Dear Lyceum Members,

Summers are often the best time for vacations; I hope that you have all had as wonderful a time as I have. I also hope that you down under in New Zealand and Australia are happy with your winter and are now looking forward to spring and summer.

My memories from May this year are very clear and distinct – I mean the wonderful Congress in Amsterdam in the Netherlands. I am sorry for those of you who were unable to come and happy for all of us who attended! We had a marvellous time and learned so much about this lovely country. Everything was thought of and so well performed. You all deserve to be very proud of yourselves – it was all perfect. And pictures are welcome!

We are looking forward to visiting Paris for the Cultural Days on 17, 18 and 19 May next year. The very interesting program will soon appear on the website. For all Federation Presidents the BCI meeting will take place in Troyes (around 1 hour 30 minutes from Paris) before the Cultural Days. I hope that on this occasion there will be a meeting of the full international committee, i.e. the International Secretariat including the International President, the two Vice-Presidents, the International Treasurer, the International Secretary, the Editor of the Bulletin and the Archivist, and ALL the 17 Federation Presidents from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.

Some countries may well have a new President, in which case I should very much like you to contact me to discuss the international side of being a Federation President. At the BCI meetings we discuss many different items which concern all the clubs. The minutes appear on the website together with all the reports from the Presidents, the Editor and the Archivist which you can then consult and keep up to date.
At the General Assembly Mrs. Muriel Hannart, President of the French Federation, was elected Vice-President of the Northern Hemisphere – many congratulations! And we also have the pleasure of welcoming the new Treasurer, Mrs. Lena Roedenback, and the new Archivist, Mrs. Esther Seifert from Zurich in Switzerland. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Christine Oprecht, our faithful Archivist for many years.

In 2018 the Cultural Days will take place in Oulu in Finland. We are all eager to hear about the planned program.

Many of you have now written about some special events in your clubs, and we are very happy that you are contributing and letting us all read about them. Please let as many members as possible read the Bulletin by sending paper copies to those members who have no access to the internet.

Ingrid von Rosen
International President

CULTURAL DAYS 2017

The 2017 Cultural Days will take place in Paris on May 17, 18 and 19 2017. The programme will be available on: www.lelyceum-paris.fr from October 15th onward and later on the international site. The registration deadline is January 15th 2017.

TRIP TO WEST WYCOMBE

The restoration of Constance Smedley's grave has now been completed and we propose to organize a commemorative ceremony to pay tribute to Constance. A trip to West Wycombe will take place on May 20 and 21 following the Cultural Days. The programme is attached to that of the Cultural Days.
The Archives of the International Association of Lyceum Clubs

According to Article 3 of the Statutes of the International Association of Lyceum Clubs (IALC) the archives are kept together with the documents of the International Lyceum Club of Switzerland at the Seat of the IALC in Zurich/Switzerland. Documents from 1903 – 1980 are in the Archives of the Town of Zurich, the documents from 1981 till the present days are on the premises of the Lyceum Club Zurich.

Mrs Cristina Oprecht, member of the International Lyceum Club Zurich, has been the Lyceum Club’s archivist for nine years beginning with the Congress 2007 in Lyon/France till this year’s Congress in Amsterdam/The Netherlands. She fulfilled her job with great pleasure and interest and it was on her initiative that the oldest documents could be transferred to the Archives of the Town of Zurich where they are safely stored in air-conditioned rooms. The documents can be consulted there during the opening hours of the Archives.

Since July 1st, 2016, her successor Mrs Esther Seifert, also a member of the Zurich Lyceum Club, is now in charge.

The job as archivist is a varied one. The archivist gets all the necessary papers (agendas, minutes, member lists, bulletins, etc.) from the Clubs. She gives information and assistance to those who are doing research work on the Lyceum Club. Moreover all publications of and about the Lyceum Clubs are collected. The archivist is a member of the Bureau Central International (BCI) and is present at the International Congress.

Mrs Cristina Oprecht wishes her successor all the best in her new function.

