



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY

THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

15 FINCH ST, EAST MALVERN, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

Phone: 03 9571 5688

October 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 10th October 2019

Our October dinner will be based on the theme of Rule of Law.
Please see inside for details.

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

RSVP: by Friday 4th October 2019

COST: \$65 Members \$75 non members

There will be a short meeting of the Women's group starting at 5:45pm. All women members are encouraged to attend.

Luncheon 28th November 2019

Our guest speaker at the November luncheon will be Dr Helen Fairweather. Helen will be discussing her research into traditional music of a number of the Commonwealth Pacific nations.

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

RSVP: by Wednesday 21st November 2019

COST: \$45 Members \$55 non members

2019 Calendar of Events

Luncheons

28th November

Guest Speaker - Dr Helen Fairweather -
Traditional music from Pacific nations

Dinners

10th October

GUEST SPEAKER - Rule Of Law

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.

RSC Victoria Banking Details

General and function banking
CBA, BSB no: 063 -301 Acc no: 10483586

Donations and charitable giving
CBA, BSB no: 063 -301 Acc no: 10486533

EFTPOS is now available at all functions



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.

September Dinner

Our September dinner was the most well attended and successful dinners of the year. We were delighted to welcome the CEO of No To Violence, Ms Jacqui Watt. Jacqui took us on a journey from growing up in the Shetland Islands through to her work in the human service sector in the UK and Australia. Jacqui spoke of the various ways that gender roles influenced her life, her family and the decisions she made. She helped us understand how that relates to her work in the family violence sector now. Jacqui shared ideas about how we can all help change the world to promote gender equality and increase the safety of women and children in our community.

As part of the presentation, Graeme Bowman, a writer, comedian and speaker who has a passion for social change, joined Jacqui to add a different perspective. Graeme spoke about the influence of patriarchy and how it holds us back from advancing to a fair and equal society. He highlighted how the people in control stay in control and change is discouraged. Graeme's light-hearted approach left many laughing but more importantly talking about issues important to our families and us.

Both presentations gave us much to think on and raised many questions. One important message that Jacqui left us with is that we all have the power to influence good in others to make better choices and in turn keep our daughters, sisters and partners safe. The RCS Victoria made a donation of \$1000.00 to No To Violence to assist in its work to create a safer community. This presentation will be made available on our website.



October Dinner

Our dinner on the 10th of October will look at the theme of Rule of Law. This is another of the Commonwealth values we are seeking to highlight and support. As a principle, the rule of law seeks to recognise the supremacy of the law. It is based on the simple premise that no one should be above the law. The international community acknowledges the rule of law as a precursor to the successful promotion of development and democracy, and respect and adherence to it is recognised by Commonwealth governments as a fundamental Commonwealth value.

We will have a discussion on how it relates to us what it means to in Victoria. There will be plenty of opportunity to join in the discussion and ask questions.

We look forward to seeing you all on the night.

Women's Group News for October 2019 - Provided by Elisabeth Newman

LUNCHEON:

The fourth and final 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 with a few special treats so please keep the date free and bring friends. The speaker is to be Dr Helen Fairweather, a musical anthropologist, who will speak about the music of the Pacific Region with a focus on Commonwealth Nations of which there are many within the Pacific Region. In particular, it will look at the journey of the London Missionary Society and its influence on the native music in the region. I am sure you will find her address fascinating.

WOMEN'S GROUP

The Women's Group will have an annual meeting prior to the next dinner, viz. at 5.45 p.m. on 10th October, to review our achievements this past year and plans for this coming year. A member of the Council will address us about the future of the Women's Group and its status within the Society. I urge all lady members of the RCS to attend and to come with questions. Gentlemen are also welcome to attend.

The Women's group will continue to arrange and host four luncheons a year.

CHARITABLE GIVING

As previously reported, a dedicated bank account has been opened to be used solely for all moneys raised and given for charitable purposes.

PETER MACCALLUM CANCER FOUNDATION

Please consider donating to the "One Step at a Time" fund, set up by Lloyd Bryne, our President in memory of John Colston. This fund is managed by the Peter MacCallum Cancer Foundation; all donations are tax deductible. The link is: <https://give.everydayhero.com/au/john-colston-cancer-fund>

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



THE QUEEN'S
COMMONWEALTH ESSAY
COMPETITION

In 2019, more than 11,000 young people from across the Commonwealth entered the Competition - congratulations to all!

This year's competition, on the theme 'A Connected Commonwealth' asked entrants to consider how they can work to use cultural, technological and environmental connections for positive change across the Commonwealth. Topics invited young people to consider the potential of the Commonwealth in strengthening the vast and varied links between citizens.

To celebrate the efforts of all participants, every single entry and each participating school receive a certificate. Certificates can be downloaded as a PDF file from the [online platform](#). Simply log in to your account and download the certificate from your dashboard.

Keep up to date with the Competition on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). You can stay in touch with the RCS by signing up to our [newsletter](#).

On the 26th of November the Royal Commonwealth Society of Victoria will be holding an award ceremony for our Victorian participants.

The Winners



Catherine Wang, Nnemdi Ozoemena, Veronica Shen and Elise Jensen – Winners and Runners-up of The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition 2019.

A pan-Commonwealth body of more than 100 volunteer judges, drawn from 40 different countries, assessed entries across every region of the Commonwealth and approximately one third of entrants received Gold, Silver and Bronze awards. Approximately 140 aspiring young writers received Gold Finalist Awards and were among those selected for consideration by the Final Panel. Judges commented on the skill and talent shown by many of the young writers, with entries described as 'massively memorable' and 'very powerful'.

We're delighted to share the great achievements of this year's entrants, in recognition of their hard work and talent.

In recognition of their outstanding achievement, the winners will all visit London to take part in a week of educational and cultural events, including an Awards Ceremony at Buckingham Palace in the presence of Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall.

If you would like to read the winning entries please click [HERE](#).