



# The Cambridge Society of NSW

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## President's Report to the 2013 Annual General Meeting on 22 May 2014

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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.

2013 continued this tradition. The major events of the year were as follows:

- 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 leads Cambridge Australia Scholarships & Justine Koster, CAS Administrator were also present.
- The second Thinking at Twilight Seminar was held on Thursday 9 May following the AGM. Bill Potter gave an excellent talk on "*The Needham Question: Why was Newton English and not Chinese?*" 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.
- The Annual Winterfeast was again held at the Royal Sydney Golf Club on Wednesday 7 August. Thanks to the efforts Camsoc NSW Committee member, Emma Brown, over 110 guests were able to hear Mr Ian Narev, CEO of the Commonwealth Bank, speak about the importance of a Cambridge education in achieving a successful business career. He then took questions for over an hour. In addition towards the end of the evening he announced he was funding a CAS scholarship.
- On the sporting front Oxford were able to field a team of five players for the fifth Annual Golf match at the Manly Golf Club on Monday 14 October. Cambridge were successful in winning the first 3 matches but the final two were closely fought and ended in ties making the final result 4-1. The match was followed by a pleasant dinner at the Buena Vista, Mosman.
- Unfortunately the annual Cricket Match against Oxford due to be held on 24 November was rained off. Cambridge was thus unable to replicate the glorious victory of the previous year.
- The Annual Christmas Drinks were again hosted by Chris Dawson at the Union, University and Schools Club on 12 December 2012. In conjunction the Society hosted its third Thinking at Twilight Seminar. The speaker was Dr David Jones, President of Christ's College, and father of Camsoc Committee member, Rhiannon Chisholm. His topic, "*Cambridge Eccentrics*", was perfect holiday fare.

## **Future Events**

This year has already seen two Thinking at Twilight events. The first was held on Thursday 6 March. Tony White AM, author of *Starlight*, spoke about his experiences as 12 month tour of duty as a frontline doctor in Vietnam. STARLIGHT was the radio call sign for army doctors and medics.

The second was held on Thursday 10 April. The speaker was Dr Robin Hesketh, Professor of Biochemistry at Cambridge and a Fellow of Selwyn College and author of three books. Dr Hesketh's talk was "*Demystifying Cancer*" and he provided an excellent introduction to this topic which touches us all. Current expectations are the 1 in 3 females and 1 in 2 males will have some form of cancer in their lifetime.

Our major event of the year, the Annual Winterfeast is again being held at the Royal Sydney Golf Club on Thursday, 31 July 2014. Chris Dawson, our Vice-President was able to source as our guest speaker Lieutenant General Angus J. Campbell, DSC, AM. Commander of the Joint Agency Task Force, Operation SOVEREIGN BORDERS. The dress code will be Lounge Suit. The cost which includes dinner and drinks is \$130 for members and \$160 for guests.

The Annual Golf match versus Oxford is planned for Monday 6 October at Manly GC and the Annual Cricket Match is being planned for Sunday 23 November. Anyone wishing to attend or play should go to the website for details.

Also Oxford has challenged us to an annual croquet match to be held in March. Anyone wishing to play please contact Suzie Ruse.

## **Financials**

Accounts are available from the Administrator, Suzie Ruse. Paid up membership numbers in 2013 reached 150 members. We again finished the 2013 year in reasonable financial shape. At the beginning of the year the cash on hand was \$19,931. At the end of the year the cash balance was \$20,747.63 an increase of \$816.13 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, Julie-Anne Bosich, Emma Brown, Rhiannon Chisholm, Rhys Goodey, Dr 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 2013.

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: Professor Alison Bashford will be speaking on *Bennelong and Malthus: The Unlikely Histories of Sydney and Cambridge*. Alison Bashford is the newly appointed Vere Harmsworth Professor Imperial and Naval History, and Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge.