



School Patron launches biographical account of 52 years of student contributions

“A Celebration of Contribution” - a definitive collection of the biographies of 160 former students who have had distinguished careers, was launched by the Perth Modern School Patron, Malcolm McCusker, on June 24.

About 200 Modernians, staff, students and parents gathered in the Andrews Building to celebrate the launch.

“A Celebration of Contribution provides biographical snapshots of one hundred and sixty six former students who each, in a special way, have contributed to the state, nation or the international community,” Principal Lois Joll said.

“The selected Modernians represent a cross-section of the more than 10,000 students who attended Perth Modern School between 1911 and 1963, the first phase of selective education at the school.

“Many came from social backgrounds which, in earlier times, would have precluded them from receiving a secondary education.

“The list of Modernians chosen for the book is not exclusive.

“The achievements of so many others are just as worthy of recognition. It includes those who have led the nation, revolutionised agricultural practice, undertaken research critical for information technology, and who have become prominent in medicine, law, education and engineering.



Above, from left: Malcolm McCusker, Lois Joll and Brandon Boccola (Head Boy) at the launch of “A Celebration of Contribution”.



“Included too are successful writers and performers, some with international reputations. Many served their country with inspirational courage and had prominent and distinguished careers in Australia's armed services. “A significant number of the women included were the first to achieve and work within their

professional field. The snapshots reveal a zest and enthusiasm for

learning, the curiosity that generates scientific discovery and the idealism that produces social change,” Ms Joll said.

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Historical impact on the fabric of the school “a delight”: Society VP

Over the past 20 years, the Perth Modernian Society has consolidated its position in the life of the School due to the enthusiasm and interest of its elected councillors, other volunteers and the financial support of its Contributing Members in its agreed purpose. For this we honour and thank you all. Volunteers are not as readily available to help in the running of the Society as they may have been in the past. The longer term engagement and time commitment to manage the day to day running of the organisation to meet the expectations of its members can be demanding.

readiness for the centenary celebrations. This was accomplished in 2005 with only limited IT capacity and no electronic records at our disposal. It opened the door to the enormous wealth of historical information within the school community.

At the same time the return of the academic scholarship threw up the decision to establish the Sphinx Scholarship Fund, which now has its own success stories which are reported regularly in our quarterly e-Newsletters and this Annual Magazine for Contributing Members.

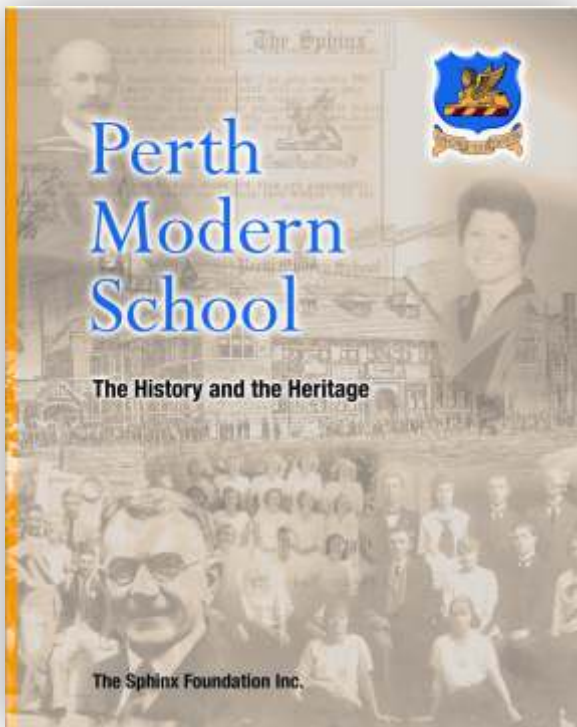
fields, but what unites them all is their strong commitment to community service. There is a proud legacy which serves as a fine example to subsequent generations”

This publication has been made possible through your contributions from the past and the work of our volunteers who have given their time, skills and energies in the History Centre and Archives to preserve your stories.

It is a delight to realise the historical impact Modernians are having on the fabric of the school. The familiar names appearing in association with the various projects undertaken by the School is clear evidence of the contributions you are making to ensure that the past continues to live for the future generations of students and staff. There is still much to be done, and there are many ways in which you can be part of it.

Sallie Davies

Vice President



The PMS Centenary celebrations have come and gone and we are looking to the next major milestone in the School's history. Towards the end of 2009 the small Historical and Museum Committee was provided with its own work/activity room and the Perth Modernian Society History Centre and Archives was established to preserve the memories of the past.

A new book, “A Celebration of Contribution: Tales of the courage,

commitment and creativity of Modernians” published by Perth Modern School, was launched in June 2016 and tells the stories of more than 160 Modernians who have made their mark on society.

“These former Perth Modern School students came from diverse backgrounds and entered disparate

The rewards of renewed friendships and the camaraderie of the team effort, the memories and satisfaction of achieving a common goal can well outweigh any inconvenience.

Are you interested in becoming part of the future journey of your organisation?

The Sphinx Foundation was established originally to manage the production of a school history in



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

From “clerical beehive” to country art society



Bill MacPherson, 1951-53

I didn't know what I wanted to be when I left school.

My maternal grandfather was a barber in a southern Scottish city, son of a Northern Irish millworker, and died when my mother was 14, whereupon she was apprenticed to a tailor. She migrated to WA with her mother just before the Great Depression, and spent several years in low-paid work, if she could get it.

Marriage brought her six years of respite until my father died, when she was plunged into turmoil again with a five-year-old son.

