Season’s Greetings

All of us at the Australian High Commission extend our warmest wishes to our many friends and colleagues in Canada as well as to all Australians and their families living in this wonderful country.

May the festive season and the new year bring you all much happiness and success.

Canadian and Australian Leaders Join Forces for Sydney forum

As the 70th year of Australia-Canada diplomatic relations draws to a close, leaders from our two nations – from business, government, academia and the media – participated in the inaugural Australia-Canada Economic Leadership Forum in Sydney, New South Wales, from 16-18 November.

The Forum was conceived by the Australian High Commissioner, Justin Brown and modelled on the Australian-American Leadership Dialogue as a vehicle to promote a wide ranging discussion about future directions in the Australia-Canada relationship.

Mr Brown was joined in Sydney by High Commission First Secretary, Melissa Fransen.

(L-R) Forum Co-Chair Stanley Hartt, Canadian High Commissioner to Australia Michael Small, Australian High Commissioner to Canada Justin Brown, Forum Co-Chair Bob Carr.

For a full report on the Forum and more photos, see page 4 of this newsletter.
Sir Joseph Banks returns to Canada

A handful of British adventurers were at the centre of the intersection between Australian and Canadian history in the eighteenth century, perhaps none more so than Sir Joseph Banks.

Banks (1743-1820) is widely known in Australia for his role as botanist on James Cook’s voyage of discovery to eastern Australia which he documented in his *Endeavour Journal*, 1768-71. Less well known is his earlier visit to Canada, specifically to Newfoundland and Labrador in 1766, which he recorded in another journal, *Journal of a Voyage to Newfoundland & Labrador*. Banks’ Newfoundland journal is now held at the State Library in Adelaide, and the custodian is the Royal Geographic Society of South Australia (RGSSA).

As one of the activities to commemorate 70 years of diplomatic relations between Australia and Canada, the High Commission arranged for the production of an exact replica of the journal so that it could be viewed in Canada.

On 4 November the High Commission hosted an event in partnership with the Institute of Canadian Studies at the University of Ottawa to present the journal replica. The Chair of the Heritage Committee of the Canadian House of Commons, Michael Chong (above), and the Vice President of the University of Ottawa, Professor Gilles Breton, spoke at the event, and Professor Sean Cadigan of Memorial University gave a fascinating presentation on the historical links between Newfoundland and Australia from Banks’ time to present day. (Continued p.3.)

Photos by Randy Hogg
An intergenerational ‘Commonwealth Conversation’

The views of the next generation on the future of the Commonwealth were the subject of a lively and interesting panel discussion hosted by the High Commission on 1 November in Ottawa and attended by representatives from Canadian government agencies, academia, NGOs and the diplomatic corps.

The context for the event was Australia’s hosting of the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Perth, Western Australia in 2011.

The panel comprised four erudite and articulate students from Queen’s, Carleton and Ottawa Universities. Each made some remarks outlining their perspectives on the Commonwealth and its significance to them and others in their generation. They also put forward their vision for the Commonwealth, with a focus on how to maximise the organisation’s relevance and effectiveness.

Sir Joseph Banks returns to Canada (cont.)

On 26 November, the High Commissioner presented the replica to the Newfoundland and Labrador Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, Terry French, as a gift from the Government and people of Australia in a ceremony in St John’s.

The journal will form part of a display on Banks scheduled at The Rooms Provincial Museum, St John’s, in 2011.
Successful inaugural Australia-Canada Economic Leadership Forum

The Forum was conceived as a non-partisan, private initiative aimed at bringing together leaders from the two countries to help review and refine the parameters of the bilateral relationship. Its purpose was to enhance mutual understanding and to focus on contributing to the sustainable high performance of our communities.

The Forum, held from 16-18 November, was driven by business leaders in both countries, with the presenting sponsor being the prominent Australian-based investment bank Macquarie, which has a major presence in Canada. In all, the Forum attracted over 120 participants drawn from business, academia, government and the think tank sector.

The Forum was co-chaired by the former Premier of New South Wales, Bob Carr, and the Chairman of Macquarie Capital Canada, Stanley Hartt. Prominent Canadian participants included the President of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives, John Manley, the national affairs columnist with The Globe and Mail, Jeffrey Simpson, Dr Janice Gross Stein of the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto and the Chair of the Canadian Chapter of the Canadian Australian Chamber of Commerce and partner at Gowlings Lafleur Henderson, Bob Onyschuk.

Notable Australian participants included NSW Premier, Kristina Keneally, CEO of Macquarie Group, Nicholas Moore and editor at large with The Australian, Paul Kelly.

