



Margaret Lord presenting prizes to winners in Art and photography competition



Plain English Speaking Award  
Margaret Lord presenting first prize,  
donated by the RCS to Aiesha and  
Margaret presenting the RCS School  
Trophy to St John's Grammar School  
Principal



# The Royal Commonwealth Society

South Australian Branch Inc

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President: Libby Ellis OAM      Ph 0412 820 121

Secretary: Julie Gameau      Ph 08 8357 9547

## August-October 2015 Newsletter



His Excellency The Honourable Hieu Van Le AO, RCS President, Libby Ellis OAM.  
Bishop Michael Musale and UK Consul Ian Smith

**PATRONS**

**Worldwide Patron**

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

**South Australian Patron:**

His Excellency  
The Honourable Hieu Van Le AO  
Governor of South Australia

**Objects of the Royal Commonwealth Society**

The objects of the society are to promote the increase and diffusion of knowledge respecting the people and Countries of the Commonwealth, to maintain the best traditions of the Commonwealth and to foster unity of thought and action to matters of common interest.

**DIARY DATES**

**Sunday August 16**

Luncheon at Public Schools Club. East Terrace Adelaide. 12.00 for 12.30pm Guest speaker Bishop Michael Musale from Kenya.

**Royal Commonwealth Society Ensemble Concert** Sunday September 20th at the Meeting Hall Adelaide

**Thursday 3 December**

Christmas reception  
Further details in next newsletter

**NEW MEMBERS**

We welcome the following new members.

Andrew Taylor  
Bette Taylor

Andrew and Bette, we hope that you enjoy the functions of the Society

**It is great to admit new members. Organisations like the Royal Commonwealth Society will not exist if we do not encourage new members.**

**Office Bearers for 2015**

President:	Libby Ellis OAM 0412 820 121
Vice Presidents	Margaret Lord (08) 8346 7952 Jayne Ross (08) 8346 6002
Treasurer:	Ken Pennell 0438 233 315
Secretary:	Julie Gameau (08) 8357 9547
Councillors	Chris Ashton 0419 804 725 Terry Grant (08) 8333 1658 Allan Perryman 0418 821 572 Des Wyatt (08) 8281 7594

On 9 September 2015 Queen Elizabeth 11 becomes the longest reigning monarch in British history  
Let's celebrate this magnificent achievement.



**RCS International network**

Divided into five Regions, the 53 country members of the Commonwealth include a significant number of small states (population <1.5 million) alongside some of the world's largest and wealthiest countries. All members are equal and all subscribe to the values described in the Commonwealth Charter.

The regions are Europe, Africa, Asia, Pacific and Americas. Australia belongs to the Pacific Region

For further information please check out the web page [www.thercs.org](http://www.thercs.org)

**Queen's Birthday Church Service**

The Queen's Birthday, was held on Sunday 7th June, First Sunday after Trinity Choral Eucharist from the Book of Common Prayer service at Christ Church North Adelaide. Mr. Ken Pennell and Mrs. Jayne Ross attended the service, and the Right Reverend John Ford, Bishop of the Murray joined us as guest preacher.

The Christ Church formally welcomed His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AO, Governor of South Australia and Mrs Van Le. The Honourable Michael Atkinson, Speaker of the House of Assembly, Mr.

Steven Marshall MP, Leader of the Opposition, Ms. Rachel Sanderson, MP, The Lord Mayor, Mr. Martin Haese and Lady Mayoress, Mrs. Genevieve Haese, representatives of the Services, SAPOL, the Courts, and the Government House staff and representatives of Loyal Associations all attended.

"We rejoice that you were able to be with us today to give thanks to Almighty God for the life, work and example of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and to pray for her wellbeing and that of her family and to remember the place and part she has in the life of our Church."

It was a beautiful service in a beautiful Church, and refreshments were served in the Hall afterwards, and enjoyed by all.

**Jayne Mary Ross**



Guests attending Queen's Birthday luncheon  
Photos by Jayne Ross and Harold Clark

Come and join us at the Royal Commonwealth Society Ensemble concert



**President's report**

The last three months have been exciting for your new President.

