

## MR TONY EGGLETON

(1932-2023)



**Mr Tony Eggleton** was Director of Information, Commonwealth Secretariat, from 1971-74. He was a journalist and served as Press Secretary to several Liberal Australian Prime Ministers, and later became the Federal Director of the Liberal Party of Australia and CEO of Care International. He remained a strong supporter of Commonwealth.

- *We will miss Tony and his support here particularly for many years Chairman of the Commonwealth Day Celebration Committee organising in particular our multi-faith observance mirroring Westminster Abbey. His wisdom and kindness will be much missed. **Mathew Neuhaus***
- *Very sad news. **Hugh Craft***

### A VERY PROPER MAN



THE LIFE OF TONY EGGLETON

TOM FRAME

- *Tony was a class act. Wherever he was.* **Don McKinnon** (Sir Don McKinnon, Commonwealth Secretary-General, 2000-2008)
- *Having served with Tony Eggleton in his years at Marlborough House, I remember him as a meticulous and effective Director of Information whose services the then S/G Arnold Smith was sorry to lose.* **Emeka Anyaoku** (Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Commonwealth Secretary-General, 1990-2000)
- *I am sorry to hear this - it was a privilege to meet him & get his contribution to the oral history project.* **Sue Onslow** (former Director, Institute of Commonwealth Studies)

**Links to selected articles/obituaries:**

**Tony Eggleton: Reflections.**

[One-man intelligence network For a remarkable quarter-century, Tony Eggleton was the power behind the Liberal throne](#)

[Eggleton's appointment to the Secretariat](#)

**TUNKU ABDUL AZIZ**  
**(1934-2023)**



**Tunku Abdul Aziz** was the Director of Administration at ComSec from about 1985-1992. He was a Malaysian corporate figure, activist and politician who went on to hold numerous high profile positions in the global anti-corruption movement. He also served as vice-chairman of the board of directors of Transparency International.

- *Just been informed of the death of Tunku Abdul Aziz who was the Administration Director at ComSec from about 1985-1992. He was 89. He went on to lead Transparency International when he left the Secretariat. **Cheryl Dorall***
- *It's sad to learn about Tunku Aziz's passing. He was the director of the Admin Division when I served as the director of the Women and development Programme at Comsec. He was a good friend. Unfortunately, we did not see each other when both of us returned home to Malaysia. I remember him as a kind and helpful person. May his soul rest in peace. **Noor Farida Ariffin***
- *Like Farida, I was sad to hear about Tunu Aziz'd death and I, too, remember 'the Tunku' as kind and helpful (with a twinkle in his eye) - but also softly spoken and a man of relatively few words. This I put down to princely reserve, though his subsequent career internationally and in Malaysian politics showed a very different side to his character and attributes. His move from the Secretariat to Transparency International and his commitment to fighting corruption revealed his inner steel. His achievements included not only setting up the Malaysian Chapter of TI but also becoming Kofi Annan's ethics adviser and establishing the UN Ethics Office. Once back home in Malaysia and involved in the Democratic Action Party (and in the Senate), his voice and his commitment to principle seemed to have grown ever stronger. That tenacity of purpose doesn't seem to have included the Commonwealth, if his scathing (if exhilarating) 'New Straits Times' article, of 2007, is anything to go by. And yet his issues were, are and should be the Commonwealth's too and, I for one, salute someone who only latterly emerged a champion and who in the process achieved a great deal. **Stuart Mole***
- *It is indeed very sad to learn of the passing of The TUNKU. I had worked closely with him during his term. In the Secretariat. He was very generous and good natured and also very easy to work with. I cannot add more than to endorse what Stuart and my other former colleagues have said. May he rest in peace. **Rickie Sankar***
- *I was very sorry to read of Tunku Abdul Aziz's passing away. I remember him as a kind and helpful person with time for any one who wanted advice or attention. May he rest in peace. **Raja Gomez***
- *Like others from the period of Tunkul Aziz's Directorship at Comsec who have written tributes to him, my memories are of a very gentlemanly and approachable Director of Administration, seemingly somewhat quiet and retiring in manner. His later stellar career as described by Stuart was totally unknown to me until now and makes one all the more regretful that one did not know him better and appreciate many of his unsung qualities at the time we were colleagues. I am sorry to hear of*

