



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 75 368 639 375**

Patron: His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley, AC, DSC (Ret'd) Governor of New South Wales

ANNUAL REPORT 2016





RADM The Hon. Peter Sinclair and RADM Ross Swan at the Queen's Birthday Dinner



H.E. The Governor with Isla Collee, PESA Finalist



The New South Wales Committee



The Southern Highlands Committee with Dr. Brendan Nelson



Three Governors, past and present, together L-R: RADM The Hon. Peter Sinclair, Professor the Hon. Dame Marie Bashir and H.E. General The Hon. David Hurley



British Consul-General, Nick McInnes with Jumoke Debayo at the Queen's Birthday Dinner

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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 share 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, Melbourne and Perth.

The Australia-Britain Society Foundation is based in Canberra ACT and holds reserves of around \$270,000 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 committee nominees 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 (02) 9449 7532
Email: adminnsw@ausbrit.org

STRUCTURE

Our branch has approximately 250 members. 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, comprising our members and their guests as well as 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 Friends of St George's and The Descendants of the Knights of the Garter
The Navy League of Australia (NSW Division)
The English in Australia Association ("T Club")
The English Speaking Union
Australians for Constitutional Monarchy

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.

2015-16 YEAR IN REVIEW

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President:

Richard Nott AM, Dip FP, Dip FS, BSc(Hons), Grad Dip Insce, MBA, MCom, MIRM, ThA(Hons), ANZIIF (Fellow), FCII, SF Fin, FCIB, FIPA, FCIS, FGIA, CAHRI, FCMI

Hon Secretary and Deputy President:

David Adams, LLB

Treasurer and Immediate Past President:

Kenneth Bock, BCom, ANZIIF (Fellow), F Fin, CPA

Vice President and Sail Training Co-ordinator:

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

Administration and Membership Secretary:

Mrs. Sue Labordus, BA

General Committee Members:

Mrs. Janatha Adams

Mrs. Philippa Armfield

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

The Southern Highlands Sub-Committee 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 strong communication channels exist with the main branch committee. The Canberra branch of the Australia-Britain Society in 2013 began to exchange programmes with the Southern Highlands group. It is hoped to have exchange of dates with each other as well as supporting Sydney functions.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Southern Highlands Co-ordinator:

Malcolm Stephens, CB, MA

Treasurer:

Mrs. Christa Brown, MEd Admin

Secretary:

Mrs. Jan Bell

David Brown

Mrs. Lynette Stephens, BA

Barry Todd

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The list of activities for the year show our anchor events and some additions that have been well received, evidenced by the strong attendances, locations and guests speakers. These numbers have been swelled by the invitations received from the Order of Australia Association such as the Australia Day cruise where we could not mount such an event by ourselves due to a need for a minimum take-up of 100 acceptances. As well as our members gaining access to a spectacular event on the harbour, it also enabled the Order to meet its minimum take-up obligations. Further, we are grateful to the Australians for Constitutional Monarchy, the Cook Society, Friends of St. George's and Descendants of the Knights of the Garter for joining in several events, and particularly to the collegiate support of Professor David Flint to our joint programmes. These are held at the Union, University and Schools Club, plus the Australian Club, giving members access to large, prestigious venues in the city and this year an opportunity to meet there the

current British High Commissioner the Hon Mrs. Menna Rawlings CMG, which our Patron the Governor also attended.

The Queen's Birthday black tie dinner at the Australian Club was a sell-out event with a long waiting list of members and was a unique meeting of all three surviving NSW Governors; RADM The Hon Peter Sinclair and Mrs. Shirley Sinclair, Professor The Hon Dame Marie Bashir and Sir Nicholas Shehadie, as well as our current Governor, His Excellency General The Hon David Hurley and Mrs. Linda Hurley. The evening was a significant event to celebrate Her Majesty's 90th birthday in the company of our current Tall Ships awardee Ms. Kelley Priest and a cadre escort of prior awardees, together with Ms. Isla Collee, a finalist in the NSW Plain English Speaking awards, who replicated her address in the finals. Additionally, this event was a grand opportunity to show our appreciation and acknowledgement of the work of RADM Ross Swan and Mrs. Margaret Swan in forging the Tall Ships awards programme which enables young people to sail aboard British ships. This is our Society's main grants programme, to which most function surpluses are applied. The musical interlude by a pre-eminent Australian pianist Mr. John Martin and opera star Ms. Leah Thomas, capped off a fine evening along with a tribute to 400 years since the passing of William Shakespeare. In all a great night.

