



## Modernians 2018 Annual Reunion, Sunday 9 Sept.



### Past President, Peter Farr's speech notes

#### Greetings, Apologies and Acknowledgments

Warm greetings to local, interstate and overseas Members and your guests, Principal Lois Joll, music students and conductors, and parents and siblings of the musicians.

I wish everyone present a very enjoyable Reunion today. Especially I also welcome those present from the graduating **class of 1958** – some 45 of whom held **their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** reunion at the School yesterday afternoon/evening.

We have received apologies from many people - the list is on a display stand at the Refectory where we will have lunch. In particular however, our President **Professor Geoff Soutar** has asked me to convey his apologies and disappointment not to be here as he is away from Perth this weekend.



Also, there is a list of 20 members who have passed away in the past 12 months including Professor Patrick Troy, and I ask you all to think of these Modernians for a few moments please.

#### Relationship with the School

The spirit of willing cooperation of the Society and The Sphinx Foundation with the School - the Executive, Admin and teachers - what Don Tyler refers to endearingly as the '**whole crew**' - is at a high level.

The Principal attends ex-officio meetings of the Council and the Associate Principal attends ex-officio

meetings of the Sphinx Foundation. Councillors and volunteers attended many School events this past year. This year I am representing the Council on the School Board, and I can assure everyone that under the Board's Chair, Modernian Dr Ken Michael AC, a high state of harmony exists.

### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert**

A stand out event staged by the School in the Perth Concert Hall in June was an extraordinary concert to celebrate 50 years of Perth Mod hosting a specialist music program. Whilst showcasing the very best of the current music students and conductors, Modernians featured prominently with Reece Harley as the Compere, Emma Matthews and Brett Grapes as soloists, and the 100-strong Alumni Choir.

### **New Sphinx Sculpture**

The Council has supported and contributed some financing towards an amazing new sculpture inspired by the Sphinx. It now takes pride of place in the garden near front reception. The artist hopes the sculpture inspires students at Mod in their journey to acquire knowledge, determine their destiny and fly high to attain their dreams. Make sure you check it out today before you leave or the next time you visit the School.

### **Raise the Roof Appeal**

The Principal, Staff, the Society, the School Board and the P&C Association, all re-committed in early 2018 to putting their weight behind the appeal to raise the capital funds for a new 700-seat multi-purpose auditorium, which will be located towards the western side of the School. This will be a fantastic asset for the current generations in the School community to establish. Indeed, this worthy project is the Board's top priority and following the **Saving of Perth Mod** last year, I implore all Modernians to dig deep and make a tax-deductible donation. You can have your name on one of the seats. Donation forms are available at the lunch venue.



### **Annual Oration**

Each year since 2011, the Perth Modernian Society organises an **Oration** to upper school students by a prominent citizen. In August 2017 it was given by our fellow ex-student **Elizabeth Gaines**, CEO of Fortescue Metals Group. This was very well received by all those fortunate enough to be present. Another direct outcome is the establishment for the next 5 years of the *Fortescue Metals Group Mechatronics Engineering Upper School Scholarship*.

### **Amended Constitutions**

The Perth Modernian Society Museum Association Incorporated has revised its Constitution slightly so that it meets ATO requirements to be considered a charity and to meet the DGR requirements for tax deductible donations. Extensive legal work was done on a *pro bono* basis by Nigel Hunt, a partner in King & Wood Mallesons, and who is also a Director of the Sphinx Foundation Inc. Nigel was assisted by Brendon Dawson, Solicitor. The Society records its gratitude to Nigel Hunt and Brendon Dawson. Not only has the work been done with great diligence but the legal costs that would otherwise have been incurred would run into thousands of dollars.

### **Membership**

We are a member-based organisation, and for financial survival we need many more 4-Year Contributing members - especially from the eras when Mod was a comprehensive 5-year high school (1960 - 67) and then a specialist Music School (1968 - 2006)

For any who haven't converted to the 4-Year Contributing membership, the forms are here today, and it also can be done on line via our website.

### **Memorabilia**

The Society and the School have a jointly sponsored a set of memorabilia - which is on display at the lunch venue and may be purchased or ordered there or via our website.

### History Centre News

This year the Museum displays pay tribute to Music at Mod and in particular it recognizes the 50th Anniversary of the PMS Special Music Program. We thank Robert Bower for his donation of the framed banner and plaque which recognizes the successful Save Perth Mod campaign in 2017. These can be seen on display at the entrance to the Museum.

