors who are alumni or their family members. These visitors come with terrific stories and memories, sometimes with donations which we relish receiving, or requesting further information about past friends or family members or just dropping by to peruse the displays. While our recurrent activities involve maintaining and improving our database, cataloguing of artefacts and conserving precious articles, the connection with past alumni and reconnecting some, is incredibly satisfying. Thank you to all of those visitors who have enriched our understanding of the activities and history of the school and its alumni.

Throughout the year, we have benefitted from the support of Perth Modern School, led by Principal Mitch Mackay. At all times, the school community has been supportive of the work conducted in the Museum and we welcome visits by students and teachers. Thank you too to the Council of the Perth Modernian Society and its members who continue to provide encouragement and connections at all times.

Our Board members too, have each continued to work with new ideas and actions that will extend our understandings - giving up precious time to support our direction and manage our challenges. To all of our Board members, Thank you.

And to our volunteers - absolutely critical to our work in the museum. Without the dedicated weekly focus of these people, we could not operate. We celebrate the generosity and friendship of these knowledgeable and skilled people.

Robyn White

Dr Robyn White

Chair

Perth Modernian Society Museum Association Inc.



Some of our museum visitors with Robyn White



Peter Stephenson (1965) with Loren White



MUSEUM COMMITTEE REPORT

Museum Volunteers at Work

OVERVIEW

The Museum Standing Committee has continued to work in accordance with the requirements set out on the updated 2022-24 Forward Plan.

SPECIAL VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

IT Delivery and Communication

Ian Hunt has maintained his informed advisory group with Ed Lazarus and our Board member Jeff Lai, as they continue to plan improvements to our digital environment. With Ross Lovelady, the further upgrading of our student database (JED) is planned for the near future. Over the past year, the long-awaited scanner has arrived and is in use. We hope that this development will ensure that fragile paper records might be accessed digitally – saving them from damage caused by continued handling.

Archives

The Museum archives are curated by Honorary Archivist Deb Beresford alongside her able assistant Deirdre Owen. Their efforts are continuing as artefacts are donated to the Museum. New donations are catalogued (on our digital cataloguing software, MOSAiC) and then stored appropriately.

Military Service Commemoration

During the year Bob Johnson has continued to expand the digital commemoration website. The website now consists of the Honour Board which has details in relation to the 153 former students who lost their lives as a result of their service, and the Nominal Roll which has details regarding the 1,614 students who served and returned home. The website, located at honour.perthmodern.wa.edu.au, received 6,760 views during the year, averaging 18 a day. The total number of views since it was established in September 2020 is 11,805.

Four articles were published in the Society's quarterly newsletters regarding five former students who died as a result of their service during World War 2.

A notice was placed in the Can You Help section of The West Australian on 15 May 2023 informing the public of the creation of the Nominal Roll and inviting additions and corrections. This resulted in the names of seven Vietnam veterans being added to the Nominal Roll, increasing their number from 10 to 17. Another four students who died as a result of their service in Vietnam are listed on the Honour Board.

Photographs and Displays

The digitisation and cataloguing of photographs by Alison Woodman continues. This is a time-consuming process and Alison has also edited the Music at Mod book – contributing massive volunteer hours. However, being able to find photographs on MOSAiC is incredibly time saving as displays are being created or when family members request information about their alumnus forebears. Sharon Williams works with Alison when reunion displays are required.

Book Organisation and Accessioning

The Museum holds an ever-expanding collection of books – authored by alumni, or about the lives of alumni, or text books from school days. The role of cataloguing these is a massive activity and in order to accomplish this, Gay Albillos agreed to oversee the collection. This focus has now overtaken Gay's volunteer time and she is making great headway in finally creating organisation and logic in our accessioning and storage of books.

Science Collection

Loren White is continuing to refurbish the science collection and is keen to complete identifying and cataloguing equipment so that pieces might be displayed with accurate information available for visitors. Over recent years, Loren and Peter (Dillon) had rearranged display cases and shelves and the Museum volunteers and visitors continue to appreciate the spaces created. We were all especially sad when Peter farewelled his volunteer role in favour of a move south and additional travel. Not only have we lost an energetic and thoughtful volunteer but also an excellent photographer who provided wonderful support to the Music at Mod publication as well as to the museum.

