



NEWSLETTER

PUBLICATION OF THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY
WESTERN AUSTRALIA BRANCH INC ABN 54 606 559 652

GOVERNMENT HOUSE OPEN DAY

The RCS WA Branch was very honoured to be invited to be part of their autumn Open Day in May.

The open day was themed 'Journeys' in support of it falling during the week of the WA Heritage Festival.

Government House is a significant part of our history and heritage and as a grand Mansion is one of Perth's most important and iconic monuments. It is Western Australia's number one Heritage Listed Building, celebrating its 150th Anniversary in 2013, the gardens are also listed on the Western Australian Register of Heritage Places.



What is wonderful about the 'Open Days', which are held twice a year and the 'Open Gardens' open to the public every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday between 12.00 noon and 2.00 pm, is that we the people, are 'invited' to walk around the beautiful gardens, enjoy a picnic lunch, or just sit and enjoy the tranquillity.



All this, importantly, lets us know that we are welcome to share in the joys of this wonderful treasure, which is one that many are yet still to discover!

The next open day this year will be in October, we'll be sure to let you know the date, so you can put it in your diary.

More on Government House and our day there on page 5.

President Terry Spiro with our two Associate Fellows, centre is Zoe Kalimeris and Breanna Hollow, in attendance on the day.

IN THIS ISSUE

Government House Open Day	1
Patrons; Branch Council; The Ode	2
President's Report	3
Know Your Councillors - Ms Larissa Strk	3
Tony Abbott, Prime Minister on The Commonwealth	4
Congratulations LEUT John Ashworth.....	4
Seen in the News - Dr Paul Wycherley.....	4
Government House Open Day, <i>cont'd</i>	5
In The Diary.....	6
Stop Press, Sir Francis Burt Speech & Leadership Update.....	6

NATIONAL DAYS

June 1	Samoa	July 1	Canada
June 18	Seychelles		Rwanda
June 25	Mozambique	July 6	Malawi
		July 7	Solomon Islands
		July 10	Bahamas
		July 12	Kiribati
		July 26	Maldives
		July 30	Vanuatu



PATRONS

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Patron of the Society in Western Australia

His Excellency Mr Malcolm McCusker AC CVO QC
Governor of Western Australia

INAUGURAL PRESIDENT OF HONOUR

Mrs Joan Tonkin MBE, JP (Dec)

Patron of the

Sir Francis Burt Speech and Leadership Contest
TBA

THE ODE

“WE OF THE ROYAL
COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY
SHALL CONTINUE TO FOSTER
GOODWILL AND AFFECTION
BETWEEN PEOPLES OF
THE COMMONWEALTH SO
THAT ALL MAY LIVE TOGETHER
IN PEACE,
SYMPATHY AND
UNDERSTANDING”

- Major (Retired) Albert Owen Howes MBE JP
RCS Western Australia Branch Councillor 1967–1991

WA BRANCH COUNCIL

President/Chairman

Mr Terry P Spiro MEM, FIEAust

Vice President

Mr Clive Robartson AM

Councillors

Mr W Heel OAM

Mr W Scott OAM

Mr Rasa Subramaniam OAM, JP

Ms Larissa Strk LLB

Rev. B May OAM JP Th.Dip.SSC

Honorary Life Fellows

Dr Ken Michael AC

Mrs Julie Michael (Dec)

Mr Charles Burleigh

Mr Ronald Milton

Mr William Wilson MBE

Mrs Elizabeth Wilson

Honorary Fellows

Mrs Elizabeth Beggs

Mrs Dorothy Heel

Mr William Heel OAM

Mrs Marie Radunovich

Dr John Radunovich OAM (Dec)

Mrs Jennifer Wycherley

Dr Paul Wycherley OBE

All correspondence to:



The Royal Commonwealth Society
Western Australia Branch (Inc)
Air Force Memorial House
Bull Creek Drive
BULL CREEK WA 6149

Ph: (08) 9311 4451

Email: RCS@raafawa.org.au

The Royal Commonwealth Society is an independent, non-sectarian, non-party organisation.
Its objectives are to promote the increase and spread of knowledge
respecting the peoples and countries of the Commonwealth.

The headquarters of the Society is in London, with Branches, Sub-Branches,
Honorary Representatives and Affiliated Organisations
functioning throughout the modern Commonwealth.

A Message From the Branch President

I trust you all supported the departure from the usual President's message in the last newsletter and enjoyed reading the message from RCS London Director, Michael Lake. For me the important part is the priority Michael has placed on RCS London engaging more proactively with the branches.



The first social celebration commemorating our 60th Anniversary occurred at the AGM in March, with a cake and champagne, it was a resounding success. My thanks to all those who attended and make this occasion a memorable one.