My paternal grandfather, son of a colonial grazier from the Scottish Highlands, was a small farmer and horse-trainer who died when my father was 12.

My father also suffered in the Depression but was a well-paid tradesman at Midland Junction Railway Workshops at his death at the age of 43.

My step-father, whom my mother married after six years of widowhood, left school early to work with his family on the Group Settlement Scheme, and never had regular work until after two years in a German prison-of-war camp, when he was given Rehabilitation Training as a carpenter and joined the PMG

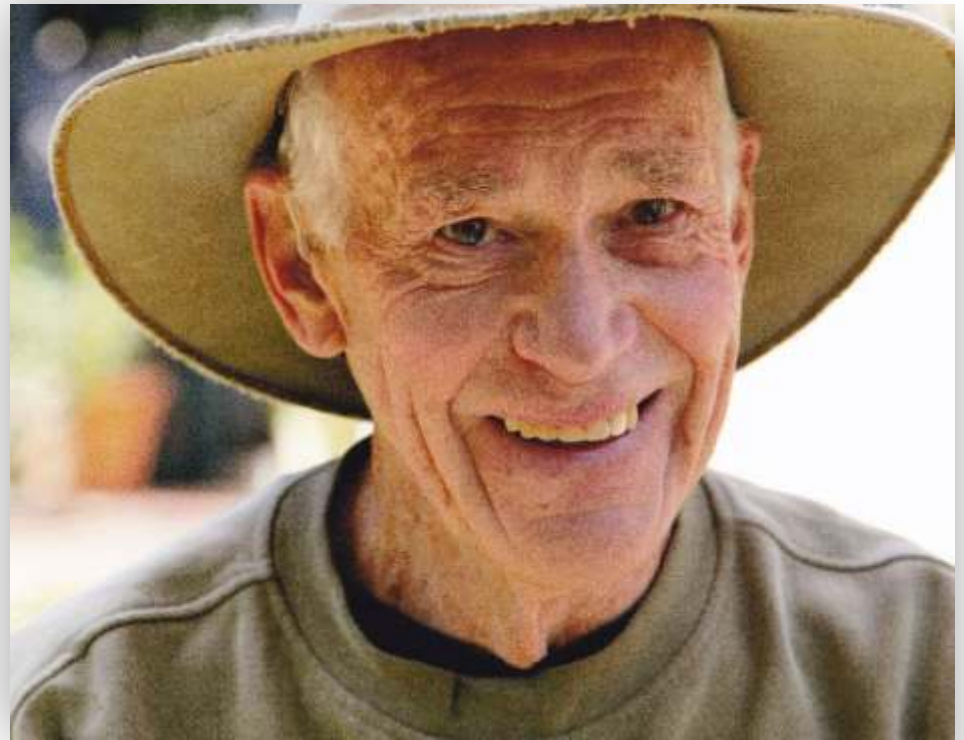
workshops to make telephone boxes and switchboard cabinets.

The mantra at home was: “Get a permanent job - in the Government, the Post Office or a bank.”

My step-father was prepared to put me through school to the Leaving Certificate, provided I had some worthwhile career in mind, so I applied for a Teacher's Training Bursary. After the Junior exams, I applied for a clerical job with the State Government, in case the

become a teacher to avoid leaving school.

Then followed 43 years of mostly fun work, tinkering with office systems to refine them to the basics of achieving objectives efficiently. About the age of 30 I was selected to introduce computer systems into Government Departments, using the unbelievably primitive computers then available. The systems were, by modern standards, inefficient but they enabled many State



Bursary didn't come off, and was sent to a great clerical beehive - the Metropolitan Water Supply office.

When I was granted a Teacher's Training Bursary, I had a kind of dual-epiphany:

I found that I was fascinated by the complexity of bureaucratic systems, and

I realised that I had only wanted to

organisations to make their first steps in discovering how to use the technology.

It was about 20 years later that personal computers arrived and, because my experience and commitment was in “mainframe” computers.

Continued next page

Bill MacPherson's life of discovery, technology and art

Continued from Page 3

I rapidly became yesterday's man.

I kept my head above the tide for a final ten years and left the field to the new generation of technologists. In the meantime, I had met and married Sylvia and settled for 30 years in Lesmurdie. My son Stuart is startlingly unlike me. Ear infections in his early schooling set him back academically, but he has become an accomplished Mechanical Fitter and supervisor - like his grandfather - and a confident free spirit.

My daughter Ann is much more like my mother, and has two bright children. Jon is in Year 8 in a group of gifted students in Kalamunda Senior High School, and eight-year-old Erin is intelligent but sometimes a reckless risk taker.

Jon has been spared one of the disadvantages of my time at Perth Modern School - I was isolated from my community by having to travel 15 kilometres to school and by becoming friends with boys living so very far from my home, whereas Jon rides his bike a kilometre to school.

During my last years of work, I

expanded my interests beyond house and family and my usual extensive reading:

- I thoroughly researched my family history and found my place in the history of Britain and Western Australia.
- I gave in to a 40-year fascination with the teaching of F E Mills and enrolled in courses in Drawing and Watercolour.
- I followed my daughter into the Kalamunda Dramatic Society to discover how they created the magic

My wife had long insisted that we retire to Busselton, so we did that within six months of my last day at work. Although all my family and old friends are in the city, I soon adapted to country living.

I have developed as an artist (I should really call myself a draughtsman, because I draw) and, as they say, I have works in national and international collections (code for interstate and British tourists have bought my drawings from the Busselton Art Society).

