



# The Cambridge Society of NSW

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## President's Report to the 2010 Annual General Meeting on 19 May 2011

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The Cambridge Society of New South Wales is a social association of Cambridge University alumni in New South Wales. It achieves its aims through formal and informal social functions where members and their guests can meet fellow alumni, maintain and renew old friendships and make new ones, bonded together by their heritage of the world's finest academic and intellectual institution.

2010 continued this tradition. The major events of the year were as follows:

- In March Committee member Emily Baxter organised a Spanish Evening at the Cafe Asturiana with wine supplied by Committee member Rhys Goodey. The excellent food and flamenco dancing were enjoyed by 32 people.
- In April a team from Harvard & Yale debated against Oxford & Cambridge at the KPMG auditorium. Over 120 people attended the debate and pre-drink wines were kindly supplied by Lion Nathan whose CEO Rob Murray is a Cambridge Alumnus. The motion before the house was *The Older the University, the more eloquent the speech* and it is fair to say the Cambridge speaker Rana Rashda was brilliant and carried the day.
- At last year's AGM, Tony Leadley, President of the 1953 crew, gave an excellent talk about the history and operation of Boat Race.
- In August we moved south of the harbour and held our annual WinterFeast at The Royal Sydney Golf Club. Over 120 attended and heard Cambridge alumnus, Professor Barry Maitland talk about *The Great Crimes of Cambridge*. Professor Maitland is the former Professor of Architecture at Newcastle University. However it is as a writer of detective fiction that Professor Maitland has gained world-wide fame. In particular he is the author of the acclaimed Brock and Kolla series of crime mystery novels. The Brock and Kolla novels were among the first in contemporary crime fiction to feature a male-female police team as the central characters, playing complementary roles in the resolution of their cases. His novels are celebrated for their strong sense of place and atmosphere due in part to his architectural background. He was an excellent speaker.
- Following the Winterfeast we had visit from the Trinity College Choir who gave several critically acclaimed concerts at Angel Place. Following one concert the Society hosted a dinner organised by Committee member, Ed Hossack at the only restaurant open on Monday night in the CBD which was attended by selected members of the choir, including their world-famous director, Stephen Layton. The concert was superb and I commend their recordings to members. Also I would like thank again Camsoc members who hosted choir members during their stay in Australia.
- In September Rob Murray, CEO Lion Nathan, spoke at a luncheon on what is involved in being a CEO of major Australian company. Rob brought fine wines and it was an excellent presentation.
- Then in October we had another evening at the Ray Hughes Gallery. This time the speaker was John McDonald – the Art Critic of Sydney Morning Herald.

- On the sporting front we beat Oxford 4.5 – 3.5 at the second Annual Golf match at the Royal Sydney Golf Club and so became the first outright winners of the President's Cup. I must confess that part of our success was due to 4 of our 8 players being members of the RSGC to none of Oxford team were RSGC members.
- Unfortunately this success was not matched by the cricket team. Our Blue got his for Rugby, theirs for cricket and therein lies the difference.
- Finally we did have a tennis morning followed by a BBQ. Reports on most the events are on our new website along with future events.

### **Future Events**

In 2011 the Society has already had several successful events. There was a garden party in February with over 40 attendees at Sancta Sophia College again organised by Emily Baxter which we have decided to repeat next year in 2012. Ed Hossack, in his role as General Manager of the Australian Opera Orchestra also organised an early morning tour of the Sydney Opera House in March. Chandra Senaratne organised a Malaysian Evening at a restaurant in Longueville, with wine supplied by Rhys Goodey.

Our major event of the year, the Annual Winterfeast is again being held at the Royal Sydney Golf Club on Thursday 4 August 2011. Our guest speaker this year will be HE Paul Madden (Gonville & Caius, 1977), the British High Commissioner to Australia who will be speaking on *Cambridge, Diplomacy and Australia*. The dress code will be Lounge Suit. Cost which includes dinner and drinks is \$115 for members and \$135 for guests.

There will also be another Art Gallery evening at the Ray Hughes Gallery on Saturday 8 October 2011. The Annual Golf match versus Oxford is planned for the previous afternoon and the Annual Cricket Match is being planned for Sunday 27 November. Anyone wishing to attend or play should go to the website for details.

### **Financials**

Accounts are available from the Administrator, Suzie Ruse. Paid up membership numbers in 2010 reached a 180 members. We finished the 2010 year in good financial shape. At the beginning of the year the cash on hand was \$15,935.85. At the end of the year the cash balance was \$17,632.44 an increase of \$1,696.59 which on the pink tin method of accounting is good news. We have set up an interest bearing savings account to earn extra interest.

The financial principles of the Society are to break-even on functions and cover the fixed costs by membership fees. For the last four years we have asked members to give the Committee the right to increase the annual fees \$5 to \$45. And each year the Committee has decided to keep the membership at \$40. Again we are going ask that in 2011 that the Committee have the right to increase fees for 2012 by \$5 to \$45. The Committee is not saying it will increase fees but it believes it must continue to have the flexibility.

On the administrative front, Suzie Ruse, continues to bring great energy and rigour to her role of administrator. My personal thanks and that of the Committee go to her for all the assistance she has given me and the Society in the last year. Members should note that we are now annually indexing Suzie's stipend for inflation.

### **Committee**

During the year we had three resignations for reasons of either work or relocation: Gemma Easter, Charlie Kingdon and the Treasurer, Lorna Sproston. They have all worked hard for the Society over the last year, and I am particularly grateful for the support they have given me.

Alairstair Newmarch has agreed to stand as Treasurer and Jonathan Negus to stand as Secretary. Chris Dawson wishes to continue as Vice-President and the Committee has asked me to continue as President. The rest of the Committee comprise Emily Baxter, Rhys Goodey, Michael Hamar, Ed Hossack, Atat Li-Kim-Mui, Liza Rybak, and Chandra Senaratne. They have all indicated they wish to continue as

Committee members. And mat I take this opportunity to thank all the Committee members and office bearers for their efforts during 2010.

We will be electing Office Bearers and Committee members shortly. If anyone else wishes to stand you should be aware the Committee meets quarterly on the second Thursday of the second month of each quarter in Mosman at my house and my somewhat depleted wine cellar.

**AGM**

Immediately after this Annual General Meeting, there will be a Cocktail Reception kindly hosted by Baker & Mckensie. I realise that most of you came here for the AGM but you are most welcome to attend the reception.