



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

THE PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY (INC) AGM

**Draft Minutes of the 20th Annual General Meeting of the Society
held at the school
at 5.45 p.m. on 28th April 2015.**

Attendance: Peter Farr (President), Barrie Baker, Eve Broadley, Annemie McAuliffe, Irene Froyland, Sallie Davies, Alan Porter, Graeme Hunt, Stuart Gould, Frank Hedges, Ian Jarvis, Val Furphy, Alison Stevens, Darryl Williams, Geoff Soutar, Ken Michael, Jeanette McQueen, Bruce McCallum, Barbara Mallett, Deb Beresford.

Apologies:

Deirdre Owen, Lois Joll, Richard (Dick) Cairnes, Jennifer Golding, Kevin Parker, Rodney Willix, Janet Holmes a Court, Bill MacPherson, Gilbert George, Malcolm Murray, Sandra Raines, John Mortimer, Jim Davies, Jan Fauldes, Alex Kerr, Malcolm Evans, Daphne Cotton, Peter McGuire, Melinda Hodkiewicz, Don Tyler, Robyn White

Minutes of 2014 Meeting AGM: Eve Broadley proposed acceptance, seconded Barrie Baker. Carried.

President's Report. A copy of Peter Farr's full report is attached.

The Report concentrates upon an overview of 2014.

The President welcomed fellow Modernians and special guests to the twentieth Annual General Meeting. The Perth Modernian Society is dedicated to facilitating a mutually satisfying lifelong relationship between its members and the school. The School recognizes the important role of the Society as part of the wider school community: the staff and School Board express this as well as students our volunteers interact with, including classes who visit the History Centre and recipients of Sphinx scholarships.

For alumni who choose to stay engaged with the School the rewards are great. These include communications that keep you informed about the Society's programs; reconnecting with former classmates; entertaining and thought provoking events such as tonight's guest speaker, Val Furphy; access to the Historical and Museum Committee's extensive resources; supporting the Sphinx Foundation's aspirations and achievements; and assisting directly with some of the School's objectives and programs.

Governance

Peter Farr thanked the 2014 Council office bearers and volunteers - Vice Presidents Sallie Davies and Annemie McAuliffe Eve Broadley (Hon. Treasure), Deb Beresford (Hon. Secretary), Dr. Irene Froyland, Barrie Baker, Ian Jarvis, Peter Farr (President), and Lois Joll (Principal) (ex-officio). There were three vacancies on the council for much of 2014.

The Society worked cooperatively with the school administration and the school board on numerous occasions, including support in various ways for the "Build the Dream" appeal for the new Health and Fitness centre.

The Society is most grateful to Lois, Val Furphy, Steve Jurilj, Stacey Burton, Karen Wedemeyer and other staff for their assistance to the Society and its many volunteers in 2014.

The Society was delighted that distinguished Modernian, Dr Phillip Playford AO delivered the Perth Modernian Society Annual Oration to senior students in September 2014. Phillip's engrossing topic was titled "A Life of rocks, reefs, and Wrecks". It has been arranged with another distinguished Modernian Professor Shirley Randell AO, PhD, Hon.DLitt Pre-Service Secondary Training Program Specialist to deliver the fifth Annual Oration in August 2015.

During the year the Council sent a deputation to the Minister for Education to express concern about funding for Perth Modern School from 2015 onwards.

ANZAC Centenary

The ANZAC Centenary has greatly heightened the interest of the general public in WWI history and so it has been at Mod during 2014 culminating in the Centenary ANZAC service in the new **Tyler-McCusker**

Sports Centre on 24 April 2015, and the special ANZAC displays contributed by the Historical and Museum Committee for the School and the Town of Cambridge Library.

Keeping in Touch

Four e-newsletters were circulated during 2014 to all Registered Members with email addresses and the contributions of Members have made it a valuable communication channel for the Society. All issues are available on the website.

