



## PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

### PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY (INC) AGM

Draft Minutes of the 21st Annual General Meeting of the Society  
held at Perth Modern School  
at 5.45 p.m. on 27th April 2016.

**Attendance:** Peter Farr (President), Barrie Baker, Annemie McAuliffe, Sallie Davies, Lois Joll, Ian Bain, Stuart Gould, Darryl Williams, Geoff Soutar, Jeanette McQueen, Petrice Judge, Janet Holmes à Court, Ruth Barret, George Barrett (visitor), Ronda Beck, Laurie Best, Phil Best, Richard Lugg, Philip Jennings, Jillian Thompson, Kaye Barr, Barbara Mallett, Deirdre Owen, Deb Beresford.

**Apologies:**

Eve Broadley, Irene Froyland, Graeme Hunt 1957-59, Ian Jarvis, Jenny Golding (nee Killey) 1950-54, Kevin Parker 1950-54, Jim Davies, Jennet Harvey (nee Archer) 1954-58, Tony Tate 1959-63, Don Cook 1957-61, Pamela Millar 1959-63, June Stephenson, June Brimson (nee Thompson), Tricia Kotai-Ewers

**Minutes of 2015 Meeting AGM:** Sallie Davies proposed acceptance, seconded Annemie McAuliffe. Carried.

Business Arising from the minutes.

It had previously been resolved that from 2015 only the Sphinx Scholarship Fund be audited. This has happened.

**2015 Annual Report.**

This is fully comprehensive along lines required by corporate good governance. (NB A full copy of the 2015 Annual Report is on the Portal).

**President's Report**

A copy of Peter Farr's full report is included in the 2015 Annual Report prepared 7/4/2016. The Report concentrates upon an overview of 2015. Peter presented a PowerPoint version of the report to the meeting.

A summary of the report is attached.

The President thanked on members' 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 2015.

Under the heading 'Shaping the Future - Challenges', the President concluded his report by highlighting these items to members:

- Our Strategic Plan identifies that growing the financial membership is the Society's 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, we 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 both for the Council and as volunteers.
- The Council is supporting the School's 'Raise the Roof' fundraising campaign for a new multi-purpose auditorium.

**Treasurer's Report**

In the absence of Eve Broadley (Treasurer), Peter Farr tabled the Financial Report for the Perth Modernian Society for the year ended 31st December 2015.

Income and Expenditure 2015 FY:

- Income amounted to \$14,463 and Expenses \$12,240, giving a net Operating Profit of \$2,223.

- The main recurrent cost items comprised: Newsletters (\$1,272), Printing, Stationery & Postage (\$935), IT, Communications and website hosting (\$3,116), Insurances (\$1,596).
- The Society had net cash at bank at 31/12/2015 of \$18,164.
- The anniversary occurred in 2015 of the inaugural Contributing Members who subscribed in 2010 and 2011 to the 4-Year financial contribution. Accordingly, renewal notice were sent to these Members in late 2015.
- The Contributing fee was raised by \$20 to \$120 for 4 years to help cover increased costs faced by the Society.

#### NOTES

1. Perth Modernian Society Council organized resources to conduct the football parking for one AFL game in 2015, with the money collected going to Perth Modern School. The School subsequently contributed \$2,873 to the Society as its share of the overall income from parking in 2015.
2. The accounts of the Society are no longer audited following a resolution passed at the 2015 Annual General Meeting.
3. Computer hardware was purchased with the balance of funds the Society received in 2014 as a grant from Lotterywest.

Peter Farr thanked Eve Broadley in her absence and moved that the Financial Report be received. Seconded by D. Beresford. Carried

#### Membership Report

Covered in the President's Report.

#### Nominations and election for the Council

Nominations from the floor.

None. Geoffrey Soutar will be happy to be seconded to the Council in a few months time.

