



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: Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, AC, CVO, Governor of New South Wales

ANNUAL REPORT 2012



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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 shared 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, the Gold Coast, Melbourne and Perth.

The Australia-Britain Society Foundation is based in Canberra ACT and holds reserves of around \$260,000 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 Presidents 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

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Email : adminnsw@ausbrit.org

STRUCTURE

Our branch has approximately 300 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, mainly members, guests and 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 Society of the Friends of St George's and The Descendants of the Knights of the Garter

The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire Association

The Navy League of Australia (NSW Division)

The English in Australia Association ("T Club")

The English Speaking Union

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.

2011-12 YEAR IN REVIEW

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

For the benefit of newer members and as a reference point, the Committee membership details are listed. It may be useful for members to know the Committee members' roles and other interests the Committee has outside the Society.

President and Treasurer:

Ken Bock, BCom, ANZIIF(fellow), FFin, CPA

Tel (02) 9871 6869 email: kbandlb@optusnet.com.au

Ken Bock is a retired senior manager with AMP where he served throughout Australia and in London. He is an announcer with 2RPH radio, an actor in various suburban Sydney theatre productions, Diocesan Reader of the Epping Anglican church, a member of the supervisory board of the Scripture Union Deposit Fund, and an active member of the Masonic movement.

In addition to being our President and Treasurer, Ken acts as Master of Ceremonies at our major functions.

Vice President and Sail Training Co-ordinator:

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

Commander Tighe is the longest-serving member of the Committee having served thirteen years as Honorary Treasurer before being elected Vice President in 2000. A retired senior banker, Commander Tighe served for over forty years in the Royal Australian Naval Reserve as a seaman Officer and Intelligence Officer, including a nine-year term as Honorary Aide-de-Camp to the former Governor of New South Wales, the late Sir Roden Cutler, from 1970-1979.

His prime function is chairing the Sail Training Selection Committee, co-ordinating the Sail Training programme awards and all the background work which goes in organising these awards. British awardees joining the *Young Endeavour* are provided with hospitality and local contacts by the Society. This is co-ordinated by Commander Tighe in conjunction with the Australian Sail Training Association and the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme. Mrs Barbara Tighe is a wonderful support in this Society work. It is a major task and the focus of the Society's awards programme.

Hon. Secretary:

David Adams, LLB

email: djadams@unwired.com.au

David is a practising solicitor. He is an Honorary Director of various boards and committees, and runs 23 retirement villages throughout New South Wales. He is a member of the Sail Training evaluation committee, and attends to secretarial and legal requirements of the Society.

Membership Secretary and Administration Secretary:

Mrs. Sue Labordus, BA

PO Box 647, Gordon NSW 2072 Tel/Fax (02) 9449 7532 email: absociety@idx.com.au

Sue was born and educated in England, moved to South Africa where she had her own fashion agency business, thence to Australia where she has lived since 1974. Sue has a degree in Modern Languages and has taught French and German on a voluntary basis at the University of the Third Age.

Since January, 2005, Sue has been the Branch programme co-ordinator, which involves running the Secretariat: communicating with members, collecting mail, receipt and banking of funds, and organising, printing and despatch of newsletters and flyers. This role has a direct involvement with function planning, table plans and programme organisation. She is also responsible for compiling, editing and arranging publication of our Annual Reports. In addition, as Membership Secretary, she is responsible for membership renewals and maintenance of the membership database.

General Committee Members:

Mrs Janatha Adams

Janatha trained and practised as a registered nurse. She subsequently attended the Cordon Bleu Cookery Schools in London as well as Paris and obtained certificates from both places. She now manages her own catering business and assists with Society functions.

Mrs. Maureen Tegerdine

Maureen was born in Scotland and moved to England at age seven. She raised a family in England and since 1984 set up and managed a charity Crossroads Care that employed care-attendants. Maureen came

to Australia in 2004 and has become an Australian citizen actively involved in charity work. Maureen assists with management of our functions.

Ian Plumb, B.Sc. Ph.D

Ian is a semi-retired Research Scientist, having worked for CSIRO for 31 years prior to retirement in 2008. He continues to pursue research interests as Research Consultant with CSIRO. He is on the Committee for Friends of Swain Gardens, a bushcare volunteer and a volunteer with the NSW Cancer Council. He joined the Committee in 2010.

Mrs. Barbara Plumb B.Sc.(Hons), Dip.Ed

Barbara was born in Leicester and attended university in London and Birmingham before marrying and emigrating to Australia in 1972. She has been a high school teacher for 35 years. She became involved in the Society in 2004 after both her children were selected to sail on the Young Endeavour. She joined the Committee in 2010. She, with husband Ian, is on the Committee for Friends of Swain Gardens.