His Excellency the Governor held a number of special functions at Government House to mark the anniversary of the building and to celebrate Her Majesty's 90th birthday. These included a visit by TRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall, a formal ball and an afternoon garden party which a number of members attended.

In addition to His Excellency's active patronage, I acknowledge as well the support of the British Consul-General, Mr. Nick McInnes at events held in the Consulate's Vaucluse residence and his attendance at many Society functions.

Whilst we have a full and varied programme, we are mindful of not overloading members' calendars, especially as they are often also members of collegiate groups that hold as well similar events. Where possible we aim to continue to hold joint events to simplify administration, to generate worthwhile attendances and simplify the plethora of similar options available from other bodies.

One of the challenges of holding many functions is to provide the best value we can to members, yet recognising that running events at a loss does not auger well for our long-term financial solidarity unless we have good overall attendances and can rely to a large extent on support from raffles. In addition, we aim to make interesting venues with conditional access available to members. This differentiates us hopefully as well as the higher quality cuisine and service. Conversely we have offered informal gatherings at lower costs such as the Christmas luncheon at a city restaurant. Member feedback was positive but the general preference was for a more traditional menu and a closed venue at higher cost to enable members to meet without the seasonal shouting of restaurant crowds. In 2016 this will be along the lines proposed by some members.

Please advise any of the committee if you have any preferences as to events and any suggestions towards improvement, on the basis that our primary aim is to provide platforms for members to enjoy themselves and catch up with friends. For example, we have held day bus outings to the Southern Highlands and Hunter Valley Gardens that we can re-introduce if there is sufficient interest.

The Last Night of the Proms at Chatswood Concourse was attended by 110 members and friends and it was a rollicking good afternoon at half the cost the Opera House charges and at a seat price the same as

charged to the general public, but where we made around \$600 towards the cost of running the event due to volume sales. In this way we have managed to keep subscriptions at a modest levels.

We thank those members who send us donations periodically, especially those who are long-time Life Members who do not pay annual fees. Increasing postal costs and general catering charges are all challenges for us to continue offering the best value we can. You may note from the detailed event outcomes that some of these ran at a loss and in fact some a lot higher but absorbed by generous financial support from the committee. Events such as the AGM, which we believe members are entitled to attend at no cost, and the Queen's Birthday Dinner, which due to the large number of guest attendees and the special celebratory nature of the occasion, ran at a loss this year. The general principle is to offer competitive pricing value to members but not run down the long-term reserves of the Society, preserving its sustainability. Generous raffle sales enable us to price event close to costs.

The Committee comprises long-serving people who give of their time willingly to run the Society and I thank them for their collegiate and friendly approach to the aims of the Society and the fellowship we enjoy from periodic meetings. We always need new committee members to assist with running events, introducing new ideas, gathering donation and raffle prizes and spreading the workloads. If you have a small amount of time available and can help, please contact any members of the Committee at any time or simply nominate at the coming AGM.

Our sister society in England, planted a commemorative tree at the residence of the British High Commission in Canberra during the year to acknowledge the forty-five years patronage of The Duke of Edinburgh and his active guidance of the Society in England. Members of the Society in Sydney and Canberra attended this event and a reception in the residence of the British High Commissioner to support this living token of appreciation.

St. James' Church King Street is the catalyst for a number of plaques placed in this historic church to mark the contribution of our early governors and this Society was pleased to sponsor along with the Foundation, the plaque to Governor Arthur Phillip. The Remembrance Day service is a fixture of our calendar and this has been supported by a luncheon at the Australian Club with military guest speakers. We thank the rector, Revd. Andrew Sempell, for including our members in these celebrations plus the annual Nine Carol and Lessons at Christmastide.

This society has been a happy and active one for forty-five years with a wonderful cadre of members and guests who have a kindred interest and value in our British heritage and its great legacy to Australia. Thank you for your continuing fellowship, friendship and support to a great institution. I am confident 2017 will be a further enjoyable year.

