



Australia-Britain Society (NSW Branch) Inc

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

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**Patron: His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley, AC DSC (Ret'd)
Governor of New South Wales**

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NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2016

2016.06

1. COMING EVENTS

- a) Christmas Luncheon Monday 5 December, Noon-3.00pm at the Union, University and Schools Club (UUSC), Bent Street Sydney NSW. Two-course Christmas fare, turkey and trimmings plus pudding/fruit salad, starter drinks, wines, tea/coffee, truffles. Cost members \$85.00 guests \$90.00. Flyer attached**

Last year we held a low cost luncheon at a city restaurant that was excellent value but as one would expect from such a location at Christmas it was a little noisy. Members requested a return to a more up-market quieter private venue with a chance to speak with old friends. This year we have returned to one of the best private clubs in the city with a seasonal buffet and drinks with a small margin on cost and the hope that attendances will enable us to use some of the excellent raffle prizes we have accrued.

Instead of a guest speaker for a fun occasion, our MC Ken Bock and Lynn Bock as pianist, will lead us in a small bracket of carols, some popular and some infrequently heard, so beef up your voices in the shower well beforehand so we are heard way down Bent Street!

- b) Nine Carols and Lessons Sunday 18 December, 7.30pm St. James' Church King Street Sydney where seats have been reserved for our members. Admission: normal church collection. Mince pies and drinks in the crypt after the service.**

This service is modelled on the Cambridge service with the exceptional choir and organ at St. James' and lessons read by Sydney dignitaries. Our thanks go to the rector, Revd. Andrew Sempell, for inviting our members to this special musical and liturgical occasion in a traditional Anglican service amongst the best musical and seasonal gatherings amongst city churches.

- c) Australia Day 26 January 2017 Harbour Cruise aboard Captain Cook III 10.30am sharp until 2.30pm leaving from Commissioner Steps, Circular Quay, dress smart casual, and trip includes a buffet luncheon: canapés, seafood, ham, chicken and vegetarian options, salads and hot vegetables, desserts, tea/coffee plus drinks included in the price of \$115.00 adults and \$55.00 children 5-14 years. Flyer attached.**

This luncheon on the Harbour visits the main seaways to view the events on the water aboard a wonderful vessel for the use of our group in conjunction with the Order of Australia Association that can hold over 100 people on the day. Consider coming along and bring some friends to a unique event. We are providing access to this event at no extra cost beyond what we pay to the Order of Australia Association for allowing us to join in this event on a similar basis as this year.

d) 2017 (Further details will follow):

- 1. Australians All Let Us Rejoice. Date to be confirmed and expected to be late January. Subject to Dr. Brendan Nelson's availability as Head of the Australian War Memorial. This will be at the UUSC and a buffet format at cost members \$85.00 guests \$90.00.**
- 2. Antiques Road Show guest of honour Hilary Kay luncheon at UUSC on Monday 27 February, noon to 3.00pm. Buffet cost \$85.00 guests \$90.00**
- 3. March: Commonwealth Day luncheon at NSW Parliament House dining room. Date not yet set.**
- 4. April: St. George's Day luncheon UUSC with the Friends of St. George's and Descendants of the Knights of the Garter, and Royal Society of St. George. This is likely to be either on 20, 24, 26 or 27 April subject to guest of honour timetable.**
- 5. May: Queen's Birthday formal dinner late in the month subject to His Excellency and Mrs. Hurley availability at the Australian Club either 23-25 or 30-31 May.**
- 6. August: Last Night of the Proms Saturday 19 evening, and Sunday matinee 20 August 2.00-4.00pm Chatswood (five minutes walk from the train, parking underneath, bus stops nearby). Cost approx. \$46.00 senior's box office cost and no booking fee. We have secured through Willoughby Symphony Orchestra 10 tickets for the Saturday evening and 90 tickets for the Sunday matinee, at the best mixed seating available after subscribers at a lower net cost than at the box office. These tickets will be available from early January on a first request basis.**
- 7. November: Her Majesty's 70th wedding anniversary. We will aim to celebrate this event subject to the timetable and may likely be included into a joint event with an early Christmas luncheon.**

Where practicable we have firmed alliances with other collegiate groups to save duplication of offering to members, save administration costs and share where practicable some margin on the events. This will save members having to choose between a series of similar events being offered where our members are also members of other groups. It is much more fun to have a larger group together as smaller events are economically difficult to offer to members and provide interesting guest speaker and low charge-outs to members. This basis enables us to offer diversity of programmes, control pricing and encourage a wider option of interesting guests to join us. Without overloading members' programmes, we are also looking to hold occasional bus and country day visits.

2. RECENT EVENTS

a) Afternoon tea with the British Consul-General

Our good friend and wonderful supporter of this Society, Nick McInnes, the British Consul-General, held an afternoon tea and drinks event on a Sunday afternoon, in anticipation of his pending office-term

completion in early 2017. Despite competing attractions held on the same date by the Opera and Arts Support group and other memberships enjoyed by our members, a good group had a relaxing afternoon in conjunction with the Friends of St. George's and lucky ticket prizes were supplied by the Committee as an appreciation to members attending. Primarily the main donation was an Australian scene oil painting presented to Nick McInnes as a small token of our appreciation for his support and fellowship. Thank you again Nick, a wonderful Society friend.

b) Remembrance Day service and Luncheon at Australian Club

St. James' King Street tailors this service with our Society in mind and it included our Life Member the Honourable Professor Dame Marie Bashir and Sue Labordus reading the lessons with Ken Bock reading the Ode. The hymns were all military based and our traditional favourites including Jerusalem and Vow to Thee My Country, along with Barber's Adagio on the wonderful St. James' organ.

The luncheon in the Macleay Room at the Australian Club was at a capacity to hear the Guest of Honour, Brigadier Bill Sowry, speak of his military experiences especially as Australia-Britain defence liaison officer and the investigations into the MH 17 disaster that invoked spirited questions and member observations. The group included a number of senior military figures who travelled from Canberra for this luncheon, as well as Revd Andrew Sempell who was Chaplain at Duntroon when some of the guests were military cadets, along with Col Sandy McGregor MC who spoke to us two years ago on the challenge of the Vietnam War from an Australian perspective. Overall it was a happy day as part of a penitential occasion. Unfortunately the wonderful décor and ambience of the Australian Club is limited to around 50 members and guests for lunchtime events that attracted more of our members, reiterating the need to book early.

3. SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you have not renewed your membership for this year, could you send the renewal fee to Sue Labordus. We have kept fees constant despite rising costs and many members are Life Members so we rely on a small amount of subscriptions. Also, if you are a Life Member, donations are always welcomed and appreciated and we allow for this on function flyers.

4. NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome to the Society the following new members, whom we look forward to seeing at future functions:

. **Allan Pidgeon** . **Benita Boger** . **Michael & Frances Weekes**

5. VALE RICHARD PAVITT

The President of the West Country Branch of the Britain-Australia Society based in Bath England, Richard Pavitt, died suddenly and this saddened many Australian members who knew Richard well over many years and remember his enthusiasm in fostering closer ties with Australia and the West Country Branch especially. Our condolences are extended to his family and friends.

With continuing best wishes,

Richard Nott