The Forum kicked off with a welcoming reception hosted by the Governor of NSW which was followed by the opening dinner which was addressed by Premier Keneally and featured a videoed welcome message to participants from Prime Minister Julia Gillard.

The Forum’s agenda comprised a series of high-level panels on topics of direct relevance to Australia and Canada’s economic future, including: Canada’s engagement with Latin America; Australia’s engagement with Asia; the development of competitive infrastructure; liberalising global trade and investment; and generating results from innovation, research and technology.

(Continued on page 11.)
Australian Medical Task Force completes flood aid mission in Pakistan

An Australian Medical Task Force that was deployed to Pakistan to provide aid following the disastrous floods in that country earlier this year has successfully completed its mission.

The Task Force, a joint effort by Australia’s aid agency (AusAID) and the Australian Defence Force (ADF), comprised approximately 180 Defence and civilian doctors, nurses, paramedics and support personnel.

The Task Force provided primary medical care to the flood affected people of Kot Addu in central Punjab from 2 September 2010.

Dubbed ‘Camp Cockatoo’ (a cockatoo is one of Australia’s best known birds), the medical facility assisted over 11,000 flood affected people, including the treatment of over 3,000 cases of malaria.

In addition to the Task Force, the Australian Government has committed $75 million in humanitarian, early recovery and reconstruction assistance to Pakistan since the floods began. Australia is continuing to provide assistance through United Nations agencies and aid NGOs.

AusAID seals development partnership with the Asia Foundation

The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID, equivalent to CIDA) has entered into a strategic partnership with the Asia Foundation, a non-profit, non-governmental organisation committed to development in the region.

The partnership – the first of its kind agreed by the Foundation – will continue until 2012 and commits the two organisations to enhance current approaches and explore new methods for supporting development, building peace and prosperity, and improving the effectiveness of aid.

The partnership is a timely one as it coincides with renewed efforts by the international community to find new ways to deliver aid and assistance in places affected by conflict and state fragility. It reflects a desire by AusAID to move away from traditional ‘project management’ model partnerships with NGOs towards a more strategic relationship.

AusAID sees the Asia Foundation, which has been addressing conflict issues and promoting good governance in Asia for over 60 years, as an ideal fit. Incorporating both direct consultations between headquarters and country program partnerships, the partnership builds on AusAID’s expertise and the Foundation’s strengths in working on protracted conflicts and building networks in conflict-affected regions.

The Philippines has been selected for the first country-level partnership and future possibilities for country-level collaboration include Indonesia and Afghanistan.

For more on AusAID visit: ausaid.gov.au
Remembrance Day at Notre Dame High School

For the second year, the High Commission was pleased to be represented at Notre Dame High School’s Annual Remembrance Day Symposium in Ottawa on 10 November.

Lieutenant-Colonel Jamie Patten-Richens and Dallas Frazer (pictured at right) made a presentation to the students, entitled ‘The Legacy of the Australian Army’, which highlighted both historical and contemporary links between the Australian and Canadian defence forces, as well as both countries’ common legacy of remembrance of war time sacrifices.

Several other remembrance-related topics were presented to the students on the day. These included ‘The Widows of Vimy Ridge’, ‘WWI Poetry – In Flanders Fields’, ‘Afghanistan’ and ‘NATO Operations’.

Presenters at Notre Dame High School’s Annual Remembrance Day Symposium. Ottawa, 10 November 2010.
Australia-Canada Army Cadet exchange

The Defence Adviser at the Australian High Commission, Lieutenant-Colonel Jamie Patten-Richens, welcomed a group of Australian Army Cadets who visited Canada as part of the International Army Cadet Exchange (ACE) program.

The ACE program brings together military and youth organisations from several nations, such as Australia and Canada, to foster international understanding and friendship among young people with an interest in defence matters. Cadet exchanges are an integral part of the program. The visiting Australian cadets participated in a range of activities during their stay, including a live range shoot.

Australian Think Tank Corner

The Lowy Institute for International Policy released a new Asia Security Project report, entitled 'Power and Choice: Asian Security Futures', discussing the security futures for Asia and Australia. In the most recent Lowy Lecture on Australia and the World, Dr Megan Clark, Chief Executive of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), discussed 'Science and Australia's place in the world'.

The Institute of Public Affairs of Australia has released a policy paper on ‘Australia’s Resources Future’ as well as several articles on climate change focussed on the domestic debate in Australia and UNFCCC negotiations.

The Centre for Independent Studies published a series of essays on the future of Australia’s public hospital system and private housing on indigenous lands.

