



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY
South Australia Branch

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Secretary: Julie Gameau OAM

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November 2023 – January 2024 Newsletter



Rediscovering Adelaide Visit to Carrick Hill

PATRON

South Australian Patron: the Governor of South Australia
Her Excellency, the Honourable Frances Adamson AC

DIARY DATES

Christmas Garden Party:	Thursday December 7th, 6.00pm for 6.30pm at 2 Seaforth Ave Hazelwood Park
January Concert	Monday 29th January 7.30pm at St John's Church, Halifax Street Adelaide
Mozart Concerto	
Commonwealth Day:	Monday 11th March 2024
Commonwealth celebration Lunch	Thursday 14th March 2024
Wine Tour	April 16 - April 18 2024
Regional Meeting	5 June—8 June 2024
International Meeting	London 2025

For further details regarding the above functions please contact
Libby 0412 820 121 or Julie 8357 9547

2024 SUBSCRIPTIONS due on 1st January 2024

Couple	\$75
Single	\$50

Please pay the Treasurer as soon as possible

Subscription form with bank details is inserted in this newsletter

BSB 105-148
account 554020140

Your annual subscription entitles you to

- **the quarterly newsletter**
- **the opportunity to vote at the AGM**
- **the opportunity to be a Council member and make a difference to the Society**
- **attend special events which have limited numbers**
- **attend special functions at a reduced rate**
- **Receive a name badge**

MEMBERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

The following Countries are members of the Commonwealth in order of seniority of membership

United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Ghana, Malaysia, Nigeria, Cyprus, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, Malta, Zambia, Singapore, Guyana, Botswana, Lesotho, Barbados, Nauru, Mauritius, Swaziland, Tonga, Samoa, Fiji Islands, Bangladesh, The Bahamas, Grenada, Papua New Guinea, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Dominica, St Lucia, Kiribati, St Vincent & The Grenadines, Vanuatu, Belize, Antigua & Barbuda, St Christopher & Nevis, Brunei Darussalam, Namibia, Cameroon, Mozambique, Rwanda, Maldives Toga and Gabon

These diverse nations representing one quarter of the world's population over every continent, include Republics, National Monarchies and a number of Nations that recognise King Charles III as their own Head of State

The Ode

We of the Royal Commonwealth Society shall continue to foster goodwill and affection between peoples of the Commonwealth, so that all may live together in peace, sympathy and understanding

Objects of the Royal Commonwealth Society

The objects of the society are to promote the increase and diffusion of knowledge respecting the people and Countries of the Commonwealth, to maintain the best traditions of the Commonwealth and to foster unity of thought and action to matters of common interest

Branch Council Members 2023

President:	Libby Ellis OAM	0412 820 121
Vice President	Judy Clarke	(08) 8379 7707
Treasurer:	Julie Gameau OAM	0407 203 035
Secretary:	Julie Gameau	0407 203 035
Councillors:	Chris Ashton	0419 804 725
	Patsy Beckett	0407 249 80
	Christine Cundell	0403 796 087
	Suzanne Kellett	0439 357 757
	Barbara Mayfield	0422 577 844
	John Shepherd AM	0467 621 030
	Brenda Wallis	0481 481 116

Please contact the above members for any information regarding the activities and news of the Royal Commonwealth Society (South Australian Branch)

2023 COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION

The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition (QCEC) is the world's oldest international schools' writing contest, established by the Society in 1883. With thousands of young people taking part each year, it is an important way to recognise achievement, elevate youth voices and develop key skills through creative writing.

Each year, entrants write on a theme that explores the Commonwealth's values, fostering an empathetic world view in the next generation of leaders and encouraging young people to consider new perspectives to the challenges that the world faces. Themes have included the environment, community, inclusion, the role of youth leadership, and gender equality.

In the past decade alone, this high-profile competition has engaged approximately 170,000 young people, over 5,000 schools and thousands of volunteer judges across the Commonwealth.

