

# THE BRITAIN-AUSTRALIA SOCIETY

## WEST COUNTRY BRANCH

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

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### To West Country Branch Members of the Britain-Australia Society

## BRANCH NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2018

#### **Note from the Chairman - Keith Newton**

Dear Members,

A short update on Branch activities over the past months and a reminder of upcoming events:

#### **Admiral Arthur Phillip Birthday Commemoration**

This year's Admiral Arthur Phillip Birthday commemoration was a great success with around 40 members and guests attending the St Nicholas, Bathampton Church service and lunch at Bailbrook House hotel on Friday October 12, 2018.



*The High Commissioner Addressing the Congregation*

After enjoying tea and coffee, in the St Nicholas Church Hall provided by the Church congregation, our members and guests were joined by around 50 pupils from the Bathampton Primary school in the historic St Nicholas Church where the Rev'd Jonty Frith conducted a beautiful service to commemorate Admiral Phillip.

Distinguished guests included His Excellency The Honourable George Brandis, QC, High Commissioner for Australia; The Right Worshipful The Mayor of Bath, Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones and his partner Deirdre; Councillor Karen Walker, Chairman of the BANES Council and her partner Dave; Sir Roger Carrick VP of the Britain-Australia Society & Lady Carrick (Hilary); Mr Nate Hayward, National Executive Director, Britain Australia Society and Mrs Kay Pavitt, Branch President.

The High Commissioner addressed the congregation, and in particular the school students telling about Admiral Phillip and his remarkable achievements, Sir Roger Carrick read the lesson for the Service, and our President Kay Pavitt, and the High Commissioner laid a wreath at the Admiral's Grave immediately in front of the Australian Chapel.



*The High Commissioner and Branch President Mrs Kay Pavitt Laying a Wreath to the Admiral*

We then moved to the Bailbrook House Hotel for the reception drinks, hosted by the Mayor of Bath on behalf of the Trustees of the City of Bath. Lunch was served in the Brunel Suite at the Hotel with the wine donated by the Australian High Commission.



### ***Lunch in the Bailbrook Hotel***

After lunch speeches were made by the Mayor of Bath, and the High Commissioner. The Mayor proposed the toast to Admiral Phillip and to Australia, and the High Commissioner proposed the toast to the City of Bath. Our Guest Speaker, Dr Ian Henderson from Kings College then gave a very interesting address on indigenous Australian learnings and how they differ so greatly from our formal education systems. He highlighted particularly one of the first comings together of the two different cultures and social practices when in 1790, at Manly cove, Admiral Phillip was speared when visiting his friend Bennelong, from the Eora people.

A number of guests have asked me if they can have copies of the Ian's speech and he has kindly agreed. It is now on our web site or available from the following link [Copy of Speech by Dr Ian Henderson from Kings College](#).

### **The Bath Admiral Phillip Memorial Update**



### ***Armillary sphere in the Bath Assembly Rooms Gardens***

A number of members have commented that the Armillary Sphere Sculpture in the Bath Assembly Rooms gardens, unveiled in 2014 to honour Admiral Phillip, is wearing badly and in need of restoration. Thanks to Stephen Bird of Bath Heritage Services, we have identified the work needed to restore the memorial to its full glory, and in the next few months

will approach the Education Trust (BASET) and raise money to complete the restoration.

### **REMINDERS – NEXT EVENTS**

**Australia Day Service and Lunch – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019** - On January 29, 2019 we will hold the branch Australia Day Service at Bristol Cathedral followed by lunch at the Bristol Commonwealth Society Clubhouse at Commonwealth House. Our guest speaker from the SS Great Britain Trust will give an insight into aspects of life on board the ship as experienced by passengers sailing to Australia over 150 years ago.

**ANZAC Day – Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2019** - Our Anzac Day lunch will again be held at the Warminster Officers Mess, followed by the annual service at St Johns Church at Sutton Veny. An executive of the Commonwealth War Graves commission will provide the address.

**Lord Carrington Service of Thanksgiving – January 31 2019** - As you no doubt know, the Britain-Australia Society is very saddened that our President, Lord Carrington passed away on July 9, 2018. Apart from his influential role in founding the Society and serving as President since our inception in 1971, he was a leading British statesman and a great supporter of the Britain Australia relationship.

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of the Rt Hon the Lord Carrington KG, GCMG, CH, MC will be held in Westminster Abbey at Noon on Thursday 31st January 2019

**From our friends at THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY Bath and District 150th RCS Anniversary Christmas Lunch - 6th December, 2019 at the Bath and County Club, Queen Square Bath Special Guest of Honour: Her Excellency the High Commissioner of Singapore.** Contact the RCS for details: [emmaharris3@gmail.com](mailto:emmaharris3@gmail.com) or click the following for the booking form <http://britozwest.org.uk/events>

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

Keith Newton