Current members seeking re-election: Barrie Baker and Deb Beresford were re-nominated. Peter Farr moved the nominations of both. Seconded Annemie McAuliffe. Carried

#### Principal's Report

The Principal, Lois Joll, delivered her report.

On behalf of the School The Principal acknowledged the amazing work of the Society and the History Centre. It is important for students to follow examples and to recognize and give back and contribute to society. The Perth Modern School Newsletter is published 4 times a year and has grown to 36 pages of students' achievements. Students are doing extraordinarily well with the top 3 students in WACE for 2015 having attended Perth Modern School. Many others were successful in gaining Exhibitions.

Middle school, Years 7, 8 and 9, study a compacted curriculum over 2 years. Year 10 is for enrichment. A 7-line grid has been created which enables Years 10, 11 and 12 to take WACE courses. Many complete a Year 12 course in Year 11. Many students, 25-30, now go on to the Australian National University, Melbourne University and Monash University on scholarships. Many complete over 100 hours of Community Service, which can help gain those scholarships. Many attend national, and International study tours. By the end of Year 12 students may have completed 6 or 7 Courses of Study (subjects).

Incorporated into the Newsletters are biographies of Modernians. The Principal encouraged the Perth Modernians to purchase the new book of the stories of over 160 amazing Modernians. "A Celebration of Contribution: Tales of the courage, commitment and creativity of Modernians" It will be launched late in June. The School community is behind the new initiative to build a new state-of-the-art 700 seat multi-purpose auditorium. Plans have been drawn up and there are already pledges of \$3.5million dollars. \$9.5 million is needed. Modernians are asked to please support 'Raise the Roof' fundraising appeal for this project.

#### General Business

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

The meeting closed at 6.55 p.m.

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Then followed an illustrated talk by Modernian (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.

## **ATTACHMENT**

### **President's Report 2015 - Summary**

In its 20<sup>th</sup> year, the Society continued to blossom in 2015 and achieved many good things. Modernians collectively again proved to be one of Perth Modern School's most valuable assets. Many volunteers are preserving the history of the school through involvement with the History Centre and Archives. Many other Modernians have contributed to funding scholarships.

#### ***Overview of 2015 activities***

##### Governance

Peter Farr (President) sincerely thanked the 2015 Council office bearers and volunteers - Sallie Davies and Annemie McAuliffe, (Vice Presidents), Eve Broadley (Hon. Treasure), Deb Beresford (Hon. Secretary), Dr. Irene Froyland, Barrie Baker, Ian Jarvis, (Communications), Bruce McCallum and Barbara Mallet. Lois Joll (Principal) reported to Council meetings about school activities, achievements and issues.

##### Initiatives in 2015

In 2015 the Council commenced three valuable administrative initiatives.

- Self-assessment survey – completed by all Councilors and collated and analysed by Bruce McCallum.
- Perth Modernian Society Council Annual Calendar of events.
- A new telephone number whereby a caller leaves a message that is then automatically forwarded by email to a Councillor who deals with the matter.

The Society worked cooperatively with the school administration and the School Board in numerous ways. Links continue to grow. In 2015 the Council commenced the practice of inviting representatives of the other constituent bodies to address an ordinary meeting of Council. The first to do so was Professor Michael Henderson, Chair of the School Board.

The Society applauds the School for commissioning a book to cover the careers/contributions of ex-Students of the school.

Councilors, volunteers and donors were appreciative to be invited to a range of impressive school events in 2015.

##### Premises

The Society is very fortunate to have an Archive Room in the Parsons Building, as well as the History Centre. The Society is most grateful that the School Administration found a way in April 2015 to overcome a damaging leak by getting the roof of the History Centre retiled.

Keeping in Touch.

##### Communications

The e-newsletter is sent out quarterly to some 1,000 members

Perth Modernian Society portal [www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au](http://www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au)

eVent notices

The 16-page magazine, "The Perth Modernian". Given increasing mailing costs, in July 2015, the Annual Magazine was distributed via email to Contributing members with email addresses and mailed only to those who had not.