Cristina Oprecht-Mosca

Esther Seifert-Iseli
Similar to many other Clubs, **Lyceum Club Adelaide** is experiencing a static or declining membership as older members resign or die, but actions are well advanced for 2017 to attract prospective members. The highlight of recent months was the Club’s Birthday Luncheon in July when members welcomed our Patron Mrs Lan Le, wife of the Governor of South Australia, and toasted Lyceum Clubs around the world.

At present, only two Australian Clubs, Adelaide and Brisbane, have patrons: both wives of the states’ vice-regal governors.

**Lyceum Club Brisbane** Inc.'s most recently formed Circle, "Walking into History", is proving popular both as a Walking Group and a History Interest. Operating only in cooler winter months, volunteer members plan a walk including points of historical interest. This is another "having fun while learning" activity.

The 2015 overnight Trip to the Lockyer Valley and Toowoomba, part of the AALC Conference, was such a success that, by popular demand, it was held again this September. Everyone enjoyed visiting the prize-winning gardens of Toowoomba’s Carnival of Flowers without the crowds, as well as lavender scones at a member’s lavender farm and visits to several local museums. Members were delighted that Lyceum members from New Zealand and Adelaide were able to join Club members as well as members of 5W (Women Welcome Women World Wide). As a significant number of members belong to Lyceum and 5W, it was an excellent way to reunite the two Clubs.

The **Lyceum Club Melbourne** is situated on its own land in the central business district. It has reached the Club’s membership limit of 1300 Ordinary members and has a waiting list. The Club’s Strategic Plan (2013-2018) outlines strategic initiatives in six key areas: membership, environment, facilities, programme activities, social responsibility and finance. There are exciting building plans to improve facilities. As the 60 year old building, designed by a late Club member, is unable to cater for over 40 circles and many Club events, plans are in place for a new lift and extensive refurbishment. As stages 1 and 2 of the plan will commence after Christmas, the Club will be closed until April or May.

The Executive of the **Karrakatta Club (Perth)** has devoted much of the past six months to developing a vision for the future of the Club. Three workshops were held, including one for the Staff, to bring to light the concerns, hopes and desires of the Members and a strategic planning report has been formulated which lays down the recommendations to achieve the best outcome for the Club. A major task is to revise the Constitution to align it with a new State law which came into effect in July 2016, and at the same time we will bring the document up to date with modern technology. The AALC President Mrs Marion Jones, is visiting Perth during the annual Presidents of Women’s Clubs Conference and has agreed to be a keynote speaker on the subject of the application of technology for Clubs like ours. This will be of great interest and assistance not only to the Karrakatta Club, but to all attendees.

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**Pictured at the Presidents of Women’s Clubs Conference in Perth, L to R Back:** Jenny Milne President Lyceum Club Melbourne, Marion Jones AALC President
The Sydney Lyceum Club has recently organised two excursions: the first to Australia’s First Gehry Building designed by the world famous architect Frank Gehry, with its beautifully crafted and stunningly used polished stainless steel, effective use of glass and timber and its gravity-defying brick construction. The second excursion was a visit to the annual Archibald Portrait Exhibition at the New South Wales Art Gallery. Each year a prize is awarded by the trustees of the gallery to any artist resident in Australia for the best portrait of some man or woman distinguished in art, letters, science or politics. This year the winning portrait was of entertainer, and satirist Barry Humphries by artist Louise Hearman. In keeping with the spirit of Lyceum of encouraging the arts, sciences, public life and scholarship, The Sydney Lyceum Club being beneficiaries of the royalties of the published works of Dame Mary Gilmore, a former member of our Club and a prominent socialist poet and journalist who died in 1962, the Club is able to make a number of awards to promising students. Currently our awards are allocated to two engineering students, two music students, a journalism student and a trainee teacher.

As my term as the President of the Australian Association of Lyceum Clubs Incorporated ended 31 December this year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their friendship and support and to wish members everywhere a happy and productive Lyceum membership.

Marion Jones
AALC President

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The following is a special tribute to the founding President of the Famagusta Lyceum Club, Maria Ioannou, and members of the Board.

Our Lyceum Club was registered in 1931 – the first women's club registered and the second club registered in Cyprus. The Club's aim was to encourage women towards education, social, humanitarian and cultural activities. Between 1931 and 1974 many goals were achieved, and the Club continues to this day to operate the Children's Resort.

