



**VICTORIA LEAGUE FOR COMMONWEALTH  
FRIENDSHIP SA INC**

NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2010

**Patron Throughout the Commonwealth**  
Her Majesty The Queen

**Patron Throughout Australia**  
Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC  
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

**Patron in South Australia**  
His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce,  
AC, CSC, RANR  
Governor of South Australia

**President** - Mrs Nicola Downer, AM

**Secretary** - Tamara Schlichting

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## From The President

Dear Members,

A very happy New Year to all of you. Since I last wrote the Commonwealth Head of Government meeting was held in Spain, Trinidad and Tobago 27 – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

The opening ceremony included an address by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth. The membership of the Republic of Rwanda was approved and Rwanda was welcomed into the Commonwealth family as its 54<sup>th</sup> member. Pakistan was reinstated as a member following the elections in February 2008 and the assumption of office by an elected civilian government.

Deep concern was expressed at the further deterioration of situation in Fiji with regard to its lack of adherence to fundamental Commonwealth values and restrictions on Human Rights. As a result Fiji is now suspended from the Commonwealth. The unity of the Republic of Cyprus continues to be a major ambition so let's hope the work of my husband, Alexander leading the settlement talks is successful. The Heads of Government reaffirmed their condemnation of terrorism and stressed the continuing need for efforts at all levels on counter terrorism.

Other issues discussed included:- Piracy; Human Trafficking and People Smuggling; Human Rights; The World Economic situation; Trade; Climate Change and Sustainable Development. The Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Mr Kamalesh Sharma, an Indian diplomat, was congratulated on his achievements.

At a local level we continue our interests in future Commonwealth Projects and Executive members Mrs Gay Gardner, AM and Mr Vincent Burke will shortly present their suggestions for future action to the committee.

Following the sharp decline in share prices, our financial position is beginning to improve so we hope to continue our contribution to the greater good of less privileged Commonwealth countries. As usual our costs continue to rise and we are now subsidizing our bi-monthly lunches at The Naval, Military and Air Force Club by nearly \$10 per head. Perhaps we will have to find a new venue for the future.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Commonwealth Day celebration on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March.

With best wishes to you all,

NICKY DOWNER, AM – President

## Christmas Cocktail Party – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009



**Above:** The Very Reverend Dr Sarah Macneil, Helen Clifford, Lady Downer and Marjorie Scriven

The Christmas Cocktail Party was a pleasant afternoon attended by sixty members and guests. The Venerable Reverend Sarah Macneil, Dean of St Peter's Cathedral proposed the Toast to Christmas.

We were also privileged to have Mr Jason Benson-Schmidt, a student at Pulteney Grammar School, play Christmas Carols on the piano.



Members & Guests enjoying Christmas



David & Jill Mortimer with Richard & Gay Gardner



Jason Benson-Schmidt & Nicky Downer

## National Conference – Queensland 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> May 2010

This year's National Conference will be held in Brisbane with The United Service Club as its base. We do hope as many members as possible will attend. This is a draft program.

### **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May**

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 11.00am – 4.00pm | Interstate and overseas visitors arrive  |
| 4.00pm – 4.30pm  | Gather in Members' Bar United Services Club  |
| 5.00pm – 6.30 pm | Cocktail Reception at Government House hosted by Her Excellency the Governor of Queensland, Ms Penelope Wensley, AO to welcome members of the League attending the National Conference |

### **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May**

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 9.30am – 9.45am   | Registrations for Conference, Legislative Council Chambers, George Street, Brisbane.  |
| 10.00am           | Arrival of the Governor. Official welcome to the Governor of Queensland, by The National President of the League, Mrs Nicola Downer, AM and Queensland State Chairman, Mrs Ellen Morton, OAM. Business sessions followed by lunch in the Parliamentary Annex. |
| 11.00am – 12.30pm | Business Sessions   |
| 12.45pm – 2.30pm  | Lunch held in the presence of The Governor of Australia   |
| 2.30pm – 5.30pm   | Business Sessions   |
| 5.30 – 7.00pm     | President's reception at United Service Club  |

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May**

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 10.30 – 12.30pm  | Business sessions   |
| 12.30pm – 2.00pm | Lunch   |
| 2.00pm – 5.00pm  | Afternoon Free  |
| 5.00pm – 7.00pm  | Meet in Members' Bar United Services Club                             |
| 7.00pm – 11.00pm | Optional evening meal in the City on the Banks of the Brisbane River. |

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 9.30 – 10.45 am    | St Johns Cathedral Service and morning tea                |
| 11.00 – 11.30am    | St John's Guided Tour                                     |
| 12.00noon – 2.30pm | Farewell luncheon at the home of Bill and Janice Willcock |
| 2.30pm             | Transport to United Service Club and Airport              |

For more details contact the office.