Dayan Goodsir-Cullen B.A. (Hons), M.A. (Syd), M. Phil. (Dubl)

Dayan Goodsir-Cullen is a solicitor. He has degrees from the Universities of Sydney and Dublin. He maintains close links with the UK through family and involvement with a number of cultural, alumni and business associations.

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 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.

Southern Highlands Co-ordinator: Miss Cynthia Parker, OAM

PO Box 997 Mittagong NSW 2575 Tel (02) 4871 1267

Cynthia was born and educated in England. After holding a Royal Academy of Dancing scholarship for five years, Cynthia followed a career in education. Her teaching career started in the East End of London before joining the staff at Frensham, Mittagong in 1961. After five years at Frensham she returned to England and taught at a co-educational school in the dock area of London. In 1968 Cynthia was invited back to Frensham as Headmistress and remained in that position for twenty-six years until her retirement in 1993. She became a member of the Society and has co-ordinated the Society activities in the Southern Highlands since 1995. Cynthia was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for services to education and to the community.

Treasurer: Malcolm Stephens, CB, MA

Malcolm was educated at St John's College Oxford and has an MA in Politics, Philosophy and Economics. He has had a distinguished career in the UK and other countries, beginning in the UK Diplomatic Service. He was the CEO of the UK Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) and of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He also worked for Barclays Bank and was the Secretary General of the International Union of Credit and Investment Insurers (the Berne Union). He was a Visiting Fellow at the IMF and was Group Chairman of International Financial Consulting, working with the World Bank, European Commission and more than 50 Governments and International Financial Institutions. He was made a Companion of the Bath in 1991.

He is married to Lynette Stephens and has lived in Australia since 2001. He is both an Australian and British citizen.

Mrs. Jan Bell

Mrs Bell returned to Australia in 1997 after thirty-three years in Singapore raising a family whilst engaged in a teaching career. In addition to the Society committee, Jan is actively involved with the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children (RIDBC) at North Rocks and other groups involving children with disabilities.

David Brown

David was born in New Zealand where his maternal great-grandparents had arrived in not-so-tall ships in 1840 and 1842; he is currently engaged in writing their biographies. He studied Economics at Victoria University, Wellington but preferred the challenge of a career in sales and marketing of technical raw materials and equipment; for the last 40 years he has represented leading world suppliers of equipment and technology to the timber based wood panels industry (MDF, LVL, OSB). At 80 David ceded the company to his son Simon but is still active in the business. David transferred to Sydney in 1980 and to the Southern Highlands in 1990, he and his wife Christa are both active members of the A-B Group and of St Judes Anglican Church, Bowral.

Mrs. Lynette Stephens, BA

Lynette has a BA degree in English and Psychology from Queensland University. Her career in the Commonwealth Public Service led to her being selected as Australian Exchange Officer to the UK with the British Ministry of Labour. She met and married Englishman Malcolm Stephens, and they lived in Kent for twenty-eight years. They returned on regular visits to Australia, and permanently settled in the Southern Highlands in 2001. Lynette joined the local committee mid-2004.

Barry Todd

Born in Ceylon and educated in the UK, Barry joined the Royal Navy on leaving school. During his 20 plus years' service he was seconded to the Royal Australian Navy for 2 years, serving at sea in HMA Ships *Vendetta* and *Sydney*. He resigned from the Royal Navy in 1972 and returned to Australia. Based in Sydney, he spent the remainder of his career as a Management Consultant with a leading international management consultancy. He and his wife, Ola, have recently sold their country property in Exeter and now live in Bowral.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The year under review provided a pleasant range of activities for our members both in Sydney and in Bowral and its environs. Financially the year was positive and details of how we fared from a money viewpoint are set out in my report as Treasurer.

I believe the highlight of the year was our Queen's Birthday lunch held during June when we also acknowledged Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. Conducted at a new venue for us, the very pleasant Sir

Stamford Hotel in Macquarie Street, we were again delighted to have as our Guests of Honour, our Patron Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales and Sir Nicholas Shehadie. Her Excellency gave a very enlightening address covering her role as the Queen's Representative in NSW and, in particular, the powers conferred on her and the duties she carries out. I believe that all who attended were most taken with the information they received.

The Australia Day celebration, held as a luncheon at a venue that has proved most acceptable to our members in recent years, the American Club, also in Macquarie Street and overlooking the Botanic Gardens, Government House and the eastern end of the harbour, was enjoyed by all who attended although I was particularly disappointed to see a somewhat smaller attendance than in previous years. This resulted in a sizeable loss on the day and sapped our otherwise satisfactory financial result for the year.

Other activities during the year were also successful. The November Remembrance Day service at St. James Church in King Street followed by lunch at City Tattersall's Club, were suitable observances of this important date. Captain Mike Phillips, a past army reservist, gave a suitable philosophical address at the lunch. Our thanks go to The Rector of St. James, the Reverend Andrew Sempell, for his generosity in allowing some of our members to participate in the Church service.

