



# 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)*

**ABN 75368639375**

**Postal Address: PO Box 647, Gordon NSW 2072**

**Phone/Fax 02-9449-7532 / Email : [absociety@idx.com.au](mailto:absociety@idx.com.au)**

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

**Branch President : Ken Bock**  
**Email: [kbandlb@optusnet.com.au](mailto:kbandlb@optusnet.com.au)**

**Hon. Sec.: David Adams, LL.B**  
**Email: [djadams@unwired.com.au](mailto:djadams@unwired.com.au)**

**Administration Secretary: Sue Labordus**

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## NEWSLETTER JUNE/JULY, 2011

No. 03/11

### 1. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**a) Friday 22 July at 5.30-7.30pm: The Southern Highlands Committee invites members and friends of the Australia-Britain Society to a presentation on “Cricket: Past, Present – and the Future?” in the Bradman Museum Theatre, Bowral with guest speaker Alistair MacLennan. Drinks and finger food. Cost \$25 per person, Cheques to Mr. Malcolm Stephens, CB, 38 Argyle Street, Bong Bong Hill, Moss Vale NSW 2577. Please write names of guests on the back of the cheque. Enquiries to Miss Cynthia Parker (02) 48 711267**

Alistair’s involvement with cricket stretches over 7 decades: he has played cricket in 9 countries and for 16 years has been a tour guide at Bradman Museum. His talk will cover the game’s early history and its spread in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries to the present, and the future prospects for the game.

**b) PESA NSW final: Friday 29 July 9.30am-12.30pm at NSW Teachers Federation Conference Centre, Cnr. Reservoir/Mary Streets, Surry Hills, Sydney. Public transport to Central station / parking at Goulburn Street carpark**

The PESA 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, together with all finalists, will be presented with cheques from the Australia-Britain Society. The winner will compete in the National final later in the year, and will also replicate his or her winning speech at the Queen’s Birthday lunch in 2012. Why not consider coming along, as this always proves to be a very entertaining event.

**c) Crossroads Festival of Chamber Music, Central Coast, 25-28 August**

You may recall that some 5 years ago we sponsored a talented young viola player from Gosford, Glen Donnelly, to study at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Glen has excelled in his studies. Amongst other things, he has given a number of concerts with the London-based Wilhelm String Quartet to schools and the public in both Britain and Australia, and has composed some of his own works. We are pleased to say that Glen is returning to Australia in August to perform at the Crossroads Festival, Central Coast with a number of top musicians, such as Charmian Gadd and Kathryn Selby. There are four concerts altogether: (1) Thursday 25 August at 7.00pm, (2) Saturday 27 August at 2.30, (3) Sunday 28 August at 11.00am and (4) Sunday 28 August at 2.30pm. Prices range from \$20 to \$38 depending on the concert. Members on email will be receiving a brochure giving full details, those not on email should phone 0437-399896.

**d) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday 27 September 5.30pm-8.00pm, Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, 169 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, followed by cocktail party \$30, drinks on cash basis. Notice of AGM with relevant documents will be sent in August.**

#### **NOTES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

**e) REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE Friday 11 November 11.00am at St. James' Church King Street, followed by luncheon at city venue.** Details will be announced in a future newsletter.

## **2. RECENT FUNCTIONS**

### **a) Luncheon aboard the tall ship "Young Endeavour" 17 May**

Just over 30 members and friends, together with some overseas guests including Mrs. Diana Whayman, the Hon Secretary/Treasurer of the Suffolk branch of the Britain-Australia Society, and dignitaries from the Royal Australian Navy, assembled on the Young Endeavour moored at Woolloomooloo to welcome Caitlin Stephenson back from her sojourn overseas as our sponsored candidate to the Tall Ships project for 2011. Caitlin was presented with her certificate of participation by Commodore Geraghty. We should like to thank the Commanding Officer and crew of the vessel who were our hosts. We now look forward to hearing Caitlin at this year's Annual General Meeting presenting an account of her experiences. Thanks also to Vice-President Richard Tighe who organised the function so efficiently, and to Richard Nott for his generous donation of liquid refreshments. This function is each year a delightful one and the atmosphere is always very pleasant. Please consider attending next year's function when details are advised.

### **b) The Queen's Birthday Luncheon 6 June**

The luncheon this year was held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June at Cellos Restaurant, the dining room of the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel in Castlereagh Street. In past years we have held the function during April, the month of the Queen's birthday but circumstances this year necessitated its deferral to June.

It was the first occasion on which your Society has conducted a function at this venue. From comments made by some of those present, just over 90 in total, the atmosphere, room décor and standard of the meal served all contributed to a most enjoyable occasion. Your committee will therefore consider using this venue for future functions. There was strong support from affinity organisations: the Royal Overseas League, led by Lily Murray, and the Royal Commonwealth Society led by NSW President David Beale. Our Guests of Honour were the Governor of NSW, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir and Sir Nicholas Shehadie. Her Excellency very kindly addressed the gathering and in doing so, made particular note that, although the question of converting Australia to a republic arises from time to time, it is well to bear in mind the benefits that Australia has derived from the historic British links, in particular the legal system and political stability. Also featured at the lunch was Alexandra Downie who was the winner of the Plain English Speaking Award for 2010 in the NSW Division. Your Society donates prizes to the finalists in this competition each year. During the lunch, Alexandra repeated her prize-winning speech which was greatly appreciated by those present, especially Her Excellency who made specific congratulatory reference in her address to the standard of Alexandra's speech.

Much work went into organising the luncheon, particularly Committee-members Maureen Tegerdine, Barbara and Ian Plumb and Richard Tighe.

### 3. MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Being June, it is again membership renewal time, with subscriptions due on 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2011, your membership will extend until 30 June 2012, so there is no need to do anything.

Unfinancial members (i.e. those who have not paid for the current year to 30th June 2011, 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. VALE

We regret to advise the passing of **Dr. Gwen Benz, Dr. Judith Dey AO** and **Mrs. Jane Miller**, and extend our sincere condolences to their families.

### 5. LONDON OLYMPICS 2012

For those of you thinking of going to London in August 2012 for the Olympic Games, there are now only very limited tickets available (e.g. no athletics or swimming) for Australian residents. For details, contact the official ticket re-seller, CoSport, website [www.cosport.com.au](http://www.cosport.com.au), phone toll-free: 1800-668-570.

### 6. MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Join the Committee! (Please!)*

As I have said in the past, both at the Annual General Meeting and at recent social functions, your Committee is quite keen to add to its number so that our activities have a much wider range of talents to call upon in organising them.

The Committee members would welcome other members to join them in the planning of our various functions. Please contact me (phone 9871 6869) or our Administration Secretary, Sue Labordus (phone 9449 7532) if you would like to participate.

With best wishes,

*Ken Bock,*  
President