In 1974 everything came to a standstill. Turkish troops invaded and occupied nearly half of the island, including the town of Famagusta. Lyceum members scattered in the southern part of Cyprus, becoming refugees in their own homeland, as they still are today. Our cruel displacement did not stop us from trying to locate the members of our Lyceum Club and to operate in Limassol. Furthermore, we succeeded in establishing another three Lyceum Clubs – in Nicosia, Larnaca and Paralimni – and we became the Federation of Lyceum Clubs in Cyprus. During this time we hosted the International Lyceum Congress in Cyprus, when we had the pleasure of meeting and working with international Lyceum members from so many countries.

We are continuing our efforts to improve our activities with a view to encouraging young members to enrol. In this regard

1. We have put into operation a music and dancing class with an experienced teacher who will organize dancing and choir groups.
2. A first aid training class will soon be started up.
3. A Lyceum library will soon be operating.
4. The Children's Resort this year hosted 50 autistic children, 60 children suffering from cancer and children from Jerusalem.

In our struggle to cover the costs incurred in the building, maintenance and other expenses;

1. The Resort will be offered for various functions during winter months.
2. A “dinner event” will take place for members and friends.
The International Lyceum Club of Paris is happy to announce that it has celebrated its 110th anniversary. 110 years ago, a year after Berlin, Constance Smedley visited Paris to launch an experience, the extent of whose development she probably did not anticipate. From the beginning, Lyceum was received enthusiastically in Paris, thanks to its essential aim of expanding the role of women in the world of culture. Its first official president, the Duchess of Uzes, and its successive presidents were single minded in their generous commitment to dedicating themselves to preserving and transmitting our values.

We celebrated this anniversary with more than a hundred of our friends at the International University of the City of Paris with an excellent lunch and visits to various places. We were honoured to welcome Mrs. Ingrid von Rosen, AILC President, and the Presidents of the Swiss and German Federations, as well as the Presidents of the Berlin, Brussels and Basel Clubs. To commemorate this special occasion, we commissioned an author, Mrs. Jaunez, to write a biography (in French) of the long history of our Club. If anyone is interested in obtaining a copy, please contact us to request it.

Our Club now has 145 members, and we are happy to average ten new members each year. We share cultural activities, visits to exhibitions and places of interest, talks and friendly moments through the twelve cultural circles covering music, reading, conversation in English, philosophical debates and playing cards which strengthen our bonds.

This year we initiated a forty page summary of “Crusaders”, reminders of Constance Smedley, covering the basis and values of our Lyceum Club, as clearly defined by our founder. It will be translated into our three languages in 2017 but is already available in English. A major item for our records as well as the “Crusaders” itself.

In May 2017 Paris will be honoured to host the Cultural Days, and we shall be very happy to welcome all of you, dear Lyceum friends, from all over the world. See you soon!
It is August and, as happens every year, the members of the International Lyceum Club of Konstanz are enjoying their summer vacation. Our town is full of tourists from all over the world. Konstanz is a shopping mecca for our Swiss neighbours and additionally, since 2014, it continues to celebrate the 600th anniversary jubilee of the Council of Konstanz in 1415-1418.

Our club was founded in 1949 and we now have 59 members. Nearly every week on Thursdays our members have the opportunity of hearing presentations in our club restaurant, attending excursions to our Swiss or Austrian neighbouring countries or visiting exhibitions and museums. In 2016 we met members of the Karlsruhe Lyceum Club, enjoyed lunch together and later visited the local country museum.

In June we welcomed a group of members from the Lyceum Club of Munich and together we had a boat tour to the island of Reichenau, a UNESCO World Heritage site. We enjoyed very interesting discussions during our meeting and had a great deal of fun becoming acquainted with these charming ladies. At our yearly summer meeting we enjoyed wonderful weather with many of our members when the atmosphere was relaxed and very pleasant.

At the moment we are busy preparing for a three day visit in September from members of the Lyceum Club of Hamburg. We know club members well from previous friendship meetings in Hamburg and Konstanz. We plan to visit the museum of Napoleon in Arenenberg (CH). Here, Queen Hortense lived together with her son, Louis Napoleon, who later became Caesar Napoleon III. Both influenced the local countryside in a lasting way. At the request of the Hamburg members, we also plan to visit the Droste-Hulshoff Museum in Meersburg.