*his passing, coming at the end of a long, full and productive life. I wonder if Stuart can share the 2007 New Straits Times article with anyone interested (of whom I am one!)* **Peter Williams**

**Selected links:**

[TI-M co-founder Tunku Abdul Aziz dies at 89](#)

[Former DAP vice chairman Tunku Aziz dies | New Straits Times](#)

By 2007 Tunku was pretty critical of the Commonwealth. He wrote an article in the New Straits Times, saying “Now, however, is perhaps an opportune time to reassess our Commonwealth membership. It is nothing more than a little British nostalgic hangover from an overdose of the great delusion of the "Empire on which the sun never sets" and of such other sentimental nonsense immortalised in "Rule Britannia, Britannia Rules the Waves". The full article is available through this link:

[Tunku Abdul Aziz: Commonwealth riding into the sunset?.](#)

**SIR PETER MARSHALL CMG, KCMG, CVO**

(1924-2023)



**Sir Peter Marshall**, former Deputy Secretary-General (Economic) of the Commonwealth (1983-88) has chaired its inaugural session. Sir Peter also served as Chairman of the Commonwealth Trust and the R

The following tributes by four former Commonwealth Secretaries-General, as well as the Association's alumni convey the remarkable life and achievements of Sir Peter.

- *Very sorry to hear the news of Sir Peter Marshall's passing. Our deepest condolences to his family. **Max Gaylard and Madhuri Bose***
- *I am deeply saddened to hear this. A great and gracious man, and treasured friend. **Sue Onslow** (Former Director, Institute of Commonwealth Studies)*
- *So very sorry to hear this news. My sincere sympathy to Sir Peter's family and to all of us who had the good fortune to know him. **Gail Larose***
- *So saddened to hear of the death of Sir Peter Marshall, a voice of wisdom, principle and kindness in our Commonwealth over many years. I will miss his insightful and inspirational commentary on the issues of the day. What a wonderful way to go though at his age for a man who lived his cricket almost as much as the Commonwealth. Vale Sir Peter. Your example will continue to inspire us. **Matthew Neuhaus***
- *How sad to learn that our indefatigable Champion and mentor is no longer with us. His experience was seemingly unparalleled and apart from the constant stream of thoughtful essays that flowed from his pen it was invaluable to have an influential friend who commanded respect and affection at the British FCO.*

*How apt that he was watching cricket at the end. Cricket is a major ingredient of the cement that binds us all together as I was reminded when another Peter, Peter Brook (Lord Brooke) died the other day. It fell to that other Peter, as junior education Minister at the time (though he later became NI Secretary and Home Secretary) to carry the can at the 9CCEM in Cyprus in 1984 for Margaret Thatcher's full cost fees for Commonwealth students policy. Only a witty string of cricketing metaphors about going into bat on a sticky wicket enabled him by creating gales of laughter to partially appease, and win the warm friendship of, his disgruntled colleagues an episode Peter Brooke frequently recalled with pleasure in House of Lords debates on the Commonwealth.*

*Peter Marshall himself certainly played a long and invaluable innings for the Commonwealth both as DSG in charge of economic affairs, and as our CW Association President and I know we are all conscious of the huge debt of gratitude we owe him - which others will be able to voice more authoritatively than I. **Peter Williams***

*While we knew that Peter's health had become very fragile, this is immensely sad news. What an amazing person Peter was - an archetypal British diplomat, silver-haired and silver-tongued, but one who, once recruited by Sonny Ramphal into the*



*Commonwealth, became one of the association's stoutest and most enduring advocates. His prodigious output of articles and the stream of letters he despatched to those in positions of power, badgering them to take up some fresh initiative, was unequalled and awesome. Less than two months ago, he was worried that a Round Table article he had written on the Coronation might not be published before the event and a string of his supporters and admirers made sure that he was not disappointed.*

*He was also kind and considerate, generous and hospitable, with an irrepressible sense of humour. Inevitably, his life was touched by sadness and loss yet he retained his huge sense of optimism and positivity. How fitting, too, that he should have left us while watching his beloved cricket.*

*Our thoughts are with his children and his family and with so many who will miss him very much. **Stuart Mole** (Chair, The Commonwealth Association)*

- *I read about the passing of Sir Peter with great sadness and echo what Stuart has said about him. He was kind hearted and always interested in what was happening around the Commonwealth. His missives were always fascinating to read and he will be very much missed by all of us who knew and appreciated his sense of timing and of humour as well.*

