

ORIENTAL RUG SOCIETY OF NSW

25A Creek St, Forest Lodge NSW 2037

www.rugsociety.org.au

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NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 11 February, 2016
National Trust Centre
Observatory Hill
7.00 Refreshments
7.30 Annual General Meeting
8.00 Talk



Talk: A Tale of Two 'Baluch' Motifs

New Year's Greetings to everyone!

We open our 2016 programme (watch this space!) with something special: a talk by Baluch rug collector and member of the New England (USA) Rug Society, Joel Greifinger. Joel, a former academic and enthusiast of tribal and village rugs generally, and his wife Cheryl, are visiting Sydney for the first time -- and enjoying it. At our 11 February meeting, he'll survey the intriguing pile weavings associated with the Baluch, using slides of rugs from his collection and pieces supplied by local collectors.

He notes that while the great majority of the Baluch peoples live in Baluchistan ("land of the Baluch" in Persian) that bridges southwest Pakistan and southeast Iran, they did not traditionally produce pile rugs: these originated further north, on both sides of the Iran-Afghan border. To complicate matters, a bewildering array of rugs by other groups in this region were also traditionally labelled Baluch. Only fairly recently have researchers distinguished some of these, such as Timuri and Mushwani, from those thought to be "authentic" Baluch.

Furthermore, some commentators challenge the notion that such a true Baluch tradition exists. Joel

says he'll attempt to make a very small contribution to the notion that there *is* a 'Baluch' tradition by focussing on two motifs that, while not exactly rare, are quite uncommon. Hope to see you at this special event!

NOTE the slightly earlier starting time of 7.00pm to accommodate the AGM. Entry is \$15 for members, \$25 for guests -- but \$15 if they join on the night.



Annual General Meeting

Attached are the Minutes of last year's AGM and an Agenda for this year's, which includes the election of all ORS Executive and Committee members. If you or someone you know wish to help us steer the ORS through 2016, please fill in the **attached nomination form** and return it to the address above -- or email it to info@rugsociety.org.au -- by COB on Wed 10 February. Nominations must be from, for and voted on by **paid-up members only**.

Christmas Party

A sunny afternoon, delicious refreshments, congenial company and the Perryman gallery's shady courtyard - we couldn't have asked for more. Many thanks to hosts Ian and Belinda, and to caterers, door-minders, raffle and quiz organisers! See the images below.

Membership Renewals

Time to renew your ORS membership for 2016. Your financial as well as moral support are vital for our success, so we would appreciate your prompt action.

Membership is \$45.00 for singles, \$55.00 for a couple. You can pay by cheque using the attached renewal form, or direct-debit the fee to our account:

Name: Oriental Rug Society of NSW

Bank: CBA

BSB: 062 217

A/c no: 1049 1173

NOTE: If using direct debit, in the 'Description/ Message to Payee' write your Surname and 'Sub' (**no** company names please). Then please send an Email, advising who you are, what you've paid and when, to: ruthlerner@gmail.com

Meeting Dates for 2016

You might note them in your diary now.

11 Feb 14 Apr 9 June 11 August
13 Oct or 3 Nov (TBA) 4 Dec



Save the Powerhouse Museum

You will be aware that petitions are circulating opposing the NSW Government's proposal to move the Powerhouse Museum, with whom the ORS has long been affiliated, to Parramatta, and to sell the Museum's Ultimo site to developers. The Powerhouse holds, amongst other treasures, a valuable oriental rug and textile collection to which we have contributed over the years. Those wishing to join ORS members who have already signed such petitions should Google '**save the powerhouse petitions**' and select an option, eg, that organised by State Greens MP **Jamie Parker**, or **Save the Powerhouse Facebook page**. However, we suggest caution with sites that also ask for money.

Travel: Four of the 'Stans' - Almaty to Ashgabat. 10 April-2 May

Members may be interested to know it's still possible to join **Four of the Stans**, an unusually comprehensive 23-day tour to the heart of captivating Central Asia, home of exquisite embroideries and the Turkmen rug.

Led by Christina Sumner, long-time ORS committee member and formerly principal curator at the Powerhouse Museum, **Four of the Stans** begins in delightful Almaty, in once-nomadic and now economically flourishing Kazakhstan. The tour then takes you to Kyrgyzstan's scenic mountains, beautiful Issyk-Kul Lake and the famous Sunday market in Osh.

Travelling westwards into Uzbekistan through the fertile Fergana Valley brings you to Tashkent and onwards to explore the architectural wonders of Uzbekistan's great Silk Road cities - Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva. Crossing the border into Turkmenistan, a short flight will take you to its white-marble capital Ashgabat and to see the ancient Parthian capital, Nisa, and the famed Akhal Teke horses.

You can see the full itinerary at <http://www.alumnitravel.com.au/portfolio/springtime-in-uzbekistan/> Please note that dollar fluctuations have necessitated a slight increase in the cost. For more information and bookings, please contact Rob Lovell of Alumni Travel on 02 9290 3856 or robl@alumnitravel.com.au



ORS END OF YEAR PARTY 2015

Selected pix courtesy of Gail Broadbent (names from L to R)



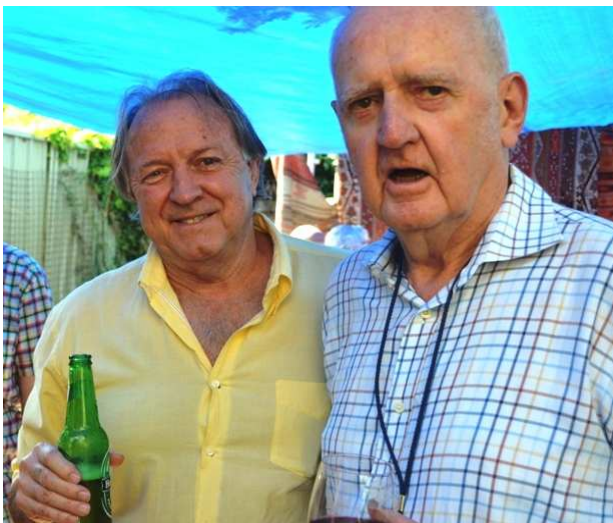
Christina & Dave (Qashqa'i or Khamseh?)



Sheila and Matt (love the beard)



ORS Committee invaluables, Christine, Pamela and Ruth (our Treasurer)



Ross and Mike (beer brand unknown)



Richard, Yuki, & Tibetan/Napalese hangings



Leigh hands Ian (co-host) the bubbly as thanks



Peter (a rug quiz could drive you to drink)



Sunny smiles from Sandy, Terry, Ruth and Belinda (co-host)