The Perth Modernian was mailed out in 2014 to Contributing Members. (Given the increasing mailing costs, this year it is intended to make the Annual Magazine available online. However the Magazine, e-newsletters, eVent notices and Annual Report will continue to be available in hard copy for Contributing Members who don't have access to email.)

The Perth Modernian Society Facebook Page, [<https://facebook.com/groups/1431544775697422/>] was set up about 5 years ago by Reece Harley and it currently has 308 members. Reece says that it is a good vehicle of communication for the younger generation, as it is quick and accessible. e.g. Music Teacher Celia Christmass placed an invitation "To past Mod Music Students" to join the 2015 Anzac Day Choir.

Historical and Museum Committee

The H & M Committee and its volunteers worked tirelessly on many tasks in 2014. Timelines developed for the School and former staff/student activities provided guidelines for:

Research for projects such as 100 years of the Sphinx magazine and a Heritage trail of the School are ongoing and in development.

Preparation of power point presentations, the display for ANZAC Day, and projects commissioned by the Principal have been undertaken.

A grant from Lotterywest increased computer capacity for the History Centre and Archives. Work is ongoing on the Biographical database and George Burvill Biographical Index. Google links to ex-Modernians' war graves site have also been entered.

Records previously held in the H&MC Members' Card Index dating back to 1974, together with other research undertaken by volunteers have been digitized.

Scanning of archived photographs and recording of artifacts and memorabilia into the MOSAiC database to provide digital access to the entire archival collection continues.

Restoration of the Science Collection is continuing although available expertise for this task has diminished.

Developing the Historical and Museum Committee Forward Plan 1914-17. It emphasizes the need for succession planning for leadership, recruitment of interested volunteers and financial development if expectations of the School and Society Membership are to be met in the future.

The Council appreciates the dedication of volunteers who contribute many hours to the History Centre and Archives each week. However their work will require paid support if it is to grow and serve members and the School in a meaningful way.

Perth Modern School Board.

As an Independent Public School (IPS), Perth Modern School has a School Board comprising the Principal, parents, staff and members of the general community. Since its inception, the Society has nominated one of the Board's Community members. The Society's Hon. Secretary and archivist Deb Beresford represented Modernians on the School Board. Deb has completed her term of office and the Council was pleased to appoint Dr Irene Froyland to take over this important role from the beginning of 2015.

The functions of IPS Boards are intended to be high level in that they take part in establishing and reviewing the school's objectives, priorities and general policy and have a role of over sighting financial arrangements to fund these. They also have a role in evaluating the school's performance in achieving them. The Boards are expected to promote their school in the community but not intervene in the control and management of the school or in the educational instruction. They have no authority over any persons employed at the school.

It is important that Modernians understand the role of the Board in the functioning of today's Perth Modern School. We appreciate the invitation to participate and we are committed to promoting the School wherever and whenever possible.

Premises

The Society is very fortunate to have an office in the Beasley Building and Archive Room as well as the History Centre. Unfortunately the History Centre suffered from a leaking roof, which was not conducive to storing historically important memorabilia, artifacts and documents. The Society is grateful that the School Administration found a way this April to get the roof of the History Centre retiled.

Inaugural 4-year Strategic Plan

The Perth Modernian Society is a member-based association, which has to be relevant and offer members things that they value, which in 2014 led the Council to set about producing a 4-year Strategic Plan. Funding was sought and secured from **Lotterywest** to engage a facilitator and representatives invited from stakeholder groups to attend two workshops in April 2014. The six Strategic Focus Areas were determined to be: *Financial sustainability; Broaden membership; Human resource planning; IT systems; Governance; and Support to Perth Modern School and the community at large.*

The resultant Strategic Plan - which fits on the front and back of one A4 sheet - was launched at the Annual Reunion in late August 2014.

