

WELCOME

Hi

WELCOME to The Perth Modernian e-Newsletter offering two way communication with members and potential members. We bring to you news, event details and articles from the Society, its members and Perth Modern School. We hope you find the newsletter both interesting and informative.



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER
(08) 6189 3690

All messages received either by phone or email are immediately passed on electronically for acknowledgement and further action.

2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

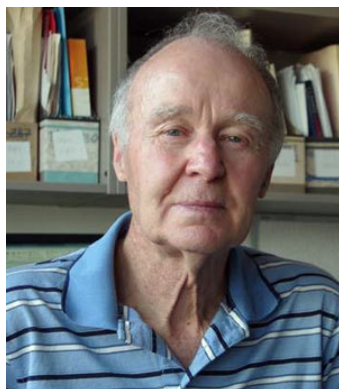
will be held on **Wednesday 27 April** commencing at **5.15pm** in the Staff Room, Andrews Building.

Refreshments will be served.

Nomination forms for members interested in election to Council are available for download [here](#).

Guest Speaker

Emeritus Professor Philip Jennings AM, PMS student 1957-58
"The Mutual Relationship between Science and Conservation"



Philip Jennings AM is the Emeritus Professor of Physics and Energy Studies at Murdoch University. He completed a Bachelor of Science with honours in Physical Chemistry at the University of Western Australia in 1962 and a PhD in Chemical Physics from Harvard University in 1967.

He was a Foundation member of the academic staff in physics when Murdoch University opened in 1975. Prior to that he held post doctoral positions at Bell Laboratories in the USA and Flinders University in SA and was a lecturer in Physics at the University of NSW from 1971 to 1974.

Philip retired in April 2012 but he remains active in research and community service at Murdoch University.

Philip Jennings is an expert in photovoltaics, particularly amorphous silicon solar cells and attempts to improve their efficiency and stability, and has been involved in renewable energy research and education for more than 25 years, leading a range of educational programs in renewable energy at the University.

DIARY DATES

For further information

www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au

NEW! Telephone: (08) 6189 3690
All messages received either by phone or email are immediately passed on
info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

2016 Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 27 April 2016

Nominations for Council now open

Guest Speaker, Philip Jennings AM
"The Mutual Relationship between Science and Conservation"
Refreshments served
Further details this issue

REUNIONS 2016

Further information available
www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au
Organisers please contact
reunions@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

2016 ANNUAL REUNION
with Orchestral Concert
Sunday 11 September 2016
Class Reunions 2016

Class of 1953
Friday 13th May
For further information
see Reunions (this issue)

Class of 1986**
30 Year Reunion
19 March 2016
For further information contact
reunions@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

Class of 1955**
1955 Catch-up
14 May 2016

****Refers to Year 5(12) as core final year**

PUBLICATIONS

AS A FORMER STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER OF PERTH MODERN SCHOOL...

... and a **REGISTERED MEMBER** of the Perth Modernian Society (Inc) you are receiving this quarterly Perth Modernian e-Newsletter to keep in touch with what is happening.

As a **CONTRIBUTING MEMBER** you can take advantage of the special discount offered for the Annual Reunion as well as receiving your personal copy of the Society's *Annual Report* and the *Annual Perth Modernian Magazine for Contributing Members*. Not only will you receive more information but you can make things happen for yourself AND for others.

PRIDE IN ACHIEVEMENT



e-NEWSLETTER

Do you have something to say?
Memories to share?

[Where are YOU now?](#)

Send your news item
and/or photographs to ...
newsletter@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

Next Issues

Copy deadline: **20 May 2016**
for circulation by 1 June 2016
then

20 Sep for circulation by Oct 1

20 Nov for circulation Dec 1

THE PERTH MODERNIAN

Magazine for Contributing Members

Register for Contributing Membership in
time for circulation late July 2016.

eVent Notice will provide e-link to

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS ONLY

*At the 2015 Year 12 Presentation Night in December 2015 Perth Modern School Head of Health and Physical Education Toni Jones presented **Adele Williams** with the Sports Citizen of the Year award. This award recognized Adele's outstanding contribution to coaching and mentoring younger students.*

In 2015 Perth Modern School students won more WACE (Western Australian Certificate of Education) awards than any other secondary school with 79. **Hui Min Tay** was announced as the WACE Beazley Medallist for achieving the highest School Curriculum and Standards Authority award score, closely followed by Perth Modern School students **Hongyi Gao** and **Jet Kye Chong**.

