

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, 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
Treasurer:	Julie Gameau OAM	0407 203 035
Secretary:	Julie Gameau	0407 203 035
Councillors:	Chris Ashton	0419 804 725
	William Comley	0478 287 287
	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 Australian Branch)

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



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY
South Australia Branch

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www.thercssa.com.au

President: Libby Ellis OAM

Ph 0412 820 121

Secretary: Julie Gameau OAM

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February 2025 – April 2025

NEWSLETTER



Gary Archer and Libby Ellis admiring the chandelier Sculpture in the Palm House

PATRONS

World wide Patron **His Majesty King Charles III**
World wide Vice patron **Her Majesty The Queen**
South Australian Patron: the Governor of South Australia
Her Excellency, the Honourable Frances Adamson AC

DIARY DATES

Rediscovering Adelaide **Tour of Dunluce Castle Brighton**
 Thursday 6 March
Commonwealth Week: **Monday 11 to Friday 15 March**
Annual General Meeting **Sunday 23th March at Public Schools Club**

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

2025 Subscriptions are due on 1st January 2025

Please pay the Treasurer as soon as possible
The subscription to the RCS entitles all members to offer to be a member of the RCS Council, vote at the Annual General Meeting and other Special meetings, quarterly newsletters and to attend some functions at a subsidised cost.

Single membership **\$50**
Double membership **\$75**

Bank details are as follows

BSB 105 148
 Bank SA
 Account number 5540 20140

AI: bridging educational gaps

In many of our **member countries** access to quality education remains a significant challenge. AI offers a beacon of hope, providing innovative solutions to bridge these gaps and challenges. Through adaptive learning technologies, AI can tailor educational content to meet the unique needs of each student, ensuring that no learner is left behind. This personalised approach not only enhances learning outcomes but also fosters a more inclusive educational environment. I often turn to the wisdom of **Nelson Mandela**, and today is no different:

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Fostering innovation in education

AI isn't just a tool for bridging gaps; it is a catalyst for innovation. We've created **The Commonwealth Artificial Intelligence Consortium (CAIC)** to help deliver our ongoing commitment to harness human-centred AI. Through our collaborative partnerships with governments, industries, and academia, we are actively driving innovation that transforms traditional educational models at speed. AI-powered tools, such as intelligent tutoring systems and virtual classrooms, are revolutionising the way we can teach and learn, making education more engaging and accessible.

A call to action

As we observe the **International Day of Education**, and reflect on our common achievements, shared leaning, and aspirations, let us reaffirm our commitment to leveraging AI for educational excellence. The Commonwealth is dedicated to ensuring that every child, regardless of their background, has access to quality education. By embracing AI, we can create a brighter, more equitable future for all.

VALE**Erica Cox**

It is with sadness that the Council expresses sympathy to the relatives and friends of Erica Cox.

Erica was a member of the RCS many years ago.

She was a member of the Victoria League and attended many functions organised by the Joint Commonwealth Societies and the Royal Commonwealth Society.

We will miss Erica.

HARNESSING AI FOR A BRIGHTER EDUCATIONAL FUTURE

By the Commonwealth Secretary-General, The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC, on International Day of Education 2025

As we mark the International Day of Education today, we have an opportunity to reflect on the transformative potential of artificial intelligence (AI) in the context of education. Aptly, the theme is “**AI and Education: Human Agency in an Automated World**” and this is an area we have been passionate about for some years. Our Commonwealth, with its diverse member states, stands together at the forefront of this digital revolution, leveraging AI to bridge educational gaps, foster innovation, and empower the next generation.

The Commonwealth AI Academy: Empowering the next generation

Emerging technologies like AI are driving rapid digital transformation with an enormous impact on the global economy and jobs across the Commonwealth. Keeping up has never been so vital.

AI empowers young people by equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in this rapidly evolving digital world. **The Commonwealth AI Academy**, does this by offering free, comprehensive online courses that have been designed by experts to build foundational AI skills. By fostering digital literacy and promoting ethical, human-centred AI practices, we are preparing the next generation to lead with integrity and innovation.

I am incredibly proud of our partnership with the Government of Nigeria and how we are working together to make AI literacy available to young students and civil servants. At the launch of this partnership in December last year, **the Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology, Nigeria, Chief Uche Nnaji**, remarked, that

"The launch of the AI Academy marks a bold step toward preparing Nigerians for the future. By equipping our citizens with AI skills, we are laying the foundation for a new generation of innovators, problem-solvers, and global leaders who will shape Nigeria's technological and economic progress."

Photos in this newsletter have been supplied by Julie Gameau .

2024 Christmas Reception

To celebrate the Christmas season, the RCS and friends gathered in the Public Schools Club's Heywood Room on the first Thursday in December and what a jolly gathering it was.

Nearly 30 guests included ROSL President Graham and Patsy Beckett as well as Geoff and Jilly Knights, Dennis Coleman and Members of ESU Chris & Gillian Perriam. Friends of Glenthorne (taking a well-deserved break from their horticultural labours!) were also present. The table was laden with a large variety of delicious Christmas fare and was decorated by RCS President Libby Ellis with a beautiful Christmas Card which RCS had received from HE The Governor and Mr. Bunten. Libby gave a short speech of welcome to all before guests settled down to a relaxed, friendly evening of fun and socializing as well as discussion on RCS projects for 2025.

The Council ladies were kept busy by ensuring that the platters and wine were enjoyed by all and the mild weather encouraged guests to linger.

Brenda Wallis.

