



# The Cambridge Society of NSW

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## *May 2009 NEWSLETTER*

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### *FUTURE EVENTS*

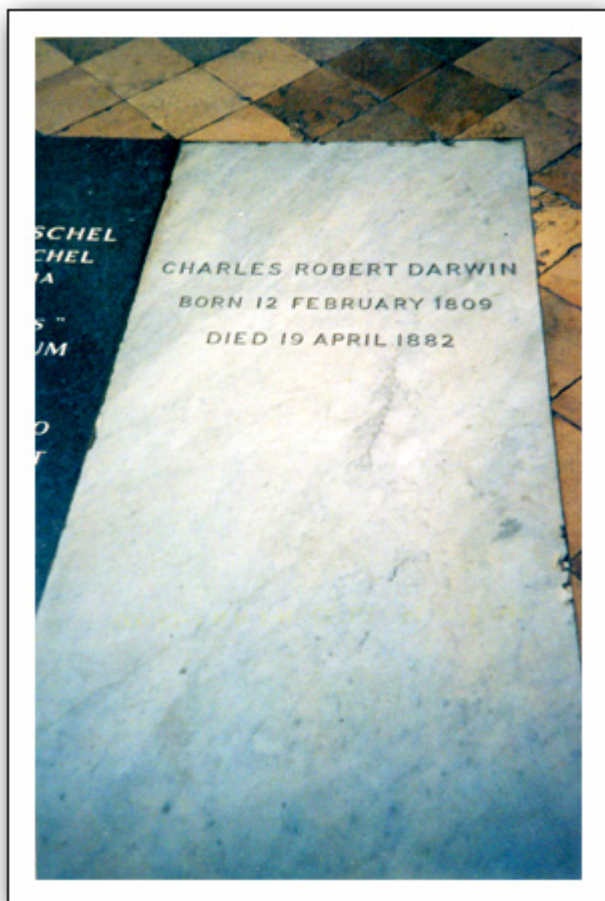
Please put these dates in your diary and check with Cambridge Society of NSW Website:  
<http://www.cambridgesocietynsw.org.au/> for any further information.

- **Thursday, 28 May 2009:** Annual General Meeting and Cocktail Party, UUSC Club, 60 Bent Street, 6:00pm for 6:30pm, Members free, guest \$15 includes showing of boat race video.
  - **Thursday, 20 August 2009:** Annual WinterFeast, Guest speaker Paul Brunton, Senior Curator, Mitchell Library, "Darwin in Australia and Cambridge", 6:30 for 7:00pm, Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, Peel Street, Kirribilli, Members \$105, Guests \$125.
  - **Friday 30 October 2009:** Inaugural Golf Match against Oxford followed by seafood buffet at Manly Golf Club
  - **November 2009:** Annual Cricket Match versus Oxford.
  - **December 2009:** Annual Xmas Drinks, UUSC Club, date to be advised.
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## **CAMSOC Winterfeast 2008 & 2009**

The Speaker for the 2008 Winterfeast held on September 25, 2008 was Susannah Fullerton, President of the Jane Austin Society of Australia, who talked about Five of the Great Writers of Cambridge. The venue was The Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, Kirribilli. and it was a full house with over 110 attendees. Susannah was her witty best and covered five famous Cambridge writers, beginning with Christopher Marlow, moving on to "Mad, bad and dangerous to know" Lord Byron and finishing with A. A. Milne. Feedback post the event was uniformly favourable and this is the marquee event that all Camsoc NSW members should try to attend.





As can be seen by the picture of his tombstone at Westminster Abbey, 2009 is the bicentenary of Darwin's birth. Charles Darwin is buried alongside two other famous Cambridge alumni and scientists, Sir John Herschel and Sir Isaac Newton. It is also the 150th anniversary of the first publication of *The Origin of Species*. Accordingly, we have decided to make the theme of this year's WinterFeast a celebration of Charles Darwin and his achievements.

