



Australia-Britain Society (NSW Branch) Inc

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NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2020

2020.2

1. COMING EVENTS

- a) **Tuesday 31 March, Luncheon with Guests of Honour General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove, AK AC (Mil) CVO MC (Retd), recently retired Governor-General of Australia, and Lady Cosgrove. Sir Peter will be reflecting on his term as Governor-General as well as other issues which will be of interest to all of us. To be held at the Union, University and Schools Club (UUSC), 25 Bent Street Sydney NSW from noon until 2.45pm. Dress: business attire. Cost: \$95 for members, \$105 non-members includes drinks and two-course luncheon at one of our favourite clubs. A small raffle will be held and some free tickets will be issued to guests. Flyer attached. Please reply by 24 March and let the Secretariat know if you make electronic bookings so we know who you are.**

Sir Peter and Lady Cosgrove are long-time friends of the ABS and over the past twenty years have been our guests on two previous occasions. They will be happy to answer some questions on his subject. This will be an interesting afternoon and an early booking is suggested via the attached flyer. Ken Bock OAM, our capable Treasurer, MC and Raconteur will be sailing the high seas so you will be left with Richard Nott as MC on this occasion and hope Ken's absence does not detract from a wonderful day otherwise.

Due to the progression of coronavirus, we ask that you do not attend if you are ill or do not feel well. Even late cancellations by 27 March can give you a credit for prior payments to use at the next event if you have booked already. Also, to help guests relax, we remind you to refrain from handshaking and kissing, and please use handkerchiefs should there be a need to cough or sneeze. To eliminate touching potential risk areas such as rest room handles, we have suggested the UUSC dispense with supplying bread rolls that need to be handled.

- b) **Late May, Queen's Birthday Dinner with our patron Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley, AC QC, Governor of NSW, and Mr. Dennis Wilson. There will be a finalist in the NSW Plain English Speaking Awards replicating her speech, plus the current awardee of the Tall Ships sailing grant, and entertainment from the Pacific Opera stars, and a raffle. Dress: black tie with decorations, cost approx. \$125 including free parking, to be held at the Australian Club, Cnr Macquarie and Bent Streets, Sydney NSW from 6.00pm until 10.30pm.**

A date has not been received from Her Excellency beyond embracing the late May timetable to avoid conflicting events throughout April due to Anzac Day and Easter holidays when many members are absent from Sydney. This annual event in the Members' Dining Room is a special treat for non-club members to gain access to such a venue, fine fare and drinks plus quality entertainment and reflection from our Patron. Further date and other details will be sent when received.

- c) **Wednesday 5 August noon for 12.15 pm luncheon in the Macleay Room, Australian Club, Macquarie Street Sydney. Dress: business attire, with Peter Rainey of King's School who will be speaking on the wonder of British cinema with some slideshow support. More details closer to the date and will be priced at around cost and limited to 55 guests.**
- d) **"The Last Night of the Proms" Saturday evening 22 August 7.00pm and Sunday matinée 23 August 2.00pm at Chatswood Concourse. Cost \$48 per person (which is less than the Concession price). Two-hour event replicating the Albert Hall occasion. Dress casual or "British Emphasis" with red, white and blue colours. Parking: under the Concourse or a short walk from the bus and train stations. We have been allocated 110 tickets of the best seats as this year the Sunday concert will be filmed and the Willoughby Symphony is hoping the ABS members and friends can wave the various flags as well as our Committee being on stage with the orchestra supporting the audience involvement. Seats and tickets are now available via Sue Labordus at the Secretariat.**

We have thirty tickets for the Saturday evening concert and the remainder for the afternoon event which is a little more riotous than the evening concert, but both a lot of fun. The flag wavers will be dressed in Union Jack and colourful garb to entice you to join in the fun. Consider getting a cohort of family and friends together and join us for such a great day and be immortalised on the DVD that we presume will be available for sale shortly afterwards. As we have already sold a number of tickets, we suggest you book as soon as possible so that you can acquire your preferred seats, which are allocated on a first-in, best dressed basis.

- e) **Tuesday 8 September, luncheon at UUSC from noon with the British High Commissioner, the Honourable Vicki Treadell, CMG MVO, who will speak on British and Australian current relationships post Brexit and outlooks. Dress: business wear, cost approx. \$110.00 two-course luncheon with drinks.**

The recently arrived current High Commissioner, the Honourable Vicki Treadell has not been available to meet with us until later this year due to the changes emanating out of the Brexit programme and increases in visiting dignitaries and parliamentarians developing new opportunities emanating from this event. We now have a firm date for this luncheon and will provide more details closer to the time.

- f) Monday 28 September, Annual General Meeting at The Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, Kirribilli from 5.30 to 6.30pm, followed by a silver service one-course dinner and coffee/drinks at 7.00, to finish by 9.00pm for a limit of 32 members and guests. Cost approx. \$65.00.**

More details and AGM format to be provided in August.

- g) Remembrance Day service 11.00am St. James' Church King Street will be followed from 12.30pm at either the UUSC Club or Tattersalls Club, Elizabeth Street, by a luncheon with Hon. Justice Michael Pembroke, our guest of honour, who will be speaking on the compilation of his new book on the Korean War where his father received an MC and where research involved significant travel in North Korea by Justice Pembroke in visiting battle sites. Sale of his book and autographs has been requested. Further details will be provided closer to the date.**

Later events in the year will include a Christmas luncheon to be held in early December along similar lines to last year with cabaret entertainers, due to popular demand emanating from the 2019 event. The last event of the year, usually on the Sunday before Christmas, will be The Nine Carols and Lessons at St. James' Church King Street.

AUSTRALIA DAY 2021

We have reserved tentatively, subject to members' and guests' interest, two separate rooms at the Kirribilli Club (parking underneath the club or short walk from Milsons Point railway station) for Australia Day on 26 January from 11.00am to 3.00pm for a four-hour food and drinks package. Pricing is yet to be determined but due to the fact that it is a public holiday there is a 20% cost load imposed. Dress casual and the venues include access to the verandah and limited tables with harbour views. We would need around 30+ attendees for the smaller room and 50+ for the larger room. Guests can stay on at the club for the evening to watch the fireworks. Give us an indication of your interest in this casual function or whether you wish us to pursue a shorter water event that will presumably be more costly. Further details will be advised soon.

We are approaching difficult social and economic times with the coronavirus and we are assuming all our members will be acting sensibly and looking after number one and those close to you, and we appreciate that we may in a worst case have to defer some events if situations worsen.

Best wishes,

Richard Nott