We are looking forward with a great deal of pleasure to the Cultural Days to be organized by the Paris Lyceum Club in 2017 and to many interesting meetings.

Ute Städele
Présidente
The Amsterdam Lyceum Club is gratified to be able to look back on a successful Congress entitled “Meet the Dutch: below, at and above Sea Level” held in Amsterdam on 9th and 10th May 2016. From different perspectives, technical, historical and architectural, various speakers discussed in differing ways how water dominates the Netherlands and defines our culture.

The pre-Congress tour started off in wonderful weather conditions in Rotterdam, Europe's largest port. We then visited the Maeslantkering, a flood barrier designed to prevent the country from being flooded for at least the next 150 years. After all, some 12 million Dutch people live below sea level. In The Hague we saw works by Rembrandt and Vermeer in Het Mauritshuis and, after lunch and a paddle in the surf, two more museums were visited. On the third day the coach took us to the Keukenhof with its unparalleled display of spring flowers.

For the post-Congress tour the Groningen Club took our guests across the Enclosing Dyke, an incredible feat of civil engineering which has protected the hinterland from flooding over the past 80 years. There was a walk through the city of Groningen, a tour of an old church and a manor which derived its wealth from the sale of peat, a trip to a 16th century fort, and a visit to a clog museum. The famous Groningen Museum completed the northern part of the tour.

We then travelled south and east where the Nijmegen Club took over. We visited the Royal Palace Het Loo and the folkloristic Open Air Museum. In Nijmegen a pancake boat took us through a water development project and a coach drove us through beautiful natural surroundings. The tour ended with an excellent dinner in Castle Heyendael, attended by enthusiastic Nijmegen Club members.

Many international contacts were made, many experiences exchanged and hopes for more frequent future meetings were expressed. Boundaries and differences of culture faded away and warm cordiality joined us together as a family, because that is what the Lyceum Club is, one large family!

Hanneke Hoek
President Amsterdam
Since returning to very damp and chilly weather after our wonderful visit to the Netherlands, it has been my great privilege and pleasure to be invited to share my experiences with other New Zealand Clubs. It is always a delight to enjoy a meal together and to talk about mutual interests, but what a bonus when there is an “occasion” to be celebrated. Such was the case recently – Waikato Club's 90th birthday! After a delicious luncheon, Waikato's most senior member, 93 year old Gwen Parkinson, cut the beautifully decorated birthday cake resplendent with the Lyceum logo on top.

Waikato is not New Zealand's oldest Lyceum Club, however. The Auckland Club, the foundation stone for Lyceum in New Zealand, celebrated its 96th birthday in May this year.

A week prior to Waikato's birthday, I was among several invited guests at the Te Kuiti Club's 72nd birthday. As with international congresses and conferences, interaction between clubs on the local scene has so many benefits to members, not simply “comparing notes” but getting to know our sister members on a personal level.

This week, the Te Kuiti Club hosted NZ Federation of Lyceum Clubs' annual Choir Festival. This event was hugely successful and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. The choice of music was varied and the choirs had put in many hours of work rehearsing their items. Each choir performed its own individual selection of songs and then united for the massed choir presentation. Since the choirs do not meet prior to the festival, all credit is due to the singers and their conductors that the finale was so beautifully executed.

June Welten
Federation President

Russia

We are very pleased to send you our short contribution from MOSCOW for the Bulletin.

It was impossible for us not to visit the Tretyakov Gallery when it was showing an exhibition of the great J. Ayvazovsky.

We studied about 400 photographs of Iceland from our great friend Photomaster.

We helped children to start their new year at school – its great Fest.

We collaborated with our German friends in the preparations for the Christmas holiday and the New Year in 2017.
We took part in discussions about the education of foreign languages in our schools and high schools.

We listened to a concert of guitar music in Musey Vadim Sidur – a great modern sculptor.

We shall be visiting new spectacular programmes in the Bolshoi and Stanislavsky Theatres in October and November.

