



ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY VICTORIA BRANCH



Commonwealth News

We will take a leading role in achieving a fairer world for Commonwealth citizens by connecting, convening and equipping people to advance the values of the Commonwealth.



Welcome to the May edition of RCS Victoria Branch Commonwealth News. Our year of celebrations has sadly seen the passing of HRH Prince Philip we pay tribute to him as we celebrate his life of 99 years.

We will continue to celebrate our 100 year anniversary with a number of key functions still to come. Our timeline of the 1950's by James McCarthy is featured in this issue.

There will be a short EMG held on the 13th of May, please see the last edition for details.

Patrons

Worldwide: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Victoria: Her Excellency The Honourable Linda Dessau AC Governor of Victoria

May 2021

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We want to improve the lives and prospects of all Commonwealth citizens

A history in common, a future in progress

The Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS) is a network of individuals and organisations committed to improving the lives and prospects of Commonwealth citizens across the world. Through youth empowerment, education and high-level advocacy, the Society champions the importance of literacy, equality and inclusion, the environment and connected communities across the Commonwealth's 54 member nations. The

Society's unique position within the Commonwealth family allows it to play a pivotal role in convening and connecting the Commonwealth's political and diplomatic representatives, as well as industry, civil society, academic and business leaders, on a wide range of issues. Founded in 1868, the RCS is non-partisan, independent of governments and relies on public generosity to achieve its mission.

Presidents Report

Dear Members and Fellows,

April has been another busy month with an exceptional guest speaker Mr Dean Lee from the Shrine of Remembrance assisting us to celebrate Anzac Day at our April Dinner.

I thank Loretta for drafting our letter of birthday wishes to Her Majesty The Queen on the occasion of her 95th birthday. Elisabeth, James, Simon and I attended the service at St. Paul's Cathedral on Wednesday 14th April to mark the life of His Royal Highness Prince Philip The Duke of Edinburgh. This was a very solemn service for a much-loved member of the Royal Family and The Commonwealth.

I have drafted a letter of condolences to Her Majesty The Queen expressing our support and sympathy on the loss of Prince Philip & last week visited Government House to sign the State Condolence Book on behalf of all Fellows and members of the society.

The RCS have asked all branches internationally sign a Deed of Appointment to which over 30 branches have objected.

Representatives from Victoria, India, Hong Kong and Canada are continuing with discussions with the RCS headquarters to resolve issues that have been raised.

VALE; It is with much sadness we acknowledge the death of Mr Michael Page, a long time Fellow and Supporter. We send our sincere condolences to Rosa and her extended family; he will be sadly missed by all the RCS Family.

Charles Hulson, a much-loved supporter and Councillor of RCS, Victoria is undergoing care at the Alfred Hospital. He is

very unwell and expects to remain there for another week or more. We send him our best for a speedy recovery.

I wish all Fellows continued Covid-19 safety and hope to see you all at our May luncheon.

Lloyd Byrne
President
RCS Victoria



ANNOUNCEMENTS

2021 EVENTS CALANDAR

MAY LUNCHEON

13th May 2021 The Gables 12:30pm for 1pm
Topic: Who's Managing "The Firm"? by guest speaker Loretta Simmons

COST: \$45 Members \$55 Guests

RSVP: strictly by 7th May 2021.

Please email Simon on admin@rcsvic.org or phone 0419 378 991

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (EGM)

RCS Library (rear of "The Gables"), 15 Finch Street, Malvern East on Thursday 13th May 2021, 12:10 pm. (Proxy Forms available from Simon on request)

JUNE DINNER

Queen's Birthday Celebrations

DATE: Thursday 10th June 2021

TIME: 6:30pm - Drinks & Canapés on arrival, Dinner & Dessert

Dress Code: Black Tie

Anzac Day Dinner Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Mr Noel McLean, President of the Bayswater RSL Branch for providing us with memorabilia at our Anzac Day Dinner



Women's Group Message

We look forward to welcoming many of you at the second luncheon in this year of celebration on Thursday 13th May at 12.30hr for 13.00hr; kindly note the slightly later starting time.

We are delighted Loretta Simmons will be the speaker at this incredibly special luncheon to mark the 95th birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and, sadly, the passing of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

On Wednesday 14th April, in my capacity as a Councillor and the Convener of the Women's Group, accompanied by President Lloyd Byrne and Vice President James McCarthy OAM, I attended the Service at St Paul's Cathedral dedicated to the memory of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh in the presence of Her Excellency The Honourable Linda Dessau AC Governor of Victoria.

For the luncheon on 13th May, it is suggested that your dress reflects the 1950's.

