

MEMBERS PLEASE REMEMBER

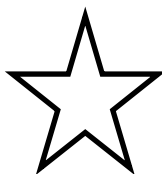
September dinner
Pocket Tosca

Wednesday 25 September
Sunday 17th November 3.00pm

Sporting Car Club
King William Road UNLEY

Christmas Party

Thursday 5th December .



MEMBERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

The following Countries are members of the Commonwealth

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, Barbados, Lesotho, 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, Namibia, Cameroon, Mozambique, Rwanda, Maldives, The Gambia , Togo 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 111 as their own Head of State

Branch Council Members

President:	Libby Ellis OAM	0412 820 121
Vice President	Judy Clarke	(08) 8379 7707
Secretary/Treasurer	Julie Gameau OAM	0407 203 035
Councillors:	Chris Ashton	0419 804 725
	Patsy Beckett	0407 249 850
	Christine Cundell	0403 796 087
	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 Australia) Incorporated

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



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY
South Australia Branch

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Secretary: Julie Gameau OAM

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August 2024 – October 2024

Newsletter



The visit to the Museum on Friday 26th July. For our small group of 8 the Museum provided an intimate re-visit to the various galleries with our own Museum guide, who determined our tour from our personal interests. Personally, it has been many years since I had visited, and the addition of a guide certainly enhanced the experience, given the explained history of exhibits (something that did not occur with children in tow!). It was heartening to see Greater the Pink Flamingo again and see the exhibit to acknowledge Andy Thomas and his contribution to space exploration. Many of the exhibits have been improved, excluding the Egyptian Room that remains unchanged. Repatriation of world treasures may bring about some loss of exhibits, and possibly the return of others.

Jan Shepherd

PATRON

Worldwide Patron

His Majesty King Charles III

South Australian Patron: the Governor of South Australia

Her Excellency, the Honourable Frances Adamson AC

DIARY DATES

September Dinner	Wednesday 25th September St Mark’s College Ballroom Guest speaker Professor Chris Daniels
CHOGM	21 October to 25 October 2024 in SAMOA
Adelaide Hills Chamber Opera	Sunday 17th November at 3.00pm Sporting Car Cub, King William Road UNLEY
RCS Christmas party	Thursday 5th December 2024

For further details regarding the above functions please contact Libby 0412 820 121 or Julie 040720 3035

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
www.thercssa.com.au

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

REPORT ON THE PLANNING RCS MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13 JUNE 2024

After the Special General Meeting, members were invited to stay on for a planning meeting. The four pillars of the RCS London were put up on a white board to give some structure to the discussion.

The four headings and the comments each elicited are:-

Environment

It was agreed that our involvement in environmental issues was well covered, including:- QCC. Queens Commonwealth Canopy was a major project for Adelaide, but has been archived with the Queen’s death. Neither RCS London nor Cw Forestry Association are interested in keeping it operational.

Plastics in the oceans will be announced as the major RCS London initiative at CHOGM. Glenthorne has become our major Environment project growing from our interest in QCC and working with DEW rangers and Friends of Glenthorne.

Equality. The meeting agreed that in South Australia, our best plan was to consider the gap between urban and rural/remote conditions and consider ways we could contribute to lessening this situation.

The RCS is not attracting youth and the membership is aging was also discussed. It was agreed that William Comley would create an Instagram account in our name. Our involvement with Amicus was noted as that group tended to be younger and more culturally diverse than our core members. Australian Institute of International Affairs was mentioned as a possible source of new younger members.

Literature. The meeting agreed that we should broaden this category to include education. The Council was asked to consider ways of increasing our involvement in educational projects. PESA. Our continued support of the Plain English Speaking competition was supported.

Our involvement with the Essay Competition has been patchy. Now that the essays are sent direct to London we have no knowledge of who is completing, and therefore it is no longer possible for us to award the local gold medallists. When a South Australia student received the major prize, London did not advise us. It was agreed that we would minimise our involvement in this project.

