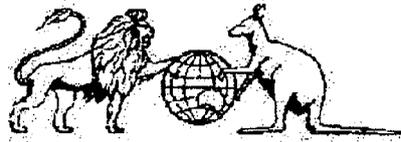


THE BRITAIN-AUSTRALIA SOCIETY



WEST COUNTRY BRANCH

BRISTOL - CORNWALL - DEVON - DORSET - GLOUCESTERSHIRE - SOMERSET - WILTSHIRE

12/05/2014

To West Country Branch Members of the Britain-Australia Society

Letter from the incoming Branch Chairman, Keith Newton

Dear Members (current and old),

I am very pleased and honoured to have been appointed as the 2014/15 Chairman of the West Country Branch at the AGM on April 27th. As there had been some question regarding the continuation of the branch, I thought it appropriate to write and outline our plans and thoughts for the future in what, hopefully, will be another excellent year of activities and social events supporting the aims of the Society.

My wife, Leyanne, and I have been members for the past three years and have really enjoyed the Branch functions and the friendships we have developed over this time. We strongly believe in the aims of the Britain-Australia Society, and given the very deep links between the West Country and Australia, we are keen for the Branch to continue to flourish. I am pleased to report that the Branch is healthy with solid membership; an exciting schedule of events; is strong financially; and of course has taken a leading role in raising funds and organising the activities for the Admiral Arthur Phillip Memorial celebrations to be held in London and Bath in July this year.

The past Chairman, Richard Pavitt, has done a sterling job over the last ten years and although stepping down to enjoy some well-deserved R&R, has agreed to remain on the Committee and will be continuing to provide his advice and guidance in the coming years. Richard has been a magnificent Chairman and the life and soul of the Branch. I thank him for his work over the past decade and also for his offer to stay involved and to assist me over the coming year.

Our President, Sir Roger Carrick, has signaled his intention to step down later in the year and I would like to thank Sir Roger for his support and leadership over the past years. Sir Roger will also be staying involved with the Branch on a non-official basis as an honorary member and we look forward to Sir Roger and Lady Carrick's attendance and involvement at future Branch events.

A little about myself – I am an Australian, born in Broken Hill and educated at the ANU in Canberra. I worked as a Management Consultant with Accenture for over 30 years living in Adelaide, Sydney, Chicago, Seoul (South Korea) and Hong Kong. I am a Chartered Accountant. My wife, Leyanne, is a secondary school teacher from Sydney. We now live near Dorchester where our six children all attend fantastic schools in the West Country, which together with the “weather” was the reason we came to live in England. Since my retirement from Accenture a few years back, I keep

busy with the schools, various charities, business and community interests in Australia and Asia, and the occasional games of golf, tennis and sailing, while Leyanne is a Drama Teacher at a girls school near Sherborne.

We are both committed Anglophiles and keen historians. We relish the opportunities in the West Country to visit the many stately homes, areas of historical significance and natural beauty in the district.

To recognize the change of the Chairmanship, both Richard and I would like to invite members and guests to a **Chairman's Lunch at the Treasurers House in Martock on September 10th 2014**. This lunch will raise money for the Britain- Australia Society Education Trust Legacy and will allow members and guests the opportunity to visit the beautiful and historic Treasurers House, as well as to offer Sir Roger and Richard our thanks for their decade as Branch President and Chairman.

The Branch has an active year ahead with the annual cricket match at Sutton Veny on Sunday 22nd June; events in Bath involving the unveiling of the Arthur Phillip memorial on 11th and 12th July; our annual Governor Phillip Birthday event at Bathampton and the Guildhall, Bath on October 10th; and the Anzac Day luncheon and service at Sutton Veny in what will be the centenary year of the Anzac landing at Gallipoli. Details of these will soon be posted on the Branch web site and be in the next Branch Newsletter.

We will also support the National Society Executive, and other branches, in the various events being held in London and elsewhere in Britain.

My goals for the Branch are: to keep-up the good work established by Richard and the Committee to support the upcoming calendar of events; to work with the National Executive to integrate the Branch and national activities and to seek further ways in which we can strengthen the links, understanding and friendship between the West Country of Britain and Australia by way of social, educational, and business contacts. In pursuing these goals I look forward to maintaining our close links with the English Speaking Union and the Commonwealth Societies.

I would also like to thank Mr. Richard Thorogood for his offer to join the Committee and encourage other members who may wish to join to contact me or any existing Committee members.

Finally, our Treasurer, Mr. Alan Cox, has asked me to remind those who have not yet paid, that the annual membership fees are due. At £20 double and £15 single - they are still very good value! Your continued support is important to us and we hope you will wish to be part of this exciting year.

I look forward to meeting you at Britain-Australia events and welcome your support and advice. Please feel free contact me with any ideas that you might like to share.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Newton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Keith Newton

Frome House, Frome Whitfield, Dorchester, Dorset. Phone 01305 250 821