With continuing best wishes,
Richard Nott

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For the year to 30th June 2016 the following programme of events was held:

- . **Plain English Speaking Awards. NSW finals** at NSW Teachers' Federation
- . **President's Luncheon with Guest speaker Col. Sandy MacGregor, MC** at the Australian Club
- . **Annual General Meeting and Dinner** at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron
- . **Last Night of the Proms at Chatswood Concourse**
- . **Remembrance Day church service at St. James' Church**, and luncheon at the Australian Club with guest speaker, Mrs. Anne Henderson, AM
- . **Christmas Lunch** at the Athenian Restaurant, Sydney
- . **Australia Day Cruise** in conjunction with the Order of Australia Association
- . **Buffet Lunch to celebrate Australia Day with guest H.E. Mrs. Menna Rawlings, CMG, British High Commissioner**, at the Union, University & Schools Club, in conjunction with Australians for Constitutional Monarchy
- . **Queen's Birthday Dinner** at the Australian Club Sydney with Guests of Honour His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley and Mrs. Hurley, Professor the Honourable Dame Marie Bashir and Sir Nicholas Shehadie and RADM the Hon. Peter Sinclair and Mrs. Sinclair.

In the Southern Highlands:

This has been another good year with three enjoyable and successful events:-

- . **Cameron Kerr** entertained with some fascinating insights in "The Changing Face of Zoos in the 21st century".
- . **Charlotte Nattey** drew a bumper audience for her fascinating presentation on some of the lesser known Royal jewels in "The King of Bling"
- . **Michael Sharpe** aroused some happy memories in "The HMS Bark Endeavour".

Useful surpluses were achieved on all the events and all the proceeds were donated to good causes, both local and national, including the Bell Shakespeare Company, the National Braille Music Camp held annually at Frensham, Southern Highlands Legacy and Taronga Zoo.

SAIL TRAINING REPORT

The winner of the Tall Ships Award 2016 is Kelley Priest, 23, a sales assistant, of Ocean Shores, NSW. Kelley sailed aboard STS Lord Nelson from Las Palmas to Southampton in March 2016. Kelley's report of her voyage aboard Lord Nelson is included as part of the Annual Report.

To enable members to hear first-hand more of Kelley's experiences aboard STS Lord Nelson, she has been invited to address members at the Annual General Meeting at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron on Monday 19 September 2016 and to answer questions. She will be presented with her Award Certificate at this event.

The selection process for the Tall Ships Awards commences in September each year with the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme calling for applications from eligible Young Australians who have sailed on a voyage aboard STS Young Endeavour. Applications are assessed and from the applicants a panel of finalists is drawn up.

Finalists, usually 4 to 6 in number are presented to a Selection Board in November/December each year. The Selection Board consists of five members representing the Australia-Britain Society (NSW Branch) Inc, Young Endeavour Youth Scheme and in recent years has included one Award Winner from previous years.

Selection is made on merit with the emphasis on identifying the truly outstanding candidate who has demonstrated a high degree of leadership and initiative and who it is assessed would be an excellent ambassador for Australia, Australia-Britain Society and Young Endeavour Youth Scheme aboard the British Tall Ship.

The Tall Ships Award Program was highlighted at the Queen's Birthday Dinner on 25 May 2016 with Kelley Priest and previous award winners Alix Cameron, Sarah Howard and Sam Redward, presented to the Society's Patron, His Excellency, The Governor of New South Wales, General the Honourable David Hurley AC MC (Ret) and Mrs Hurley as well as two previous Governors of New South Wales, Professor the Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO and Rear Admiral the Honourable Peter Sinclair AC AO KStJ RAN (Ret).

At the Queen's Birthday Dinner the opportunity was taken to pay tribute to the founder of the Tall Ships Award Program, RADM Rothesay Swan AO CBE RAN (Rtd) who was presented with a fine pictorial publication depicting international tall ship racing by RADM the Honourable Peter Sinclair AC AO KStJ RAN (Ret) on behalf of the Australia-Britain Society, the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme and the Sail Training community.

A former President of the Australian Sail Training Association 1996-2003 and trustee of Sail Training International 2004-2007, RADM Swan was Director Tall Ships Australia for Australia's Bicentennial Authority from 1984 to 1988. A strong advocate of sail training for youth development, he inaugurated the Tall Ships Award Program in 1994 during his Presidency of the Australia-Britain Society (NSW) Branch.

It is encouraging to see a number of Award alumni continuing to support the Society and its activities and taking an active role in the ongoing promotion of Tall Ship sailing for youth development. A Sail Training sub-committee has been in operation during the past year to enable some of these alumni to contribute to the management of the Award Program and to bring a younger person's perspective to its future direction. The work of the founding members of the Sub-Committee, Alix Cameron, Sarah Howard, Sam Redward and Lauren Szewczyk is acknowledged with thanks.

