

The Cambridge Society of NSW

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June 2008 NEWSLETTER

FUTURE EVENTS

Please put these dates in your diary

- September 25, 2008 – Winter Feast – Susannah Fullerton, President of the Jane Austin Society of Australia talking of the Great Writers of Cambridge at The Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, Kirribilli. Susannah combines great knowledge with terrific enthusiasm and this is a night not to miss. She will also be signing copies of her two inexpensive books which make great gifts. Three course meal with wine great value at \$100 for members \$120 for guests. Contact Suzie Ruze (see top of page) for advance bookings.
 - May 28, 2009 Annual General Meeting and Cocktail Party
 - Xmas function date and venue to be advised
 - March 2009 A visit to the Sydney Observatory. Only 40 places @ \$15 for members, \$20 for guests.
 - Test 2 Interschool Cricket match date and venue to be advised
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CAMSOC Winterfeast 2007

The Speaker for the Winterfeast was the Honourable Barry Cohen A.O. He was introduced by Sergio Sergi, who had been his Principal Private Secretary during the first four years of Barry's time as Minister for the Arts, Heritage and the Environment.

Barry entertained the diners with anecdotes of his long career in politics. Many of these stories were amusing, some uproariously funny, but all revealed the human side of politics; they are just like us only more so.

The most enjoyable were the tales involving Gough Whitlam, and Barry does a creditable impersonation of 'the living legend/great man'. These stories included Gough's visit to Papua New Guinea, where he was presented with a staff with a large knob on the end of it. He turned to Mick Young and enquired 'Comrade, do I lean on it or strap it on?' Mick Young's reply was not recorded.

Another great story involved having shirts bespoke made for the truly large 'great man'. Barry used his contacts in the menswear business to facilitate this task, but the shirtmakers kept on making the sleeves too short as they could not believe the length of the 'Legend's' arms.



Trade Union Officials, Labor party 'hard' men, Barry Jones and foreign dignitaries were all given the Cohen treatment. There were even some stories of John Howard, notable the audience learnt of the time that he was Parliamentary Secretary to Billy McMahon when he was P.M. Howard entered the Prime Minister's Office to prepare him for a speech, but was told to come back as McMahon had mistaken Howard for a member of a visiting Japanese Delegation that was about to call on him.

And so the evening rolled on: there was even a sartorial question from the floor about Malcolm Fraser's trousers.

Barry and his wife Rae were made most welcome by the members present at the Dinner and were also particularly pleased with the quality of the hospitality of the Union and Schools Club.

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 and some of the best social events held in Sydney. A renewal form is at the back of this newsletter. We look forward to your continued support!!

Cambridge Society of NSW Website **<http://www.cambridgesocietynsw.org.au/>**

A previous Committee member recently noted that the implementation of a website of the Cambridge Society of NSW Website has been on the agenda since the mid 1990s. To quote the famous philosopher Yogi Berra "In theory there is no difference between practice and theory, in practice there is." The Society now has a website. The webmaster is the newly elected Chairman Chris Golis so send any suggestions to cgolis@bipond.net.au. The website is simplicity itself and uses our Victorian colleagues' website as a template. Google 'Cambridge Society NSW' or 'Cambridge Society Sydney' and it ranks 1 or 2 in the results. Unfortunately 'Cambridge Sydney' is swamped by references to the well-known Cambridge Inn located in Riley Street Darlinghurst.

The website is best regarded as an electronic brochure and archive. It has a number of links including the Cambridge University Newsletter. You can download previous newsletters and an application form. So if you meet anyone in Sydney from Cambridge tell them to go to the website, download the application form and send it with a cheque to Suzie Ruze.

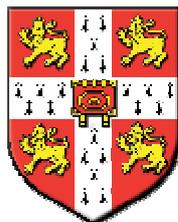
2007 AGM

At the Society's 2007 AGM on held 29 May 2008 the following committee was elected:

*Chairman: Chris Golis
Vice Chairman: Christopher Dawson
Secretary: Alistair Newmarh
Treasurer: Edward Hossack
Committee Members: Gemma Easter Carole Jackson, Larry Lucas, Bruce McAdam, Martin McCurrich, Liza Rybak, Chandra Senaratne, and Robert Wilson.*

Alistair Newmarch spoke about his experiences as a Blue in the Varsity Matches played in the first Tuesday of December in 2001 (described by the British Press as perhaps the most boring Varsity Match ever the Dark Side won 9-6) and 2002 (The Light Blues won 15-13). The first Varsity Match was played in 1872 and has been described as one of sport's best social events. The message from Alistair's speech was that the social side begins quite early starting with the 10 day build-up to the match. On the first day the Captain gets on his bike, personally visits and invites each member of the XV. The first meeting of team is held that evening and is a Port & Nuts night!! Alistair's speech was then followed by showing of a DVD of the 2007 Varsity Match (The Light Blues were again victorious 22-16 even though the Dark Side was captained by **Joe Roff** playing his final rugby match). The celebrations post the game then go on for another two weeks but as Alistair quite rightly noted "What goes on tour, stays on tour"

INTER-VARSITY EVENTS



2008 Boat Race Dinner

On 9 April 2008 we had about 80 people attend the second boat race dinner held at Dedes restaurant, Sydney Rowing Club, Abbotsford. The evening got off to a good start as we stood around the bar taking drinks and canapes. Once we were seated the activities began and prizes were distributed to the winning individuals. David Beak, who rowed for Oxford toasted the Cambridge boat with wit and panache. Simon Pennington toasted the Oxford boat after drawing some interesting parallels between rowing races and the challenges of day to day life. Judging by the number of people who stayed on into the small hours the evening was a huge success. Unfortunately the light blue boat was not successful. Perhaps next year?