Reunion Displays

This year has seen a return to "normality" where school reunions and year reunions have been able to take place without restriction and with limited effect due to illness, while the work in the Museum has been uninterrupted.

2024 saw fewer year reunions in the first half of the year (just 1954 - off site) although several reunions were scheduled in the second half of the year (1959, 1964). Increasingly we are hearing of small groups of students meeting for lunch or morning tea – with the smaller number ensuring that everyone present is kept abreast of each other's activities. At the Museum, we would like to remind anyone considering a reunion, that we are very happy to prepare specific displays (including photographs, Sphinx magazines and other artefacts) for the year group so that attendees can enjoy a comprehensive reminder of memories.

Data Entry into JED

This is another on-going task and Wendy McCallum and Jill Lucas are a very focussed team!

While they volunteer and effectively update files on Monday mornings, the database lacks much information from the years after 1961 until almost 2000 – which they are rectifying as quickly as possible.

Family and Alumni Research

The Museum volunteers continue to provide new information, photos and support to families researching members who had attended Perth Modern School. This continues to be incredibly rewarding work for volunteers as we also learn more about each alumnus and their lives as seen through family eyes.

George Burvill Biographical Index

The old Pound cupboard in the Museum houses a multitude of files of the George Burvill Biographical Index. Here hard copy information (newspaper articles, letters, email copies, documents) is filed under alumnus names through the efforts of Frank Hedges and sometimes Loren White.



John Burgess, son of Eric Edward Burgess (1922-1923), visited the Museum to research his father's life

Publications and Social Media Presence

The Museum Publications Committee continues in the absence of Sallie Davies and contributes articles and checks on historical facts in accordance with its Publications Policy to the:

- Perth Modernian Society e-Newsletter
- Perth Modern School Newsletter

Volunteer Roger Stubbs has generously offered his time (from Bunbury) to edit the e-newsletter for the Perth Modernian Society – and has done so throughout 2024 with excellent results.

Sharon Williams and Robyn White manage and create content for the Museum's social media presence with posts on Facebook and Instagram.

Heritage Trail

The Heritage Trail originally researched and devised by Sallie Davies, continues to be valued by the School. Volunteer student guides trained by teacher and communications officer, Ms Thalia Cole, conduct tours for new students and their families, alumni groups and visitors to the School. The Museum volunteers are now working with the school and consulting with others so that we might install metal QR codes at locations along the Trail so that individuals might conduct self-guided digital tours.



Who Made It All Happen In 2024

2024 Council	
Evan Kennea	<i>President</i>
Dr Robyn White	<i>Vice President</i>
Daryl Williams	<i>Vice President</i>
Deborah Beresford	<i>Hon Secretary</i>
Eve Broadley	<i>Hon Treasurer</i>
Barrie Baker	<i>Membership</i>
Peter Farr	<i>Past President</i>
Barbara Mallett	<i>Reunion Liaison</i>
Ian Hunt	<i>Information & Communication Technology</i>
Ruth Barrett	<i>Honours Awards</i>
Mitchell Mackay	<i>Principal (Ex-Officio)</i>
Finance Committee	
Barrie Baker	<i>Convenor</i>
Treasurers:	
Eve Broadley	<i>Council</i>
Vivian Wang	<i>Sphinx Foundation</i>
Sharon Williams	<i>Museum Association</i>
Communications	
info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au	
Peter Farr	<i>e-Newsletters</i>
Sallie Davies	<i>e-Newsletters (Feb 2024)</i>
Roger Stubbs	<i>e-Newsletters (From May 2024)</i>
Stuart Gould	<i>e-Newsletters and Website</i>
Reunions	
reunions@perthmoderniansociety.org.au	
Barbara Mallett	<i>Reunions Officer</i>

Sphinx Foundation Board	
Nigel Hunt	<i>Chair</i>
Vivian Wang	<i>Hon. Treasurer</i>
Peter Farr	<i>Director</i>
Robert Gray	<i>Director</i>
Danielle Jeyes	<i>Director</i>
Annette Mercer	<i>Director (From Nov 2024)</i>
Mitchell Mackay	<i>School Representative</i>

