



# Australia-Britain Society

(NSW Branch) Inc

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Patron: Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, AC, CVO, Governor of New South Wales

## ANNUAL REPORT 2011



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## **BACKGROUND OF THE SOCIETY**

The Society was formed in 1971 under the auspices of Sir Robert Menzies, former Prime Minister of Australia, to nurture and promote cultural links that both Britain and Australia shared through their common heritage. This was reflected by the British Prime Minister Sir Alec Douglas-Home establishing a complementary sister society in Britain called the Britain-Australia Society.

The Society in Australia is made up of a Foundation and branches in Sydney, Canberra, the Gold Coast, Melbourne and Perth.

The Australia-Britain Society Foundation is based in Canberra ACT and holds reserves of around \$260,000 being the proceeds of the former National body of the Society, wound up in 2007/8. The Foundation raises money in its own right directly and from investment earnings as well as contribution from Branches towards specific projects such as the Shakespeare in Schools programme. Members can make direct donations to the Foundation where a tax deduction is available. Branch Presidents are Trustees of the Foundation. Pooling of donations from branches enables the Foundation to make discrete larger contributions to worthwhile cultural activities that support our British heritage.

The majority of New South Wales members are based in greater Sydney or in the Southern Highlands where there is an active informal sub-branch. Most members are people born in Britain or who have lived there for some years. Conversely in Britain most members are Australians or British people with links to Australia.

The Australia-Britain Society is an independent non-political Australian organisation, whose role is to maintain, encourage and strengthen the numerous cultural links between Australia and Britain in a spirit of friendship. These bonding links are expressed through history, language, literature, education, sport and cultural events. The Society places emphasis on the role of youth in supporting a modern and evolving relationship between Australia and Britain.

The Society's aims are met through a range of events with an emphasis on fellowship and fun, which preserve occasions that both societies honour. These include Australia Day, and the Queen's Birthday as the flagship celebration events. Surplus proceeds enable grants to be made for a diverse series of programmes within the charter of nurturing our common bonds and with a focus on young people.

The committees of the various Society structures comprise a wide range of skills and energies given freely by their members.

## **NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH**

**PO Box 647, GORDON NSW 2072 Telephone/Fax (02) 9449 7532**

**Email : [absociety@idx.com.au](mailto:absociety@idx.com.au)**

### **STRUCTURE**

Our branch has 326 members. (See the Membership Report for more details). Most members live in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs, North Shore and the Peninsula. Many members are retired and a large group is based in the Southern Highlands around Bowral, Moss Vale and Mittagong.

Function attendances range from 30-150 people, mainly members, guests and friends from collegiate societies including:

Anglo-Australasian Lawyers Society

Arthur Phillip Society

BBM (Big Brother Movement)

British Public Schools Alumni

Cook Society

Order of St. John

Royal Commonwealth Society

Royal Over-Seas League

Royal Society of St George

Scots-Australian Council

Sydney-Portsmouth Sister City Committee

The Society of the Friends of St George's and The Descendants of the Knights of the Garter

The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire Association

The Navy League of Australia (NSW Division)

The English in Australia Association ("T Club")

The English Speaking Union

By amalgamating some functions with collegiate groups, a better patronage is possible. This enables us to provide entertainment at events and enables friends of various groups with kindred interests to meet periodically. A large number of our members are also members of these various groups and it is expedient for us to share one major event rather than compete for attendances against other societies with a common membership who are unlikely to attend every similar function.

## **2010-11 YEAR IN REVIEW**

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

For the benefit of newer members and as a reference point, the Committee membership details are listed. It may be useful for members to know the Committee members' roles and other interests the Committee has outside the Society.

#### **President and Treasurer:**

**Ken Bock**, BCom, ANZIIF(fellow), FFin, CPA

Tel (02) 9871 6869 Mobile 0411 705 036 Fax 9871 6841 email: kbandlb@optusnet.com.au

Ken Bock is a retired senior manager with AMP where he served throughout Australia and in London. He is an announcer with 2RPH radio, an actor in various suburban Sydney theatre productions, Diocesan Reader of the Epping Anglican church, a member of the supervisory board of the Scripture Union Deposit Fund, and an active member of the Masonic movement.

In addition to being our President and Treasurer, Ken acts as Master of Ceremonies at our major functions.

#### **Vice President and Sail Training Co-ordinator:**

**Commander Richard Tighe**, RFD, RD, RANR (Retd)

Tel (02) 9948 3479 mobile 0407 941 399 email: tighe@bigpond.net.au

Commander Tighe is the longest-serving member of the Committee having served twelve years as Honorary Treasurer before being elected Vice President in 2000. A retired senior banker, Commander Tighe served for over forty years in the Royal Australian Naval Reserve as a seaman Officer and Intelligence Officer, including a nine-year term as Honorary Aide-de-Camp to the former Governor of New South Wales, the late Sir Roden Cutler, from 1970-1979.

His prime function is chairing the Sail Training Selection Committee, co-ordinating the Sail Training programme awards and all the background work which goes in organising these awards. British awardees joining the *Young Endeavour* are provided with hospitality and local contacts by the Society. This is co-ordinated by Commander Tighe in conjunction with the Australian Sail Training Association and the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme. Mrs Barbara Tighe is a wonderful support in this Society work. It is a major task and the focus of the Society's awards programme.

## **Hon. Secretary:**

**David Adams, LLB**

Tel (02) 9283 5121 email: [djadams@unwired.com.au](mailto:djadams@unwired.com.au)

David is a practising solicitor. He is an Honorary Director of various boards and committees, and runs 23 retirement villages throughout New South Wales. He is a member of the Sail Training evaluation committee, and attends to secretarial and legal requirements of the Society.

## **Membership Secretary and Administration Secretary:**

**Mrs. Sue Labordus, BA**

PO Box 647, Gordon NSW 2072 Tel/Fax (02) 9449 7532 email: [absociety@idx.com.au](mailto:absociety@idx.com.au)

Sue was born and educated in England, moved to South Africa where she had her own fashion agency business, thence to Australia where she has lived for thirty-seven years. Sue has a degree in Modern Languages and has taught French and German on a voluntary basis at the University of the Third Age.