Keep a close eye on "In the Diary" on the back page of each issue or our newsletter. The experiment initiated last year to advertise events being run by kindred and related organisations seem to be working well and a number of members have contacted the office to congratulate Council on this innovation. Thank you for the feedback and we expect to announce more events for the rest of the year.

The refurbishment of the Administration building at the RAAF Association Estate requires us to hold the Sir Francis Burt Speech and Leadership Contest elsewhere for this year and we are fortunate to have the opportunity to use the Council Chambers and adjoining rooms offered by the City of Melville and we are grateful to Vice President Clive Robartson for his support in securing this venue.

Because the number of entrants is down this year, Council has agreed to go directly to the Final and this does help to streamline the process for 2014. In this instance each participant will be declared a 'finalist' and receive a cheque for \$100. The winner will receive the usual \$500 cheque which will be presented at their school at a later date.

I am pleased to advise our RCS WA Branch 'website' is underway and thanks go to our Council Member Rasa Subramaniam for his support. Once the site is up and running we will proceed to develop it to the standard we outlined in earlier communications.

Mr Terry Spiro MEM, FIEAust

Know Your Councillors



In this Edition we would like to introduce:

Larissa Strk

Partner
King & Wood Mallesons

Larissa Strk was the winner of the 1992 WA Branch Sir Francis Burt Speech and Leadership Contest. She attended UWA completing a degree in Law and is currently a Partner at King & Wood Mallesons. Larissa Strk specialises in dispute resolution. With experience in contentious resources, commercial and insolvency matters, she has significant experience as both an advocate and also in the provision of complex strategic advice.

Larissa's practice includes a broad range of disputes including complex litigation in the Supreme Court of Western Australia and the Federal Court of Australia. She also acts for a number of major banks and accounting firms. Larissa also has extensive experience in the energy and resources sector, including experience in securing the grant of mining tenements and providing strategic advice pursuant to State Agreements, with a particular focus on rail.

Larissa was recognised by Best Lawyers in Australia 2014-15 in the areas of: Insolvency and Re-organisation Law; Litigation; and Regulatory Practice.

Larissa is an active member of her community. As a champion of the "Mallesons in the Community Program", Larissa has hosted numerous events and volunteered her time to raise awareness for a range of charities, including Oxfam, Parkerville Children, Youth Care and has signed up again this year to participate in the 2014 Vinnies CEO Sleepout. Larissa is also the local co-ordinator for the King & Wood Mallesons Engaging Women Program and a member of Diversity Council Australia.

Larissa joined the WA Branch Council in 2014.

Tony Abbott

Prime Minister of Australia

Australia is committed to the Commonwealth.

It is one of the oldest international organisations and includes 53 member countries with 30 per cent of the world's population and 20 per cent of the world's land mass.

The Commonwealth is not a community of power, wealth, geography, religion or language, so much as a community of values.

We believe in democracy based on the rule of law; we acknowledge Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as Head of the Commonwealth; and we share a legacy of British institutions and influence which all members have adapted and improved in their own ways.

The Commonwealth is underpinned by these fundamental values. Biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings provide the platform for leaders to renew our commitment to the Commonwealth and further our cooperation.

In the face of the complex, multifaceted challenges of the 21st century we must continue to take practical steps to strengthen our Commonwealth of Nations and ensure its value, relevance and effectiveness for generations to come.

The Hon Tony Abbott MP
Prime Minister of Australia
13 December 2013

(Taken from the current Commonwealth Yearbook 2013)

Australian Cadet Forces Service Medal with 3 bars for LEUT John Ashworth



LEUT John Ashworth was awarded the third bar to his Cadet Forces Medal at the Annual Inspection parade at TS Perth.

The Australian Cadet Forces Service Medal is awarded to recognise long and efficient service by officers and instructors in the Australian Defence Force Cadets. It is awarded for 15 years service. Additional clasps are issued for every 5 years additional service.

This means that John has devoted 30 years to Naval Cadets in Western Australia.

LEUT John Ashworth has been an RCS WA Branch member since 2011

Congratulations John!

Seen In The News

In the May 17 Edition of The Post Newspaper.....

Our very own RCS WA Branch Honorary Member Dr Paul Wycherley OBE, was part of the Celebrations of the Probus Club of Subiaco marking their 25th Anniversary this year.

Bill Brown was a founding member of the Club 25 years ago, which began as a men's group for retired and semi-retired professionals providing fellowship and friendship.

The Club has welcomed women since then, with the current President being Anna King.

Bill Brown, Paul Wycherley and Boyd Ackland, as Life Members and Former Presidents, cut the Clubs Celebration Cake



GOVERNMENT HOUSE OPEN DAY....cont'd

The story of our day, by Susie Norvilas, Executive Officer RCS WA Branch

As this was the first time that the RCS WA Branch had been invited to have a stall at an Open Day event at Government House, we didn't know what to expect.