FOCUS AREAS	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES
Financial Sustainability	<i>Build a financially strong and sustainable Society.</i>
Society Membership	<i>Grow and broaden membership with deeper relationships supported by relevant Member services.</i>
Resource Planning 1	<i>Establish and maintain a full complement of Society Office Bearers and Councillors with succession plans in place.</i>
Resource Planning 2	<i>Increase the pool of volunteers to support the Society's activities.</i>
Resource Planning 3	<i>Provide information, communication and technology (ICT) infrastructure, including technical expertise succession plans, to meet the current and future technology needs of the Society.</i>
Governance	<i>Establish a sound and effective standard of governance throughout the Society, including committees of the Society and the Sphinx Foundation.</i>
School & Community Support	<i>The Society continues to provide and establish new innovative, relevant and value-adding support programs and services to the School and Community</i>

Printed copies are available for interested members and other stakeholders, or a copy may be downloaded from the Society's website. The Strategic Plan identifies that growing the financial membership is the top priority for the Society to be sustainable.

Financial Statements

The Hon. Treasurer Eve Broadley has prepared the Financial Statements for the Society. Echoing discussion at the 2014 AGM, the Council of the Society resolved in February 2015:

- A. *That the Society discontinues engaging auditors for all accounts other than that of the Sphinx Scholarship Fund and seeks endorsement of this at the next AGM.*
- B. *That all financial recommendations be referenced against the current Society Strategic Plan.*

Accordingly external audits have not been commissioned for the Society or the Sphinx Foundation Inc. for the 2014 Financial Year. The external audit of the Sphinx Scholarship Fund for 2014 was completed in mid-April 2015, and no adverse findings were reported.

Income and Expenditure - Perth Modernian Society Inc.

In 2014, Income amounted to \$27,140 and Expenses \$22,325, giving a net Operating Profit of \$4,815, and leaving the Society with a net cash at bank at 31/12/2014 of \$16,017. [One liability of \$125 - being for transfer of donations to H&M Committee.]

The main recurrent cost items comprised: Audit (\$935), Newsletters (\$1,982), Printing, Stationery & Postage (\$3,501), IT, Communications and website hosting (\$2,505), Insurance (\$1,525).

Membership Trends

Changes in memberships over the past five years are summarized in the table below:

Year ended December:	New 4-Year Contributing Members	Total 4-Year Contributing Members	Registered Members
2010	23	563	3196
2011	40	603	3366
2012	96	699	3758
2013	35	734	3638
2014	77	811	3559

A successful drive was conducted in March-April 2014 to enroll new members and to induce members who have paid a once-off joining fee to convert to 4-year Contributing Membership. The Strategic Plan focused very much on the need to expand membership - especially in the post scholarship era cohorts, and to entice more members to volunteer their services so that the workload can be spread better and so that more can be achieved where gaps have been identified. I am sorry to report that 82 deaths of Modernians were recorded in the database in 2014 (but there could well be more); they comprised: 15 Contributing members, 45 Registered and 27 Un-registered.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

The aforementioned Strategic Plan recognises that in this day and age a member-based organisation such as the Society is extremely dependent on ICTs, and that it is a continual challenge to maintain the desired functionality and performance, combined with security and reliability. ICTs have become a significant part of the Society's recurrent and capital costs. The interdependent components include planning/design, ICT equipment, software packages, in-house expertise, external contractors, and adequately trained users. A large load has fallen on Ian Jarvis to keep things running and I appeal to any members who have some ICT expertise to volunteer their services to help out.

The Society was fortunate to obtain a grant in 2014 of about \$5,700 from **Lotterywest** for renewal of some of our IT equipment.

Due to circumstances outside our control, during 2014 the Society was forced to plan for the changeover to a different platform for dispatch of the quarterly eNewsletters and also for the hosting of the website. (Subsequently undertaken in March/April 2015).

2014 Annual Reunion

The 2014 Reunion on 31 August inadvertently coincided with the Activ Fun Run which, given the road closures, caused problems for many attendees. On a positive note, attendance was good and the opportunity was taken to conduct a short written survey regarding preferences for Annual Reunion timing, format, etc.

(The 2015 Annual Reunion will be held at the School at 11am to 2:30pm on Saturday 5th September.)

Perth Modernian Society Honours Awards

At last year's AGM, we launched the Perth Modernian Society Honours Awards, comprising three categories:

- Modernian Fellow
- Honorary Member of the Perth Modernian Society

- Moderna Scola Award.

Members are encouraged to make nominations in confidence, and a nomination form can be downloaded via the Society's website, or by telephoning 08-9380 0550, or by sending an email to awards@perthmoderniansociety.org.au.

At the 2014 Annual Reunion on 31st August, three very worthy inaugural Modernian Fellows, namely Sallie Davies, Malcolm McCusker and Donald Tyler were announced. Certificates and mementos were presented to them at an awards ceremony/morning tea at the School in December 2014, and they each made a short speech acknowledging their long-standing attachment to the School and what the honour means to them. This award entitles them to particular consideration in all Society matters and functions. Their names in gold lettering are displayed on a jarrah honour board in the McCusker Room at the School.

Sphinx Foundation Inc

Governance: In 2014 the **Board of Directors** comprised: Al Koenig (Chairman), Barrie Baker (Hon. Secretary), Peter Farr (Treasurer), Eve Broadley and Petrice Judge, with Val Furphy (Associate Principal) (ex-officio) representing the School. (In Feb. 2015 Al Koenig resigned and Barrie Baker is Acting Chairman *pro tem*. Expressions of Interest are sought from Members who would like to join the Board of Directors.)

With the assistance again of Emeritus Professor Lesley Parker, the Board played a big part in the process of advertising for and selecting scholarship and bursary winners. A record amount of \$28,500 was distributed to 30 Awardees in December 2014 and Feb. 2015. The School and the Sphinx Foundation received thank you letters/emails from a large proportion of the Awardees.

An Annual Giving Appeal to raise funds to enable 3-year entry scholarships to be converted to 4-year scholarships from 2015 was conducted in May 2014 and very pleasingly resulted in 44 donors contributing ~\$39,000. In addition, 19 other donors contributed \$16,550 to bring the year's total donations to the figure of \$55,700. The support of some 180 donors to the end of 2014 has raised \$584,500 and has permitted the Sphinx Foundation Board between 2010 and Dec. 2014 to provide 112 awards totaling \$109,000 to incoming students (Years 7 and 8) with demonstrated financial needs or other circumstances, or to Year 10 students who have demonstrated high achievement in specific academic subjects. As a result of the generosity of donors and the prudent investment of donations the fund as at 31 December 2014, stood at \$640,000. (This was up from \$585,000 the previous year at that date 31/12/13.) With the awarding of scholarships and bursaries since that date and the receipt of new donations, the Fund stands at about \$694,000. Special mention must be made of donors who have donated two or more times, in particular Modernian Fellow, Don Tyler. Very recently he has also enabled the funding of three perpetual scholarships in the physical and natural sciences, which will be available to completing Year 10 students from the end of 2015

The Future

As a member-focussed association, the Society wants to be responsive and hence invites feedback or suggestions on any matter of interest or concern from members. Now that the 4-year Strategic Plan is in place, the Society must work assiduously to make progress on the six Strategic Focus Areas mentioned earlier. I wish to stress that resourcing the History Centre (money and man-hours) stands out as a great collective challenge for caring members of the Society. I conclude by sincerely thanking on your behalf the Society's Councillors, the H&M Committee, the Sphinx Foundation Board, other volunteers, and special contributors for the enormous amount of work and goodwill that they put in to so many projects during 2014.

Peter Farr FAIM, FAICD

28/4/2015

Treasurer's Report:

Eve Broadley (Treasurer) tabled the Financial Report for the Perth Modernian Society for the year ended 31st December 2014.

