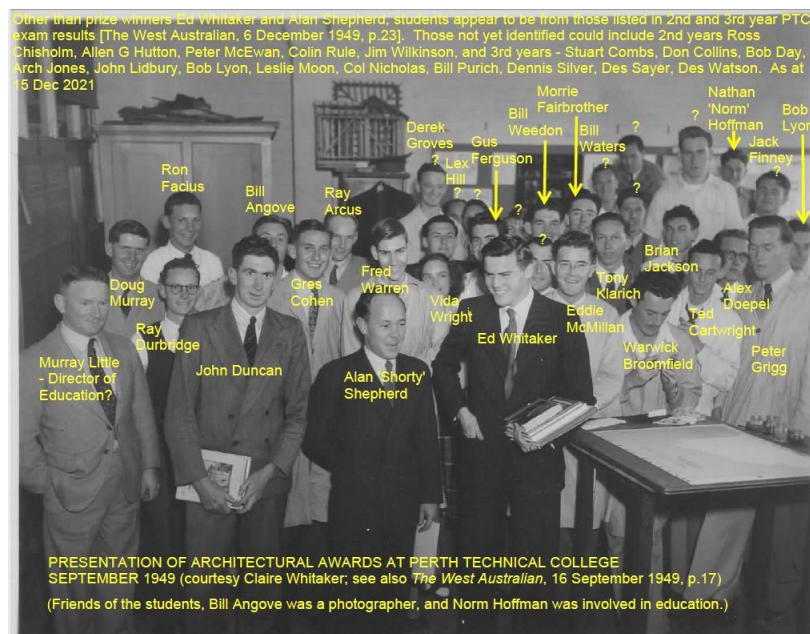




Brian Jackson returning from Rottnest Island c.1952 (Valerie Jackson)

Brian Thomas Jackson (1931-2019) was born 28 April 1931 at Nurse Ash's Private Hospital, Wasley Street in North Perth. His parents, printer Edward Francis (Frank) and Mary (nee Prindiville) Jackson had married in 1928. Brian had a younger sister Lynnette Ann, born in March 1936. Frank Jackson undertook Second World War (1939-1945) service from 1943, eventually travelling to Morotai, fortunately he was safely discharged in late 1945.

Brian attended St Louis College in Claremont from 1941 to 1948, and then entered the relatively new School of Architecture at Perth Technical College (PTC) under the directorship of William (Bill) H. Robertson (1905-1953). Robertson had assisted to launch the architectural course at PTC in 1946.



PTC students around Ed Whitaker, who is receiving the W.G. Bennett prize in September 1949.

Brian Jackson is at centre right (photo courtesy Claire Whitaker; names confirmed by Fred Warren, Bill Weedon, Gus Ferguson, Tony Brand)

Brian was the favourite nephew of his architect aunt, Marie Jackson-Harding (1916-1993) and she probably influenced his choice of career, as he had also considered studying engineering. Brian studied at PTC from 1949 to 1956, when he attained his Associateship in Architecture. This period involved 2 years of full-time and 5 years part-time study, whilst employed at the Public Works Department as a cadet architect. His graduating class included a number of architects who would become well-known in WA - including Tony Brand, Gus Ferguson, Garry Leighton, Gene Mapp and Bill Weedon.



Architecture students football match, half time at Perth oval, about 1953 (Bill Weedon)

In 1956 Brian Jackson and Valerie Anne Johnston were married at St Thomas the Apostle Church in Claremont. 'Val' recalls: *As a school student, Brian had showed talent in mathematics, had an excellent memory and generally handled the academic side well - he said "good at spelling- not very useful at football". He admitted that from 1949, combining work, study, competitive rowing, a growing interest in photography, and social life was often a struggle. He was therefore both relieved and proud to finally complete the course successfully.*

For a short period in 1956-1957 Brian worked in Perth for James W. Johnson (1919-2015), before travelling with Val on the *Moreton Bay* for South Africa in February 1957. The party of five on the ship included Gus Ferguson (1931-2024)

and his wife Clare, and Gene Mapp (1930-c.1995). The group arrived in Cape Town, where they bought a car, driving throughout Southern Africa before ending up in Salisbury, Rhodesia, now Harare, Zimbabwe. Africa was experiencing a copper boom, which promised easy employment for the recent graduates. Brian worked in Salisbury with architects F.W. Halford and A. Lloyd Spencer 1957-1958; and then gained further work experience in London, England with Howard Lobb & Partners and then Denis Clarke-Hall & Scorer during 1957-1960.



Architectural students and friends: Gene Mapp, Garry Leighton, Barbara Green, Tony Brand, unknown, Valerie Johnston, Brian Jackson, and 'Paddy' Malloch about 1953 (Valerie Jackson)

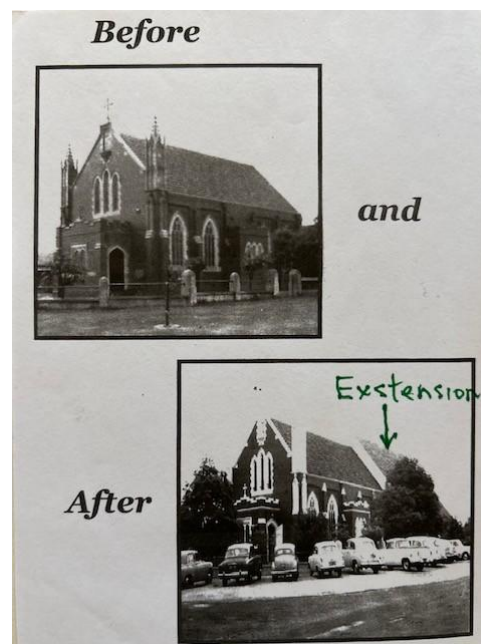
Val Jackson notes: *When we travelled overseas in 1957, in the company of our good friends Gus and Clare Ferguson, the intention was part adventure, part desire for overseas work experience, and particularly to see with our own eyes, places and buildings previously seen mostly in textbooks. For Brian and myself it was a very defining experience in our lives. We spent three and a half years away - travelled whenever we could, worked as required, took photos, and had our first daughter in London, while the others travelled overland back to Australia.*

Returning to Western Australia in 1960, Brian joined architects Silver Fairbrother & Associates. Denis Silver (b.1929, ABWA reg no 245) and Richard Morris Fairbrother (1928-2022, ABWA reg no 243) were both graduates of the PTC course in 1952. Brian registered as an architect with the Architects Board of Western Australia (no 365) in July 1961. He was part of the Silver Fairbrother design team that won first prize in the Commonwealth Games Village architectural competition of 1961, leading to the construction of over fifty houses in Floreat Park, a number of which are extant in relatively original form. Brian stayed with the Silver Fairbrother practice as it evolved into Silver Goldberg & Associates, then Silver Thomas Hanley (STH).



B.F. Prindiville Village North Perth of 1968 (Valerie Jackson)

Val Jackson recalls of Brian's work: *He was involved in work on shopping centres, schools and hospitals, but his major interest became aged care facilities, developed in conjunction with Southern Cross Homes. The first place was opened in 1968 and called B.F. Prindiville Village in North Perth. It comprised 14 duplex flats to house 32 senior citizens: very basic by current standards, without garages or individual laundries, but much loved by their first occupants. Over time different types of facilities were developed and Brian maintained both architectural and social interest in a variety of projects for over 30 years. I think he found it satisfying "useful" work, beneficial to ordinary people. Pet personal jobs were the small home he designed for our disabled granddaughter and her mother, in Claremont, and an extension to our parish church St Thomas.*



1963 extension of 1936 St Thomas Church at College Road Claremont (Valerie Jackson)

The enlargement work at the St Thomas' Church in Claremont was undertaken in 1962-1963 as a result of post-war immigration and the development of nearby Graylands and Mount Claremont. Built in 1936, the church had become too small for Sunday Mass attendances. With the assistance of structural engineer Peter Bruechle and contractors Bianchini Brothers, Brian worked through the intricacies of dealing with parish priest Fr Joseph McCormack, who would not allow his garage to be demolished. This constraint resulted in a sanctuary wider and higher than the remainder of the church, at the same roof pitch.

To develop his home-grown knowledge and skills, Brian travelled extensively around the world with Val over time, often combining visits to historic sites and buildings with the viewing of iconic modern buildings.



