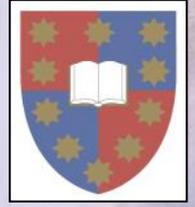




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The Members'
• newsletter •
of the Public
Schools' Club



February • 2018

Connecting with the East India Club

In December 2017 the Public Schools' Club strengthened its ties with the East India Club in London, as our PSC Chairman **David d'Lima** met with the East India's Secretary **Alex Bray**.



Mr Bray was delighted to receive a bottle of wine from us, made by Temple Bruer, and he was impressed to learn that all the wine served or sold at the Public Schools' Club is made either by Members or using fruit which they have grown.

He received greetings sent from the President Chris Ashton and said he would keep a lookout for our Deputy Chairman Mark Angus - himself an East India Club member.



The historic clubhouse at St James' Square in London may be enjoyed by Public Schools' Club Members who make arrangements with our Club Secretary **Max Bruce** (a lawyer and lecturer in the area of taxation law at the University of Adelaide).

While we cannot compete with the East India Club's 5,000 + members (half of whom are aged under 30), we can perhaps boast a slightly younger secretary as Max recently turned 23.

Our reciprocity with the East India Club relates to the union of the East India with London's Public Schools' Club in 1972.

Described in *The East India Club - A History* (2009) London's Public Schools' Club had a reputation for truly riotous parties. In 1937 the club held a celebration to highlight its final night at the Curzon Street premises before it moved to Piccadilly, following a resolution of the Westminster Council to widen Curzon Street, necessitating demolition of the club house.

A member brought fireworks to the occasion and one of the rockets flew along Curzon Street, landing in the forecourt of a grand old lady's house. She duly complained to the secretary who wrote most apologetically on behalf of the culprit and said his offence could only be expiated by the demolition of the club house! The bulldozers were immediately deployed.

The Public Schools' Club (in London) was established in 1909 as a meeting place for graduates of non-sectarian (public) schools; that is those which are open to the public and do not hold denominational affiliation. But within less than a decade 854 of its members and staff had been killed in action during the First World War and the club had to go into liquidation.

Revived in 1920 it eventually formed the J7 scheme so recent school graduates could enjoy seven years of discounted fees as full members but who are junior in years. Hence 'J7'.

While the club no longer exists, its J7 scheme continues to provide enormous impetus to the East India Club, which is proud to adorn its magnificent staircase with the shields of many dozens of schools that were linked to the former PSC, some of which have foundation dates in three figures.

Celebrating Australia Day at the Club

Club Members and guests enjoyed a superb three course luncheon on a very warm Australia Day 2018, addressed by the Club Chairman and by a guest of the Club - Mr Bill Wright, of Adelaide Arise.

The Chairman described the recent vandalism of the statue of Captain Cook in Melbourne and the demonstrations against Australia Day, along with the fact that half of Australians do not know why Australia Day is on 26th January.

“Just for the record, that is the date on which the colonists of the First Fleet disembarked in Sydney Cove, having found Botany Bay to be unsuitable.

“But while Britain was forming a penal colony, **Governor Arthur Phillip** had in mind a new nation.

“He also took seriously the instructions given to him by George III that the colonists endeavour to conciliate the affections of the indigenous peoples, and to live in amity and in kindness towards them.

“So much so, that when the Governor was speared by a hostile warrior, on a visit to Manly Cove, Phillip pressed no charge and indeed he made no mention of the incident in his written documents.



“He could have had the offender strung up on the spot, but pressed no charge.

“The Governor thought he was going to die but he refused treatment from the doctor until he had completed his paperwork!

“The Indigenous peoples want the benefits of the good things that came to Australia in 1788 including literacy, technology and the Christian faith,” David d’Lima said.

“So we have much to affirm on this our national day, and do well to charge the glasses and stand in our places as we raise a toast to *Australia*.”

Australia Day reflection by Bill Wright

The main speaker who addressed the Club’s Australia Day luncheon was **Bill Wright**, the convenor of the conservative political group Adelaide Arise, who commended the ideal of facilitating what he calls a ‘new reformation’.



As well as calling for a return to the values that are foundational to our nation, Mr Wright warned against the loss of sovereignty following an undemocratic involvement with the United Nations.

“We’ve signed too many covenants without electoral support, whereas the future of democracy depends upon reviving grass-roots involvement,” Bill Wright explained.

“We’ve got to get the individual to have more power.”

He said what we need in Australia is a movement of people who are interested and concerned citizens who value freedom of speech, freedom of religion and freedom of thought, “who are game enough to enter the public space and speak out their views and have a reform agenda”.

He hoped that more young people will run for local council and for Parliament and that a wider conversation occur.

“Unfortunately we don’t train people to think strategically.

“The Public Schools’ Club could be a key centre for change if you encourage a conversation as to how we can improve the social situation,” he suggested to the meeting.

“We need to encourage our children and grandchildren to look at the Constitution and begin to transform the nation.”

Letters to the editor

Recently my wife and I held a function at the Club as part of a personal celebration. There were seventy in attendance, many from other states but most were from SA. I want to say how well-organised it was and how excellent to work with Chef Michael in arranging everything for the night. The ladies who assisted were always helpful and courteous. Everyone enjoyed themselves. It was a credit to the Club.

I thank you and your staff for assisting in making our recent meetings such a success. The Club was a great choice of venue. The luncheons were just perfect for the weekend. All the delegates appreciated the venue and the meals. The Sunday lunch was a great success.

