

Perth Modern School

Locations of Memorials and Honour Boards

Perth Modern School is home to numerous memorials and honour boards. Some commemorate students collectively by conflict and others commemorate individual students.

Memorials and Honour Boards by Conflict

- **The World War 1 War Memorial** was unveiled by the Lieutenant-Governor of Western Australia, Sir Robert McMillan, on Sunday 22 October 1922 and is located between the administration building and the oval. The names of 24 students who were known at that time to have died as a result of their service in World War 1 are listed on the north and south panels. In 2020 the names of an additional five students were inscribed on a plinth which was fixed to the memorial.

The war memorial was originally located on the south-east side of the school building near Roberts Road. In the late 1950's it was moved 40 metres west when the Andrews building was built and moved again in 2009 to the south side of the school between the Beasley and Andrews buildings when the Administration building was built (left rear in the photo).

World War 1 War Memorial and Plinth



- **The World War 2 Commemorative Seat** was unveiled on 21 March 1948 and located between the World War 1 war memorial and the administration building. It commemorates the 119 students who died as a result of their service in World War 2.

World War 2 Memorial Seat



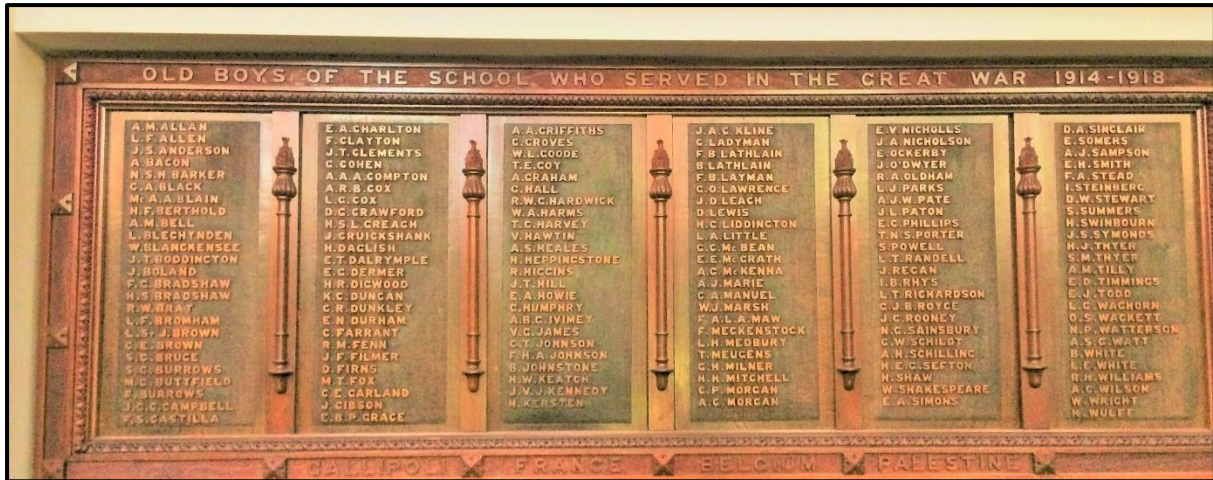
- A **coloured leadlight window** in the school's Main Hall commemorating the 119 students who lost their lives in World War 2 was installed in 1985. The colours in the window reflect the colours of the Army, Navy and Air Force. At the bottom of the window are the words TO HONOUR EX-STUDENTS WHO DIED FOR US.

World War 2 Commemorative Window



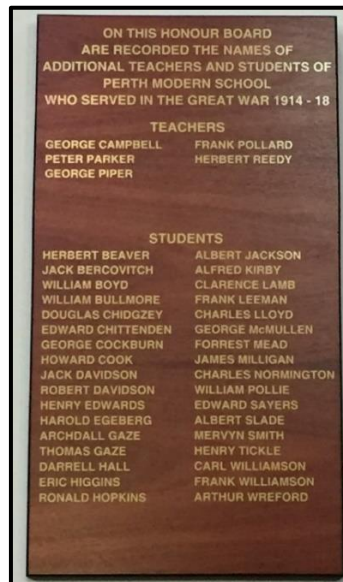
- **The World War 1 honour board** was unveiled on 22 October 1922, the same day as the war memorial, and lists the names of the 147 students who were known at that time to have served in World War 1. It is located on the south wall of the Main Hall in the Beasley building.

World War 1 Honour Board



- In 2020 a **supplementary honour board** listing the names of an additional five staff and 34 students who served in World War 1 was mounted next to the original honour board, five of whom died. A total of 186 students and staff enlisted during the war, 29 of whom died as a result of their service. The names of those who died are listed on the war memorial and plinth.