Perth Modernian Society Museum Association Inc.	
museum@perthmoderniansociety.org.au	
Board	
Dr Robyn White	<i>Chair</i>
Sharon Williams	<i>Hon Treasurer</i>
Monica Brierley-Hay	<i>Hon Secretary</i>
Thalia Cole	<i>Board Member</i>
Jeff Lai	<i>Board Member</i>
Ashleigh Blechynden	<i>Board member</i>
Matthew Healy	<i>Deputy Principal</i>
Evan Kennea	<i>Perth Modernian Society President (Ex-Officio)</i>
Volunteers	
Gay Albillos	<i>Conservation</i>
Deb Beresford	<i>Hon Archivist</i>
Jim Davies	<i>Biographical Index</i>
Sallie Davies	<i>Coordinator, Archives</i>
Frank Hedges	<i>Biographical Index</i>
Ian Hunt	<i>Information & Communication Technology</i>
Robert Johnson	<i>Research</i>
Jill Lucas	<i>General</i>
Wendy McCallum	<i>Data Entry</i>
Deirdre Owen	<i>Archives</i>
Roger Stubbs	<i>Research, Music Book Writer</i>
Dr Robyn White	<i>Archives, Research</i>
Loren White	<i>Science Collection</i>
Sharon Williams	<i>Displays</i>
Alison Woodman	<i>Research, Archives, Photographs</i>

Modernian Fellows
Barrie Baker
Sallie Davies
Peter Farr
Ian Jarvis
Malcolm McCusker AC CVO KC
Dr Ken Michael AC CitWA
Donald Tyler

Moderna Scola Awards
Deborah Beresford
Eve Broadley
Anne Celia Christmass
Neil Coy
Alan Porter
Rosemary Pratt
Dr June Stephenson
Roger Stubbs AM
Nigel Hunt
Brendan Dawson
Ed Lazarus
Barbara Mallett

Honorary Modernians
Tonya McCusker AM
Alison Woodman
Sharon Williams



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2024 Perth Modern School Board Members	
Dr Bronwyn Rasmussen	<i>Chair</i>
<i>Community Representative</i>	
Peter Farr	<i>Vice Chair</i>
<i>Community Representative</i>	
Mitchell Mackay	<i>Principal</i>
Alistair Paterson	<i>Parent Representative</i>
Charlie Bond	<i>Parent Representative</i>
Cathryn Trott	<i>Parent Representative</i>
Ray Loh	<i>Parent Representative</i>
Sandra Song	<i>Parent Representative</i>
Sharon Williams	<i>Community Representative</i>
Monojeet Ghosh	<i>P & C Representative</i>
Grant Staffe	<i>Staff Representative</i>
Robyn Verboon	<i>Staff Representative</i>
Yvonne Tulley	<i>Manager Corporate Services</i>
Jessica Bruining	<i>Head Prefect</i>
Chudy Isidienu	<i>Head Prefect</i>



Councillors' Profiles

The Council comprised these members throughout 2024:

BARRIE BAKER BA(HONS), DIP ED, DIP COMP, DIP THEOL, DIP ED ADMIN Finance Committee Chair, Membership Secretary

Barrie was a PMS student 1954-1958, and after graduating at UWA, like many PMS students from the scholarship era, he followed a teaching vocation starting in 1964 at Mount Lawley Senior High School. Barrie spent his whole working career in the field of education, the last 33 years of which were in Technical Education. He was a pioneer in computer education in Western Australia, both in TAFE and for three years at the WA Treasury in charge of State Government computer training. He held positions in TAFE ranging from lecturer to Assistant Director. Whilst there he was seconded part time to the Public Service Commission Doig Management Centre to set up computer training there. He was also in charge of the development of the East Perth TAFE campus.



Barrie has an interest in urban heritage and won the 2011 WA Heritage Council Award for the individual making the greatest contribution to heritage in Western Australia. He is patron of the Mount Lawley Society and a volunteer music teacher at his local primary school. Barrie has other extensive community involvements including the Australian Student Christian Movement and is a Lay Pastoral Minister in the Anglican Church. He is active in the Australian Shareholders' Association and was convener of its North of the River group for 14 years until 2015.

Barrie has served on the Council of the Perth Modernian Society (Inc) since its formation in 1995. He served as president for seven years (2006 to 2013), and he became a Vice President in 2017. He has been the Functions Coordinator since 1996 and Convenor of the Finance and Fundraising Committee since 2011.

