



The Cambridge Society of NSW

ABN 90 499 855 279

56 Edgecliff Road, Woollahra NSW 2025

Telephone: 02 9386 4889, Mobile: 0424 243 369

email: tomsuzieruse@smartchat.net.au

President's Report to the 2012 Annual General Meeting on 9 May 2013

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.

2012 continued this tradition. The major events of the year were as follows:

- The first Thinking at Twilight Seminar was held on Thursday 29 March at the Union, University and Schools Club. Professor John Webb spoke on *Einstein's Greatest Blunder*. The concept behind the Thinking at Twilight Seminars is combine social networking with an hour of intellectual stimulation which begins with a talk by a person who has definite links to Cambridge.
- The second Thinking at Twilight Seminar was held on Thursday 24 May following the AGM. Paul E. Griffiths gave an excellent talk on "*Why turtles lay eggs: Truth and Evolution*"
- The Annual Winterfeast was again being held at the Royal Sydney Golf Club on Thursday 26 July. As this was the year of the London Olympics it was decided to introduce a sporting flavour to the Winterfeast. Our guest speaker was Daniel Vickerman, winning Captain of the Cambridge team for the 2009 Varsity Match who spoke engagingly both about the Varsity Match and playing as a Wallaby. There three Olympians at the event and also Mary Cahill and Richard Bailey, who having met at last year's Winterfeast, so enjoyed each other's company they became engaged.
- On Thursday 9 August the Clare College Choir in conjunction with the Australian Chamber Orchestra were performing Beethoven's 9th Symphony at the Sydney Opera House. The Society hosted a pre-function dinner which was also addressed by the Master of Clare, Professor Tony Badger who is also Paul Mellon Professor of American History. The talk was extremely engaging and the subsequent concert sublime.
- On the sporting front Oxford were unable to field a team for the fourth Annual Golf match at the Royal Sydney Golf Club. Yet again showing that flexibility inculcated at Cambridge, it was decided to hold an individual competition. Unfortunately the winner this year was from the college in the Cotswolds, Dr Charles Thorburn.
- Revenge however was regained on the cricket pitch. For the first time in the history of the fixture (10yrs).Cambridge put Oxford into bat first. After bowling out Oxford for 119 runs, Cambridge achieved a comprehensive victory with 10 over's to spare and 5 wickets in hand. Thanks to Middletons for sponsoring the event and a great day was had by all, but especially the Cambridge team.
- On Thursday 25 October another successful Art Evening was held. The host was Michael Reid's Gallery in Elizabeth Bay.
- The Annual Christmas Drinks were again hosted by Chris Dawson at the Union, University and Schools Club on 13 December 2012. In conjunction the Society hosted its third Thinking at Twilight Seminar. Camsoc Committee member Rhys Goodey spoke on *My Idol – Dr Samuel Johnston*

Future Events

The first Thinking at Twilight Seminar was held on Thursday 26 February 2013. Alumni gathered at the Union, Universities & Schools Club to hear Michael O'Sullivan, the Director of the Cambridge

Commonwealth and Overseas Trust talk about "*The Next 25 Years for the Cambridge Brand*". He highlighted the forces of the brand spectrum: tradition vs innovation, English vs International Students, undergraduate vs graduate and how all aspects are vital. Richard Dammery who heads up Cambridge Australia Scholarships & Justine Koster, CAS Administrator were also present.

Our major event of the year, the Annual Winterfeast is again being held at the Royal Sydney Golf Club on Wednesday 9 August 2012. Our guest speaker this year will be another Cambridge alumni, Ian Narev, who commenced as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia bank on 1 December 2011. Since his appointment the CBA has risen to a market capitalisation of \$110 billion. Mr Narev studied International Corporate Law at Cambridge University, where he was the top student earning a Masters of Law degree. The provisional title of his talk is *Defining Moments*. The dress code will be Lounge Suit. Cost which includes dinner and drinks is \$130 for members and \$150 for guests.

The Annual Golf match versus Oxford is planned for Friday 11 October at Manly GC and the Annual Cricket Match is being planned for Sunday 24 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 2012 reached 151 members. We finished the 2012 year in reasonable financial shape. At the beginning of the year the cash on hand was \$19,277. At the end of the year the cash balance was \$19,931 an increase of \$653 which on the pink tin method of accounting is again good news.

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 2013 that the Committee have the right to increase fees for 2014 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 vigour 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

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 comprises Amrit Bahra, Emma Brown, Rhiannon Chisholm, Rhys Goodey, Carole Jackson, 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 2012.

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: *The Needham Question: Why was Newton English and not Chinese?* presented by Bill Potter. Joseph Needham, a Cambridge scholar, together with Chinese collaborators, wrote an encyclopaedic work titled *Science and Civilisation in China* which documents the fact that China was at least 300 years ahead of the West in the development of science and technology until about 1500AD. Bill Potter studied the history and philosophy of science while a post grad student at Darwin College in 1973-74 and met Joseph Needham who was then in the middle of his 24 volume work.