Our Tall Ships Award Winner this year was Sarah Rowsell and by all accounts, her participation in the events was most enjoyable. She will address members on her experiences at the Annual General Meeting at which this Report will be submitted for adoption. On behalf of members, I express gratitude to Vice-President, Commander Richard Tighe, for his excellent organising of this activity again this year. His detailed report on the activity for the year is set elsewhere in the Annual Report.

We congratulate the hard-working Southern Highlands Committee for the various activities and functions they conduct. They are a vibrant group and their enthusiasm is most commendable. I thank Southern Highlands Co-ordinator Cynthia Parker and Treasurer Malcolm Stephens for their leadership of this group. You will note from reading the financial statements the level of their donations to worthy causes.

I also express my gratitude to the other members of your industrious Sydney Committee for their contribution in organising our various functions. Much work goes into ensuring that functions run smoothly and when they do, they can be much like an iceberg – there is more going on under the surface than can be seen above it.

This applies equally to Mrs. Sue Labordus, our Administration Secretary. Her hard work in maintaining the membership register and in producing the various newsletters, organising functions and collating this Annual Report is commendable.

Your Committee continues to be concerned with three aspects of your Society's operations:-

a) The lack of growth in membership. An inescapable fact is that our membership base is ageing and there is only a minimal flow of new members to continue our activities into the future. Our membership numbers – which at present are approximately 300 – are shrinking due to older members' incapacity to attend functions.

b) A need to expand our range of activities to provide a wider variety of things to do. Our activities have fallen into a pattern and while they are well conducted and, in my view, enjoyable, Committee members are concerned that we may not be meeting all members' expectations of what is "entertaining" and what they would like.

c) Our financial situation. As the financial statements accompanying this Annual Report show, your Society derived a surplus for the 2011/12 year of \$2,557 of which \$1,875 came from Sydney operations. While this is satisfactory in itself, as the statements also show, this situation was achieved only after the receipt of \$7,000 in the form of a donation from the federal Foundation and from a legacy from a deceased estate. Had these amounts not been received, the NSW Branch would have incurred a loss of \$5,125 for the year.

We do not know how the 2012/13 year will end up, but if income is not increased during the year, an actual loss is quite possible. We need substantially increased subscription income and we need to generate greater surpluses from our functions.

In addressing these problems, it is easy to propose the "every member introduce a member" approach. *This is worth pursuing, and I urge you to do so.* However this does not really address the other two problems. To this end and as a first step, we have, at the suggestion of Committee Member, Dayan Goodsir-Cullen, made contact with the Sydney office of the British Chamber of Commerce Australian branch. This organisation, led by Mr. David McCredie, a new member, conducts a very full range of activities, often in the form of lunches which cover a much wider range of people and activities than those that the Australia-Britain Society has conducted in the past. We will be publicising these functions to our members and we will be able to gain admission to them at the British Chamber's Member price. We hope also that individual members of the Chamber will see fit to join the Australia-Britain Society.

As to our regular functions there is an important aspect to consider. If members wish to continue having functions held at "quality" venues, it is important to realise that those venues now have charging structures that reflect current costs that they face. On the other hand, your Committee endeavours to keep charges for our functions as low as possible but with the aim of running them at a surplus. Often we receive complaints that our charges are too high. However it must be understood that the levels of "quality" venues' charges are such that in turn, our charges to members need to recover our costs. *This is the current reality whether we like it or not.*

Once again, I urge you to be mindful of your Society's overall situation and to give it your support. Our Society is entirely intended as a means of doing good, and we need good personal support to continue achieve its purpose.

Please consider joining your Committee. Please contact me or Sue Labordus in this regard.

Ken Bock,
President

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For the year to 30th June 2012 the following programme of events was held:

- . **Plain English Speaking Awards. NSW finals** at NSW Teachers' Federation
- . **Annual General Meeting and Cocktail Party with Sail Training reports**
- . **Remembrance Day church service at St. James' Church, King Street** and luncheon at the Esperanto Room, City Tattersalls Club, Sydney
- . **Christmas Party** at the residence of the British Consul-General at Vaucluse, Sydney.
- . **Australia Day Luncheon** at the newly refurbished American Club, Sydney
- . **Young Endeavour buffet at Fleet Base, Woolloomooloo.** Hosted by the Royal Australian Navy with 2012 awardee, Sarah Rowsell
- . **Queen's Birthday Luncheon** at the Sir Stamford Hotel Sydney with our guest of honour, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales.

In the Southern Highlands:

- . **Presentation of Alistair MacLennan on "Cricket Past, Present and Future"** held at the newly developed Cricket International Hall of Fame at Bowral
- . **A talk by Annabelle Williams**, a delightful Paralympic swimmer
- . **"Voyages to and from Hobart Town"** a talk by Committee member, David Brown, linking the fascinating story of the journey of one of his ancestors with his own recent Antarctic travels.
- . **Group visit to see "The Music Man" at Frensham School.**

GRANTS MADE

During the year, your Society made Grants totaling \$6,735 to people involved in several organisations with emphasis on those encouraging the developments of the talents of young people.