*It would be helpful to know when the funeral is as many of us would like to attend to pay our respects, I am sure. My condolences to his family. **Karen Brewer***

- *What sad news indeed; but how blessed that Peter did not suffer. Through all our years together, I could not have wished for a more loyal Deputy or for the Commonwealth a more devoted officer – and he continued to serve the Commonwealth beyond Marlborough House. Stuart Mole has uttered my sentiments of eulogy exactly and I proclaim them in full measure. The Commonwealth was fortunate to have had Peter Marshall's service when it did. The qualities of the British Foreign Service whence he came illumined his Secretariat work, and all his many Commonwealth roles beyond it. His loyalty to the concept of 'Commonwealth' was fulsome and his service to it immeasurably distinguished.*

*I shared in the joys and sorrows of Peter's life; and my thoughts now are with his family in this sad moment – but thought too of the glorious life he lived. **Sonny Ramphal***

*(Sir Shridath Ramphal, Commonwealth Secretary-General, 1975-1990)*

- *Well to hear that made me very sad. I had lunch with him a year ago and his humour was as sharp as ever. There wasn't a day that he did not extoll the benefits of the Commonwealth to whoever was within his hearing, and, with that great sense of humour.*

*The memories he left with many are very strong. He will not be forgotten very easily. My condolences to all his family and friends. With kindest regards, **Don McKinnon** (Sir Don McKinnon, Commonwealth Secretary-General, 2000-2008)*

- *This is really sad news. Sir Peter was among many other things a great supporter of the efforts of our Association. We must be grateful for all he did for so many during his life and be thankful that he died peacefully in the manner he would have wished, watching the game he loved. May he rest in peace. **Raja Gomez***
- *Let us give thanks for a long and distinguished life of love and faithful service. May our brother Peter rest in peace and rise in glory. Peace and good wishes. **Guy Hewitt***
- *Very sad news indeed. He will be greatly missed. We all lost a true friend and a well-wisher. **Mohan Kaul***
- *I concur with all that has been said about Sir Peter. A great loss and an 'amen' to Guy. **Sandra Pepera***
- *It is with the greatest sadness that I read of the passing of Sir Peter Marshall. But what a great age and what a way to go - quickly, peacefully and watching the game he loved.*

*Those of us in the Economic Affairs Division who worked closely with Sir Peter during his time as DSG (Econ) know just how dedicated and inspiring he was, and what a close interest he took in all our work. That was especially true of our tasks in preparing for the annual meetings of Finance Ministers, as well as of other ministerial gatherings such as those dealing with trade, or employment/labour, or the various groups of experts assembled to discuss and report to Commonwealth governments on the major economic issues of the day. His value to our work was beyond measure.*

*It was a great privilege to have known Sir Peter and I pass on to this family my deepest sympathy on their irreplaceable loss. **Ian Thomas***

- *Thank you for informing us all. Sir Peter contributed to the modern Commonwealth in many fields, continuing after his service in the Secretariat, and is genuinely irreplaceable. We all mourn him now. **Richard Bourne***
- *I am most sad to hear this. What a gentleman and formidable mind. My deep condolences to Sir Peter's family. **Domini Bingham***
- *So sad to hear of the passing of Sir Peter. RIP Sir Peter!! **William Rezel***
- *It was with the greatest sadness that I learnt that the days of Sir Peter Marshall had drawn to a close, but perhaps as he would have liked, quietly, and watching and appreciating good cricket. Many had been quite anticipating his own century and how it would be lustily applauded.*

*I can recall no greater believer in the Commonwealth and passionate cheer leader for it from my days in the Secretariat. I will ever have his intensively attentive, beaming and encouraging face from the audience, when I frequently caught sight of it when lauding and encouraging the role of the Commonwealth from a podium, imprinted in my mind.*

*He was always enthusiastic and greatly encouraging of any service we were trying to render to the Commonwealth. I recall particularly his citing with pleasure a comment that the Commonwealth was born in the twentieth century but was designed for the twenty first.*

*Only a few days before his passing I had shared with him some thoughts on how, in changing times, the voice of the Commonwealth could be lifted in the years to come, and its contribution as a great global good. I like to think that, in his last days, he would have happily greeted the intent behind them and heartily endorsed the belief in the Commonwealth they represented.*