We particularly thank the volunteers who have regularly attended each week to maintain the archives and displays, those who have donated memorabilia, visited the History Centre and arranged for special visits from family and friends from interstate and overseas.

Next month will see the second Heritage Open Day in association with Heritage Perth, when PMS students will conduct guided tours of heritage items on display around the School ending at the History Centre on Saturday 20 October, 1-3pm. Register if you wish to attend.

The Perth Modernian Society Museum Association Incorporated should shortly have DGR status for donors who wish to support our efforts to honour the history and share the heritage of Perth Modern School with present and future generations.

### Sphinx Scholarship Fund

In 2018, the Fund is financially supporting a record number of 67 PMS students.

64 people responded to the 2018 Annual Giving appeal, contributing the magnificent sum of **\$79,000** for which the Sphinx Foundation Inc Board is very grateful.

As a result, five new scholarships have been created from the end of 2018 - three are academic excellence scholarships for upper school students, two of which are funded from a \$40,000 donation from our great supporter, Modernian **Don Tyler**. One (the *TLC Be Inspired Scholarship*) is open to Years 8, 9 or 10. Remarkably, although the scholarship donor – **Tony Chong** and his family have no direct association with Perth Mod, Tony has pledged \$10,000 pa for the next 5 years to set up this perpetual Scholarship. The other addition is the *Mechatronics Engineering Upper School Scholarship* funded by Fortescue Metals Group. The other new scholarship is called a Perth Modernian Society scholarship made possible by the rother donations to this year's appeal.

The fund now stands at almost **\$950,000**. On behalf of the Board, chaired by **Barrie Baker**, I take this opportunity of sincerely thanking all the donors who over the past decade made these remarkable achievements possible.



### Perth Modernian Society Awards

The Perth Modernian Society Awards recognise the actions and achievements of people who have gone above and beyond what could be reasonably expected, to advance education through the Perth Modernian Society (Inc.). To date, 11 persons have been honoured and today the Society is pleased to confer two more awards.

Please note that Honours awards nominations can be made at any time. Any member of the Society can nominate an individual for an award, and the nominees can be Perth Modernians, persons eligible to be Modernians, or members of the wider community. All the information needed is on our website or can be made available in printed copy.

### Presentation of Awards

It is my pleasure to announce awards of *Moderna Scola* to two remarkably dedicated and loyal Modernians: **Rosemary Pratt** and **Dr June Stephenson**.



Would Rosemary please come up to the stage for the presentation of Certificate, Citation and Trophy. *Read extract from Rosemary's Citation. Present certificate and trophy.* Could we all congratulate Rosemary please.

*Read extract from June's citation. Present certificate and trophy.* Could we all congratulate June please.



**Thankyous**

I wish to thank **Dr Irene Froyland** for her role as chair of the Awards Committee since the beginning in 2014.

On your behalf I would like to convey a big thankyou to the Music Department – retiring Director of Music **Roger Hey**, conductors Neil Barclay, **Neil Coy** and **Celia Christmass**, the staff and students for the performances that we heard today, especially the entertaining film score of **Godzilla Eats Las Vegas**.



I know that the concert is the highlight of our Annual Reunions for many guests. Regrettably this could be the last with the full concert performance due to the decline in attendance numbers this year, so let's see if we can lift the numbers next year to ensure some form of concert.

I would like to thank the Perth Modernian Society Councillors, the Board of the Sphinx Foundation Inc., the Historic and Museum committee, the newly appointed Board of the Perth Modernian Society Museum Association Incorporated, as well as many volunteers for the sterling work they do.

Also, the Perth Modernian Magazine compiler **Graeme Hunt**, and Communications Manager **Ian Jarvis** who ensures that this Annual Magazine reaches all paid up Contributing Members. Ian also compiles four issues of e-Newsletters each year in time to reach around 2000 Registered Members each quarter.

### **Conclusion**

The Society is not only doing lots of worthwhile things for the here and now, but also creating a legacy that is worthy of Perth Mod.

Examples include the successful *Save PMS* campaign last year, moral support we gave to the campaign to save the Schools of the Air, getting behind the multi-purpose auditorium appeal, the Sphinx Scholarships and Bursaries, the Annual Oration, Honours Awards, the History Centre, Heritage Trail, and the expanding database catalogue of our historical artefacts, photos, records and equipment.

The biggest challenge by far is to get younger Modernians more involved. Several are here today but if you know such people, please encourage them to become an active part of the Modernian community by Contributing membership and **Facebook**.

I wish everyone present an enjoyable reunion today and good health and fulfilment for the year ahead.