Australia-Britain Society (NSW Branch) Inc

(Incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act, 1984(NSW)

Registered No CFN 15054 under section 16 of the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991(NSW)

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

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NEWSLETTER JUNE, 2010 **No. 04/10**

1. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

a) *VICTORIANA!* Friday 16 July 7.00pm-midnight, St Paul's College, Sydney University. $115 per person ($5 less than market price) for 3-course black tie dinner and show.

We still have one or two places left on the Australia-Britain Society table. If you haven't already experienced this outstanding evening of good food and merriment, why not consider coming along?

d) PESA NSW final: Friday 30 July 9.30am-12.30pm at NSW Teachers Federation Conference Centre, 23-25 Mary Street, Surry Hills, Sydney. Public transport to Central station / parking at Goulburn Street carpark.

The Plain English Speaking Award final is open to all our members and is free of charge. It is a competition for Year 11 and 12 students and the State winner, who will receive a cheque from the Australia-Britain Society, will participate in the National Final to be held in Perth on 23rd August. The State winner will also replicate his or her winning address at next year's Queen's Birthday lunch.

e) Special gala luncheon to honour Richard Nott's invaluable contribution to the Society, to be held on Saturday, 4 September at 12.00 for 12.30pm at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, Carabella Room, 33 Peel Street, Kirribilli. 3-course luncheon including drinks. Members $75, Non-Members $85. Dress Code: Jacket + tie (no denim).

The Carabella Room is the main dining room of the Squadron, with magnificent views of Sydney Harbour. We hope that as many members and guests will be able to come to this function to express their appreciation for everything that Richard has done for the Society during the 15 years he was on the Committee, of which for the last 8 years he was our President. Please send your cheques with the names of your guests on a separate piece of paper headed "RSYS".

If you are unable to attend, you may wish to make a contribution towards a gift for Richard.

OTHER EVENTS:

f) "Christmas in July" Buffet Luncheon organised by the English-Speaking Union, on Monday 5 July at 11.45am for Noon-2.45pm, Elizabeth Room, The Sir Stamford at Circular Quay, 93 Macquarie Street. Guest speaker is Jason Morrison, host of the 2GB Drive show. Cost $65 members/ $70 non-members. Enquiries: 9286 3111.

g) "The Good Old Days", concert with Rachael Cunningham, Adam Scicluna, Roy Waterson, Glenn Amer and the SBS Youth Orchestra playing waltzes from Vienna. Monday 5 July, Sydney Town Hall at 11am and 2pm. Tickets: $30, Seniors and pensioners $25. If you wish to attend this good-value concert, please send your cheque payable to Nostalgia Productions Pty. Ltd,, 22 Datchett Street, Balmain East, NSW 2041, enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope for the return of tickets. It is important to indicate which show you want (or either show, in which case you have a greater chance of better seats) and also whether you cannot climb stairs.

h) "The Importance of Being Earnest" by Oscar Wilde, Hunters Hill Theatre, 13 Margaret Street, Woolwich, 13-28 August, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8.00pm, Saturday and Sunday matinée at 2.30pm. Bookings 9879 7765 open 19 July, $25/$22 concession and 10+ groups.

Your President – dare he blow his own trumpet?! - will be performing in this production, and all members and friends are welcome to come along and offer their moral support.

NOTES FOR YOUR DIARY:

i) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Tuesday 28 September 5.30pm-8.00pm, Kirribilli Club, 11-23 Harbourview Crescent, Lavender Bay (near Milson's Point station). Parking under building.

ii) REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE Thursday 11 November 11.00am at St. James' Church King Street, followed by luncheon at city venue.

iii) CHRISTMAS RECEPTION Tuesday 23 November 5.30pm-8pm at home of the British Consul-General Mr. Richard Morris and Mrs. Alison Morris, 25 Gilliver Avenue, Vaucluse

Details of the above will be announced in a future newsletter.

2. RECENT FUNCTIONS

a) Luncheon aboard the tall ship "Young Endeavour" 20 May

On what turned out to be a beautiful sunny day, approximately 40 people enjoyed this annual luncheon aboard the "Young Endeavour" – Australia's bicentennial gift from the people of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - to celebrate the return of Sarah Poulos from her tour of duty overseas. Sarah was sponsored by the Australia-Britain Society. The Navy welcomed all of us to the function and gave the "landlubbers" amongst us a tour of the ship. This was a real eye-opener for those of us who have never ventured to sea. Our thanks go to Terry Rich and Ian Plumb who organised the function, to David Adams who reported on the Society's current activities and to Meredith Rundle who delivered the vote of thanks to the Navy for hosting this function.

b) "The Last Night of the Proms"

Twenty-four ABS members and friends attended the Sydney Opera House on Friday 11th June for this wonderful concert. If you weren't there, you missed a treat. The Sydney Symphony Orchestra was in excellent form as was the Sydney Philharmonia Choir. The programme was the typical one used at the equivalent concert held each year at the Royal Albert Hall and included Crown Imperial, Jerusalem, Zadok the Priest and, of course, Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance March. Conductor Guy Noble was a very affable compere and nearly brought the house down on several occasions with his sense of humour. Soprano Penelope Mills was in fine form singing some songs from My Fair Lady and violin soloist Ji Won Kim, a young lady in her early 20s, gave a virtuoso performance of the Fantasie on Carmen from Bizet's opera.

We are hoping to have another party to the event next year so be ready to book so you don't miss out on a great night's entertainment!

3. MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Being June, it is again membership renewal time, with subscriptions due on 1st July, and a membership renewal form is attached. Prices have been kept steady for many years, and once again they remain unchanged. If Life Members have changed contact details (e.g. new email address, etc.) please let us know so that we can keep our database up to date and you can continue to receive newsletters from us. If there are no changes to your details, simply disregard the form, unless of course you wish to send us a donation! For new members who joined the Society after March, 2010, your membership will extend until 30 June 2011, so there is no need to do anything.

Unfinancial members (i.e. those who have not paid for the current year to 30 June 2010, and who were sent a reminder in January) will regrettably have to be dropped off the mailing list and this will be the final newsletter you will receive from us. If you think you may be one of those and you wish to remain a member, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the Secretariat so as to keep your membership current. We know how easy it is to let things like memberships slip!

4. NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to **Frank & Charmian Holland** and **Marie Allen**, whom we look forward to seeing at future events.

5. VALE

We regret to advise the passing of **Lee White**, and extend our sincere condolences to his family.

6. UK PASSPORTS

If you are applying for a new UK passport and wish to do this online, do be aware that there is a non-government website operating, where you will be asked to pay £16.50 to download the application form (this does not include the cost of the passport). Please note that the British Government supplies the application form over the web ***free of charge*** and if you wish to apply for a UK passport, the official UK website is: ukinaustralia.fco.gov.uk. Completed forms should be taken to selected Australia Post outlets.

With best wishes,

Ken Bock,
President