Australia-Britain Society (W.A. BRANCH) INC.

September-October 2009

NEWSGRAM

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From the new President, Richard Savage

Let me begin by first thanking Malcolm for steering the W.A. Branch through the toughest of years in the world's recent and continuing financial crisis. All and everyone has either experienced or suffered in some way and yet with Malcolm's dedication to the task and keen leadership the branch remains strong in all respects. The additional work he has brilliantly accomplished in preparing the national web page site is acknowledged by all States and puts the Society ahead of many other organizations. Malcolm has been very ably supported by his wife Sue who has organized events for the social calendar throughout the year and deserves our combined thanks. Sue has now taken on the role of branch secretary. The work of Swain as treasurer has also to be commended and I am especially pleased that she has agreed to continue in that role. Thanks also to John Lyall who has maintained very strict records of membership and supporting documents. The committee will miss his presence at meetings.

As a result of the AGM in mid-August there are now several new names to add to the Executive Committee as well as retaining others in the same or new roles for 2009/10. On behalf of the branch I thank all retiring committee members for their commitment. To the new committee members I thank them for offering their time and talents. Please see Executive Committee paragraph for their names and appointments.

In endeavoring to strive for the best interests of members and the branch I really cannot, at the beginning of my Presidency, find more suitable words than Malcolm used last year and were part of his message in the September-October 2008 newsgram. Some of the nine points he listed have been addressed so I will, with support of the committee and members, continue to deal with the remainder as well as introducing some new ideas.

I believe that no individual or community body can further their future success by ignoring the enormous benefits to be gained by using a computer on line. For myself and I'm sure for many others, becoming computer literate has been and will continue to be a steep learning curve for quite some time. The benefits are so numerous and increase with use and experience.

One of my first tasks is to make contact with those who have not yet re-subscribed but who I feel sure we will all miss if their memberships lapse. So the last part of my first message is to urge renewal of membership subscriptions before 30 September. At $15 per person ($30 a family of two adults and all children under 18 years) these are the lowest of any Society around town. I also seek their and your suggestions for improving the attractions, within the objects and aims of the Constitution, which will seek a wider and younger membership.

A biographical brief of the newly elected WA branch President

I was born in Northampton, England, in 1932 and attended Northampton Grammar School for Boys 1943 – 49. My mother enrolled me into the Wolf Cub part of the local Boy Scout Group at age seven and I progressed through the different grades to eventually become an assistant scout master. The experience and training gained in those 14 years has been of great use throughout my life and the scout motto created by Baden Powell – "Be Prepared" – is an ingrained part of my psyche.

After Sea Cadet training while at school I volunteered for service as a wireless telegraphist in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve radio communication unit in town while working and training in town planning and land surveying with Northamptonshire County Council. After national service I worked as a surveyor for six years on the first of the post war motorway projects, M1, while at the same time maintaining part time service in the Army Emergency Reserve from 1956 – 1966.

My wife Dianna and I considered the idea of living and working in a warmer climate and took the opportunity in 1967 of moving, with three young children, to Western Australia under the Ten Pound per adult migrant scheme. By choosing to travel by air I lost no time in gaining employment as a mine and engineering surveyor and worked in these industries for thirty three years, many in the bush, on a variety of projects throughout Western Australia. The family increased to four and all our children eventually worked their way through university, are all married and there are now three grandchildren.

Since retiring in 2000 I have worked in several voluntary jobs with Australian Tax Office, Council on the Aging and served on the Board of Youth Hostels Association WA 2001 - 2006. At 69 years of age I was the oldest member of a WA team of Golden Oldies Rugby Union football players who took part in the 2001 world festival of rugby union held in France.

After losing Dianna to cancer in November 2002 I have joined numerous other clubs and societies and currently serve on several committees. My favourite outdoor activities now are bush walking and cycling (a Founder member of both the Bibbulmun Track and Munda Biddi Trail). I walked a 30 kilometre section of the former on my own in June this year.

Richard

New Executive Committee 2009/2010

President	Richard Savage
Vice President	Malcolm Allen
Secretary	Sue Allen
Treasurer	Swain Thambyappah
Membership	William Hawley
Social Co-ordinator	Mary Edwards
Assistant Social Co-ordinator	Gina Dawson
Committee Member	Rajini Shannon

New Paths Ahead

Finding ourselves alive during these truly amazing times of enormously fast growing fields of technology is both a chance never possible before of studying fresh ideas as well as taking part in new opportunities which our parents could never have dreamt of.