Since January, 2005, Sue has been the Branch programme co-ordinator, which involves running the Secretariat: communicating with members, collecting mail, receipt and banking of funds, and organising, printing and despatch of newsletters and flyers. This role has a direct involvement with function planning, table plans and programme organisation. She is also responsible for compiling, editing and arranging publication of our Annual Reports. In addition, as Membership Secretary, she is responsible for membership renewals and maintenance of the membership database.

## **General Committee Members:**

**Mrs Janatha Adams**

Janatha trained and practised as a registered nurse. She subsequently attended the Cordon Bleu Cookery Schools in London as well as Paris and obtained certificates from both places. She now manages her own catering business and assists with Society functions.

**Mrs. Maureen Tegerdine**

Tel (02) 9949 7001 email: [motegs@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:motegs@yahoo.co.uk)

Maureen was born in Scotland and moved to England at age seven. She raised a family in England and since 1984 set up and managed a charity Crossroads Care that employed care-attendants. Maureen came to Australia in 2004 and has become an Australian citizen actively involved in charity work. Maureen assists with management of our functions.

**Ian Plumb, B.Sc. Ph.D**

Tel (02) 9498 1022 Mobile: 0423 978 318 email: [icba.plumb@bigpond.com](mailto:icba.plumb@bigpond.com)

Ian is a semi-retired Research Scientist, having worked for CSIRO for 31 years prior to retirement in 2008. He continues to pursue research interests as Research Consultant with CSIRO. He is on the Committee for Friends of Swain Gardens, a bushcare volunteer and a volunteer with the NSW Cancer Council. He joined the Committee in 2010.

**Mrs. Barbara Plumb B.Sc.(Hons), Dip.Ed**

Tel (02) 9498 1022 email: [icba.plumb@bigpond.com](mailto:icba.plumb@bigpond.com)

Barbara was born in Leicester and attended university in London and Birmingham before marrying and emigrating to Australia in 1972. She has been a high school teacher for 35 years. She became involved in the Society seven years ago after both her children were selected to sail on the Young Endeavour. She joined the Committee in 2010. She, with husband Ian, is on the Committee for Friends of Swain Gardens.

**Malcolm Stephens, CB MA**

Tel (02) 4869 1245 email: [malcolmstephens@hotmail.com](mailto:malcolmstephens@hotmail.com)

Malcolm joined the main NSW committee during 2010, he being Treasurer of the Southern Highlands group. His full details appear under the SH listing on page 10.

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The future of the Society depends upon the depth, interest and vitality of the committee to share the service load and offer worthwhile programmes and organisation to its members. New committee members are always needed and appreciated. Vacancies exist for function support, and for general roles to provide for natural succession planning. Additionally, we need members to assist periodically with selling and collating of raffles and organising prizes. Please advise any member of the Committee if you believe you can help at some of these functions in this way or by manning the reception desk at our functions.

## **Southern Highlands**

Southern Highlands is an informal sub-group which organises its own regional functions, makes grants from the funds raised and adds to our general reserves. This has worked well for many years, and whilst licensing regulations may require some formalisation of its structure, the current arrangements work smoothly and strong communication channels exist with the main branch committee.

### **Southern Highlands Co-ordinator**

**Miss Cynthia Parker, OAM**

PO Box 997 Mittagong NSW 2575 Tel (02) 4871 1267 fax (02) 4872 2921

Cynthia was born and educated in England. After holding a Royal Academy of Dancing scholarship for five years, Cynthia followed a career in education. Her teaching career started in the East End of London before joining the staff at Frensham, Mittagong in 1961. After five years at Frensham she returned to England and taught at a co-educational school in the dock area of London. In 1968 Cynthia was invited back to Frensham as Headmistress and remained in that position for twenty-six years until her retirement in 1993. She became a member of the Society and has co-ordinated the Society activities in the Southern Highlands since the inception of our activities there in 1995. Cynthia was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for services to education and to the community.

### **David Brown**

David arrived in Australia in 1980 from New Zealand where his maternal great-grandparents had emigrated to in the 1840's. David manages a family business supplying processing equipment to the timber-based panel industry and specialises in the use of waste materials.

### **Mrs. Jan Bell**

Mrs Bell returned to Australia in 1997 after thirty-three years in Singapore raising a family after a teaching career. In addition to the Society committee, Jan is actively involved with the Deaf and Blind Children's Society at North Rocks and other groups involving children with disabilities.

### **Malcolm Stephens, CB, MA, Treasurer**

Malcolm has had a distinguished career in Britain, Europe and Africa; initially in the UK Diplomatic Service, with Barclays Bank, and Director of the UK Civil Service Staff College. He was Chief Executive of the Exports Credit Guarantee Department, a member of the Overseas Project Board, and Chief Executive of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Malcolm has now retired from a busy Consultancy practice, including visiting scholar to the IMF, World Bank and numerous Governments. Malcolm was awarded a Companion of the Bath in 1991 and was educated at St John's College Oxford where he earned an MA in Politics, Philosophy and Economics. He has now joined the main NSW Committee.

He is married to Lynette Stephens and is both British and Australian citizen as well as a member of the Cook Society.

### **Mrs. Lynette Stephens, BA**

Lynette has a BA degree in English and Psychology from Queensland University. Her career in the Commonwealth Public Service led to her being selected as an Australian Exchange Officer to the UK with the British Ministry of Labour. She met and married Englishman Malcolm Stephens, and they lived in Kent for twenty-eight years. They returned on regular visits to Australia, and permanently settled in the Southern Highlands in 2001. Lynette joined the local committee mid-2004.

