



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 October 2021 edition of RCS Victoria Branch Commonwealth News.

With so much uncertainty around our Melbourne restrictions we are all finding difficulties confirming our events and celebrations. Our timeline of the 100 years of RCS Victoria continues with the 2000's featured in this issue.

Please stay safe and look out for those who maybe needing extra care during these tough times.

Worldwide: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
Victoria: Her Excellency The Honourable Linda Dessau AC Governor of Victoria

October 2021

Contents



The Presidents Report 2



Announcements 2



Women's Group Message 3



RCS Vic Historic Highlights 2000's 3



News from around the Commonwealth 4



Contact and banking details 4

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 Fellows and Members,

Covid is starting to cause people to feel unable to see daylight, but we all need to support one another and we can get through this.

Results for The Queens Essay Competition 2021 are starting to be announced from London with some gold & silver prizes awarded to Tasmanian students where James McCarthy assisted their branch to facilitate entries.

Our September dinner was cancelled and we have moved our Gala black tie 100-year celebration dinner to 9th December 2021.

Another important event is our Annual General Meeting which we will hold in November. We are keen to renew our council with new skills & enthusiasm, applications from interested fellows can be submitted via email to admin@rcsvic.org please refer to AGM notice to follow.

Attached is our response from Buckingham Palace to our letter of condolence following the death of The Duke of Edinburgh.

Please look after each other during this tough time.

Lloyd Byrne
President
RCS Victoria



ANNOUNCEMENTS

2021 EVENTS CALENDAR

NOVEMBER LUNCHEON -A festive event

DATE: 11th November 2021

WHERE: Gables on Finch

'The Gables' 15 Finch St Malvern East

TIME: 12pm for 12:30 start

COST: \$50/\$60

RSVP: Friday 5th November 2021 - please email

Simon on admin@rcsvic.org

Covid Vaccinated members & guests only

DECEMBER CHRISTMAS-GALA DINNER

WHERE: Gables on Finch

'The Gables' 15 Finch St Malvern East

DATE: 9th December 2021

TIME: 6:30pm

DRESS: Black Tie

COST: \$80/\$90

RSVP: Friday 3rd December 2021

Covid Vaccinated members & guests only

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

DATE: To be confirmed November 2021

LOCATION: To be confirmed

Webinar: South Kensington

Date: Various

South Kensington. Museums, royalty and a focus on learning.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/south-kensington-museums-royalty-and-a-focus-on-learning-tickets-169258170745?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch>

Webinar: Clothes Make the Queen

Date: 13th October 2021 10:00pm AEDT

The Linchpin of Beauty, Royalty, & Power' Webinar

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/clothes-make-the-queen-the-linchpin-of-beauty-royalty-power-webinar-registration-175003208307?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch&keep_tld=1

Women's Group Message

It was with regret that we had to cancel the August Luncheon due to the COVID-19 restrictions and lockdown. However, we are optimistic we will be able to hold the November luncheon on 11th November, Armistice Day. Lockdown is scheduled to end on 5th November, Guy Fowlkes Day. It is envisaged any restrictions still left in place will allow for a gathering of guests over a meal. As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter there are certain protocols that must be followed in line with Government directives and to keep us all safe; i.e., the staff of Gables on Finch, us, the members and our guests. You are earnestly urged to observe these protocols.

The luncheon will be a festive occasion marking the nearing of the end of yet another year full of uncertainties. The Society will be coming to the end of its 100th anniversary year, a cause for celebration as is the transition from the racing season to the end of year festive season. We will not have a guest speaker as we are sure you would love to talk to one another catching up on several months' news. The Women's Group Committee plan to have a cake, other treats and a small raffle, also beautiful poppies for sale – confirmation of these details will be in the next newsletter.

Dress code: The occasion calls for something frivolous drawn from any period over the last 100 years.

The Women's Group Committee members look forward to welcoming you all back to the RCS on 11th November. We trust you are all surviving this prolonged lockdown. If you need any assistance, or just somebody to talk to, you know you can contact me any time by phone or email. (Contact details below)

It is hoped some of you watched the webinars about the Queen's historic houses and paintings & third webinar in the series, "The Royal Art Collection" on 28th Sept.

