



Australia-Britain Society (NSW Branch) Inc

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

Registered No CFN 15054 under section 16 of The Charitable Fundraising Act 1991(NSW) and The Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2015

ABN 75368639375

Postal Address: PO Box 647, Gordon NSW 2072

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

Patron: Her Excellency The Hon. Margaret Beazley, AO QC, 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, OAM



NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER, 2019

2019.5

1. COMING EVENTS

- a) Nine Carols and Lessons St. James' Church King Street, Sydney NSW Sunday 22 December, 2019 at 7.30pm; Admission free followed by drinks/eats in the crypt**

This wonderful annual service is based on the famous Cambridge service with lessons read by city dignitaries and Her Excellency the Governor of New South Wales supported by one of the finest choirs and church acoustics in Sydney. This is a popular event and we suggest attendees arrive by 7.15pm, even though special seating for the Society is available. Indicate to the wardens that you are with the Society. Attendance is free beyond the normal church collection.

- b) Commonwealth Day Luncheon, NSW Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney, Strangers' Dining Room, on Monday 9 March, 2020 from Noon for 12.30pm with Her Excellency the Governor of New South Wales in attendance**

A flyer for this event with more details is attached. Please complete and send directly to the Council and indicate you wish to sit with our Society members (please do not contact this office as we are not taking bookings here).

- c) Luncheon with General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove, AK CVO MC, retired Governor-General of Australia, and Lynne, Lady Cosgrove. Likely date late March, 2020 at Union, University and Schools Club**

Sir Peter has indicated his wish to join us and we are awaiting a date that suits his calendar, subject at present to overseas commitments. Sir Peter and Lady Cosgrove are old friends of the Society and we have asked them to reflect on the Vice-Regal role. Further details will be sent soon.

d) Queen's Birthday Dinner May, 2020 at the Australian Club, Macquarie Street Sydney NSW

This annual dinner will be held again this year at a date determined by Her Excellency The Hon Margaret Beazley, AO QC, Governor of New South Wales, our Patron. This dinner will include guests from our collegiate friends and include emerging opera stars from the Pacific Opera group. More details will be sent closer to the date.

e) Luncheon with the British High Commissioner The Hon. Vicki Treadell, CMG MVO, at the Union, University and Schools Club, 25 Bent Street Sydney NSW, September, 2020

Her Excellency has confirmed her wish to join us for this luncheon that is likely to be later in 2020 due to the pressing issues of Brexit and various trade delegations to Australia.

2. AUSTRALIA DAY 26 JANUARY, 2020

We indicated earlier that members of the Committee were looking to attend the Harbour cruise and four-hour buffet luncheon and that it may be possible to invite interested members. The Order of Australia Association is hosting this event, the boat leaving from Circular Quay mid-morning; however the cost of this event is \$140 per person and the Committee believes a \$280-300 cost for a couple is a large amount for our members, with no added margin for this Society, many of whom are retired on reduced incomes and that there are better value options available such as attending some of the harbour view clubs such as the 18 Footers at Double Bay or the Kirribilli Club at Milson's Point. On a positive note, your President has met with the NSW President of the Order of Australia Association and we are hopeful there will be other opportunities to share our calendar of events for both our societies' members.

3. RECENT EVENTS

a) Luncheon with Major-General Jim Molan, OA, DSC

General Molan was re-elected to the Senate on the day of this luncheon but made a supreme effort to attend the Remembrance Day service at St. James' King Street, and to be our guest of honour before dashing to Canberra for events later that day. This was well attended as was the church service. Members indicated a wish to invite General Molan to join us again in 2020/21 when he has more time to reflect with us on the military and political events of our region.

b) Christmas Luncheon with entertainers John Martin and Simon Ward

This event was a very popular one and feedback from guests indicated it was one of the better occasions for our members at it was a relaxed one without a guest speaker but more than supplemented by our MC Ken Bock delivering a series of witty items plus showing his range of skills in performing "Don't Put Your Daughter on the Stage Mrs. Worthington".

Simon Ward, a well-known West End theatre cabaret performer, delighted us with accomplished pianist John Martin in a library of popular musical items and leading us in a few carols. The menu was traditional Christmas fare provided by the UUSC, plus its own made Christmas mince pies, and tables decorated by them, plus lucky seat prizes. As well, \$10 worth of tickets were given to all guests for the raffle that included

prizes such as a Sparkling Afternoon Tea at the Gunners' Barracks, George's Heights, Mosman, which has magnificent views of Sydney Harbour, plus an oil painting and bottles of Christmas cheer.

Thank you for being a part of this happy afternoon and the relaxed format will be followed again next year.

4. SEASONS GREETINGS

We have been asked by members present at the Christmas lunch to print our "politically-correct" Christmas greeting read out by Ken Bock at that lunch. Ken explained that this had been checked by lawyers so as not to cause offence to anyone:



Lawyer's Merry Christmas wishes - with Disclaimer

Please accept with no obligation, implied or implicit, our best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, low stress, non-addictive, gender-neutral celebration of the summer/winter solstice holiday practised with the most enjoyable traditions of religious persuasion or secular practices of your choice with respect for the religious / secular persuasions and/or traditions of others, or their choice not to practise religious or secular traditions at all.

We also wish you a fiscally successful, personally fulfilling and medically uncomplicated recognition of the onset of the generally accepted calendar year 2020, but not without due respect for the calendar of choice of other cultures whose contributions to society have helped make our country great (not to imply that Australia is necessarily greater than any other country) and without regard to the race, creed, colour, age, physical ability, religious faith or sexual preference of the wishee.

By accepting this greeting, you are accepting these terms:

This greeting is subject to clarification or withdrawal. It is freely transferable with no alteration to the original greeting. It implies no promise by the wisher to actually implement any of the wishes for her/him or others and is void where prohibited by law, and is revocable at the sole discretion of the wisher. The wish is warranted to perform as expected within the usual application of good tidings for a period of one year or until the issuance of a new wish at the sole discretion of the wisher.

*Best Regards (without prejudice)
Name withheld (Privacy Act)*

Thank you from our hard-working committee to all our supportive members who have been with us during the year and to recent joiners of our Society. We are looking at options to provide events at other venues and with other groups to provide further variety and range of occasions.

With our continuing best wishes for Christmas and into the New Year. May your days be long and may they be full of happiness, and good health.

Richard Nott