*It was an immense privilege to have known Peter well and to have shared so many moments, discussions and conversations with him. These and the beauty of his personality will be treasured by me till my own call comes. **Kamalesh Sharma** (Commonwealth Secretary-General, 2008-2016)*

- *It was perhaps appropriate that the Almighty declared Sir Peter's innings closed while he was watching the game he loved: cricket. At 98, he had had a long and brilliant innings. May He now select him as captain of a Commonwealth XI in heaven. **Asif Khan***
- *Although I had been made aware of Peter's failing health, I nonetheless received the news of his death with great sadness.*

*Peter was a cerebral and amiable colleague at the Commonwealth Secretariat from 1983 to 1988 when we were both Sonny Ramphal's Deputy Secretaries-General, he in charge of economic affairs and I of political affairs and Administration. He had an unusual capacity for presenting complex economic issues in simple and elegant prose. And he demonstrated a remarkable transition from being a long-dedicated diplomat of one member country (UK) to an equally dedicated representative of the multinational Commonwealth.*

*Peter continued in many brilliant articles his advocacy of the Commonwealth's inherent value and services to its members and the wider global community long after leaving Marlborough House and until his dying days. A recent example of his activism in championing the Commonwealth was his fervent support for the joint demarche by the former Commonwealth Secretaries-General to the University of London authorities when the Institute of Commonwealth Studies was threatened with closure. He was an effective advocate at the lunch I hosted in honour of the Vice Chancellor to discuss the affairs of the Institute.*



*Many of Peter's writings on the Commonwealth, the United Nations and Cricket are a treasure. It is perhaps of some comfort that he passed away peacefully while watching a game of cricket, a sport he loved.*

*I join many Peter's friends and associates in praying that The Almighty will grant to his family the equanimity to bear the loss and that his soul will rest in perfect peace.*

**Emeka Anyaoku** (Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Commonwealth Secretary-General, 1990-2000)

- *Like everyone who knew Sir Peter or worked with him I can only echo the tremulous respect and esteem he was held in. I will remember him both for his intellect and his humour. Whenever I saw him, he reminded me - with a twinkle in his eye- of the meetings of employment/labour ministers during the ILO in Geneva which he helped to convene (which Ian Thomas alluded to) and the trade union delegations I used to muster on those occasions. Subsequently he became a great Commonwealth icon and we are much poorer without him and his incisive analyses and engaging wit.*

*Adele and I extend sincere condolences to his family and friends and we hope there will be a suitable Commonwealth occasion when we can all pay fond tribute to his memory.* **Carl Wright**

- *I join everyone who's written in, to express sadness and shock at the sudden and unexpected demise of Sir Peter Marshall. We'll all miss his great enthusiasm with, and regular correspondence to, the ComAssoc. May he rest in eternal peace. I send my condolences to his family.* **Evelyn Adlam**
- *It is with great sadness that I read of the passing of Sir Peter. It was a considerable privilege to have known him; he was always a delight to meet. He will be much missed. My deepest sympathy and condolences to his family.* **Rupert Jones Parry**
- *A privilege indeed to have known Sir Peter. I was constantly amazed at his energy, the breadth of his knowledge and interests, and his ability to put into delightful prose the thoughts that others were having but were unable to find the right words for. He will be greatly missed.* **Antony Ellman**
- *There is nothing I can add to the deluge of fitting tributes paid on this site to the late Sir Peter. He was, in so many ways, a truly remarkable man, one whose memory will always shine brightly in our hearts. I join others in mourning his loss -- and in celebrating a life lived to the fullest.* **Amitav Banerji**
- *Remembering Sir Peter at the launch of The Commonwealth Association on 8 June 2001.* **Madhuri Bose**
- *I had had the honour, privilege and pleasure of working with Sir Peter Marshall as his Senior Executive Secretary for the five years that he served as Deputy Secretary-General.*

*Sir Peter was a steadfast, loyal and tireless advocate of the Commonwealth. He was in great demand as a speaker and was a prolific writer on Commonwealth matters. He approached each task after careful consideration so that, by the time he came to put pen to paper, there was clarity and certainty about what he wanted to say and how he would to couch it. I learned so much from this great man. He was indeed a gentleman scholar of superior intellect with a generosity of spirit that was second to none. He felt tremendous empathy with those who were less fortunate and believed that, when all is said and done, the primary purpose of the Commonwealth Secretariat is to help those who are less fortunate in any and every way possible. He was kindhearted, generous and just an all-round decent person. I have never heard Sir Peter say an ill word about anyone. He always looked for the best in people and agonised about how to find the most fair and just solution to any problem. He had a wonderful sense of humour and was a great teller of stories and jokes.*

