

News from London Commonwealth Youth Summit

In October 2015 the RCS revitalised one of its key youth projects organising the London **Commonwealth Youth Summit** in partnership with Tower Hamlets Youth Council and the Daneford Trust. Largely inspired by the Youth Commonwealth Head of Governments Meeting (CHOGM) project, the summit gave the opportunity to young Londoners to take part in a one day simulation of a CHOGM.

The summit gathered more than 70 young people and was held in Tower Hamlets Council Chambers. The participants, acting as Head of States, discussed current issues faced by the Commonwealth such as climate change and child marriage. While some participants role-played Heads of States and debated, others joined the Media and the Communique teams, in charge respectively, of reporting on the summit and writing the outcome document of the day.

The event was hailed as great success having raised young people's awareness of the Commonwealth and improved their understanding of the decision-making process a CHOGM entails. Additionally, the diversity characterising London was celebrated as young people came from a wide range of backgrounds reflecting the multiculturalism of the city.

Helen Jones, RCS Director of Youth & Education, said: "The day was fantastic and it was incredibly inspiring to see so many young people so enthused by the Commonwealth, along with taking such an active role during the debates. We are also extremely grateful to Tower Hamlets for providing such a great venue and support for us all in hosting the event here!"

In the months to come the RCS will look to organise other youth summits to continue to raise awareness of the Commonwealth among young people and to encourage their engagement with the Society's Youth and Education offer

Women's Views on CHOGM

This month the Royal Commonwealth Society and the Royal Over-Seas League convened the panel discussion, '**Adding Global Value: Women's Views on CHOGM**'. It was chaired by Catherine Mayer, founder of the Women's Equality Party and brought together female leaders to discuss issues affecting women throughout the Commonwealth. What was stark about the discussion was the number of problems common to all, albeit each came from a different region of the Commonwealth.

The Malta Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2015 will include the first Women's Forum themed 'Women Ahead Be All that You Can Be' endorsing a strong message of female empowerment. The Forum will focus on the lack of female leadership in fields such as politics, business and education and address the question, 'How can the Commonwealth add value?'

For further information visit the web site www.thercs.org



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY
South Australia Branch

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President: Libby Ellis OAM Ph 0412 820 121

Secretary: Julie Gameau Ph 08 8357 9547

November 2015 – January 2016 Newsletter

**The President, Libby Ellis OAM and
Councillors wish**

**all members a Happy and Holy
Christmas and a**

prosperous New Year

**Members are thanked for their
continued support during the last year.**

**We look forward to seeing you at the
Christmas Reception on Thursday 3rd December.**

**May your Christmas be a time spent with family and
loved ones**

PATRONS**Worldwide Patron**

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

South Australian Patron:His Excellency The Honourable Hieu Van Le AO
Governor of South Australia**President's report**

The events surrounding the mile stone of the Queen becoming the longest reigning monarch in British, and Australian, history have been celebrated joyously over the past couple of months.

Government House held a reception in September, and another was held at the Town Hall in conjunction with the Monarchists' League.

It was great to be able to meet fellow members of like associations, for these historical events.

As we all know, there are several organisations in Adelaide with complementary aims and objectives. Many of these groups meet annually for Commonwealth Day.

The Presidents of several meet annually for the "Royal Presidents' Dinner", but I have long thought that we should be assisting each other in more concrete ways.

David Wotton, President of the Royal Overseas League, and I met for a coffee a couple of months ago and agreed to take positive steps to achieve closer ties.

In accordance with this aim, eighteen of us, representing the Royal Commonwealth Society Council and membership, joined the Royal Overseas League for their annual dinner. It was a lovely dinner and coincided with the Town Hall reception, so many of us went straight from the reception to the dinner and it made for a very memorable day.

Also in September our own RCS Ensemble held its third concert. Titled 'The Best of British' it was exciting to hear some lesser known chamber music from a country that is not usually thought of as having produced much in this very specific genre. These concerts are not only assisting talented South Australian musicians to remain full-time professional musicians without having to live interstate, but they are introducing people to our wonderful Society. It always amazes me how little people know about the Commonwealth.

I look forward to meeting many of you personally at our Christmas party next month.

Until then, all the best to you

Libby Ellis OAM

President

Branch Council Members 2015

President:	Libby Ellis	0412 820 121
Vice President:	Margaret Lord	(08) 8346 7952
Vice President	Jayne Ross	(08) 8346 6002
Treasurer:	Ken Pennell	0438 233 315
Secretary:	Julie Gameau	(08) 8357 9547
Councillors:	Chris Ashton	0419 804 725
	Terry Grant	(08) 8333 1658
	Allan Perryman	0418 821 572
	Des Wyatt	(08) 8281 7594

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

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, The Gambia, 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, Maldives, St Christopher & Nevis, Brunei Darussalam, Namibia, Cameroon, Mozambique, Rwanda

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 Queen Elizabeth II as their own Head of State.

