

АВСТРАЛИЯ И РОССИЯ

S. Fitzlyon

INTRODUCTORY WORDS TO CONFERENCE HELD IN THE KUNSTKAMERA ON AUSTRALIA

ПРИВЕТСТВИЕ

Почетного консула Австралии в Санкт-Петербурге Себастьяна Фиц-
лайона

Conference held in the Kunstkamera on Australia, 13th April 2009
Introductory words by S.K.Z. FitzLyon, Honorary Consul of Australia in
St. Petersburg

Dear Friends,

It is fitting that a conference on Australia should be held this year, being the 20th Anniversary year since the establishment of the Sister City relationship between Melbourne and St.Petersburg. Various events took place in St.Petersburg in February commemorating this anniversary, and likewise a programme of events is being arranged in Melbourne for October.

Also it is pleasing to see that students are taking an active interest in my country, as the level of knowledge about Australia could be higher. We are, after all, far away. Those few specialists who do specialise in Australia, here in St.Petersburg, are true experts in their relative fields.

I am looking-forward to listening to the papers to be presented today, as I myself always find new things to learn when in the presence of university staff, experts and students.

Australia and Russia enjoy excellent relations in this difficult world, becoming more difficult by the day, and we are both, after all, maritime powers in the Pacific Region, with many common interests, and I feel that we have strategic reasons to become closer, and we shall become closer still.

It is a privilege to be invited here. I congratulate Prof. Alexander Massov and Dr. Pavel Belkov at the Kunstkamera for organising this conference. Thank you!

Sebastian Fitzlyon,
Honorary Consul of Australia in St. Petersburg