During the year we have worked closely with the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme through its Executive Director, CMDR Steve Moss CSC RAN (Rtd) and Voyage Co-ordinator LCDR Martin Radunz RANR in implementing the Award Program. We thank them for their contribution and acknowledge also the co-operation of the Australia Sail Training Association, and in Great Britain, the Association of Sail Training Organisations and the Jubilee Sailing Trust.

The Australia-Britain Society remains strongly committed to the Tall Ship's Award Program and encourages members to continue to support the various fund raising activities throughout the year. Member donations towards the Tall Ships Award Program are always welcome and gratefully received.

Richard Tighe
Vice President and Sail Training Co-Ordinator

REPORT ON SAILING EXPERIENCES ABOARD THE “*STS LORD NELSON*” by KELLEY PRIEST

Growing up in the most northeasterly corner of the state, travelling to Sydney has always been somewhat of adventure for me. However this time, it was nothing compared to what was to come in the few months ahead.

I remember it was a Tuesday, walking into an interview to a place I hadn't been, to meet people I've never met before. A panel of five sat before me, representing both the Australia-Britain Society and the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme. Intimidating as it was, I soon found myself giggling off the nerves and trying to impress this wonderful group of people in the hopes of making a dream come true.

Walking out of there with a confidence that could have been higher, I was replaying my choice of words in my head the whole plane trip back to northern NSW.

The very next day I sat exactly where I sit now. An unknown number flashed up on my phone, and to my excitement, it was Richard Tighe congratulating me on being the 2016 Tall Ships Award winner. I froze. I was in shock. I paced. I was speechless. No other words came to mind other than “thank you, thank you, thank you!” STS Lord Nelson, Gran Canaria to Southampton. This was the very next adventure in store for me.

The next thing I know, three months had flown by and I was nervously sitting on that plane bound for the UK. A brief stop in London and then it was down to the Canary Islands and I remember feeling the most anxious I had been in a while at this point. With last minute nerves, I messaged Caitlin Stephenson

(2011 Tall Ships Award winner and previous crew mate from Young Endeavour) about my fears of feeling alienated or the worry of being alone, but with her reassurance I had a new burst of energy and a high spirit. Of course I look back now and think what was I even worried about? It just proves what a profound effect these voyages have on you.

Navigating my way around a town that does not have English as their first language was my first challenge of many to come. Making my way towards the marina, a familiar scene caught my eye. With the sights of sails, yards, riggings and lines, there she was...I made a beeline for the magnificent vessel which was to be my home for the next 25 days.

With the sense of familiarity and excitement, I basically galloped up the gangway and was welcomed into the world of the Jubilee Sailing Trust and Day 1 began. It was easy enough to 'spot the Aussie' as I think I recall being the only one rugged up whereas everybody else seemed to be donning their summer outfits. This was definitely the first cultural difference I observed!

The first couple of days we stayed alongside at Santa Catalina while we were briefed on safety and climbing aloft, permanent crew was introduced and a rough itinerary was drawn for the upcoming adventure. My ears prickled and my head jolted in a direction to somebody speaking. There was a certain twang to the voice. "Is that another Aussie?!" I questioned. To my delight, second mate Rob McDonald was from Brisbane and quite quickly I had a sense of familiarity. It was like I had a token from home on board and I was no longer feeling alone. Thankfully I had someone to join me in the friendly jeering and jesting towards the Poms!

It was a Wednesday morning we weighed anchor and set a course headed for the Azores - a whole new world for me as I had never heard of the islands until this trip! Leaving the harbour we were facing 4 metre swells and soon enough, that oh so familiar feeling of queasiness took over. A few hours in and I found myself parallel to the sea. Taken down again by the lethargic hideousness that is seasickness, I knew I would find myself asking, "Why am I doing this again!?"...The same question I have voiced on each sailing trip I've been on. The dreadful sensation of dizziness combined with dehydration and the fight to keep everything down sucked the energy and enjoyment from me for two days. Overcoming this zombie-like state is a mental and physical challenge and one with no greater sense of accomplishment. Knowing I could push through such times (that seem to last a lot longer than they feel!) I soon felt I would be capable of any challenge Lord Nelson threw at me. Having said that, seasickness is a great icebreaker! I believe the ships doctor and nurse became some of my first friends...

