The Cambridge Australia Trust

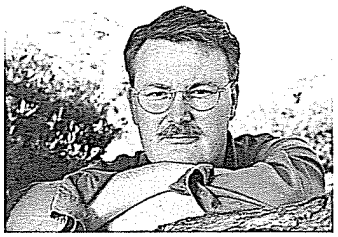
The Australian Committee of the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust

Patron: Emeritus Professor Peter Karmel AC CBE FASSA

Chairman: Dr Simon Longstaff

Website: *http://www.anu.edu/cabs/scholarships/cambridge/cambridge-austrust.html*

Annual Report for 2002



For the Record

From the Chairman, Dr Simon Longstaff

In the past year, the work of the national executive has been focused on the need to resolve outstanding matters associated with Dr Orde Poynton's generous bequest. The resolution of these issues was expertly managed by the Hon. Secretary, Professor Iain Wright, and the Hon. Treasurer, Professor Allan Barton. We owe both gentlemen a vote of thanks for their wise involvement in negotiations that led to a settlement that will underpin the Trust's capacity to offer scholarships for generations to come.

At the same time, the day-to-day work of the Trust has continued – with the principal activity surrounding the selection of scholars for Awards that will be taken up in September of 2003. Professor Wright has carried the lion's share of responsibility in this area. In this, he has been most ably supported by our colleague, Ms Beverly Ricketts.

Until recently, the Trust has enjoyed the services of Professor Tony Low as Chairman of the Trust's Selection Committee. Professor Low has brought great distinction to that office – drawing on a lifetime of experience at the highest levels of seniority within Australian and European universities – and most pertinently, at Cambridge. We extend our thanks to Professor Low who has now resigned from the post of Chairman of the Selection Committee.

In turn, we welcome the appointment of Professor Brian Kennett as Professor Low's successor. Professor Kennett holds a chair at the Australian National University in the Research School of Earth Sciences.

Much of the Trust's work is undertaken by members of its State Committees. A number of initiatives have been launched and developed over the past year. One important initiative has been to build on the wonderful work done by the Trust's Registrar, Professor Peter Treacy, in order to establish a web-enabled database of current and former Australian scholars. While the principal focus would be on establishing 'live' links with people supported by the Trust, an ideal solution would be one that attracted the interest of all Australians who have studied at Cambridge (with or without CAT support) and who might wish to support other talented Australians in their desire to study at Cambridge.

Another matter for active consideration has been a request, from State Committees, that the Trust consider offering at least some awards for people wishing to study Master's degrees. Current practice is that the Trust only offers support for people reading for the degree of Ph.D. However, it has been suggested that the profile of the Trust could be raised, in general, if it could occasionally depart from current practice and provide support for people wishing to read for one-year awards.

This matter requires serious consideration – especially given the need to ensure that the Trust develops a higher profile in its advocacy for Cambridge as a destination for talented Australian students. To be perfectly candid, this is a challenge that we meet with only partial success – and a degree of flexibility in our thinking may be required in order to position the Trust more appropriately.

The need to do this has been given added urgency as a result of this year's experience of applications for scholarships. For reasons not yet clear, there has been a significant decline in the number (but not the quality) of candidates for Awards. Investigations into the causes of this decline are being undertaken in Cambridge. However, it may be that part of the explanation is to be found in an assessment of the extent to which opportunities to study at Cambridge have been marketed in Australian universities. The Trust has played an important role in this process in the past – and may need to enhance its efforts in order to counter any factors working against our eventual success.

We should never forget that the work we do is intrinsically valuable. Cambridge is one of the great universities of the world – a position that it maintains because of the excellence of its current offerings. In turn, we offer an opportunity for Australians to become part of a wonderful story that has unfolded since the Middle Ages. This is a cause for genuine excitement.

May I conclude by thanking all of those who have offered support to this cause over the past year – whether by serving on committees or through individual contributions.