WEBSITES

the Royal Commonwealth Society in London is
www.royalcwsociety.org

the Commonwealth Secretariat
www.thecommonwealth.org

The Royal Commonwealth Society South Australia
www.thercssa.com.au


PRESIDENT'S REPORT: 14 JANUARY 2025.

Adelaide Hills Chamber Players: Our involvement with AHCP was intense in November with some assistance indirectly with FOH for Tosca performances, including two in Victoria, the last one being in RCS Victoria's headquarters "Gables on Finch".

Indian students: Nothing more has been heard about this. William has continued to liaise with this group even while he has been back home in Melbourne for Uni holidays.

Christmas party: this year we held this annual event back at the Public Schools' Club, but we self catered. We had a great turn-out and I think everyone had a good time.

RCS International: London has confirmed they will not be hosting an International Meeting in 2025, and as both Edmonton and Melbourne were planning a Regional meeting in 2026 as well as CHOGM, some planning was required. A small Whatsapp group has been established to coordinate RCS events for the next couple of years, including a higher profile at CHOGM 2026. The current thinking is that Melbourne will host an RM, with our help (William is on the planning committee), 2-5 October 2025, and Edmonton is tied to 2026, probably September. There is some casual talk about also still meeting in the Caribbean during and around CHOGM, whenever that happens. A small group may go to Barbados in July 2025 to assist with the restoration and creation of a Commonwealth Hub there.



Libby Ellis OAM,
President

Card of thanks from Anglicare

Sincere thanks for your generous donation of food and gifts to Anglicare SA's 2024 Christmas Appeal.

Anglicare SA seeks to help families who are struggling. We want to make the festive season a time of hope for all people in Adelaide, and to bring a brighter New year to those in need.

The response we received this past Christmas surpassed our expectations and we were truly overwhelmed by the generosity of South Australians. Not only were we able to provide more Christmas hampers than we originally allocated, but our emergency assistance sites have been able to start the year with stocked pantries.

From all of us at Anglicare SA—Thank you

MEMBERS PLEASE REMEMBER

- Annual General Meeting Sunday 23 March at 2.30pm at the Public Schools Club
- Rediscovering Adelaide a visit to Dunluce Castle Thursday 6 March 12 Yester Avenue Brighton 11.00am
- Commonwealth Week 10th to 14th March 2025



REDISCOVERING ADELAIDE

Our next adventure is exploring **Dunluce Castle at Brighton**

Thursday March 6 2025 at 11.00am

Meet at the Castle 12 Yester Avenue Brighton at 10.45am

Cost \$24.50 which includes the tour and morning tea

Dunluce Castle is a landmark in Brighton.

It was built by Fricker Builders and its design is based on a wing of the Dunluce Castle in Northern Ireland.

Dunluce was inhabited as early as 1910.

A mansion of some 13 main rooms and a dozen original fireplaces, its imposing Blackwood staircase and cedar ceilings, Dunluce has much to offer for lovers of local history

At the special guided tour you will learn more about the history of this historic building, the Macully family, the legend of the smugglers tunnels and South Australia's first registered shark fatality, Kitty Macully of Dunluce.

Dunluce Castle has always been a family home and the current owners since 2005 are the 7th family to reside in the castle.

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 AUSTRALIAN BRANCH)**

Members are all invited to attend the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held on

Sunday 23rd March 2025 at 2.30pm

at The Public Schools' Club, 207 East Terrace, Adelaide

Come and hear what the society has done for the last 12 months and the plans for the next 12 months.

Fellowship and refreshments will follow the meeting

Apologies and further details, please contact the

President: Libby Ellis 0412 820 121 or

Secretary: Julie Gameau 0407 203 035

DRAFT AGENDA

- Open meeting and welcome
- Minutes of the AGM held on 24 March 2024
- Receive and adopt a report from the President
- To receive and adopt the audited Statement of Accounts
- To elect Officers and Council members
- To appoint an Auditor
- Any Other Business TBA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY 23RD MARCH

Further agenda items will be posted out to all financial members after the next Council meeting

NOMINATION FORM

The Royal Commonwealth Society
South Australia Incorporated

We, being members of the above Society entitled to vote.

Hereby nominate.....

For the Position of	President	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councillor	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated this.....day
of.....2025

Signature of Proposer

Signature of Seconder

I hereby agree to accept such position if elected thereto.

Signature of Nominee

RCS Council

The officers of the Society shall consist of the President, up to two Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and up to six Councillors (Clause 12.1).

Any one who wishes to be nominated for the Council at the Annual General Meeting on Sunday, 23 March 2025, please contact either the President, Libby Ellis or the Secretary Julie Gameau.

REDISCOVERING ADELAIDE

CHIHULY GLASS SCULPTURES

On Tuesday 26 November about 16 RCS members and friends meandered under the majestic trees of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens to view the magnificent large-scaled coloured glass sculptures.

And what a spectacular sight!!

The *Garden Cycle* exhibition forms an art trail throughout the Botanic Gardens allowing visitors to see the works in a beautiful setting. The sculptures respond as the light changes with time and the seasons.

This exhibition is the first major exhibition in the Southern hemisphere.

Dale Chihuly was born in Tacoma, Washington. He is a celebrated artist who for more that 50 years has been creating world class art in a range of mediums using both old and new techniques.

His work in glass explores light, colour and translucency.

It is an exhibition worth seeing day and night, many times over.



COUNCIL THANKS

At the recent council meeting members regretfully accepted the resignation of **Councillor, Patsy Beckett**

Patsy has been on the Council for the last 3 years.

Patsy and husband Graham have attended RCS functions regularly

The council thanks Patsy for her sage advice and commitment to the RCS

We look forward to seeing you at many more functions.