



August 2018

Wed 15 Lunch with Allan Fels

Lunch with Prof. Allan Fels AO, Wednesday 15 August

Mental health: the challenges

Some three to four percent of the population experience severe persistent mental illness such as schizophrenia. Another fifteen percent or so experience significant mental illness such as depression, anxiety disorder, personality disorder etc.

Professor Fels will discuss the causes and incidence of mental illness; the nature, strengths and weakness of the current system for dealing with problems of mental illness; and policy issues.

Some of the policy issues include:

- Does mental health need to be accorded a higher priority by governments and the community?
- Could the present system be improved (even if there is limited additional funding)?
- What is the link to matters such as housing and employment?
- Stigma and discrimination
- Social connectiveness of people with mental illness
- The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and mental health.

Allan Fels was born and educated in WA, gaining a law/economics degree from the University of Western Australia. He then went to Duke University in USA to do his PhD. He obtained a job as Economic Research Fellow at Cambridge from 1969 to 1972. He then returned to Australia and worked at Melbourne and Monash Universities, becoming Professor of Administration at Monash in 1984 and then Director of the Graduate School of Management from 1985 to 1990. During this period, he was the

Prices Commissioner for Victoria, on the Commonwealth Prices Surveillance Authority and Chair of the Trade Practices Commission until these two latter organisations were merged to form the ACCC in 1995. He was Chairman of the ACCC from 1995 to 2003. Upon his retirement from the ACCC, he became foundation Dean of the Australia and New Zealand School of Government until 2013. He has been very active in the field of mental health and was Chair of the Australian Government's National Mental Health Commission from 2012 until 2018.

This lunch will take place at the Savage Club at 12 noon for 12.30pm. The Club is at 12 Bank Place (off Collins Street) in the City. Cost is \$55 including drinks. All guests are most welcome; the more the better. Would you please advise Peter Baines at lunches@cambridgesociety.org.au or on 9820 2334 by latest Monday noon, 13 August if you will be coming (and dietary requirements). Those emailing their intention to attend should ring Peter to confirm if they receive no email confirmation from him within 24 hours of booking.

Cambridge Australia Scholarships

Cambridge Australia Scholarships would like to invite all Cambridge Society members to their Annual AGM and Scholar Farewell Reception, to be held in the Senior Common Room at Ormond College on Thursday 16 August at 6pm. Our AGM and Scholar Farewell Reception is our opportunity to connect with new and old members of the CAS community, to welcome back and reconnect with CAS Alumni and, most importantly, to farewell our fifteen newest Scholars before they leave for Cambridge.

We at CSA(V) Inc. are committed to protecting your personal information. It is only used by us to communicate with you about the Society's activities and its relations with the University of Cambridge. You may read our full Protection Statement and how it affects you on our website at: www.cambridgesociety.org.au/The-Society/Data-Protection-Statement/. The website allows you to unsubscribe from our communication if desired.

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Please RSVP before Thursday 9 August by emailing Emily-Rose at cambridge@ormond.unimelb.edu.au

Our 2018 scholars are:

PhD Scholars

Alexander Johnston: McCrum Scholarship, Mathematics

Portia Spinks: Poynton Scholarship, Social Anthropology

Timothy Clark: Fisher Scholarship, Law

Stephanie Forrest: Poynton Scholarship, History

Thea Chestefield: Kater Scholarship, Law

Master's Scholars

Babette Brophy: Honourary, Conservation Leadership

Bodhi Hardinghe: Downing Scholarship, Technology Policy

Francis Heil: Moore Scholarship, Economics & Social History

Jennifer Triggell: McCaughey Scholarship, Law

Julie Cowan: Narev Scholarship, Education

Marcus Sevoir: Moore Scholarship, Economics & Social History

Max Griffin: Allen Scholarship, Corporate Law

Phoebe Heathcote: Platt Scholarship, Economics & Social History

Simon Hong: Allen Scholarship, Law

Annual dinner, Friday 7 September

The Cambridge Society is delighted to announce that our speaker for our Annual Dinner at the Melbourne Club is an influential leader in industries that have a profound impact on all our lives, and about which many of us know little. Chloe Munro AO is joining the dots between infrastructure, finance, energy and climate change.

