



International Branch Meeting

Wednesday 5 October

Venue: Penthouse, New Zealand High Commission, New Zealand House, 80 Haymarket, SW1Y 4TQ

Nearest tube station: Piccadilly Circus (Bakerloo and Piccadilly lines) or Charing Cross (Northern and Bakerloo lines)

Programme

0845-0915 **Arrival, registration and welcome refreshments**

0925-0930 Mr Rob Taylor, Deputy High Commissioner for New Zealand

0930-0935 **Welcome:** Claire Whitaker OBE, Chair, The Royal Commonwealth Society

0935-0950 **Address:** *A Contemporary Commonwealth*, The Rt Hon the Lord Howell of Guildford, President, The Royal Commonwealth Society

0950-1015 **Address:** *The Commonwealth Hub*, Deputy Secretary-General for the Commonwealth, Mr Gary Dunn

1015-1030 **Q&A session**

1030-1045 **Break**

1045-1230 **Panel Discussion:** Update on developments and current priorities

- Claire Whitaker OBE, Chair, The Royal Commonwealth Society
- Michael Lake CBE, Director, The Royal Commonwealth Society

New Branches:

- Keith Stokes-Smith, Chairman, The Birmingham Commonwealth Association
- Geraldine Noel, Secretary, RCS Malta Branch
- Tony Yee, RCS Singapore Branch
- Stephen Woodard, Secretary, RCS Brussels: The Commonwealth Forum
- Patricia Campbell, Branch Member, RCS Ireland Branch

Followed by a Q&A session

1230-1345 **Lunch:** New Zealand House

1345-1500 **Panel discussion:** Branch experiences, challenges and successes

- Peter Mann, Chairman, RCS Hong Kong Branch
- Nick Ball, Treasurer, RCS Bristol Branch
- Libby Ellis, President, RCS South Australia Branch
- Ryan Brathwaite, Chair of the Sports Committee, RCS Barbados Branch
- James Foster, Chairman, Kenya Branch

Followed by a Q&A session

1500-1630 **Regional breakout groups:** Developing the work of the branch network – the role of branches and Regional Co-ordinators in connecting branches to the Society in London

- **Africa:** Kizitus Mpoche, University of Doukala Commonwealth Club
- **Americas:** Judith Elson, President, RCS Canada National Branch
- **Asia:** Shivani Wazir Pasrich, RCS Regional Co-ordinator
- **Europe:** Angela Jeune, President, RCS Jersey Branch
- **Pacific:** Kantilal Jinna, President, RCS Australian Capital Territory Branch

1630-1700 **Plenary:** delivery of outcomes arising from breakout groups

1830-2000 **Commonwealth Concert:** High Commission for Australia

Dress code: Lounge suit or National Dress.

1830 Arrival for a prompt 1900 start: *Please note that entry to Australia House will require a security check and presentation of official photographic ID. Please allow enough time.*

1900 Welcome: His Excellency The Hon Alexander Downer AC, High Commissioner for Australia.

Thursday 6 October

Venue: High Commission for Nigeria, 9 Northumberland Avenue, WC2N 5BX

Nearest tube station: Charing Cross or Embankment

Programme

0900-0930 **Arrivals and coffee**

0930-0945 **Welcome:** Mr Ogah, Acting High Commissioner for Nigeria

0945-1030 **Panel discussion:** *Future priorities for the Commonwealth*

- Chair: Michael Lake CBE, RCS Director
- His Excellency Mr Norman Hamilton, High Commissioner for the Republic of Malta
- Ms Kate Knight-Sands, Deputy UK Envoy to the Commonwealth of Nations, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- His Excellency The Rt Hon Sir Alexander Lockwood Smith, High Commissioner for New Zealand
- The Rt Hon the Lord Howell of Guildford, President, The Royal Commonwealth Society

Followed by Q&A session

1030-1145 **Presentations and discussion:** *How to promote mutual prosperity and Commonwealth values.* Led by Tim Hewish, RCS Director of Policy and Research and Lewis Brooks, RCS Policy and Research Manager

1145-1200 **Break**

1200-1245 **Intergenerational discussion:** Delivery of outcomes from the Youth Programme

1245-1345 **Lunch:** High Commission for Nigeria

1400-1700 **Youth and Education Programmes**

Introduction, Katherine Mathieson, RCS Trustee

1. Commonwealth Youth Gender and Equality Network (CYGEN), Firhaana Bulbulia
2. The Queen's Young Leaders Programme
 - Adam Askew, Head of Commonwealth and Youth Partnerships, Comic Relief
 - Matt Little, Policy Officer, The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust

Followed by a Q&A session

1500-1515 **Break**

1515-1700 **Youth and Education Programmes continued**

3. Associate Fellows Programme
4. The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition, Anja Nielsen, RCS Programmes Officer
5. Commonwealth Youth Summits, Helen Jones MBE, RCS Director of Youth and Education Programmes

Followed by a Q&A session

1830-2000 **Buckingham Palace Reception and Tour of the State Rooms** (invitation only)

Friday 7 October

Venue: High Commission for Canada, Canada House, Trafalgar Square, SW1Y 5BJ

Nearest tube station: Charing Cross or Embankment

Programme

0845-0915 **Arrivals and coffee**

0920-0925 **Outline of the day / Welcome**

0930-1000 **Communications:** High Commission for Canada Communications Team

1000-1030 **Fundraising:** Sir Stuart Etherington, Chief Executive,
National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO)

1030-1100 **Branding:** Stephen De-Wint, Deputy Secretary General,
The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation

1100-1130 **The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy:** Alan Pottinger, Technical Director,
Commonwealth Forestry Association (CFA)

1130-1200 **Reflections on the week and Looking Ahead to 2018:** 150 year anniversary, CHOGM,
Commonwealth Games, International Meeting, Michael Lake CBE

1215-1230 **Group Photo**

1230-1330 **Closing Lunch**

1400-1500 **Tour of Westminster Abbey**

1530-1700 **'Ireland & the Modern Commonwealth'** - Afternoon Tea in the Cholmondeley Room and
Terrace, House of Lords.

Speakers to include:

- The Rt Hon the Lord Howell of Guildford, President, The Royal Commonwealth Society
- Senator Frank Feighan
- John McGrane, Director of the British-Irish Chamber of Commerce

Entry requirements: Printed invitation plus one form of official photographic ID

NB: For those that have RSVP'd, invitations will be distributed at the meeting.