

**Welcome at the Cory Library Commemoration of the meeting between**

**Sir George Cory & King Regent Manxiwa in 1910 in Willowvale**

**Dr. Saleem Badat, Vice-Chancellor, Rhodes University**

**Rhodes University, 31 January 2011**

Our keynote speaker, Advocate Sonwabile Mancotywa; members of the Manxiwa and Cory families; the Dean of Humanities, Prof. Fred Hendricks; the Head of our History Department, Prof Paul Maylam; the interim Director of the Cory library, Prof Jeff Peires, and the Cory staff; our MC, Prof Russell Kaschula, dignitaries, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, molweni, good morning

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to Rhodes University, to iRhini/Grahamstown and to the Makana region.

Thank you for gracing us with your participation, especially those of you who come from afar.

Numerous conferences, seminars, workshops and events are regularly held at Rhodes University on a large variety of issues, themes and topics.

Today's commemoration – of the meeting between Sir George Cory & King Regent Manxiwa 101 years ago in Willowvale is one of the rarer events and all the more interesting for that.

This 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Cory-Manxiwa meeting kicks off a number of other centenary events at Rhodes during 2011.

This year is also the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the History Department at Rhodes and a two-day event is planned for September.

It is also the centenary of the Old Rhodian Union, and celebrations will be held during the Founders weekend of 26-28 August, when we usually have our Convocation and ball.

The Old Rhodian Union was founded in 1911 by Professor Cullen Bowles and Sir George Cory to form a link between alumni and their alma mater. All past students who have attended Rhodes University or Rhodes University College for at least a year, all members of Convocation, past and present Chancellors, University Council members and all past and present members of staff, including members of Associated Institutes are automatically members of the Old Rhodian Union.

Finally, the Rhodes Student Representative Council also celebrates its 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary this year.

The University's first SRC convened in 1910 and the current SRC will be inviting all previous SRC members to celebrate 101 years of the SRC. There will also be a number of activities incorporating the current student body. These will take place between 12 - 14 May. Planned activities include a Time Tent, a colloquium, the launch and burial of a Time Capsule, the planting of 101 trees and a Ball. A SRC Centenary fund is to be also established.

To return to this morning's recent, my thanks to Prof. Peires and the Cory library staff for their efforts in convening this commemoration.

We look forward to the proceedings, and I hope that some of the proceedings will be communicated to the general public through the Dispatch, Herald and other media as part of our responsibility to advance critical public education and intellectual development.