Chloe was part of the important Finkel Review into the future security of electricity in Australia and Chair of the Australian Energy Market Operator Expert Panel that reviewed the Finkel report. Chloe was well placed to make recommendations for the future of utilities in Australia as a former Chair of both the Clean Energy Regulator and the National Water Commission. Chloe joins the dots as she has also been Secretary for the Department of Primary Industries, Deputy Secretary of Treasury and Finance and an Executive Director at Telstra.

This remarkable woman, winner of the Centenary Medal for outstanding contribution to public administration, is a director of NPP Australia (which works to build an improved payments platform in the banking industry), and also finds time to chair a contemporary dance company.

Chloe holds a Master's degree in Mathematics and Philosophy from Cambridge and an MBA from the University of Westminster. Chloe is now a professorial fellow at Monash University.

Invitations have been mailed out to all members. If you haven't received one, please contact the treasurer at treasurer@cambridgesociety.org.au or book directly through Trybooking at <http://www.trybooking.com/WLMR>

Diary dates

7 Sep	Annual Dinner with Chloe Munro AO
17 Oct	Lunch with Jim Bowler
21 Nov	Lunch with Caroline Forrest
12 Dec	AGM and Varsity Match

Last month

Lunch with Richard Iron CMG OBE, Wednesday 18 July

The abduction of 276 girls in Nigeria in 2014 shocked the world, but it should have come as no surprise. Guerrillas, warlords, tribal chiefs and rivalries have been common in Africa for thousands of years. The causes have been threefold:

Horses and cattle were introduced to northern Africa pre-10th century but the tsetse fly belt barred their development southwards. The lack of pack animals forced the warlords to enslave huge numbers of people to enable them to pursue their warlike interests. Armies need a lot of baggage and baggage carriers. This capture of slaves predates the Atlantic slave trade by at least 500 years.

Wars tended to occur at the edges of civilised areas and the stresses of war encroached upon the civilised areas and sometimes caused them to collapse. Climate change was also a factor in these collapses.

External influences including foreign religious missionaries, foreign traders (mostly Muslim) and the introduction of firearms. Demand for Atlantic slaves developed from the 16th to 19th centuries.

Once this trade stopped in the early 19th century it was replaced by trade into the Middle East.

Colonisation by European nations occurred quite late; in 1870 only 10% of the continent was under European control, almost all on the coast. The Berlin Conference of 1884–85 regulated colonisation and trade in Africa. Colonisation generally involved a few European administrators with much of the control exercised by local rulers. The rapid spread of colonisation produced a period of relative calm, sometimes referred to as the Pax Colonia. This peace began to disintegrate with the wars for liberation which began in the 1920s. The imposition of the Westminster system on the colonies did not last long after independence.

Today the past is everywhere: child soldiers, witchcraft, slavery and forced marriages. A population explosion is underway with the population predicted to grow fourfold by 2100. The continent is riddled with financial and social mismanagement and corruption. This produces a huge number of young people who are poor, unemployed and disenfranchised in a region awash with arms. These problems have been poorly understood by the Western forces that, from time to time are sent in 'to sort things out'.

A lively question session followed, the main features of which were:

The only way to stem the flow of refugees is education and making the region more prosperous. Lack of food is not a significant driver for refugees.

The Chinese are doing a lot of business without trying to colonise. They are less concerned to put strings on their loans and are more forgiving of corruption than most Western countries.

The influence of extremist Muslim groups from Saudi and the Emirates are seen as a far greater potential problem than the Chinese.

Africans have traditionally looked to strong leaders. The only truly political leader was Nelson Mandela. Can democracy work? One is reminded of the American quotation 'Democracy is two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch. Liberty is a well-armed lamb contesting the vote'.

Commercials

If you have an offer, message or request of a personal or not-for-profit nature that you would

like us to include in this section, please contact the editor at newsletter@cambridgesociety.org.au.

Snippets

We acknowledge our particular debt to Varsity and to the University News Release Service.

Divestment, drinking societies and democracy: a Cambridge year in review

An academic year in Cambridge is often an overwhelming amalgamation of personal and political struggles and successes. This past year University politics has been dominated by issues from the building pressure on the University to divest, to staff and student strikes.