*We formed a lasting friendship. The fact that we lived within a stone's throw of each other made it easy to meet for lunch from time to time. He never failed to ask after my family and regaled me with colourful accounts of his grandchildren's activities. I shall miss him dearly, and it will be hard to fill the space that he used to occupy.*

*There is nothing more beautiful than a life well lived. Rest in Peace, Sir Peter. My deepest condolences to Guy, Fiona and other members of his family. **Lorna McLaren***

**Selected links:**

[Sir Peter Marshall \(1924-2023\)](#) Alex May

[Bidding farewell to a formidable Commonwealth champion](#) Stuart Mole

## **MS PAULINE THAHA**

(-2023)



**Ms Pauline Thaha** served in the Commonwealth Science Council from the 1970s onwards.

### **Selected links:**

- <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/events/smsj-mass-intention-pauline-thaha-rip/>

## **DR NEVILLE LINTON**

(1930-2023)



**Dr Neville Linton** served in the Political Affairs Division from 1983 to 1995.

- *I am deeply saddened by this news. Thank you for letting us know. Neville was a wonderful friend and colleague, who suffered greatly for many years because he lost his eyesight completely, but lived bravely through that adversity. May his soul rest in peace and may God give the family the strength to cope with the loss. If you have an email address for Lesley, please pass it on to me. Thanks. **Amitav Banerji***
- *This is sad news. Neville was always a great supporter of the rule of law in the Commonwealth. All the best. **Karen Brewer***
- *Allow me to echo Amitav's tribute which also reflects my own interactions with Neville - a gentle, thoughtful and highly professional colleague much liked by everyone. **Carl Wright***
- *I was greatly saddened to learn of Neville's passing and do want to send you and your family my deepest condolences. Neville was a colleague and friend of mine for many years in the Commonwealth Secretariat and after his retirement from Marlborough House. He was unquestionably committed to the principles of the Commonwealth including especially democracy and human rights and worked effectively in their promotion notwithstanding his unfortunate disability towards the end of his life. I pray that his soul will rest in peace and that God will grant you and the rest of your family the equanimity to bear the loss. **Emeka Anyaoku** (Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Commonwealth Secretary-General, 1990-2000)*
- *I had very high regard for Neville, who I knew both at the Commonwealth Secretariat and later through advisory work with Transparency International and Tourism Concern. I should like to attend the celebration of his life which Lesley Roberts is planning in October. Please keep me on the mailing list with detail of this event when they become available. **Antony Ellman***
- *Everyone involved with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative is saddened by news of Neville's death for, after he left the Secretariat, he played an active part in trying to promote human rights in the Commonwealth. This was after the Harare Declaration, when there were still military dictatorships and one party states in the membership, and a particularly hateful dictator, Sani Abacha, ruled Nigeria.*

*In 1995, a three person team from the CHRI spent a fortnight in Nigeria and produced a telling report, "Nigeria – Stolen by Generals" which was influential in the run up to the Auckland CHOGM. Following the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and other Ogoni leaders, Nigeria was suspended from the councils of the Commonwealth and the summit set up the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group. Both of these steps were important firsts for a voluntary body which had been more willing to talk about democracy and human rights than to discipline members which ignored them.*

*The CHRI team was led by Flora McDonald, former Foreign Minister of Canada, along with Enoch Dumbutshena, respected former Chief Justice of Zimbabwe, and*

Neville, who was secretary to the mission and drafted its report. A photo of caged children on the cover movingly illustrated the loss of rights for all Nigerians at that time.