World War 1 Supplementary Honour Board



- **The World War 2 honour board** was built soon after World War 2 and is located on the same wall of the Main Hall as the World War 1 honour board. It lists the names of 104 students who were known at that time to have died as a result of their service in World War 2. Several students who attended school reunions after the war were surprised to see their names on the board and gaps are visible where their names have been

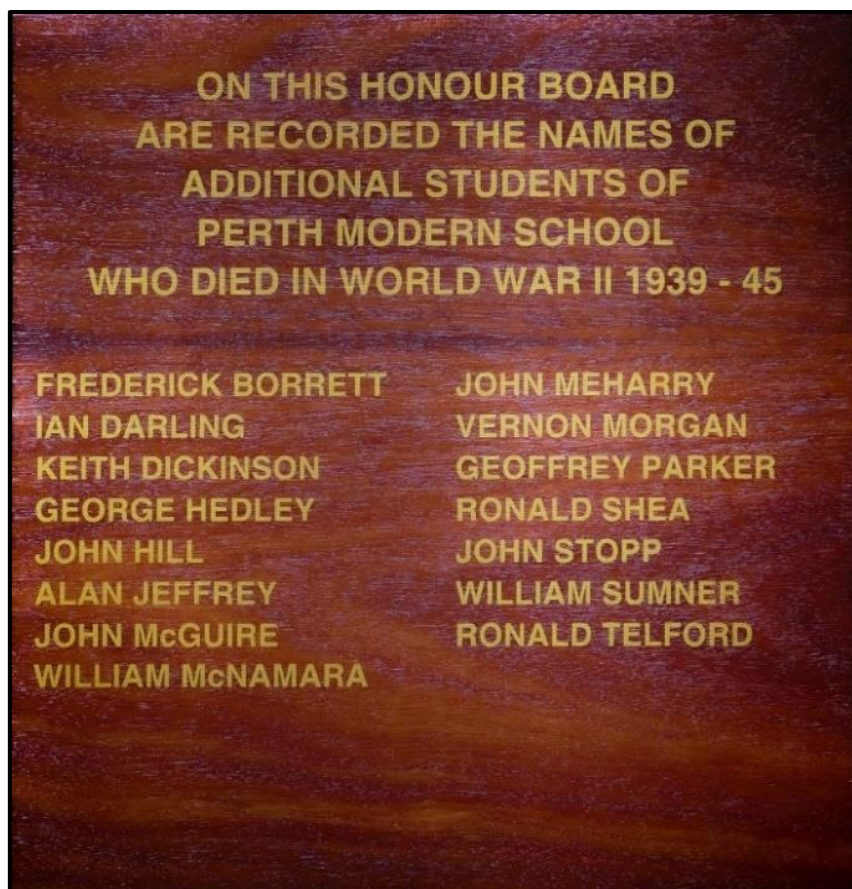
removed. Several other names were added along the bottom of the board as details of the deaths of the students became known.

World War 2 Honour Board



- In 2020 a **supplementary honour board** listing the names of an additional 14 students who died as a result of their service in World War 2 was mounted next to the original honour board. A fifteenth name was added in March 2021. A total of 1,552 students and staff enlisted, 119 of whom died as a result of their service.

World War 2 Supplementary Honour Board



- In 2023 a **Post-World War 2 honour board** listing the names of students who died in conflicts since World War 2 was mounted underneath the World War 2 supplementary honour board. This board replaced an earlier board listing of the names of the four students who were then known to have died as a result of their service in Malaya and Vietnam. The earlier board is now in the museum.

Post-World War 2 Honour Board



- In 2020 a **digital honour board** listing the names and details of the 153 students who died as a result of their service in all conflicts was placed on the school's website. In 2023 a digital nominal roll was added that lists the names and details of the 1,612 students who served their country and survived the experience.

The board's attributes can be sorted to show groupings which reveal some remarkable coincidences. For example, sorting on Date of Death reveals that three students were killed in the Battle of Damour in Lebanon on 6/7 July 1941; the only two students to be killed in action in the Navy since the school opened both lost their lives on HMAS *Sydney* in its fatal encounter with the *Kormoran* on 19 November 1941; and two students serving in the same RAAF squadron and flying in the same aircraft lost their lives on 3 March 1942 while on a bombing mission in the Solomon Sea. The digital honour board is located at <https://honour.perthmodern.wa.edu.au/>.

Individual Memorials

- A **coloured leadlight window** in the school's Main Hall commemorates the loss of Garth Edwards Klein who was a student at the school from 1919 to 1923. Flight Lieutenant Klein, RAF, was killed on 24 March 1937 while serving as one of the pilots on the Imperial Airways flying boat *Capricornus* which crashed into a mountain in Central France due to a navigational error. The aircraft was flying on the inaugural Southampton to Alexandria scheduled service. Garth had been recently married and he and his wife were living in Alexandria. He was 30 when he died. The window was commissioned by his parents. Garth's father, James Klein, was Director of Education for WA from 1935 to 1938.

