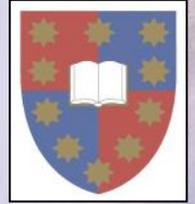




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The Members'
• newsletter •
of the Public
Schools' Club



May • 2018

Reflecting ahead of the State election

Political scholar and former Club chairman **John Hepworth** gave expert opinion at a function held on Friday 9th March, ahead of the State election that occurred later that month.

Sketching the persistent decline of manufacturing in South Australia, he pointed out the State's inventive and innovative ventures that require encouragement from government.

"We were a major supplier of television sets to the world, but instead of protecting the industry and helping it transfer to colour, we deliberately decided to cease all manufacturing of televisions in Australia and import them," he said.

"And where else on earth would there be a fight about whether the tram can make a right hand turn?" he wondered.

But he applauded the development of glass fibre technology, defence innovation and the State's vibrant university sector.



"This is a watershed election. The question is not whether the government will change, but will the State change?"

John Hepworth then critiqued the parties and their views.

"The lack of policy is a problem for the major parties and for Xenophon's SA Best. The parties struggle to implement their policy platforms and tend to fudge ahead of the election.

"There is also a narrowing of the base of politics in the parties, as many are chosen whose only work experience has been to work for MPs and that is not work experience," he concluded.

Exposing unsafe convictions

Legal academic **Dr Bob Moles** methodically catalogued many disturbing examples of miscarriages of justice in SA when he summarised his persistent criticism of unsafe convictions at a dinner in the Public Schools' Club on 12th April 2018.

A legal theorist, Dr Moles came to the University of Adelaide as a law professor in 1998 and soon found out that he was dealing with a legal system which was not properly working.

He became aware of the murder conviction of Henry Keogh and set to work trying to expose a miscarriage of justice that kept Keogh in jail unjustly for a staggering twenty-one years. In 1995, Keogh was convicted of murdering his fiancée and received a 26 year term. But the conviction was problematic.



Following a determined effort by Dr Bob Moles and others, Keogh was released from jail. Soon thereafter the Director of Public Prosecutions in South Australia ended the case against him.

The Keogh case is one of "a whole series of cases"

involving flawed or discredited evidence presented to the courts by former Forensic Pathologist Dr Colin Manock.

"We went back over Dr Manock's history and were quite alarmed by what we found," Dr Moles said.

Hollywood reformer visits the Club

Renowned Hollywood critic **Ted Baehr** described his work to clean up the film industry, when he addressed a meeting over dinner at the Club on 15th April.

Dr Ted Baehr draws upon his extensive connections in Hollywood as a former movie-maker, while his Movieguide team is achieving success to persuade film companies to concentrate on making family-friendly productions.

“90% of the recent top ten international box office movies have strong moral content, and not one R-rated movie was in the top 20 movies in 2017,” he said.



Ted Baehr with the Chairman

Dr Baehr’s Movieguide team apply a thorough analysis and critique of each film emerging from Hollywood, using their 150 criteria checklist.

Their findings have persistently shown a strong correlation between box-office sales and family-friendly values.

His work also helps parents to better handle family consumption of media.

“66% of girls feel worse when seeing models and celebrities on TV, while boys are fed large doses of violence. But these are problems that are solvable by redeeming the culture.”



Commonwealth connections



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY

Hon Jing Lee MLC drew upon personal Commonwealth connections during her address to the South Australian Royal Commonwealth Society “Big Lunch” held at the Club on 20th April, highlighting Commonwealth unity and diversity.

Recently named as Assistant Minister to the Premier, Ms Jing Lee, originally from Malaysia, described the superb value of the Commonwealth family of nations.

“I was born in a Commonwealth nation that shares the same rules, respect for rights and the aim for development as Australia,” Jing Lee told the meeting.

The 153 Commonwealth nations share Queen Elizabeth as head, and value her long-standing example, Jing Lee noted.

The Commonwealth countries tend to use parliamentary democratic ideals that derive from Westminster, she said.

“The people who migrate here from any other Commonwealth nations will make good citizens, and people from 200 nations have come to South Australia, but our responsibility is not only to look after Australia but also to provide more collaboration, economic development and social cohesion in other countries.”

Honouring the Anzac tradition

Conservative columnist **Caleb Bond** gave the address at the Club’s luncheon commemoration of Anzac Day on 25th April.

“Anzac Day has become one of our most meaningful days, as it reminds us of the service of those who went out,” he said.

“Anzac Day has essentially set up our values, but people are the central point of the commemoration,” he continued.

“Every member of the army, navy and air force is a public servant in the true sense. They selflessly serve the public, often putting their lives on the line. We should always be grateful,” he explained to the luncheon meeting.

Caleb Bond reminded the meeting about the humanity of each member of the defence forces.

“Every military man or woman who has served, or lost their lives in the line of duty is a human who loved and were loved.

“That’s really what Anzac Day is about.”