25 June 2002

The Australian Committee 2002

Dr S A Longstaff (Chairman)
Professor I R Wright (Hon Secretary)
Professor A D Barton (Hon Treasurer)
Professor P B Treacy (Hon Registrar)
Sir Alastair Goodlad (British High Commissioner)
Mr J Bowen (Secretary, Western Australia)
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Mr M A Pembroke QC (Secretary, New South Wales)
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Major Scholarship Donors 2002

Frank Downing Scholarship Fund
Sir Gregory Kater Memorial Fund
Orde Poynton
Barbara Fulton Bequest
Cadbury Schweppes
CSIRO

Scholarship Selection Committee 2002

Dr N K Boardman
Dr G Russell
Professor D Green
Professor M Jolly
Professor B L N Kennett
Emeritus Professor D A Low

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Some 2002 Scholars

Gemma Betros

My research project explores the dissolution of convents in Paris during the French Revolution and the consequences for their inhabitants. I will try and recapture the particular experiences of the women of certain religious orders as affected by the events of the Revolution and its negative attitudes towards religious life. In doing this I hope to demonstrate how conflicting desires to destroy and reform were effected at institutional levels while gaining an understanding about the public and private culture of religion in this period.

Andrew Goodwin

I will be researching in Cambridge under the supervision of Professor Jeremy K M Sanders. Professor Sanders' interests lie in the topical field of combinatorial chemistry. Research in many areas of chemistry has involved the design and preparation of rather large and complicated molecules designed to perform a specific function, such as binding another molecule or promoting a particular reaction. To the disappointment of many chemists working in such areas, these complicated molecules often fail to work at all, despite enormous effort in their rational design and synthesis. The success of combinatorial chemistry lies in the way it attacks this problem from a completely different point of view: instead of designing a molecule to perform a particular function, the combinatorial chemist creates 'libraries', or equilibrium mixtures, of all sorts of molecules and allows the function itself to select the best molecule. To date, combinatorial chemistry has enjoyed remarkable success, but there remains much work in understanding the processes involved, developing the appropriate theory to explain the observed results, and optimisation of techniques used and 'libraries' chosen.

Oldrich Klima

My research at Cambridge will concentrate on an area of pure mathematics known as Algebraic Number Theory. Number theory is a vast and ancient branch of mathematics which continues to be a very active field of research to this day and has many profound connections with other parts of mathematics (e.g. algebra, analysis and geometry). The roots of the subject lie in the most basic element of mathematics – the integers – and even here we find many simple questions that are still unresolved. Algebraic number theory developed over many decades from attempts by numerous mathematicians to solve just such a problem: – 'Fermat's Last Theorem' says that for any given integer n greater than 2, it is impossible to find integers x, y and z satisfying $x^n + y^n = z^n$, and this was for 350 years one of the most famous unsolved problems in mathematics. It was proved in 1995 by Andrew Wiles using very deep algebraic ideas which, although originating in attempts to solve a specific problem, revealed links with previous unrelated fields of mathematics and became very interesting in their own right. The most important of these is that of elliptic curves, mysterious geometric objects which also possess an arithmetic theory and are related in a crucial way to the analytic concept of modular forms. Through its connections with various areas of mathematics, the theory of elliptic curves has become central to research in modern algebraic number theory. I am very grateful for the opportunity to contribute to mathematical knowledge by working on the Iwasawa theory of elliptic curves under the supervision of Professor John Coates, one of the world's leading mathematicians.

Peter Stokes

My research project is an investigation into the vernacular scripts and book-production of eleventh-century England. The political history of the century is of great significance for the development of England, and consequently for the later middle ages. The series of wars which resulted in Anglo-Saxon, Danish, and ultimately Norman regimes produced great changes in the political landscape, and these changes are themselves clearly reflected in the book production of the period. Furthermore, most Old English texts, both literary and historical, survive in manuscripts from the eleventh century. Although these manuscripts have often been studied in isolation, no serious attempt has been made to write an account of their development as a corpus. This is partly due to the relatively large number of manuscripts in question, and to the seemingly disparate nature of their scripts and constructions, but recent advances in computer technology have now made such a study much easier than it would once have been. I seek to build an extensive database of manuscripts containing vernacular scripts from the eleventh century, and then to employ both computer-based and traditional methods to write an account of these scripts alongside the historical context of their production.

