



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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Administration Secretary: Sue Labordus

NEWSLETTER JUNE/JULY, 2012

No. 03/12

1. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- a) **PESA NSW final: Friday 27 July 9.30am-12.30pm at NSW Teachers Federation Conference Centre, Corner Reservoir/Mary Streets, Surry Hills, Sydney. Public transport to Central station / parking at Goulburn Street carpark**

As before, the Plain English Speaking Awards final is open to all our members and is free of charge. This is an outstanding event which restores one's confidence in the younger generation and shows how they can put words together in a most intelligent way. Our Branch of the Australia-Britain Society has donated the prizes at the function for many years and will do so again this year. We donate \$100 for each of the six finalists and a further \$250 for the ultimate winner. The standard of the speeches is always excellent and you will be thoroughly entertained if you attend. The State winner will go on to compete in the National final later in the year.

- c) **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** The AGM for 2012 has been set down for Tuesday 25th September at a time and place yet to be decided. The usual format will be followed, when this year's Tall Ships award winner, Sarah Rowsell will give us a report on her experiences. Apart from this, your Committee is planning a programme that will be entertaining whilst at the same time bringing you an accounting of your Committee's stewardship during the year and also the usual report on the state of the Society's finances. Please diarise the date and use your best endeavours to attend.

- d) **SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS FUNCTION: Saturday 5 October commencing at 11.30am – Visit to Frensham Girls' Boarding School**

The Southern Highlands Group of the Australia-Britain Society is conducting a daytime function that is basically a visit to the well-known Frensham Girls' Boarding School.

The day's events will commence at 11.30am and will involve:

- . A walk through the gardens and grounds and a brief viewing of the various boarding rooms
- . A picnic lunch and glass of wine or soft drink served in the school hall
- . A talk entitled, "Frensham: an Historical Perspective" delivered by A-B members who are associated with the school
- . A tour of the school's theatre, Clubbe Hall, the Science Block, and the craft centre, where gift items can be purchased, so you can buy up early for Christmas!

It is quite some time since we visited our Southern Highlands members and this will be a very suitable daytime event to renew acquaintanceships. At this time of year, also, the tulips will be in full bloom in Bowral, so all in all, this should prove to be a most worthwhile visit.

We will bring you further information in our next newsletter, but if you would like more information before then, please phone the Southern Highlands Convenor, Miss Cynthia Parker on 4871 1267. In the meantime, please do diarise the date and endeavour to attend.

e) **REGIONAL AFTERNOON TEAS**

One of our members, Mrs. Gail White, has come up with an excellent suggestion that we should occasionally conduct social gatherings on a smaller scale than some of our bigger functions. Her idea has come about because she thought that some members may find it difficult to get to know other members when they attend "larger" functions.

The format of the proposed gatherings is that there be a morning or afternoon tea at a member's home and that members residing near that person's home attend and have a social gathering.

We envisage that the functions would operate like this:

- . Members willing to act as a host and conduct a function at their home would advise our Administration Secretary, Mrs. Sue Labordus, on 9449 7532 and nominate a date on which they would be willing to host. The date can be any date that suits them, week-end or mid-week.
- . The member's name, phone number, suburb of residence and the date of the proposed function would then be publicised in our next Newsletter. Note that, in the interest of privacy, we would not mention the intending host's address in the newsletter.
- . Other members of the A-B Society who wish to attend the gathering would phone the host and advise their interest.
- . The host would then conduct the function. Please note that it would be expected that those attending would make a contribution to the catering by bringing a plate or other means as suggested by the host. Therefore, the only thing required of the host would be to provide the venue and tea or coffee.
- . After the function, the Host would then send a brief report to the Administration Secretary on how the function turned out and hopefully for mention in a subsequent newsletter so the main body of members can be informed.

If you are willing to host a function along the lines set out, please phone Mrs. Labordus and advise your details.

To get the ball rolling, Mrs. White has advised that she is willing to host an afternoon tea on **Wednesday, 15th August at 2.00-4.00pm**. She lives in Hornsby and her phone number is 9943-0425. If you wish to attend, please ring her and she will suggest a dish for you to bring.

f) **5th ANNUAL CROSSROADS FESTIVAL 25-26 August 2012**

Once again, Glen Donnelly, the young Australian violist whom the Australia-Britain Society sponsored some years ago to study in London, will be back in Australia next month as Artistic Director of the Crossroads Festival, Central Coast, performing with a number of other accomplished musicians. The venue is the Greenway Chapel, 460 Avoca Drive, Green Point. There are four concerts: Saturday 25 August and Sunday 26 August at 11.00am and 2.30pm (with afternoon tea). Bookings: 0437 399 896, website: crossroadsfestival.com.au. Cost: \$35.

g) **REMEMBRANCE DAY 2012: Sunday 11 November at 11.00. St James Church, King Street, Sydney followed by lunch.** Details to follow in a future newsletter.

2. QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Two of our members received well-deserved recognition for their services to the community in the 2012 Queen's Birthday Honours roll. We are delighted to announce that an AM has been awarded to each of the following:

. Immediate past President, **Richard Nott**, for services to the Banking and Insurance industries and to the Community through the Australia-Britain Society. His dedication to the running of the Society, first as a Committee member, and later as your President, was exemplary. He put in much time and effort on our activities, much of which were behind the scenes, and only those close to him, particularly other Committee members, know the full extent of his contribution.

. **Professor John Hamilton** of Newcastle, for service to medicine and tertiary education as an academic and administrator through support for indigenous students and to professional associations.

Congratulations to these two members.

3. QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY LUNCH

Our luncheon to honour the Queen's Official Birthday and also her Diamond Jubilee was held on Thursday 14th June and all those attended on the day who spoke to me about it expressed the view that it was an outstanding success. The NSW Governor, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir and Sir Nicholas Shehadie were the Guests of Honour.

Her Excellency gave an excellent and enlightening address during which she gave us an insight into the her work as the Queen's NSW Representative, her responsibilities and powers and also discussed the benefits we receive from living in Australia under the inherited British parliamentary and judicial systems. Professor David Flint gave an appropriate vote of thanks.

We used a new venue for the lunch, the Sir Stamford Hotel in Macquarie Street at Circular Quay. The room décor was most pleasant and the meal standard was very high. Apart from a blocked view for one table because of the building's structural pillars, a problem that can be overcome in the future by having a different table layout, your Committee will give serious thought to conducting future functions at this quite delightful venue.

4. MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

It is again membership renewal time, with subscriptions due on 1st July, and a membership renewal form is attached. Please note that subscriptions remain unchanged, having been kept steady for many years. If Life Members have changed contact details (e.g. new email address, etc.) please let us know so that we can keep our database up to date and you can continue to receive newsletters from us. If there are no changes to your details, simply disregard the form, unless of course you wish to send us a donation! For new members who joined the Society after March 2012, your membership will extend until 30 June 2013, so there is no need to do anything.

5. NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome **Ann Waterford** and **David McCredie** as new members to our Society, and look forward to seeing them at our functions.

6. PASSINGS

We regret to advise the passing of Heather Icely, and our condolences are extended to her family and friends.

With best wishes,

Ken Bock,
President