Barrie has been a Director of the board of the Sphinx Foundation since 2000, serving also as secretary and chairman. His interests in these positions have been steering the Foundation to more effectively serve the educational needs of PMS students, especially in providing scholarship incentives for worthy students. He was elected its Chairman in 2017.

At the 2016 Annual Reunion, Barrie was named as a **Modernian Fellow** for his distinguished contribution to the Perth Modernian Society and thereby the advancement of education at Perth Modern School.

At the 2024 Sphinx Foundation AGM (12 November 2024) the Board unanimously voted to appoint Barrie Brentnall Baker, as a Life Member of the Sphinx Foundation Inc. by reason of his distinguished service to Perth Modern School, the Perth Modernian Society, the Sphinx Foundation, or the public or any section of it. Regrettably, Barrie passed away on 6th February 2025, and was still active as the Society's Membership Secretary. Barrie's passing is a very great loss to the Society, the Sphinx Foundation and Perth Modern School.

RUTH BARRETT BA (NÉE MCWHINNEY) BA, DIP ED, GRAD DIP ED

Honours Awards

Ruth attended Perth Modern School from 1952 to 1956, being one of five Mod Bods from the McWhinney family. Ruth studied at UWA and Claremont Teachers College, and went on to teach Junior Primary classes at what was then South Terrace Primary School (now re-named Fremantle Primary). Among the 54 children in her first class, there was only one that spoke English. In 1964 she undertook a pilot program for the Education Department, teaching English to older children: they figured the younger ones would quickly pick up the language by themselves. Ruth completed a BA, majoring in English, later a Diploma of Education, and Graduate Diploma (Reading Education).



In 1965, with husband George (who had an exchange teaching position) Ruth went to England, and taught there for most of that year. On their return they started a family. Then in 1970 Ruth was asked to lecture in English Literature at Claremont Teachers College, just for a term. George and Ruth had a long holiday in Europe in 1971, and came back to WA to continue their family. In 1975 she was asked to fill in again at CTC, this time in Junior Primary Method. That was followed by a semester in the Music Department. After that she began to lecture in the Graduate Diploma in Reading Education at CTC, Claremont. Over the next few years Ruth lectured in Language Education at the Graylands and Mount Lawley Campuses as they were amalgamated into WACAE then Edith Cowan University respectively. She lectured at the Churchlands Campus until around 1996, and continued to supervise students on teaching practice until 2000.

Ruth has had a long connection with the Claremont Museum, and for many years has been a Friend of the WA Museum. She is also a member of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society. When she gets time, she pursues family history – including the family's ANZAC links to Gallipoli.

Since joining the Council, Ruth has assumed responsibility for the Society's Honours Awards program.

EVELYN (EVE) BROADLEY

Hon Treasurer

Eve attended Perth Modern School as a scholarship student in 1958-60. Eve has served on the Council of the Perth Modernian Society since its formation in 1995. She served as president for two terms and has been the honorary treasurer for ten years. She was the editor of the magazine for twelve years. She has been a Director of the board of the Sphinx Foundation Inc. since 2006.

Eve has a Graduate Diploma in Applied Finance and a Graduate Diploma in Corporate Management.

Eve has spent her whole working career in Stockbroking. Currently working as a private and institution client adviser at DJ Carmichael & Co. Prior to that she was a director in her own broking firm, Hogan & Partners, and prior to that as a director of Paterson Securities. She was also employed by the Perth Stock Exchange as the manager of the trading floor, being the first female in Australia to hold that position. She was also the first female in Western Australia to be appointed as a Member of the Australian Stock Exchange, and was appointed by the State Government to serve as a member of the Finance Brokers Board from 1994 to 1999.

Eve has been a member of Royal Kings Park Tennis Club for over forty years with several years serving on the committee. She is a member of Mosman Park Golf Club, serving as the Convenor of the business ladies for many years and represents the club at the WA Business Ladies Golf Association.

At the 2017 AGM, Eve was named as a **Moderna Scola** - the award recognises her distinguished contribution to the Perth Modernian Society and Perth Modern School.





DEBORAH BERESFORD BAPPSCI(LIBRARY STUDIES)

Hon Secretary

Deborah graduated as a teacher from Graylands Teachers College in 1962 and then taught at Metropolitan primary schools before marriage. In 1974 she was appointed to Perth Modern School as a Teacher Librarian where she taught until her retirement in 2007.

