



# 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*

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**Patron: Her Excellency The Hon. Margaret Beazley, AO QC, Governor of New South Wales**

**Branch President: Richard Nott, AM**

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**Administration Secretary: Sue Labordus, OAM**

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**NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2019**

**2019.4**

## **1. COMING EVENTS**

- a) Remembrance Day Service 11 November 2019 at 11.00am St. James' Church King Street, Sydney NSW; admission free with usual collection offering followed by a luncheon at the Union, University and Schools Club (UUSC), 25 Bent Street, Sydney NSW at 12.15pm for 12.45pm luncheon, starter drinks, two-course luncheon, with drinks and coffee. Guest of honour: Major-General Jim Molan, AO DSC. Dress: jacket and tie/smart day wear. Cost: members \$92, guests \$97. Decorations. Flyer attached.**

This service at St. James' was specifically constructed for the Society, now open to the general public, with a focus on reflections of a military nature and well-known odes, hymns and music as part of a Morning Prayer service. This is a stirring event, with one of the best city choirs and musical acoustics, wrapped in a reflective setting by the clergy and members of this Society. The aim of fostering this service is to make us a part of an event remembered and practised in Britain, throughout France and allied countries to honour the dead and injured in both world wars and regional conflicts ever since, as well as those still being fought.

The luncheon at the UUSC will hear Major-General Molan speaking on the state of world events and potential outcomes, especially as they affect Australia. Time will allow for some questions. The press is not invited and Chatham rules will apply to enable our guests to express their comments and interest areas freely. This is expected to be a popular luncheon and you are asked to complete the flyer as soon as you can to support this event and as a vote of popular support to one of Australia's great military sons and potential politicians.

- b) Christmas luncheon Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 at UUSC, 25 Bent Street, Sydney NSW from noon. Two-course Christmas menu, drinks, and entertainment, raffle and singing. Dress: business attire. Cost members and guests: \$120.00**

Members have expressed a wish to have more time to chat and catch up with old friends as well as make new ones, so this is a good event to dispense with a special guest speaker to enable this to happen and supplemented by fun entertainment. This will include well-known pianist John Martin, supported by Simon Ward, singer and entertainer with occasional items by our MC Ken Bock who with his wife Lynn will lead singing of a few carols.

A raffle will be held, more as a fun item than to raise monies, and will include seasonal items of drinks, specially made puddings, theatre tickets, restaurant meals and items you would like to have but rarely ever buy.

A flyer is attached to enable you to indicate seating preferences, as well as any different food requests other than the UUSC wonderful fare of roast turkey, all the trimmings and Christmas pudding, drinks and coffee. The afternoon should finish at around 3.00-3.30pm.

- c) **Nine Carols and Lessons St. James' Church King Street Sunday 22 December at 7.30pm.**  
This wonderful evening of carols and lessons read by City dignitaries is a city fixture followed by drinks in the crypt after the service. Bring your voice and hearts to a great evening.
- d) **Australia Day 26 January, 2020. Limited seating for a Sydney Harbour cruise from Circular Quay for approximately four hours from 10.30am with buffet food and an open bar of drinks**

This event is a limited one and extended by our Committee members who can bring a few guests to this event run by the Order of Australia Association, of which they are members. If you have an interest in this time on the harbour as personal guests of the committee who are attending as OAAssn members could you indicate this soon to the committee? At this stage we are not aware of any limitations that will be attached to each member attendance but expect it would be limited but hopefully we can bring along some friends if there is any interest. An idea of attendance options will be known closer to the date but it will be handy to know if there is an interest in this suggestion. Please contact Sue Labordus on this matter further.

- e) **February and September 2020. We have extended invitations to both Sir Peter Cosgrove, AK CVO MC, recently retired Governor-General and Lady Cosgrove, and to the newly appointed British High Commissioner, The Hon Vicki Treadell, CMG MVO to be our special guests at dates that suit their calendars.**
- f) **Queen's Birthday Dinner will be held in May at a date that suits the event schedule of our Patron, Her Excellency the Governor, The Hon Margaret Beazley, AO QC, and held along similar lines as recent years at the Australian Club.**
- g) **Secretariat absence. The office will not be manned in July for two weeks due to holiday absences abroad.**
- h) **Up to now, the general scope of guest speakers and special events considers their contact between Australia and Britain; however, we have been asked to consider widening this offering to include some members of the Parliament to update members on issues of specific interest such as Brexit and its outcome implications for Australia, as well as economic outlooks and global issues affecting Australia, especially immigration, interest rates, resource management and other areas where members have an interest. We are a non-political body but all have an interest in these types of subjects that affect our livelihoods. Guests will be detailed when known and hopefully will include present and past Prime and senior ministers.**

## 2. RECENT EVENTS

- a) **AGM and silver service dinner at the Royal Yacht Squadron** was a relaxed event considering the normal formalities of reporting and elections, that was well supported by members with an engaging report on his Tall Ships sailing experience by Peter Sofatzis. Our thank to Commander Richard Tighe, OAM RFD RD, for facilitating this wonderful venue and the intimate private room dinner afterwards that was limited to one course and drinks to ensure it was not a late night.