Funds in bank \$15892

Eve explained that two grants totaling \$8448 was received during the year from Lotterywest to enable the Society to conduct a strategic planning seminar and to purchase computer hardware equipment. AFL Football parking amount of \$3000 was a portion of funds collected by PMSociety volunteers and paid over by the School.

Eve Broadley moved that the Financial Report be accepted. Seconded Irene Froyland. Carried.

Membership Report

As mentioned in the President's report 82 members died last year. Unfortunately promotional material for the graduating class of 2014 was not distributed. The school has sent out information and plans are in hand for the membership material to be given to the cohort of 2015 at the end of the year.

Nominations and election for the Council

Don Cook and Wendy Dekkers retired during the year.

Nominations from the floor.

Bruce McCallum and Barbara Mallett nominated.

Current members seeking re-election

Annemie McAuliffe, Irene Froyland and Eve Broadley re-nominated. Peter Farr moved the nominations of all. Seconded Sallie Davies. Carried

Principal's Report.

In the absence of the Principal, Lois Joll, who was an apology to the meeting, Acting Principal Val Furphy gave the Principal's report.

The School community is very proud of the academic achievement of the students. The Graduating year 12's had significantly high ATAR scores with 100% doing WACE.

The Year 7 students have integrated into the School very well. They are housed in the Stokes Building for the first semester.

With regards to Scholarships, they are available at entry and at year 10. 20% of our students come from low-income families. Those supported by scholarships and bursaries give a lot back to the school by getting involved in extracurricular and school activities. Opportunity has made a great difference to these students. They blend in and are supported. Older students who receive academic scholarships may use the money to attend conferences etc.

The Perth Modern School Community sincerely appreciates the valuable work of our Modernians.

Proposed Resolution.

That the members present at the 2015 AGM endorse the February 2015 decision of the Council of the Society that henceforth only the Sphinx Scholarship Fund be requires to have an external audit conducted.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015 DRAFT RESOLUTION

PREAMBLE

Under the Constitution of the Society, Clause 36, **'The accounts of the Society shall be subject to audit...'**.

At present, there are four sets of accounts kept by the Society and its subsidiaries:

- 1 Perth Modernian Society Inc.
 - Anglican Community Fund/Westpac General Account, which currently holds around \$16,000.

- 2 Historical and Museum Committee
 - CBA Account and Term Deposits presently totalling about \$13,000.
- 3 Sphinx Foundation Inc.
 - CBA Account currently around \$1,300.
- 4 Sphinx Scholarship Fund
 - JB Were Cash Management Account plus a range of income generating listed and unlisted investments, presently totalling over \$650,000 and growing.

The first three of these are essentially working accounts, with modest capacity to grow.

Account No. 2 above has not been audited.

Accounts 1 and 3 have been audited at an annual cost of around \$1,000 each.

Account 4 has an annual audit cost of around \$1,500.

There is no argument that No4, The Sphinx Foundation Scholarship Account, should be audited, due to its size and complex transactions.

The other three accounts are essentially running accounts, meeting day-to-day type expenses.

There is no requirement under State or Commonwealth law or regulation for such accounts to be audited, and the limited money they hold means that the audit cost is a real burden. In fact, an audit of the Sphinx Foundation would require drawing on Sphinx Scholarship Fund money, which is undesirable.

The Council of the Society resolved in February 2015:

- C. *The Society discontinues engaging auditors for all accounts other than that of the Sphinx Scholarship Fund and seeks endorsement of this at the next AGM.*
- D. *All financial recommendations be referenced against the current Society Strategic Plan.*

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

That the Members present at the 2015 AGM endorse the February 2015 decision of the Council of the Society that henceforth only the Sphinx Scholarship Fund be required to have an external audit conducted.

Barrie Baker moved that the proposed resolution be accepted. Seconded Annemie McAuliffe. Carried.

General Business

On behalf of the meeting, Barrie Baker thanked the President Peter Farr for his excellent report and presentation.

The meeting closed at 7.00 p.m.