



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY
CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY

"The Gables", 15 FINCH ST, EAST MALVERN, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

Phone: 03 9571 5688

July 2019

COMMONWEALTH NEWS

A history in common, a future in progress

The Royal Commonwealth Society founded in 1868, is constituted by Royal Charter. A self funded, Not for Profit Society committed to improving the lives and prospects of Commonwealth citizens. Through youth empowerment, education and advocacy, the Royal Commonwealth Society promotes the value and the values of the Commonwealth. We champion human rights, democracy and sustainable development across the 53 member states which are intrinsically linked through their common history and shared values.

Worldwide Patron: HM the Queen.

Victoria Patron: Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria

150th Anniversary - 26th June 2018 – London

100th Anniversary – 08th February 2021 – Victoria

COMMONWEALTH DAY 11TH MARCH

70 YEARS YOUNG



Dinner 11th July 2019

Our guest speaker at the July dinner is our President Mr Lloyd Byrne. Lloyd will be discussing his recent adventure to the Himalayas. This talk will be streamed live on our website and available for viewing after.

TIME: 6:30pm – Drinks & Canapés 2 Course Dinner & Dessert

RSVP: by Friday 5th July 2019

COST: \$65 Members \$75 non members

Luncheon 22nd August 2019

Our guest speaker at the August luncheon will be Elizabeth Lodge the CEO of Children First. Elizabeth will be talking about her work and the children her organisation has helped through life changing surgery. Please see profile over page.

TIME: 12:30pm – Two-course lunch with drinks

RSVP: by Wednesday 14th July 2019

COST: \$45 Members \$55 non members

2019 Calendar of Events

Luncheons

22nd August

Guest Speaker - Elizabeth Lodge

28th November

Guest Speaker - Dr Helen Fairweather

Dinners

13th July

GUEST SPEAKER - Mr Lloyd Byrne "One Step at a Time".

12th September

GUEST SPEAKER - Sustainable Development & Protecting The Environment

10th October

GUEST SPEAKER - Equality, Rule Of Law, Access To Health, Education, Food And Shelter

12th December

Black Tie dinner. Join us in celebrating Christmas and the end of year with food and musical entertainment.

AGM and Essay Completion Awards

26th November - AGM at 5:30pm -

Award Ceremony at 6:30pm. This is a free event for those attending the AGM.

Other dates to be advised as interesting speakers and Topics present themselves.



The Commonwealth offers opportunities for the people, governments and institutions of this richly diverse worldwide family of nations to connect and cooperate at many levels through far-reaching and deep-rooted networks of friendship and goodwill. These are being celebrated in the 2019 theme 'A Connected Commonwealth', and in a broad range of Commonwealth events and activities through the year.

2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the formation of the Commonwealth as it is configured today, with old ties and new links enabling cooperation towards social, political and economic development which is both inclusive and sustainable. The values and principles around which the 53 member countries and their 2.4 billion people connect are brought together in the Commonwealth Charter.

June Dinner

Our guest speakers at the June dinner was Dr Deidre Giblin and Mrs Louise Byrne who spoke about the plight of the people of West Papua. West Papua is the western half of the island of New Guinea, formerly known as Dutch New Guinea. A 13-year dispute with the Netherlands over whether the former Dutch colony would become an independent state or an Indonesian province culminated in 1962 in its occupation and annexation by force by the Indonesian military and the denial of the right of self-determination to its people. Following Indonesia's Act of "Free" Choice, carried out in 1969 under conditions of extreme duress, West Papua was proclaimed an Indonesian province and renamed Irian Jaya. Through their acquiescence, various Western nations assisted in these actions and have continued to support Indonesia's repressive military rule with arms, military support, and World Bank funding.

There is now a growing movement to free the people of West Papua in a similar way to the liberation of the East Timorese people. This movement is at a grass roots level and while serving a political purpose also helps share the unique cultural heritage of the people of West Papua.

RCS Victoria will be making a contribution to a charity nominated by Dr Deidre Giblin and Mrs Louise Byrne.

Women's Group News for July 2019

Provided by Elisabeth Newman

The last luncheon held 23rd May was special in many ways. Not only was it dedicated to the memory of the late John Colston, Secretary of the RCS, much admired for his dedication to the RCS and the Commonwealth but also acknowledged the 200th anniversary of the birth of Queen Victoria which fell the following day, 24th May, Loretta Simmons spoke briefly about her and proposed a toast. We also acknowledged our present Queen, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who turned 93 on 21st April and whose Official birthday fell on 8th June.

Lloyd Byrne, our President, was guest speaker. Lloyd spoke of his and Lois's forthcoming trek in the Nepal, (they left for Nepal later that night), and of the fund, "One Step at a Time", he has set up at the Peter MacCallum Hospital for research into Cancer dedicated to the memory of John Colston (More details below). It was a pleasure to have Kate and Ewina, John's daughters, present at the launch of this fund. The Women's group was pleased to be able to present Lloyd with a cheque for \$300 for the "One Step at a Time" fund.

