



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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NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2015

No. 2015.6

1. COMING EVENTS

a) Christmas Party Lunch Monday 14 December noon to 3.00pm

A reminder of this event was sent out recently and bookings have now closed. This casual lunch is primarily a chance to catch up with Society friends and have a relaxing time. The only real risk is eating the Christmas pudding as I made it!

b) Nine Carols and Lessons St. James Church King Street Sunday 20 December 7.30pm

This is a popular city choral event based on the Kings College Cambridge service. We will aim to reserve some seating however suggest attendees arrive early to secure a good pew. The choir and organ in St. James' is one of the pre-eminent musical treats in the city and we encourage your attendance for this wonderful celebratory event.

c) Australia Day Harbour cruise and luncheon 26 January

The Order of Australia Association has kindly invited our members to join in this event, and Australia Day on the harbour is certainly the place to be. A flyer is attached with the details and we have not added any further charges to the cost being paid to the Order of Australia as these events are impacted by public holiday labour rates and some members may find the costs high for a short time event. Despite this, I am sure it will be a good day if the weather holds and an attractive event for many members.

d) Australia Day Buffet Luncheon to celebrate Australia Day to be held 28 January

To keep costs as low as we can, we have secured the option of various rooms at the **Union University and Schools Club, Bent Street Sydney NSW**, on **Thursday, 28 January, 2016**, from noon until 3.00pm, in conjunction with Australians for Constitutional Monarchy, where the club can accommodate up to 150 people for an excellent two-course roast buffet luncheon, including drinks for \$85.00 at a prestigious venue not normally available to non-members. The guest of honour for the day is Her Excellency Menna Rawlings CMG, British High Commissioner, supported by Mr. Nick McInnes, British Consul-General. Mrs. Rawlings will be speaking on the current relationships between our two countries and some of the challenges the European Union and Australia are facing in future trade and economic outlooks. A raffle will be held with excellent prizes plus a chance for members to meet in a pleasant setting and celebrate Australia Day with member friends. A flyer is attached and an early response will help us plan the day more successfully.

e) Further into 2016:

You may like to note your diaries for some events planned:

i) Gala Opera Chatswood Sunday 14 February 2.00pm-4.00pm \$47.00

We have secured 30 tickets for this event, which features the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra and 90-piece choir and up to eight opera soloists, all singing and playing popular melodies. Since we received favourable comments from members who attended the concert this year, we have secured access again for next year. Tickets available on a first come basis. (As yet seat allocations have not been made).

ii) Commonwealth Day luncheon 14 March

This is organised by the Commonwealth Day Council with support from the various collegiate bodies. It will be held at the Strangers' Dining Room at NSW Parliament House and is a celebratory event attended by His Excellency the Governor.

iii) Queen's Birthday Dinner alternative dates 18-19-20-24-25-26 May.

The various dates selected and reserved at the Australian Club will enable Vice Regal invitees to consider their calendar. It is hoped we can secure the attendance of current and past incumbents in these roles plus a group of well-known opera singers to render a short Gilbert and Sullivan interlude. This is Her Majesty's 90th birthday celebration and our aim is to make it an event worthy of the occasion and one you will enjoy.

iv) Last Night of the Proms, Chatswood Concourse Sunday 21 August 2.00-4.00pm

These concerts were a sell-out this year with over 112 members and friends attending with over two hours of wonderful audience participative singing in the company of the Willoughby Symphony and choir. Ticket costs are \$47 and we have reserved 100 tickets in the best seats after subscriber seats are allocated. As yet seating is not available and will be sold on a first come basis, so let Sue Labordus know of your interest. Richard Nott will be acting again as flag waver in his Mr. Whippy jacket.

v) President's Luncheons

Our aim is to hold two of these a year into the calendar that fits other flagship events and to broaden the scope of guest speakers outside of military subjects that were part of the 2015 Gallipoli year. These will be held in either the Australian or Union, University and Schools Clubs.

An additional location being considered for our future functions is the Royal Exchange Club, one of the oldest clubs in Sydney, and a well-kept secret. It is situated in Gresham Street between Bridge and Bent Streets, about five minutes' walk from Wynyard. It can hold up to 70 people for luncheons or special events, and we have access to this club.

2. NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to our Society, and look forward to seeing them at our functions:

. Carole Osborne . Jumoke Debayo . Doune MacNaught-Thrush . Margaret Binder
. Michael & Gunilla Austin

The Secretariat will be closed from 21 December until 2 January and we extend seasonal good wishes from the Committee and appreciation for your support over many years, especially in 2015.

Richard Nott