



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

**Branch President : Richard Nott, AM  
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**Administration Secretary: Sue Labordus**

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## NEWSLETTER APRIL 2015

2015/1

### COMING EVENTS:

**Queen's Birthday Dinner Wednesday 27 May 6.15-10.30pm Australian Club Members Dining Room,  
165 Macquarie Street, Sydney**

This year is a multi-faceted event under the Queen's Birthday celebrations, where we aim to remember :

- . 50 years deaths of Churchill and T.S.Eliot
- . 100 years Gallipoli
- . 200 years Waterloo
- . 800 years Magna Carta

As a result, we have arranged a black tie evening in the company of His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley, Governor of New South Wales, and Mrs. Linda Hurley. Dame Marie Bashir and Sir Nicholas Shehadie will be attending to enable us to thank them for their support to the Society over a long period. Various dignitaries from kindred groups including the Cook Society, the Friends of St. George's, and Australians for Constitutional Monarchy, have been invited. More details are in the attached flyer. We have not held an event in an evening on a formal scale for over a decade so we encourage you to check that your suit has not shrunk and join us for this event that will include a musical interlude and short reflections by guests and the committee to the events flagged. We are aiming to run this event at near cost and hope you will buy raffle tickets. There is a limit of 150 places, limited to members and a partner as it is held at a private club, so we encourage your early response to what will be a memorable night.

### Calendar for 2015:

More details will be provided closer to the dates, however you may like to mark your diaries:

1. **Sunday 26 July 3.00pm** Patronal festival St. James' Church King Street, Sydney for dedication by the Bishop of the commemorative plaque to Lachlan Macquarie donated by the Australia-Britain Society NSW Branch and Foundation.
2. **Friday 31 July and 16 October**, reception and guest speaker at Southern Highlands group Bowral 5.30-7.30pm
3. **Friday 24th July 9.30am-1.00pm** Plain English Speaking Awards

4. **Thursday 27 August** (or 2-4 September) President's luncheon at Australian Club Macleay Room with a prominent military guest
5. **Tuesday 15 September** AGM and dinner at Royal Yacht Squadron Kirribilli
6. **Sunday 25 October 2.00-4.00pm** Last Night of the Proms matinee concert Chatswood Concourse
7. **Wednesday 11 November 11.00am** Remembrance Day service St. James' King Street followed by lunch at private room Australian Club with guest speaker – the Churchill/Menzies wartime struggles.
8. **Sunday 20 December at 7.30pm** Nine Carols and Lessons St James' Church King Street, Sydney
9. **December** (date to be advised): Christmas Luncheon at Royal Exchange Club, 1 Gresham St, Sydney

Some comment on planned events may be of interest:

**a) Plaque dedication**

Our grants have been restricted in recent years mainly to the Tall Ships and Plain English Speaking awards to preserve our reserves and run functions at near cost to benefit members. We have been invited to sponsor the plaque at St James' church King Street, the oldest church in the city, to be on the right hand side of the Northern door to reflect the enormous contribution by our Governor Lachlan Macquarie. Other groups are supporting similar plaques to Governor Phillip and Captain Cook.

This plaque support of \$3,600 will be financed by \$2,000 from the Society Foundation (a body of all Society branches) and the balance from this Branch's reserves and donations. We believe this grant is a small but memorable engagement for this Society and one that future generations and our members can note with pride in being a part of this landmark at our most famous city church designed by Francis Greenway.

Please consider joining in the Patronal service at St. James' on Sunday 26 July at 3.00pm when the Diocesan Bishop will make the dedication accompanied by members of this Society committee. It is your gift to the city through this society and if you feel moved to make a specific donation to this grant we will be grateful for your financial help.

**b) Last Night of the Proms**

A flyer is attached detailing this event. We have specifically focused on an afternoon event, within easy walking distance from the train and access parking under the concert hall at a cost around half of what similar events are charged at the Opera House. In fact, at the box office this event is sold out and your Secretariat has the only supply of event tickets left. We have around 50 tickets remaining at \$45 each and our bulk buying will enable us to make a surplus to reserves of \$700 if all are sold. The remaining 50 tickets will be offered to other groups to recover our cost if not sold to members by July. Please consider coming to this event. It is a "dress up" affair with plenty of red, white and blue, plus a special welcome to members from the conductor. The focus is on having a good time. We also have a few tickets for the evening prior (Saturday 24 October at 7.00pm).

