



The Cambridge Society of NSW

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President's Report to the 2011 Annual General Meeting on 24 May 2012

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.

2011 continued this tradition. The major events of the year were as follows:

- 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 was again held at the Royal Sydney Golf Club on Thursday 4 August 2011. Our guest speaker this year was HE Paul Madden (Gonville & Caius, 1977), the British High Commissioner to Australia who spoke on *Cambridge, Diplomacy and Australia*.
- In September, committee members hosted a dinner for Nicholas McGegan, (Corpus Christi, 1969) who was guest conductor of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.
- On the sporting front Oxford were unable to field a team for the third Annual Golf match at the Royal Sydney Golf Club. Showing that flexibility inculcated at Cambridge, it was decided to hold an individual competition and the winner was Daryl Dixon (Clare).
- Unfortunately rain washed out the annual cricket match.
- The Annual Christmas Drinks were again hosted by Chris Dawson at the Union, University and Schools Club on 8 December 2011.

Future Events

In 2012 the Society has already had several successful events. We again held a garden party in February with over 40 attendees at Sancta Sophia College again organised by Emily Baxter. Unfortunately the heavy rain which has filled Sydney's dams also caused the College Court to be flooded so the event was moved indoors.

The first Thinking at Twilight Seminar was held on Thursday 29 March 2012 at the Union, University and Schools Club. Professor John Webb spoke on Einstein's Greatest Blunder.

Our major event of the year, the Annual Winterfeast is again being held at the Royal Sydney Golf Club on Thursday 26 July 2012. Our guest speaker this year will be Daniel Vickerman, winning Captain of the Cambridge team for the 2009 Varsity Match. The dress code will be Lounge Suit. Cost which includes dinner and drinks is \$120 for members and \$140 for guests.

On Thursday 9 August 2012 the Clare College Choir is performing Beethoven's Ninth with the Australian Chamber Orchestra. Discounted tickets have already been sold to members but there will be a pre-Concert Function at the Union, University and Schools Club starting at 5:30pm. This will include a buffet dinner, drinks and a talk by the Master of Clare, Tony Badger. The dress code will be Lounge Suit. Cost will be \$80 for members and \$90 for guests.

The Annual Golf match versus Oxford is planned for Friday 7 October and the Annual Cricket Match is being planned for Sunday 25 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 2011 reached 162 members. We finished the 2011 year in good financial shape. At the beginning of the year the cash on hand was \$17,632.44. At the end of the year the cash balance was \$19,277.57 an increase of \$1,645.13 which on the pink tin method of accounting is again good news. However there were several cheques that had not cleared but the Society did make a small accounting profit.

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 2012 that the Committee have the right to increase fees for 2013 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

Unfortunately during the year we had three more resignations for reasons of either work or relocation: Emily Baxter, Michael Hamar and Ed Hossack. 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 continue as Treasurer and Jonathan Negus to continue as Secretary. Chris Dawson wishes to remain as Vice-President and the Committee has asked me to continue as President. The rest of the Committee comprise, Emma Brown, Rhys Goodey, Carole Jackson (who has returned) Atat Li-Kim-Mui, Liza Rybak, and Chandra Senaratne. They have all indicated they wish to continue as Committee members. And may I take this opportunity to thank all the Committee members and office bearers for their efforts during 2011.

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, we will be having drinks in preparation for our next Thinking at Twilight Seminar: "*Why turtles lay eggs: truth & evolution*" Paul E. Griffiths (Trinity Hall, 1981) University Professorial Research Fellow, Department of Philosophy, University of Sydney.