### **Barry Todd**

Born in Ceylon and educated in the UK, Barry joined the Royal Navy on leaving school. During his 20 plus years' service he was seconded to the Royal Australian Navy for 2 years, serving at sea in HMA Ships *Vendetta* and *Sydney*. He resigned from the Royal Navy in 1972 and returned to Australia. Based in Sydney, he spent the remainder of his career as a Management Consultant with a leading international management consultancy. He and his wife, Ola, now live on a small property in the Southern Highlands where they thoroughly enjoy country life.

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am pleased to submit my report for inclusion in the Society's Annual Report for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2011.

Your Committee was able to present the "usual" run of social events during 2010/2011 for our members. I believe that they proved most entertaining for those who attended. There was, however, one particular function conducted during the year that was quite unique compared with the others. This was the lunch, held during August, 2010, to honour the many years of devoted service to your Society by Immediate Past President, Richard Nott. It was a wonderful occasion conducted at the Royal Yacht Squadron overlooking Sydney Harbour. Past Presidents, Malcolm Longstaff and Ross Swan made excellent orations in tribute to Richard and he, in turn, made an excellent response to the toast proposed in his honour. All who attended enjoyed themselves very much and there was unanimous praise heaped on Richard for his contribution over many years to the Society's activities.

*As your current President, all that remains is for me to record in this Report, as a permanent record, my thanks on your behalf to Richard for all he has done for the NSW Branch of the Australia-Britain Society.*

Our other functions during the year were all successful and, as the financial statements show, fortunately generated an overall surplus. I mention in particular:-

- The Remembrance Day commemoration held at the historic St. James Church in King Street followed by an entertaining lunch at City Tattersalls Club;
- The Annual Christmas Party held at the British Consul-General's residence at Vaucluse;
- The Australia Day celebration. This was a very pleasant event held once again, after an absence of some time, at our traditional venue, the American Club in Macquarie Street. Following an extensive reorganisation and upgrading of its premises by the Club, it was a welcome return to the venue and being a pleasant day, the view over the harbour was magnificent;
- The Tall Ships Luncheon. We were delighted to sponsor Ms. Caitlin Stephenson to the annual Tall Ships project for 2011. Caitlin was an excellent ambassador for Australia as well as the A-B Society. The luncheon during May on board the Young Endeavour moored at Woolloomooloo was a delight, it being a glorious day. A report from Deputy President Richard Tighe on this important annual event appears elsewhere in the Annual Report.
- The Queen's Birthday Luncheon. This took place on 6<sup>th</sup> June at Cellos Restaurant within the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel in the presence of our Patron, Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of NSW and Sir Nicholas Shehadie, AC. Her Excellency's address to the gathering was, as usual, quite stimulating emphasising our heritage and the benefits we enjoy

from our historical roots. We also enjoyed an address from Ms Alexandra Downie the winner of the NSW Division of the Plain English Speaking Award competition for 2010. Alexandra kindly repeated her award-winning speech from the competition.

I trust that all who participated in these various activities derived enjoyment from them, but I must emphasise that these functions come about only because of the hard work undertaken by the other members of our Committee. Their names appear at the beginning of this Annual report. Much is involved in causing a function to happen and be conducted smoothly and enjoyably. I thank them unreservedly for the effort each of them put into running your Society and its activities.

I must make mention also of the Southern Highlands group which continued to be active and conducted several functions during the year whilst also making useful donations to cultural organisations including the Bell Shakespeare Company. Led by Cynthia Parker, the S.H. group is to be warmly commended for their on-going activities and in particular their hard-working Committee.

In relation to our programme of functions, the Committee has become concerned that the costs of venues used for Society functions had risen significantly in recent years and that this might be creating difficulties for those Society members on fixed retirement incomes. At the Committee's request, Committee Member Ian Plumb prepared a questionnaire to members on this subject. It was sent to members with the January-February Newsletter and sought feedback from members on our functions programme. The replies showed that, although cost of functions is of some importance to members, quality of venue, quality of food and venue location are the most important factors influencing whether or not members attend ABS functions. Approximately two thirds of respondents thought the number of functions is about right, with the other third preferring more functions. Harbour cruises, day coach tours and informal drinks/finger food occasions with a speaker were the most popular suggestions for additional functions. Based on this feedback, the Committee will continue to hold functions at quality venues such as the American Club and the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, while striving to keep costs as low as possible for our members. We are investigating the possibility of a day coach tour, possibly to the Southern Highlands so as to be able to visit our very active group there, later in the year.

To conclude, I make two major points:-

a) Whether we like it or not, your Society has reached a plateau as regards attracting new members and continuing to grow. It is a worthy organisation and has much to offer society in general. Unfortunately our membership base is ageing and there are insufficient new members coming in to replace those departing for whatever reason. I urge you as a member to speak to your friends about the Society and encourage them to join. *We need new members if we are to continue to operate well into the future.*

b) Just as we need new members, so we need new talent to join the Committee so as to contribute to the planning and implementation of our functions throughout the year. At recent functions I have spoken quite emphatically on this topic and have asked for members to come forward and offer to contribute to the running of your Society.

As I said above, the functions we run don't just happen. They need to be organised. We need to spread the tasks. This is definitely a case where many hands make light work.

Please consider joining your Committee. Please contact me or Sue Labordus in this regard.

*Ken Bock,*  
President

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For the year to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 the following programme of events was held:

- ***Victoriana!* Black tie dinner** and variety programme at St Paul's College, Sydney University
- **Plain English Speaking Awards. NSW finals** at NSW Teachers' Federation
- **Lunch at Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron Kirribilli**
- **Annual General Meeting and Cocktail Party with Sail Training reports**
- **Remembrance Day church service at St. James' Church, King Street** and luncheon at the Esperanto Room, City Tattersalls Club, Sydney
- **Christmas Party** at the residence of the British Consul-General at Vaucluse, Sydney.
- **Australia Day Luncheon** at the newly refurbished American Club, Sydney
- **Last Night of the Proms** with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra at the Sydney Opera House, to celebrate the Royal Wedding.
- **Young Endeavour buffet at Fleet Base, Woolloomooloo.** Hosted by the Royal Australian Navy with 2010 awardee, Caitlin Stephenson
- **Queen's Birthday Luncheon** at Cello's Restaurant, Castlereagh Boutique Hotel Sydney with our guest of honour Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales, together with guest Alexandra Downie, the 2010 State winner of the Plain English Speaking Awards.