This year's speaker will be Paul Brunton, Senior Curator, Mitchell Library, who will speak on "Darwin in Australia and Cambridge". I had the good fortune to hear Paul speak on a similar topic at lunchtime at the Union Club earlier this year and it was a brilliantly funny introduction to Darwin. You will learn how scholars now think that Darwin's visit to Australia in 1836 was a seminal event in the development of the theory of evolution.

The Winterfeast will be held on **Thursday, 20 August 2009**, 6:30 for 7:00pm, Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, Peel Street, Kirribilli, Members \$105, Guests \$125.

***Put this event in your diary; it is a night not to be missed.***

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## ***URGENT REMINDER – MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION***

**Dear Cambridge Alumnus**

**Please renew your CAMSOC membership if you have not done so to date. Failure will result in relentless reminders!! The fees are only \$40.00 and, besides the \$20.00 discount for the WinterFeast and discounts at other functions, members get notification of some of the best social events held in Sydney. A renewal form is at the back of this newsletter. We look forward to your continuing support!!**

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### ***Current Camsoc Committee members***

<b>Chairman:</b>	Chris Golis
<b>Vice Chairman:</b>	Christopher Dawson
<b>Secretary:</b>	Alistair Newmarch
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Edward Hossack
<b>Administrator:</b>	Suzie Ruse
<b>Committee Members:</b>	Andrea Beatty, Gemma Easter, Rhys Goodey, Carole Jackson,, Charles Kingdon, Bruce McAdam, Martin McCurrich, Liza Rybak, Chandra Senaratne, and Robert Wilson.

The Committee are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting which will be held this year at the UUSC Club, 60 Bent Street, members free, guests \$15, and includes a showing of the 2009 Boat Race Video. Some member's biographies are on the website.

<http://www.cambridgesocietynsw.org.au/Committee.html> New committee members are always welcome. The committee meets quarterly on the first Thursday evening of the second month.

## **Values and objectives of the Society**

The Cambridge Society of New South Wales is a social association of Cambridge University alumni in New South Wales and 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.

The financial operating objectives of the Society are simple.

1. Breakeven on functions.
2. Obtain sufficient membership fees for the year to maintain the Society and pay administration costs.

Last year was probably our best ever for membership with 224 members. This meant that administration costs were more than adequately covered. Accordingly the Committee decided to keep membership fees at \$40.00 and to have free drinks and nibbles for the members at the AGM.

With regard to functions, the revenue for 2008 was over \$15,500 and the Society made a small loss of around \$500 which is a reasonable surrogate for breakeven. A corollary of this objective is that where functions are booked on a sliding cost scale, the Society must cover itself by having all the cash in hand before the function starts. People who arrive on the night with cash or cheque, without previously made a paid booking, should not expect to be able to partake as of right.

There has been no increase in membership fees for a number of years and, as inflation had returned to Australia, the 2008 AGM voted to raise membership fees by the princely sum of \$5 to \$45 for the 2009 financial year. However, given the Global Financial Crisis and the health of the Society's balance sheet, it was decided to keep membership fees at \$40 for 2009. Members should be aware that Committee membership is only allowed to Society members who are financial at the start of AGM.

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### ***Visit to Sydney Observatory Thursday March 19th, 2009***



Not only is it the bicentenary of Darwin's birth, but 2009 is also the International Year of Astronomy. In celebration of this event, Carole Jackson, CAMSOC Committee member and radio-astronomer extraordinaire organised a visit to the Sydney Observatory. Over 40 Camsoc members and guests attended the evening. It was a full house and we apologise to anyone unable to attend.

We were very fortunate in that it was a clear sky, and not only were we able to see the clock on the Balmain Town Hall, we also saw the rings and moons of Saturn.

In addition Carole had organised talks and videos. We put on our 3D viewing glasses and were treated to some extra-ordinary visual creations. In particular we saw a video entitled "*How big is big?*" that started off with Earth and finished with amazing simulated portrayals of the intergalactic star clusters. Think as Earth is to the Milky Way, so the Milky Way is to the Universe!