Six (6) students achieved a perfect ATAR of 99.5, and nine students achieved a General Exhibition, which are awarded to 41 eligible students with the highest School Curriculum and Standards Authority award score based on the average of five scaled scores with at least two from each of the humanities/social science lists and the mathematics/science list. Five (5) students won a total of seven (7) Course Exhibitions. 43 Certificates of Distinctions were achieved and 75 students were awarded Certificates of Commendation. The cohort achieved a state average of 92.25 against a state average of 80.2. The **School Curriculum and Standards Authority Awards Ceremony** was held at Government house on Wednesday 17 February.

Principal of Perth Modern School Lois Joll said the Class of 2015 was a "wonderful group of young people who worked together with their families and teachers to achieve this exceptional result."

Among the 2015 WACE students who received awards were previously recipients of the **Dan Girling and John Down Music Scholarship**, and the **Dan Girling and John Down Music Bursary** awarded by the Sphinx Foundation (Inc) in 2013, and four (4) recipients of **Sphinx Foundation Centenary Entry Bursaries** awarded in 2011.

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SUBSCRIBE A FRIEND

SUBSCRIBE A FRIEND

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Have you completed or updated your
REGISTRATION and/or BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION?

Forms are available on the website
www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au

further information
museum@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

2014-15 COUNCIL PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

Peter Farr, *President*



SPHINX FOUNDATION INC.

2015 SCHOLARSHIPS PRESENTED



Eight Sphinx Scholarship certificates were presented at the final Year 10 assembly for 2015 by Allen Prince (left) on behalf of scholarship donor **Don Tyler**, Julia Hepinstall on behalf of her late father and scholarship donor **John Down**, and **Peter Farr**, 2015 President Perth Modernian Society and Treasurer, Sphinx Foundation Inc.

Since commencement in 2009, a total of **26 Sphinx Scholarship Academic Awards** have been presented to Year 10 students enabling them to undertake various forms of academic extension in their Years 11 and 12 at Mod. 2015 was the first year the Scholarships in the **Sciences and Maths** have been awarded - this was made possible by the generosity of Don Tyler and several other Modernians.

Donation received

The Board of the Sphinx Foundation is very grateful indeed to the **Class of 1955** for making a Class Gift to the Sphinx Scholarship Fund. It is a tribute to the **60 Year Reunion** organising committee that it managed to run the 2015 reunion at a surplus, which I know is not easy to achieve. The money will be put towards the capital sum for the **Mathematics Scholarship** for a student completing Year 10 at Mod and tenable in their Years 11/12. The fund for this particular scholarship was kicked off in mid-2015 with contributions from several Modernians and it still needs more capital to be self-sustaining at the target amount of \$1000. The funds are held by the school and paid over progressively to the awardee upon production of receipts for resource materials and extension activities.

There are now **six (6) upper school academic excellence scholarships** of this type – in Music, Creative Writing, Physics, Chemistry, Biological Sciences/Psychology, and Mathematics, tenable years 11/12.

Board appointments

At its February meeting, the Perth Modernian Society Council approved the appointment of two new members of the Sphinx Foundation (Inc) Board.

Jeanette McQueen was a student at Perth Modern School from 1957 to 1952. She brings a wide range of experience to the Board in such areas as teaching, insurance broking, marketing, and agriculture. She has

Sallie Davies, *Vice President*
 Annemie McAuliffe, *Vice President*
 Deborah Beresford, *Hon Secretary*
 Eve Broadley, *Hon Treasurer*
 Barrie Baker, *Finance Committee*
 Ian Jarvis, *Communications*
 Irene Froyland, *Reunions*
 Barbara Mallett
 Lois Joll, *PMS Principal*
Vacant, Functions Convenor
Vacant, Hon Executive Officer
Vacancies, Members