The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition 2016

The theme for 2016 is '**An Inclusive Commonwealth**', which is also the 2016 Commonwealth Year theme, and a topical theme for today's youth. Both Senior and Junior topics give young people the opportunity to think about aspects of the theme such as: the significance of community; the importance of diversity and difference; the question of belonging; the values of tolerance, respect and understanding; and the sense of shared responsibility that exists within the Commonwealth today. The topics are a chance to develop critical thinking and to express views in a creative manner. Essays can be submitted until 1st May 2016.

For more information about the competition, please visit Terms and Conditions and Frequently Asked Questions.

Open to all Commonwealth citizens aged 18 and under, the essay competition offers young people from diverse backgrounds the opportunity to make their voices heard on a global platform, to engage with issues important to them and to express their aspirations for the future. Each year, participants demonstrate their ability to stimulate and provoke discussions about important Commonwealth and global issues from a young person's perspective and to showcase their critical and creative skills.

The RCS has a rich history of nurturing the creative talents of young people around the Commonwealth. The RCS endeavours to promote literacy, expression and creativity among young people by celebrating excellence and imagination. Run by the RCS since 1883, this international schools' writing contest – the world's oldest and largest – is a highly regarded and popular international education project which we run in partnership with Cambridge University Press.

In 2015, the contest was renamed 'The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition', in honour of HM Queen Elizabeth II's role as both Head of the Commonwealth and Patron of the Royal Commonwealth Society.

In 2015 senior students from Pembroke School won Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates and Junior students from Pembroke and Seacliff Primary Schools won Bronze certificates.

Topics for 2016

Junior (*under 14 years*)

- 1 Imagine inviting a stranger to your country. How would you welcome them?
- 2 My ideal community.
- 3 Are we really so different?
- 4 Tales of an 'insider/outsider'.

SENIOR CATEGORY (*14-18 years*)

- 1 Let them in.
- 2 How can you balance the needs of the individual with the needs of the crowd?
- 3 The wealth we have in common.
- 4 Is it possible to have an inclusive and tolerant society?

THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY
(SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH) INC

CHRISTMAS RECEPTION

on

THURSDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2015

AT 6.00PM TO 8.00PM

at

**WHEATON HOUSE
190 SOUTH TERRACE ADELAIDE**

GUEST SPEAKER

RSVP BY November 27th for catering purposes

Financial Members no charge

Guests \$20

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

I am pleased to attend the Christmas Reception of the Royal Commonwealth Society (South Australian Branch) Inc at Wheaton House on Thursday 3rd December 2015 at 6 00pm.

Name.....

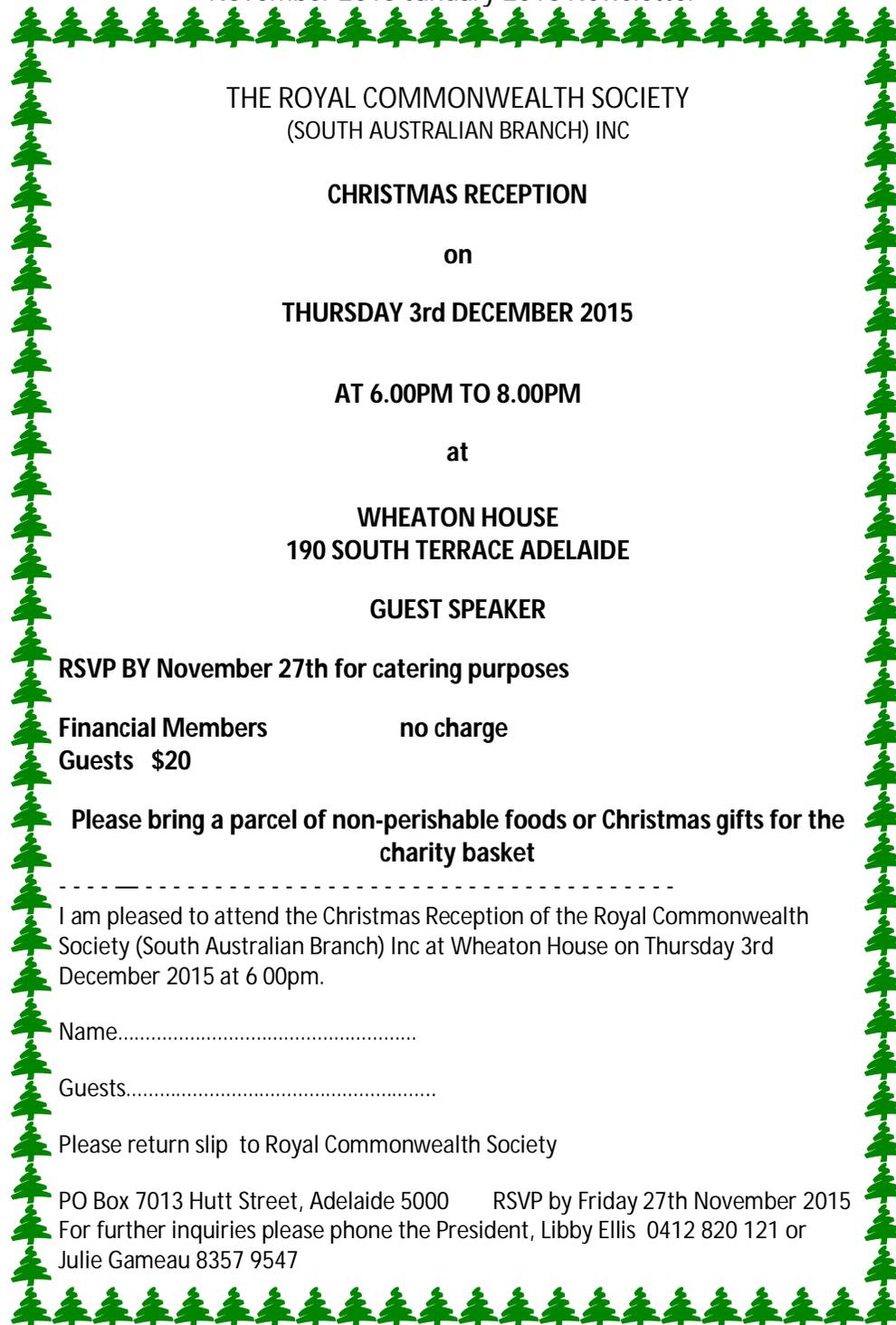
Guests.....