**c) Christmas Luncheon**

We have held Christmas events at the British Consul-General's home over the past decade and appreciate greatly his generosity and support. With members increasingly wishing to avoid mid-week evening events often a distance from home, we are aiming this year to hold a two-course Christmas fare luncheon, close to transport and expected good value at the best prices in the city. The Royal Exchange club is the oldest club in Sydney within walking distance from Wynyard station or the Quay ferry, tucked away in Gresham street between Bent and Bridge streets just behind Pitt street. The club can accommodate 70 people for luncheon and we can book out the club for the event if we gain attendances. To keep the cost low, we are looking at a corkage on the drinks with drinks sourced by the committee at cheap venues. A traditional turkey/pudding luncheon is proposed with some alternatives. A firm date will be set shortly. Dress is smart casual, no ties or jackets required. This event is a focus on catching up with friends and having a good seasonal time.

#### **d) Bookings**

Arranging these events requires mainly gratuitous work by the committee. Please observe the cut-off deadlines for bookings as re-writing table plans and catering needs involve double handling and chasing people for payment after the events. Everyone is busy so please prioritise these events as we will be sticking to the deadlines to eliminate hours of visiting mail boxes and chasing people for payment( age related memory loss is only an excuse for the President !) Thanks for your understanding.

#### **RECENT EVENTS:**

##### **a) Christmas Party**

Around 50 people attended this regular event at the British Consul-General Nick McInnes' home at Vaucluse and were treated to a lovely evening in wonderful weather. Thank you as well to members for supporting the raffle.

##### **b) Australia Day Visit to Tobruk Sheep Station**

This was an event with a difference, a real Australiana outing with damper and bush BBQ luncheon, shearing, sheep dog displays, whip cracking and a taste of rural life. Not for the feint-hearted as the weather was very hot!

Australia Day functions are expensive due to double-time labour costs and we cannot arrange events for this day within the bounds of what our members would regard as value. Instead we will be looking for events around that date that can be cost-effective. To this end, the Order of Australia group has a large membership base to engage events such as Harbour cruises, and bus trips where we cannot get the required numbers to break-even. Where enticing, we will continue to liaise with them to see whether it is a value package for our members to join in these events. Please advise the Secretariat if you have any suggestions for Australia Day activities that you like.

##### **c) Gala Opera Concert**

This was an experiment as the Society is reluctant to buy tickets for events it may not be able to sell. In this case we obtained 50 tickets to this event held in February at the Chatswood Concourse Concert Hall and 38 members and friends attended. The general feedback was that it was an excellent event. The residual tickets were exchanged for a future concert (Last Nigh of the Proms), so the Society can continue to offer realistic concerts without any exposure to loss from unsold tickets. It is unlikely we will venture into general ticket selling beyond the few concerts a year where we feel members will have an interest.

##### **d) President's Luncheon**

This was an initial venture at a private club room for around 48 members and friends to hear The Hon Justice Michael Pembroke, reflect on the diverse skills and commonality of both Arthur Phillip and James Cook. The general feedback was positive and we will schedule around two of these luncheons a year. As it is a Gallipoli Remembrance year, we will aim to have a significant military author to join the August luncheon.

#### **NEW MEMBERS:**

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:-

. **Dianne Collins**            . **Joy Mooney**            . **Frank Gartrell**            . **Michael Handley**

and are delighted to welcome back long-term Society supporters:

. **Pat and David Miller**            . **Del and Michael Spencer**

## **PASSINGS**

Reporting the deaths of members is always coupled with our affectionate sentiments to their families and friends. Recently we said farewell to:

. **Isabel Dell**                      . **Robert Andry**                      . **Phyllis Stephenson**

## **BBC HOME QUIZ**

The BBC has asked us to advise our members that it is conducting a pilot programme game show, “*5 Star Family Reunion*” produced by 12 Yard Productions in the UK. They are looking for British families that have emigrated to Australia, to take part in the new BBC pilot. This is a game show where family members play in real time across the globe in a series of general knowledge rounds. Some family members will be UK based whilst others are overseas. The BBC is asking whether any of our members would like to appear on the show. If you feel a burst of celebrity status coming on, please email: [family@12yard.com](mailto:family@12yard.com) or contact Dawn Morrison, Assistant Producer, email [Dawn.Morrison@12yard.com](mailto:Dawn.Morrison@12yard.com) or phone her in Scotland on 001144-141 427 3071, and mention the Australia-Britain Society.

## **GENERAL**

The Secretariat receives regular bulletins of activities in London held by our sister Society the Britain-Australia Society. If you are visiting the UK, consider checking the programme as members are always welcome to attend functions that are always varied and unique. Additionally, there are branches throughout England and your President has met with visiting members from some of them, who extend a warm welcome to our members visiting their regions. The Secretariat can provide the contact details of UK Branches.

Thanks to the Committee for its dedication to the aims of this wonderful Society and to its long term memberships that we value. New members are welcomed and we hope you enjoy the various events as well.

With continuing best wishes,

*Richard Nott*