



## **VICTORIA LEAGUE FOR COMMONWEALTH FRIENDSHIP SA INC**

### **NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2008**

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

**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

**Office**  
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**Office hours:** Tuesday & Friday 11.00 am – 3.00 pm

## From The President

Dear Members,

On behalf of the Executive I would like to wish you all a happy and carefree Christmas and a splendid 2009.

Since our last newsletter the 97<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of The Victoria League was held in September. A list of this year's Executive Committee is included and we welcomed to our group Mr Vincent Burke, whom many of you would know from his work on developing the Uluru project and our relationships with Glenunga International High School and Engineers Without Borders. After many years as Vice President Mrs Betty Oakeshott relinquished her position and was replaced by Mr Mark Bouchier, who has been with the Committee as an ordinary member since 2003. We were very sorry that Betty could no longer continue as Vice President but are fortunate she has remained a member of the Executive. Many of you will remember her late husband David, who was our previous Honorary Treasurer. Betty is a valued member of the Committee.



The AGM also saw the departure of our Honorary Treasurer Mr Don Bramwell, who has held that position since 1993. His financial good sense has established The Victoria League in its current sound position. Because of Mr Bramwell we are able to support many different initiatives. In recognition of his dedication and commitment he has been made an Honorary Life Member of The Victoria League.

Mr Don Bramwell

Mrs Barbara Stewart was also made a Life Member. She has been a member of The Victoria League in South Australia since 1964 but her history with the organisation goes back further to her days at Student House in London. She has served as Chairman in South Australia and Nationally. We are most fortunate that she is a co-owner of the Kensington Gallery, as she regularly allows us to celebrate Victoria League Day there.



Mrs Barbara Stewart

We now have a new Honorary Treasurer Mr Adam Nikitins who is an Executive Director at the accountancy firm Ernst & Young. We look forward to working with him in the years to come. In spite of the rather gloomy financial crisis we hope he will guide us through this period of uncertainty.

Mr Adam Nikitins with Mrs Betty Oakeshott



Our guest speaker at the AGM was Dr Rex Lipman, AO who addressed more than sixty members on "Their Finest Hour – 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Battle of the Somme" It was a moving and passionate speech and reminds us we should never forget the supreme sacrifice made by so many at this battle.

Dr Rex Lipman with Mr Mark Bouchier

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, the Executive will continue its work in Southern India. This will involve Engineers Without Borders, The Glenunga International High School and the East-West Overseas Aid Foundation. Presently EWB is working on developing a project. We will support another visit by GIHS students to Uluru in April 2009 by covering the fares and accommodation costs for two teachers leading the group. This time the students will be doing some work with the local community in Alamparai. We also be making a donation to EWOAF as a contribution towards the additional costs associated with the visit by GIHS.

Other activities planned by the Executive include the setting up of a website for The League, which will bring us into the technological 21<sup>st</sup> century

NICKY DOWNER – President

## Lunch with The Governor – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2008



**Mrs Downer thanks His**  
Excellency Rear Admiral  
Kevin Scarce,  
AC, CSC, RANR  
Governor of South  
Australia

A capacity crowd gathered at the Naval and Military Club for our October lunch with The Governor of South Australia and our Patron, His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce. The Governor spoke about his view of South Australia and its place on the National stage. He was exceptionally enthusiastic about the state's future, its capital development, its infrastructure planning and its people. All South Australians are enjoying the Governor's knowledge, energy and warmth. He and his wife Liz are performing an excellent job in their challenging roles.

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### New Members

Mrs Winsome Alexander  
Mr & Mrs A.J. Brown  
Mrs Mary Rose Collum

### Christmas & New Year Office Closure

The Victoria League in South Australia will be closed over the festive season from Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2008 and re-open on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

## News from other Leagues

**QUEENSLAND** – The Chairman of The League in Queensland Gold Coast Mrs Ellen Morton, OAM recently wrote with news that the new Queensland Governor Mrs Penelope Wensley, AO has become their Patron. The Brisbane and Gold Coast branches merged in October 2007 and this is proving very successful. Sadly the Cairns branch of The Victoria League has decided to close. Recently Mr Barry Dinneen, a branch member from Queensland Gold Coast, visited South Australia and met with Executive member Mrs Gay Gardner. They discussed the possibility of the Queensland Gold Coast League hosting a National Conference coinciding with a visit from our Chairman in London, Mr Lyn Hopkins.