A small raffle will be held at the luncheon to aid the Society's charitable giving. We would like to thank all who supported the raffle at the dinner on 8th April which raised \$254. A cheque for \$1,000 was presented to our guest speaker, Mr Dean Lee, CEO of the Shrine of Remembrance for the Shrine's Education Fund.

Elisabeth Newman AM
Women's Group Convener

WHO'S MANAGING "THE FIRM"?

Presentation by Loretta N Simmons

Queen Elizabeth II was proclaimed Queen throughout the Commonwealth after her father, King George VI died in the early hours of 6 February 1952. The Queen is now a widow and sadly the 70th anniversary of the Accession on 6th February 2022 will be celebrated without her Consort. Will the death of HRH, Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh have an effect on the future of the Monarchy and bring about changes to the administrative structure of the Royal Family's business known as 'The Firm'?

We welcome your company for an interactive discussion on the Monarchy along with an invitation to share your special memories and even personal memorabilia of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh.

Valé The Prince Philip

Loretta Simmons finally retired from a stenographic career in 1998 after 18 years with a diamond mining company and re-focused on her volunteer work of many years which included the Country Women's Association; Councillor with the City of Castlemaine; Special Interest Group President with the Australian Institute of Management and a volunteer at the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games. Loretta continued on her community involvement by joining Golden Days Radio 95.7FM in 1999 where she is a past Vice President, Life Member and remains as a Presenter. She is a Fellow and past Council Member of The Royal Commonwealth Society.

Royal Commonwealth Society Victoria Branch Historical Highlights – 1950's

The Empire mourns

Membership of the Victorian Branch had passed 2000 and by the end of 1952 reached 2947. In 1950 the Branch celebrated the 50th Jubilee of Queen Victoria signing the proclamation which made the Australian Nation followed by the 1951 jubilee for the first Parliament held in Melbourne. The Geelong sub-branch formed its own office. In 1952, the Branch mourned the death of King George VI



On the world stage, again.

In 1955, the Women's Group held over 16 functions raising over 300 pounds for the Library Fund. 1956, saw Melbourne host the Olympic Games providing a unique opportunity for the Branch to engage with many of its brothers and sisters from across the Commonwealth. At the third National Convention, the Australian Branches voted to recommend changing the name of the Society to reflect the new area of the Commonwealth.



1950-2

1953-4

1955-6

1957-9

A new Elizabethan age

In 1953, the Branch celebrated the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Two young Victorians were recognised in the Empire Essay Competition and the Branches membership had passed 3000. The Branches building at 101 Queen Street was sold to purchase a new building on Queens Road. The Branch hosted the first Federal Conference of Australian Branches and appoint a representative to advocate with London.



Royal Commonwealth Society

In 1957, the Council of the RES headquarters in London voted to change the name in the Royal Charter to the Royal Commonwealth Society and Branches around the world followed. Victoria and Melbourne had continued to grow. The Branch now offered accommodation to travelling members. Corporate firms were now supporting the Victorian Branch. The junior section hosted a well attended ball.

News from around The Commonwealth



Honouring HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh 1921-2021

The Royal Commonwealth Society expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences to our Patron, Her Majesty The Queen, and Members of the Royal Family, on the passing of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

Chair of the Royal Commonwealth Society, Dr Linda Yueh, said:

"Today, we mourn the passing of The Duke of Edinburgh. Over the course of more than six decades, The Duke steadfastly supported The Queen in her role as Head of the Commonwealth. Through his extensive support for charities and organisations across the Commonwealth family, as well as his countless visits with The Queen, and individually, to Commonwealth countries, The Duke of Edinburgh championed and celebrated the wonderful diversity and many achievements of the Commonwealth's 2.4 billion people.

His establishment of The Duke of Edinburgh Award, which now operates in over 40 Commonwealth countries, and his founding of the Commonwealth Study Conferences and Emerging Leaders' Dialogues, will leave a lasting and powerful legacy in the Commonwealth."

Source: www.royalcwsociety.org

Some Interesting Facts about HRH Prince Philip:

- He was Prince of Greece & Denmark
- He was born on a dining table & fled Greece in a fruit box.
- His sister died while pregnant in a plane crash.
- His mother was a nun.
- He had many hobbies from bird watching to oil painting.
- He was related to The Queen.
- He first met The Queen when they were teenagers.
- He anglicised his name.
- His sisters married German Princes.
- He was a prolific author.

Contact Details



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Society Victoria Branch

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Banking details

General & function banking

Commonwealth Bank
BSB: 063 -301
A/C: 10483586

Donations & charitable giving

Commonwealth Bank
BSB: 063 -301
A/C: 10486533

EFTPOS/Credit Cards is available
at all functions.