



ROSL

ROYAL OVER-SEAS LEAGUE

ROYAL OVER-SEAS LEAGUE SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC

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Sir Evelyn Wrench KCMG

BRANCH NEWSLETTER WINTER 2023

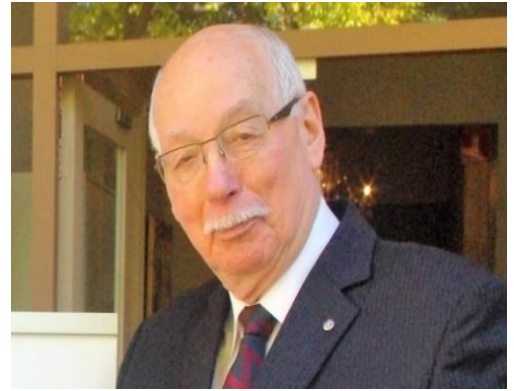


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FROM THE PRESIDENT GRAHAM BECKETT



Dear Friends,

As I write this I realise that over half the year has come and gone and Christmas will soon be with us. That is bookings for Christmas are already being made so please reserve time for the rest of this year's functions!!

A successful AGM was held and the proposed constitutional amendments passed, that is the reduction to 10 financial members needed for the Annual General Meeting, and a resolution permitting proxy voting. Our Guest speaker at the AGM was Edmund Pegge who gave an interesting and anecdotal address. We all know the stars of film and television but we often forget the names and importance of supporting actors. It was obvious from his speech that you don't have to be a star to be very successful.

The 6th of April saw members and guests at a High Tea at Vault 91, Micha Ilic excelled himself producing a very delightful high tea. Almost as good as the food was the venue, and he also gave those in attendance a brief look at his interesting life to date. Vault 91 is inside the original entry to Westpac Bank at 91 King William Street. This is a hidden Adelaide Gem with soaring decorative ceilings both in the old banking chamber and with an exceptional decorative ceiling in what is now a sunken lounge.

You will be aware that this year we were to host the Royal Presidents Dinner, a Vice-Regal occasion to thank the presidents, and past presidents of Adelaide's Royal Societies. We had a good response from our members but unfortunately a very poor response from other Associations, This has led to reluctantly having to cancel the dinner. Unfortunately this means that you will not be able to hear the Adelaide Youth Orchestra perform.

Patsy and I attended the King's Birthday Luncheon hosted by the Royal Commonwealth Society on the 8th June at St Marks College with Mr Rod Bunten giving an interesting and illustrated talk on Government House from the colonial days to today.

The Adelaide Youth Orchestra's concert on the 1st July at the historic Woodville Town Hall with a different style of concert was enthusiastically received – orchestral arrangements of the music of Cole Porter, Gershwin, Aaron Copeland and others. A departure from normal but well worth attending. These young musicians are incredibly talented.



While doing research about the early days of our club in the archives I turned up some interesting artefacts from the past: remember rubber stamps? See below - AND for a more substantial item come to the next meeting to see what else I found.

With regard to our ROSL emblem depicted on the well-used rubber stamp (and coloured version above), this was only replaced with the new emblem to celebrate the centenary of ROSL. On looking through documentation from ROSL I also came across the way Sir Evelyn Wrench launched a monthly magazine 'Overseas' in 1915 with a stylised sailing ship on the sea indicating that ROSL was an international organisation reaching out around the globe, consistent with the club's creed. The ship was to become the main part of the League's crest when the 'Royal' title was conferred by the late Queen Elizabeth II on its 50th anniversary in 1960. The letters O and S indicated the importance of the hyphen in the name Over-Seas League to highlight the idea of reciprocal traffic between the mother country of Great Britain and the Empire across the seas, rather than overseas



without a hyphen meaning not the mainland. Very interesting in these times where we in the 'colonies' are being told to pay a very high annual fee for the privilege of perhaps/maybe travelling the many kilometres to stay at Over-Seas House in London. The new logo which appears on our front page shows the O and S leaning into each other suggesting a coming together from across the seas and still retains the original small sailing ship. (ref: Director of Arts Roderick Larkin ROSL Centenary 'Overseas' magazine edition Dec 2009-Feb 2010).

I refer to my letter regarding the new membership regime instituted by London; the overwhelming response from our members has been to operate in Adelaide as we have been doing. Several answers noted that the fee level is acceptable only if you live in London and visit regularly. Unfortunately it appears that the directors appear to believe that a trip from here to there is similar to one across the Torrens by Popeye. For members' information, at the top of Park Place in London is Vernon House, the world headquarters of the Over-Seas League. Vernon House was purchased in February 1921 as a war memorial to those from overseas who gave their lives in the war. In 1924 No. 3 Park Place was acquired for overseas visitors' accommodation. Subsequently, due to demand, Nos. 4 and 5 Park Place were purchased.

Looking for a Christmas gift for that special person? Why not invite them to our Christmas Lunch on Wednesday, 6th December, 2023 at the Naval Military & Air Force Club where the guest speaker will be Dr Stephen Codrington who will take us on a journey to a very special place in our world – but you will have to attend to find out where that is. Do put the date in your diary now.

Our next luncheon will be on Wednesday 20th September 2023 where our guest speaker will be Vincent Ciccarello, lately Managing Director of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. He has had a career in Music administration including Opera, Orchestra, Theatrical, Journalism, Universities and now a different artistic venture, Head of Philanthropy and Enterprise at the Art Gallery of South Australia. NOT TO BE MISSED. A flyer will be coming out shortly.

Graham Beckett
President