Finance Committee

Barrie Baker, *Chair*
 Treasurers
 Eve Broadley, *Council*
 Peter Farr, *Sphinx Foundation*
 Alan Porter, *H&M Committee*

Sphinx Foundation Board

Barrie Baker, *Acting Chair/Secretary*
 Peter Farr, *Treasurer*
 Eve Broadley, *Member*
 Petrice Judge, *Member*
 Val Furphy, *Associate Principal*
 Jeanette McQueen, *Member*
 Nigel Hunt, *Member*

Historical & Museum Committee

museum@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

Sallie Davies, *Chair/Secretary*
 Deb Beresford, *Hon Archivist/Curator*
 Alan Porter, *Treasurer*
 Ian Jarvis, *Hon IT Manager*
 Frank Hedges, *Member*
 Rod Smith, *Member*
 Gay Albillos, *Member*

Communications

info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au
 Ian Jarvis, *Convenor*
 Ed Lazarus, *Membership Officer*
 Peter Farr, *Member*
 Barrie Baker, *Member*
Vacancy, IT Support person/Portal
 Sallie Davies, *Newsletters*
 Graeme Hunt, *Magazine*
newsletter@perthmoderniansociety.org.au

Reunions Liaison

reunions@perthmoderniansociety.org.au
 Annemie McAuliffe
 Irene Froyland

VOLUNTEERS

History Centre and Archives

Gay Albillos, *Conservation*
 Deb Beresford, *Hon Archivist*
 David Black, *Hon Consultant*
 Jim Davies, *Bio Index*
 Sallie Davies, *Coordinator*
 Frank Hedges, *Bio Index*
 Robert Johnson, *Research*
 Bill MacPherson, *Photo Scanner*
 Stephen Monterosso, *Research*
 Deirdre Owen, *Archives*
 Alan Porter, *Science Restoration*
 Rod Smith, *Science Data Entry*
 Roger Stubbs, *Research*
 Robyn White, *Archives*
 Alison Woodman, *Research*

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Contributing

Renewed

Barbara Giles 1957-61 Student
 Dawn BARRY (McHarrie) 1942-46 Student
 Garry McBride 1945-46 Student

been a member of some six boards or councils.

Nigel Hunt is a parent representative member of the Board of Perth Modern School. He is a lawyer, partner and Board member in Mallesons Stephen Jaques/King & Wood Mallesons, Perth. His practice covers public and private Mergers and Acquisitions related to companies and Initial Public Offerings related to securities. He is a member of the Law Council of Australia and a member of Australia-Indonesia and Australia-China Business Councils.

YOUR LETTERS

Hugh Davies, student 1948-52, Port Moresby

Thank you for the Dec 2015 newsletter, excellent and not too long. **Bill McPherson's** note about enjoying the school choir music prompted a recollection of when we were in First Year (1948) we would hear the older girls singing in the hall, with piano accompaniment, I think with **Mr Greenhill**, beautiful sounds of *Hark hark the lark at hea'ns gate sings, Who is Sylvia?, What is she?* - beautiful sounds and words that one carries for life. Thank you girls and choir master - you done good. Hugh

Ed: *Thank you, Hugh, for your continuing interest and the memories your contributions bring to mind. The PMS Beasley Auditorium, as the hall is now referred to in recognition of architect Hillson Beasley, holds many musical memories. We would love to hear from others of similar recollections.*

Shirley Randell (nee Izett), student 1953-57

Thank you for the e-Newsletter – great to be kept in touch. This may be my last newsletter from Bangladesh as I plan to return to Australia in February – not yet to retire as I still expect to do some desk work consultancies for a while.