Emerging from the darkness below decks, I spent the next few days in the stunning sunshine that the North Atlantic had to offer. It was a great feeling spending unbroken time with my watch and the others instead of disappearing moments at a time due to sickness.



A strong weather system was ascending and the winds changed just before our arrival at the island destination of Ponta Delgada, São Miguel. With much sail setting and handing and course changes, we anchored just south at Santa Barbara, part of the archipelago, so technically we arrived at the Azores, yay! Sheltering from the winds, some of us took advantage of the lack of motion and climbed aloft to check out the view. Even with the low laying cloud and the whipping wind, it was still a beautiful sight. One thing I realised on this particular climb was my shift in attitude. I remember vividly the first time I was told to climb a mast on a tall ship, flashback to my very first Young Endeavour day. I was a nervous 20 year old, almost chickening out of the experience, anxious shakes through my body and a glass half empty attitude. With bravery, adrenalin and encouraging words from those around me, I very, very slowly made my way up that foremast of the Young Endeavour. Now fast forward to my Lord Nelson days, I found myself first to volunteer to lay aloft, shot my hand straight up at any opportunity and said “I’ll do it!” It has been such a jump in self-confidence and certainty and there is no greater feeling than saying you can do something with no hesitation and such grit, determination and assurance. After my bout of sickness, I soon became the cliché Aussie with the “No Worries” attitude.

A two-day stop over in Ponta Delgada was just what we needed to find our sea legs. It was a bit wobbly at first though we managed to explore the island and the wonders that it had hidden. From volcanic craters and hot springs to whale watching and gorgeous Portuguese cuisine, we found two days wasn’t enough! We shared some time and experiences in our watch groups on land that made our bonds and friendships even stronger, even if it took a few tequila shots to cure seasickness!

Suddenly it was time to leave the amazing Azores, with favourable winds and a good-looking forecast, we spent the next two weeks zigzagging to Southampton.



With constantly shifting winds, we were setting and handing sails numerous times of the day and night in conjunction with the wind. It was strange to think northerly winds are cold considering it's the southerly's that chill us Aussies! At this point in the voyage I'm sure I was up to 7 layers of clothing... We would spend our watches rotating jobs, acting as watch leader, making tea, finding ways to keep warm, lots of Aussie-British humour and the occasional 3am Vegemite sandwich. We were lucky enough to have a representative from ORCA (<http://www.orcaweb.org.uk>) on board, Becky Garrity, so we were always entertained and on lookout for whales and dolphins during our sail, which was successful on numerous days!

We spent days playing games, having banter in the bar, rolling around the North Atlantic, trivia nights, sunbaking (if the sun was out!), attending mess duty, informative talks, happy hour, sail setting, sail handing...soon enough all the days were molding into weeks and before we knew it, we were near the end!

Unaware of what was following us across the North Atlantic, we soon checked the weather forecast and a huge storm cell was forming right behind us, chasing us all the way back to England. Storm Katie was on our tail, 8m swells and pelting hail pushed us towards over the continental shelf towards England to an anchorage in Tor Bay. We sheltered while she passed us with roaring 55kt winds. All I can say is I'm glad we were no longer seasick!



From meeting these people only weeks ago, we shared experiences and memories that made us feel like friends for much longer than just days spent at sea. I learnt an incredible amount off each person and vice versa. Our voyage crew ranged from ages 18-80, and came from all walks of life. We had chefs, doctors, sailors, teachers, nurses, and merchant navy cadets, lawyers the list goes on. To put such a vast variety of people in confined living and varying conditions seems difficult though the friendships formed and memories made will be with me for life. It's what I love about tall ship sailing; you can be total strangers at the beginning and come off with a whole new family.



Sailing across the English Channel into The Solent towards the Needles, with the Isle of Wight to the right and mainland England to the left, it hit me that the 25 days at sea had come to an end.