When I arrived at Government House on the morning of the Open Day, as usual I was in awe as to the magnificence of this 'Estate' in the heart of our City and then I heard the bells of St George's Cathedral ringing out and it was like being transported to another time.

The staff of the Government House Ballroom were wonderful, welcoming and very helpful. Our stall was in the Loggia area of the Ballroom where we presented an interesting and organised stall, with our new RCS WA Branch banner completing the impressive look.

Many thanks go to our two Associate Fellows, Breanna Hollow, Winner of the Sir Francis Burt Speech and Leadership Contest 2011 and Zoe Kalimeris, Finalist of the Sir Francis Burt Speech and Leadership Contest 2012. They are also on the Young Fellows Committee of the RCS WA Branch. It was wonderful having them attend on the day in support of our Society, they offered assistance, information and chatted with the many interesting visitors that stopped by.



We were fortunate to have our President, Mr Terry Spiro attend during the day. He was able to answer some interesting questions, and our visitors were most impressed with his extensive knowledge and enjoyed the bountiful information he shared with them.

The location of our stall had another bonus, as we were well placed to see the wonderful ballroom dancing performances throughout the day, which were also enjoyed by our Governor, His Excellency Malcolm McCusker AC CVO QC, Mrs McCusker and their beautiful little daughter Mary.

It wasn't all work, as we made the most of our lunch break, taking turns to wander through the main house, with its majestic Dining Room, the table was set with crockery and cutlery, and I was thrilled to notice that they have the same cutlery which I was fortunate to inherit from my mother, my goodness what a surprise that was! We also enjoyed our walk around the glorious gardens and viewed the veteran car display. So in fact, we too, had our own 'Journey'!



Our sincere thanks to Government House for the invitation and privilege of being part of the autumn Open Day and thanks to the wonderful staff and organisers that contributed in making the day a success.

Some interesting facts about Government House:

Built between 1859 and 1864. The building is a two storey mansion in the early Stuart or Jacobean Revival style set on 32,000 square metres of English gardens. The unique architectural character of the building is characterised by the use of stonework and bonded brickwork, incorporating square mullioned windows, decorated gables and ogival capped turrets. The attenuated gothic arcading at ground floor level derives from another form of Victorian Revival expression Fonthill Gothic. The building has 16 rooms on the ground floor and 25 on the first floor.

Government House Foundation of Western Australia

Mrs Tonya McCusker, has been President of the Foundation since July 2011. The Foundation was established in 1987, the main objective being to promote awareness of the significance of Government House, the ballroom and gardens, as part of the history and heritage of WA.

The Foundation directly supports the conservation, restoration and enhancement of this magnificent property raising funds to acquire appropriate works of art, antique furnishings, *objects d'art* and items of significant historical, cultural and contemporary value.

A number of concerts are presented each year, themed the *Music on the Terrace* series, which provide a platform for local, national and international performers and opportunities for young WA artists to shine.

THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY
WESTERN AUSTRALIA BRANCH WA (Inc.)

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**

RETURN MAIL:

AIR FORCE MEMORIAL ESTATE
BULL CREEK DRIVE
BULL CREEK WA 6149

NEWSLETTER

Print Post Approved 100004094

IN THE DIARY



DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
July 18	Friday	1pm	Final of the Sir Francis Burt Speech and Leadership Contest	Melville City Council Chambers 10 Almondbury Road, Booragoon
August	TBA		Long Standing Members Afternoon Tea	TBA

STOP PRESS: Sir Francis Burt Speech and Leadership Contest 2014 - Friday 18 July at 1pm.

Due to the RAAFA Memorial House refurbishment during July/August we are unable to hold the Finals in the Ev Nicholls Room as previous.

The Venue for the Final this year is:

Melville City Council Chambers
10 Almondbury Road, Booragoon (*behind Garden City Shopping Centre*)

Members, family and friends are welcome to attend.

*** Helpers required - please contact the office if you are able to assist.**

Direct Payment

Membership Fees and Function payments can now be made directly into our RCS Bank Account, the details are as below:

Account Name: Royal Commonwealth Society Western Australian Branch Inc.
BSB: 306-044
Account No: 527294-7

Please remember to put your name in the 'Reference Line' so we are able to record your payment and forward your receipt.



Office Hours:

Monday to Thursday 10am to 3.00pm

Phone: (08) 9311 4451

Email: RCS@raafawa.org.au

Postal Address:

The Royal Commonwealth Society
Western Australia Branch (Inc)
Air Force Memorial House
Bull Creek Drive
BULL CREEK WA 6149