Our major support amount was amount of \$3,335 to Miss Sarah Rowsell, our Sail Training winner for 2012. This covered her airfare and other expenses to Europe to cover her participation in the Tall Ships Exchange Programme in the UK. We also made \$500 available to Ms Rebecca Keuhn, a past Tall Ships winner, to assist in her participating in a tall ships regatta. Our Vice-President and Sail Training Co-Ordinator, Commander Richard Tighe has reported on this activity elsewhere in the Annual Report.

We also provided prizes for the annual Plain English Speaking Awards promoted by the Sydney Morning Herald and the English Speaking Union in which students from NSW secondary schools compete. Your Society donated prizes of \$100 to each of the six finalists and \$250 to the winner, Miss Fanulla Sapountzis, a student at Prairiewood High School. Unfortunately, because of examinations in her tertiary course she is now undertaking being held at the time, Fanulla was not able to follow the usual practice of replicating her winning speech at our annual Queen's Birthday luncheon conducted during June 2012. Thus our total support for this activity was \$850.

The Southern Highlands group made donations of \$1,000 to each of the Bell Shakespeare Company and the Australian Paralympic Appeal and \$50 to Wingecarribee Volunteers.

The monetary amount made available for awards is largely determined by the operating surplus from functions during the year. We do this so as not to make donations out of capital. The cost of functions is set so as to provide a small margin and hopefully generate surpluses to continue this Grants activity. We would have much greater scope to support worthy causes if there were greater support for functions and we had a growing number of members, our source of Subscription income.

In closing, let us not forget to thank all those who have sent donations, and whose generosity has helped to bolster our Grants Scheme.

SAIL TRAINING REPORT

The winner of The Tall Ships Award 2012 was Sarah Rowsell, 25, a dance teacher of North Rocks, NSW, who sailed aboard the Lord Nelson, operated by the Jubilee Sailing Trust from The Azores to Southampton in April 2012. Sarah's report of her experience aboard Lord Nelson is included in the Society's Annual Report 2012.

The Tall Ships Award, which is the Society's major sponsorship, is part of the Australia Britain Tall Ships Exchange Program under the auspices of the Australian Sail Training Association. The Exchange Program is administered by the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme who also provide exchange berths for young Britons coming to Australia. The Jubilee Sailing Trust UK supports the Exchange Program by providing a berth free of charge of our Award Winner.

Some thirty members of the Society attended a most enjoyable luncheon aboard Young Endeavour on 9 March 2012 at which an Award Certificate was presented to Sarah Rowsell by CAPT Nicholas Stoker, CSM RAN on behalf of the Commander Australian Fleet. We record our thanks to CMDR Steve Moss, Executive Director, Young Endeavour Youth Scheme and his team for facilitating the luncheon on board and to the Commanding Officer, LCDR Damien Munchenburg RAN.

The Society acknowledges the support of the Association of Sail Training Organizations UK in sponsoring a young Briton to sail aboard Young Endeavour. This year, Harriet Smith, 25, of Hambledon, Hampshire, sailed on two voyages aboard Young Endeavour out of Townsville and Airlie Beach, Queensland in July 2012.

The Australia Britain Society is strongly committed to the Tall Ships Award program as a part of its objective to foster relations between Great Britain and Australia with an emphasis on youth. It is encouraging that Award Winners from previous years continue to support the Australia-Britain Society and the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme in various ways after their return. It is always good to see representatives from this group at our functions throughout the year and to hear of their ongoing achievements, both in their careers and in their personal development.

One of the 2007 Award Winners, Rebecca Kuehn, 23, a medical student, this year has been awarded a Sultanate of Oman Bursary to participate in the Tall Ships races in Europe run by Sail Training International. She sailed aboard the Pelican of London from Saint Malo to Lisbon in July. The Society has been pleased to support Rebecca in this achievement.

To enable our members to hear more of her experience at sea, Sarah Rowsell has been invited to address members at the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 25 September 2012. She will be happy to meet members and answer their questions.

The ongoing viability of the Tall Ships Award Program continues to be dependent upon the Society's fund raising activities throughout the year. Members are again encouraged to support our various fund raising functions which will enable us to continue the financial support of our major sponsorship program.

Commander Richard Tighe, RFD, RD. RANR (Retd)
Vice President and Sail Training Co-ordinator

REPORT ON SAILING EXPERIENCES ABOARD THE “LORD NELSON” BY SARAH ROWSELL

Introduction

After travelling on 5 airplanes, across 4 countries and all within 3 days I finally stepped out onto the tarmac at Ponta Delgada Airport in the Azores, exhausted yet excited about my upcoming adventures on board the STS Lord Nelson. Although I had arrived, unfortunately my luggage hadn't! Luckily the ship didn't leave our port for 2 days and my luggage made it safely to me just as we were about to lift the gangplank, crisis averted!