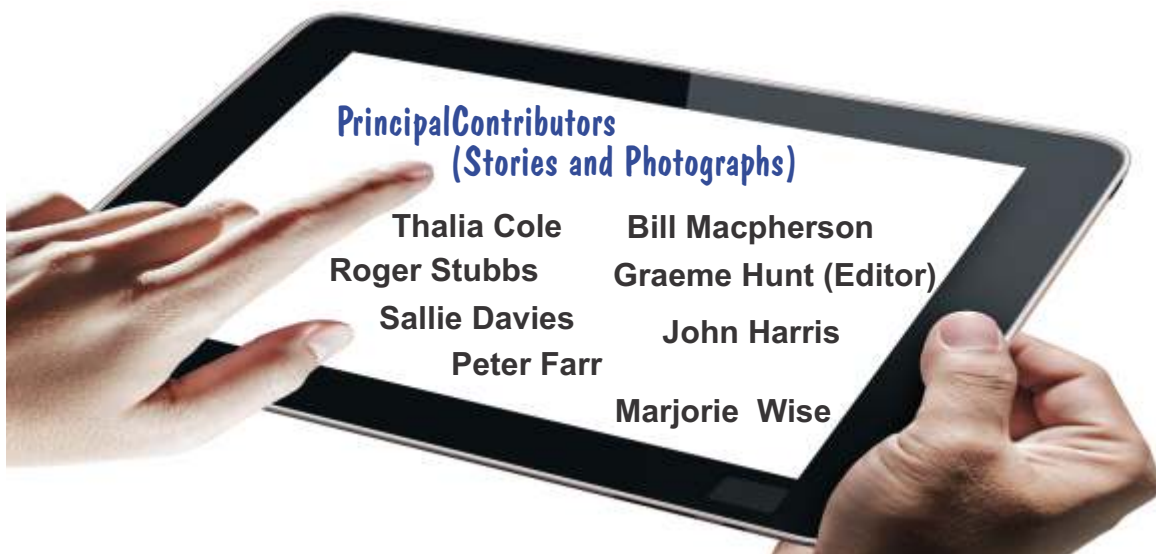
I have been a member of the

Busselton Repertory Club for 17 years, and have played a succession of eccentric flat-footed old men for which, apparently, I have a talent. When not needed for those roles, they let me direct plays in which I have been successful, but that is becoming a bit of a strain these days.

Like my mother, I have always enjoyed a variety of music but, like her, I have no technical ability.

Through Modern School reunions I have discovered the magic created by the school's music students, leading me to attend their annual Senior Concerts and their occasional outings to the Perth Concert Hall. The beauty of their choral music has led me to follow choirs, including volunteering assistance at the annual Dunsborough Songfest when choirs from around the State make beautiful music in our corner of the world. My trips to Perth to meet up with family and friends also allows me to volunteer to work in the Society's archives.

This involvement with the school has an odd therapeutic effect on my mind, since so much of my formative years were tied up with the school.



Book project "ambitious and demanding", says school Historical and Museum Committee Chair

The production of "A Celebration of Contribution" was a major project - one that drew praise from the Chair of the Historical and Museum Committee, Sallie Davies.

She said: "I wish to congratulate volunteers Alison Woodman, Roger Stubbs and Verity Albert, in collaboration with Quita Berry, Charmaine Cave and Thalia Cole on the successful completion of a very ambitious and demanding project, and thank you for your willingness to share the journey with the History Centre and Archive Volunteers.

Your work not only improved the accuracy of records, it drew on and increased the information already held in the George Burvill Biographical Index, enlarged the photographic collection, brought in visitors and added new information for our records. This can only encourage others to join us all in continuing the work Alison and Roger have begun as volunteers with us. This sharing of volunteer research expertise and the outcomes achieved have contributed greatly to recording the history of Perth Modern School and its former staff and students for future generations."

Volunteers Roger Stubbs and Alison Woodman worked in consultation with Principal Lois Joll in selecting the content of the book and here Roger shares his feelings following the launch of the project:

"I particularly appreciated Malcolm McCusker's address. So often at book launches, it becomes obvious that the launchee has only a perfunctory knowledge of the book, but the detailed references which peppered Malcolm's entertaining speech clearly indicated that he had read the book in some depth and with some pleasure.

I also enjoyed the opportunity to meet with some of those included in the book and some of the family of those who had died.

My hope is that the publication will provide a fresh stimulus for more former students and/or their families to ensure that their achievements are properly recorded in the archive. I know that the potted biographies that attendees at reunions produce, often provide only a perfunctory account of what a person has done.

Modesty and a tendency for self effacement too often constrain.

Certainly compiling the book was hard work and time consuming, but it has given me great pleasure and a sense of satisfaction. Alison's search for photos has taken her on some very interesting journeys. And I have learned so much too. In the things I researched there must be at least half a dozen PhD topics. Previously I hadn't appreciated the significance of Winthrop Hackett's philanthropy beyond the establishment of UWA. The numbers of Modernians who benefitted from the Hackett Scholarships which enabled them to travel is significant.

As a baby boomer I had always assumed that the significant drive for women's rights began in the 1960s but now I know about the efforts of Irene Greenwood and her mother, Margaret Battye, Sheila McClemmans and other Modernians from the twenties and thirties. And I hope that if modern over-protective parents read the stories that they will appreciate the resilience demonstrated by so many students and the way in which they managed and overcame difficult situations. I was struck by Herbert Andrewartha's story. When he was 16 his father was posted to the country, so Herbert stayed home alone for a year and rode his horse several miles to Gosnells Station each day to catch the train to Mod. Different times but.....