Celebrating the Commonwealth Year of Youth, the theme, 'A Youth-Powered Commonwealth,' asked QCEC entrants to explore the power young people hold within the global community and to consider how this power can be harnessed to make a meaningful impact in the world.

In 2023, a record-breaking 34,924 entries were received from every Commonwealth region, with the winners and runners-up from India and Malaysia.

For further information on the 2024 competition go to the RCS London website,

The website for the Royal Commonwealth Society in London has changed. www.royalcwsociety.org

Find more information about The Royal Commonwealth Society and the Commonwealth.

www.royalcwsociety.org
www.thecommonwealth.org

Check out the new South Australian website
www.thercssa.com.au

**Libby Ellis, President of the Royal Commonwealth Society
(South Australian Branch) Inc
and Dr Harold and Judy Clarke**

**invite members of the RCS and friends
to the**

CHRISTMAS GARDEN PARTY

THURSDAY 7th DECEMBER 2022

6.00pm for 6.30pm - 8.00PM

2 Seaforth Avenue, HAZELWOOD PARK

**RCS Financial Members \$
guests \$10**

**Parking is available in the grounds of St John Vianney Catholic
Church 544 Glynburn Road**

**Please bring a parcel of non-perishable foods or Christmas gifts for
the charity basket**

**RSVP by November 25th for catering purposes BSB 105-148
juliegameau@gmail.com account 554020140**

**Further inquiries please phone the President, Libby Ellis
0412 820 121 or Julie Gameau 0407 203 035**

President's report

FIJI

Our visit coincided with that of Professor Andrew Lowe, Adelaide University Environment Institute, which we knew about, and a meeting of the Finance Ministers of many Pacific nations, which we didn't! We were all staying at the same hotel in Suva and it was very exciting to arrive surrounded by the wonderful Fijian Police in their ceremonial white sulus. Our visit included meetings with the UK High Commissioner at which we were able to introduce him to Professor Lowe from Adelaide University and Alivereti. He was very interested in our concept to maintain the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy in some form going forward and we will continue to work towards that goal. We also had meetings with the Acting Australian High Commissioner and one of the Queen's Young Leaders from Suva who is doing wonderful things with the villagers who are having to move because of rising sea levels. Stay tuned.

ROYAL PRESIDENTS DINNER

Unfortunately, this event was cancelled. As far as I know it is the first time that has happened in its forty-year history apart from the Covid-19 pandemic. I understand the Royal Geographical Society are planning to host this uniquely South Australian event for their centenary in 2025.

REDISCOVERING ADELAIDE

Our visits these last few months have included Carrick Hill and the Adelaide Town Hall. Both of these visits were popular and some of our members stayed on for a light luncheon afterwards. Even though we think we know these buildings and visit them frequently, the tours give a much better understanding of their places in South Australia's history. Thank you to Julie and the Events Subcommittee for arranging these events.

SEPTEMBER DINNERS

We actually hosted two meals in September. The scheduled Spring dinner speaker was Peter Williams who spoke with passion and understanding about the Virtual War Memorial. The evening was made even more memorable because the technology at the Public Schools Club was incompatible and we were all encouraged to use the Virtual War Memorial app on our mobile phones. Very appropriate under the circumstances.

Ticketing platform for future Society Functions

At a recent Council meeting the issue of the administration challenge of ticketing for the various events the RCS run each year, was discussed.

The challenge of coordinating ticketing for our events has provided our hard-working Secretary/Treasurer with a significant increase in her workload. This has been bought about by a considerable increase in the events the RCS has hosted or supported over the past twelve months.

The Council resolved that two members would evaluate two prominent sites with the aim of selecting one for use for RCS events in the New Year.

To ensure that all of our members are made aware of the forthcoming events our newsletter will have a list of the events coming up in the next three months as it currently does.

An invitation to the event will be sent out well before the function and members will need to book onto the ticketing site to both book and if necessary, pay for their attendance. The site address will be on the invitation. Upon acceptance the booking, a confirmation email/receipt will be sent to the person booking the event.

No bookings in future will be taken by contacting the Secretary/Treasurer.

