



# ROYAL OVER-SEAS LEAGUE SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC

## **Patron**

### **Vice-Patron**

HRH Princess Alexandra  
KG GCVO

### **South Australian Patron**

Her Excellency  
the Honourable Frances Adamson AC,  
Governor of South Australia

### **South Australia Branch**

#### **President**

Graham Beckett

#### **Honorary**

#### **Secretary/Treasurer**

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#### **Founder**

Sir Evelyn Wrench KCMG

## BRANCH NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2023

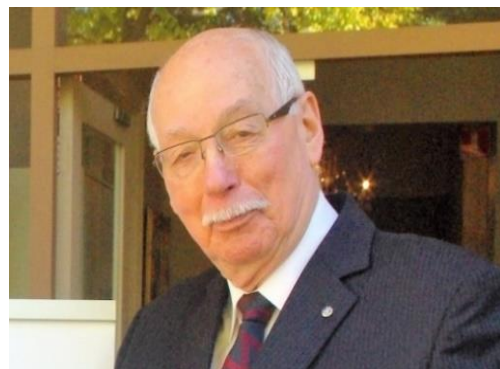


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Adelaide Youth  
Orchestras

## FROM THE PRESIDENT GRAHAM BECKETT



Dear Friends,

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy New Year, even though it is Autumn. It is hard to believe we are now into the third month of 2023.

Those members and friends who were able to attend our Christmas Luncheon, were treated to a most interesting talk by Catherine Baldwin, the CEO of the Adelaide Youth Orchestras, who 'talked us through' what exactly this amazing group of young musicians achieves. We were also able to welcome to the lunch, Keith Crellin OAM, who needs no introduction due to his long-standing and enthusiastic involvement with the AdYO, Kate Mawson, conductor of the Adelaide Youth Wind Orchestra and Ben Finn, Executive Director. It was also sad to say farewell to Ben as he is leaving his position to further his career elsewhere. Our musicians, Paris Netting, Tahlia Williams, Mattea Osenk, Jack Overall, entertained us to some beautiful music during our lunch and we had the opportunity of getting to meet them after their performance.

Just recently Patsy and I were able to meet Ben's successor, Nic Jeffries the new Executive Director, over coffee. Nic is a saxophonist of note hailing from Sydney. He is a Bachelor of Music in Jazz Performance from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and for the past 20 years has performed with leading Australian artists in both the Jazz and contemporary music area. A large part of his career has been as a Director of Music Ensembles in NSW schools. We had a great chat about his new role and how we will be able to support each other through the AdYO involvement. I look forward to seeing (and hearing) the continuing evolution of the youth orchestras. We will be forwarding you their programmes for this year. Please make the effort to attend you will not be disappointed.

April performances will be in the Grainger Hall, Hindley Street with:

\*Youth Orchestra & Percussion Ensemble

1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 @ 3:30 pm

\*Sinfonia & Wind Orchestra

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023 @ 3:30 pm

Tickets from AdYO web site <https://adyo.com.au/concerts/>

Our first luncheon in 2023 was held at the Mayfair Hotel. It was a red letter day for ROSL SA as we were hosting our Patron and Governor of South Australia, the Honourable Frances Adamson AC who was our guest speaker. As you all know our Patron is a lady who, over her distinguished career, has broken quite a few glass ceilings, has been a great Ambassador for our country as well as raising a family.

At our request she spoke about her life and career and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all. At the conclusion of her talk Her Excellency was happy to answer any questions and then graciously mingled with all the guests – table by table - before departing for Government House. Our members and their friends were enthusiastic in their praise about her willingness to attend as the League's Patron. She has the most remarkable ability to put all at their ease. We are extremely fortunate to have her as our Governor and our Patron.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022 we had as our speaker Nick Hughes from Restless Dance Theatre; may I remind you all of the thrust of their work, that is, to be aware of and concentrate on the talents and abilities of the disabled not their disabilities.

Your enthusiastic Executive Committee members have been meeting and planning for the year ahead and all is locked in for a very interesting group of lunches, all to be held at the Naval Military and Air Force Club in Hutt St, Adelaide. All the speakers will bring a wonderful range of interests to our members and friends:

Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2023 will be the occasion of the Annual General Meeting followed by our Autumn luncheon. More information will be forthcoming for the AGM and also a flyer to book for the luncheon. Our guest speaker on this occasion will be Edmund Pegge, one of Australia's most prolific supporting actors who travelled between England and Australia working on stage, in film and on television for over fifty years. He has even found time to become an author, penning his memoirs 'Forever Horatio – An Actor's Life' with a Foreword by life-long friend Dame Judi Dench. There is not enough space here to detail his whole career, which has been very full and extremely interesting and diverse.

The Spring luncheon will be on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> September and we have another treat in our guest speaker, Vincent Ciccarello. Vincent was Managing Director of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra for nine years before his recent appointment as Head of Philanthropy and Enterprise at the Art Gallery of South Australia. He has had a very interesting and busy career in many areas of music, music theatre both in Australia and New Zealand and also worked as a journalist in the University of South Australia and Flinders University for publications.

Which brings us very quickly to our 2023 Christmas Luncheon to be held on Wednesday, 6th December, when we will have a great speaker in Dr Stephen Codrington, renowned geographer, who will really enthral us with his presentation on a very special, little-known, and quite amazing place in our world.

Last time we were fortunate enough to have Dr Codrington speak was at our Annual Dinner in July, 2019. His topic on that occasion was "The Least Known, Least Understood Country in the World" – and introducing his talk kept everyone guessing which country he would discuss. It turned out to be North Korea, a country he has visited on several occasions and those who attended were absolutely enthralled with what he had to say. Hence, we have invited him back once again for what I am sure will be yet another amazing talk.

Please could I encourage you to jot these dates into your diaries, so you don't have a conflict and will be able to attend, meet other members and friends, enjoy a great meal together and hear amazing speakers.

As I mentioned in my last Newsletter to you, the Royal Over-Seas League SA Branch will be hosting the Royal Presidents Dinner this year, and will be held on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2023. Planning is well underway for this event. More information will be forthcoming closer to the date.

Patsy and I attended the annual End of Year Celebration of the Adelaide Youth Orchestra, Adelaide Youth Wind Orchestra, Adelaide Youth Sinfonia, with the Adelaide Youth Percussion Ensemble on Sunday 20 November in the Adelaide Town Hall. It was an absolute privilege to be able to enjoy such a wonderful concert at such a professional level. I am always amazed at the professional musicianship these young people attain. While not all go on to explore a career in music, the discipline and the ability to co-operate with others that is gained by being a part of such an organisation certainly will aid all of them in whatever they set out to achieve.

Also with this Newsletter is included an invitation from Her Excellency and Mr Bunten to enjoy a picnic in the grounds of Government House. It is a delightful venue to enjoy the outdoors with family and friends.

I would like to welcome our new members:

Mr Graham (Warwick) Harris, Ms Lynette Head, Mrs Francis Gnodtke, Mr Hans Gnodtke, Mr Malcolm Post, Mrs Georgina Kadis, Mr Gerry Doran, Ms Jennifer Sommer, Mr Simon Kewell and Ms Robyn Carnachan.

We look forward to seeing you all at the functions and getting to know you.

*Graham Beckett*  
President