The following members were elected for the coming year:

Richard Nott AM	President
David Adams	Deputy President
Ken Bock OAM	Treasurer and Immediate Past President
Richard Tighe OAM	Vice President and Sail Training Co-Ordinator
Sue Labordus OAM	Administration Secretary
Janatha Adams	Foundation Representative and Trustee

Catherine Barker OAM, Philippa Armfield, Diana Rich as General Committee members.

In addition, the President acknowledged the support from our re-elected auditor, Ian Jagger, RFD FCPA JP, and several members of the society who have acted in support roles including Andrea Havers, Meredith Rundle, Alix Miller, Carol Osborne and Tom Jackson.

The sub-branch operating in the Southern Highlands was confirmed:

Malcolm Stephens CB	Co-Ordinator
Jan Bell	Secretary
Sue Hawick AM	Treasurer
Lynette Stephens	
Barry Todd	

Limited printed supplies of the Annual Report were distributed and sent to our Patron H.E The Governor, non-attending members who had made donations during the year, the NSW Library for their archives, various local and London reciprocal bodies. Copies of this detailed report is available on the Society website at [ausbrit.org](http://ausbrit.org), together with Peter Sofatzis' sailing report.

The general tenor of the meeting supported a continuance of our current programme and some modification as flagged. These highlighted the challenges of a potential interest-free financial environment next year where we will see our reserve earnings at nil that in more robust rate times earned us well over \$10,000 a year. As a result, we will continually look at trimming costs where we can and restrict the margin on events to meet members' ability to attend. This especially means that with an ageing membership base, our net financial outcome will be close to break-even or possibly small net losses. With reserves of around \$75,000 we have sufficient funds to sustain us through these harder times and the Society can easily pay its dues and continue in a solvent fashion. This has been assisted greatly by members who have made donations and especially appreciated from members who cannot attend function but like to support the Society and its events. Where possible, we encourage other collegiate group to join with us and a small proportion of any surplus is shared with the Friends of St. Georges' and Descendants of the Knights of the Garter.

Michelle Ryan, who sang for members at the Queen's Birthday Dinner was the recipient of this year's German-Australian Opera Grant towards studying in Germany, and has won a prize from the Joan Sutherland-Richard Bonyng Foundation, having been a finalist in their Bel Canto Award. Her attendance with us not only provided member enjoyment but experience for her promising career.

The main difference between our sister society in England and ourselves is that London especially has a large membership base due to the number of young Australians working there and a wider number of events that keeps it flourishing. Members are reminded of the wonderful operations that are available in London and at various branches they may be visiting.

- b) **Commemorative Remembrance of 200 years since the foundation stone was laid for St. James' Church King Street by Governor Macquarie.** This outdoor service with music, actors and a smoking ceremony recaptured some of the music and mood of this event towards the genesis of our oldest church in the city. A good attendance of members, supported other groups such as the First Fleeters, the Monarchist League and Cook Society, and was followed by refreshments in the church grounds.

### 3. NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome our new members:

Robert Chamberlain  
James Hulme  
LCDR Robert McMahon RANR and Finola McMahon

Please introduce yourselves to them as new members and new committee members are the life blood to keep the Society flourishing and engender innovation and growth.

### 4. PASSINGS

It is always a time of regret to announce the departure of old friends and we send all our condolences to their families and close friends. These included recently:

Dr. Noel Cummings  
Assoc. Prof Charles George

### 5. SOCIETY TIES

Thanks to Dale Eaton in London, we have a small supply of Navy silk ties with the logo embodied in gold colour we are selling at cost of \$53 plus \$2.00 postage if needed. Some ties will be brought to the next function for you to consider them as a possible Christmas gift, plus one will be included as a raffle prize. The makers are by Royal Appointment and the ties are considered the best value available for a quality silk tie, even though use of them is getting less. (At the end of a useful life there is always the tying of tomatoes that need them.)

With continuing best wishes,

*Richard Nott*