In 1995 she joined the Perth Modernian Society (Inc.) and has been on the Council since 2006 and has served as the Secretary since 2008. In 2009 she joined the Historical and Museum Committee taking on the role of Honorary Archivist for the Perth Modernian Society, an appointment she still holds. She has also been involved on the Functions Committee since 2006, and during that time she has organised and helped with the Annual Reunions.

Deborah was on the Perth Modern School Council for many years and then became an inaugural member of the School Board as the Perth Modernian Society's nominee. During her teaching career she was a member of the West Australian School Library Association of which she was Secretary for 3 years.

She has had a variety of community involvement in the past with Junior sporting clubs. (Surf Life Saving, Junior Australian Rules Football, and Claremont Amateur Swimming Club), and was a member of the Waratah Red Cross Branch.

At the 2016 Annual Reunion, Deborah was named as an inaugural **Moderna Scola**, recognising her distinguished contribution to the Perth Modernian Society and Perth Modern School.



PETER FARR BE(HONS), BEC, MASC, C.ENG, FAICD, FAIM

Past President

Peter was a Perth Modern School scholarship student 1954-1958.

After graduating in Canada in 1966 with a Masters degree, Peter has followed careers totalling over 50 years in engineering and management consulting. He has board experience with private companies, and as a Fellow of both the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the Australian Institute of Management, he has a strong background in Corporate Governance best practice. He has had community involvement with appointments on the Council and Treasurer of St Catherine's College (UWA), Convocation (University of Western Australia), Parents and Citizens Committees, the Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club Offshore Committee, St John of God Subiaco Hospital Consumer Advisory Group and Policy Sub-Committee.



Peter has made a large commitment to the Perth Modernian Society (Inc) having been a Councillor for over ten years and he has served as its Vice President or President since 2006. New initiatives he has played a role in are the Portal, corporate Style Manual, the Sphinx Scholarship Fund, the Annual Oration, Perth Modernian Society Awards scheme, the Society's inaugural Strategic Plan, Annual Report in 'best practice' format, Constitutions revision, and Governance standards. He has also been Treasurer and on the organising committee for all the 1954-58 class reunions.

He was appointed as a Director of the Sphinx Foundation Inc. in 2008 and as Hon. Treasurer in 2009. He has been involved with the Sphinx Scholarship Fund as its Treasurer and investment manager since its inception in 2009 during which time the fund has grown to over \$900,000. The Fund has had the notable achievement to date of awarding almost 200 scholarships and bursaries worth \$250,000 thereby helping many PMS students to aim high and achieve their potential.

At the Society's 2017 AGM, Peter was named as a **Modernian Fellow** for his distinguished contribution to the Society and thereby the advancement of education at Perth Modern School. Peter played major roles in the successful Save PMS Campaign. In 2018 the Council nominated him to represent Modernians on the PMS School Board, and he was elected Deputy Chair again in 2020, 2021 and 2024.

IAN HUNT

Information and Communication Technology

Ian and his wife live in suburban Perth, and they have one son and two grandchildren. Ian enjoys reading (particularly modern military history biographies and science fiction), photography and model boat building.

After graduating from Secondary school in Perth, Ian went on to complete studies in Chemistry (at Curtin University). Whilst teaching, he completed studies in Computing (Edith Cowan University) and Gifted Education (University of New England).

During his teaching career of over forty years in both government and independent schools (including 25 years at Perth Modern School), Ian taught Science, Computing, Chemistry and Physics. He was also involved with Student Services and school administration in several schools.

After retiring, Ian has enjoyed volunteering in Information Technology-related roles at a Perth community radio station and as the IT coordinator at the Perth Modernian Society Museum.



EVAN KENNEA BMUS (UWA)

President

A Modernian from 1984 to 1988, Evan has enjoyed a multi-faceted musical career in Perth, the UK and the Netherlands and is now a sought-after artistic advisor and arts leader. He won a music scholarship to Perth Modern School where he studied clarinet with John Embleton. He then completed a Bachelor of Music at UWA, majoring in Composition with Roger Smalley, before further studies in London with Anthony Payne and The Royal Conservatorium in The Hague with Louis Andriessen. Upon his return to Perth, Evan moved into artistic management with positions at the UWA School of Music and the Perth Festival, before taking up his current role as Executive Manager of Artistic Planning at WASO in 2011. In addition to programming the annual concert series, Evan is also responsible for WASO's Artist Development and New Works Commissioning programs, among others.

