



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, AC QC, Governor of New South Wales

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Administration Secretary: Sue Labordus, OAM

NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2020

2020.5

1. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER AT 5.00pm

Members will appreciate that we need to conduct a truncated meeting electronically in view of the coronavirus and regret that we will not have the pleasure of your company at the Royal Yacht Squadron with our current Tall Ships awardee Taylor Weetman and our friends at the annual silver service dinner. Hopefully by 2021 this traditional venue and process can resume.

As many members do not have printers or scanners, we have reduced the involvement process to be as simple as possible and as follows:

1. Attached are a) Last Year's Minutes and b) Abridged Annual Report
2. Members can simply confirm their proxy in favour of the meeting chairman by indicating so by return email to the Secretarial office: adminnsw@ausbrit.org or by telephoning Sue Labordus at the Secretarial office on 9449-7532.
3. Members wishing to nominate people to the committee can advise the Secretarial office by detailing the name of the nominated member, and the names of the proposer and seconder. The office will complete pro forma nominations for the meeting. If existing committee members cannot continue into 2021 could they please indicate this to the Secretarial office by email.
4. If members have any questions of the Chairman or Treasurer after reading the attached reports, they can indicate these by return email and they will be answered at the meeting.
5. To join in the meeting from home it is simply a case of clicking on the attached link, or if not possible due to your absence from technology, simply to ring the number indicated on the attachment meeting details. If all this fails, you can simply ring Ed Farrell on 0414-830-713 who will aim to connect you to the meeting. This phone-in or computer link will enable members to join and leave the meeting at their option.

To listen to the meeting, use ONE of the following three methods:

a) Follow this link:
<https://meet.google.com/iw-zjnd-yno>

Or:

b) Dial-in: (AU) +61 3 8594 6705 PIN: 862 923 421#.

Or:

c) Ed has also created a QR code. Point your mobile phone's camera at the code below until a link appears and select:



6. The meeting will follow the process:

Agenda

Welcome by Richard Nott, Ken Bock and Ed Farrell.

Declaration of proxies received and a quorum status and the meeting opened

Apologies

Acceptance of Previous Year's minutes as a representative of that meeting.

President report

Treasurer report.

Questions answered emanating from member enquiries

Election of Committee

Election of Southern Highlands Sub Committee

Election of External Auditor for 2021.

General business

This whole process should be contained within a 20-minute time frame so there is no electronic charge for this service to the Society.

If your likely questions are detailed ones, it may be more practicable to ring Richard Nott on 9449-2694 or Ken Bock on 9871-6869 to discuss the question and a summation can be advised to members during the meeting.

If members are relying still on physical copies of the annual report, please make a request to the Secretarial office for one to be posted to you. Also, a full report will be posted on the Society website accessed at: ausbrit.org – New South Wales – Annual Reports.

Hopefully “all will be well on the night” and it will be followed up by a Newsletter report detailing outcomes. Thank you for your understanding, tolerance and interest.

2. PROGRAMME STATUS

The scheduled programme for this year has had to be deferred until next year. Even if venues open with socially distanced seating facilities, the rooms will not provide sufficient seating to make the events worthwhile in cost recovery terms. We are monitoring some independent events where small numbers of our members can attend on a first-past-the-post booking basis being held in conjunction with our Patron at one of the city clubs well known to members such as morning tea and luncheon events. If you have an interest in these, please advise Sue Labordus as soon as we issue details.

3. PASSINGS

With much sorrow, we regret to report the passing of the following members of the Australia-Britain Society:

Jean Lever and **James Alexander Orr**, who have been our friends for many years. We extend our thoughts and sympathies to their families at this sad time.

In addition, many of you would be saddened to hear of the tragic and untimely death of our former British Consul-General, **Richard Morris**, who made available his residence at Vacluse on many occasions for Society events. He was a keen runner and it was at this recreative sport he suffered a fatal accident whilst enjoying the British woodlands. He was in his early 50's.

4. NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ed Farrell has joined the committee to fill a casual vacancy and to support the Tall Ships management programme run for many years by Commander Richard Tighe. Ed is a former Tall Ships awardee and has been an active supporter of the programme for many years. Ed will assume many of the evaluation processes and with his knowledge of technology will be more than a welcome addition to the limited skills the committee has in this sector.

Arthur Delbridge, AM, has joined the Highlands sub-committee as Treasurer and we welcome him to the team. Arthur is a retired senior banking executive, well-known to many members of this Society and other service groups. Welcome Arthur.

5. INTO 2021

We are hopeful that our programme will kick-start again in early next year and we remind you of our 50th anniversary to be celebrated by a black-tie dinner and musical soirée at the Australian Club with special guests of honour, which we aim to hold during one of the Wednesday evenings in May subject to the Governor's calendar.

Best wishes to all our wonderful members, long-term supporters and marvellous company. We miss seeing you and look forward to more than a happy reunion soon.

Richard Nott,

President