Subsequently Neville led another CHRI group to Zambia, when concerns were widespread that democracy had not been consolidated after the end of Kaunda's one party rule. Although this work did not have the impact of his Nigerian report it may be significant to compare the continuance of democracy in Zambia today with its failures in neighbouring Zimbabwe. Neville was active as a member of the London board for many years, and continued to support CHRI after he lost his sight. All who knew him are sad he is no longer with us. **Richard Bourne**

- *Neville was a kind man and a great colleague . We were in touch even after he retired from the Secretariat . I endorse what everyone has said about him. I pray for all the strength to Lesley and the family to cope with the loss. Would like to attend the event. **Mohan Kaul***
- *I worked alongside Neville on a range of initiatives and missions while he was in the Secretariat. I admired his calm authority, his professionalism and the wider perspective on international affairs which he was always able to bring to our debates. This was underpinned by a deep commitment to fundamental political values, as evidenced by his later work on human rights and against corruption. In his retirement, with his sight failing, he was still keen to attend Commonwealth events wherever he could and when that became impossible he remained in touch from time to time, keeping up with Commonwealth developments. My condolences to Lesley and the family. In sorrow, **Stuart Mole** (Chair, The Commonwealth Association)*
- *I, too, would like to associate myself with all the tributes to Neville Linton. Neville was a respected colleague in PAD, and to me a great friend and mentor. One of my first tasks when I joined PAD was to prepare a brief on PNG during the Secretariat's involvement with the Bougainville peace negotiations - a subject on which I knew very little. Under Neville's guidance and with a vast amount of research, I was able to prepare an acceptable document. Several years later, a colleague who took over the Pacific desk in PAD told me that they had learned so much from that brief.*

*Neville's knowledge and interests outside the international affairs sphere were vast. From time to time we clashed over lunch at the ICA on subjects as wide ranging as the Arts, Caribbean music and culture, gardening and cricket. I usually came out the loser but learned so much. After he left the Secretariat, we continued to meet for lunch from time-to-time and I was always delighted to bump into him at Commonwealth events. After I moved to New York and in spite of failing sight, he would send me press clippings on topical events with his own incisive comments. I shall miss my dear friend. With deepest condolences to Lesley and the family.*

**Lorna McLaren**



**Selected links:**

[Interview with Neville Linton](#)

[Guardian obituary](#)

**DR VED GOEL**

**(-2023)**



*Dr Ved Goel second from left, served as Chief Programme Officer, Acting Deputy Director and Head, Education Section, Commonwealth Secretariat. He was responsible for STME in the Commonwealth and was Hon Secretary, CASTME (Commonwealth Association of Science, Technology and Mathematics Educators) in the 2000s.*

- *With profound sorrow I have to inform that my very, very dear friend and ex-Commonwealth colleague, Dr Ved Goel passed away yesterday morning. We became friends in our very first meeting in 1996 and remained so till his tragic demise. I can say he was my best friend in England. May he rest in eternal peace.*  
**Zahir Kaleem, Ex-Executive Director, CATA**
- *I am deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Ved. Ved was a courteous, fair minded and constructive colleague who through pure decency secured the best outcome for the Education department and what he believed in. His deep knowledge in the Education field and his thoughtful leadership encouraged innovation and contributed to an enhanced education Commonwealth programme. He was a fine example of a Commonwealth colleague who treated others with respect. In turn, we all held him in high regard and affection. He was, as the English say, a thoroughly decent person. You shall be missed!*  
**Roy Rodriguez**

- So very sorry to hear of Ved's passing. He was a specialist in higher education and had served in that capacity in the Commonwealth Secretariat. For a while he was also a committee member of the Commonwealth Association. May he rest in peace. Thank you Zahir for the information on tomorrow's funeral. **Cheryl Dorall**
- I was very sorry to hear of Ved's demise. I got to know him best as we worked together on the ComAssoc Committee and on our walks to the station after meetings when we sorted out a lot of the world's problems in quite entertaining discussions (at least I found them entertaining). He was a very well-informed person and I learned much from him. May he rest in peace. **Raja Gomez**
- Sorry to hear about Veds passing. Remember him as a pleasant and able colleague, who was proud of his indian heritage and challenges that commonwealth threw at him in the field of education. My heartfelt condolences to his family. **Rumman Faruqi**
- I knew Ved Goel and some of his personal traits. I also met his daughter & her husband. As stated by others Ved was proud of India but chose to stay in the UK. I am sorry to learn that he passed away. He was a colleague of mine in the HRDD Division. Please pass on my condolences to his family. **Selina Mohsin** (Bangladesh)
- My deepest condolences. **Rudo Chitiga**
- As others have indicated Ved Goel was a well-respected member at the centre of the Commonwealth Secretariat's education team and if my memory serves me correctly - he was after my time at Marlborough House - he served for 10-12 years in all in the late nineties and 'noughties' for some of which he was Education Section Head reporting to the divisional Director. Previously I think, he had worked for the British Council in India. After his retirement from ComSec as well as his good service to the Commonwealth Association, he was for several years a member of the Management Committee of the Council for Education in the Commonwealth . He was unfortunately afflicted by poor health in the last few years which prevented him joining in person at many Commonwealth gatherings he would like to have attended. His friends and colleagues will miss him. **Peter Williams**
- This is sad news, and I would like to associate myself with all that has been said about Ved. I only had passing contact with him in his professional capacity but knew him much better as a very supportive and valued member of the Commonwealth Association.  
May he rest in peace. **Stuart Mole** (Chair, The Commonwealth Association)

