

Britain Australia Society: West Country Branch
AGM, 28th April 2019
Warminster Officer's Mess

Meeting opened at 11.40am by Chairman, Keith Newton (KN). David Leonard as returning officer.

Apologies: Peter Leppard

Committee Re-election:

David Leonard to stand down from the committee. Unanimous votes to reconfirm all current committee members, Chairman and Treasurer.

Chairman's Report (KN):

The branch currently holds three major events per annum: Australia Day, ANZAC Day, Admiral Arthur Phillip Birthday. Other events include an annual cricket match, held in Sutton Veny, that incorporates a fundraising raffle.

Current branch membership is just over 60 members, but the committee is to meet in the next few months to discuss how to expand membership.

Ongoing maintenance work is needed for the Arthur Phillip memorial located at the Bath Assembly Rooms. The request for a quote is on hold until issues with the National Trust are resolved.

The Britain-Australia Education Trust (BASET) has a new Chairman, John May and the trust currently offers two types of scholarship: Endeavour (for ages 22-45) and Pioneer (younger than 18). The funds from the estate of Richard Pavitt have been directed towards leather passport covers for the winners of the Endeavour scholarships.

At a national level the Society has a broad membership, with suggestions put forward for larger events, rather than the current format of multiple small events. Peter Benson has retired and has been replaced by Damien Walsh.

Australia Day 2019 review: Hosted in Bristol and went well. Generally positive feedback.

Arthur Phillip Birthday: speaker needed for October 2019 event.

Other news: the piano from the 1st Fleet is being restored near Bath, and the Society hopes to offer a recital on it upon completion of restoration works.

Treasurer's Report (Alan Cox):

Full costs provided at AGM. Notably some overspend in 2018, and thus there is an ongoing need for strict monitoring of operational costs. Accounts submitted and approved unanimously.

Other Business:

Minutes from 2018 AGM (only distributed to committee) approved. Request put forward that 2019 AGM Minutes sent to all members.

Barbara Jeremiah put forward a vote of thanks to Keith Newton and Alan Cox – overwhelmingly supported.

Keith Newton put forward a vote of thanks for the past and ongoing contributions of David Leppard – overwhelmingly agreed.

Links to Royal Commonwealth Society: Bath Branch are strong and ongoing. Invitation extended to Brit-Oz members to upcoming events, particularly a lunch at the American Museum on September 7th.

Lady Heath proposed that Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset, Annie Maw, be invited as a guest to the Admiral Arthur Phillip birthday celebrations.

Next AGM:

ANZAC Sunday, 2020

Meeting Closed at 12.01pm

Action Points

- Committee is to meet in the next few months to discuss how to expand membership.
- Invite Annie Maw to Phillip Birthday