It was a terrific night and thank you Carole for organising it.

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***Put this date in your diary: May 28, 2009 Annual General Meeting and Cocktail Party, UUSC Club, 60 Bent Street, 6:00pm for 6:30pm, Members free, guest \$15 includes showing of boat race video.***

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## ***Sri Lankan Evening 14 March 2009***

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Over the years CAMSOC NSW has hosted a number of international evenings including ranging from Japanese Tea Ceremonies to Turkish Belly Dancing. On a Saturday evening over 60 members and guests were treated to a Sri Lankan evening at the North Sydney Community Centre organised by Chandra Senaratne and ably supported by Alistair Newmarch. Guests, including Mrs. Gothami Indikadahena, Consul General of Sri Lanka, were greeted to tables decorated with light blue helium filled balloons (bricks supplied by the Chairman). Chandra had organised the catering staff of the Blue Elephant to lay on a spectacular curry buffet and Alistair using his business connections organised specially discounted wines. Chandra gave a talk about the history of Sri Lanka focusing on the development of education. Finally we were treated to videos of the latest Sri Lankan dancing craze, Sri Lankan Calypso. In these frugal times it was a night of great value, particularly as due to the cancellation by the Sri Lankan Performing Arts Institute everyone got a 'Rudd' refund of \$10.

Thank you Chandra for organising a great evening.

Our next international evening will be a Spanish night organised by Rhys Goodey, details later.

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## ***David Yates Luncheon 26 March 2009***



Just to round out a very active month, CAMSOC NSW hosted Professor David Yates, Warden of Robinson College, for its inaugural lunch. This is the first luncheon organised by CAMSOC and was held at the Union, University and Schools club and attended by 16 members. Professor Yates is also a Visiting Professor at The University of Sydney's Law School and because of his background as a partner of the law firm of Baker & McKenzie for 18 years, latterly as that firm's global Chief Operating Office, holds a number of key administrative posts at the University of Cambridge. Accordingly his talk, **Surviving the Recession – Cambridge Style**, was full of insight and examples. As someone who graduated before the formation of Robinson, which was formally opened by the Queen in May 1981, it was particularly interesting to discover that it is the middle tier colleges in Cambridge that could well struggle due to a combination of government cutbacks of subsidies and shrinking income from endowment investment portfolios. We learnt that the richest college in Cambridge was Trinity due to its being the landlord of the UK's largest container port, Felixstowe. While one would have thought Robinson being the newest college would struggle, it was not the case. Robinson was founded after the British philanthropist, Sir David Robinson, offered the university £17 million to establish a new college in Cambridge; this is still one of the largest donations ever accepted by the university. Robinson later gave the college another £1 million on the occasion of its official opening. According to Yates, Robinson was also an entrepreneur and said the College would have to be self-funding. Consequently Robinson was built with the intention of becoming one of Cambridge's most important conference centres. With its modern facilities and comfortable accommodation (with most of the rooms on the main site being en-suite), Robinson now always hosts a number of conferences during the summer months when the undergraduate students are away on their long vacation. As someone who spent two nights last summer at older colleges, their basic level of accommodation was somewhat of a shock. The trek down the hall to have a shower was a dim and distant memory.

Thanks to Molly Peoples, Alumni Relations Manager, of the Cambridge Alumni Relations Office (CARO) for helping to organise this event.

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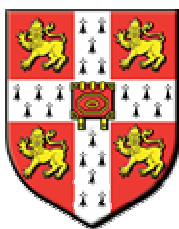
## ***800th Anniversary Celebration and Donations***

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In my role as Chairman, I had the pleasure of attending the first Cambridge Insiders Day organised by the Cambridge Alumni Relations Office (CARO) on Saturday, 19 July 2008. The conference was held at Murray Edwards College, formerly known as New Hall, a name change caused by a £30 million donation. Around 60 representatives of the various Cambridge societies attended. Besides a brilliant lecture by David Starkey and a cocktail party in the Fellows Garden, (I had forgotten how pleasant Pimms can be on an English summer evening) there were a number of interesting sessions.

