



Australia-Britain Society (NSW Branch) Inc

(Incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act, 1984(NSW)

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NEWSLETTER OCTOBER, 2015

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1. COMING EVENTS

a) REMEMBRANCE DAY WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER

Our annual church service will be held at **St. James' Church King Street** at 11.00am to remember the fallen of all wars. No charge is made beyond the normal offertory. This service is specially constructed on a Mattins format to incorporate its special remembrance meditative purpose. It will include a reading of the Ode and lessons read by members of this Society and hymns "Eternal Father Strong to Save", "Jerusalem" and "Vow to Thee My Country".

St. James' Church is one of the city's great musical treasures and its organ and acoustics provide a reflective setting like few others, with the organ background including items such as Barber's adagio and Eric Coates' Dam Busters March. Please join this service if you can. Decorations would be appropriate for this occasion and no prior booking is necessary.

At 12.15 for 12.30pm luncheon start we are holding a gathering at the **Australian Club, 165 Macquarie Street** on the second floor in the Macleay private room that will hold up to 50 guests. The Guest of Honour at this luncheon is **Mrs. Anne Henderson AM** who will be speaking to us of the wartime conflicts between **Winston Churchill and Robert Menzies**. Fuller details are on the attached flyer. This venue is a short walk from St. James' church and made available to a small group on a first booked-basis. Dress is jacket and tie. Mrs. Henderson will be bringing copies of her book "Menzies at War" for autographing at \$35 a copy if you wish to acquire a copy of a relatively unknown period of Australia's military involvement in the early days of World War II.

b) CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON MONDAY 14 DECEMBER

This Christmas luncheon is at **The Athenian Restaurant, Barrack Street, Sydney** (between George and York Streets, a five-minute walk from Wynyard station and almost adjacent to the former GPO at Martin Place). This event will start at noon until 3.00pm and is a casual event with a series of menu options that when pre-arranged can reduce costs to \$45 a head for members. The attached flyer gives more details including the meal options. The restaurant can hold 100 people on various tables and we hope you can join in the day. If practicable, a raffle will be held and prizes will include restaurant meals, books, DVD's, wines, home-made puddings etc. The aim is to provide a venue that is excellent value, close to transport in the city, during the day and no formal dress requirements. The home-made pudding option for dessert is provided by the committee to reduce costs to members and provide a seasonal flavour to the day.

c) AUSTRALIA DAY TUESDAY 26 JANUARY, 2016

The Order of Australia Association has kindly agreed for our members to join its Harbour lunch-time cruise. Further details will be provided closer to the date, and no additional charges will be made to members beyond what we are required to pay the the OA Association. These cruises have proved popular in the past and we hope you can attend.

d) AUSTRALIA DAY WEEK BUFFET LUNCHEON

We have reserved a dining room holding up to 150 people at the **Union and Schools Club, Bent Street Sydney** for either 20-21-28 January, depending upon our guest of honour's ability to attend; the date will be confirmed when known. This tie/jacket buffet luncheon will be held in conjunction with Australians for Constitutional Monarchy and other collegiate bodies and will give members access to one of Sydney's prestigious clubs not normally available to other than club member guests. Please note your diary and we will firm up the preferred date as soon as our guests decide.

e) EVENTS FOR 2016

We have been asked to host another Queen's birthday dinner in May to honour Her Majesty's 90th birthday and this is likely to be in May to avoid conflicts with Easter and Anzac Day timetables.

In addition to making tickets available again to the Opera Gala and last Night of the Proms concerts at Chatswood, we will advise members of collegiate group events that have member appeal such as the Commonwealth Day luncheon at parliament house 14 March 2016, organised by the Commonwealth Day Council.

The Governor is encouraging greater use of Government house and access by charitable bodies through his patronage, and we are investigating the cost feasibility of holding a garden party around September-October next year at this unique location. We thank His Excellency for this initiative and for hosting a recent ball to celebrate the 170th anniversary of the opening of Government House which Richard Nott and Sue Labordus attended.

The 2016 programme aims to provide a mix of around 8-9 events, with also member access to collegiate group programmes to provide a diverse set of events and yet not overload member calendars. Let the Committee know if you have specific interests beyond those mentioned.

2. RECENT EVENTS

- a) **President's Luncheon** with Guest of Honour Colonel Sandy MacGregor MC, was well attended where Colonel MacGregor gave a personal insight into the terror and challenge of penetrating enemy tunnels in Vietnam via a harrowing account and slide show of these war-time events.
- b) **Last Night of the Proms** at Chatswood with the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra, Willoughby Choir and Brass Band, was attended by 112 members and guests, mainly at the sell-out Sunday afternoon concert, with a wonderful value event at \$45.00 box office price and no booking fee. We were able to sell these tickets at a small margin to help support our grants programmes. The Grand Opera will likely be held in February and the Proms again in the latter part of the year. These events are far cheaper than comparable Opera House events with easy parking in the Concourse Centre or a five-minute walk from the railway station. Thanks to the large group of members who attended and I am confident they enjoyed a wonderful afternoon.

3. PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE DAME MARIE BASHIR AND SIR NICHOLAS SHEHADIE

We are delighted that Dame Marie and Sir Nicholas have agreed to be Honorary Life Members of this Society in recognition of their long and supportive role in the life of this Society. On your behalf we welcome them to a continuing contact with us and look forward to seeing them at functions when their calendar permits.

4. NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

. Lily Murray . Margaret Templeton-Trusty

We look forward to seeing them at coming events.

5. BBC FIRST BRITISH FILM FESTIVAL

This film festival runs in Sydney from 27 October to 18 November and covers a series of first release films such as "Youth" with Michael Caine and "The Man Who Knew Infinity" with Dev Patel and Jeremy Irons. These films will be showing at Palace Cinemas and details of the full programme can be obtained from Kwenton Bellette on www.palacecinemas.com.au.

With continuing best wishes,

Richard Nott