

PROFESSOR NEVILLE ALEXANDER MARSH (S53-61)

He was born in Watford, in 1943, the third son of Edward and Violet Marsh. His older brothers, Ian (48-52) and Roger (49-53) both attended the College.

After leaving school, he went up to Queen Elizabeth College, London where he read Physiology and Zoology. He graduated with First Class Honours in 1965 and then gained a position at the Royal London Hospital College in order to undertake a Doctorate in Philosophy. His research topic was the effects of renal disease on blood coagulation and early results enabled publications to flow from 1967 including his first paper in the prestigious journal *Nature* in 1968.



After gaining his PhD in record time, just over two years, he secured a full Lectureship back at Queen Elizabeth College in 1968. He continued his research into blood coagulation and developed an interest in venomous



animals. This led him to research on a poisonous caterpillar (see picture of *Lonomia achelous*) from the Venezuelan rainforest involving several field trips to South America. He collaborated with the Hon Miriam Rothschild on this project (see picture left) and on research into other toxic insects. A colleague introduced him to the Gaboon viper, a highly venomous snake from East Africa, and this led to a fruitful period of research over 35 years and recognition as a world expert on this particular snake.



In 1980, he published a monograph on fibrinolysis, the blood enzyme system which keeps the circulation flowing and in 1985, when Queen Elizabeth College was merged with King's College London, he wrote a history of the College.



He has sat on the editorial boards of a number of scientific journals, held memberships of several physiological and blood-related professional societies and published over 200 scientific papers, book chapters and books, including five papers in *Nature*. He was Secretary of the Australasian Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis from 1997 to 2002. He holds Honorary Professorships at the University of St Marks, Lima, Peru and at the University of Turin.



In 1988, he was invited to work at St Georges Hospital, Sydney, a teaching hospital of the University of New South Wales, and took a sabbatical year's leave in order to undertake research there. This period of study led to a decision to emigrate to Australia and in 1992, he became Head of Anatomy and Physiology at Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Queensland. He continued to teach and research and developed an interest in postgraduate research education. After promotion to Associate Dean of Science in 2000, he took up the position of Dean of Graduate Studies at The University of Adelaide in 2002. A year later, he became Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and then acting Vice-Chancellor (see picture above) for a period of time. The DVCR position involved overseeing the entire research base of the University with over 3000 researchers and a \$150 million budget. During this period, the University maintained its position as the most highly research-intensive university in Australia in terms of research grants *per caputem*. Some of his more notable achievements include setting up the first research centre in the country to study the pork industry (see picture with Hon Peter McGauran, Federal Minister for Agriculture (right) and Dr Roger Campbell, Director of the Competitive Pork Industry Research Centre) and at the other end of the disciplinary scale, he oversaw the largest ever Australian Research Council-funded linkage grant for the Ballet Russes Project. This was a joint research program between the University, the National



Library of Australia and the Australian Ballet. Begun in 2005, it celebrated the 70th anniversary of the first visit to Australia of the Ballets Russes and their impact and cultural legacy on dance in this country.

He retired in 2006 and was appointed Emeritus Professor of The University of Adelaide. He returned to Queensland where he took up a two-year posting as Chair of the Human Research Ethics Committee at QUT. Since then he has been indulging himself in one of his passions, genealogy, and writing occasional articles and books. The latest book is an account of the massive flooding which affected south-east Queensland in January 2011. *Island in the Flood* describes how his local community was cut-off from the outside world for four days and how the residents responded to this isolation. Sales from this book raised over \$20,000 which will be used to fund a flood warning system for the community.



Neville includes in his hobbies a life-long interest in the theatre arts. In his home town of Watford, he founded an amateur arts centre in a Victorian pumping station. The Pump House continues to thrive and recently celebrated its 40th anniversary. Over the years, it has hosted many great performances: he ran a chamber music society and organized concerts for such luminaries as Julian Bream, George Malcolm, Jack Brymer and Leon Goossens, in addition to performances of operas by Benjamin Britten and Gordon Jacob. He also maintained a keen involvement in local operatic and choral societies, his roles ranging from set design at Watford Palace Theatre to stage direction of Verdi's *Requiem* at St Albans Abbey and Ely Cathedral.

He has recently been painted by the celebrated Canberra artist Kylie Fogarty for the Archibald Prize, the major portrait prize in Australia.



In 2016 Neville once again wrote a book, this time celebrating the sesquicentenary of his local primary school. He has been associated with the school for many years, having had a succession of children and now grandchildren passing through. Below is a picture of the front cover and one of his five grandchildren, currently at the school.