John Shepherd AM

Council member

VALE

The Branch Council and RCS members extend sympathy to the family and friends of former member Geoff Motley OAM on his recent death.

**Remember come to the Christmas Garden Party on
Thursday 7th
December 2023 at 2 Seaforth Avenue Hazelwood Park
RSVP by 26th November**



Photos in this newsletter taken by Julie Gameau, David Ellis and Jan Shepherd

Cyprus Continued

So far, we have engaged with more than 200 people across the island, organised two conferences in the UN Buffer Zone and composed two policy papers, advocating among others, for greater youth involvement in the Cyprus settlement process, in light of UN Security Council Resolution 2250 and most recently, Resolution 2674. Some of our suggestions include the establishment of a Technical Committee on Youth as part of the Track I peace process, as well as greater youth involvement in all Technical Committees, especially the one on environment. The environment has a great potential to unite people – together, we work for the turtles that swim across our sea, and the birds that fly above the barbed wires. If not us, then who? If not now, when?

Information sourced from RCS London Website

www.royalcwsociety.org

The views and opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the Royal Commonwealth Society.

PROPOSED DIARY DATES FOR 2023 AND 2024

A Pocket La Boheme	Sunday 12 November
A Pocket La Boheme Glenelg	Sunday 26 November
RCS Christmas Reception	Thursday 2nd December
Rediscovering Adelaide	February TBA
Commonwealth Day	Monday 14th March 2022
March Commonwealth Celebration	Thursday March 14th
Rediscovering Adelaide	April date TBA
Annual General Meeting	Sunday TBA
Wine tour	April 16-18
May Rediscovering Adelaide	TBA
Regional meeting in Kula Lumpa	June 5-June 8

President's report continued

The second event was a lunch for His Excellency Mr Jean de Dieu UWI-HANGANYE, High Commissioner for Rwanda. Julie and I met Jean in Singapore at the regional meeting and he told us he would come and visit. This too was a wonderful and memorable event. His Excellency has promised to return and spend more time with us.

QCC and CLELAND

After several false starts and aborted Royal visits, Her Excellency Frances Adamson will officially launch Cleland as a full member of the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy in November. As the QCC was designed as a memorial to Her Late Majesty, this will probably be the last official function associated with the project anywhere across the Commonwealth.

GLENTHORNE

Our involvement with this National Park continues to strengthen, especially as Vice president Judy Clarke has recently been elected to the Committee of the Friends of Glenthorne. Congratulations Judy.



Libby Ellis OAM President

**The Council of the
South Australian Branch of the
Royal Commonwealth Society wishes
all members and friends
a Merry Christmas
and a safe and happy New Year.**

**We look forward to seeing you at the
Christmas Garden Party on
Thursday 7th December 2023**

REDISCOVERING ADELAIDE

Members and friends

We are having great fun each month 'Rediscovering Adelaide' and meeting up to participate in new experiences and enjoy each others company

ADELAIDE TOWN HALL

As part of the popular "getting to know" our City, the Adelaide Town Hall was our latest event and as another brilliant tour.

Our Guide Glenn Woodward, proved to be an enthusiastic and knowledgeable gentleman as he showed our group the hidden secrets and history of the Town Hall. Glenn wove a fascinating Tapestry when he informed us about the first competition to design the building to its actual build with Edmund Wright as architect to its spectacular finish, Royalty and other famous visitors and the Mayors and Councillors,. Colonel William Light and his work and life added an extra touch.

We went on the balcony, into the Prince Albert and the Queen Adelaide Rooms, a well as the main auditorium with its fantastic organ. Even more amazing was hearing the organ in full force and learning about the monthly free recitals.

The tributes to Queen Adelaide and details of her life and good works were impressive and feature in a publication available at the Town Hall

Thank you Glenn for a impressive tour

Barbara Mayfield

CARRICK HILL

This beautiful house was built on land given as a wedding present to Ursula Barr Smith and Edward Hayward, in 1935.