I had a time of reflection and thought of many things I learnt during my time at sea such as an increased patience, self-awareness and the ability to push through hard times when I'm not feeling 100%. My self-esteem has skyrocketed and has left me believing in myself more, having more self-worth and a greater appreciation for the smaller things in life. I look back to the few hours before stepping on that boat and think what on earth was I possibly worried about? That was the biggest development I found in myself, is to never worry about the unknown. Jump into it because it can turn out to be the best time of your life!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every person involved that made this trip of a lifetime possible for me. The Jubilee Sailing Trust and their permanent crew on the voyage, the Australian Sail Training Organisation, the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme and of course the Australia-Britain Society. I have the greatest appreciation and utmost honour being the Tall Ships Award winner for 2016 and will carry my experiences on board Lord Nelson through life with much respect and pride. If it weren't for the afore mentioned organisations, I may not know what I do now, and I thank you sincerely.

Yours aye,
Kelley Priest

TREASURER'S REPORT

Your Society's Financial Statements for the 2015/2016 year are shown on pages 19 to 22 in the Annual Report.

The Society's financial operations for 2015/2016 showed a considerable improvement compared with the previous year, although the Society did incur a deficit of \$1,611.

The main factors contributing to the improvement were:-

- A doubling of the surpluses from our social functions. The details of the results for the individual functions can be seen in the Notes to the Annual Financial Statements.
- A reduction in expenditure on Sail Training activities, the previous year's figure including additional expenditure compared with our normal sponsorship expenditure on this activity.
- The boosting of Donation income by a special Donation of \$2,000 from the ABS Foundation towards the cost of a plaque installed at St. James Church, King Street in Sydney commemorating Governor Lachlan Macquarie. Members of the Society also made special donations for this purpose. In turn, the actual plaque cost shown in the financial statements added to our year's expenditure.

Unfortunately, the general reduction of interest rates in financial markets caused a reduction in the Interest earnings on our bank term deposit and our Reserve A/c. I know that many of our members are in a similar situation as regards their personal finances.

Once again the Southern Highlands Committee was able to make donations to several worthy causes as a result of their various social activities. These are shown in the notes to the financial statements.

In general, the improved range of social activities managed by the Committee has seen a welcome increase in activities and provided additional means of generating income. It is to be hoped that this trend will add to our surpluses and thus enable the Society to make available more funds in the area of assisting younger people in worthwhile activities thus enhancing their personal development. I encourage you actively to support the 2017 programme of functions.

Overall I am pleased to observe that your Society's financial position remains quite satisfactory.

Ken Bock
Hon. 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 are issued to other states in the event that visitors to Sydney are able to join our functions. Branch event diaries can be accessed on the Society website: www.ausbrit.org

Australian Capital Territory

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President
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Email: adminact@ausbrit.org

Victoria

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

Western Australia

P.O.Box 3044
Yokine WA 6060
Ms Ann Cargill Kennish President
Email: adminwa@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. Apart from in London, the Britain-Australia Society has branches in Cambridgeshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Hampshire and Somerset and if you are in the UK and wish to attend functions, it is suggested you contact the Head Office in the first instance. Their details are:-

The Britain-Australia Society, Australia Centre, Strand, London WC2B 4LG
Telephone 0207 630 1075 Email: natdir@britain-australia.org.uk
Website: www.britain-australia.org.uk

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

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS
FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS TO 30TH JUNE, 2016

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AUSTRALIA-BRITAIN SOCIETY (NSW BRANCH) INC.

ABN 75 368 639 375

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2016

	2016			2015		
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<u>INCOME</u>						
Functions	44,985.87			33,556.57		
Raffles	3,031.00	48,016.87		2,251.50	35,808.07	
less:- Costs						
Functions	42,078.03			32,671.25		
Raffles	161.38	42,239.41	5,777.46	523.58	33,194.83	2,613.24
Members' Subscriptions		3,530.00			3,055.00	
Donations		4,505.50			2,824.98	
Interest		1,625.60			2,539.81	
Tie Sales		0.00	9,661.10		0.00	8,419.79
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>			15,438.56			11,033.03
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>						
Insurance & Returns		1,560.79			1,457.91	
Secretarial Services incl. telephone		5,040.00			5,020.00	
Postage & Stationery		801.79			650.09	
Printing		949.30			916.67	
Printer purchase SH '16		369.00			0.00	
Promotional Items / Other		802.90	9,523.78		106.25	8,150.92
<u>OPERATING SURPLUS</u>			5,914.78			2,882.11
<u>GRANTS & DONATIONS</u>						
PESA			850.00			850.00
Sail Training			2,976.00			4,630.69
St. James Donations for plaques: Lachlan Macquarie 2016			1,600.00			
Arthur Phillip (2015)						250.00
Donations by Sth Highlands C'tee			2,100.00		2,550.00	
						2,550.00
			7,526.00			8,030.69
<u>NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</u>			(1,611.22)			(5,148.58)
<u>OVERALL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</u>			(1,611.22)			(5,148.58)

AUSTRALIA-BRITAIN SOCIETY (NSW BRANCH) INC.

