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

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

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NEWSLETTER APRIL, 2009 **2/09**

1. COMING EVENTS

a) **Southern Highlands presentation at the Bradman Museum of Cricket, Bowral Friday 24 April 5.30-7.30pm cost $25.00, guest speaker Cameron Kerr, General Manager, Taronga Conservation Society "Are Zoos relevant in the Twenty-First Century?" Drinks and finger food. Reply 20 April to Malcolm Stephens CB, 38 Argyle Street, Bong Bong Hill Moss Vale 2577 or phone Cynthia Parker on 0248711267 for more details.**

b) **Casual buffet luncheon Icons Restaurant, 1st Floor, Sydney Harbour Marriott Hotel, 30 Pitt Street (near Circular Quay). Pay-as-you-go $39, Senior's $33.15 (a Senior's Card must be produced for discount) for four-course buffet. Tuesday 28 April, 12.30pm to 3.00pm. Booking fee $5.00. Open seating.**

We have reserved a separate area for up to seventy members and guests to attend this value luncheon considered to be one of the best in the city for under $40.00. Please come and meet with Society friends. Please send a $5.00 booking fee to cover costs and help us raise funds plus supply a value outing by **Friday 24 April.** Please record names of attendees on back of your cheque.

Our aim is to provide lower price/value outings where we make a nominal fee. Why not plan a shopping outing in town coupled with this luncheon? The hotel is close to trains and ferries.

a) **Buffet luncheon aboard Young Endeavour Thursday 21 May, noon-3.00pm Woolloomooloo wharf (parking at Navy facilities nearby) cost $45.00 limited to first**

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forty bookings. Dress smart casual. The Maritime Commander Rear Admiral Nigel Coates and senior Naval dignitaries are expected to attend, along with our 2008 Tall Ships winners Arjun Bisen, Edward Farrell and UK awardee Heather Lambden.

This annual luncheon is held aboard the Young Endeavour, usually in balmy autumn weather that we are expecting again this year. It is a chance for members and friends to meet the crew of the Young Endeavour and Navy administration plus current participating crew where the 2008 awardees will receive certificates from RADM Coates. Please reply by **15 May and record attendees' names on the back of your cheque.**

b) **Queen's Birthday luncheon Friday 26 June, noon-3.30pm NSW Parliament House, Macquarie Street Sydney. Dress lounge suit. $70.00 members, $75.00 guests. Guests of honour Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, AC, LVO, and Sir Nicholas Shehadie, AC, OBE. Musical interlude by Opera soloist Ms Regina Daniel and accompaniment. Limited disability parking. Please reply on the attached flyer by 19 June.**

Her Excellency and Sir Nicholas have graciously agreed to join our annual celebration and Her Excellency will reflect upon the Governorship of Lachlan Macquarie whose bi-centenary falls this year. Additionally we have asked the NSW Plain English Speaking award winner, Miss Eleanor Gordon-Smith to replicate her award winning address.

Sydney is full of promising musical talent and none more so than Regina Daniel, a student at the Conservatorium and participant in numerous operas and musicals. Regina will sing a bracket of songs displaying her versatility and talent that I am sure will delight you.

Prices have been set at a modest level and we have received some lovely raffle prices, proceeds that will assist fund our grants programmes and build reserves. Please consider bringing some friends for this happy annual event. We are pleased to advise that members of the Royal Overseas League have accepted our invitation to attend this luncheon.

c) **Calendar for 2009**

Please note your diaries to attend some of the following events:

. *Victoriana!* Dinner/Concert St Paul's College Sydney University	Saturday 25/7/09
. Plain English Speaking Awards NSW Teachers Federation	Friday 31/7/09
. Annual General Meeting and Tall Ships reports city venue	Tuesday 20/10/09
. BBQ Royal Yacht Squadron Kirribilli Casual pay-as-you go	Sunday 25/10/09
. Remembrance Day service St. James' King Street and pay-as you go luncheon Marriott hotel city	Wednesday 11/11/09
. Christmas Party at home British Consul-General	Wednesday 2/12/09

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. Christmas service 9 carols and lessons followed by mince pies in crypt
St. James' King Street Sunday 20/1/209

. New Year's Eve city club Thursday 31/12/09

In addition the Southern Highlands will be holding a series of events including theatre, films and receptions with interesting guest speakers..