**Commonwealth Day Reminder**

If you are interested in attending the Commonwealth Day Reception to be held on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> March at Wyatt Hall, Pulteney Grammar School you can still obtain Entrée cards by contacting the Victoria League office.

Cost: \$25

### Lunch 16<sup>th</sup> February 2010

At our February lunch we were pleased to welcome Justice Andrew Wilson, son of our much loved former Chairman and long standing life member Lady Wilson, as our guest speaker. His speech "Where have all the flowers gone? Troubles with Pacific Ocean countries" was inspired by his experiences in the justice systems of Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Fiji. Blood chilling cases involving cannibalism, the assassination of a government minister and a coup leading to a treason charge captured the imaginations of us all. We understood Judge Wilson's despair over the endemic corruption and mismanagement in these beautiful Commonwealth countries and share his hopes for future good governance.



Justice Andrew Wilson, Nicky Downer  
& John Stewart



Meg Taylor, Pam Gilby & June Miller

### Constance Magarey – Member for 80 years

Special greetings and best wishes are extended to Miss Constance Magarey who celebrated her Ninety-Seventh birthday on Christmas Eve and, having joined in 1930, this year marks eighty years' membership of the Victoria League in South Australia. For many years she was the Victoria League delegate to the Travellers' Aid Society. Her continuous and keen interest in all aspects of the aims and objects of the League was recognised by an Honorary Life Membership in 1994.



Miss Constance Magarey on left, at a  
function held in April of 1962.

## New Members

We always like to welcome new members.

## Obituaries

VALE:

We have been saddened to learn of the recent deaths of members in South Australia and Interstate.

### Mr Allan Cross

Although Allan was a recent member of the Victoria League, he was involved over many years with his wife Betty. We offer our condolences to Betty and her family.

### Mr Peter Abbott-Young, OAM

Peter and his wife, Rosamund Heritage, joined the League in 2006. Peter had active working life at the University of Adelaide and was involved in the Multiple Sclerosis Society at a State and National level. Our best wishes to Rosamund and Peter's children.

### Miss Pauline O'Daniel – Member since 1950

Pauline, who died on New Year's Eve, joined in 1950 and until mid-2009 was able to attend our Luncheons. She is remembered particularly for her active participation in the valuable work done by the League in the post-war years in the welcoming of migrants from Great Britain and Commonwealth countries – through the Settlers' Welcome and Entertainment Committees.

### Mrs E.I. (Iris) Williams Member since 1997

### Interstate – Mrs Vyvyan Robinson

A former State Chairman of the League in Queensland

### Mrs Molly Rothacker BEM

An Honorary life Member of the League in Victoria and Chairman of the former Bendigo branch.

Both Mrs Robinson and Mrs Rothacker are remembered with affection by members throughout Australia for their valuable participation and contribution to the League's Triennial Conferences over many years

## **Forthcoming Events**

### **Lunches 2010**

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 12 noon**

Guest Speaker: The Honourable Mr Ted Mullighan, QC

*"Making the Community Safer"*

#### **Venue**

**The Naval, Military & Air Force Club,**  
111 Hutt Street, Adelaide

**Cost: \$35**

### **Commonwealth Day 2010**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 5.30pm**

Arranged By: The Joint Commonwealth Societies Council

#### **Venue**

**Wyatt Hall, Pulteney Grammar School**  
160 South Terrace, Adelaide

**Cost: \$25**

### **Victoria League Day Cocktail Party 2010**

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May 5.30pm**

Propose Toast: to be confirmed

#### **Venue**

**Kensington Gallery**  
39 Kensington Road, Norwood

**Cost: \$25**

For bookings telephone 8223 2914 or

Email: [contact@vcleague.com.au](mailto:contact@vcleague.com.au)