First Voyage

As we set sail on the beautiful Lord Nelson it was a picture perfect morning, the sun was shining, the water was glistening, her majestic sails were filling with wind and murmurs of excitement were heard amongst the crew. Our voyage crew comprised of an eclectic bunch of 50 from various walks of life, some with little or no sailing experience and some who were veterans to sailing the seas. Within my watch were some truly amazing people who have taught me many life lessons resulting in a new outlook of my life. It was from this moment on I realised that I wasn't just on a sailing adventure, I was on a journey of self-discovery, both mentally and physically.

And what an adventure we had! The Azores may look beautiful and serene however their seas beg to differ! We endured all types of weather: sunshine, rain, large swells and temperamental winds! A real diversity! And of course being the only Aussie on board I didn't cope too well with the chilly weather, wearing numerous layers to try and keep warm I acquired the nickname of Skippy the Eskimo! But that didn't affect our daily routines these consisted of sail handling, keeping watch; the ship ran a 1 in 4 watch duty system, 'happy hour' to clean the ship from top to bottom, helping out as mess men and the tricky task of 'learning the ropes' all within the first few days.

This voyage was designed as a special whale watching and sightseeing trip therefore we were able to set foot ashore every few days to explore the stunning sights and wilderness of the Azores. And what better way to see the sights than sailing on board a three-masted, barque-rigged tall ship.

Easter Monday was a very special day for everyone. Not only was it the first day we could go ashore, it was the day for assisted climbs. It was like any good story, there were tears of joy, peals of laughter, gasps of anticipation, squeals of excitement and numerous rounds of applause as 8 of our brave crew mates scaled the fore and main masts. It was a truly awe-inspiring moment of solidarity as we worked together to assist these brave people aloft, both with and without wheelchairs.

A highlight from our adventures ashore was hiring a convoy of 6 taxis to explore the volcanic island of Faial. At first I felt a little inadequate wondering how on earth we could do this with 5 wheelchairs, but I dived into the deep end, buddying myself up and helping in any way I could. After venturing around the entire island, we ended our day by having wheelchair races down the main street, which Gary and I won! This experience definitely strengthened the bond between our crew, developing a strong sense of teamwork and interaction between all ages and abilities. I was able to experience firsthand what the Jubilee Sailing Trust promotes through their voyages, as the integration of all people no matter their physical abilities.

On our last day of this voyage, I was fortunate enough to obtain the responsibility of helming the ship and her crew back into the port of Ponta Delgada. A tricky operation but under the watchful eye and instructions of Captain Chris I succeeded! An individual achievement that I am incredibly proud of.



Wheelies on the Sea

My voyages have taught me to believe in myself and that anything is possible no matter your capabilities. I was inspired by my fellow crew mate John, who shared his traumatic story of how he lost the use of his lower body in a flying accident finding himself in a wheelchair. His emotional journey of struggles, setbacks, challenges and regaining his independence is one I found at first hard to comprehend. However it was from a combination of his stories as well as some of my fellow crew mate's stories and my own Nan's struggle with MS and life in a wheel chair that I have taken a special interest into not only sailing in a wheelchair but functioning through a typical day.

I set myself a challenge of sailing for 24 hours in a wheelchair. Simple tasks that we take for granted such as using the bathroom, eating at a table, getting dressed and hauling on ropes became a real struggle. I was in awe, constantly asking questions and learning the "tricks of the trade" of not only manoeuvring my wheel chair but how not to fall over board whilst completing my daily on board duties and activities. The hardest part of this whole experience was in fact being extremely seasick for the first time ever! I was grateful for the amount of support I received from my fellow watch mates during this experience as their job was made a great deal harder dealing with 2 wheelchair uses especially during our 12 – 4am watch. While independence is a part of everyone's daily routine I have discovered that it is okay to ask for assistance when the going gets tough whether you are able bodied or disabled. This challenge has enabled me to better interact with my crew mates and appreciate everyone's individual strengths and abilities, valuing what one can do and not what one can't.



Second Voyage

The purpose of my second voyage was to return the Lord Nelson home to Southampton, a passage voyage that would take 14 days, travelling some 1579 nautical miles. A journey definitely not for the faint hearted! From the first moment we set sail from Ponta Delgada we knew we were in for a real adventure with prevailing winds at 30 knots, hardly ever below 20 knots, and reaching above 50 knots, with the ship racing at an astounding 11.4 knots under sail! The weather got colder, down to 9 degrees on average and the wind chill factor increased. The rain never seemed to cease and the swells only seemed to grow larger as we passed through several squalls day after day. There were moments when we all asked ourselves why we were doing this, when we struggling to stand, keep our food down and to try and sleep during this tormenting weather. But it was also these times that make up some of my most memorable and greatest experiences of self-discovery and teamwork. I learnt so much about myself, my strengths, my weaknesses, my limitations and my ability to carry on no matter what was thrown at me.