2. RECENT EVENTS

Australia Day was celebrated at the Kirribilli Club, Milson's Point where eighty members and friends supported the afternoon with Lt.Commander Desmond Woods giving a marvellous PowerPoint review of Australia's early settlement, in particular the critical contribution of Governor Hunter and the precarious chance of the settlement succeeding due to a few determined men. Thanks to David Miller for arranging this contact.

There were some disappointments with the location after many years at a pre-eminent view and setting at the American Club. Despite at least a dozen potential sites the Kirribilli Club was the best we could arrange and almost all venues required a 10% public holiday surcharge as well as room hire in some cases. Hopefully the American Club room may be available next year.

For future a la carte functions with guest speakers we need over fifty people to recover costs.To obtain member support, and due to many of them not using bar facilities, we will aim to price events to cover food and say two drinks with a cash bar for those wanting more drinks. This will give a more equitable cost spread. Let us know how you feel about these changes.

3. AUSTRALIA- BRITAIN SOCIETY NATIONAL BODY AND FOUNDATION

The National body wind-up is now complete. Technically our branch name should be changed as we are no longer an independent branch but a distinctive unit with cultural links with other branches. Unless members object, it is proposed that the name stay as it is to identify its NSW operations. even though "branch" is no longer relevant.

Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, has accepted the appointment of Patron-in-Chief of the Australia-Britain Society Foundation. Whilst Her Excellency's support cannot be used in fund-raising it is an endorsement of the Foundation aims that we are pleased to have received. At some stage we hope Her Excellency may join a NSW function in her honour.

4. NATIONAL WEBSITE

Through the Foundation, we are arranging a web-site emanating out of the existing WA branch site, that embraces details of all branches, the Foundation and UK links. The cost of this will be shared but is not expected to be a major expense. It is a critical need for us to have a modern communication medium that enables the public to learn more about the Society. The site is user friendly and is expected to be operating by the end of June. Full access details will be advised.

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Please check out the links when it is operating and let us know what you think about it and what changes you wish to see made.

5. NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following new members and look forward to seeing you at coming events:

. Anthony Burrell . Shane & Kristin Kearns & Lorraine Yates
. Duan & Evelene Goodsir-Cullen

6. PASSINGS

We regret to advise the loss of the following members and extend our sympathies to their families and friends:

. Nancy-Bird Walton

7. BRITISH COUNCIL AUSTRALIA

The BCA has been providing cultural links with Britain for 75 years and it engages in a broad range of activities and roles that are detailed in its email letters. Free subscription is available at **web.manager@britishcouncil.org.au** and is based at PO Box 88 Edgecliff 2027

8. EDINBURGH TATTOO

The famous Edinburgh Tattoo will be in Sydney in February, 2010. To obtain details of the event and ticketing arrangements, try the wesite: **www.edinburghtattooinaustralia.com.au** The Society is not taking a block of tickets due to the high costs of funding a package for this event and we suggest members interested log on the web-site and register for advance booking opportunities to secure the best seats.

9. 225TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST FLEET SAILING

The Sydney-Portsmouth Sister City Committee is holding a reception at the Town Hall hosted by the Lord Mayor to celebrate this event on **Friday 15 May 6.00-7.30pm cost $30.00 dress lounge suit, guests of honour Major-General Michael Jeffery and Mrs Jeffery, former Governor-General and his wife.** Members are invited. If you have an interest please send the booking fee to Ms Marilyn Jenner PO Box 645 Milson's Point 1565 no later than **11 May.**

Thank you for supporting the Society, and our continuing good wishes,

Richard Nott,
President

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