In May Julie, Ken and I attended the National Royal Commonwealth Society meeting in Melbourne. It was very interesting to see how many of our issues were similar, and yet how each state was treading slightly different paths. It has been agreed that we will meet regularly, with the next meeting to be held in Canberra and the one after that in Brisbane to coincide with the Commonwealth Games. One of the ideas that is being encouraged is for each state to organise a Youth CHOGM. This is a very exciting concept and I am sure there will be more information about its progress in future issues.

The Art and Drawing Competition was judged and the successful applicants were awarded their prizes in June. Because Miltaburra Area School sent in so many entries, the judges decided to award the school a special prize. We subsequently received a letter from the teacher advising that they were forwarding the money to a child they sponsor in South Africa. This was a delightful and unexpected outcome of the Competition.

In July we held a special lunch to celebrate the Queen's Birthday. The guest speaker was Ian Smith, the new UK consul. The Governor and Mrs Le attended as did Bishop Michael Musale, from Kenya. We have decided to hold another lunch in August and have invited Bishop Musale to be the guest speaker. As most people know, Princess Elizabeth was in Kenya when her father died and she became Queen. Bishop Musale will be speaking about the very special relationship Kenya has with the Royal family.

Also in July, Margaret, Julie Ken and I attended the Royal Presidents' dinner, hosted this year by the Royal Caledonian Society. It was a stirring sight to have the pipe band perform in the great hall at the Masonic building on North Terrace, and capped off by Ken's daughter-in-law as the lone piper play from the balcony. As far as I can tell South Australia is the only state to hold the Royal Presidents' dinners and I think it is a great idea and deeper cooperation between these societies should be encouraged. I will report on how this progresses in future issues.

Finally, I have been sent a signed copy of a book titled *Old Links & New Ties; power and persuasion in an age of networks* by the President of RCS London, Lord Howell of Guildford. In it he encourages the UK public to "rejoin the Commonwealth". He argues that Britain turned its back on the Commonwealth in the sixties when it thought its future was closely linked to the EU, but that new technologies in communication have made it possible for Britain to be part of Europe in the way Australia is geographically part of Asia, but to regain the very special links that are the Commonwealth. It will be interesting to see if his words achieve anything. There is talk of an international RCS meeting next year in London, so we wait and see. For those of us who have suffered the indignities of having to go through the "rest" passport column at Heathrow Airport after UK citizens, and EU citizens, the change cannot come soon enough.

Fingers crossed.



Libby Ellis OAM

**Queen's Young Leaders Programme**

Each year from 2014 to 2018, 60 inspirational young people will be selected to receive an Award and become 'Queen's Young Leaders' – one for every year that The Queen had served as Head of the Commonwealth at the time of her Diamond Jubilee. The aspiration is for at least one young person, from every Commonwealth country, to receive a Queen's Young Leaders Award for achievement in transforming their own lives and the lives of others.

As part of the Award, winners will receive bespoke mentoring and online learning provided by the University of Cambridge. Award winners will attend a week-long residential programme in the UK in June, when they will receive their Award at Buckingham Palace from Her Majesty The Queen.

This life-changing programme has been established by The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust and runs in partnership with Comic Relief and the Royal Commonwealth Society in honour of The Queen's 60-year contribution to the Commonwealth.

Over the next five years, at a time when the Commonwealth is home to the largest generation of young people ever in its history – over 1.3 billion of a total 2.2 billion citizens, The Queen's Young Leaders Programme will support thousands of young people (18-29) to make their visions of a better society a reality. Comprising two parts, it will create a lasting legacy for the Queen through:

An Awards scheme to recognise the achievements of 240 inspirational young people and provide support enabling them to take up leadership roles and inspire future leaders.

Grants to support organisations in selected countries across the Commonwealth that work with young people to transform their lives.

Young people from all across the Commonwealth can apply or be nominated to win an award and become a Queen's Young Leader.

The first Queen's Young Leaders' have travelled from across the Commonwealth to take part in a residential development programme as part of the Award package. The programme includes a two day course at the University of Cambridge where they will continue the online training they have been undertaking since January. The Young Leaders will then go on to meet with UK business leaders and visit life-changing social action projects.