As many of you are aware 2009 is the 800th anniversary of the founding of Cambridge. The major surprise of the day is that CARO was not looking for donations from the societies! It turns out that the Pareto curve with regard to benefactors is particularly steep. Something like 1% of the benefactors contributes 99% of the funds. Indeed there is a separate entity (Cambridge University Development Office: CUDO) separately set up to seek wealthy benefactors. It turns out that most of these operations are run by trustees and a ratio that is particularly noted is the Alumni Giving Ratio or AGR. It is not the total amount collected from the alumni that is important, but what percentage of the alumni are making donations. It is the usual principle that investors/donors are much happier if there are other people alongside them also making an investment/donation. As it was explained to us, CARO would much rather have 100 alumni contributing £50 per year than one alumnus contributing £10,000. In the Ivy League the AGR is +50% while for Cambridge it is <7%. A key objective of CARO is to increase the AGR. Consequently CARO does not want the societies to donate funds; but rather have them promote of individual donations however small.

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### ***INTER-VARSITY EVENTS***



#### ***2008 CRICKET MATCH***



St. Paul's Oval. Taken by the Chairman on the afternoon of the match. After torrential rain overnight and in the morning the pitch was waterlogged and the teams (remembering cancelled games in England) had retired to a local pub. From now on a mobile phone number will be used to ensure latecomers know where to retreat. The rematch is planned for November 2009.

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#### ***2009 GOLF MATCH***

A golf match against Oxford is currently being planned for Friday, 30 October 2009 at Manly Golf Club followed by a seafood buffet. Currently we have a team of 8: Chris Abbott, Chris Golis, John Keniry, Charlie Lewis, Russell Lyons, Nick Mount, Gavin Sacks, and Peter Young. The formal challenge to Oxford will be issued shortly. Anyone else wishing to play should contact the Captain on [cgolis@bigpond.net.au](mailto:cgolis@bigpond.net.au). Players must be financial with Camsoc and also have a Golfink membership card to certify that they have an AGU golf handicap.



# The Cambridge Society of NSW

Administration  
56 Edgecliff Road, Woollahra NSW 2025  
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Email: [tomsuzieruse@smartchat.net.au](mailto:tomsuzieruse@smartchat.net.au)

## Membership Application / Subscription Renewal Form - 2009

If re-applying and your details have not changed, please just complete your name.

### Personal Details

Title/Initials: \_\_\_\_\_ Given Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Birth (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (our preferred means of contact): \_\_\_\_\_

### Cambridge Details

Faculty: \_\_\_\_\_

College: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Graduated: \_\_\_\_\_

Honours/Other Degrees: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you permit your details to be included in the Society's Directory? Yes [ ] No: [ ]

Do you permit your details to be added to the alumni database held by the Cambridge University Development Office? Yes [ ] No: [ ]

### Fees

Annual Subscription: ..... \$40.00

### Payment

Please post this form with a cheque for \$40 payable to 'The Cambridge Society of NSW' to 56 Edgecliff Road, Woollahra, NSW 2025.

### **OR**

Email the completed form to [tomsuzieruse@smartchat.net.au](mailto:tomsuzieruse@smartchat.net.au) and make **payment** by direct deposit to the Cambridge Society's St George Bank account (please include surname on transfer)

**Account Name:** Cambridge Society of NSW **BSB:** 112 879 **Account No:** 036-502-926

By making this application and becoming a member of the Society the member explicitly consents to the Society obtaining, recording and holding his or her personal data (including sensitive data) for the purposes of the Society either by electronic means or in an organised manual filing system. This information may include the member's full name and address and, where applicable, telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address. The member consents to the Society disclosing full name and address to other members and to the University, and such disclosure may also include the member's telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address, unless the member has expressly excluded this by written notice to the Administrator.