Certainly we have provided much new information for the archive but our task would have been very difficult to achieve without the launching pad provided by the George Burvill index and the other records maintained in the archive. All of those carefully saved and filed obituaries proved very useful."



Above (from left): Roger Stubbs, Lois Joll, Alison Woodman

GORDON SCOTT WISE, PMS STUDENT 1936-40, SCHOOL PREFECT 1940, AWARDED TOP FRENCH HONOUR FOR ACTIVE SERVICE IN WORLD WAR 2

A message from Marjory Wise

I am writing this for my husband, Gordon Wise, who left Perth Modern School in 1940. He is now 92 and had a serious stroke 14 years ago so finds managing correspondence rather difficult. He lets me know what he wants to write. I will add here that our home is in Ticehurst, East Sussex, in England.

After a year of working at the Treasury in Perth he joined the RAAF and started pilot training. He served in Coastal Command flying with Sunderland Flying Boat Squadron 461 from Pembroke Dock, West Wales. He went into action in the D-Day operations and for this among other veterans has been awarded the Legion of Honour. This was presented by the French Ambassador to UK, at her London Residence on Armistice Day, November 11, 2015. Because Gordon is Australian the High Commissioner, the Hon Alexander Downer was invited to the ceremony and was first to congratulate him after the presentation (below).



At the presentation ceremony, Representing President Francois Hollande, who pledged to honour all those veterans who had served to liberate France during the Second World War, French Minister Axelle Lemaire and Her Excellency Sylvie Bermann presented 20 veterans with their Legion of Honour Medals. Ambassador Bermann said, "I feel privileged and incredibly moved to award these veterans with France's highest distinction, which is our way of thanking them for their tremendous service to our country in



the Second World War. Just as today we remember the fallen of the First World War, so we shall never forget the courage of those who fought for France's liberation over 70 years ago. To them France owes its freedom".

Each veteran's war service was described briefly by a pupil of one of London's French Schools.

Gordon's War Service

"As an Australian, I served as a Sunderland Flying Boat Pilot with 461 Squadron of the Australian Air Force in Coastal Command. In preparation for D-Day, Air Vice Marshal Sir Sholto Douglas gathered three Squadrons in a hanger at Pembroke Dock where we were stationed. He warned us that probably fifty percent of us would not survive the coming operations.

"On our first night in action we saw a U-Boat on our radar so prepared for attack. Captain Neil McKough called for the flares to light up our target but the flares failed despite previous testing and the U-Boat submerged. We lost three of our

planes during that first week due to enemy action. We were lucky to survive. Flying at a height of fifty feet along the coast to avoid enemy radar we felt extremely exposed and we could not turn the plane for fear of dipping the floats in the sea.

"We had a fire on board after take-off when I was accompanying the Squadron Leader. We landed on the water of Milford Haven with 2,000 gallons of petrol on board and bounced home across the bay. The fire went out but the plane was not used again for operations.

"Our patrols went halfway across the Atlantic Ocean, South to the coast of Spain, North to Sullom Voe and the Norwegian coast, always 13-14 hours of night flying at 1,000ft in all weathers, continued throughout the last year of the war.

"Historians will note that not one of our allied ships was lost due to enemy action during the first week after D-Day.

"I was one of the lucky ones."



A life recorded on CD

An interview was undertaken on behalf of the Sphinx Foundation on 8 July 2000 in Gordon's home in

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Gordon Wise - from Page 6

England, and was conducted by John Bannister. There are two tapes and the transcript is available on the companion CD issued with the publication Perth Modern School; the History and the Heritage.

Born in Queensland in 1923, Gordon spent time at schools in Queensland, Broonie, and Perth as his father travelled for work.

During the interview he talks about his early years and the level of early education that he was to receive. He talks about his earliest impressions of Perth Modern School, and the process of becoming a student there.

He talks of the scholarship system and the reputation that the school had, and the position that he believes it had at the time.

He talks of the then headmaster Joe Parsons and the other teachers that he was to experience there, and describes the feelings that he and

the other students had toward being at Perth Modern School, of the subjects open to him and comments on the idea that Perth Modern School was a teacher's paradise.

From the bonds developed at the school and the realisation in later life of the quality of education he received there Gordon gives a good idea of Perth Modern School in the late thirties.

His editorship of The Sphinx in 1940 was certainly linked with his interest in journalism. In his last term, he was invited to go into The West Australian three nights a week, to learn the job of a cub reporter.

Perhaps more relevant was his work in India in 1964 when he was one of a team launching a new magazine, Himmat (Courage), edited by Rajmohan Gandhi, grandson of the Mahatma.

Later, he wrote a column a week, on current affairs, for fourteen years, never missing a deadline as far as he

knew. But his main job as General Manager was to find the firms who would advertise and make our project viable. No ads, no paper.

The Sphinx, of course, did not carry ads.

But the excitement of turning out a publication, was prelude to the excitement of seeing a magazine that challenged the Establishment, and hit the streets week after week.

Himmat did not have a large circulation in India but had an overseas readership which could be envied.

The articles were pungent but not malicious. It was a political weekly in the sense of holding the politicians to account. When Indira Gandhi suspended Parliament, the Himmat writing, spearheaded by Rajmohan Gandhi, led to him and his brother being arrested briefly in New Delhi.