Communities. Historically, our main involvement has been with various musical groups and individuals. The meeting was happy that this focus should continue. Musical groups we have or continue to support include:-RCS Ensemble, Adelaide Hills Chamber Players, Adelaide Wind Orchestra and the Eisteddfod.

Co-Opera. Historically we supported this group but after a couple of years, the group did not need the RCS sponsorship. This group is now teaming with AHCP to produce small operas, and as such our sponsorship has recommenced, indirectly. It was agreed to wait until we saw whether Co-Opera would continue before any serious sponsorship was considered for the next years. Libby Ellis declared a conflict of interest as the current Chair of Co-Opera.

In terms of activities, the meeting agreed that Rediscovering Adelaide was working well and should continue, plus periodic lunches or dinners with interesting speakers. If the event was a lunch, the meal should be a light lunch. Because of the weather, lunches were preferred in the colder months.

Libby Ellis

RCS ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2024 INITIATIVES

These initiatives will be sent to the Malaysian Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Honorary Counsels from Vanuatu and Nauru who participated at our Conference and RCS UK.

Finance & Economics RCS to provide more sustainable platform for international dialogue and collaboration on financial and economic issues among member states like organising forums for knowledge exchange, developing training programs for regulatory best practices, and supporting joint projects that enhance financial infrastructure and innovation in the Asia Pacific.

Climate Finance More innovation is needed to generate the finance needed to meet the scale of climate change.

Climate Change Sustainable forest management and plantations play an important role in reducing soil erosion where it also affects education and health (such as heat, floods and other extreme weather). Waste management also plays a role where plastic waste can be recycled into usable products, supporting efforts to create a circular economy.

AI and Technology Commonwealth nations can collaborate on a unified AI strategy by establishing a central AI task force that facilitates coordinated efforts in research, development, and governance. This can be achieved through by joint research initiatives, shared AI resources, developing common AI governance framework, organising training and workshop, regular forums and conference to share ideas and practices.

As we see it - Transforming our Common Wealth For Small Island States - Shared Resources and Expertise, Accessing financial resources for large- scale resilience projects, Strengthening collective bargaining power in international climate negotiations.

Human right, democracy and rule of law To enhance human rights, democracy and rule of law, it should start from education, where it is part of primary and secondary education, conducting workshops and seminars to raise awareness at the grassroots level, ensuring those in power understand and uphold human rights principles

Youth empowerment Youth should be highlighted and encouraged to hold continuous dialogue in a collaborative effort to empower youth in the Asia Pacific region. They must be encouraged to share their ideas and commitments to drive youth empowerment forward.

Understandably, these initiatives cannot be implemented at the global level by RCS. However, we can endeavour to adopt these initiatives, and see how we can achieve, even in a small way the end goal.

Report prepared by Bernice Narayanan Chair RCS Malaysia

Libby Ellis OAM, President of the Royal Commonwealth Society (South Australia) Incorporated

invites members of the RCS and their friends to the

SEPTEMBER DINNER

WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2024

6.00pm for 6.30pm

**ST MARK’S COLLEGE BALLROOM
Pennington Street North Adelaide.**

Guest Speaker

Professor Chris Daniels

RSVP 14 September

\$60 RCS Members

\$65 Guests

2 course meal

wine, beer and orange juice provided

BOOKING SHEET for September dinner

I am pleased to attend the 2024 September Dinner of the Royal Commonwealth Society South Australia at St Mark’s College Ballroom Pennington Street North Adelaide on Wednesday 25th September 2024.

Name.....RCS member

BSB 105 148

Guests.....

Account No. 5540 20140

Dietary requirements.....