On their honeymoon, the Haywards heard of an English manor house, Beaudesert, being demolished, and they took the opportunity to purchase oak panelling, doors, windows, light fittings and the gorgeous oak staircase. Their beautiful stone home was planned around these purchases.

Lady Hayward was very interested in developing a garden, which has terraced lawns, an orchard, roses, camellias, a huge clipped hedge, ornamental and native trees and shrubs, flag stone paving, statues and sculptural pieces, including a galvanised iron elephant.

Our tour was a joy of Tudor and Jacobean furniture, Persian carpets, light fittings, and a wonderful collection of drawings, paintings and sculptures, with British and French artists, as well as Australian artists, such as Nora Heysen, William Dobell, Russell Drysdale and John Dowie represented. All wrapped up in a building with the latest 1930's technology of heated towel rails, an ensuite bathroom and an intercom system, and Lady Hayward's Flower and Vase Room.

Sir Edward and Lady Hayward gifted the house and grounds to the people of South Australia. It is a gift that is growing and giving to all who visit.

Judy Clarke

Working for a sustainable and peaceful future on the 63rd Independence Day of Cyprus

Reported by Evgenia Chamilou, an Associate Fellow of the RCS and President of the Cyprus Youth Diplomacy

Cyprus, a picturesque island nestled in the Eastern Mediterranean marks a significant day in its history - Independence Day. A less known fact is that, even though Independence Day is celebrated on the 1st October each year, the official proclamation of the Republic of Cyprus was on 16th August 1960, following the "Cyprus Act" which established an independent sovereign Republic of Cyprus, and stipulated that "Her Majesty shall have no sovereignty or jurisdiction over the Republic of Cyprus." This occasion is a symbol of resilience, unity, and enduring spirit of the Cypriot people. It is also a day when Cypriots come together to celebrate their hard-won freedom and self-determination, reflecting on their cultural heritage and vibrant traditions that make this island unique. Festivities include parades, concerts, and cultural exhibitions that showcase the rich Cypriot history.

Unfortunately, following the intercommunal violence in the 1960s and the invasion in the summer of 1974, 36% of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus has been occupied and the island is *de facto* divided ever since. My active involvement in conflict resolution and peacebuilding, especially following my selection as a UN Youth Champion for Environment and Peace, has made me realise the importance of bottom-up peacebuilding. As McEvoy-Levy suggests "a peace agreement's endurance depends on whether the next generations accept or reject it, how they are socialised during the peace process, and their perceptions of what that peace process has achieved."

For this reason, I utilised my international youth climate networks as the Delegate of Cyprus to the Youth4Climate and Pre-COP26, my previous experiences within the Commonwealth, such as through my participation in the Pan-Commonwealth Parliamentary Assembly for COP26 and my attendance at two Commonwealth Day Services, as well as my local networks with young Greek Cypriots, Turkish Cypriots and Cypriots in the diaspora to establish the "Local Conference of Youth on Climate Change" in Cyprus (LCOY Cyprus) in 2022. This environmental peacebuilding initiative is supported by YOUNGO, the official children and youth constituency to UNFCCC, the UN in Cyprus, British High Commission in Cyprus, the British Council and Friends of the Earth Cyprus.

Continued

**Visit of His Excellency, The Rwandan High Commissioner
Lunch at St Mark's College, North Adelaide.
The Ball Room
Tuesday 12 September, 2023.**

His Excellency Jean de Dieu Uwihanganye and the First Secretary, Economic and Political Affairs, Ms Ornella Kayitesi were in Australia for meetings in Canberra and Western Australia. His Excellency had met with Libby Ellis and Julie Gameau in Singapore at the Asia Pacific RCS Meeting in May.

His Excellency spoke about the development in Rwanda, in the mind set of the country after the awful uprisings between tribal groups nearly 40 years ago. This change has allowed all the economic and social developments which have placed Rwanda, now, as the most economically and socially successful country in Africa today. In fact, His Excellency said, Rwanda is seen as the gateway into Africa, by business and governments looking to develop closer ties with the Continent.