The Perth Modernian Facebook Page

Council agreed in 2015 that the Annual Report for the 2015 calendar year would be prepared for distribution in hard copy at the AGM at the end of April 2016, and to be available on the website thereafter.

Due to circumstances outside its control, during 2014 the Society was forced to plan for the changeover to a different platform for dispatch of the quarterly e-Newsletters and the hosting of the website. This was undertaken in March/April 2015 with many thanks to Ian Jarvis for the time and effort he put into this and other ICT matters.

The Perth Modernian Society Facebook group was set up about 5 years ago by former Councilor, Reece Harley. As at February 2016 it had 328 members many of who are from the younger generation of Modernians.

The ANZAC centenary in 2015 greatly heightened the interest of the general public in WW1 history. The Centenary ANZAC service was held in the new Tyler-McCusker Centre on 24 April 2015. There were special interpretive displays developed with the Historical and Museum Committee by the Town of Cambridge Library and the History Centre volunteers for the School.

##### Annual Oration

Distinguished Modernian, Professor Shirley Randell AO, delivered the fifth Annual Oration to senior students and visitors in August 2015. Her topic was "Global Citizenship: Learning to contribute to and take part in a

Wider World.” Shirley has since indicated her desire to fund a Sphinx Scholarship in the Social Justice area, which the Sphinx Foundation and PMS have recently confirmed they are delighted to facilitate.

#### Reunions

Considerable effort has been made to re-vitalise the attendance at the Annual Reunion and in 2015 numbers were up. A plaque was unveiled in honour of former student, teacher and Old Modernian President, Eric Strauss with the naming in his honour of the new Sports facility near the History Centre.

Thanks go to Vice President Annemie McAuliffe and Guest M.C. Rebecca Dollery (1999-2003) of ABC fame, for their part in the Annual Reunion day’s success.

Thank you also to Annemie McAuliffe and Irene Froyland for their efforts in providing an information service for organisers of class/year reunions.

#### History Centre and Archives

The biographical database has been named in honour of its creator, Ian Jarvis. The Council is thankful for the dedication of the volunteers who contribute more than 3000 hours to the History Centre and Archives; many enquiries are dealt with as well as visitors to the Centre including classes. Research projects have included the Heritage Trail, 100 years of Sphinx Magazine, Thomas Street, and assistance with the book “A Celebration of Contribution: Tales of the courage, commitment and creativity of Modernians” to be launched in June 2016. All this work will require paid support if it is to grow and continue to serve members, the School and the wider community in a meaningful way. This was partly the motivation for the Council resolving in 2015 to set about creating a special tax-deductible Museum Fund.

#### Constitution Amendments

To this end, the first step taken was to set about amending the Society’s Constitution so that a Museum Fund set up by the Society would potentially be eligible for Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status by the ATO. The fairly minor amendments were put and carried at a Special Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2015. Work is progressing on the application to the ATO for DGR status. If this is successful, it will be another milestone for the Society. The Society’s updated constitution is on the website: [www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au](http://www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au)

The Association and Charities, Registration Section advised Council that the Constitution would need further amendment to comply with the Associations Incorporation Bill 2014. However, to allow time for existing incorporated associations such as the Perth Modernian Society to ensure that its rules comply with the new law, the general requirements for content of rules in the new law will not apply to an existing association until the expiry of a transition period of 3 years after the new Associations Incorporation Act 2015 commences (1 July 2016). This is to give existing incorporated associations plenty of time in which to ensure their rules comply with the new law. The task of Constitution Revision will be significant and the Society will most likely need legal assistance.

#### 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 Council was very pleased to nominate Dr. Irene Froyland as its nominee from the beginning of 2015.

#### Membership Trends

Levels remained steady, but regrettably a significant number of members passed away in 2015. The Society’s Strategic Plan 2014-2017 focuses very much on the need to expand membership – especially in the post-scholarship cohort, 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.