### **In the Southern Highlands:.**

- **“From Subs to Baghdad” - Address by Capt. Peter Scott CSC RAN on the life of a submariner**
- **Presentation by Lindsay Lewis on the biography “*The Inconvenient Child*”**
- **Presentation by local historian Leonie Knapman on the history of Mittagong Farm Homes**

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### **SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Southern Highlands Committee of the NSW Branch of the Australia-Britain Society remains unchanged since last year. The same six members work co-operatively and lead the annual three functions.

It has been an eclectic program of guest speakers. This in turn brings a differing audience to each occasion and widens the Society’s image in the area.

In August 2010 we were addressed by a serving Naval Officer, Capt. Peter Scott CSC, RAN, a submariner and Chief of Staff to the Vice Chief of The Defence Force. His talk - “*From Subs to Baghdad*” - was both fascinating and horrifying. We doubt if there would have been a rush to volunteer as a submariner!

Lindsay Lewis, co-author of the biography *The Inconvenient Child*, presented April’s topic. The ‘child’ of the story, Sharyn Killens, was unfortunately in hospital recovering from open-heart surgery. Her story of being born in Sydney in 1948 of a liaison between a pretty blonde Australian mother and a black merchant marine, who sailed back home to America, reveals the White Australia Policy and society’s judgment of the time. It is the story of a mother’s silence and an abandoned child’s journey to find her Afro-American roots. This biography is both heart-rending and heart-warming. Many members bought copies of the book at the conclusion of the talk.

This presentation should have been given in October 2010 but due to Sharyn’s illness our guest speaker in spring was local historian Leonie Knapman on research she has pursued about the history of Mittagong Farm Homes, 1881–1994. During the century of care for destitute under-privileged and powerless girls and boys, over 30,000 children lived in the 20 homes. They were an important part of the Southern Highlands community. The area is now being developed by Landcom into a residential site known as Renwick, in dedication to Sir Arthur Renwick (1837-1908), physician, philanthropist and politician.

The Southern Highlands actively endeavours to network with local groups in the community. We organise block bookings for the Highlands Theatre Group productions and members enjoy their matinée performances. Details of local special events are e-mailed, and so members and friends meet informally as well as at our three annual functions

Happily we have continued to make a surplus on each of these functions. Regrettably, like our Sydney Committee, we find it difficult to encourage younger people to join us. All three major events have been held at The Henrietta Rose Room, Bowral Library, as The Bradman Museum is still under reconstruction and development. We welcome the possibility of Sydney members coming to the Southern Highlands to any of our functions. In return there seems at least some of our members who are able to attend Sydney functions and which are much enjoyed.

*Cynthia Parker, OAM*  
Southern Highlands Co-ordinator

## **GRANTS MADE**

During the year your Society maintained its support for organisations encouraging young people's efforts. For the year 2010-2011, grants totaled \$5418.

Our major support amount was to the Sail Training programme and comprised \$3,018 for an airfare and expenses for Ms Caitlin Stephenson, our Sail Training Winner for 2010, when she participated in the annual Tall Ships Exchange Programme in the U.K. Our Vice-President and Sail Training Co-ordinator, Cmdr. Richard Tighe, has reported on this activity elsewhere in the Annual Report.

We also provided prizes for the annual Plain English Speaking Awards promoted by the Sydney Morning Herald and the English Speaking Union in which students from NSW secondary schools competed. The prizes comprised \$100 to each of the six finalists and a further \$250 to the ultimate winner, Miss Alexandra Downie. She very kindly repeated her award-winning speech at our 2011 Queen's Birthday Lunch in the presence of our Patron, the Governor, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir. The total grant by our Society to the PESA scheme therefore amounted to \$850.

Our Southern Highlands group made donations to the Bell Shakespeare Company amounting to \$1,000, as well as to local historical and volunteer societies (\$550).

The level of awards made is largely determined by the operating surplus from functions during the year, to preserve the society's capital and provide for some asset growth. Functions are held at a nominal surplus to give members value and provide a varied entertainment calendar at a low cost. If we can attract more corporate or private donations these grants can be increased.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

During the year 2010-2011, we welcomed 11 new members to the Society and we look forward to meeting them at our various functions. We lost 14 valued members due to their passing away, or resignation due to age and inability to attend functions.

A further 22 members did not pay their subscriptions for the year, despite a reminder, and we have reluctantly removed them from the mailing list. As a number of our members are life members, from whom we receive no annual subscriptions, the question of renewals is therefore a very important one so as to sustain a cash flow which is used for our grants scheme. Our membership fees have not increased for many years in order to encourage early renewals, but at the time of writing this report, there are many subscriptions outstanding for the coming year. We urge you, if you have not already done so, to renew in order to remain on the membership list. Rates for 2011-12 remain unchanged, at:

General (under 65 years of age)	:	\$ 35.00 p.a.
Senior (65 years and over)	:	\$ 30.00 p.a.
Family (includes partner)	:	\$ 60.00 p.a.
Corporate Life	:	\$500.00 for 5 years

For new members joining after 1 March, the annual payment covers the last quarter of that year and the whole of the next year to 30 June.