On a personal level, the year has felt something like a whirlwind, especially as a fresher entering into the world of hectic essay deadlines and student politics. Whether the terms have dragged or flown by, I'm sure we can all be in agreement that a year at Cambridge really is something.

Responsive change is something Cambridge students have continued to fight for this year, and bit by bit we can look back on the ways we have shaped this historic institution. Substantial progress will be felt by all exam-taking students, as this is the first year in which students have been offered an opt-out on class lists. A campaign that has been hard-fought on a long-debated topic, class list opt-outs have been presented as a partial solution to the academic environment that can at times be damaging to the mental well-being of students.

The power vested in the students who make up the University has also been significantly highlighted in another area of activism: through the form of Cambridge Zero Carbon Society. The student-led Zero Carbon campaign has played a large role in the debates and news of Cambridge for several years now, culminating in a series of protests and the use of direct action this term as the University's final decision on the matter became imminent. From hunger strikes to publicity stunts, some of the tactics of the student activists have sparked controversy.

Just this week we have seen the University Council finally commit to a decision on divestment. The Council has committed to partial divestment, which has left the activists who supported full divestment dissatisfied with the response. Perhaps here we can see the limits to the

influence of student voices, or at least the continued pressures which exist when coming up against long-established institutions, traditions and figures. The divestment debate seems far from over.

The difficulty of producing meaningful change has also been highlighted with drinking societies and their place within our University. Here it is not only the existence of historically established societies and traditions that constitutes a problem in creating change, but that we also remain riddled with questions of the best way to bring such positive change about.

The Facebook page Grudgebridge, previously a space for sharing general complaints about life as a student, has been transformed into a space whereby anonymous complaints about drinking society culture, often focusing on allegations of bullying, discrimination and sexual misconduct, are shared. While the page has given a platform for issues that have been largely swept under the rug in the past in an explosive way, there is certainly room to think about how these issues can be dealt with in the long term. Yes, this has been a year of change and achievement, but it is also a year which highlights that, more than ever, we need to mobilise to create change to make our university a safer, more inclusive and more modern institution.

Efforts to mobilise as students can perhaps draw inspiration from another ongoing issue: the staff strikes of Lent Term. The time, labour and energy which was devoted by staff and students alike during the strikes that occurred over the pension dispute was remarkable to witness. It will perhaps serve as a model of mobilisation in light of other changes in higher education policy, both within our University but also outside of it. Despite some dissatisfaction over the eventual settlement and current outcome of the strikes, for many they represented a sense of unity within our University. This staff-student unity works against the misleading and troubling portrayal in the right-wing media earlier in the year of staff and students being pitted against each other in the largely student-led movement to decolonise the curricula. It will be interesting to see how this bond between the staff and students at the University will manifest in the following academic year and beyond.

The way staff and students mobilised in support of staff pensions this year may also offer a lesson in the ways we ought to continue to work within institutions to defend and define the type of higher education we want in this country. A central facet of this is representation and access at Cambridge. Back in October, Labour MP David Lammy criticised Oxford and Cambridge as 'fiefdoms of entrenched privilege' for their underrepresentation of BME students. More recently an open letter from the University emphasised its ongoing commitment to improving the representation of BME students in reaction to a piece published in *The Financial Times*. The picture of the BME women of Cambridge on the Senate House steps should be recognised as a symbol of how much things are changing. However, it should also serve as a reminder of the long way we still have to go.

As a new batch of freshers prepare to enter the University space, we should again think about who is populating the University and how we all got here. After growing up in one of the most multicultural cities in the country, I remember feeling shocked by the adjustment I initially had to make when coming to Cambridge at the beginning of the year. For Cambridge to continue to strive to be a forward-thinking and world-class institution it must continue to strive to be more diverse; this is as true when it comes to the representation of different classes and educational backgrounds as it is to race and gender. The burden does not rest solely on the institution, but we need to think more widely about the way education is treated and valued in society.

While the academic year can be tied into a neat ending with a series of parties during May Week, the handover of the CUSU sabbatical team and graduation, the debates which have defined this year cannot be drawn to a close so easily. An institution with such an expansive history must also be an institution open to change and willing to be flexible. The debates of today will continue beyond May Week and into next term, and we shall have to wait and see what the events of tomorrow will be, and how the figures of the coming year handle them.