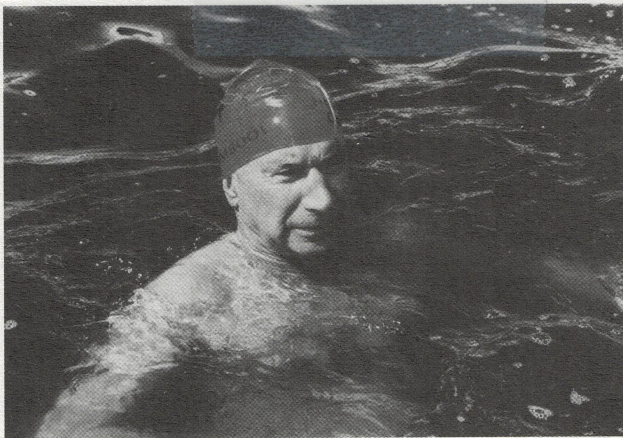


## Les Hemingway 1931-2014

Les Hemingway, a man of true grit, has died aged 83. He became a fitter and turner after leaving school at fourteen, then put himself through further studies which permitted him to enrol in medicine at Melbourne University from where he graduated as a doctor at the age of twenty-four in 1955.

Amongst Les' other interests were swimming, engineering, woodturning and, certainly not the least, Georgism.

He converted to Catholicism just after university, and he and his wife Verna had eleven children. He worked as a general practitioner for the best part of fifty years in Warrnambool, the western district, Victoria and New South Wales as a locum, and finally at Geelong.



Les Hemingway 1931-2014

Les caused a stir during his close to forty year stint at Warrnambool when he refused to prescribe the contraceptive pill for his patients, but he held doggedly to his beliefs in this area. Once he had studied and got hold of a topic, Les needed to be persuaded by convincing argument before his opinion would change, but he was always able to fall back on his brusque, self-effacing sense of humour to save himself from appearing to be pig-headed.

Les became involved in land tax in 1967 when he encountered the Land Values Research Group studies of Allan Hutchinson.

He wrote two insightful Georgist books. *Rent as Revenue: The Enemy of Interest* in 1990 which boldly proclaimed: "We must stop grumbling about Land Taxes and Rates that take community created site rent as revenue, and campaign against taxes that bite into the earnings of individuals". And, *Sharing the Earth* in 1998 about mankind's common heritage and how land tax spreads land ownership, wealth and job opportunities throughout society.

Les became a trustee of the Henry George Foundation of Australia in 1994 and served in this capacity for some ten years.

He stood as an independent candidate for the House of Representatives seat of Wannon at the 1993 general election on a Georgist platform.

As a tribute to Dr Hemingway's life and work, his family have donated several copies of *Sharing the Earth* for Prosper supporters. If you would like a copy, please get in touch with Jess at the Prosper Office.