For further information check out the web site [www.thercs.org](http://www.thercs.org)

## MEMBERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

The following Countries are members of the Commonwealth in order of seniority of membership

United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Ghana, Malaysia, Nigeria, Cyprus, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, Malta, Zambia, The Gambia, Singapore, Guyana, Botswana, Lesotho, Barbados, Nauru, Mauritius, Swaziland, Tonga, Samoa, Fiji Islands, Bangladesh, The Bahamas, Grenada, Papua New Guinea, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Dominica, St Lucia, Kiribati, St Vincent & The Grenadines, Vanuatu, Belize, Antigua & Barbuda, Maldives, St Christopher & Nevis, Brunei Darussalam, Namibia, Cameroon, Mozambique, Rwanda

These diverse nations representing one quarter of the world's population over every continent, include Republics, National Monarchies and a number of Nations that recognise Queen Elizabeth 11 as their own Head of State.

### RCS and the Commonwealth web pages

There is so much interesting and informative information on the Royal Commonwealth Society on the web page.

Find more information about The Royal Commonwealth Society and the Commonwealth on the web

[www.thercs.org](http://www.thercs.org)  
[www.thecommonwealth.org](http://www.thecommonwealth.org)

### 2015 SUBSCRIPTIONS

The 2015 subscriptions were due on 1st January 2015.

**Fees are \$25 for a single membership and \$40 for a couple.**

**Please pay the Treasurer, Mr Ken Pennell if you are not financial.**

TO CONTACT THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY (SOUTH AUSTRALIA BRANCH) Please contact either:

Libby Ellis OAM 08 7221 2440 0412 820 121 mob or  
Julie Gameau 08 8357 9547 0407 203 035 mob

## HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES INVITES ENTRIES FOR 'OUT OF THE BLUE'—A NEW PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION TO CELEBRATE THE IMPORTANCE & BEAUTY OF OUR BLUE PLANET

Enter now [www.outofthebluecompetition.com/#outofthebluecomp](http://www.outofthebluecompetition.com/#outofthebluecomp)

On World Oceans Day, 8th June, 'Out of the Blue', a new photography competition which celebrates the oceans, seas and waters of the Commonwealth, was launched by The Prince of Wales's International Sustainability Unit with The Royal Commonwealth Society as partner.

The launch took place at an event celebrating World Oceans' Day, held at the Royal Geographical Society, London. Prince Charles said——

*"From over-fishing to marine plastic debris and from progressive acidification of seas to habitat destruction, the challenges we must address in order to secure the natural capital that provides the basis of our global Blue Economy are both wide-ranging and fundamental. But while we have an ever stronger body of evidence to highlight the pressing nature of these questions, it seems to me that we must also continue to win hearts as well as minds. Nowhere is it more important to do this than within those communities whose very future prosperity is inextricably linked with the viability of our oceans and seas. Many of these communities live within the Commonwealth – over half of Commonwealth countries are island states, for example – and, together, Commonwealth countries have around half of the world's economic exclusion zones within their jurisdiction.*

*I am especially hopeful to see participation from young people, as their future – particularly those from island nations and coastal states – will be principally determined by the fate of the oceans. The world needs to hear their stories and perhaps by seeing their perspective in pictures, those with the means to act are more likely to do so."*

The competition is open from 8th of June until 6th September. Winning photographs will be exhibited in Malta in the margins of a high-level meeting of Heads of Government from around the Commonwealth in November 2015. By submitting entries to this new competition, you can help encourage global leaders to take positive action and adopt more of the solutions that we know are at hand to protect and use natural resources in a sustainable way.

