



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY

Cayman Islands Branch



A Peace-building Commonwealth

**Report on Commonwealth Day 2017 Celebrations in
the Cayman Islands**



Commonwealth Day 2017 Celebrations in the Cayman Islands

Commonwealth Day 2017 was marked in the Cayman Islands with a variety of activities. All of these events received some coverage in the various media outlets.

Church Service

Celebrations to commemorate Commonwealth Day in the Cayman Islands were launched with the annual Observance Church Service at the St. George's Anglican Church on Sunday, 12 March 2017. Nationals of Commonwealth member countries who are resident in or visiting the Cayman Islands were especially encouraged to attend. The Church was filled almost to capacity.

The theme for the observance of Commonwealth Day – Monday 13 March – was “**A Peace-building Commonwealth**”. Mr. Lemuel Hurlston, CVO, MBE, JP, the Honorary Representative for the Royal Commonwealth Society, gave the welcome. His Excellency, Acting Governor Honourable Franz Manderson, Cert. Hon., was in attendance and read the Queen's Commonwealth Day message.



Senior Customer Service Manager of the Education Services Department, Mr James Watler, read the Commonwealth Affirmations.

Rector, the Rev. Mary Graham, presided over the service. The Rev. Rohan Forrester of the United Church and the Reverend Ellen Peguero of the Church of God assisted her.

The Rt. Reverend P J Lawrence, Retired Bishop, delivered the sermon. Reverend Lawrence used the Biblical texts of Isaiah 11: 1-3, 6-9 and 2 Corinthians 5: 17-20 as the basis for his message.

Uniformed youth groups such as the Boys Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownies and Girl Guides participated in the service. The collection was donated to the Pan'N'Riddim steel band. The leader of the band expressed gratitude for the kind gesture.

The Violin Ensemble of several Primary Schools performed during the service. Dance and cultures were on display during performances of line dancers and Liturgical Dancers.

There was a Garden Reception immediately afterwards, during which the aforementioned band entertained guests.



Flag Raising Ceremony

As part of the 'Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth' initiative, the Cayman Islands joined Commonwealth countries and organisations in raising the Commonwealth flag to celebrate Commonwealth Day.



Lance Corporal Jeremy Fedrick and Vivian Worrell of the Cadet Corps raise the Commonwealth flag at the Gov. Administration Building in the company of leaders and other service groups. – Photo: Jewel Levy

The flag was hoisted in front of the Government Administration Building at 10:00 a.m. on Commonwealth Day. The programme included a reading of the Commonwealth Affirmation by a member of the Girl Guides (Cayman Islands), Emily McIntire. Mr. Hurlston read the message from Commonwealth Secretary General.

Youth Parliament

The tenth annual meeting of the Cayman Islands Youth Parliament, organized by the Cayman Islands branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, was held in the Legislative Assembly on Commonwealth Day.

Twenty six High school students had the opportunity to act as members of the Legislative Assembly for a day, debating two motions, one dealing with the creation of a Policy to address Educational Skill Gaps, the other with Amending the Penal Code to deal with Child Pornography.

Students from educational institutions on Cayman Brac and Grand Cayman participated.



Schools Activities

Schools were invited and encouraged to participate in the 2017 Essay Competition, which also has the theme A Commonwealth for Peace.

On Commonwealth Day, schools shared in morning assemblies, viewed schools exhibitions, or participated in flag parades or storytelling, with students dressing up as their counterparts from other countries of the Commonwealth.



George Town Primary students march around the school field in celebration of Commonwealth Day. –
Photo: Jewel Levy

It is my pleasant duty to submit this report on activities in the Cayman Islands to mark Commonwealth Day 2017.

J L Hurlston

Honorary Representative

The Royal Commonwealth Society

Cayman Islands Branch

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