For those reasons alone and because we are living more years we each have a responsibility to look after ourselves, mentally and physically, in order to enjoy and gain new experiences and knowledge. By joining several clubs and societies in the communities in which we live there is the chance of fulfilling these wishes. No longer can we excuse ourselves from stepping forward with age, sex, past lifestyle as an excuse. The human brain, we are told, is underused. So feelings of inadequacy in our abilities, probably ingrained from our early days by the lifestyle and experiences of our parents, should no longer prevent any of us from enriching our days on planet earth.

Newsgram will be pleased to receive comments or submissions from members wishing to share and/or exchange ideas or suggestions. Send them to my e-mail address <richardsavage@bigpond.com>.

Joint Society Events

The executive committee is considering a proposal to extend the established arrangement whereby our members attend, where agreeably possible, with other like minded organizations in some of their events which either overlap or coincide with some of our own aims.

The Society already has a close relationship with the Perth branch of the Royal Naval Association whose annual Trafalgar Dinner is open for our members to attend as paying guests. This year the dinner is at Air Force Association, Bull Creek on Saturday 17 October.

The Nelson Society of Australia is another which organises annual events ranging from Trafalgar Memorial Services at St. George's Cathedral, their own Society lectures and involvement with the Batavia series of lectures through the Maritime Museum Fremantle to the 'Pickle Night Dinner'. This latter is not what might be construed by the non-nautical in the community as a boozy, gherkin and pickled onion soaked ham sandwich session of alcoholic debauchery in the sawdust pits of hell. Briefly, the black tie dinner celebrates the superb seamanship of the crew of HMS Pickle which encountered fierce and stormy weather bringing news of the "great and glorious victory" at the battle of Trafalgar to England and the poste chaise ride from Falmouth to London by Lieutenant Lapenotiere RN.

There are several 'in-house' benefits for such a proposal, the most obvious of which is relieving your committee of a lot of behind the scenes work and expense as well as not duplicating events. For example, in April this year we and another Society held dinners just one day apart to celebrate HM The Queen's Birthday. Such a situation is wasteful of precious resources, makes finding guest speakers difficult and lessens the attendance at each when people with dual membership are forced by cost alone to choose one or the other. Watch this space.

Other 2009 Events Worthy Of Mention

Wednesday 23 September 7 pm Leeuwin Barracks. The Blamey Oration
Sunday 18 October 3 pm St. George's Cathedral Trafalgar Memorial Service.
Friday 23 October 6 pm Maritime Museum, Nelson and his Mistress.
Sunday 29 November 12 noon AME Bull Creek RCS Christmas Lunch.
For further details please contact the President, Richard Savage, direct on 9310 6365 or e-mail < richardsavage@bigpond.com>

English as Writ!

A report in the British 'Weekly Telegraph' recently described yet another change in the way children are being denied a good grounding in learning the rules of English grammar. The newspapers Education Editor Graeme Paton wrote of the Government's National Primary Strategy for under-11s which apparently says"the i before e except after c rule is not worth teaching". Masha Bell, an author who has campaigned for spelling to be simplified, said it was "not a good rule". She added "People like it (the rule) because it's a kind of silly rhyme".

Trooping the Colour ceremony

Britons and many non-English speaking people, especially visitors to London, are drawn to the annual Trooping the Colour ceremony on the second Saturday in June. On-line images as well as sound action coverage can be seen on www.trooping-the-colour.co.uk where full details and history of this spectacular piece of military showmanship are given.

Since 1748 Trooping the Colour marks the official birthday of the British Sovereign.
Only battalions of infantry regiments of the line carry colours. In the heat of battle a regiments colours, or flags, were used as rallying points for the troops. Before a battle a young officer or ensign would march with the regimental flag between the ranks of soldiers so as every man could identify the flag he was fighting under.

In the ceremonial Trooping the Colour each year a battalion of one of the five Foot Guards regiments is selected to troop its colour . These are Grenadier, Coldstream, Scots, Irish and Welsh Guards.
When dressed in their scarlet uniforms onlookers can be excused for not immediately recognizing one from the other. However the arrangement of the front vertical tunic buttons can easily help.
Grenadier Guardsmen have 8 single buttons, Coldstream have buttons in five pairs, Scots in three threes, Irish in two fours and the Welsh Guards have two sets of five buttons down their front tunic fronts.