The Australia Strategic Policy Institute has released a report that explores the challenges of building a stronger Asia-Pacific community, suggesting that Australia re-position itself as a ‘fore-runner state’ in Asia. It has also completed a report analysing the future of Australia-South Korea security cooperation.
Australian sport celebrated in Ottawa

Members of Ottawa’s Australian community recently joined High Commission staff for two events at the Rideau Carleton Raceway: The Melbourne Cup on the evening of 1 November, and Australia Night at the Races on 18 November.

Australia Night at the Races was also a fundraiser for the Ottawa Swans Australian Football Club, established in 2007.

Later in the month, Deputy High Commissioner Bruce Soar (below, at right) attended the Ottawa Swans’ Club Champion Dinner, where he presented the award for Best Canadian Player to Chris Peck (far left).

Darren Roffey (pictured above), won the Steve Spurrell Medal for the club’s best and fairest player of season 2010.

For more information about playing, supporting or watching the sport of Australian Rules Football in Ottawa, visit:

ottawaswans.com

Calling on Canadian alumni of Australian universities

The High Commission wants to hear from all Canadians who have graduated from an Australian university.

We are compiling a register of Australian alumni who would be interested in hearing regular news of Australia and in being invited to special events arranged by the High Commission.

If you would like to register with us, please visit our website to send us your contact details.

canada.embassy.gov.au/otwa/alumni.html

Please feel free to circulate this invitation widely.
State in profile: New South Wales

**Area:** 801,600 km²  
**Population:** 7.13 million  
**Capital city:** Sydney  
(population: 4.5 million)  
**Floral emblem:** Waratah  
**Faunal emblems:** Kookaburra (bird); Platypus (animal); Blue Groper (fish)  
**Premier:** Kristina Keneally  
**Federal Representation:** 48 of 150 House of Representatives seats; 12 of 76 Senate

**Exports:** Goods A$38.8 billion and services AUD $21.6 billion. Leading categories: coal ($12.9 billion), aluminium ($2.1 billion), copper ($1.5 billion)

**Trade with Canada:** In 2008-09, New South Wales imported AUD $886 million worth of goods from Canada, making it the state’s 19th largest import source.

**History:** New South Wales was Great Britain’s original colony in Australia. In 1770, Captain James Cook sailed into what is now Botany Bay and later claimed a section of the east coast for Great Britain under the name New South Wales.

From 1788 to 1823, it was a penal colony. In 1823, the British government established a New South Wales parliament by setting up a Legislative Council and Supreme Court. In 1894, John Short Larke, Canada’s first trade commissioner to Australia, arrived in Sydney, although his reception from the protectionist colonials was decidedly frosty.

The state’s A$360 billion economy is the largest in Australia. Services comprise more than 80 per cent of its industry output. The most prominent sectors are business and financial services, plus information and communications technology. Minerals production, agriculture and manufacturing are also prominent economy drivers.

The state is home to Sydney, Australia’s largest city and financial centre, and the city is also a major tourist destination, welcoming an average of 2.7 million visitors each year. Major landmarks include the Sydney Harbour Bridge, Sydney Opera House and Bondi Beach.

**Famous people:** Sir Edmund Barton (politician, first Prime Minister), Sir Donald Bradman (cricketer), John Howard (politician, Prime Minister 1996-2007), Paul Hogan (actor), Nicole Kidman (actor), Richie Benaud (cricketer, broadcaster), Ian Kiernan (environmentalist), Patrick White (author), Ian Thorpe (swimmer)

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**Coming events**

Across Canada: Australia’s many expatriate groups will celebrate Australia Day on or around 26 January, 2011.


Vancouver: Brisbane group Circa presents two shows: “Circa” and “46 Circus Acts in 45 Minutes”, as part of the PuSh Performing Arts Festival.

[pushfestival.ca](http://pushfestival.ca)
APEC’s goal of achieving free and open trade and investment – the Bogor Goals – was a key agenda issue for the leaders of the 21 economies of the region, including Prime Ministers Julia Gillard and Stephen Harper, when they met in Yokohama from 13 to 14 November.

Under the Bogor Goals, which were agreed in 1994, industrialised countries in the region (USA, Japan, Canada, Australia and NZ) have undertaken to achieve free trade and investment by 2010, and developing countries are scheduled to follow suit by 2020.

The Goals reflect the central role of trade and investment to future growth and social outcomes in the region. Australia and Canada have been active in advocating the elimination of trade and investment barriers within the APEC region. And in advance of the Leaders’ meeting, Australia prepared its own report assessing progress towards the Bogor Goals, a report which received a positive reception from Prime Minister Harper and other leaders.