Drinks

Oxford and Cambridge Alumni have joined forces on several occasions in the last twelve months for drinks at some attractive city venues. The Lord Nelson in the Rocks and The Vault have featured. The evenings are always popular and convivial and no doubt numbers will grow even further over time. The Oxford Society is actively making the drinks nights a regular monthly event so watch out for further notices.

2007 CRICKET MATCH

Cambridge and Oxford alumni played a good day's cricket at St Paul's College Oval, Sydney University, on Sunday October 7. The match was the first in 20 years. Organised by Cambridge's John Rothnie-Jones, who also

captained the Light Blues, it was both competitive and friendly. Each team had a smattering of ex – Blues of varying vintages, which added to the interest.



Cambridge started well, the top order of Hodge, Steele and Bilinsky contributing 103 runs in total. Each was out to a difficult catch. Our opponents seemed to have coated their hands with the syrup from Fitzbillies Chelsea buns as they plucked balls in mid flight with ease.

Then our middle order dug in to add another 62 with Lyons, Stuckey-Clarke and Katter contributing. Price, a four time Blue and expected high scorer, was very unlucky to be run out for a duck.

With the score at 6 or 7 for 170 or so and quite a few overs to go (the record is a little vague on this) the scene was set for a series of swashbuckling cameos by the tail. Alas, this was not to be as the ball dipped and swung in the air and moved violently off the pitch to have the final 3 or 4 batsmen out for next to nothing.

Delia, the skipper's wife, and Geoff Lovell, the Oxford captain, had organised a lovely lunch which was taken between innings. The sides discussed tactics over salad, rolls and cakes and then took the field again with renewed energy.

We were quickly rewarded when young Steele took an early wicket, trapping the opener, Scruby, plum in front. Unfortunately, the next 2 batsmen, Jeh and Lovell seemed intent on proving that the only way to get them out was to let them score the maximum allowed 50 runs and retire, which they did in due course, Jeh with a mighty 6 back over the bowler's head.

Ashley added a delightful 43 not out, dismissing the bowling attack as a Don would dismiss a badly behaved boy at an important tutorial. White was out to an unbelievable catch in the descending gloom by Ian Ross who was moving, panther like, at mid off, and then it was a simple task to overhaul the Cambridge total with 3 or 4 overs remaining.

Steele the Younger, Stuckey-Clarke and Bilinsky all took wickets for Cambridge while Price consistently beat the bat with flight and turn but was not rewarded with a wicket. Steele the Elder bowled with great economy.

All in all there was a lot for Cambridge to take from this match despite the loss. Had we not conceded 25 sundries, had we been more circumspect in our running, had the tail applied itself to the task more diligently and had Michael Jeh not been able to find the ground, then victory could well have been ours.

Values and objectives

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 Society are simple.

- 1. Breakeven on functions.***
- 2. Obtain sufficient membership fees for the year to cover the fixed costs.***

With regard to functions total revenue for 2007 was around \$35,500 and net profit was \$111.15. This can only be regarded as a fine example of precisely meeting an objective. A corollary of this objective is that for functions are booked on a variable per head basis and to ensure the cost of the function is covered the Society must have the cash in hand prior to the start of the function. People who arrive speculatively on the night should expect to pay in cash or cheque immediately and also expect the hospitality to be pot-luck.

There has been no increase in membership fees for a number of years and as inflation has returned to Australia the AGM voted to raise membership fees by the princely sum of \$5 to \$45 for the 2009 financial year. Also members should be aware the membership of the Committee is only allowed to Society Members who are financial at the start of AGM.

Good Luck and Farewell to Alison and Ian



Alison (Society Secretary) and Ian (Society Chairman) Ross unfortunately had to resign their positions earlier this year due to Ian being offered an exciting business opportunity in Malaysia. All the remaining committee would like to thank both Ian and Alison for their great work for the Society.

This picture says it all. Both were great company and it is fair to say that Ian's glass was always a little more empty than Alison's.

Who will ever forget Alison's "Get on with it, Ian" when committee discussions started to meander.

The vote of thanks given at the end of the 2007 AGM was justly deserved.

We certainly hope we will see them again at a Society event.



The Cambridge Society of NSW

Membership Application / Subscription Renewal Form - 2008

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

Personal Details

Title/Initials: _____ Given Name: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Country: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Cambridge Details

Faculty: _____

College: _____ Year Graduated: _____

Honours/Other Degrees: _____

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

Fees

Annual Subscription: \$40.00

Payment

Please post this form to the above address with a cheque for \$40 to 'The Cambridge Society of NSW', 56 Edgecliff Road, Bondi Junction, NSW 2022.

OR

Email the completed form to 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