It ceased publication only when other, more-solidly-based, magazines took up the cudgels likewise.

AT THE BOOK LAUNCH



Increasing financial membership is Society's top priority: Annual Report

The 21st Annual General Meeting of the Society was held in the Perth Modern School Staff Room on 27th April, attended by 25 members. President Peter Farr thanked on members' behalf the Society's Councillors, the Historical and Museum Committee, the Sphinx Foundation Board, other volunteers, and special contributors for the enormous amount of work and goodwill that they had put in to so many projects during 2015.

The [2015 Annual Report](#) is fully comprehensive along lines required by good governance practice and a copy of the Report is on the Portal. Under the heading 'Shaping the Future - Challenges', the President highlighted the following items to members:

- The Society's Strategic Plan identifies that growing the financial membership is the top priority.
- Resourcing the History Centre (money and man-hours) stands out as a great collective challenge for members of the Society. To this end, the Society will be applying to the ATO for tax-deductible

status for a Museum Fund.

- A webmaster is needed who can keep the Society's portal relevant and current.
- Invitation for involvement from members for the Council and as volunteers.
- The Council is supporting the School's 'Raise the Roof' fundraising campaign for a new multi-purpose auditorium.

Income and Expenditure 2015

- Income amounted to \$14,463 and Expenses \$12,240, giving a net Operating Profit of \$2,223.
- The Society had net cash at bank at 31/12/2015 of \$18,164.
- The Contributing fee was raised by \$20 to \$120 for 4 years to help cover increased costs faced by the Society.

The anniversary occurred in 2015 of the inaugural Contributing Members who subscribed in 2010 and 2011 to the 4-Year financial contribution.

Accordingly, renewal notices were sent to these Members in late 2015.

The Principal, Lois Joll, delivered her report and on behalf of the School

acknowledged what she called "the amazing work of the Society and the History Centre". She said it was important for students to follow examples and to recognise and give back and contribute to society. The Principal encouraged Members to purchase the new book of the stories of more than 160 amazing Modernians. 'A Celebration of Contribution: Tales of the courage, commitment and creativity of Modernians.' Lois said the School community is behind the new initiative to build a new 700 seat multi-purpose auditorium. She asked Modernians to support the 'Raise the Roof' fundraising appeal for this project.

The AGM was followed by a comprehensive illustrated talk by distinguished Modernian (student 1954-58) Emeritus Professor Philip Jennings AM on the topic '[The Mutual Relationship Between Science and Conservation](#)'. In moving the vote of thanks, Janet Holmes à Court AC complimented Philip on 'staying the course' through his long career and for consistently taking a stand on significant local environmental matters.

Principal introduces the "Raise the Roof" campaign



Principal Lois Joll says the Perth Modern School community is behind the initiative to build a new 700-seat multi-purpose auditorium and asked Modernians to support the "Raise the Roof" fundraising appeal to finance the project. Ms Joll's appeal for support came during her address (pictured above) to the Society's AGM.



THOMAS STREET STATE SCHOOL MEMORIAL GATES
Laying of Wreaths on Anzac Commemoration

Then and now - the Thomas Street Primary School memorial Gates

Thomas Street Primary School was built in 1904. It was opened due to the overwhelming number of unschooled children in the area of Subiaco in the early 20th century. Situated near the intersection of Thomas Street and Roberts Road, which was known until 1915 as Mueller Road, it was separated from the soon to be built Perth Modern School site by College Street, which is now closed.

In 1945 the Thomas Street Infants School building became an annexe for the growing Perth Modern School community, and provided classrooms for upper school boys for the next ten or more years until it was destroyed by fire.

Alan Porter, PMS student 1942-46, writes: "At that time, the Thomas Street Primary School was separated from the Perth Modern School site by a north-south road (College Road) and where it joined Roberts Road, the (boys) entrance and drive into PMS was located. I recall crossing this road in 1946 at the back of the old Science Block in order to attend some PMS Fourth Year (Year 11) classes that were being held in a

classroom at the bottom (north) end of the Thomas Street Primary School site."

Now a part of the Perth Modern School campus, the Thomas Street School building has been named Stokes Building after a former headmaster Joseph Placid Stokes 1949-51, five years prior to a Senior Master appointment to PMS in the late 1950s. He returned to Mod as Principal 1972-79 during which time he founded the Perth Modern School Historical Society.

Were you a student at Thomas Street Primary School?

Volunteer **Stephen Monterosso**, ex Thomas Street Primary and PMS student 1978-82, would like to hear from you.

The history of Thomas Street School is inexorably linked to the history of Perth Modern School.

This has recently been recognised by the refurbishment of the 1924 Thomas Street School Memorial Gate and the mounting of new replica shields to replace the original ones.



The Memorial Gates

"Mr. John Tucker and his very active P And T Association organised many money-raising functions for the purposes of erecting a memorial to ex-scholars who had enlisted in the World War of 1914-1918. The scholars were encouraged to submit designs and the winner was A. Dimmitt, whose design, however, was amended slightly into the present form. Aubrey Dimmitt, who was killed in action during World War II, was the son of our Agent-General in London and Mrs. Dimmitt. Saturday, November 1st, 1924, was a red-letter day for the school, as it marked the outstanding event of the year – the ceremony of unveiling our Memorial Gates." Extract from *By Courage and Honour: Thomas Street State School Jubilee: 1904 – 1954* (commemorative booklet).

The highlights of 2015-16 – a pictorial roundup



Above (from left): Barbara Mallett, Rosemary Pratt, Peter Farr and Dr Robyn White at the book launch.

Below: Michael And Nerida Dilworth, who both feature in the book, were at the launch.



Gordon Ewers celebrates his 100th year with a musical performance



Last year he stood up in a 10 year group.

There were more celebrations at Kingsway Court Retirement Village, in Madely, where Gordon lives. Staff and neighbours presented Gordon with a book of written tributes, a compilation of newspaper items and a DVD featuring activities recorded over the ten years he has spent at the village.

“The whole village turned out for morning tea. It was a lovely moment,” Gordon said.

Audrey Nicholas (1951 leaver) tells us about Gordon Ewers' 100th birthday party, hosted by daughters Shirley and Marion, and Old Modernians. It was held at Kingsley Church of Christ in the form of afternoon tea with an estimated 80 – 100 family and friends.

Relatives travelled from the east and grandchildren performed musical items. Six members of the Gilbert and Sullivan Society sang songs written by Gordon and set to G&S music. Gordon (circled, left) resigned from the Society recently., after 40 years performing with the group.

Living in Applecross as a child, he travelled by ferry across the river to get to Mod. He is still driving his car. Audrey is keen that he stands up by himself at the next Mod concert and lunch.

2015 Annual Reunion Highlights

For the first time we were delighted to welcome guest MC **Rebecca Dollery**, who attended Perth Modern School from 1997 until 2001. She was selected to be a part of the scholarship music students studying voice under the tutelage of Mrs Elizabeth Pascoe. Rebecca was a part of the triumphant 1999 European Music Tour and a member of the Chorale that won first prize at the Vienna International Youth and Music Festival.

Rebecca introduced herself:

“I was a student at Perth Modern School from 1997-2001.”

“One of my best memories from my time at Perth Mod was our 1999 music tour to Europe – the highlight

was performing in a Vienna music competition with the school choir coming in first place. “

Everyone was hugging each other and crying. We'd all worked so hard to get to that moment.”

“I worked in hospitality in the UK for a year before attending Curtin University, studying journalism. I then worked in Sydney as a reporter for radio station 2SM, then at an advertising agency in London, before coming back to WA in 2009 when I started work at the ABC in the Albany office.”

Rebecca joined the ABC in 2009 after working at a London communications firm. She worked in regional areas including Albany and Bunbury and is now a radio and television reporter and weather presenter based in Perth.

Presentation Ceremony Awards Sponsorship - a letter from Deputy Principal John Harris

Perth Modern School is offering the opportunity to Modernians willing to support our Year 12 Presentation Ceremony through sponsorship of an award.

The sponsorship for the next 10 years, from 2016 is available at a total cost of \$1,500.00 for each of the following subject awards: Computer Science, Food Science, Chinese Heritage, French, Italian, Japanese, Maths 3AB, Physical Education Studies, Sports Citizen, Human Biological Science, Psychology, Philosophy and Ethics.

If you would like to sponsor an award can you please advise the sponsor's name to be included on the award and a short biography or information about the person that you would like the award named after. This information will be included in the presentation programme.

Our Finance Department can be contacted (9380 0552 or finance.perthmodernschool@education.wa.edu.au) to make arrangements for the payment of your sponsorship. If you require further information please feel free to contact me on 9489 0660.

Again, our sincere thanks for your support.

John Harris

Deputy Principal
Student Services Manager
Senior Years



Above: Conductor Neil Coy and the Perth Modern School orchestra acknowledge the applause for their concert at the annual reunion.

Right: Acting President Annemie McAuliffe thanks Rebecca for her contribution to a wonderful concert.



More highlights of 2015-16



Left: Dr Ken Michael and right, Brian Savvas at the book launch.



Right: School Patron Malcolm McCusker launches the book.



Below, from left: Peter Farr, Shirley Randell and Irene Froyland at the book launch.



Hui Min Tay receives her Dux award from Education Minister Peter Collier.





PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

Perth Modernian Society Council Office Bearers for 2016-2017

Peter Farr, President
Deborah Beresford, Hon Secretary
Eve Broadley, Hon Treasurer
Barrie Baker, Finance and Functions'
Dr Irene Froyland, PMS Board, Reunions
Ian Jarvis, Communications
***Ed Lazarus, Membership**
Barbara Mallett
****Sallie Davies, Historical and Museum Committee**
*****Annemie McAuliffe**
Lois Joll, PMS Principal ex-officio
***Ed Lazarus has re-joined Council**
****Sallie Davies has resigned as Vice President, continues to represent H&MC and assist Communications**
*****Annemie McAuliffe has resigned as Vice President and has been granted 12 months leave of absence**
Historical and Museum Committee for 2016-17
Sallie Davies, student 1951-55, staff 1961, Acting Chair
Robyn White, staff 2001-2010, Hon Secretary
Alan Porter, student 1943-47, Hon Treasurer
Deb Beresford, staff 1971-2009, Hon Archivist
Ian Jarvis, student 1954-48, Hon IT Manager
Gay Albillos, student 1955-59; Frank Hedges, student 1948-52; Bob Johnson, student 1961-63;
Rod Smith, student 1952-56,
Committee Members

Sphinx Foundation Board for 2016-17

Barrie Baker, Chairman
Petrice Judge, Secretary
Peter Farr, Treasurer
Eve Broadley, Nigel Hunt, Jeanette McQueen,
Board Members

Commemorative Plaque unveiled at Eric Strauss Sports Centre



Guest of Honour Anne Strauss, (nee Roberts, wearing black and white scarf) a student 1947-48, was invited by Principal Lois Joll to join the Acting president Annemie McAuliffe in unveiling a memorial plaque in honour of her late husband, Eric.