Membership numbers as at 30 June 2011 were:

General	:	24
Senior	:	72
Family	:	74
Life	:	123
Corporate	:	1
Complimentary	:	32
(Including Sail Training winners, various states and other bodies)		

TOTAL	:	<u>326</u>
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If you have changed your address, would like to be added back on to the mailing list, know of someone who has moved and would like to be re-included on the list, or someone who would like to join, please contact me on (02) 9449-7532, or email [absociety@idx.com.au](mailto:absociety@idx.com.au) and I will arrange to send you an application form. Application forms can also be downloaded from the Australia-Britain Society website: [www.ausbrit.org](http://www.ausbrit.org), under the "NSW" then "Membership" link. Furthermore, if you would like to receive communications, including the newsletter, by email instead of in hard copy, and you have not as yet advised us of your email address, please get in touch. It is interesting to note that well over half of our members are on email

and the number is increasing; email communications save the Society printing and postage costs and are much quicker than by Australia Post. So, for those who feel they are now sufficiently computer literate to receive emails, please get in touch!

A special “thank you” to those Life members who send in donations. These are greatly welcomed, as they go towards helping the Society run effectively and help bolster our Grants Scheme.

*Sue Labordus,*  
Membership Secretary

## **SAIL TRAINING REPORT**

The winner of The Tall Ships Award 2011 was Caitlin Stephenson, 25, an Engineer (Avionics) of Maryville, NSW, who sailed aboard the *Lord Nelson*, operated by the Jubilee Sailing Trust from Las Palmas to Southampton in March/April 2011. Caitlin’s report of her experience aboard *Lord Nelson* is included in the Society’s Annual Report 2011.

The Tall Ships Award, which is the Society’s major sponsorship, is part of the Australia-Britain Tall Ships Exchange Program under the auspices of the Australian Sail Training Association. The Exchange Program is administered by the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme who also provide exchange berths for young Britons coming to Australia. The Jubilee Sailing Trust UK continues to support the Exchange Program by providing a berth free of charge of our Award Winner.

The Society acknowledges the support of the Association of Sail Training Organizations UK in sponsoring a young Briton to sail aboard Young Endeavour. This year, Rachel Hill, 21, of Crook, County Durham, a Fine Arts Graduate and English Teacher, sailed on two voyages aboard Young Endeavour out of Sydney and was accorded hospitality before and after her voyages by some of our Tall Ships Award winners.

Some thirty members of the Society attended a most enjoyable luncheon aboard Young Endeavour on 17 May 2011 at which an Award Certificate was presented to Caitlin Stephenson by CDRE Geoffrey Geraghty AM RANR, a Board Member of the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme. We record our thanks to CMDR Steve Moss, Executive Director, Young Endeavour Youth Scheme and his team for facilitating the luncheon on board and to the Commanding Officer, LCDR Damien Munchenburg RAN.

The Australia Britain Society is strongly committed to the Tall Ships Award program as a part of its objective to foster relations between Great Britain and Australia with an emphasis on youth. It is encouraging that past winners of the Award continue to support the Society and have ongoing contact through various events during the year. We record our thanks to Society

member, Mr David Miller, who has again arranged a sailing day aboard his yacht “Bondi Tram” for past award winners. This year, three of our alumni, Andrew Tam, Felicity Cox and Sarah Poulos, enjoyed a sunny autumn Sunday of sailing on Sydney Harbour and appreciated Skipper Don Gillies’ instruction and commentary.

Our Award Winners continue to be invited back to the ships on which they sailed to serve on later voyages as volunteer crew and watch leaders. This is testimony to the very high standard of our Award Winners and is an indication of their commitment to sail training and its value for ongoing personal development. Also, it is encouraging to see the number of our Award winners who support the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme in various ways after their return. One of the 2007 Award winners, Rebecca Kuehn, is now the Youth Representative on the Board of the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme as well as a delegate to the International Sail Training Association.

To enable our members to hear more of her experience at sea, Caitlin Stephenson has been invited to address members at a reception following the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 27 September 2011. She will be happy to meet members and answer their questions.

The ongoing viability of the Tall Ships Award Program continues to be dependent upon the Society’s fund raising activities throughout the year. Members are again encouraged to support our various fund raising functions which will enable us to continue our sponsorship of the program.

*Commander Richard Tighe, RFD, RD. RANR (Retd)*  
Vice President and Sail Training Co-ordinator

## **REPORT ON SAILING EXPERIENCES ABOARD THE “LORD NELSON” BY CAITLIN STEPHENSON**

### **Introduction**

Some experiences in life stand out. These are unique events or encounters that are so removed from day-to-day routine that they present exceptional challenges both physically and mentally. Working through these challenges guarantees that lessons are learnt and a new perspective and outlook is gained. For me, sailing 1875 nautical miles through the Atlantic on a magnificent tall ship with an inspirational 40-person crew was one of those unique experiences.

In receiving the Tall Ships Award, I was treated to 21 days sailing on the STS Lord Nelson. The *Lord Nelson* is a three-masted, barque-rigged tall ship, run by the Jubilee Sailing Trust in the UK. The purpose of this particular voyage was to reposition the ship from its winter home in the Canaries, north to Southampton, England, for the summer. The voyage proved to be not only an adventure full of sailing, but also one of self-discovery and great friendships.

### **First days on board**

As we left the safe waters of Las Palmas harbour we hit a light swell and fresh North-Westerlies; and with the constant motion of the ship, life on board began. Daily life consisted of sail handling, keeping watch (the ship ran a 1-in-4 watch system), cleaning the ship during ‘happy hour’, helping out on mess duty and attending to tasks assigned by the bosun or engineers. The first few days were spent learning the ropes and getting to know our sailing companions.

My crew-mates comprised an eclectic group, with ages ranging from 19 to 85. Some were experienced sailors, others had never sailed before and three members of crew had physical disabilities. At first, I thought ‘how would we all get on and work together, how would we find common ground for conversations’. But our diversity ensured that our conversations and our life aboard was all the more interesting. As we discovered and acknowledged our individual strengths and weaknesses, we began to work cohesively and became ‘one crew’.



### **Sailing ‘blind’**

During my three weeks at sea, a number of experiences stood out as exceptional. One was having the opportunity to walk in the shoes of my crew-mates, Joan and David, who were both

vision impaired. The Jubilee Sailing Trust, through their tall ship voyages at sea, promotes the integration of people of all physical abilities. I was inspired to see my visually impaired friends, Joan and David, accurately helming the ship with the aid of an audible compass. This motivated me to learn more about living and functioning through a typical day without sight.