Best wishes, Shirley Randell

Ed: *In a recent update from Shirley we heard that "The Australian Government has now authorized dependants of posted Australian staff to return to Australia on a voluntary basis, and will withdraw Australian Government funded volunteers by 31 December ... I will come back to Australia on 3 Feb. I have had two recent visits to Australia ... The main purpose of this [2nd] visit was for a family gathering for Alan's 80th birthday (pictured right) – a wonderful celebration with all our children and nine of the grandchildren present..."*

Alan Randell was a PMS student 1951-52



Memorabilia

Peter Quayle, PMS student 1976-78

Hi, many thanks for this [e-Newsletter]. I'd like to purchase the (recent) Mod tie, as my old one from 1978 is getting a bit frayed! Can you tell me how to do this please? Many thanks, Peter

Ed: *The Perth Modernian Society Council is currently reviewing its fund raising policy re sale of memorabilia as part of the financial sustainability review. Interested Members are invited to [send in](#) suggestions for consideration.*

Re: Huntly Higgins, student 1930-34, Sphinx magazines

"My name is Barbara Higgins and I am the daughter of Huntly Higgins, a former student of Perth Modern School.

My parents died in the last 4 years and we sold their house. My father had some Sphinx magazines from the 1930's which I thought might be of interest to your archivist/librarian."

Ed: *Response from the Historical and Museum Committee read: "Your email has been forwarded to me from the Sphinx Foundation. Huntly was a strong supporter of all endeavours of the PMS alumni organisations as they have evolved since he left as a student, and we were saddened to hear of his passing in 2011.*

In an interview in 2000 he said of his schooling at PMS:

"I became a scientist and I don't think I was really inspired to study science at Modern School. I certainly developed a great love of scholarship – of knowledge - but I feel that Mod probably provided me with a better background in the arts than in the sciences. Perhaps I'm exaggerating that a bit but certainly it gave me a love of literature and even history to a certain extent although I didn't study that at very high level. Certainly in literature they gave me a very good grounding but I thought I was very fortunate in getting, such an education in Modern School. It was a very good basis for further education. Thank you sincerely for your offer to donate your father's Sphinx Magazines for our archives, which we would be privileged to accept."

From Barbara Higgins: "Thank you very much for your lovely email. I know that my father thought very highly of Perth Modern School, both educationally and emotionally. He kept in contact with friends that he made at that time until the end of his life. I have sent Huntly's *Sphinx* magazines. They include a *Sphinx* magazine from 1938 in which he is mentioned as an ex-student and also *The Old Modernian* from 1935 when he attended St. Georges College." Thanking-you again, Barbara.

Ed: *Thank you to Barbara for this donation which has been added to our Sphinx Collection.*

PERTH MODERN SCHOOL REUNIONS



The **2016 Perth Modernian Society Annual Reunion** with **Orchestral Concert**, followed by a buffet lunch, will be held on **SUNDAY 11 SEPTEMBER**. The History Centre will also open for visitors. Please put this date in your diary now.

John Blackburn 1950-54 Student
 Kaye Barr 1961-63 Student
 Lyall Page 1946-48 Student
 Lynette MONTGOMERY (Carlisle) 1939-43 Student
 Margaret SMITH (Thakrah) 1956-60 Student
 Neil Patterson 1956-60 Student
 Trish Bevan 1950-52 Student
 Una MACKIE (Wise) 1939-41 Student

New

Andrew McKenna 2011-15 Student 1
 Hui Min Tay 2013-15 Student 1
 Paul Burnett 2011-15 Student 1

Registered

Hinako Shiraiishi 2013-15 Student
 Keisha Low 2014-15 Student
 Louise Eckert 2011-15 Student
 Morgan Edgar 2011-15 Student
 Sze-Wan Ng 2011-15 Student
 Yvette Li 2011-15 Student

e-NEWSLETTER

Principal Contributors to this issue

Barrie Baker
 Thalia Cole
 Sallie Davies
 Peter Farr
 Lois Joll
 Bill MacPherson
 Others as noted

Coordinator/Editor

Sallie Davies

Compiler

Ian Jarvis



News and information available at
www.perthmodern.wa.edu.au

2016 PERTH MODERN SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Michael Henderson - *Chair*
 Mark Ogden - *Deputy Chair*
 Mary O'Hanlon Creed - *Secretary*
 Lois Joll - *Principal*
 Val Furphy - *Associate Principal*
 Andrew Stevens - *P&C Representative*
 Dr Marcus Tan - *Parent Representative*
 Scott Henderson - *Parent Representative*
 Nigel Hunt - *Parent Representative*
 Ross Fuhrmann - *Teacher Representative*
 Dr Irene Froyland - *Community and Alumni*
 Dr Victor Cheng - *Parent Representative*
 Erica Smyth - *Community Representative*