## MS JULIA MONTGOMERY

(1935-2023)

**Ms Julia Montgomery**, wife Mr Bill Montgomery, former Deputy Secretary-General and Managing Director of the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation, was a member of the Commonwealth Association.

### **Selected links:**

- <https://ottawacitizen.remembering.ca/obituary/julia-montgomery-1088713912>

## MR JOHN FOWLER

(-2023)



**Mr John Fowler** worked in the Commonwealth Youth Programme from the 1980s onwards.

- *It is sad to hear about John passing. He was such honest and supportive person when I worked with him. I recall delivering a training course in CYP, Zambia and having so much laugh at ourselves, but we delivered an excellent programme together. Condolences to his family. Rest in peace John, you were one of a kind!*  
**Magna Aidoo**
- *So sorry to hear about John's passing. I had no idea that he was so very ill. He had joined our Commonwealth Association soon after it was launched more than twenty years ago. In the 1990s, John and I had jointly taken an initiative to hold a weekly Lunch-Time Discussion Meeting in one of the meeting rooms at Marlborough House as we felt there was need for some intellectual stimulus despite our more than full official responsibilities. Our dear colleague Terry Dormer and a few others became enthusiastically involved. We invited interesting external speakers as well as from among our ComSec staff. I would like to convey my deepest condolences to John's wife Rosemary and their children.*  
**Madhuri Bose**

- *Thanks for this, sad though it is, including his recent years. I recall John well as a social but not direct work colleague, with a great sense of British humour. For some reason I recall a very enjoyable dinner with John and others somewhere near Holland Park. **Chris Bowman***
- *While I have been aware for some days of the passing away of John Fowler, I was not aware (or my memory has let me down in this regard) that he had been a member of ComAssoc. I am now glad to take the opportunity to pay my own tribute using our pages.*

*John was a member of CYP through many of my eight years there. He was a valued member of the team that set up the Commonwealth Youth Services Award Scheme which is still in operation though naturally in a somewhat different form. CYP itself commemorated its 50th year of existence in 2023 and it was a pity that John was not able to partake of those celebrations.*

*John was much more experienced in youth affairs than I was - I came to the Programme as a manager and trainer. John's links with other agencies helped CYP enormously in widening our work and making it more meaningful across the Commonwealth. With our different experiences, our views sometimes varied to the extent of strong disagreement but John being who he was, there was never any occasion I can recall in which we did not complete our discussions without an appreciation of each other's views and more importantly, without a laugh. His sense of humour was indeed something special.*

*It has been a matter of distress to his other CYP colleagues and me that given his illness, we have not been able to have John at the annual lunches, which other colleagues of that time and I still organise. Our numbers have become smaller over the years but when we meet we shall always remember John.*

*Rosanne and I extend our condolences to Rosemary, Rachel and Tim. With God's Blessings, may John rest in peace. **Raja Gomez***

- *I too was sorry to learn of John's death. I knew him well during his time at the Secretariat and saw him occasionally in subsequent years. He was a man of principle and good humour. That he should be afflicted by a rare form of dementia so early in his life was tragic. May he rest in peace. **Steve Packer***
- *I wish to join all those who have written in about John Fowler's passing, to convey my deepest condolences to his family and friends. John was a lovely and hard-working colleague when I knew him during my time at Comsec. It is very sad indeed to learn of his passing, and it's quite a shock to all of us who didn't know he was poorly. May the good Lord give strength and comfort to his wife and family. May his soul rest in everlasting peace. **Evelyn Adlam***

**Selected links:**

[Sure Start Sheerness founder John Fowler dies](#)

[A Journey to Tanzania](#)