



# Cymdeithas Cymry Sydney Sydney Welsh Society

04 October 2018

Warm greetings to members and supporters! We hope you are well and enjoying the warmer Spring weather which has finally reached Sydney.



The annual Cymanfa Ganu was held at St Peter's Presbyterian Church in North Sydney in September and an enjoyable time was had by all. The Cantorian choir was in fine form and many old favourites were stirringly delivered to the delight of an appreciative audience.

This year it was very pleasing to see a larger and more vocal congregation than last year. Afternoon tea was served in the church ground with fine (but windy) weather and a glorious view adding to the occasion.

## Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The AGM was held in the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts in Pitt Street on 08 September. The School of Arts provides excellent facilities and Society members enjoyed tea and refreshments provided by committee members. The new committee for 2018/19 was elected:

### New Committee:

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Ian Williams	<a href="mailto:refine@bigpond.net.au">refine@bigpond.net.au</a>
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Huw Evans	<a href="mailto:huwman82@hotmail.com">huwman82@hotmail.com</a>
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Maryanne Sansom	<a href="mailto:maryannesansom@gmail.com">maryannesansom@gmail.com</a>
<b>TREASURER</b>	Viv Llewellyn	<a href="mailto:taffy@pnc.com.au">taffy@pnc.com.au</a>
<b>COMM MEMBER</b>	Kathleen Evans	<a href="mailto:kas_thompson@hotmail.com">kas_thompson@hotmail.com</a>
<b>COMM MEMBER</b>	Emyr Evans	<a href="mailto:emyr001@gmail.com">emyr001@gmail.com</a>
<b>COMM MEMBER</b>	Ivor Rees	<a href="mailto:ivorrees@hotmail.com">ivorrees@hotmail.com</a>
<b>COMM MEMBER</b>	Eirwen Taylor	<a href="mailto:eirwen_t@hotmail.com">eirwen_t@hotmail.com</a>

## Loss of prominent figures in the Welsh / Celtic communities

The Society acknowledges the recent losses of Clive Woosnam, John Webb, Gwen Cryer and Anders Alqvist and their outstanding contributions over many years to the Welsh and Celtic communities in Sydney. They will be sadly missed.

## Up, Up and Away to Cardiff

You can now fly to Wales on a new route connecting Australia to Wales flying Qatar Airways via Doha. In just two decades Qatar Airlines has risen to be at the forefront of aviation and was voted the best airline in the world in 2017. You could be lucky and fly in one of the exciting new Boeing 787 Dreamliners in their fleet.

So, the next time you're packing your bags for a trip home think about Qatar and a quick change at Doha for their direct flight to Cardiff. Marvellous if you live in the south of Wales and want to avoid the hassle of Heathrow!

## Harold Mitchell's views on Wales



Australian advertising guru, philanthropist and businessman Harold Mitchell is the founder of Mitchell & Partners and a former executive chairman of Aegis Media Pacific.

He recently visited Wales and spoke to the First Minister Carwyn Jones. I am reproducing part of his commentary as it highlights the still enduring impression of Wales as a land of coalminers and singers, and highlights some of the problems Wales faces as a result of Brexit.

*'The theme of disruption continued at a lunch I had with the First Minister of Wales Carwyn Jones, although the Welsh story is less chaotic than both Brexit and Trump. This small land of 3 million people, known for their miners, singers and rugby players closed its last coal mine in 2008. Who would have thought?*

*Now it's all about renewables including wind power plus a big push to build wave power generation using the great forces of the Atlantic Ocean off their coast.*

*But Brexit is a big problem for Wales and is typical of the turmoil the UK is in. Wales is part of the scrambled egg of Europe as it adjusts its economy to new industries. One of them is making parts for the Airbus A380 which are shipped to France for final assembly. Brexit puts all of this in doubt as the First Minister told me. Indeed, how do you undo a scrambled egg? The fact is you can't.*

*A week away has convinced me yet again that we are very lucky to be Australians in Australia.'*

*Harold Mitchell publishes a weekly column in the Sydney Morning Herald*

## 100 years on: First wireless message sent from Britain to Australia by Australia's Welsh PM Billy Hughes



A century ago on 22 September 1918 the first messages from Britain to Australia were transmitted by wireless telegraphy. Before this, messages were transmitted by submarine cable that ran from Darwin, through the Indonesian archipelago and on to "Mother England".

At this time, during the First World War, the cable left Australia's communications vulnerable to both sabotage and interception as sensitive military messages were transmitted using the line. And Billy Hughes, Australia's Welsh speaking prime minister at the time, worried about it as Australia could be entirely cut off from the rest of the world.

And so Ernest Fisk was sent to Australia to set up operations for the Marconi company using radio signals. To test the capability of the new technology, messages were dispatched by the prime minister, who had been visiting troops on the Western Front, from the Marconi company's new Transatlantic station in Caernarvon, Wales. They were successfully received by Mr Fisk, at his experimental wireless station at his home in Wahroonga.

A re-enactment of the successful transmission at the monument adjacent to Mr Fisk's property was held on Saturday 22 September 2018 attended by several members of the Fisk family.

Cofion cynnes

**Ian Williams, President**

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News items sourced from Cymru Fyw and Sydney Morning Herald web sites.