Observers:

Steve Jurilj - *Associate Principal*
 Stacey Burton - *Business Manager*
 Nhi Danh, Head Girl
Student Representative
 Brandon Boccia, Head Boy
Student Representative

Someone in each of the following year groups **1966, 1969, 1986, 2006** is interested to know whether or not there is a class/year reunion planned. If you were in a class that did year twelve in any of these years, even if you did not stay for year twelve, then check the website of the Perth Modernian Society www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au where queries and information about reunions are listed. They are updated whenever new information is received.

Class of 1953

Our 1953 Leaving Certificate group plans to meet for morning tea at ZAMIA RESTAURANT, Kings Park on **Friday 13th May 2016, commencing at 9:30am**. In order to estimate morning tea numbers we need your PROMPT REPLY (email or phone) indicating your intention to join us (partner welcome).

Group morning tea bookings at Zamia Restaurant normally conclude at 11:30am. This is the reason for the early start. If you wish to stay beyond 11:30am, you can arrange for seating in advance or after you arrive. Zamia Restaurant offers a wide range of excellent foods and beverages.

We hope you can come to this gathering. Please spread the word among your contacts in our group.

IF YOU DO NOT REPLY WE WILL ASSUME YOU CANNOT ATTEND THIS REUNION

Replies to: Len Pavy, student 1952-53 08 9450 3773 pavylr@bestit.net.au

Class of 1946

Julia Halleen, Student 1942-46

My most grateful thanks to you for taking the trouble to photocopy and send to me the 1946-50 year reunion booklet.

I sat down and read the whole book immediately with much nostalgic pleasure. The Friday reunion was a small gathering but very enjoyable mostly thanks to **Dawn Barry's** efforts. Kind regards, **Julia Halleen, student 1942-46**

Ed: *This group will celebrate 70 years since their days at Perth Modern School and our lead story in December was about the connections made because of the Perth Modernian Society new telephone number and Julia's call. The Reunion book requested was compiled by Eric Carlin, student 1942-46, PMS teacher 1961-68. An original copy held in the PMS archives has been photocopied and is now available for reference in the History Centre.*

Class of 1966 word gets around

John Wilshire, student 1962-66

I am interested to know if there is a planned 50 year reunion for the class of 1966 (ie completion of Year 12 in 1966). I would also appreciate a list of graduates for 1966 if available. Sincerely John

From Reunions Liaison Group: *So far we have not heard of any plans for the Year of 1966 but I have received one other enquiry from Ed Jordan and I have passed your enquiry on to him. We are placing a notice in the next e-newsletter and will keep you both posted. Regards Annemie McAuliffe*

Reunions....thank you for getting us into Dec newsletter

Ed Jordan, student 1962-66

Hi, thanks again for your effort. I hope to contact a few peers, I will keep you posted and may need another note in e-Newsletter maybe March..April with more info, contacts etc. Ed

From Reunions Liaison Group: *This is a service offered by the Perth Modernian Society to all registered organisers of Class/Year reunions.*

Jill McQuoid, student 1962-66

I notice that a couple of my old classmates, **Ed Jordan** and **John Wilshire**, are interested in a reunion for 1966 students. That sounds a great idea. Jill

Ron Mitchell, student 1962-66

I am also interested in a 50 year reunion. I remember both **Ed Jordan** and **John Wilshire** as we went to Mt Hawthorn Primary and were in scouts as well as being old Mods. Ron

Ed: *Thank you for these responses. We trust that by now, your plans are well under way and we will have some details of the arrangements for publication in our next issue (see deadlines for copy above).*

Class of 86

Melinda McGowan (nee McIntosh), student 1982-86

I am organising a **30 Year reunion** for Class of '86, Perth Modern SHS. This will be held on the **19th of March 2016**. Venue to be advised. Could you please put these details on the website? I can be contacted on 0447 355 181 or email: melindamcgowan@inet.net.au Kind regards, Melinda