**AUCKLAND** – A packed activities programme is continuing in Auckland where Mrs Elizabeth Caughey is President. They have applied for charitable status in New Zealand and will change their constitution according to the requirements of the Charities Commission.

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA** – News from Mrs Alexandra Colbatch of the Social Committee explains The League's premises have been sold to the local newspaper. Part of the building has been leased back by The League until September 2009 when they will celebrate their centenary and have to find a new home. Miss Joan Hillary is the new Chairman.

**LONDON** – The recent Autumn newsletter reports many activities in London – Trooping the Colour, Tea on the Terrace of the House of Lords, The Queens Cup Final at the Guards Polo Club, A visit to the Globe Theatre (A Mid Summer Nights Dream) and the July Annual General Meeting. Michael Ierace, the Pianist and music student whom we have supported at Student House in London, won the Keyboard Final in the Royal Overseas League Music Competition this year. Michael also played a solo at the Victoria League fundraising concert in April and participated in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August.

### Executive Committee 2008/2009

Mrs Nicky Downer, AM – President

Mr Adam Nikitins – Treasurer

Miss Erica Cox – Vice President

Mr Mark Bouchier – Vice President

Mr Dennis Coleman – Vice President

Lady Downer – Executive

Mrs Gay Gardner – Executive

Mrs Dorothy Hamilton – Executive

Mrs Betty Oakeshott – Executive

Mrs Barbara Stewart – Executive

Mr Vincent Burke – Executive

Mr Douglass Potts – Executive

Mr Dennis Sparrow – Executive

## Obituaries

### **LADY WILSON CBE**

On October 2nd this year Adelaide farewelled one of its matriarchs - a daughter of the esteemed Bonython family and wife of the late Sir Keith Wilson - a respected member of the Federal Parliament. Lady (Elizabeth) Wilson was saluted for her efforts by a plethora of organizations with Victoria League representatives being among the large congregation at the funeral.

Being an active member and occupying prominent posts in the Victoria League over many years, she made an enormous contribution. On occasions she served on the National Committee and was known throughout the Australian leagues and beyond for her steadfastness, knowledge of protocol and adherence to tradition. Staunchly monarchist and an ardent supporter of the Commonwealth, she was a source of great inspiration to me as one time chairman of the *Younger Members* and *Commonwealth Day 'Cultural Festival'*. Her wise counsel was greatly appreciated.

*Vale*

Dennis Coleman –Vice President

In 1959 Lady Wilson was awarded a CBE (Commander of the British Empire) in recognition of her tremendous contribution to a wide range of public and charitable organizations.

She was a member of the Executive Committee of The Victoria League in South Australia from 1930 until 2002. During this time she served as a State Chairman and a Vice President. On the occasions when it was South Australia's term to form the National Committee of the Leagues throughout Australia (originally known as the Standing Committee) she filled an important role as Chairman and a member of this Committee. She was made an Honorary Life Member of the League in South Australia in 1974.

Lady Wilson celebrated her 101<sup>st</sup> Birthday on the 25<sup>th</sup> January this year and is remembered with great respect and affection. Sympathy is extended to her family.

Erica Cox – Vice President

**LADY SEAMAN**, the wife of the former Governor and Patron of The Victoria League Sir Keith Seaman, died recently at her Victor Harbor home.

## Upcoming Events

### Lunches 2009

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 12 noon**

Guest Speaker: Jane Hylton, Consultant Curator

"The Work of Nora Heysen"

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 12 noon**

Guest Speaker: To be decided

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 12 noon**

Guest Speaker: To be decided

### Venue

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

**Cost: \$30**

For bookings Telephone 8223 2914

### Presidents Christmas Party 2008

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December,  
5.30 pm until 7.00 pm**

Pulteney Grammar School, Wheaton House

### Commonwealth Day 2009

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March,**

Wyatt Hall, Pulteney Grammer School

Tickets will be available from The Victoria League