I spent a full day blind-folded. In doing so, I had to overcome many challenges, including performing the simplest of daily tasks, such as dressing and eating a meal. I also had to re-assess all of my sailing duties on board. I was amazed to discover that I could accurately helm the ship, without my vision. It was remarkable how enhanced my other senses became. I discovered many aids that I had not noticed previously, such as the tactile markers on hand rails to signify direction. These indicators, together with the ship's specialist equipment, allowed me to do most things when blind-folded that I could do with full vision. The ship, with its specialist equipment and its supportive crew, broke down my misconceptions about disabilities. This experience also allowed me to better interact with my crew-mates with disabilities and to better appreciate their capabilities. Walking in another's shoes was an immense learning experience.

### **15 days at sea**

When we set sail from the Canary Islands our planned route was via at the Azores and Ireland. However, this proved impossible due to unfavourable winds and we were at sea for 15 days without sight of land! The ship, which I initially thought of as so large, was a mere spec on the blue Atlantic. Despite having a crew of 40 and state of the art communications equipment, I experienced a sense of isolation from the rest of the world. With no land in sight and no exotic ports to explore our days at sea could easily have developed into a monotony of set routines. My watch-mates and I resolved to keep up our spirit of adventure by organising additional activities, such as trivia nights. I was determined to achieve some personal goals, such as leading the crew in sail handling. Additionally, I focused on encouraging two crew-mates, who had never previously climbed aloft, to fulfil their goals of climbing the mast whilst under sail. We were thrilled to finally catch sight of land as we approached the hills of Cornwall, but we were also quietly satisfied with our personal and team achievements over this long period at sea.





### **Cultural experiences**

My time on board was with a predominantly British crew so I learnt about the British culture and shared my experiences as an Australian. Our conversations constantly compared sports, lifestyle, history, music and food in the two cultures. Skippy, an inflatable Australian kangaroo, accompanied me on the voyage. His pursuits of all aspects of sailing brought many laughs, started conversations about Australian and British culture and assisted in keeping spirits high on our long journey. The Tall Ships experience affords a wonderful opportunity to establish and maintain ties between the Australians and the British. I have made many friendships from across the globe that I am sure will last a lifetime.

### **Challenges and outcomes**

Whether you are climbing a mast in rough seas, leading a watch or working with people of all ages and abilities, tall ship sailing is about getting beyond your comfort zone and challenging yourself to do things you would not ordinarily do. This is certainly what I did on board the Lord Nelson. My experiences on board have given me a greater sense of confidence and a better understanding of myself and what I'm capable of doing. I believe my time on board has better enabled me to understand and interact with people of all ages and abilities as I make my way through life. I enjoyed learning more about the British culture and the history of the land where my family originates. My love of the sea and sailing has only been enhanced by this incredible experience on the Lord Nelson.

### **Thank you**

I'm so grateful to have been given this opportunity by the Australia-Britain Society, the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme, the Jubilee Sailing Trust and the Association of Sail Training Organisations. I thank you all for the amazing life adventure I have been privileged to experience.

*Caitlin Stephenson*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Our operations for the year resulted in a deficit of \$4,105 but this amount contains an extraordinary expense that masks what was a satisfactory though not spectacular financial result. I must emphasise however, that your Society remains quite solvent.

The main factors which need to be noted about the year's result are:-

a) The very enjoyable tribute luncheon held early in the financial year to honour the extensive contribution made by Richard Nott, Immediate Past President, to the Society's activities during his term first as a Committee Member and, subsequently, as your President. The lunch that was held in his honour was priced to allow as many members as possible to attend without undue financial burden and your Committee's unanimous decision was to subsidise the event. This resulted in a deficit on the function of \$6,219 and is the extraordinary item referred to above. Had this once-off expense not been incurred, a net surplus for the year would have resulted.

b) Both Members' Subscriptions and Donations have fallen for this year compared with the previous year. Whilst the latter is not one that can be controlled, I am quite concerned that Subscriptions have fallen. The reason for this is twofold:-

- We account for Subscriptions on a cash received basis and there were some members whose subscriptions for 2010-2011 were received in the previous year;
- There is a distinct incidence of older members not renewing their membership, many because of advancing age.

c) It is pleasing that our functions for the year provided a financial surplus. This is most gratifying and I note in particular the relatively strong contribution from our very hard-working Southern Highlands group whose activities have again enabled them to make donations to worthy causes.

d) Our administrative expense levels have been contained thanks mostly to the use of electronic correspondence etc. by Ms Sue Labordus, our Administration Manager. In this regard, I thank Ms Labordus for the excellent work she performs for your Society. Her contribution is of a very high standard and we benefit by her assiduity in carrying out her duties.

As contained in the President's Report, your Society's future operations will depend completely on our sustaining a healthy member base with new members joining our ranks and supporting our various functions. We need more members. *This cannot be over-emphasised.* Please canvas for new members.

Finally, I place on record the excellent work carried out in this and previous years by our Honorary Auditor, Mr. Keith Salt. Since I became Treasurer he has performed the auditor role expeditiously without sacrificing vigilance in asking for explanations on entries in the books that required clarification. After many years in the auditor's role, Mr. Salt has indicated that he now wishes to relinquish it and I thank him for his excellent contribution to our operations.

*Ken Bock*  
Treasurer

## **BRANCHES OF THE SOCIETY IN AUSTRALIA**

Whilst branches operate autonomously within a common charter, there is warm welcome awaiting our members wishing to attend functions held by other branches of the Society. For members travelling interstate, details of the local offices are listed here and the Secretariat can assist in advising forthcoming events in that centre. In reciprocation, the New South Wales newsletters and programme is issued to other states in the event that visitors to Sydney are able to join our functions.