Ed: *These details are now on the website www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au*

Class of 1968

Linda Mckeown, student 1964-66

I attended Perth Modern in 1964, 1965 and 1967 (years 8). When one organises a reunion does this include all the classes of that year. Or just your own class? Linda

Ed: *Thank you, Linda, for your enquiry. Usually this is up to the organisers. The Perth Modernian Society can supply year lists only of all students, whose names are available to us, who would have concluded their time at PMS in the final year (5th Year or Year 12).*

If you left the School at the end of Year 10 in 1967, your final core year is 1969, if you left from Year 11 it would be 1970. Organisation of a class or year reunion is undertaken by volunteers drawn from that core year.

Class of 2010 Reunion?

Nadia Sly, student 2006-10

Just wondering if there will be a Class of 2006-10 year reunion planned for 2016? Nadia

Ed: *As is indicated elsewhere we would publish information re this year group as the Class of 2010. Any plans for a class/year reunion for any group are in the hands of people who attended PMS in that time frame. The Perth Modernian Society website explains what help may be available to the organisers. It is up to the group when and where the Reunion might be. If you were to attend the Annual Reunion and encourage others from your year at the School to attend also, you may find this a good place to start.*

YOUR STORIES



The Perth Modernian Society (Inc) gratefully acknowledges the support of Lotterywest for strategic planning and computer hardware.

Gary Glover

PMS student 1953-55

In his own words: *"Perth Modern School made a major contribution to my life story. My first introduction to Shakespeare and excellence. I recall the Queen driving past the School, the grass tennis courts and my loathing of wood/metal work."*

Current occupation: Retired Consultant Surgeon, London"

Career Highlights:

- Serving a community;
- Teaching and mentoring of trainees who have impacted more so than their teacher;
- To work through a period of medical revolution and innovation;

Lifetime achievements: Good health and a loving family

Gary wrote: *"Previously I was a student at PMS from 1953-55 before leaving to continue my education in Sydney. I have lived, worked and now retired in the UK where I once was a consultant surgeon. I left Australia in 1967 and here I remain, not yet in any form of dotage, on the fringes of London."*

*I have a lot to thank PMS for in providing a basis (and memories) of times past, lessons learned and a foundation for the future, now my past. I remember well the **Headmaster, Mr Sampson** and am still able to sing the school song "Moderna Schola". I cannot see my returning to Perth; I visited once in 2004, seeing an old class mate **Theo Bredemeyer** and speaking with **Bruce Connolly**. It seems we have all been successful and were fortunate to have lived through a golden age of peace and prosperity. I came to PMS with a Soldiers' Scholarship from North Perth State School."*

Linda Mckeown

PMS student 1964-66

"Hi everyone, I attended Perth Mod between 1964 and 1966. I sat the Junior Certificate and then left and worked in an office for 2 years. I then joined the Women's Royal Australian Army Corp for 3 years and had the time of my life. I travelled overseas constantly after that. I attended Murdoch University in 1988 and gained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications and Women's Studies. I absolutely loved my time at university."

I have worked for Australian Customs, Department of Army at Australia House in London and now I work as a Customer Service Officer at WA Police, it seems I love a uniform!! I enjoy my job very much and although I am due to retire next September, I'm pretty sure I will keep going!!

*I remember my school days so well, my best friend was **Margo Pickering** and Margo and I have just reconnected after 30 years. We have a wonderful friendship. I have never married but I have a gorgeous 21 year old son. I gave birth to Joel when I was 42 years old. Joel looks so much like me.*

I played a lot of sport up until I was 50 years old. Now that I am near retirement age I look in the mirror and wonder who that older woman is!! Time goes so quickly."

Ernest Oliver James OATS

PMS student 1924-27

Ernie Oats was a much-respected senior officer in the early years of my working life. All I was told about him, by one of his contemporaries, was that he had been to Perth Modern School and had to leave to help support his family when his father died, and that he was married but had no children.