We are planning a visit to St Petersburg in December to visit museums.

WE INVITE EVERYBODY!!!
We should like to highlight two diverse aspects of the Lyceum Club of Neuchatel:

Firstly, since 2013 the club has held a series of monthly talks entitled “Daring Women” when individual members gave a presentation of the life of an outstanding woman who distinguished herself, often daring to go against the norms of her time. From Penelope …. no, she was certainly not an ordinary weaver but indeed used audacious tricks to keep her power-hungry suitors at bay! ….to Bertha von Suttner, the “Peace Amazon” whose relentless struggle inspired Alfred Nobel to create the peace prize, which she herself received in 1905.

Secondly, our club actively pursues and maintains close connections with other clubs. We enjoyed excursions with members of our twin club, the Lucerne Lyceum Club, and the Saint Gallen Lyceum Club in 2013 and 2014. We were treated to a marvellous welcome when we celebrated the twentieth anniversary of our twinning with the Bordeaux Lyceum Club in September 2013. We accompanied the La Chaux-de-Fonds Lyceum Club on a delightful trip to visit Normandy and the Caen Lyceum Club in October 2013. When our fellow members from Bordeaux came to Switzerland in 2015, the La Chaux-de-Fonds Club gave an enjoyable reception party, enabling members from all three clubs to mingle. We are looking forward to meeting members of the Hamburg Lyceum Club in September 2016 when we visit this charming German city.

In collaboration with the Centro Culturale Italiano, we are organizing a contest dedicated to the memory of Geraldine Loosli, the sorely-missed former president of both clubs; we have established contact with the Florence Lyceum Club where the prizewinner will be welcome.

Rita Bichsel

Last session at one of our lunch meetings our speaker was an administrator of one of the main city theatres, and she offered to arrange a personal tour behind the scenes for our members, which proved to be most interesting. As with most theatres, there have been many changes since the days of musicals, vaudeville, acrobats and illusionists. One such illusionist was the German “La Fayette”, the highest paid entertainer in Britain in the early nineteen hundreds. While appearing at the theatre, La Fayette's beloved little dog died and he had the animal embalmed and buried, with permission, in the grave he had reserved for himself in an Edinburgh cemetery. Later one evening a tragedy occurred at the theatre during a complicated trick sequence by the illusionist when scenery
was set alight after a gas lamp was overturned. Eleven people died in the ensuing fire, one of whom was La Fayette. Consequently, the dog's grave was opened up and the ashes of the illusionist were duly placed there alongside his beloved friend. Life is stranger than fiction!

Another of our recent outings was to the National Library of Scotland here in Edinburgh to visit an exhibition entitled “Plague” which had been the responsibility of Anette Hagan, a curator on the library staff to whom we have been indebted for many years for her translations into German of our contributions to the Bulletin. Those of us who visited the exhibition were impressed with the extensive information which she had collated over several years from contemporary official and personal papers covering the last 700 years. The exhibits demonstrated how cramped housing conditions, the lifestyles of the inhabitants and lack of effective medicines spread contagious diseases and ravaged the population. Despite the disturbing and amazing insight we received into these dreadful periods of our history, it was nevertheless an educational and enjoyable afternoon!

In April members of the Philadelphia Lyceum Club took a boat trip from Penn's Landing south on the Delaware River passing the as yet to be salvaged ocean liner formerly run by Norway.

Then in May six people, three of whom are club members, travelled to the Netherlands. All visited Rotterdam and Kinderdyk where we had our picture taken to commemorate the experience. We continued to Amsterdam and then on to Groningen. All had a wonderful time. We returned to Philadelphia after two weeks with the especially friendly hosts for the entire journey.

Our club continues to struggle to add new members. However, we may have two women from the President's residence at a retirement community called Tel Hai or Life on the Hill. We are making a special effort to attract new members by distributing flyers to different locations such as churches, hairdressing salons, libraries and other locations in the region outside Philadelphia.

Plans are being made to travel to Doylestown, Pennsylvania, in October to visit either the Pearl Buck Museum and/or the Mercer Museum or the Michener Museum. Our AGM is planned for 13 November 2016.