

# THE BRITAIN-AUSTRALIA SOCIETY

## WEST COUNTRY BRANCH

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

04/03/2020

To West Country Branch Members of the Britain-Australia Society

## BRANCH NEWSLETTER

### FEBRUARY 2020

#### Note from the Chairman, Keith Newton

Dear Members,

Welcome to the branch newsletter in what is already a challenging year with the fires and floods in Australia, the floods in England, and the global Corona virus outbreak. In these times, its even more important for a strong relationship between our countries and with the potential increase in trade between the United Kingdom and Australia following the Brexit EU negotiations, I am pleased to report our Branch is active in holding events and engaging in activities which can maintain and enhance the many social, business, education, sporting and cultural relationships between Britain's West Country and Australia.

**2020 Membership Renewals:** Firstly, a reminder that our 2020 Membership Renewals are due. Many members pay by a standing charge, however for those that don't, please pay the £15 single or £20 joint membership fee either by direct bank transfer to our bank account: BAS West Country Branch; Sort 30-90-54; Account 04560502 including your name in the reference field or alternatively down-load the membership renewal and application from our web site.

<https://britozwest.org.uk/membership/>

**ANZAC DAY and AGM, Sunday April 26, 2020:** I am also pleased to report our annual ANZAC Day lunch at the Warminster Infantry Officer's Mess, followed by the Service at St John's in Sutton Veny will again be held this year on Sunday April 26, 2020. More details are below together with booking information.

This newsletter contains a short update on the Branch activities over the past months and a summary of upcoming events:

#### Recent Branch Events:

**Admiral Arthur Phillip Birthday Commemorations, October 11, 2019.**

We commemorated Admiral Arthur Phillip's 282nd birthday anniversary by holding a service at St. Nicholas Church, Bathampton where Phillip is buried. The Service was attended by local Bathampton school children and BAS Vice-President, Sir Roger Carrick gave a short address, aimed to the children, on Admiral Phillip (copies available on our website - <https://britozwest.org.uk/admiral-arthur-phillip-rn-st-nicholas-bathampton-11th-october-2019/>). Our President, Mrs Kay Pavitt and Commander Neil Cheverton from the Royal Australian Navy laid a wreath on Admiral Phillip's grave.



Commander Neil Cheverton, RAN, Mayor Of Bath, Gerry Curran, Lucy Coed and Keith Newton

Guests attended a lunch at the nearby Bailbrook House Hotel where The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Bath, Councillor Gerry Curran proposed the toast to Admiral Phillip and Australia, followed by the reply and toast to the City of Bath by Commander Cheverton. The newly appointed National BAS Chairman, Mr Damian Walsh attended and provided branch members and guests an update on National Society activities and plans.

After lunch guests were entertained by an excellent speech and slide presentation by Lucy Coed, the renowned piano restorer, on her current project restoring the First Fleet Piano, the first western musical instrument in Australia bought on the first fleet by Surgeon Worgan. In a follow up communication with Lucy this month she said she expected the restoration project to be completed in May / June with plans for a recital in London and also potentially a recital in Bathampton.

### **Admiral Philip Memorial in the Bath Assembly Rooms Garden Clean Up.**

The Admiral Arthur Phillip Memorial unveiled in 2014 as part of the 200 year anniversary commemorations of his death, has been in need of renovation to the stone plinth and cleaning of the writing on the armillary sphere. I am happy to report Bath Heritage has performed a clean-up of the memorial, which has helped return it to its original state, and agreed to complete cleaning every few years.



Admiral Phillip Memorial at The Bath Assembly Room

I am also pleased to report the Phillip Memorial Vase, presented to the City of Bath some time back by the Branch, which had been on display in the Bath Assembly Rooms, has now moved to the Mayor's Parlour in the Bath Guildhall.

#### **Australia Day Service and Lunch- Bath Abbey - January 27, 2020.**

The Branch held a Service at Bath Abbey, followed by lunch at the Bath City and County Club, on Sunday January 26, 2020 to celebrate Australia Day.



Bath Abbey

The celebration was very successful with a wonderful service conducted by Cannon Guy Bridgewater and the opportunity to see first-hand the extensive renovations being undertaken at the Abbey. The lunch was attended by the Lord Mayor of Bath, Councillor Gerry Curran, Wing Commander Jim Xinos of the Royal Australian Air Force and his wife Deborah, and our Branch Patron Sir Jay Tidmarsh and his wife Virginia. Our guest speaker Mr Jeremy Key-Pugh, who has had an extensive involvement with the Abbey and is currently Secretary of the Friends of Bath Abbey,

provided a most informative talk about the Abbey, its history, its Australian connections, and the current renovations.

## New Branch Web Site.



The branch has introduced a new, updated web site which I encourage you to visit to book branch events and see other branch information and photos, together with historical and other information relevant for members. <https://britozwest.org.uk>

In line with that objective we have added to our web site a copy of [Sir Roger Carrick's Admiral Arthur Phillip Commemorative Address](#) given at the St Mary-le-Bow Church Service held in London on Monday 20th January 2020.

## Upcoming Events:

### 1. ANZAC Day Service and Lunch.

Our Annual ANZAC Day lunch at the Warminster Infantry Officer's Mess, followed by the Service at St John's in Sutton Veny will again be held this year on Sunday April 26, 2020. This is a very special service with the wreath laying at the memorial commemorating the over 50 Australian Service men and Nurses buried in the Church ground, which are lovingly tended by the children of the local primary school where we are invited after the service to share tea and coffee.

I invite you attend you the ANZAC day commemoration, and our AGM, by booking from our website <https://britozwest.org.uk/events/anzac-day-2020/> or responding to the invitation which will be sent in the next few weeks.

### 2. Branch Annual General Meeting (AGM)

We will hold our AGM on April 26, 2020 at the Warminster Infantry Officers mess immediately preceding the Admiral Phillip Birthday commemorations lunch. I invite all members to attend.

### 3. Australian High Commission Versus Sutton Veny Village Annual Cricket Match.

The annual cricket match for 2020 will again be held this summer (to be announced for June or July) at the beautiful Sutton Veny Cricket ground alongside the St Nicholas church graveyard with the Australian WWI war graves.

#### **4. Admiral Arthur Phillip Birthday Commemoration Service and Lunch**

We have confirmed the annual Service at St Nicholas, Bathampton and lunch at the Bailbrook House Hotel for Sunday October 12, 2020 to commemorate Admiral Arthur Phillip's Birthday. Details to follow.

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We will distribute separate emails with invitations to the upcoming events, but please refer to our Branch website <https://www.britozwest.org.uk> which has booking forms and details of our events as well as a lot of other interesting materials.

Keith Newton