ABN 75 368 639 375

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th JUNE 2016

ASSETS	2016		2015	
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>				
<u>Cash at Bank:-</u>				
	N.S.W.	12,459.63		17,684.89
	Southern Highlands	1,837.79	14,297.42	1,903.12
				19,588.01
Petty Cash on Hand		1,000.00		1,000.00
Pre-Payments		0.00		0.00
Net Advance				
Payments 2016/17				
Functions		1,869.00	2,869.00	1,691.00
				2,691.00
			17,166.42	22,279.01
<u>INVESTMENTS</u>				
Westpac Term Deposit - Sth H'lands			10,000.00	10,000.00
Westpac Term Deposit - Sydney			50,501.37	60,000.00
			60,501.37	69,000.00
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>		<u>77,667.79</u>		<u>82,279.01</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>				
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>				
Subscriptions paid in advance			0.00	
Sundry Creditors			0.00	
Donations received in 2015 for Macquarie Plaque (2016)			0.00	3,000.00
			0.00	3,000.00
<u>NET ASSETS</u>		<u>77,667.79</u>		<u>79,279.01</u>
<u>MEMBERS' FUNDS</u>				
Accumulated Funds as at 1st July, 2015			79,279.01	84,427.59
Add/(Subtract) Surplus/(Deficit) for the year			(1,611.22)	(5,148.58)
Members' Funds as at 30th June, 2016			<u>77,667.79</u>	<u>79,279.01</u>

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

ANALYSIS OF FUNCTIONS FOR THE YEAR TO 30th JUNE 2016

Function	Income - \$			Expenses \$	Surplus/ (Deficit) \$
	Charge to Members	Net Raffle	Net Income		
President's Lunch 2 Sept	3,010.00	0.00	3,010.00	3,100.00	(90.00)
AGM	1,265.00	0.00	1,265.00	1,200.00	65.00
Remembrance Day	2,235.00	0.00	2,235.00	2,235.00	0.00
Christmas Lunch	3,020.00	362.62	3,382.62	2,340.	1,042.62
Australia Day Cruise	3,850.00	0.00	3,850.00	3,850.00	0.00
Australia Day Buffet Lunch 28/1	8,540.00	827.00	9,367.00	7,697.00	1,670.00
Opera Concert	799.00	0.00	799.00	693.26	105.74
Last Night of the Proms	4,860.00	0.00	4,860.00	4,256.00	604.00
Queen's Birthday	15,000.00	1,680.00	16,680.00	16,706.77	(26.77)
<u>Southern Highlands Functions</u>					
The Changing Face of Zoos	587.60		587.60	0.00	587.60
The King of Bling	1,139.20		1,139.20	0.00	1,139.20
The HMS Bark Endeavour	680.07		680.07	0.00	680.07
TOTALS	44,985.87	2,869.62	47,855.49	42,078.03	5,777.46

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 30th June, 2016 give a true and fair view of the financial operations of the Society for the year to 30th June, 2016;
- 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 2nd 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.Com. ANZIIF (Fellow), F Fin, CPA

Treasurer

1st August, 2016

2. STATEMENT BY INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

We have examined and audited the books and the records of the Australia-Britain Society (NSW Branch) Inc. for the year ended 30th June, 2016.

It is our opinion that the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 30th June, 2016, together with the Balance Sheet as at that same date, are properly drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the financial results and the position of the Society for that year ended and as at that date.

Further, the accounts and associated records have been properly kept in a manner appropriate to the Society's needs. We believe that the Society can meet its debts as and when they fall due.

STEEL, JAGGER & ASSOCIATES

Certified Practising Accountants

Ian Maxwell Jagger, RFD, FCPA, JP

Registered Company Auditor

18th August, 2016

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H.R.H. The Prince of Wales and Sue Labordus
at Government House



Tom Jackson, Andrea Havers, David and Catherine Barker
at the AGM Dinner at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron



David and Janatha Adams with Rick Forster at a tree-planting
ceremony at The British High Commissioner's residence, Canberra