Download further information. To submit an entry visit the competition website

The RCS Art and Photography competition was a great success. The winners were presented with their prizes at a evening award ceremony in June at legacy House. Margaret Lord on behalf of Libby Ellis who was overseas presented the prizes

#### **Art**

##### **Jacob Ryan**

Category 1 first prize

##### **Azyn Puckridge**

Category 1 second prize

##### **Jesse Jesser**

Category 1 third prize

##### **Zack Stevens**

Category 2 first prize

##### **Cullen Cliff**

Category 2 second prize

#### **Miltaburra Area School**

#### **Encouragement Award**

The following is part of an letter from

MILTABURRA AREA SCHOOL      STREAKY BAY

Dear Margaret

“Thank you for your generous donation of \$100 provided through the Royal Commonwealth Society. I thought I should let you know that we have used this to help fund our payments for our sponsor child in South Africa, Sempela Alimansi. As we well know our life here in Australia is certainly rich and full of opportunities and I think it is only fitting that we try and ‘do our bit’ to help others.

Thank you also for giving our students the opportunity to think why we are indeed so lucky.”

Miltaburra Area School caters for children from Kindergarten to Year 12 and is somewhat unique in that it is not supported by a township, but rather small rural and coastal communities, the closest being 23km to the east. Students travel to school by bus. The school has well-designed and resourced buildings complemented by extensive grounds. Our motto, 'Working Together to Build Our Future', underscores our values of respect, cooperation and achievement..

For further information about Miltaburra Area school  
[www.miltaburraas.sa.edu.au](http://www.miltaburraas.sa.edu.au)

Prize winners were

#### **Photographic**

##### **Sophie King**

Category 2 first prize

##### **Lucy Carter**

Category 2 second prize

##### **Sophie King**

category 2 third prize

##### **Aimee Brett**

Category 3 first prize

##### **Marie Kayumba**

Category 3 second prize

##### **Ruby Gazzola**

Category 3 third prize

## **1215 to 2015: Magna Carta celebrates 800 Years**

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015, marked the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta by King John at Runnymede in 1215. Over the centuries Magna Carta has gained huge symbolic influence being, for many the foundation of their constitution and the basis of their rule of law. However, what is the relevance of Magna Carta today?

Magna Carta is a document that safeguarded basic freedoms, and placed limits on the power of the crown, establishing the principle that ‘to no one shall we sell, to no one deny or delay right or justice.’ It is both a document and a set of ideas. It has influenced the legal systems of multiple Commonwealth countries including Australia, India, Canada, the Bahamas and New Zealand. Whilst Magna Carta was withdrawn only months after its sealing by King John and Pope Innocent III it is the ideas that were embodied within it that endure. Its principles have been echoed in the United States Bill of Rights (1791), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the European Convention on Human Rights (1950) highlighting that Magna Carta is still very much at the heart of the rule of law.

It has led to the establishment of common legal systems, common rights, common responsibilities and common values. It is these core values which binds the Commonwealth together and have been reflected within the Charter of the Commonwealth (December 2013). The Commonwealth Charter is an example of the ongoing influence of Magna Carta. It emphasises the shared values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. It acts very much like Magna Carta as a statement of aspiration. It aims to improve the lives of Commonwealth citizens and to protect their rights. Indeed Magna Carta’s lasting impact has come from its position in the popular imagination. It has historically acted as a rallying cry against the arbitrary use of power and injustice. Like Magna Carta the Commonwealth Charter has the potential to act as a platform which Commonwealth citizens can use to raise and address human rights abuses.

Today, Magna Carta acts as a reminder that there remain issues that need to be addressed. One of the projects launched last week was **1215.today**, a virtual House of Culture which gives young people the chance to connect internationally, across borders, religion and race, to express their views on issues such as liberty, democracy and human rights. It addresses the relevance of Magna Carta today. Launched on the eve of the Great Charter the project will run for two years until the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the eve of the Charter of the Forest (5 November 2017). It will culminate in the creation of a new Magna Carta bringing together the issues that are most important to the youth of today. The launch which took place in Lincoln Castle Prison stressed that for many their human rights are under threat. It ended with an international call to arms, a Time for Rights, asking everyone which human right was most important to them, to record and upload a six second video, on International Youth Day (12 August) as an act of solidarity.

It is through projects such as this that Magna Carta remains relevant today. It is the idea that everyone has the right to a free and fair trial that gives Magna Carta the importance and influence it continues to bear today. It exists today as a concept around which people can rally.