### **AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

10 Canterbury Crescent, Deakin ACT 2600  
Captain Bob Nattey, LVO RAN (Rtd),  
President  
Telephone (02) 6273 3197  
Email: bnattey@ozemail.com.au

### **VICTORIA**

6/1 Muir Street, Hawthorn, Vic 3122  
Mr. Andrew Hilton, BA, MAICD, President  
Telephone (03) 9815 0041  
Email: ahilton@advise.bigpond

### **QUEENSLAND**

14 Mornington Quays,  
87-101 Morala Avenue,  
Runaway Bay, Qld 4216  
Mr. Peter Jones, President  
Telephone (07) 5537 3173  
Email: prv.j@optusnet.com.au

### **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

13 Chartwell Place  
Leeming, WA 6149  
Mr. Richard Savage, President  
Telephone (08) 9310 6365  
Email: richardsavage@bigpond.com

**Branch event diaries can be accessed on the Society website: [www.ausbrit.org](http://www.ausbrit.org)**

## **BRITAIN–AUSTRALIA SOCIETY IN THE U.K.**

Members visiting Britain are extended an open invitation to attend functions of our sister society in England and Wales. Members with family working and living in Britain may have an interest in joining the British body.

The Britain-Australia Society, Swire House, 59 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AJ  
Telephone 0207 630 1075 Fax 0207 828 2260 Email: [natdir@britain-australia.org.uk](mailto:natdir@britain-australia.org.uk)  
Website: [www.britain-australia.org.uk](http://www.britain-australia.org.uk)

**Patron:** HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, KG KT OM GBE AC QSO

**President:** The Rt. Hon The Lord Carrington KG GCMG CH MC PC

**Vice Presidents:** Sir Roger Carrick KCMG LVO, HE The High Commissioner for Australia (ex-officio), Mr. Rohan Courtney OBE, The Rt Hon The Lord Goodlad KCMG PC, Mr. Brian Harris, Sir John Leahy KCMG, The Rt Hon The Viscount Slim OBE DL, Sir Christopher Benson DL, Sir Geoffrey Errington BT OBE

### **Hon Vice Presidents:**

Sylvia, Countess of Limerick CBE, Ms June Mendoza, AO OBE RP, Mr Rupert Murdoch AC, Sir John Swire CBE DL, The Rt Hon Baroness Thatcher LG OM PC FRS, Mr Barry Tuckwell OBE

### **Board of Management:**

Mr. John Allen (Chairman), The Rt Hon the Earl of Buckinghamshire (Deputy Chairman), Ms Sally Capp – Agent General for Victoria (ex-officio), Ms Judith Crompton, Mr. Adam McCarthy – Deputy High Commissioner (ex-officio), Mr. Andrew Craig – Agent General for Queensland (ex-officio), Mr Dale Eaton, Mr Brian Hall – Chairman Portsmouth Branch, Mr. Michael Kirk OBE – Chairman Leicestershire Branch, Mrs. Pauline Lyle-Smith, Mr. Richard Pavitt – Chairman West Country Branch, Ms Catherine Riney, Mr. Richard Robins – Chairman Norfolk Branch, Mr. George Vestey

### **Officers**

National Director/Editor: Mrs Kim Hemmingway

Deputy National Director: Mrs. Kate Kirby

Independent Financial Examiner: Mr Richard Link

Administration Manager: Mr. Michael Clough

**BRITAIN-AUSTRALIA SOCIETY BRANCHES:**

**LONDON (National Office):**

Mrs Kim Hemmingway  
59 Buckingham Gate  
London SW1E 6AJ

Tel 020 7630 1075  
Fax 020 7828 2260  
natdir@britain-australia.org.uk

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE:**

Mr. Malcolm Cockcroft  
17 Westwood Road  
St Ives Cambs PE27 6DT

Tel 0148 046 4653  
j.cockcroft1@ntworld.com

**LEICESTERSHIRE:**

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3 Linden Drive,  
Evington, Leicester LE5 6AJ

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joanmosk@talktalk.net

**LINCOLNSHIRE:**

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Ingham Lincs LN1 2XT

Tel 0152 273 0038  
jstaceyalwyn@yahoo.co.uk

**NORFOLK:**

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Holgate House, Hall Street  
Long Melford, Suffolk CO10 9JA

Tel 0178 788 2170  
grvrobins@btinternet.com

**PORTSMOUTH:**

Mr Brian Hall  
40 St Matthews Road  
Cosham, Portsmouth  
Hants PO6 2DL

Tel 0239 237 141  
b\_m\_hall@hotmail.com

**SUFFOLK:**

Mrs Diana Whayman  
22 Tovells Road  
Ipswich Suffolk IP4 1BE

Tel 0147 372 3793 / 0116 270 3602  
dianastw@aol.com

**WALES:**

Mr John Wyn Owen, CBE  
Newton Farm, Cowbridge  
Vale of Glamorgan  
South Wales CF71 7RZ

Tel 0144 677 5113  
johnwyn@btinternet.com

**WEST COUNTRY:**

Mr Richard Pavitt  
The Clerk's House, Pound Lane  
Martock Somerset TA12 6LU

Tel 0193 582 4045  
rwpavitt@aol.com  
website: britozwest.org.uk

Members are reminded that we receive at the Secretariat monthly BRITTOZ news bulletins that show current activities in the UK. These bulletins are available upon request or, if you are on email, the current BRITTOZ magazines are on the website, [www.britain-australia.org.uk](http://www.britain-australia.org.uk). Members are warmly welcome to attend functions at any of the branches whilst in the UK as is done reciprocally here in Australia to visitors from the UK and interstate.