Leaders welcomed the significant progress that has been made towards the Bogor Goals, noting the Goals have promoted continuous individual and collective efforts to liberalise trade. But they agreed that more work remains to be done, particularly in agriculture, services and investment.


Asia-Pacific leaders commit to free trade and investment in the region

Launch of Quebec chapter of CACC

A speech by the Canadian Minister of International Trade, Peter Van Loan (below), hosted by the Montreal Council on Foreign Relations, marked the formal opening of the Quebec Chapter of the Canadian-Australian Chamber of Commerce (CACC).

Mr Van Loan’s speech followed his appearance in October at the Toronto chapter of CACC. His remarks covered the key features of Canada’s trade policy, and noted that Australia is one of Canada’s most significant trade and investment partners in Asia.

A Q&A session with the Minister after his speech focused on the status of Canada’s free trade negotiations in East Asia and the proposed acquisition of the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan by BHP Billiton.

The Quebec Chapter of the CACC is being established to promote strengthened commercial linkages between Australia and the province, and will have a particularly strong focus on investment, which is one of the growth areas in Australia-Canada economic relations.


cacc.com.au
Economic Leadership Forum (cont.)

All panels were characterised by high quality exchanges, and it was clear that the participants enjoyed the opportunity for an open discussion.

In their concluding remarks, the co-chairs commented on the positive nature of the exchanges. They noted that participants had risen to the challenge of addressing an agenda that is central to the task facing both countries in the competitive global environment.

The co-chairs expressed interest in holding a second forum in 2012 in Canada.

For more information visit: auscanforum.com

Above: Janice Gross Stein, Director of the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto and Paul Kelly, Editor-at-Large for The Australian, during their panel session.

Below: Participants at the Australia-Canada Economic Leadership Forum take the opportunity to discuss the issues raised in between sessions.
Out and About with the High Commissioner

The High Commissioner’s eventful autumn program included attendance at a significant number of official functions. In early October, he joined other diplomats to welcome The Rt Hon. David Johnson to his role of Governor General. On November 11, accompanied by Defence Advisor LTCOL Jamie Patten-Richens, the High Commissioner took part in the Remembrance Day ceremony. Then demonstrating his sporting pretensions, he staggered through the DFAIT Moves 5 km run to raise funds and awareness for rehabilitation.

It was also a busy period for the High Commissioner with speaking engagements. In October, he took part in two discussion panels, including at the Banff Forum where he discussed the issue of climate change, and at a Canada 2020 event on the subject of foreign investment. The High Commissioner also made some remarks at a conference hosted by Ottawa University and several other Australian and Canadian universities, on innovation and internationalisation in education.

In the months of October and November the High Commissioner undertook a number of media interviews, including with Embassy Magazine, The Globe and Mail, and the CBC radio program “The House”. Media coverage focused predominantly on people smuggling and foreign investment. The High Commissioner also appeared in the CBC television program, “Power and Politics” to discuss the BHP Billiton/Potash Corporation issue.

In November the High Commissioner travelled to Nova Scotia to represent the Minister for Defence at the Halifax International Security Forum. He then returned to Australia for a week to attend the Australia Canada Economic Leadership Forum (p.4), where he took part in a panel discussion on foreign investment issues.

Upon his return to Canada, the High Commissioner travelled to St John’s and Québec City where he met various government representatives and others with an interest in relations with Australia. While in St John’s, he presented a replica of Sir Joseph Banks’ 1766 Newfoundland Journal (p. 2) to the Newfoundland and Labrador Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation.

In early December, the High Commissioner travelled to the Kitchener/Waterloo region to take part in a program organised by Canada’s Technology Triangle. He also attended a working lunch hosted by the Institute for Research on Public Policy to discuss trade policy matters.

The High Commissioner hosted a number of events during October and November including a private working dinner for the members of the Standing Senate Committee for Foreign Affairs and International Trade, a reception for participants in the National Conference on Maximising Employment Opportunities for Mature Workers, and a panel discussion on the Commonwealth (p. 3). He also travelled to Montreal for a roundtable with senior staff from the Institute for Research on Public Policy on the current economic and political situation in Australia, including the latest developments in the areas of climate change and trade reform.

The High Commissioner welcomed a number of fellow Australians that visited Ottawa including Peter Hughes, Deputy Secretary, Department of Immigration and Citizenship. Mr Hughes was accompanied by James Larson, Ambassador for People Smuggling Issues. Other official Australian visitors included Peter Harris, Secretary (Deputy Minister), Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy; Bill Fisher, Special Envoy to the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie; and Graeme Barty, Regional Director for the Americas of Austrade.

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HOLIDAY HOURS
The High Commission will be closed from 24-28 December inclusive, and on 3 January.