However, after sailing 1200 nautical miles we had to make a dash for terra firma in Cobh, as during these treacherous conditions we managed to totally shred our main topgallant sail and the split the seams of our main course and fore topsail! So some emergency repairs could be made in safer conditions to allow us to sail on to Southampton.

We took advantage of this anchorage to sit back and relax on board; sharing a fruity punch engineered by Mr Chipps and Marco (the ships engineers) and held a charity auction mastered by none other than our first mate Steve. I was made to feel right at home as we cooked a BBQ dinner and danced the night away. Finally we arrived safely at Southampton to the welcoming sounds of some of the voyage crew's friends and family! A real treat after the rollercoaster voyage we had all endured!

Cultural Experience

During both voyages I was part of a predominately British crew. A mischievous small toy kangaroo and several hidden little koalas caused amusement on board during our passage voyage as well as numerous conversations comparing Australian and British lifestyle, language, music, dancing, sports and food. I indulged in several British delights, including treacle pudding, banoffee pie, flapjacks and cornish pasties. I have sung many a sea shanty and danced many a bush dance. In return, I shared my Australian culture and heritage by celebrating Anzac day on board with a brief history and made some of my special homemade Anzac biscuits – a real challenge cooking them whilst rocking and rolling on the high seas!! This Tall Ships exchange experience has presented me with a wonderful opportunity to create and maintain the ties between the Australians and the British. I have made numerous new friendships that I am sure will last a lifetime!

It is hard to describe in words the people I have met and the bonds I have formed. It has been an honour and a privilege to be a part of these voyage crews, to hear others stories about their life journeys and I am in awe of their phenomenal courage and their approaches to life. I have achieved far beyond what I ever imagined I could! This experience has taken me out of my comfort zone, pushed me to my limits and far beyond. Through this, I have developed a greater understanding of myself, of others, grown in self-confidence and learnt that anything is possible.

I wish that everyone could partake in what I have experienced and meet the people I have befriended. It truly was an honour and a once in a lifetime opportunity that will never be forgotten. I am so grateful to the Australia – Britain Society, Jubilee Sailing Trust, Young Endeavour Youth Scheme and the Australian Sail Training Association for sending me on this amazing adventure! My love of the sea and sailing has only been enhanced by this incredible experience on board the STS Lord Nelson.

“The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails”

Sarah Rowsell

TREASURER’S REPORT

The audited financial statements for the year ended 30th June 2012 are set out at the end of this Annual Report. At the outset, I thank Mr Ian Jagger of the accounting firm Steel Jagger & Associates who has accepted the role of Auditor. I thank him for his expeditious completion of the work. Mr Jagger replaces as Auditor, Society member Mr. Keith Salt, who stepped down from this role after completing last year’s audit. Mr. Salt carried out the duties over many years and I thank him for his devoted service during that time.

The Branch’s overall operations resulted in a surplus of \$2,557 comprised of:-

From Sydney-based activities	-	\$ 1,875
From Southern Highlands-based activities	-	\$ 682

Key features of our 2011/2012 operations were:-

- Subscription Income down from \$3,895 in 2011 to \$3,110 attributable to our contracting member base.
- An increase in Donation income although there were two extraordinary items in this category:-
 - A donation of \$2,000 from the Australia-Britain Foundation;
 - A legacy of \$5,000 from the estate of a deceased member.

- Apart from these items the amount of ordinary donations was down from \$440 to \$265.
- A considerably reduced surplus of \$2,864 from Functions. The outcome of the various Functions is shown in the financial statements. It will be noted that Sydney-based Functions generated a net surplus of only \$566 attributable mainly to the drain caused by the deficiency on the Australia Day lunch. On the other hand, the Southern Highlands folk generated a very creditable surplus of \$2,298 from their functions. Well done!
 - Fortunately we have derived much benefit from the use of electronic communication with our members by Mrs Labordus and that Postage, Printing and Stationery expense have recorded useful reductions. Additional savings can be achieved if more members were to avail themselves of email communications, in particular emailed newsletters. If you would like to do this, all you have to do is to email absociety@idx.com.au, with your details, and we will do the rest.
 - Interest income has fallen although this is attributable to reductions in market interest rates mainly those paid on our term deposits with Westpac. During the year, Westpac made available to us a cash management account that pays a market yield on our cash holdings. Previously we were obtaining virtually no return from the funds held in our main operating cheque account but, with the additional account, we can now transfer, via the Internet, any surplus cash and hold it there at a market rate pending a transfer back when needed to pay our normal bills from the main cheque account.

