



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 FEBRUARY/MARCH, 2012

No. 01/12

1. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- a) Luncheon aboard the Tall Ship “Young Endeavour” Friday, 9 March 2012 from noon to 2pm**

This important upcoming event will be the luncheon aboard “Young Endeavour”, at which the winner of the Tall Ships Award 2012, Sarah Rowsell, will be farewelled prior to her voyage aboard “Lord Nelson” from The Azores to Southampton. The “Young Endeavour” will be moored alongside Fleet Base East Garden Island. This annual event is always a very pleasant affair, with finger food and all drinks included in the price of \$50. If you require parking, please indicate your car registration number, if applicable, on the attached booking form.

- b) Southern Highlands Branch: Presentation entitled “Voyages to and from Hobart-Town” 2 March 2012 5.30-7.30pm.**

The speaker at this function will be our Member, David Brown, whose great-grandfather sailed in these oceans in 1840. The price of this event is \$25 per person, which includes drinks and finger food, which will be served prior to David’s presentation. Enquiries: Miss Cynthia Parker on (02) 4871 1267. Bookings to: Malcolm Stephens CB, 38 Argyle Street, Bong Bong Hill, Moss Vale NSW 2577, cheques payable to Australia-Britain Society (Southern Highlands Committee).

2. OTHER FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- a) Commonwealth Day 2012 Luncheon Monday 12 March 2012 Noon for 12.30pm, Strangers’ Dining Room, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney in the presence of H.E. Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales. Guest speaker: Mr. Edmund Capon AM OBE, former director, Art Gallery of NSW.**

Cost: \$90 per Person for 2-course luncheon and drinks. Enquiries: Janet Stewart on 0412 901 180, or email: commonwealthday@gmail.com. RSVP by 24 February.

3. RECENT EVENTS – PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Christmas Party:

Once again we were privileged to be able to conduct our Christmas function early in December at the British Consul General’s residence at Vaucluse. The venue was, as usual, delightful and we were most grateful to the Consul, our good friend, Mr. Richard Morris, for hosting the function. I am confident that all who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves. My thanks to Immediate Past President Richard Nott for his very generous donation of wines for the occasion and I thank also Committee member Maureen Tegerdine who organised the catering and other aspects for the occasion.

Australia Day:

We were very pleased to secure again the American Club in Macquarie Street as the venue for our annual Australia Day luncheon. Rain threatened early on the day but by the time we arrived at the Club, the weather had brightened considerably and we were able to enjoy the excellent vista over the Harbour and out to the Heads that the Club’s site allows. My thanks to Committee Members Barbara and Ian Plumb who were the primary organisers of the function. They put much effort into making the day the success that it was. My thanks also to the Committee members and others who donated raffle prizes. It was a delight to have two of our Tall Ships Award winners with us on the occasion – Sarah Howard and Caitlin Stephenson. We were very pleased that they both travelled from far afield to be with us. My thanks to the Southern Highlands Group who were well represented on the day and led by their President Cynthia Parker and Hon. Treasurer Malcolm Stephens. We were able during the lunch to honour long-time member Sadye Guthrie as the day is her birthday.

We did not have a guest speaker on this occasion and instead, I told a few stories which seemed to generate a few laughs and which didn’t unduly interrupt the overall enjoyment of the occasion by those present.

Following on from these two reports and by way of general comment, I thank most sincerely those members who attended and who, in several cases, had invited friends to accompany them BUT I was again disappointed by the overall attendance numbers. Only 49 attended the Christmas Party and 70 were present on Australia Day. In the latter case, we incurred a loss on the day because of the low attendance. Much effort goes into organising those functions by the Committee Members who “project manage” the planning of the events. *I would encourage you to pass on to your Committee any thoughts that you may have for different types of functions rather than the “traditional” ones we usually conduct. Please let us know.* The Committee frequently considers this matter, and one thought we do have is to arrange a coach tour to visit our Southern Highlands group for one of their functions. What else should we do?

4. OTHER MATTERS

Request for Auditor:

We need to appoint an Auditor for the current financial year. ABS member, Mr. Keith Salt, has performed this function for many years, but has now retired. Our thanks go out to him for his contribution and dedication. If you would be willing to take over this job, I would estimate that in total the job would take about 3 to 4 hours, once a year. Alternatively, if you have an acquaintance who would undertake the role, would you please put them in touch with me (phone 9871 6869). Ideally, we would prefer to have the job done on a pro bono basis, but we could discuss a “commercial” one, if that is necessary.

RADM Ross Swan:

We have heard of some bouts of illness having been suffered by some of our members. In particular, Past President Rear Admiral Ross Swan was ill during January, which prevented him and his wife Margaret from attending our Australia Day luncheon. We are happy to report that he is well again and looking as fit as ever.

5. NEW MEMBERS

We are very pleased to welcome two new members to the Society – **Kerri Griffiths** and **David Duffy** – and look forward to seeing them at our functions.

6. VALE

We regret to advise the passing of **Alastair Urquhart, AO CBE** and extend our sincere condolences to his family.

With best wishes,

Ken Bock,
President