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**AUSTRALIA-BRITAIN SOCIETY (NSW BRANCH) Inc**  
**Reg No CFN 15054 under Section 16 of the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW)**  
**ABN 75 368 639 375**

**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS TO 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2011**

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**AUSTRALIA-BRITAIN SOCIETY (NSW BRANCH) INC.**

ABN 75 368 639 375

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2011**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2011</b>			<b>2010</b>		
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Functions	26,438.90			33,904.56		
Raffles	1,473.00	27,911.90		1,766.10	35,670.66	
less:- Costs						
Functions	21,101.59			26,861.19		
Raffles	0.00		6,810.31	237.48	27,098.67	8,571.99
Members' Subscriptions		3,895.00			5,315.00	
Donations		440.00			967.67	
Interest		5,235.09			2,428.28	
Tie Sales		20.00	9,590.09		20.00	8,730.95
<b><u>TOTAL INCOME</u></b>			<b>16,400.40</b>			<b>17,302.94</b>
<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>						
Insurance & Returns		1,338.60			1,355.37	
Secretarial Services		4,800.00			4,900.00	
Postage & Stationery		1,277.54			1,102.66	
Printing		1,148.80			1,540.88	
Telephone		220.00			200.00	
R.Nott Tribute (Net)+ Other		6,302.32	15,087.26			9,098.91
<b><u>OPERATING SURPLUS</u></b>			<b>1,313.14</b>			<b>8,204.03</b>
<b><u>GRANTS &amp; DONATIONS</u></b>						
PESA			850.00			850.00
Sail Training & Others			3,017.95			4,274.49
<u>Donations By Sth Highlands Group</u>						
Australian Ballet				1,500.00		
Australian Bionic Ear Institute				1,500.00		
Bell Shakespeare		1,000.00		1,000.00		
Berrima Dist Hist & Family Hist Socy		500.00				
Wingecarribee Volunteers		50.00	1,550.00		4,000.00	
			5,417.95			9,124.49
<b><u>NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</u></b>			<b>(4,104.81)</b>			<b>(920.46)</b>
<b><u>OVERALL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</u></b>			<b>(4,104.81)</b>			<b>(920.46)</b>

**AUSTRALIA-BRITAIN SOCIETY (NSW BRANCH) INC.**

ABN 75 368 639 375

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2011**

<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>	<b>2011</b>		<b>2010</b>	
<b><u>CURRENT ASSETS</u></b>				
<b><u>Cash at Bank:-</u></b>				
N.S.W.	17,044.93		4,323.01	
Southern Highlands	3,294.14	20,339.07	2,588.12	6,911.13
Petty Cash on Hand	1,000.00		1,000.00	
Pre-Payments			421.40	
				1,421.40
				8,332.53
<b><u>INVESTMENTS</u></b>				
HSBC Term Deposits		0.00		25,000.00
Westpac Term Deposit (incl Sth H'lands - \$7K)		68,019.38		60,130.73
		68,019.38		85,130.73
<b><u>TOTAL ASSETS</u></b>		<b>89,358.45</b>		<b>93,463.26</b>
<b><u>LIABILITIES</u></b>				
<b><u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u></b>				
Subscriptions paid in advance		0.00		
Sundry Creditors		1,050.00		1,050.00
		1,050.00		1,050.00
<b><u>NET ASSETS</u></b>		<b>88,308.45</b>		<b>92,413.26</b>
<b><u>MEMBERS' FUNDS</u></b>				
Accumulated Funds as at 1st July, 2010		92,413.26		93,333.72
Add/(Subtract) Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		(4,104.81)		(920.46)
		<b>88,308.45</b>		<b>92,413.26</b>

**AUSTRALIA-BRITAIN SOCIETY (NSW BRANCH) INC**  
**ABN 75 368 639 375**

**ANALYSIS OF FUNCTIONS FOR THE YEAR TO 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2011**

F u n c t i o n	I n c o m e \$			Expenses \$	Surplus/ (Deficit) \$
	Charge to Members	Net Raffle	Net Income		
Victoriana	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
AGM	450.00	0.00	450.00	560.00	(110.00)
Remembrance Day	3,060.00	0.00	3,060.00	2,700.00	360.00
Christmas Party	3,210.00	260.00	3,470.00	2,702.03	767.97
Australia Day	9,535.00	730.00	10,265.00	8,100.00	2,165.00
YEST Lunch	1,260.00	0.00	1,260.00	1,245.56	14.44
Queen's Birthday	6,880.00	483.00	7,363.00	5,794.00	1,569.00
<u>Southern Highlands</u>					
From Subs to Baghdad	1,141.15		1,141.15	0.00	1,141.15
Some Enchanted Evening	16.00		16.00	0.00	16.00
Renwick & Mittagong History	306.75		306.75	0.00	306.75
"Inconvenient Child"	580.00		580.00	0.00	580.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>26,438.90</b>	<b>1,473.00</b>	<b>27,911.90</b>	<b>21,101.59</b>	<b>6,810.31</b>

## **1. STATEMENT BY SOCIETY TREASURER**

I, Kenneth William Bock, Treasurer of the Australia-Britain Society (NSW Branch) Inc declare that in my opinion:-

- a) The Financial Statements for the year to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2011 give a true and fair view of the financial operations of the Society for the year to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2011;
- b) The Provisions of the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 under which the Society was granted a continuing approval as a charitable body, approval no. CFN15054 by the Office of Charities, Department of Gaming and Racing on 2<sup>nd</sup> may 2003 have been complied with;
- c) The internal controls exercised by the Society are appropriate and effective;
- d) The Society is able to meet its debts as and when they fall due.

**Kenneth W. Bock B.Comm. ANZIIIF (Fellow), F.Fin, CPA**  
Treasurer  
15<sup>th</sup> July, 2011

## **2. STATEMENT BY SOCIETY AUDITOR**

I, Geoffrey Keith Salt report that in my opinion:-

- a) The Financial Statements of the Australia-Britain Society (NSW Branch) Inc. for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2011, show a true and fair view of the financial results of the Society for that period;
- b) The accounts and associated records have been properly kept;
- c) The Society is able to meet its debts as and when they fall due.

**G.K. Salt ACA**  
Hon. Auditor  
18<sup>th</sup> July 2011