Financial Summary 2002

Income and Expenditure
1 January - 31 December

	2002 $	2001 $
Income:	**144,362**	**183,231**
Donations	64,430	78,283
Dividends - Long Term Investment Pool	83,280	91,107
Interest on Cash Balance	(4,978)	10,952
Exchange Gains	1,630	2,889
Expenditure:	**412,196**	**528,449**
Scholarship payments	384,021	514,110
Travel (including scholars)	10,009	8,746
Printing and publishing	3,207	1,998
Advertising	1,604	–
Sundry expenses	13,355	3,595
(Deficit)Transferred (from)Accumulated Funds	**(267,834)**	**(345,218)**

Statement of Assets and Liabilities
As at 31 December

	2002 $	2001 $
General Accumulated Funds:	**1,262,534**	**1,686,930**
Balance as at 1 January	1,545,162	1,890,380
Less (Deficit)for year	(267,834)	(345,218)
Add Asset Revaluation Reserve	(14,794)	141,768
	1,262,534	**1,686,930**
Total Funds represented by:		
Cash on hand	47,643	128,661
Investments at market value	1,214,891	1,558,269
	1,262,534	**1,686,930**

Notes:

1. Accumulated Funds include Reserved Investment Funds for:

	2002 $	2001 $
Kater Scholarship Fund	142,564	148,000
Downing Scholarship Fund	165,627	170,714
Poynton Scholarship Fund	522,012	743,852
Barbara Fulton Scholarship Fund	241,301	250,000
	1,071,504	**1,312,566**

2. Income and expenditure are recorded on a cash receipts and payments basis and do not include payments for 2002 scholars paid May 2003 of $A298,988 (Stg£116,867). A further payment is still to be made.
3. All investments are held as units in the ANU's Long Term Investment Pool Fund, a diversified fund allocated over fixed interest securities, Australian and overseas equities, and real estate. All investments and units in the Fund are valued at market prices as at 31st December.

Allan Barton
Treasurer

Australian Scholars 2002

Name	Subject	University
Poynton Cambridge Scholarships (4)		
Davis, Mr J A	Physics	MON
Goodwin, Mr A L	Chemistry	USYD
Lonie, Ms K C	History of Art	UMELB
Chambers, Ms K R	Pol Thought	USYD
CSIRO & Honorary Packer Scholarship (1)		
Hobbs, Mr R A	Mat Sci & Met	MON
Fulton Scholarship (1)		
Maxwell, Mr T B	Philosophy	UMELB
Special CAT Packer Scholarship (1)		
Klima, Mr O	Pure Maths	UNSW
Special CAT Scholarship (1)		
Peacock, Mr D H	Legal Studies	UQLD
Special CAT Fees Scholarship (1)		
Doherty, Miss M	Astronomy	USYD
Honorary CAT Scholarships (2)		
Betros, Ms G M	European Studs	UQLD
Nowacka, Miss K R	History	USYD
CCT & Corpus Christi & Honorary CAT Scholarship (1)		
Stokes, Mr P A	Anglo Saxon	UMELB
LMB Cambridge & Honorary CAT Scholarship (1)		
Kummerfeld, Ms S K	Mol Biology	USYD
UK Commonwealth (Cambridge) Scholarship (3)		
Lamb, Mr J M	English	ANU
Richards, Ms M	Soc & Pol Sci	UNSW
Sullivan, Mr S P	Chemical Eng	NEWCAS
Cambridge ORS Equivalent Bursary (1)		
Jones, Ms E	English	USYD
Computer Lab. Studentship & Hon. CAT Scholarship (1)		
Hunter, Mr P W	Computer Sci	UTAS
Cambridge Commonwealth Trust Bursary (1)		
McFarlane, Ms F E	English	USYD
Gates Scholars (4)*		
Coventry, Mr K D	Chemical Eng	UMELB
Gras, Ms S L	Physics	UMELB
Vickers, Ms J-A	History	UQLD
Wickramasinghe, Mr R D	Oncology	UMELB

*CAT collaborates closely with the Gates Foundation.