Eric was a student 1935-36, returned to teach at the school in 1947 and was Senior Master in 1956-63.

Below: the Plaque - now permanently mounted alongside the new sports facility near the History Centre.



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90 Roberts Road, Subiaco Western
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General Enquiries -
info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

Year 12 students receive their awards for 2015

There were familiar names in the list of awards presented at the Year 12 Presentation Ceremony in December. They included:



Jessica Baker received the 2015 **Drama Award** presented by Head of Arts and Technology Sally Floyd (above).

Peter Blaxell, student 1958-62 sponsored the Drama Award. Peter spent some time as a legal aid lawyer with the Law Society in 1975 before joining the independent bar where he remained until February 1991 when he was appointed to the District Court of Western Australia. Mr Blaxell was a member of the Supreme Court from 2005-11, and chairman of the Special Air Service Resources Trust. When he retired as Supreme Court Judge, Peter Blaxell was appointed chairman of the Perth Theatre Trust.



Above: English award recipient Alexandra Loneragan with Head of English Esther Hill.

The **Visual Arts Award** for 2015 was presented to Rosalie Koko. Former ESL and Social Studies teacher **Peter Hopper** 1989-2003 has sponsored the Hopper Art Award for many years.

The long standing **Ella Mackay Award for English**, named in honour of Ella Mackay who was an

enthusiastic student of all branches of English literature who taught English at PMS 1915-27. By her will she directed that a sum of £200 was to be placed in trust to form a fund to provide an annual prize to be known as the Ella McKay English Prize for the best English scholar. This award perpetuates the memory of one of the most devoted and successful teachers in the early years of the school's history.



Emily Jiang, recipient of the **Chinese Language Award**, also received the **Japanese Award** from Head of Languages Jenny Spearman (above).

Among the Language awards, the Chinese Award was sponsored by **Malcolm Evans**, student 1958-59 who achieved the rank of Chief Superintendent in the WA Police Force and became Principal of the WA Police Academy. He was awarded the National Service Medal (NSM) and 2 bars for his service to the community. On leaving the force he became a principal of a successful international security enterprise.

The first of the Music Awards presented was the **Dettman Music Scholarship** made possible by Dorothy Dettman OBE (nee Dolling), student 1920-23, soon after the death of her husband Harry, also a former PMS student 1921-24 who went on to become Director General of Education, 1967-73. Their son Roger Dettman was also a PMS student 1950-54. The winner of this scholarship must excel in practical and theoretical music and demonstrate diligence, commitment and a passion for music.



Head Boy Jet Kye Chong (above) received this prestigious award in 2015.

The **Irene Jolley Award**, won by Russell Watt was established by a former student in memory of a wonderful mother Irene Jolley, who loved to sing. The recipient of this award must display a joyous love of and enthusiasm for singing and participate in a school choral ensemble.

The **Tom Kent Scholarship** was inaugurated in 1995 by a father of a student and to enable pursuit of further studies in music performance at a recognised tertiary institution. It honours Tom Kent, who was later named Subiaco Citizen of the Year in 2002 for his voluntary work at PMS for his dedication to music.

William Stabb was a proud student of Perth Modern School 1920-22, and Clarice, his wife, was a keen violinist. Their daughter, Carole Stabb, student 1950-53, bequeathed the William and Clarice Stabb Music Scholarship to the school. First awarded in 1992, the Scholarship is awarded to a student of a string instrument who is continuing to music tertiary study.

John Coles was a music scholarship student from 1984-1988. He was a bass baritone voice student and also an accomplished trumpet player. In 2002 John died suddenly while working in Indonesia.

Continued next page.

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Year 12 awards (continued from previous page)

During 2003 John's parents inaugurated the John Peter Coles Award for the top vocal student.



Adele Williams received the **Sports Citizen of the Year Award** from Head of Health and Physical Education Toni Jones (above).

The Sports Citizen of the Year Award recognises excellence in sporting pursuits, leadership and sportsmanship and is sponsored by Greg Calcutt, student 1958-62 in Adele Williams received the **Sports Citizen of the Year Award** from Head of Health and Physical Education Toni Jones (below).

The Sports Citizen of the Year Award recognises excellence in sporting pursuits, leadership and sportsmanship and is sponsored by **Greg Calcutt**, student 1958-62 in honour of his father, **C. J. (Syd) Calcutt**, PMS student 1921-25, an outstanding student and all round sportsman who won the Ex-Students Prize for Service and Leadership in 1925. He later became a highly respected teacher at the School 1940-42, 1945-65, 1970, where he was

Sportsmaster for many years. The Physics Award is sponsored by **Dr Philip Jennings AM**, student 1954-58, in honour of **John de Laeter AO**, PMS student 1946-50 and teacher 1957-62, who inspired Philip and many other students to undertake careers in science. John became Emeritus Professor of Physics at Curtin University and on his retirement was the University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research and Development. He was a non-executive Director of the Gravity Discovery Centre Foundation and a Visitor to the Australian CRC for Renewable Energy. His research interests were concerned with astrophysical, nuclear and geological problems involving mass spectrometry.

"I chose a career in science, mainly because I enjoyed it so much at PMS and I did well at it. In those days boys were only allowed to study two aspects of science, physics and chemistry, but I loved both of them and I had some outstanding teachers." – Philip Jennings when speaking at the 2016 Annual General Meeting on 27 April 2016.

