



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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Administration Secretary: Sue Labordus

NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017

2017.06

1. COMING EVENTS

a) Nine Carols and Lessons - Sunday 17 December at 7.30pm St. James Church King Street, Sydney.

This annual event is modelled on the Cambridge service and is followed afterwards by refreshments in the crypt. It involves a miscellany of city dignitaries reading lessons and robust carol singing with one of the city's pre-eminent choirs, organ and acoustics. (We suggest you bring along a cushion for seating comfort. Two rows of pews are reserved for members and the church is full so we recommend arriving a little earlier than usual if you can.)

b) Australia Day Harbour Cruise - Friday 26 January 2018. Cost: \$90.00 pp

Details are supplied on the attached flyer. Please return this as soon as you can as the mail is slow and we need to confirm seats well in advance. We have sixty seats allocated and if filled early, we may be able to source additional seating.

Whilst the Circular Quay departure vessels are more easily accessed for some people, these Captain Cook vessels charge \$125.00 versus our \$90.00 charge as we do not include a drinks package and most member feedback suggests couples do not wish to spend \$50.00 on drinks during the day when a \$10.00 soft drink option may be more financially practicable. The King Street wharf vessel is surrounded by glass with a lounge areas and external seating to view the Harbour events. Also, the desserts of lamingtons and pavlova are better than on certain Quay vessels. Overall we believe this option is a better outcome for members and friends.

Richard Nott and Sue Labordus will be at the berthing departure area issuing boarding tickets and our tables will be identified with flags on them. These are very popular events and the ship is usually booked out, so there is no option to bring along additional guests and pay on the day. This is a casual gentle cruise around the harbour to take in all the events and a good buffet luncheon.

Bring along your friends and please book early remembering mail is notoriously slow. Also if paying by bank deposit remember to add your name as set out on the flyer so we know who has paid. Thank you.

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c) **Luncheon Tuesday 6th February 2018. Guest Speaker Hilary Kay from the Antiques Roadshow. Cost: \$115.00 members, \$120.00 guests. Noon-3.00pm at the Union, University and Schools Club (UUSC), 25 Bent Street, Sydney NSW. Dress: jacket and tie.**

A flyer is attached for details and bookings. We are delighted to have Hilary Kay with us to talk about how the Antiques Roadshow is run, items selected for evaluation and other interesting anecdotes about this popular show. Hilary will not be evaluating items at this lunch, but will answer your questions on aspects of the show. This event is being held in conjunction with collegiate groups and we suggest you book early as seats will be allocated on a first received basis. Please note the cut-off date for bookings and allow for slow mail receipts as the UUSC needs time to cover catering and we need time to arrange table plans and seating plus the event programme.

2. RECENT EVENTS

a) **Remembrance Day service - 11 November St James' Church King Street Sydney**

This service was a modified Morning Prayer service to incorporate special collects and reflection of this occasion, with lessons read by Mrs. Sue Labordus and Professor Dr. David Barker. The Ode was read by Ken Bock, our treasurer, and hymns had a military and British appeal. Numbers were somewhat smaller due to the event being on a Saturday this year. In 2018 this will be combined with the usual Sunday service.

b) **Queen's 70th Wedding Anniversary and Christmas Luncheon – 20 November**

This capacity crowd luncheon was held on the actual anniversary of Her Majesty's 70th wedding anniversary on 20th November and was a fully packed event from noon until 4.00pm at the UUSC main dining room with other kindred groups. Our Guest of Honour, the Hon Mrs. Diana Fisher, reflected on the Royal Wedding events where she was a commentator and gave details of the various gowns worn and details in filming such events, to everyone's delight. This was preceded by a sound and slide show of Her Majesty's and family weddings with a focus as well on the future and the emerging family of Prince William and Kate. Entertainment was a programme of musical show songs by the 2014 winner of the International cabaret Award, Ms. Melody Beck, accompanied by concert pianist John Martin.

In July we wrote to Her Majesty's Private Secretary advising that we were holding this event and were delighted to not only receive an acknowledgement from him but a personal letter to members from the Queen acknowledging the luncheon and thanking everyone for their wedding anniversary greetings from herself and the Duke of Edinburgh. Part of this letter is detailed for the benefit of members who could not attend this event, as follows:

“Please convey my warm thanks to the Members of the Australian Branch of the Friends of St. George's and Descendants of the Knights of the Garter, the New South Wales Branch of the Australia-Britain Society, The Royal Society of St. George and Australians for Constitutional Monarchy for their loyal greetings sent on the occasion of their joint Luncheon which is being held today.

As your Patron, I appreciate your thoughtfulness in writing as you did, and in return, send my best wishes to you all for a most successful gathering.

The Duke of Edinburgh joins me in thanking you for your kind message of congratulations on the occasion of our seventieth Wedding Anniversary.

Elizabeth R 20th November, 2017”

To receive a reply on the actual date of the anniversary and our luncheon, addressed to all attendee members, was indeed a timely outcome and our members can relate as having received a personal acknowledgement from Her Majesty on the day.

Our thanks for those who helped organise this event: especially Sue Labordus and Ken Bock, and capable raffle-ticket sellers Andrea Havers, Carol Osborne, Catherine Barker and Tom Jackson, and our slide show technician Jonathan Roach. Also the support of Hon Councillor Peter Cavanagh Mayor of Woollahra and Professor David Flint is appreciated.

3. Membership Renewals

If you have overlooked this small renewal, or as a Life Member for many years, if you feel like sending us a donation to keep our operating costs low, it will be greatly appreciated. Most of the raffle prizes are donated by the Committee who also give their valuable time. In addition, functions are priced at a low margin for member benefit, but with low interest rate earnings on our reserves, the operating outcomes are not keeping us abreast with inflationary costs. Donations will enable us to continue pricing event at a low surplus margin by anticipating reasonable attendances to avoid club fixed charges for small events. Our thanks to those members who generously support the raffle to enable us to contain prices.

4. Office Access

From next Wednesday, Sue Labordus will not be available for about three weeks. Whilst I will be checking the mailbox regularly, ring me on 94492694 or 0439944926 if you have any queries. If I am not home I will return your call as soon as I can.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all of you.

Richard Nott