

CITATION FOR PETER FARR – Honour Award 2017

Peter Farr was a student at Perth Modern School from 1954 to 1958. At school he was an Air Cadet Under Officer and matriculated with distinguished academic results. He completed an honours degree in electronic engineering and did postgraduate studies in economics and psychology, as well as a master's degree in British Columbia.

He worked for the British Columbia Telephone Company, and for Telecom Australia for 20 years, before working as a management and electronics consultant for Coopers and Lybrand. Latterly he has worked as an independent consultant, is a member of a number of boards and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Peter joined the Sphinx Foundation in 2008 and as treasurer, after the retirement of Ross Ledger later that year, immediately threw himself into the new project of setting up the Sphinx Scholarship Scheme. He applied his considerable knowledge and experience to guide the definition and scope the scheme. He recommended the setting up of the Sphinx Scholarship Fund, and worked for it to gain Deductible Gift Recipient status for tax exemption of donations.

He arranged for consultant Ms Jo Agnew to prepare two expert reports which provided master plans for the subsequent launch and conduct of the Sphinx Scholarship appeal. His energy and expertise have been major factors in the outstanding success of the appeal since its launch in 2009.

Being a member of the Council of the Perth Modernian Society, he has continued this work as Treasurer of the of the Sphinx Foundation, while holding the position of President of the Perth Modernian Society since April 2013.

Recently he is leading the Modernians in their attempt to prevent the 'decommissioning' of Perth Modern School as a selective school, with the subsequent transfer of the existing students to a high rise building in the CBD.