The **Chemistry Award** was sponsored by **Janet Holmes a Court AC**, student 1956-60, and science teacher 1965-66, honoured for services to Business, the Arts and the Community. She was also awarded a Centenary Medal for service to the arts as chair of the WA Symphony Orchestra and the Black Swan Theatre Company.

The late **Dr Albert Walkington** was a former scholarship student of Perth Modern School 1943-47 who had a long association with education in this state. From a teacher, he went on to become a Director of Education with the Education Department of WA

The **Dr Albert Walkington Prize for Chemistry and Physics** is awarded to the student who has achieved the highest combined school mark for Chemistry and physics and is sponsored by The Hon Bill Marmion MLA, Member for Nedlands.



Braden Thorne receives his **Philosophy and Ethics Award** from Head of Social Science, Louise Secker, PMS student 182-86 (above).

The **Mike McKinley Award for Modern History** is named after **Mike McKinley**, a former history teacher at Perth Modern School.

Clare Casey was a teacher 1957-58 and Principal Mistress 1958-75 and in 1973-75 she was a Foundation Committee member of the Perth Modern School Historical Society. The following extract is taken from the farewell report published in the 1974-75 Sphinx magazine:

"... on leaving, Miss Casey donated a considerable sum of money for the purpose of backing The Clare Casey Service Award, created for 12th Year students who show dedication by service and loyalty to their school over the five years spent at Perth Modern School.

Miss Casey was an esteemed member of the Modern School Staff, and is noted for her loyalty and long service to the school and its students."



Above: Principal Lois Joll with awardees Russell Watt, Frances Lamont, Jet Kye Chong, Anna Lee, Bianca Macliver and Patrick Morrison. © 2016 Perth Modernian Society

SPHINX SCHOLARSHIP FUND UPDATE



SPHINX FOUNDATION INC.

From February this year, the Sphinx Foundation Board consists of: Barrie Baker (1958), Chair; Peter Farr (1958), Treasurer; Petrice Judge (1966), Secretary; Eve Broadley (1962); Jeanette McQueen (1961), Nigel Hunt (parent) and Val Furphy (Associate Principal). The Board is pleased to report a record \$42,360 was distributed to 43 awardees in February 2016. The 2016 annual giving appeal has gone well, with Modernians raising almost \$25,000. This will be a great help in encouraging students to get the most out of the educational and community opportunities Perth Modern School provides. New academic scholarships will be created from the end of 2016 at the Year 10 level in Social Sciences, Languages and Technology and Enterprise, adding to the existing Year 10 level academic scholarships in Creative Writing, Music, Physics, Chemistry, Biological Sciences and Mathematics.. The Board aims to secure donors to underwrite Year 10 level academic scholarships in all of the learning areas provided by the school, with the aim of promoting excellence and assisting with education costs in Years 11 and 12. The Board gratefully acknowledges the support of the following Modernians over the past year.



Sphinx Scholarship Fund Appeal donors 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016

Joy Anderson (nee Gawned), student 1945-47
Roger Atkinson, student 1956-60
60-year Reunion of the class of 1955
(held Nov 2015)
Barrie Baker, student 1954-58
Ian Baker, student 1946-50
Arthur Beales, student 1943-47
Max Bevilaqua OAM, student 1942-46
Margaret Bullock (nee James), student 1952-56
Anonymous, student 1956-59
Paul Campbell, student 1940-42©
Graeme Carter, student 1945-49
John Collins, student 1956-60
Ann Crawford (nee Edwards), student 1963-67
Carol Day OAM (nee Quarry), student 1952-54
Malcolm Evans, student 1958-59
Peter Farr, student 1954-58
Trevor Gibson, student 1938-42
Stuart Gould, student 2007-11
Douglas Gould, student 2009-13
John Greenway, student 1943-45
Chris and Ling Hayes, student 1971-75
Philip Jennings, student 1954-58
Harry Kuhaupt, student 1951-53
Mary J Marshall (nee McWhinney),
student 1954-58
Anonymous, student 1954-58
Lois McDonald (nee Johnston), student 1942-44
N McWhinney, student 1949-53
Professor Con Michael, student 1952-53

Joy Miller (nee Pearson), student 1948-52
Marilyn (Lyn) Muir (nee Ball), student 1954-58
The Hon Kevin Parker, student 1950-54
Neil Patterson, student 1956-60
Ivan (Glenn) Peate, student 1953-54
Geoffrey Playford, student 1948-52
Bob Pritchard, student 1950-54
Margaret Puzey (nee Price), student 1946-50
Pat Quiggin (nee Hardwick), student 1948-49
Shirley Randell (nee Izett), student 1953-57
Joan Robins (nee Clare), student 1950-54
Rev Dr Elizabeth Sanderson, student 1956-60
Dr Gregory Sterrett, student 1959-63
John Stone, student 1942-46
Ray Thurloe, student 1950-51
Albert Tognolini, student 1940-44
Walter Lawrence Turnbull, student 1947-49
Harold Wilkinson, student 1954-58
Jean Williams (nee Cleave), student 1950-54
Hon Daryl Williams, student 1955-59
Anne Williams (nee Crowe), student 1957-61
Rod Willix, student 1950-51
Daphne Wood (nee Bennett), student 1941-45
*'Donation is in memory of my late husband
Ken Wood (1931-1934). Ken had to leave
Mod and get a job due to financial hardship
and regretted it all his long life!'*