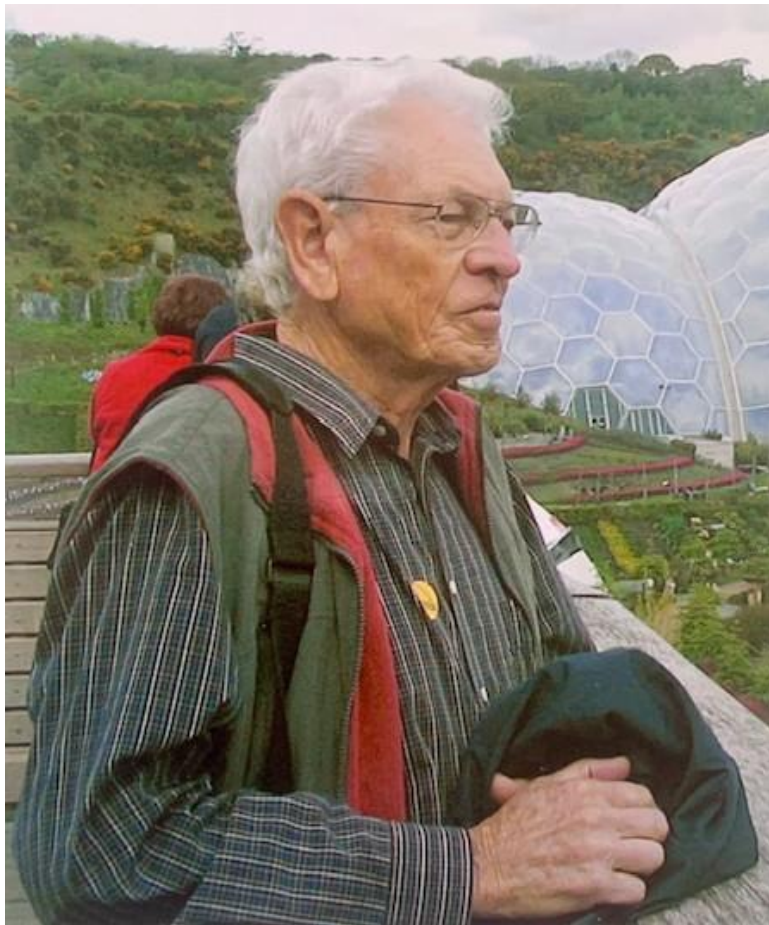
Photos of some of the architectural wonders viewed by the Jacksons: Mykonos chapel 1974; Parthenon Athens c.1976; Aigues-Mortes France 1998 (Valerie Jackson)

Val provides the closest knowledge of Brian's character: *although he didn't wish to be the star, he was always ambitious to be a useful person, competent, reliable team worker and produce work of a high standard. Disliked meetings. ...* Colleague Allan Davies (b.1942, ABWA reg no 464) recounted that: *Brian was a very quiet and competent back room architect that a lot of us ran problems past. He was always calm and informative and a such a steady factor for the practice.*

In 1988 the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) lists Brian at 13 Melville Street Claremont, the family home for thirty years from 1960. It was a modest weatherboard house, later extended, on a large block. There was lots of play space for kids and friends and later, the opportunity to build a house for a daughter at the bottom of the garden. Brian retired from STH in 1991 at the age of 60 as an Associate Director. He continued a small practice for a period in order to complete a project with Southern Cross Homes, business that he had taken

into the firm. Val notes that *In retirement Brian enjoyed a little golf, photography, travel and being home-handyman- fixing stuff, small problem solving.*

Brian was the convenor of the RAIA (WA) joint committee on contract cost fluctuations in 1986, and his professional qualities were acknowledged by the conferring of the honorific titles Associate of the RAIA in 1961, and Fellow of the RAIA in 1974. Brian Jackson died 20 July 2019 at Wembley aged 88 years, survived by Valerie; children Sarah, Marion, Clare and Tim; and grandchildren.



Brian Jackson at Project Eden, Cornwall in 2006 (Valerie Jackson)

A talented yet relatively unrecognised architect with a long and exemplary period of service to the profession in WA, Brian Jackson is a fine example of the great depth in the profession that followed from the first development of institutionalised architectural education in the State of WA. It is important to recognise that prior to the First World War of 1914-1918, the overwhelming majority of architects in WA had been born and trained elsewhere. This gradually changed during the Inter-War years (1919-1939), as more locally born individuals studied whilst under articulated arrangements with senior practitioners.

Thus Brian was one of the new breed of architects in WA in the highly-charged post Second World War development period. Although a few still chose to develop their skills through an article system (with Architect Board examinations), and immigration brought a small number of European refugee architects, the majority of WA architects at this time were locally-born and graduates of PTC. The close association of PTC graduates of the 1950s and 1960s gave this group a strong sense of familiarity and cohesion, and many soon travelled overseas together to absorb further international developments in modern architecture. They developed distinctive local domestic and commercial styles, now gaining further study and recognition.

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