Please return slip to Royal Commonwealth Society
PO Box 7013 252-254 Halifax Street, Adelaide 5000
RSVP 14 September to juliegameau@gmail.com

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

President's report**SPECIAL GENERAL AND PLANNING MEETINGS.**

At a SGM on 13 June, members agreed to the proposed constitution changes including our name change. Paperwork is underway so that we become The Royal Commonwealth Society (South Australia) Incorporated. More and more members of the RCS network are changing their names; some like us are removing the word "Branch" as London is no longer a membership organisation, and others like Barbados have removed the word "Royal". It's a sign of the times. I think we should now refer to "RCS network members" rather than "RCS branches".

Following the SGM, about 15 members participated in a lively discussion about where our Society might be headed and what the members wanted from the Council. A more detailed report and conclusions from this planning session will be made public soon, allowing Council to do some forward planning.

GLENTHORNE

I am very excited about this major project and our involvement in it. Over the last several months, our part in the project has changed several times, but when you receive this Newsletter we will have had a major tree planting exercise with the Friends of Glenthorne and students from a local school as the next step towards creating a Commonwealth Grove as part of a tribute to the 17000 plus war horses that passed through No 9 Remount Depot, located at Glenthorne.

After the tree planting, our next role is to commission a major artwork to pay tribute to the animals, horses and donkeys, to be incorporated into the area around the WWI munitions huts at the top of the hill. Glenthorne, with its new playground and other facilities is a wonderful National Park and very well worth a visit.

Several RCS members attended the launch of the Second Edition of *Glenthorne: its history and politics*. Professor Chris Daniels says more about this event later in the Newsletter.

ADELAIDE HILLS CHAMBER PLAYERS & CO-OPERA

As you know we have been supporting AHCP since the previous Artistic Director of Co-Opera said that he no longer needed our sponsorship assistance. Over several years we have supported many concerts, especially those being performed at St John's Halifax Street, with a get-together with the cast after the show. Earlier this year the then Chairman of Co-Opera called me to say that the Board was planning to close the company. After much discussion, Brian Chatterton and I have resumed our previous roles as Artistic Director and Board Chair. The AHCP performances of *Mozart's Journey* in June, and the pocket *Tosca* scheduled for November are being offered in conjunction with Co-Opera. As I became involved with the RCS because of the support from this Society to Co-Opera, it now seems like we have come the full circle, especially as *Tosca* is planned to have a mini-tour to Victoria where the second performance will be hosted by RCS Victoria. Members of the friends of Co-Opera reading this will be delighted to learn that the RCS is sponsoring Tan Wei Han to come from Taiwan to sing in the Adelaide performances of *Tosca*. More details elsewhere in the Newsletter.

BOOK LAUNCH AT GLENTHORNE NATIONAL PARK

Sunday 21 July, 2024, 11am to 2pm

The 2nd Edition of the book "*Glenthorne: Its History and Politics*", written by Dr Pam Smith, Dr Keryn Walshe, both Archaeologists from Flinders University, and Alan Burns, one of the original members of the Friends of Glenthorne, was launched at Glenthorne National Park on a cold and windy morning, in front of about 50 people.

A number of these people, were descendants of families who had lived, farmed and worked at Glenthorne, since its inception as a working farm with Major O'Halloran in 1839. Then through its further owners, into the hands of the Army, as No 9 Remount Depot, very busy during WW1; then to the CSIRO in 1947 and finally to the Adelaide University.

Glenthorne's final iteration as a National Park came to pass in May 2020, under the leadership, of the then, Minister for the Environment, and now, Leader of the Opposition, Hon. David Speirs, who wrote the Forward, and Launched this 2nd Edition.

Speakers at this event all had a deep involvement with Glenthorne. Tony Magor from DEW, welcomed us to the Park; Professor Chris Daniels, Chair of Green Adelaide, spoke of the enormous importance of an awareness of "suburban biodiversity, Citizen Science and the solace of wild places"; Pam Smith and Keryn Walshe both spoke of their enormous pride and affection for the work they had done over 20 years, helping to uncover Glenthorne's story, both Indigenous and Colonial; and David Speirs spoke of the difficulties, the help, the tenacity and pride, when Glenthorne was proclaimed a National Park.

