



## VICTORIA LEAGUE FOR COMMONWEALTH FRIENDSHIP SA INC

### NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2009

#### **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 February 2009. Will be forever etched in our minds following the tragic bushfires in Victoria. With so many hundreds of people dead and missing, our hearts go out to the survivors, many of them homeless and living in fire devastated landscape. At its February meeting your Executive decided to donate \$5,000 to the Bushfire Appeal. Vice President Mark Bouchier gave the donation at the one day cricket match at the Adelaide Oval on 10<sup>th</sup> February.

B b b



Having announced Mr Adam Nikitins as our new Honorary Treasurer, I can now report we have another new Honorary Treasurer Mr Craig Whiteman. Adam is being transferred to the Melbourne office of Ernst & Young. He usefully found his own replacement in Craig. Craig is a native South Australian and has no intention of moving anywhere – we hope!

Craig is an Executive Director in Ernst & Young's tax practice with responsibility for leading the Private Client Services and Human Capital parts of the practice. Craig has over 15 years experience in providing high level tax consulting services to both individuals and business entities.

Many of you will recall last year the terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India. As a result of these attacks the Federal Government raised the security warnings to a level 4 for India. Unfortunately the visit planned by Glenunga International High School students to the Uluru Children's Home in Tamil, Nadu will no longer take place. The Victoria League had undertaken to support the cost of the teachers' flights to India in order to allow the students the opportunity to show their friendship to residents of the Children's Home and surrounding area. While we are disappointed the Glenunga International High School students are not going to India, we do understand the importance of the Government's travel advisories.

You will be pleased to know they are now planning to visit Vietnam. As a result of this we were able to donate \$5,000 to the Bushfire Appeal.

NICKY DOWNER – President

### [New Patron for Victoria League in Australia](#)

It was a great pleasure to receive a letter from Government House in Canberra at the beginning of February announcing the new Governor General, Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, has agreed to become Patron of the Victoria League throughout Australia.



President's Christmas Party – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2008

A large number of members and friends attended the annual Christmas at Wheaton House, Pulteney Grammar School on a warm December afternoon. It was a lovely party and we were privileged to have the humorous Reverend Steven De Kleer to Propose the Toast to Christmas. Father Steven is the well loved Rector of the Barossa Parish of which Lady Downer is a member. He explained by way of a funny story how the fairy ended up on the top of the Christmas Tree – for those of you who weren't there it happened when Father Christmas was in a bad mood and the fairy connected with the toe of his winter boot!

We were delighted to be joined once again by the award winning young South Australian singer Grace Bawden, who delighted the guests with her marvellous rendition of classical operatic and modern musical songs.

We were joined by representatives of the Joint Commonwealth Society, The Royal Commonwealth Society, The Royal Caledonian Society, The English Speaking Union, The Royal Over-seas League and The Cornish Association. Mr Tom Young Honorary Consul for Mauritius was also at the party and we were pleased to welcome from Glenunga International High School Lyn Hayano and Jonathan Turland with their students.

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Lunch with Jane Hylton – 17<sup>th</sup> February 2009



**Nicky Downer with  
Jane Hylton**

At our first lunch for the year, League members heard from Jane Hylton, Curator of Australian Art, on her upcoming exhibition Nora Heysen – Light and Life. This exhibition opens at Carrick hill on 1<sup>st</sup> April and runs until the end of June after which it tours throughout Australia. Jane Hylton gave a sensitive and thorough talk on the work of Nora Heysen, the only child of Sir Hans Heysen who became an artist.

Don't miss out on the opportunity of visiting Carrick Hill and seeing this exhibition, the work of one of South Australia's most significant women artists.



**New member's Mr Jack  
Brown and his wife Anne.  
Also with Erica Cox who  
attended the lunch on  
February 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**Executive Committee 2008/2009**

Mrs Nicky Downer, AM – President

Mr Craig Whiteman – 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

## [News from other Leagues](#)

**AUCKLAND** – Mrs Elizabeth Caughey, President reports that the Victoria League in Auckland has been approved as a registered charitable organisation by the Charities' Commission. This means the majority of their donations can continue as the tax risk has diminished.

**LONDON** – The Chairman Mr Lyn Hopkins is most enthusiastic about a visit to Australia and New Zealand in 2010. He emailed Nicky Downer to this effect and hopes to visit the majority of the branches at that time.

### [Commonwealth Day Celebration – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2009](#)

Commonwealth Day takes place on 9<sup>th</sup> March, but in South Australia we will celebrate this day on the 16<sup>th</sup> March because 9<sup>th</sup> March is Adelaide Cup Day and a Public Holiday.

We are very pleased that His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce, AC,CSC,RANR, Governor of South Australia and Mrs Scarce will attend this significant event

The celebration will take place at:

**Wyatt Hall, Pulteney Grammar School**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2009, 5.30 – 7.00pm**

**Entrée Cards are available the Victoria League Office at a cost of \$25 each.**

### [Obituary](#)

**Mrs James Hall** (Mary Lisle) member since 1957 died peacefully at her home in Beaumont in January. Our President, Mrs Downer and Executive Member Lady Downer attended her funeral on the 6<sup>th</sup> February at Berry's Funerals. The Victoria League extends their condolences to her extended family.

## Upcoming Events

### Lunches 2009

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

**Guest Speaker:** Major General Neil Wilson AM

“Mateship and leadership in the services”

**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

### Victoria League Day 2009

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May,  
5.30 pm until 7.00 pm**

Kensington Gallery,  
39 Kensington Road, Norwood

### Commonwealth Day 2009

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March,  
5.30 pm until 7.00 pm  
Cost: \$25**

Wyatt Hall, Pulteney Grammar School  
In the presence of His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce,  
AC, CSC, RANR, Governor of South Australia

Tickets available from The Victoria League office