



Australia-Britain Society (NSW Branch) Inc

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

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NEWSLETTER – AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2019

2019.3

1. COMING EVENTS

- a) **Annual General Meeting and silver service dinner Monday 23 September at 5.30pm, followed by dinner at 7.00pm, Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, 33 Peel Street, Kirribilli. Cost: AGM free, dinner \$60.00 including drinks, main course, tea/coffee.**

The AGM and dinner dress is business attire and members and guests are encouraged to attend the AGM even if unable to attend the dinner which is limited to around 32 people in a private room at this wonderful club. Parking is available and more details of the event are attached including the AGM Agenda, Nomination and Proxy voting forms should you wish to support a Committee nomination or give authority to the President for voting, if you cannot attend the meeting.

The AGM gives members a chance to hear a summary of the society operations for the year and outline for 2020 by the President, Treasurer and Vice President as well as a short reflection on the recent voyage by the Tall Ships awardee for last year, Peter Sofatzis. Further details can be obtained from Sue Labordus, Membership Secretary.

Our thanks to Commander Richard Tighe, OAM RFD RD, for facilitating this venue for the meeting and the private dinner afterwards. It is one of Sydney's showcase venues and we are pleased to enable a small number of members and friends to attend this private dinner.

There will be a limited number of printed copies of the Annual Report for distribution at the AGM plus a copy will be available on the Society website: **ausbrit.org** in due course.

- b) Remembrance Day Service at St. James' Church King Street, Sydney on Monday 11 November at 11.00am which is open to the public as well, with a matins service constructed with a specific feel for the occasion and followed by a luncheon from noon for 12.30pm at the Union, University and Schools Club (UUSC), 25 Bent Street Sydney with guest of honour Major-General Jim Molan who will be reflecting on the current state of world affairs and strategic implications for Australia. Cost will be approx. \$90-95, dress: business wear with decorations.**

The Remembrance Day service was instigated by this Society that usually includes some of our favourite hymns including the Naval hymn, "Eternal Father Strong to Save", plus "Jerusalem" and "I Vow to Thee My Country", plus other wonderful music from the organ and soloists.

We have a special room reserved at the UUSC that holds up to 75 people. Could you consider attending this event plus bring interested friends to one of the most recognised and valued former Senators and army leaders in recent years, who is always an exciting and interesting man to hear speak his mind on such important matters. I expect there will be time for questions as well. A flyer for this event will issue in October.

c) Christmas Luncheon late November/early December UUSC

This event has proved a popular one with wonderful Christmas fare, drinks, entertainment, and some carol singing. We have invited the incoming British High Commissioner the Hon Vicki Treadell CMG to join us and be the principal speaker. When details of her availability are known we will advise members.

d) Australia Day 26 January, 2020

We are hopeful that through our committee memberships of the Order of Australia Association we may be able to obtain some seats for a four-hour luncheon cruise on the harbour from Circular Quay at no extra cost to members. Cheaper vessels are available but open to the public generally and quite crowded so we prefer to pursue the first option and I thank the Committee for helping to facilitate this opportunity.

e) February luncheon 2020

We aim to get a prominent guest of honour at this time to meet with members and guests, again at the UUSC, and an invitation has been sent to General Sir Peter Cosgrove and Lady Cosgrove to be with us. Details will be sent closer to the time and when Sir Peter may be available.

2. RECENT EVENTS

The Last Night of the Proms at Chatswood Concourse was another wonderful event with around 90 members and friends attending for a two-hour rollicking occasion led by the inimitable conductor Dr. Nicholas Milton AM, who involves the audience and engages some of our members as flag wavers supporting the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra and Chorus plus twenty emerging singers from Pacific Opera. **In 2020 the Proms will be held on Saturday 22 August at 7.00pm and Sunday 23 August at 2.00pm.** Thanks to Sue Labordus, Administration Secretary, we have secured already 100 of the best seats after regular subscribers at the same price as box office sales less a booking fee and expected to remain around \$48.00.

The Sunday afternoon matinee attracts a full house so we suggest you book early to get the best seat options and it is becoming more of a British red, white and blue dress-up affair and there is some hope that the next event will be filmed.

The Queen's Birthday Dinner last May introduced two emerging stars from the Pacific Opera and you may be pleased to know that one of them, **Michelle Ryan**, is a finalist in this year's Joan Sutherland awards to be held in September and has been awarded a scholarship to sing in Germany next year. The involvement with our Society not only provides us with wonderful entertainment but exposes a wealth of emerging Australian talent early in their careers, many of whom now grace the world musical stages. Thanks to the Willoughby Symphony, Pacific Opera and the Savage Club, we can access the best of these talents to sing for you at this annual dinner and periodically at the Christmas luncheon.

3. PASSINGS

We regret to report the passing of Mrs. Ralene Paul-Furley, Mrs. Margaret Templeton-Trusty, and Michael Fletcher, and extend our sincere condolences to members of their families. Michael was for some years a member of our committee and he and his wife Alaine worked hard for the branch membership data and event organising, and we acknowledge his efforts for this branch.

4. MEMBERSHIPS

Many of our members are life members and some annual memberships have been forgotten which reduces our cost coverages. As interest rates are very low and expected to reduce to almost nil next year, we cannot rely on life memberships taken out long ago to help defray fixed costs. If you are uncertain as to your current status, please contact Sue Labordus, or a member of the Committee may telephone to remind you if not paid. We have not increased fees for over a decade and it would be helpful if you could send us a renewal or even a donation if you are a life member as we are loath to increase fees if we can avoid doing so to add to your enjoyment of the Society.

We placed a great advertisement in the Willoughby Symphony programme recently and this may make more people aware of the Society. If you have friends who may be interested why not invite them to our next event?

5. AUSTRALIA-BRITAIN SOCIETY TIES

We have a supply of Society ties in high-quality silk which we have obtained from London, priced at \$55, including postage. If you would like one, please contact Sue Labordus on 9449-7532 or absociety@idx.com.au. Arrangements can be made for you to pay by EFT and Sue can give you the details. This could be a good Christmas present!

6. AUSTRALIA-BRITAIN FOUNDATION CANBERRA

You may not be aware that this Foundation holds reserves to support branches and by direct grants to young people wishing to pursue British related life experiences. For many years our Treasurer and MC Ken Bock OAM has acted as a Trustee on the Foundation and we thank Ken for his work to this end as well as the many other roles he carries in public life. Mrs. Janatha Adams of our Committee is joining the Foundation as a Trustee to replace Ken Bock.

With continuing best wishes,

Richard Nott