He extended a very warm welcome to any RCS members wishing to travel to the country and said we would be received with openness, kindness, laughter and pride.

Our lunch was a very interesting and happy occasion and we were all so pleased to have been able to meet with two such wonderful ambassadors for their country and to be given the overview of a modern, exciting African Nation.

Judy Clarke

ADELAIDE HILLS CHAMBER PLAYERS

Mozart Concerto Rhapsody

Monday 29th January 2024 at St John's Church Halifax Street Adelaide at 7.30pm

Wolfgang Mozart

Sifonia Concertante

Soloists Helen Ayres Violin Stephen King Viola

Aaron Copland

Appalachian Spring

Conducted by Bryan Griffiths

Wolfgang Mozart

Horn Concerto No 3

Soloist Emma Gegan

The RCS is sponsoring this concert, RCS financial members are entitled to subsidised tickets of \$20 each

Please order your tickets from Julie 0407203035

Bank details

BSB

105-148

Account No.

554020140

For further information www.adelaidehillschamberplayers.com

For further tickets: \$65 adults / \$55 conc/seniors

\$48 early bird [closes 30 November]

RCS members are invited to Libby and David's at the conclusion of the concert for Pizza and to meet the cast.

NEW MEMBER

The RCS welcomes back Bette Hardy to membership.

We hope that you will continue to enjoy the activities organised by the Branch.

Nigeria Growth and Trade Summit with the Nigeria Governors' Wives Forum

The Country Director of RCS Nigeria, Blackson Olaseni Bayewumi attended the Summit of the Nigeria Governors' Wives Forum in Partnership with Consulate General of Nigeria in New York. The Summit focused on stemming factors for migration flows by providing basic needs of the people such as qualitative education, good healthcare, affordable shelter, poverty alleviation and wealth creation

Her Excellency, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, First Lady of Federal Republic of Nigeria spoke about the activities of the 'Renewed Hope Initiative', in providing basic needs of the people by building capacities of the people, awarding scholarships to the indigent students, providing startup capital for the people to start their businesses and supporting some communities that recently experienced disaster.

Her Excellency, Ambassador Professor (Mrs) Olufolake Abdulrasaq, the Chairperson of the Nigeria Governors' Wives Forum and the First Lady of Kwara State spoke about the activities of the Forum in supporting the effort of Government and meeting the basic needs of the people. She also spoke about the activities of the 'Ajike People Support Center' in this regard.

Other First Ladies (Wives of State Governors) at the event also discussed their respective initiatives, programmes and activities of meeting the needs of the people in their various states across the country. In summary, the Summit provided a veritable platform for the Guests, Speakers and Participants to look at the issue of 'Migration Flows' as a serious threat to our collective Wellbeing that requires urgent and serious attention. The Summit proffered solutions in this regard such as appropriate and qualitative Education, improved Healthcare services, massive investment in affordable Housing, improved inflow of Investment to create the needed jobs, increased social intervention in poverty alleviation, special attention to girl child education, to mention but few.

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WINE TOUR

The Branch Council has organised a tour of our state's magnificent wine Regions of the Barossa Valley, the Adelaide Hills and McLaren Vale

This tour is for International and Interstate RCS members but there may be some vacancies for South Australian RCS members.

If you are interested please contact either Libby Ellis or Julie Gameau to express your interest

The tour is for three days April16– April18

Further information is in the included brochure.

THE QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH CANOPY

The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy (QCC) was launched at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malta in 2015, with the vision of creating a pan-Commonwealth network of forest conservation projects that marked Her Majesty The Queen's service to the Commonwealth and conserved indigenous forests for future generations. It is the first environmental initiative that The Queen gave her name to.

Since its creation in 2015, when seven countries initially committed themselves to the initiative, a total of 54 Commonwealth countries are now committed to the QCC. Collectively, those countries have dedicated in excess of 115 sites and projects to the QCC, conserving almost 12 million hectares of indigenous forests around the Commonwealth.

In South Australia the official launch of Cleland National Park in to the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy will be on Monday 20th November. Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson will unveil the plaque.