

Jim McMillan (ON 1956)

I am sorry to tell you that our great friend James McMillan the Worshipful Master of Lodge Wyvern 1968-1969 has this week passed away. Funeral details will be published on Wednesday 22 June in the Sydney Morning Herald. Jim was the fourth most senior surviving member of Lodge Wyvern. He was constantly and unfailingly cheerful and held with the greatest affection and in the highest esteem by all of his colleagues. Jim was a strong supporter of Freemasonry, not only at Lodge Wyvern but especially in western Sydney and the Blue Mountains where he was a regular visitor to many other lodges. Jim will be greatly missed by all of the Newington community, but especially by those who knew him both at Newington and for years afterwards including Dr Roger Davidson, Ben Swane, John Moore, Bill Clarke, Terry Rolleston, George Bawtree and all members of the Richardson family.

The last Lodge Wyvern Meeting which Jim attended was the memorable historic 750th Regular Meeting held in the Prescott Hall at Newington on Saturday evening 5 March 2016. After the meeting the new Honour Board of the Lodge was unveiled by the Grand Master of the UGL of NSW and the ACT, MW Brother James Robert Melville. It was entirely appropriate that on that Honour Board now proudly displayed on the western wall of the Prescott Hall is Jim's name in pride of place among the 55 other past masters of the lodge. This was the very same old College Assembly Hall where the ever cheerful Jim and his rowdy classmates gathered every morning at 9am - a time when trams still carried some students home down Parramatta Road, the Buchanan Oval was the First XV rugby ground and boaters were worn by all while walking up the Holt Street Hill to Stanmore railway station. The exiting charge of departing scholars into Stanmore Road in those long gone days was often led by the legendary late Steve "Moon" Matthews, our eccentric chemistry master, who was usually first out the gates at 3-31pm sharp - except in winter after school when he coached the 5th NC Rugby team applying scientific principles such as "Ah yes, the wind is blowing behind you next half boys, the wind, ah yes, use the wind ... you must use the wind next time" all the while mysteriously pointing upwards towards heaven with the long nicotine stained index finger of his bony right hand..

We will all miss you Jimmy - God speed you home- So mote it be.

Peter Bruce Richardson (ON 1947-1958)