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

<b>Year ended December:</b>	<b>New 4-Year Contributing Members</b>	<b>Total 4-Year Contributing Members</b>	<b>Registered Members</b>
2010	29	471	3196
2011	18	494	3366
2012	85	580	3758
2013	35	614	3638
2014	108	722	3559
2015	38	765	3583

## Finances

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 2015 Financial Year. The external audit of the Sphinx Scholarship Fund for 2015 was completed without any issues being raised in March 2016.

Income and Expenditure – Perth Modernian Society Inc.

In 2015, Income amounted to \$14,463 and Expenses \$12,240, giving a net Operating Profit of \$2223, and leaving the Society with a net cash at bank at 31/12/2015 of \$18,164.

The main recurrent cost items comprised: Newsletters (\$1,272), Printing, Stationery & Postage (\$935), IT, Communications and website hosting (\$3,116), Insurance (\$1,596).

Net function cash inflows amounted to \$1160 after a payment of a donation to the Music Department as thanks for staging a memorable concert for Annual Reunion attendees.

The Society was grateful to be given the opportunity to run football parking for an AFL game, which resulted in a payment of \$2873 back to the Society. Without this income, the Society would have run at a small loss for the year.

## Sphinx Foundation Inc

Governance: In 2015 the Board of Directors comprised: Al Koenig (to February 2015), Barrie Baker (Hon. Secretary), Peter Farr (Hon. Treasurer), Eve Broadley and Petrice Judge, with Val Furphy (Associate Principal) (ex-officio) representing the School

The Sphinx Scholarship Fund is independently audited and the Sphinx Foundation reports annually as required to the ACNC (Australian Charities and Not for profits Commission). 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 \$42,360 was distributed to 43 Awardees in February 2016. Of these 21 were new awards and 22 were renewals. The School and donors received thankyou letters/emails from a large proportion of 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 2015 and very pleasingly resulted in 58 donors contributing \$29,000. In addition, 6 other donors contributed \$57,000 for specific scholarships to bring the year's total donations to the figure of \$86,000.

The support of some 250 donors to the end of 2015 has raised \$671,000 and has permitted the Sphinx Foundation Board between 2010 and February 2016 to provide 131 awards totalling \$151,000 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. 2015 was the first year that four scholarships in the Sciences and Maths have been awarded – this was made possible by the generosity of Don Tyler and several other Modernians.

The Sphinx Foundation Board has set itself four principal targets for 2016.

- (i) Board expansion and sharing of the workload associated with the Scholarship Fund.
- (ii) investing wisely and managing investments prudently in an exceedingly challenging investing climate
- (iii) raising approximately \$35,000 through the Annual Giving appeal to complete the task of converting 3-year entry scholarships to 4 years; and

(iv) to make further headway on establishing academic excellence scholarships in all remaining learning areas – Technology and Enterprise, Social Science, Politics/Law, Languages, Health and Physical Education and the Arts, with the aim of promoting excellence and assist with education costs in Years 11 and 12.

With respect to (i), following due diligence, two excellent candidates for Directors were invited to join the Board at the end of 2015 and in February 2016 the Council of the Perth Modernian Society endorsed the appointment of Jeanette McQueen (1961) and Nigel Hunt (present parent of PMS student). With six Directors, the Board now has greater capacity to share the workload and pursue new initiatives.

### Shaping the Future - Challenges

- As a member-focussed association, the Council is looking to try and create events that will appeal more to younger generations of Modernians. The Council is hoping that the Facebook Group may be a vehicle to assist in communicating better with the younger cohort.
- Resourcing the History Centre (money and man hours) stands out as a great collective challenge. To this end work is progressing on the application to the ATO for tax-deductible status.
- A Webmaster is needed who can keep the Society's portal relevant and current.
- The task of Constitution Revision caused by the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 will be significant and the Society will most likely need legal assistance.

I sincerely thank on members' 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 2015.

**Peter Farr FAIM, FAICD**