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Dear friends,

Happy New Year and welcome to the first Friends newsletter of 2011. In this issue you'll find the latest Commonwealth news and numerous opportunities for you and your peers to get involved in. There is a lot in store to keep you busy throughout 2011, ranging from competitions to fundraisers, lectures and forums.

We are continuously improving our services and increasingly sharing more useful information and resources through our 'Friends Zone.' I hope this year will allow our network to continue growing as we all contribute towards building a better Commonwealth.

News

**WOMEN
AGENTS OF
CHANGE**



This year's Commonwealth Theme is "Women as Agents of Change," which will be celebrated throughout the year around the 54-nation Commonwealth.

[Find out more...](#)

£ 2000 for scholarships

In October 2010, Friends and Young Diplomats in London (YDL) organised a Masquerade ball which raised £2000 for the Commonwealth Countries League Education Fund.

Funds will support bright young girls to complete their secondary education.

Learn more about our [fundraisers](#) and [projects](#).

We're on

facebook

Become a 'fan' and join our online facebook community.

This is an opportunity to:

- connect with fellow Commonwealth friends
- propose and discuss potential projects
- get the latest Commonwealth news and events
- see photos from projects and fundraisers

[Find out more...](#)

New Chapters, Australia and Cameroon

Friends of the Commonwealth has a new chapters in Australia and Cameroon.

Find out more about [Friends chapters](#).



The Young Commonwealth Competitions are open to anybody under the age of 30 living in the Commonwealth.

Categories include writing, film and photography.

For a list of competitions in the Commonwealth, [click here](#).

Eminent Persons Group (EPG) statement

"An association of 2.4 billion people will have a powerful impact" [Read the statement](#).

The EPG was established by Commonwealth Heads of Government at their summit in November 2009. It has been tasked with developing options for reform to sharpen the impact, strengthen the networks and raise the profile of the Commonwealth.

Events



The annual Commonwealth Lecture will take place on 17 March 2011.

This keynote address by an internationally renowned public figure is designed to stimulate intellectual debate about the 54-member association and its role in world affairs.

For more information on the lecture, [click here](#).

Commonwealth Day Luncheon, Australia

The Commonwealth Day Council of NSW will be holding their annual Commonwealth Day Luncheon to celebrate Commonwealth Day – all are welcome to attend.

Special guest speaker: Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir AC, CVO, Governor of NSW.

[More details...](#)



The Tom Harvey Award recognises the outstanding contribution of a young Australian between the age of 15 and 30 to citizenship.

The Award comprises a cash prize of \$2,000, and is presented at the annual Commonwealth Day Luncheon.

[More details...](#)

Get the latest on

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FRIENDS
of the Commonwealth

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