*I have compiled the following information from old Public Service Lists, the Metropolitan Cemetery Board index, War Service Records on the Australian War Memorial website, Registrar General indexes at the State Library, and the Trove website. **Bill Macpherson, student 1951-53** 9 January 2016*

*(Read Bill's own story in the *The Perth Modernian Annual Magazine for Contributing Members*, July 2016)*

Ernest Oliver James OATS was born 11 June 1911 at Subiaco to Samuel Oats and Louisa Maud Oats nee Kyrwood. He had nine siblings, at least three of whom were born in Kalgoorlie in the preceding decade. The family lived in Barker Road Subiaco but by 1928 Samuel was in the Claremont Old Mens' Home, where he died the next year aged 65.

The *West Australian* on 18 November 1922 announced that he had won a Secondary School Scholarship, but school records showed he gained an Entrance Scholarship to Perth Modern School from 1924. He hoped to study Medicine but struggled with English throughout. He passed his Junior Certificate in French, Maths, Geography, Physics and Drawing, but needed English. The school recorded that his grandmother was ill in 1924 and an aunt died in 1926.

He left school on 31 October 1927 to work in McGibbon's office - James Sinclair McGibbon owned an accounting and auditing practice and was prominent in business and political circles.

Ernie started work at the Metropolitan Water Supply Department on 25 June 1928 as a temporary junior clerk and was appointed permanent in 1931. In 1932 he was married to Mollie and receiving Married Man's allowance. He rose steadily in the ranks and in 1940 was receiving what was called a Personality Allowance.

He joined the Citizens' Military Force in 1940 in the 7th Heavy Brigade, helping to man the coastal batteries at Fremantle and on Rottnest Island., as an acting Lieutenant. He enlisted in the army in 1942, was confirmed as Lieutenant, and spent the war in coastal batteries from the Torres Strait to Sydney. His war service records state that, in 1942, he had two dependants under the age of 16. If they were siblings, they must have been born shortly before his father's death or have been disabled in some way. I have found no record of children of his own.

After the war, Ernie resumed his career in the Metropolitan Water Supply, but apparently never studied. He reached a high clerical rank before the requirement for academic qualifications halted his advance. In his final years he was the department's Organisation and Methods Officer, achieving office efficiencies in the labour-intensive pre-computer days. Metropolitan Water Supply was practicing O & M while the Public Service Board still thought it was a Buddhist priest's chant.

Ernie retired at the age of 60 at about the time of his wife's death. He appeared to be living with an elder sister in Carlisle at the time of his death on 14 October 1984, aged 73.

Name	Years at School	Position	Deceased
John Chadwick Meachem, DFC	1936-37 PMS student		9/12/2015
Alan Douglas Wager	1949-53 PMS student		28/12/2015
Alan Eric Jones	1944-45 PMS student		22/12/2015
Neil John Thomson	1955-59 PMS student		28/01/2016
Dr Gordon Bougher	1944-48 PMS Student	School Prefect 1948	2/02/2016
Dr Malcolm Exley	1949-50 PMS Student		19/02/2016

Professor Neil Thomson, Student 1955-59

The Director and staff of the Australian Indigenous *HealthInfoNet* extend our deepest sympathy to Bronwyn, Paul, Fiona, Keira and all his family and loved ones on the very sad loss of Neil.

Neil was a dedicated and passionate lifelong advocate for making a positive difference to Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health outcomes. He founded *HealthInfoNet* in 1997 at a time when the World Wide Web was in its infancy, creating a much needed central point of access to information on the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Neil was a pioneering authority regarding the importance of translating research outcomes to inform health policy and practice.

The award winning *HealthInfoNet* stands as a tribute and lasting legacy to his determination and vision.

Neil was personally interested in and cared about his staff; he loved to hear their stories of travel, family and life. He had a wonderful sense of humour, including the ability to laugh at himself. He was enormously respected throughout the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector. He worked hard and long and it is such a great sadness that he did not get more time to enjoy his richly earned retirement with his family and friends. He will be sorely missed by his former colleagues and friends at *HealthInfoNet*, and we will continue to honour his life's work in all that we do.

Published in: The West Australian - See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/guestbooks/thewest-au/neil-thomson-condolences/177439554?&page=2#sthash.KoiAlhtb.dpuf>

John Meachem, student 1936-37

was awarded the DFC in 1946 as Flying Officer with No 30 Beaufighter Squadron in the Pacific in World War II, disrupting Japanese supply lines and protecting convoys.