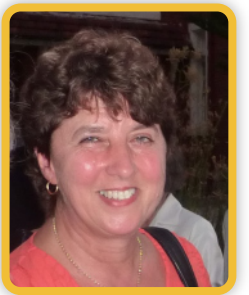


BARBARA MALLET BA, DIP ED, M APP LING

Reunions

Barbara attended Perth Modern School in the Music School era and graduated in 1970, as a recipient of a Commonwealth University Scholarship. After completing a BA at UWA, she commenced her first graduate position in 1973 as the Statistical Research Officer of West Australian Newspapers.

Claremont Teachers College (now ECU) pioneered the Dip Ed (Primary) in the late 1970s and Barbara was one of the first graduates. Barbara taught for a brief period as well as spending some time in the business world of Telstra, before "retiring" to life as a mother and hobby farmer when the family moved to the Perth hills a few years later.



During this time Barbara was very active in the P&C at Parkerville PS, which led to her accepting the position of State Councillor for the WA Council of State Schools Organisation for the Northam District. In 1990 she returned to teaching, and pioneered a German language programme in a metropolitan school. Later she switched to Italian and enjoyed being part of a primary school Italian programme for about 6 years. This led her to move out of the classroom into an administrative role as Schools Officer at the Italo-Australian Welfare & Cultural Centre Inc. where she has been since 2004.

Barbara completed a Master of Applied Linguistics through Monash University and has pursued her interest in the development of language from infancy and also the structure of related and unrelated languages. She is a member of the Hills Choir where she assists with pronunciation and intonation when the choir sings in languages other than English. She loves to travel and to explore the lands of her heritage.

In 2010, after assisting in organising a 40th reunion for her graduating year, Barbara was invited to join the Society as a Councillor. She led a group on the School Centennial planning day, and since 2015, her commitments have allowed her to take a more active role in the Society (esp. Reunions Liaison) and the continuing life of PMS.

**DR ROBYN WHITE****PMS Principal 2000-2010****Vice-President (Perth Modernian Society), Chair (Perth Modernian Society Museum Association)**

My commitment and interest in advancing the knowledge and understanding of the history of the school commenced prior to my appointment to Perth Modern School. The early history of the school, its curriculum and leadership formed part of the research undertaken for my doctoral study.

Once a member of the school community, I recognised the extensive volunteer work undertaken by the Perth Modernian Society and the Historical and Museum Committee. Since my retirement from the school, I have happily supported this work.

I believe that I am a responsible person with a clear focus to secure the financial future for the history and the heritage of Perth Modern School - for future generations and for the benefit of the wider community. Through my activities as part of the school community, I believe I have demonstrated my belief in the value of educational experiences related to the research and development of activities relevant to heritage matters.

In my professional capacity, I was consistently accountable for a large budget and workforce for which I understood relevant statutory requirements (financial and HR), legal aspects, financial management and governance. Then and more recently working with UWA, I have demonstrated the capacity to be inclusive in extensive community consultation. These skills are transferable to those practiced in the volunteer context and I believe will enable me to be a valued and informed member of the Board of the Perth Modernian Society Museum Association.

**HON DARYL WILLIAMS AM KC LLB(UWA) BCL(OXON) AMUSA****Vice-President**

While attending Richmond State School in East Fremantle, Daryl won a scholarship to Perth Modern School. He attended the School from 1955 to 1959, and was School Captain in his final year. After completing a law degree at the University of Western Australia in 1963, Daryl attended Oxford University between 1965 and 1967 as a WA Rhodes Scholar. Admitted as a legal practitioner in 1968, Daryl practised as a partner in a Perth firm for 3 years. From 1971 to 1975, he was employed by the Asian Development Bank, based in Manila, Philippines, first as a counsel and then as an operations officer. Returning to Perth, Daryl practised as a barrister at the Perth independent bar until 1993, being appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1982. He returned to practice as a barrister between 2004 and 2017.