Please return slip to Royal Commonwealth Society

PO Box 7013 Hutt Street, Adelaide 5000 RSVP by Friday 27th November 2015

For further inquiries please phone the President, Libby Ellis 0412 820 121 or

Julie Gameau 8357 9547



DESALYNE DANCERS

The Desalyne Dancers production for 2015 is at The Scott Theatre located with in the University of Adelaide, Kintore Avenue Adelaide on Saturday 28th November commencing 7.15pm.

Exciting Tap, Jazz Ballet, Hip Hop and Musical Theatre productions with magnificent costumes will be on show and be performed by a cast aged from 3 years to adult. The fast paced and spectacular night is suitable for the entire family and the 160 performers will do their best to entertain you.

Come along and support a group established in 1966 that has earned an excellent reputation in South Australia and interstate.

For further information please contact Des Wyatt

Co-Opera

Inaugural Co-Opera Intermezzo Series

All performances will be in the Thomas Edmonds Opera Studio, Adelaide Showground.

BYO Cabaret Style. Doors open 6.30 pm. Show starts 7.30 pm. Bookings: co-opera.com.au/intermezzo.html

Performances of Verdi's Il Trovatore - NOVEMBER Friday 20, Sunday 22, Friday 27, Sunday 29,

The Marriage of Figaro - DECEMBER Wednesday 2, Thursday 3, Saturday 5, Sunday 6

RCS and the Commonwealth web pages

There is so much interesting and informative information on the Royal Commonwealth Society on the web page.

Find more information about The Royal Commonwealth Society and the Commonwealth on the web

www.thercs.org

www.thecommonwealth.org

www.thercssa.com.au

New members

A very warm welcome is extended to Jurida Pali and Linda Pire. We wish you a long and happy association with the Society and look forward to seeing you at future functions.

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



This enjoyable Sunday afternoon concert was entitled The Best of British, featuring the RCS Ensemble, led by Wendy Heiligenberg violin and Linda Pirie flute, with Esther Chea and Lester Wong, violins, Asha Stephenson, viola and Jacqueline Findlay, cello making up the core quartet. Penelope Cashman played the harpsichord.

Young musicians, Joshua Oates an Oboist and Amanda Home a Clarinetist were given the opportunity to perform alongside the more experienced musicians of the Royal Commonwealth Society sponsored instrumental ensemble .

The surprise package of the program turned out to be Gordon Jacob's *Six Shakespearean Sketches* from 1946, full of evocative moody dissonance and syncopated glitter and definitely not what we expect from this writer of urbane band music. Wendy Heiligenberg, Lester Wong, Asha Stephenson and Jacqueline Finlay made the most of its mysteries egged on by Jeremy Tatchell's eloquent readings from the Bard

A wonderful way to spend an afternoon listening to beautiful music

Edited from the reviews of the concert

**2016 subscriptions are due on 1st January 2016
Please pay the Treasurer**