Over the past couple of weeks, I have received invitations from the Commonwealth Secretariat via the Commonwealth Foundation to join two webinars focusing on issues of concern to the Commonwealth as featured in its Plan of Action.

1. "Climate justice for Small Island States". Many of these States make up over half the membership of the Commonwealth so deserve support as they grapple with rising sea levels and other devastating effects of climate change. Advocacy is required now in preparation for the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow due November but postponed.

2. "#JointheChorus campaign to end domestic and sexual violence and launch Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 Implementation Toolkit" was held as a side event in the margins of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. The Commonwealth Secretariat, in partnership with other entities developed strategies for the Toolkit which was produced by the Secretariat and the NO MORE Foundation. This was a very well-run webinar focusing on action so far taken and to be taken in ending violence against women and girls, a refreshing perspective. Rt. Hon Patricia Scotland, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth delivered the opening and closing speeches.

Elisabeth Newman AM
 Women's Group Convenor
elisabeth_mn@hotmail.com
 ph 03 9699 9170

Royal Commonwealth Society Victoria Branch Historical Highlights – 2000's

A new Millennium

As the Nation enjoyed the celebrations of the new millennium, Melbourne was delighted to welcome HM Queen Elizabeth II. This was her first visit since the referendum. The Queen visited us again in 2002. Our members were part of the major celebrations of the 2000 Olympic Games being held in Sydney. Guest speakers included former Olympians.



The Commonwealth Games

In 2006 Melbourne hosted the 18th Commonwealth Games. Opened by HM Queen Elizabeth II, the Games were a great success. Our Branch continued its charitable support to PNG and Tonga. Both Nations were supported in the purchase of medical supplies and other items to assist their communities.



2000-2

2003-5

2006-7

2008-9

Capturing our Identity

In 2004, our branch were treated to a special guest speaker, Di Foster, who had extensively researched the history of The Gables. The Commonwealth Vision Awards competition was launched in 2004 as a joint project of the RCS and CBA to recognise the making of short films across the Commonwealth. Alan Winch was elected as President of the RCS Victoria Branch during this time.



Disaster and Recovery

In 2009, the world was shocked by the bush fires that devastated huge sections of Victoria. 173 people lost their lives and over 78 communities were affected. Our Branch worked hard to raise money and support for those affected. The RCS continued to lead the way in conversations regarding climate change, education and gender equality.

News from around The Commonwealth



Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, the Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC, has shared a message to mark International Day of Peace 2021, which is observed globally on 21 September.

For decades, the Commonwealth Secretariat has worked with member states, multilateral partners, regional and national peace architectures to build more inclusive and peaceful societies.

This video message has been produced to highlight some of the Commonwealth Secretariat's efforts aimed at building sustainable peace across member states.

During the video message, Secretary-General states: "On this International Day of Peace, the Commonwealth celebrates the commitment of our 54 members to a Charter that underscores the primacy of democracy and development for achieving sustainable peace and security.

"Today, I call on over 1.2 billion young people across the Commonwealth to boldly take up this generational challenge of our time. You are the present and the future, and your energy, resilience, and creativity - the big and small actions that you take for positive peace and for our planet - are the seeds for a healthier, prosperous and secure future.

"It is encouraging to note the immense contributions of many men and women and Commonwealth organisations who have risen to meet the challenges of building social cohesion and promoting peace and reconciliation through the turbulent eye of the pandemic."

To View the video message please follow this link:
<https://thecommonwealth.org/media/news/2021-peace-day-message-secretary-general-commonwealth>

Contact Details



The Royal Commonwealth Society Victoria Branch

"Gables on Finch"

15 Finch Street
Malvern East
Victoria
03 9571 5688

PO Box 31 Caulfield East
Victoria 3145

Victoria: www.rcsvic.org
Global: www.royalcwssociety.org

admin@rcsvic.org



General 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.