I must make and emphasise an important point however. Although we derived a net surplus for the year, the surplus on Sydney operations was achieved only after the receipt of the extraordinary donation from the federal Foundation and the legacy received from the deceased estate totaling \$7,000. *Had these items not been received there would have been a deficiency on Sydney operations \$5,125.* Revenue from Functions was not substantial, Interest income was lower and Subscriptions were down (as mentioned above). Please take this as a “warning bell” that we must look to our operations and rejuvenate them if we are to survive for the long term! Please refer back to my Presidential Report on this matter

Having said that, your Society holds good cash reserves and we are well placed financially for the time being.

Ken Bock
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 is issued to other states in the event that visitors to Sydney are able to join our functions.

Australian Capital Territory

10 Canterbury Crescent, Deakin ACT 2600
Captain Bob Nattey, LVO RAN (Rtd),
President
Telephone (02) 6273 3197
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 226
Bull Creek WA 6149
Mr. Richard Savage, President
Telephone (08) 9310 6365
Email: adminwa@ausbrit.org

Branch event diaries can be accessed on the Society website: www.ausbrit.org

BRITAIN–AUSTRALIA SOCIETY

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.

The Britain-Australia Society, Swire House, 59 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AJ
Telephone 0207 630 1075 Fax 0207 828 2260 Email: natdir@britain-australia.org.uk
Website: www.britain-australia.org.uk

Patron: HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, KG KT OM GBE AC QSO

President: The Rt. Hon The Lord Carrington KG GCMG CH MC PC

Vice Presidents: HE The High Commissioner for Australia (ex-officio), Sir Christopher Benson DL, The Rt Hon The Earl of Buckinghamshire, Sir Roger Carrick KCMG LVO, Mr. Rohan Courtney OBE, Sir Geoffrey Errington BT OBE, The Rt Hon The Lord Goodlad KCMG PC, Mr. Brian Harris, Sir John Leahy KCMG, The Rt Hon The Viscount Slim OBE DL

Hon Vice Presidents:

Sylvia, Countess of Limerick CBE, Ms June Mendoza, AO OBE RP, Mr Rupert Murdoch AC, Sir John Swire CBE DL, The Rt Hon Baroness Thatcher LG OM PC FRS, Mr Barry Tuckwell OBE

Board of Management:

Mr. John Allen (Chairman), Mr. Peter Benson (Deputy Chairman)

London Board Members:

Ms Sally Capp – Agent General for Victoria (ex-Officio), Ms Judith Crompton, Mr Dale Eaton, Mr Adam McCarthy – Deputy High Commissioner (ex-officio). Baroness Helen Liddell of Coatdyke, Ms Pauline Lyle-Smith, Mrs Vivien Matthews, Mr Ken Smith – Agent General for Queensland (ex-officio), Mr George Vestey

Branch Board Members:

Mr Brian Hall – Chairman Portsmouth Branch, Mr Michael Kirk OBE – Chairman Leicestershire Branch, Mr Richard Pavitt – Chairman West Country Branch, Mr Richard Robins – Chairman Norfolk Branch

Officers:

National Director/Editor: Miss Kate Kirby

Independent Financial Examiner: Mr Richard Link

Administration Manager: Mr. Michael Clough

BRITAIN-AUSTRALIA SOCIETY BRANCHES:

LONDON (National Office):

Miss Kate Kirby
59 Buckingham Gate
London SW1E 6AJ

Tel 020 7630 1075
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natdir@britain-australia.org.uk

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St Ives Cambs PE27 6DT

Tel 0148 046 4653
j.cockcroft1@ntworld.com

LEICESTERSHIRE:

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Evington, Leicester LE5 6AJ

Tel 0116 273 5156
joanmosk@talktalk.net

LINCOLNSHIRE:

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Ingham Lincs LN1 2XT

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jstaceyalwyn@yahoo.co.uk

NORFOLK:

Mr Richard Robins
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Long Melford, Suffolk CO10 9JA

Tel 0178 788 2170
grvrobins@btinternet.com

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Tel 0147 372 3793 / 0116 270 3602
dianastw@aol.com

WALES:

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Vale of Glamorgan
South Wales CF71 7RZ

Tel 0144 677 5113
johnwyn@btinternet.com

WEST COUNTRY:

Mr Richard Pavitt
The Clerk's House, Pound Lane
Martock Somerset TA12 6LU

Tel 0193 582 4045
rwpavitt@aol.com
website: britozwest.org.uk

BRITAIN-AUSTRALIA SOCIETY BRANCHES (Contd)

PORTSMOUTH:

Mr Brian Hall
40 St Matthews Road
Cosham, Portsmouth
Hants PO6 2DL

Tel 0239 237 1141
b_m_hall@hotmail.com

Members are reminded that we receive at the Secretariat monthly BRITTOZ news bulletins that show current activities in the UK. These bulletins are available upon request or, if you are on email, the current BRITTOZ magazines are on the website, www.britain-australia.org.uk. Members are warmly welcome to attend functions at any of the branches whilst in the UK as is done reciprocally here in Australia to visitors from the UK and interstate.