Hot coffee, hot chocolate, sandwiches, wraps, fruit, cakes and good conversation, helped warm us up and the rain held off until after everything had been tidied away.

Copies of the book can be bought through Friends of Glenthorne website.

Judy Clarke

ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Mark the date in your diary Thursday 5th December 2024
Come and celebrate Christmas with your RCS friends

Further details will be announced in the November newsletter.

The branch will be subsidising the cost of the late afternoon party

ADELAIDE HILLS CHAMBER PLAYERS**POCKET TOSCA****NOVEMBER 2024:**

Puccini's dramatic master-work only gains in impact as the decades roll on. Viewed originally as an a-typical 19th century example of feminine strength and independence, today's audiences revere this very quality as a significant milestone in the centuries long march of emancipation.

This pocket production captures the musico-dramatic power of the score and libretto but is also laced with comic interjections from the Sacristan which many productions fail to recognise as a balancing theatrical element that Puccini intended.

RCS Member and friends join the RCS Council and come and be entertained by the Adelaide Hills Chamber Players presenting a pocket edition of Tosca

- Sunday 17th November at 3.00pm
- Sporting Car Cub, King William Road UNLEY
- Further details at website adelaidehillschamberplayers.com

ADELAIDE WIND ORCHESTRA (AWO)

The AWO seeks to unite , educate, challenge and enrich the South Australian public through the power of music

The RCS gives a sponsorship to the AWO

Members of the RCS have attended recent concerts

The concerts for the rest of 2024 are

Painted Rainbows on Saturday 28 September 7.30pm Eder Hall
The symphonic wind orchestra paints rainbows through the use o modern musical orchestrations and nove combinations of instruments

Magic of this Dawn Saturday 9 November 7.30pm at Elder Halll

If you would like to attend the concerts please contact the secretary
Further information on the AWO web site

President's Report continued**RCS REGIONAL MEETING, 6-9 JUNE, KUALA LUMPUR**

This is now being referred to as Asia-Pacific Conference (APC). Two Pacific branches were represented, SA and Vic, and three Asia branches, Malaysia, Singapore and HK. There was also a large group of students from a private school in India who are talking about visiting Australia in November.

RCS of Malaysia is working hard to keep their activities before the Government officials, but under the radar politically. This complicated strategy seems to be working and several senior officials attended at various times over the two days.

RCS LONDON.

I finally had a zoom meeting with Libby & Billy. I have been trying since November. They are asking the King to plant a tree in Buckingham Palace grounds to finalise the QCC. The Environment pillar will be plastics in the ocean, hopefully to be announced at CHOGM in October. This seems to be largely education and webinars. No-body from London attended the meeting in KL, but COO Libby van DerValk did a 5 minute video presentation during which she mentioned in passing that the King had agreed to be their patron. There was no mention whether Queen Camilla would continue as Vice Patron. There was also no reiteration of the announcement of London hosting an International Meeting in 2025.

REDISCOVERING ADELAIDE

Our visits to Adelaide icons continue to be an excellent way of our members getting together to celebrate Adelaide's wonderfully diverse history. Government House in April, Army Museum in May and Museum in July. As part of our Branch report to the KL meeting we mentioned this project and RCS Victoria were going to ask if they could also use the name, but then Government House in Melbourne started a project called Rediscovering Melbourne, so RCS Victoria can use that. I wonder if our Governors have been comparing notes.

CHOGM, SAMOA, OCTOBER 2024

Planning is well under way for this major event. Several RCS network members and other personnel have indicated their intention to attend the Peoples Forum. As part of the lead-up to the peoples' Forum as part of CHOGM, I have been participating in Pacific Regional Conversations. Unfortunately, as the most western registered location in the Pacific region, the Zoom meetings start in Adelaide at 5:30 am.

The nice thing about Zoom meetings is that providing you pull on a jumper, no-one knows you are still wearing PJs underneath!



