



ROSL

ROYAL OVER-SEAS LEAGUE

"OUR LONDON CLUB"

Patron

Her Majesty The Queen

Vice-Patron

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KG GCVO

South Australian Patron

His Excellency the Honourable
Hieu Van Le AC
Governor of South Australia

South Australia Branch

President

Graham Beckett

Honorary

Secretary/Treasurer

Jan Roberts
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Founder

Sir Evelyn Wrench KCMG

Proud Sponsor of the
Adelaide Youth Orchestras



Adelaide Youth
Orchestras

ROYAL OVER-SEAS LEAGUE
SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC

BRANCH NEWSLETTER Winter August 2020



FROM THE PRESIDENT GRAHAM BECKETT



Dear Friends,

Hopefully, we are now approaching the time when we can all meet together again! How have you all travelled over the last few months? Whereas we here in South Australia have been fortunate in the levels of Covid-19, both NSW and Victoria have had an up and down ride but if there is anything definite from this it is that travel will be difficult, lengthy and costly until we have an effective vaccine.

We have been extremely frustrated by this horrible virus, Government has sensibly imposed meeting and spacing restrictions, but this has had a threefold impact. It has reduced the number of persons allowed in a room at a time, concurrent with this it has reduced the numbers at a table and that has of course impacted on the cost of meals. Our other problem is that each time we thought it was safe to go ahead different restrictions have been imposed.



As you are aware our London clubhouse has been effectively shut down, but you are probably unaware our Chairman, Alexander Downer, has been trapped in Adelaide since March. He came back to Australia to undertake a speaking engagement that was cancelled as, at the same time he arrived, the borders were

closed. However, that enabled me to talk with him about the proposed fee and capitation levels. We discussed the following matters:

- *Membership; The current composition of the club.
- *Transient members, that is those who only join so that they are able to use the London rooms.
- *Incomes, the problem of fixed incomes under the current economic circumstances.
- *Maximum fees that we feel are sustainable due to the current economic situation.
- *Differing fees across countries, the fact that these vary greatly from country to country.
- *Costs of Service that is how much it costs London to administer membership and to print the quarterly journal. We discussed whether this can be reduced by London only producing an electronic version; we also discussed the very little coverage given to the overseas branches.
- *Currency, the impact of the weak Australian dollar versus the English pound on costs to Australians.
- *Adelaide Youth Orchestras, Our continuing support of them
- *Alternate accommodation in London, the fact that many members have access to alternate accommodation and that with the increase of accommodation charges by London cheaper alternatives are now available
- *Air Fares, these are already rising, and future levels may become untenable for travellers.
- *Guest Speakers, Alexander Downer is going to request London to advise branches of UK travellers coming to our cities who may be interesting speakers at our functions.
- *Subscriptions, capitation to be re-assessed by London.

The Committee is currently engaged in forward planning; you will appreciate that this is difficult due to current restrictions but we are committed to an Annual General Meeting at either a lunch or dinner before the end of the year, hopefully in September. **BUT** before then we, the committee needs **YOUR ASSISTANCE!!!!**

Under our Constitution and By-Laws the Management of the club is to be:

- President:** Elected for a 3 year term
- Vice-President** Elected at the Annual General Meeting
- Secretary:** Elected at the Annual General Meeting
- Treasurer:** Elected at the Annual General Meeting
- Immediate Past President**
- Five Committee Members:** Elected at the Annual General Meeting

At this point in time we have:

- President
- Treasurer & Secretary
- Committee of three members

As the Immediate Past President has retired due to medical reasons we need, under our constitution, one additional member. Therefore, we are currently in need of a further three committee members. Committee meetings are not onerous, they comprise a monthly meeting (coffee and biscuits provided) and run for 60 to 90 minutes

PLEASE: It is YOUR club; we need three interested volunteers!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

We are also governed by the “**Associations Incorporation Act 1985**” the State legislation that sets out the requirements for registration and provides under **section 21 (2):**

“Except as may be provided by the rules of the Association, a member of an association

"Is not liable to contribute towards the payment of the debts and liabilities of the association or the costs, charges and expenses of a winding up of an association".

There are no onerous obligations on committee members apart from an hour or so to meet, discuss and enjoy coffee. To this end could you please register your interest via mail to the Secretary, Jan Roberts at secretary@roslsa.org.au

Under our Constitution and amongst the objectives of the Branch we are to encourage arts particularly by young people. As you are no doubt aware we support the Adelaide Youth Orchestras and they have in turn supplied music at our Annual General Meeting. The constraints imposed upon us by the virus have of course affected the orchestra in its rehearsal due to proximity spacing. I am informed that they are now back to rehearsal. In discussions with the Director it has been suggested that we, as a club, may wish to attend a full rehearsal at a later time when closer contact is again safe.

I have recently attended a meeting of the Joint Commonwealth Societies Council and the members reported their difficulties with the meeting constraints. They have advised that the Lord Mayor will be hosting Commonwealth week in the new year and that there will again be an inter-denomination service to be held in the cathedral.

We were also advised of a proposal to establish a "Commonwealth Grove"; this would initially comprise 55 native trees each dedicated to a Commonwealth Country. Ideally the trees would be suitable as future feed for our native birds and animals and would be maintained by school children and community groups. The ultimate objective is a grove of 550 trees. The proposal is supported by the Government and they are prepared to supply advanced trees. The trees would have plaques indicating type and donor.

We have had a small problem with subscriptions in that we have been unable to match names with payments for both subs and functions. Please ensure that your name is recorded on the deposit or the transfer. It takes up to 21 days for the bank to track down depositors.

The Future: we are currently planning for a luncheon or dinner with music in September subject to Government regulation, we also must have an annual general meeting, and this is also under consideration. I shall be advising this separately.

Please look after yourselves, keep your distance and stay away from Victorians.

News from London

LORD LUCE'S FAREWELL MESSAGE



I have had the privilege of serving as President of the Royal Over-Seas League for 18 years. It is now time to hang up my hat. My wife Rose and I have enjoyed every moment of our time with the League. It is a unique institution with a special range of activities and cultural involvement stemming from the height of our Empire in 1910 to today's modern Commonwealth of equal nations. Today we are London's social centre for Commonwealth countries. I feel very proud of all that the League has achieved and I am grateful for the leadership shown over the years by successive Chairmen and Director-Generals. Because of its wide range of activities and objectives it is not always easy to lead but dedicated members of the Council have given great support. Above all I want to thank members and the staff. Our founder, Sir Evelyn Wrench, insisted that the heart of the League must be the commitment of the members. We still have to reach his ambition of a million members from the Commonwealth! It is our membership that has made the League as it is today. And I thank you all. But all of us members must ask the question 'Where would we be without the staff?' There would be no League without them. Over the last four years Rose and I have been able to stay at the League to enable me to carry out each week my obligations in the House of lords. We both have nothing but praise for the staff ranging from marketing, membership and finance to maintenance, housekeeping, receptionists, porters and catering. We have much appreciated the sheer friendliness, cheerfulness and commitment to hard work of all of you and I am extremely grateful. We will look forward to staying at the League from time to time in the future. We are privileged to have The Queen as our Patron and all of us are deeply grateful for the sheer sustained commitment to the League of our Vice Patron, Princess Alexandra. It is a great comfort to me that Lord Geidt is to succeed me as President. He has served The Queen with great distinction and we are lucky to have him. I am grateful to Alexander Downer for serving as Chairman of the League and to Diana Owen as the retiring Director-General. I send all members and staff my warmest thanks and good wishes for the future.

Graham Beckett
Chairman