Photo: Joe Wheeler
WA Newspapers

In 1993, Daryl was elected to the House of Representatives for the seat of Tangney. He served four terms until the 2004 election, when he stood down. For more than 7 years from 1996, Daryl served as Attorney-General. He also served shorter terms as Minister for Justice and Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts. An achievement of which he is proud was the negotiation in 1996 of the Australia-wide firearms buy-back agreement.

Daryl was instrumental in the establishment of the Perth Modernian Society Planning Committee, which he chaired. This Committee was responsible for the incorporation of the Society and of the Sphinx Foundation in 1995.

2024 Reunions

First row - Class of 1956
Second row - Class of 1970
Third row - All Years Annual Reunion
Fourth row - Class of 1958
Fifth row - Class of 1964



Milestones For Perth Modern School Ex-Staff/Students

1913	Annual Reunion held August 1913. Reg Williams (PMS student 1911-13) became joint Hon Secretary for the Perth Modern School Ex-Students Association.
1914	The Perth Modern School Ex-Students Association Incorporated held Ex-Students Day. All members joining in the first year to be known as Foundation Members , with badges available.
1918	Constitution was reviewed and Old Modernians Association Incorporated came into being.
1922	Unveiling of War Memorial - funds were raised by former students and to be managed by the Old Modernians Trust Fund appointed in perpetuity.
1926-58	<i>The Sphinx</i> reported Old Modernians Association activities for each calendar year's social events and Ex-Students Days.
1960	Keith Graham , PMS student 1928-29, became the inaugural president of the Parents and Citizens Association at Perth Modern School.
1969	Deed of Trust established under patronage of the Hon Mr Justice Wolff , PMS student 1913-14, to establish a legally constituted Board of Trustees to administer the Library in perpetuity . Old Modernians asked to contribute.
1970	Joseph Parsons Memorial Library officially opened by Governor General Sir Paul Hasluck , student 1918-22, as part of the Commonwealth Secondary Schools Library Programme.
1973	Launch of a Foundation Committee in December to prepare a proposal for recording, preservation and display of information and objects associated with Perth Modern School. Principal Mr Joe Stokes originated the proposal for the historical record and sought the help of ex-students for the physical and financial requirements of the task.
1974-94	Perth Modern School Historical Society established its Museum Collections .
1995	Perth Modernian Society Planning Committee formed to establish Perth Modernian Society . Perth Modernian Society (Inc) Registered No. 1004735, 11th July 1995. Sphinx Foundation (Inc) , established to secure funds and future publication of a School history. Historical and Museum Society became a standing Committee of the Society.
2005	Launch of Perth Modern School: The History and the Heritage - researched and published by the Sphinx Foundation. 5,000 copies printed.
2008	Sphinx Foundation Constitution revised to empower establishment of the Sphinx Scholarship Fund .
2009	Accommodation available for establishment of Perth Modernian Society History Centre . The Society entered the electronic age by launching a portal and databases for (i) ex-Student/staff records and (ii) artefacts.
2010	Official launch of the Sphinx Scholarship Fund at the home of Malcolm and Tonya McCusker.
2011	Perth Modern School Centenary Year celebrations.
2013	Revision of Perth Modernian Society Constitution to accommodate new organisational structure completed.

2014	Celebrating 40th anniversary of the establishment of the PMS Museum Collections and 100 Years of <i>The Sphinx</i> at Perth Modern School. Launch of Perth Modernian Society inaugural Strategic Plan 2014-2017 . Confirmation of three inaugural Modernian Fellows - Sallie Davies, Malcolm McCusker and Donald Tyler - for their outstanding contributions to the Society and PMS.
2015	Celebrated establishment of Perth Modern School's first orchestra 100 years ago . Council self-assessment survey - completed by all Councillors; collated and analysed by Bruce McCallum. Revision of Perth Modernian Society Constitution completed in preparation for DGR application for a proposed Museum Fund.
2016	Modernian Awards made to Barrie Baker, Deborah Beresford, Ian Jarvis, Alan Porter and Alison Woodman for their outstanding contributions to the Society and PMS.
2017	Save Perth Mod Campaign – successful . Inaugural PMS Heritage Day 14 October 2017. Modernian Awards made to Peter Farr, Eve Broadley and Tonya McCusker for their outstanding contributions to the Society and PMS. Perth Modernian Society Museum Association Incorporated with Charitable Status from 6 November 2017.
2018	Celebration: 50 years of the Special Music Program at Perth Modern School
2020	Successful fundraising campaign which started in 2016, enabled construction to commence of a 700-seat multi-purpose auditorium . Modernian Awards made to Dr Ken Michael AC CitWA, Roger Stubbs AM, Anne Celia Christmass and Neil Coy . Graduate College of Dance relocates to a new location in West Leederville after 21 years at PMS.
2021	Opening of Cyril Tyler Auditorium on 11 September 2021.
2022	Centenary of the unveiling of the PMS Cenotaph on 22 October 2022. Modernian Award made to Sharon Williams as Honorary Modernian .
2023	Moderna Scola Award made to Ed Lazarus . Launch of Music at Mod - researched by Roger Stubbs and published by the Perth Modernian Society Museum Association.
2024	Moderna Scola Award made to Barbara Mallett .