AUSTRALIA-BRITAIN SOCIETY (NSW BRANCH) Inc
Reg No CFN 15054 under Section 16 of the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW)
ABN 75 368 639 375

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS
FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS TO 30TH JUNE, 2012

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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, 2012

	2012			2011		
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<u>INCOME</u>						
Functions	23,300.09			26,438.90		
Raffles	1,318.20	24,618.29		1,473.00	27,911.90	
less:- Costs						
Functions	21,754.76			21,101.59		
Raffles	0.00	21,754.76	2,863.53		21,101.59	6,810.31
Members' Subscriptions		3,110.00			3,895.00	
Donations		7,265.00			440.00	
Interest		4,198.58			5,235.09	
Tie Sales		0.00	14,573.58		20.00	9,590.09
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>			\$17,437.11			16,400.40
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>						
Insurance & Returns		1,376.86			1,338.60	
Secretarial Services		4,800.00			4,800.00	
Postage & Stationery		727.80			1,277.54	
Printing		1,031.40			1,148.80	
Telephone		240.00			220.00	
R. Nott Tribute (Net 2011) + Other		70.00	8,246.06		6,302.32	15,087.26
<u>OPERATING SURPLUS</u>			9,191.05			1,313.14
<u>GRANTS & DONATIONS</u>						
PESA			850.00			850.00
Sail Training & Others			3,834.50			3,017.95
<u>Donations By Sth</u>						
<u>H'lands Group</u>						
Bell						
Shakespeare		1,000.00		1,000.00		
Berrima Dist Hist & Family Hist Socy				500.00		
Australian Paralympic 2012						
Appeal		1,000.00				
Wingecarribee Volunteers		50.00	2,050.00	50.00	1,550.00	1,550.00
			6,734.50			5,417.95
<u>NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</u>			2,456.55			(4,104.81)
<u>OVERALL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</u>			2,456.55			(4,104.81)

AUSTRALIA-BRITAIN SOCIETY (NSW BRANCH) INC.

ABN 75 368 639 375

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th JUNE 2012

<u>ASSETS</u>	2012		2011	
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>				
<u>Cash at Bank:-</u>				
N.S.W.	13,789.29		17,044.93	
Southern Highlands	3,975.71	17,765.00	3,294.14	20,339.07
Petty Cash on Hand	1,000.00		1,000.00	
Pre-Payments	0.00			
		1,000.00		1,000.00
		18,765.00		21,339.07
<u>INVESTMENTS</u>				
Westpac Term Deposit - Sth H'lands		7,000.00		7,000.00
Westpac Term Deposit - Sydney		65,000.00		61,019.38
		72,000.00		68,019.38
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>		90,765.00		89,358.45
<u>LIABILITIES</u>				
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>				
Subscriptions paid in advance		0.00		
Sundry Creditors		0.00		1,050.00
		0.00		1,050.00
<u>NET ASSETS</u>		90,765.00		88,308.45
<u>MEMBERS' FUNDS</u>				
Accumulated Funds as at 1st July, 2011		88,308.45		92,413.26
Add/(Subtract) Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		2,456.55		(4,104.81)
		90,765.00		88,308.45

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

ANALYSIS OF FUNCTIONS FOR THE YEAR TO 30th JUNE 2012

Function	Income \$			Expenses \$	Surplus/ (Deficit) \$
	Charge to Members	Net Raffle	Net Income		
AGM	480.00	0.00	480.00	734.50	-254.50
Remembrance Day	2,940.00	0.00	2,940.00	2,660.00	280.00
Christmas Party	2,262.00	218.20	2,480.20	2,430.24	49.96
Australia Day	6,400.30	500.00	6,900.30	8,000.00	-1099.70
YEST	1,290.00	0.00	1,290.00	1,080.41	209.59
Queen's Birthday	7,630.00	600.00	8,230.00	6,849.61	1,380.39
<u>Southern Highlands Functions</u>					
Cricket:Past & Future	672.09		672.09	0.00	672.09
Paralympic 2012 App	1,012.05		1,012.05	0.00	1,012.05
Hobart Town	613.65		613.65	0.00	613.65
TOTALS	23,300.09	1,318.20	24,618.29	21,754.76	2,863.53

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, 2012 give a true and fair view of the financial operations of the Society for the year to 30th June, 2012;
- 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.Comm. ANZIIIF (Fellow), F.Fin, CPA

Treasurer

15th July, 2012

2. STATEMENT BY SOCIETY 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, 2012.

It is our opinion that the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 30th June, 2012, 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

24th August, 2012

