



# Australia-Britain Society (NSW Branch) Inc

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

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**ABN 75368639375**

**Postal Address: PO Box 647, Gordon NSW 2072**

**Phone: 02-9449-7532 / Email: absociety@idx.com.au / Website: ausbrit.org**

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

**Branch President: Richard Nott, AM  
Email: richardnott1942@gmail.com**

**Hon. Sec.: David Adams, LL.B  
Email: ravesmarsh@msn.com.au**

**Administration Secretary: Sue Labordus**

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**NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2019**

**2019.01**

## **1. COMING EVENTS**

- a) QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY DINNER TUESDAY 21 MAY, 2019 6.00PM-10.30PM  
AUSTRALIAN CLUB 165 Macquarie Street, Corner Bent Street, Sydney NSW. Cost \$125  
includes pre-dinner drinks, two-course dinner with drinks, entertainment, raffle, lucky seat  
prizes. Guest of Honour: The Hon Justice Margaret Beazley AO, QC, Governor of New  
South Wales from May 2019.**

This annual dinner at one of Sydney's most prestigious clubs, is an opportunity for guests to meet our newly appointed Governor in the club reception area on the first floor from 6.15pm, followed by dinner at 7.00pm in the members' dining room. Further details are on the accompanying flyer where guests are asked to complete special dietary needs and whether they wish to be seated with specific friends. The dinner is a black tie formal event with decorations (miniatures) and our new Governor will be speaking of her history and expectations from her new role.

Friends of St. George's and Descendants of the Knights of the Garter have been invited in lieu of a special event on 23<sup>rd</sup> April for St. George's Day due to the proximity of Anzac Day and Easter. One of the toasts will be a stirring toast to St. George delivered by MC Ken Bock OAM.

We appreciate the Australian Club agreeing to this event being held at its club and to be hosted by its members Richard Nott and Professor David Flint. The main dining room is limited and we suggest you send in your responses early to be assured of the best seating arrangements. Free parking is available in the club car park (approached from Bent Street) from 6.00pm.

**b) LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS SATURDAY 24 AUGUST 2019 7.00PM AND SUNDAY 25 AUGUST 2019 2.00PM at Chatswood Concourse. Seats \$48.00**

This event is a popular one, due to the diverse and well-known programme based on the Albert Hall Last Night of the Proms festival with the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra and Choir, selected solo artists, and your committee leading the flag waving. Parking is available under the Concourse at a modest cost and the venue is easily accessed by train and buses. We have been allocated 80 of the best seats in the stalls and boxes at the same price as people buying from the box office and no booking fee. Further seats will be available if this number is taken up early (most seats in the Concourse are well placed ones). Consider bringing along some friends for a wonderful, happy afternoon of all your favourite items in the second half of the programme, led by the entertaining conductor, Dr. Nicholas Milton AM.

Contact Sue Labordus at the secretariat on 9449-7532 for more details and complete the attached flyer if you are attending.

**c) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SILVER SERVICE DINNER Monday 23 September, 2019. AGM from 5.30pm and dinner 7.00pm at the Royal Yacht Squadron Kirribilli cost \$65.00 for a main course, drinks and coffee.**

Further details and a flyer plus the appropriate AGM nomination forms/proxies will be sent closer to the date. Our thanks to Commander Richard Tighe, OAM and Mr. David Adams of our Committee, who have made this wonderful venue available to us through their hosting of these events.

**d) REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE AND LUNCHEON Monday 11 November, 2019 at 11.00am service to be held at St. James' Church King Street Sydney followed by a 12.30pm luncheon at the Union, University and Schools Club, Bent Street Sydney, cost approx. \$85.00 includes starter drinks, two-course luncheon, drinks, coffee and petits fours. Military guest speaker.**

Further details will be given closer to the date, however those members and guests who have enjoyed the ambience and quality service at this club, know that it is an attractive venue and we are aiming to secure a major military figure to speak about the "current state of the world in military terms and some emerging issues for Australia and its diverse alliances".

**e) LATER EVENTS**

- 1. Christmas luncheon aimed to be held in late November/early December to avoid competing seasonal demands**
- 2. Nine Carols and Lessons at St. James' Church King Street, usually held on the Sunday before Christmas with various city dignitaries reading lessons in the service followed by drinks and Christmas pies in the crypt.**
- 3. Australia Day 26 January 2020. We will be aiming to secure some seating aboard a prestigious boat sailing from the Quay for 2-3 hours.**
- 4. February/March, 2020 we will be aiming to secure His Excellency Sir Peter Cosgrove, our current Governor-General, to be our guest of honour, subject to his itinerary and to speak on the reflection of his role as Governor General. More details later as they are known.**

## 2. RECENT EVENTS

### LUNCHEON WITH DR. BRENDAN NELSON AND FAREWELL TO OUR PATRON

This event was fully subscribed with around 120 people, including our Governor, His Excellency General David Hurley and Mrs. Hurley attending to hear a riveting address of 45 minutes with no notes, from without doubt one of our most emphatic and gripping speakers in Australia, Dr. Brendan Nelson, Director of the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. In addition we had the opportunity to present the Governor and Mrs. Linda Hurley with an Australian landscape oil painting as a small token of our regard for their patronage and continual support to the host organisations involved.

A rare print of the First Flight of the Spitfire, beautifully framed and mounted was signed by the artist, Frank Wootton, the first test pilot Jeffrey Quill, Mitchell's co-designers at Supermarine and the Rolls Royce Merlin engineers, was presented to Dr. Nelson for inclusion in the War Memorial treasures. Only three copies are known to exist in Australia and it was issued to support the famous Battle of Britain museum at Hendon, North London. This presentation was preceded by a short video clip of the Spitfire roaring over the guests' heads.

The latter part of the afternoon included a musical event of Glenn Amer and Imogen Faith-Malfitano from Opera Australia, singing a bracket of well-known songs from the world wars. A surprise inclusion was Mrs. Hurley leading the audience and singing "You are My Sunshine".

Overall reports on the day were all favourable and guests travelled from Tasmania, Melbourne, Newcastle and the Highlands especially for the day. Our thanks to all those who helped organise and activate the day by our committee and the hosting support they gave to guests.

## 3. NEW BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER

We are pleased to welcome as British High Commissioner, **Her Excellency Vicki Treadell, CMG, MVO**, who has recently taken up this office in Canberra and whom we will be delighted to join us potentially at our next Christmas luncheon in November. Her Excellency was High Commissioner in Malaysia from 2014-19, New Zealand 2010-14 and prior role as Deputy High Commissioner for the West Indian team based at Mumbai.

## 4. NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to **Greg Bray**, **Sue Hawick AM**, and **David Glasson**, whom we look forward to seeing at our functions.

With continuing best wishes,

*Richard Nott*