Garth Klein's Commemorative Window



- A **memorial plaque** on the south wall inside the east entrance to the Beasley building commemorates former student Frank Edward (Ted) Parsons. Ted was the son of the greatly admired educator, Joseph Parsons, headmaster of the school from 1912 to 1939, and Mary Parsons. Joe left the bulk of his estate to establish a better library for the school, now known as the Josephs Parsons Memorial Library.

The wording on the plaque tells Ted's story:

This bequest is made to the school library by his father and mother to cherish the memory of their only son FRANK EDWARD PARSONS killed in air operations over Germany August 27th 1942.

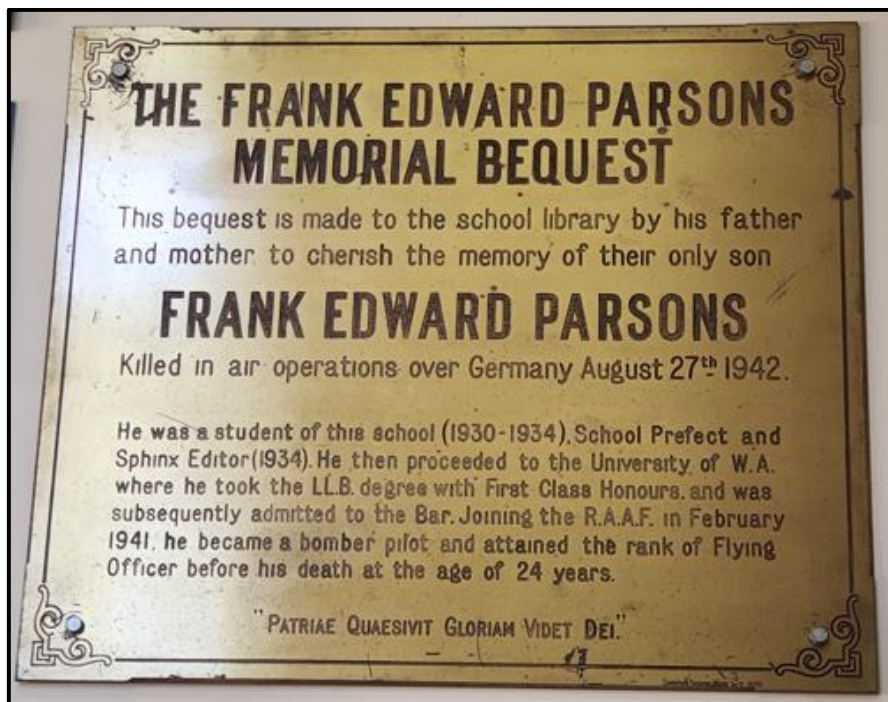
He was a student of this school (1930-34), School Prefect and Sphinx Editor (1934). He then proceeded to the University of W.A. where he took the LL.B. Degree with First Class Honours and was subsequently admitted to the Bar. Joining the R.A.A.F. in February 1941 he became a bomber pilot and attained the rank of Flying Officer before his death at the age of 24 years.

"Patriae Quaesivit Gloriam Videt Dei."

Ted's Wellington bomber was shot down during a mission to Kassel on the night of 27/28 August 1942. Ted and four others of the six-man crew were killed when the aircraft crashed at Gladbeck, near Essen in Germany. One member managed to bail out.

Ted is also commemorated at the University of Western Australia by the award of the Frank Edward Parsons Prize to the final-year student in the Bachelor of Laws degree who has displayed the most outstanding personal characteristics for leadership and service.

Ted Parsons' Memorial Plaque in Beasley Building, Perth Modern School



- The **Ralph Honner Memorial** is outside the Associate Principal's office at the west end of the main corridor in the Beasley building. Hyacinth Ralph (Jump) Honner was born in Three Springs on 17 August 1904 and attended Perth Modern School from 1918 to 1921. He trained as a teacher at Claremont Teachers' College and taught in Kalgoorlie and then at Hale School in Perth while studying law at the University of Western

Australia. In World War 2 he served with great distinction as a company commander in the 2/11th Battalion in the Middle East and on Crete.

However, he achieved his greatest military success as commander of the 39th Militia Battalion defending the Kokoda Track with inexperienced soldiers in 1942. He went on to command the 2/14th Battalion in the Markham Valley and Ramu Valley campaigns where he was badly wounded. He finished the war as a Lieutenant Colonel with the Distinguished Service Order and Military Cross.

Ralph served on several government boards until his retirement in 1968 when he became Ambassador to Ireland. In his later years he travelled to Europe and returned to Crete. He died in Sydney on 15 May 1994 aged 89. The memorial was designed by the well-known Western Australian historian and author Dr Bill Edgar, a great admirer of Ralph Honner, a former curator of Hale School's museum and a former teacher at Perth Modern School.

Ralph Honner Memorial