Thank you to the many volunteers, families and friends who forwarded the following information together with memories of former PMS students and staff for publication and/or inclusion in Museum records.

Name	Years at PMS	Position	Deceased
Robert John Stack	1946-47	Student	24/06/2023
Graham Lionel Glick	1943-46	School Prefect	8/07/2023
John William Somerville	1946-52	Student	23/10/2023
Paul Richard Sealey	1976-80	Student	14/11/2023
Veronica Ruth Ninham née Williams	1956-57	Student	12/11/2023
Valerie Joy Gulland née West	1947-51	Student	4/12/2023
Dr David (Ned) Robert Biggins	1957-61	School Prefect	11/12/2023
Caroline Mary Serventy OAM née Darbyshire	1946-47	Student	12/12/2023
Dr Eric John Middleton	1950-54	Student	20/12/2023
Lilian Annette Garnett née Hoad	1951-55	Student	20/12/2023
Norman George Ashton (Adelaide, SA)	1950-54	School Prefect	January 2024
Walter James (Wally) Howse	1954-56	Staff	22/01/2024
Emeritus Professor Andrew Reginald Howard Cole	1937-41	School Prefect	6/02/2024
Geoffrey Michaels (New Jersey, USA)	1957-60	Student	17/02/2024
Dr Peter Gregory Goss	1954-58	School Prefect	22/02/2024
Harry Kuhaupt	1951-53	Student	24/02/2024
Jean Bunn			13/12/2021
Josephine Giles	1973-77	Student	31/03/2023
Noelle Beverley Aylmore née Parker	1950-54	Student	26/01/2024
Linley Margaret Wakefield née Pirrett	1953 (Year 5)	Student	1/03/2024
Harry Pearson	1960-62	Staff	12/03/2024
Arthur Coopes	1951-55	Student	16/03/2024
Dr Harry Cohen AM	1945-49	Student	30/03/2024
James Harold (Jim) Davies	1948-52 1961 1982-90 1991	Student Staff D/ Principal A/ Principal	6/04/2024
John Gilbert Wager	1945-49	School Prefect	17/04/2024
Ken Betjeman	1955-56	Student	22/04/2024
Hugh Lucius Davies AO	1948-52	School Captain	26/04/2024
Donald Tyler	1945	Student	4/04/2024
Maxine Edwards née Stooke	1952-55	Student	9/05/2024
Harry Hansen Knarhoi	1945-49	Student	12/05/2024
Alcock Judy née Wilson	1955-59	Student	13/05/2024
Allan Green	1954-58	Student	15/05/2024
Richard Pilpel	1946-47	Student	5/08/2024
Thomas Lang	1949-53	Student	12/07/2024
Geoff Hall	1954-55	Student	14/05/2024
Michael Dilworth	1949-53	Student	30/06/2024
John Feutrill	1950-54	Student	6/06/2024
Robert Tonkinson	1954-55	Student	6/06/2024
Robert Cross	1971-77	Staff	3/03/2024
Gary Gillard	1956-60	Student	14/07/2024
Daisy Harries née Spencer	1954-58	Student	14/10/2024
Margaret Cook née Cameron	1950-54	Student	9/09/2024
Max Walters	1944-48	Student	August 2024
Ronald (Gus) Ferguson	1947-48	Student	August 2024
William (Bill) Towers	1959-62	Staff	12/11/2024
David Black	1949-53	Student	23/11/2024