Libby Ellis OAM, President

The role for volunteer and community group and societies

Last Sunday, July 21st, I had the great pleasure of addressing the Friends of Glenthorne National Park, and their associated supporter groups and individuals, for the launch of the new book on the history of this amazing site. Several members of the Royal Commonwealth Society of South Australia were present, demonstrating their support for this group and in particular this site.

Glenthorne National Park has an extraordinary history of aboriginal settlement there for over 40,000 years and recently almost 200 years of continuous occupation by a variety of charismatic, eclectic, and unusual Europeans. Since colonization, Glenthorne has been the site of a range of farms, the training facility for horses for the First World War, a CSIRO Research station, and is now a major recreational and nature preserve for the southern Adelaide community.

What really struck me was the incredible importance of this site for large range of community groups including the Royal Commonwealth Society of South Australia. These societies all play a role in the progress and improvement of this remarkable place. It was very clear to me that the event at Glenthorne exemplified the vital roles that grassroots societies play in supporting not just our range of parks, and historical sites, but also by supporting and enhancing cultural, historical, and societal activities throughout South Australia. It is these grassroots societies that provide the support to keep our history and values alive. Using the Parks example, South Australia has more than 140 Friends groups for its 350 parks South Australia wide, with a total of over 5,000 members. Locally, Green Adelaide supports over 100 volunteer societies comprising almost 3,000 members, delivering over \$2.12 million worth of labour, expertise, and support for our metropolitan open spaces. Green Adelaide supports repair shops and community garden volunteers, small private nature education organisations like Nature Play and the Marine Discovery Centre, as well as specialist societies and Friends groups for small and large parks. It was clear at this book launch that the importance of societies such as the RCSSA cannot be understated. South Australia is simply not able to be resourced by Governments at any level to provide the amount of support necessary for so many of our crucial historical, societal and environmental ventures. For example, without the enormous effort delivered by the RCS SA, Cleland National Park would not be a member of the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy and so gain international profile leading to increased tourism, economic benefits, and increased recognition for the importance of the biodiversity within this urban park.

The role for volunteer and community group and societies (Continued)

Similarly, the evolution of Glenthorne National Park from a badly degraded piece of farmland managed by Adelaide University, to a thriving National Park, with a Nature Play playground, a historical recognition of its role in the supply horses in the great war (delivered by the RCSSA), and as a place for recreation by a large number of families, is due to the continued persistent action and care by small groups of dedicated volunteers led by the Friends of Glenthorne. Even the production of the book we launched on Sunday was a loving work by Flinders University archaeologists and historians some of whom were directly and personally linked to the remarkable history of the place. It was also a pleasure to see how a number of very different Societies actively support each other. To have the RCSSA present at the book launch demonstrated not just that the site is home for a wide range of societies and their activities, but that the societies support each other in all of their ventures to deliver a truly remarkable end product emphasising that South Australia simply could not survive without the actions of our wonderful grassroots communities, and societies. This event was a lovely example of the supportive role played by the Royal Commonwealth Society of South Australia whose hard work, so much of which goes unnoticed, is invaluable, nevertheless.

Professor Chris Daniels

LONDON

David and I were in London in May and although I did not go to Guild Hall to see the new RCS offices, I did meet up with Peter Mann, former President RCS Hong Kong, whom many of you will remember from our national meeting here in 2017. Peter, along with John Carmichael, who has wonderful links to Africa, is setting up the Commonwealth Bond, in the old Armoury in Woolwich. It's an inspired choice of location; all the armaments for the British army for all around the Empire and two World Wars were manufactured here, not to mention Arsenal Football Team. The plan is to host Commonwealth events and businesses from around the Commonwealth. As part of Greenwich Borough, it's a very pretty location right on the Thames. As a geographer, I was delighted when we were invited to a private house for Tea and told this was the former home of the Astronomer Royal. It had the Prime meridian marked in the concrete porch outside the front door!

Libby Ellis