



Australia-Britain Society (NSW Branch) Inc

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

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

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Administration Secretary: Sue Labordus, OAM

NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2020

2020.3

“This virus has a lot to answer for. I have this strange man hanging about the house. He says he lives here”: Mary McMillan, Haddington, East Lothian. From The Times.

1. FUNCTIONS

This newsletter is primarily to convey our Patron’s message of support to our members in this period of uncertainty on so many fronts that have temporarily turned us into isolates. Her Excellency has asked us to advise you that members are in her thoughts and those of Mr. Wilson and her Personal Secretary, Colonel Michael Miller. Sue Labordus and I had a 45-minute telephone discussion with the Governor and Colonel Miller on the status of the Society and our plans when this shutdown enables us to rekindle our activities.

a) Sir Peter Cosgrove luncheon (postponed): we will aim to re-schedule this in February next year, subject to Sir Peter’s diary.

b) Luncheon with Peter Rainey, speaking on the British cinema experience, scheduled for 4 August, will be re-set at a date that suits us both some time in the new year.

c) The Last Night of the Proms 22/23 August: A number of you have already booked for this, and we are still hopeful that this will go ahead. The manager of the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra has indicated that, should the Government continue with the lockdown until August, this special concert will be re-scheduled, probably for October. In any event, we will inform you of developments.

d) Remembrance Day 11 November: From discussions, we are hoping that we will be able to hold our planned Remembrance Day service at St. James’ King Street, followed by a luncheon with His Honour Justice Michael Pembroke who will be reflecting on the Korean War and signing copies of his new book on that conflict, “The Forgotten War“. This will be held at either the

Australian Club or the UUSC in Sydney in one of their smaller rooms that will hold around 55 guests and provide for a potential slide show.

e) Christmas Luncheon is slotted for early December at the UUSC along the lines similar to that held last year and Her Excellency may be able to attend in lieu of missing the formal mid-year Queen's Birthday dinner planned for May.

f) Australia Day 2021: We have two rooms tentatively booked for a casual luncheon at the Kirribilli Club Milson's Point, with a verandah and some harbour views. Parking is available under the club and rooms will be held for us from 11.00am until 3.00pm. The Club is a short walk from Milson's Point station. Pricing depends upon the numbers attending and does have a public holiday cost loading. We will provide firmer details closer to the date and you can indicate the level of interest at the time.

g) Queen's Birthday Dinner May 2021 Gala Event. Next year is the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Australia-Britain Society in 1971, and we are aiming to make it an evening worth celebrating. It will include, as well as our Patron and past Governors, special inaugural members, previous Tall Ships and Plain English Speaking competition award winners, and singers from Pacific Opera. The Hon. John Howard will also be invited as a special guest, subject to his calendar dictates.

2. BEST WISHES

In addition to the positive sentiments of affection sent from our Patron our Governor and the support team at Government House, your committee send their best wishes and hope that we will soon return to our normal life and that the subsidence of the current perils will remind us of what a great legacy and life we have here in Australia.

With best wishes,

Richard Nott

*“And not by Eastern windows only, When daylight comes, comes in the light;
In front the sun climbs slow, how slowly! But westward, look, the land is bright.”*

‘Say not the struggle naught availeth’ by Arthur Hugh Clough