Career Highlights:

- Twelve years Officer in Charge all forest operations Pemberton;
- as Chief of Division, Head Office Perth, directed pine industry policy development, harvesting and marketing, plant, building, etc;
- Fellow of the Institute of Foresters (FIFA).

In retirement:

- 9 years on Board of the WA Council on the Ageing;
- five years with Central Planning Committee, Seniors Week;
- organised ten "The Way We Were" concerts in the Perth Concert Hall.
- Later ten years on Management Committee, Mandurah University of the Third Age;
- U3A Group Leader/Lecturer eight years, editor newsletter magazine six years.

Married 55 years, four children in professional careers;

2004 nominated Senior of the Year.

published "*Finding Myself*" my life and times, conveying two special messages

(1) re impending death of our old growth karri forest giants in national parks - Save the Old Growth Forests!

and

(2) Earth 2000 - a short cut to a better understanding of the world around us , also philosophy, values, essence

of life, poems

Alan Wager, student 1949-53

Life Member Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

Life Membership Scouting Association for 39 years of active service as a Scout Leader

"Alan was humble, patient, courageous, generous, dedicated and always willing to take on a challenge."

Alan Eric Jones, student 1944-45

Retired teacher who volunteered with Kings Park Guides and Rottnest Guides for many years.

Dr Gordon Bougher, student 1944-48

Ophthalmologist (retired)

6 Feb 2016, From *The West Australian*, Death Notices

"Passed away peacefully amongst his beautiful garden and property on the Kalgan River. A much loved husband and father to Marlee, Suzanne, Richard, Linda and Anthony."

"Congratulations on a wonderful life . . . We will all miss Gordon greatly. Memories of sharing conversation, food, good wine, beaches and pointers will be everlasting."

After return from UK in 1961, ophthalmology practice in Perth with itinerant country work until moving to Albany, 1992;

Retired 2000, after spending 30 odd years working in my specialty in Perth, moved to live in Albany, retired from private practice but continued to service Murchison towns in an itinerant way and have now fully retired and thoroughly enjoying life in this marvellous part of WA with frequent visits to four children and the grandkids, all in Perth; still re-frequent holiday house in Augusta, travel in Australia and overseas. Slowing up but reasonably fit spending plenty of time on Albany property of 30 acres) where one hubby is growing boronia for cut flower trade. Have great memories of Mod and try to get to our 1948 reunions.

22 Aug 2011: Still enjoying life on 28 acre property on Kalgan River near Albany- growing boronia - vacation time with family at our holiday place in Augusta, travelling in Australia, often by car, camping. Recent visits to Bali teaching cataract surgery to locals for Bali Eye Programme.

1 Aug 2013: Enjoying retirement, in spite of the usual problems. Completely hooked on Albany and the lifestyle here.

YOU HAVE NOW READ TO THE END OF THIS e-NEWSLETTER...

keep us informed in many ways. We thank them all.

- Do you have an old school photograph you would like to share with others?
- Would you like to catch up with the people in the photograph and share your memories?
- Have you discovered something or someone you would like to know more about?
- Would you like to help make this happen?

It's that time of year again when we all must think about the year ahead, not only as individuals but with community organisations of which we are members.

- Have you sent in your story or that of a friend for the PMS historical records and/or for publication?
- Do you have more recent photos which would be of interest to our readers?
- Can you help to provide opportunities for today's students of Perth Modern School?
- Will you attend the next reunion or Perth Modernian Society event?
- Would you like to be involved in making things happen in 2016?

No matter how small a contribution you can make, each individual member is vital to the wellbeing of the Perth Modernian Society and its continuing support of the students and staff of Perth Modern School. At the same time you can have the opportunity to relive the friendships and memories of your own school days.

Your involvement can help make this happen.

- How might you become further involved in the activities of the organisation?
- How might YOU be able to play a small part in this very special community?

Find out more at www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au, email: info@perthmoderniansociety.org.au or call (08) 6189 3690

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