The next luncheon will be on Thursday 22nd August when Councillors and the Women's group Committee look forward to welcoming members and their friends. We are very fortunate to have, as guest speaker, Elizabeth Lodge, CEO of the Children First Foundation. Elizabeth Lodge, has a long association with Children First. Her first connection was many years ago when her children's school conducted a fundraiser to help build the Farm – now known as the Miracle sMiles Retreat. After 20 years in education, Elizabeth joined the non-profit sector as state manager of another children's charity. Her passion has always been to work with children, particularly those who face challenges where she can make a difference.

Children First brought the conjoined twins from Bhutan and most recently the two girls from Cambodia with facial tumours. Children First's [Miracle sMiles program](#) facilitates life-changing surgery in Australia for disadvantaged children from developing countries without the resources to help them. The program provides pre-and-post surgical care for children with a range of congenital and acquired conditions, including orthopaedic, craniofacial and burns also plastic surgery.

The fourth luncheon for the year will be on 28th November. This, with the compliments of the women's group, will be, as usual, a festive occasion so please keep the date free. The speaker on this occasion will be Dr Helen Fairweather, an anthropologist, who will speak on the music of the Pacific Region particularly those from Commonwealth Nations.

WOMEN'S GROUP

The Women's Group Committee are pleased to welcome members and their friends to the luncheons; they thank you for the support.

On 23rd May I attended the Royal Overseas League dinner to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Queen Victoria. A truly enjoyable occasion. With the Society's support for the Commonwealth's promotion of gender equality, I attended the opening of the Exhibition "Wayward Women?" at the Old Treasury Building. It tells the stories of 10 women who were active in Melbourne between about 1897 and 1914 and who did not fit the stereotypes of demure Victorian women. I commend the Exhibition to those of you interested in gender equality and social reform. It runs from 27th June 2019 till mid 2020.

CHARITABLE GIVING

At the February luncheon the Women's Group was pleased to present Euphemia Harahwa, the guest speaker, with a cheque for \$200 for the Holland Foundation, a Charity that supports disadvantage young people in Bayside.

The Women's Group's principle function is, not only to host the luncheons but to support the Society in raising money for Charitable Giving. A dedicated bank account has now been set up for this purpose.

In memory of the late John Colston, Lloyd Byrne, our President, launched the "One Step at a Time" fund on 22nd May 2019. It is hoped the fund, which is managed by the Peter MacCallum Cancer Foundation will raise \$25,000 for Cancer research. Please consider donating. Donations are tax deductible. The link is: <https://give.everydayhero.com/au/john-colston-cancer-fund>

Recipe of the month

Queen Victoria Sponge by Jamie Oliver

Ingredients

CAKE 250g unsalted butter (at room temperature), plus extra for greasing. 250g self-raising flour, plus extra for dusting. 250g golden caster sugar. 4 large free-range eggs. 1 orange. A few drops of rosewater. 4 tablespoons quality raspberry jam. 150g fresh raspberries. Icing sugar, for dusting. CRYSTALLIZED ROSE PETALS. 1 large free-range egg white. 1 handful of rose petals. white caster sugar. VANILLA CREAM. 150 ml Jersey double cream. ½ a vanilla pod. 2 teaspoons caster sugar

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 190°C/375°F/gas 5. Grease two 20cm sandwich tins and line the bases with greaseproof paper circles, then dust lightly with flour.
2. Beat the butter and sugar together until very light and fluffy.
3. Add the eggs one by one, making sure you beat each one in well before you add the next, then finely grate the orange zest and fold with the flour.
4. Divide the cake mix between the prepared tins. Spread it out well with a spatula and bake for 20 to 25 minutes, or until golden, risen and an inserted skewer comes out clean.
5. Allow to cool in the tins, then carefully turn out onto a wire rack to cool completely.
6. Mix a few drops of rosewater into the jam, but don't go crazy with it – it's very strong!
7. For the crystallized petals, turn the oven right down to 110°C/225°F/gas 1. Whisk the egg white to stiff peaks. Use a pastry brush to coat the rose petals on both sides with a very thin layer of the egg white, then sprinkle over some caster sugar.
8. Shake off the excess sugar and lay the petals on a baking tray lined with greaseproof paper. Bake for 3 to 4 minutes in the oven, or until the petals are firm to the touch.
9. For the vanilla cream, split the vanilla pod lengthways and scrape out the seeds, then whip the cream with the vanilla seeds and sugar until you get soft peaks.
10. Spread the jam and then the vanilla cream over one of the cakes and scatter the raspberries on top. Place the second cake on top.
11. Dust with icing sugar and decorate with the crystallized rose petals. Serve on a beautiful cake stand to really show off your creation, and enjoy.



IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE IN OUR NEWLETTER PLEASE HAVE IT TO THE RCS VICTORIA OFFICE NO LATER THAN THE 20th OF EACH MONTH.