



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**

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NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2016

04.2016

1. COMING EVENTS

- a) AGM Monday 19 September 2016 at Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, Peel Street, Kirribilli NSW at 5.30pm. Admission free to the AGM, followed by silver service dinner at the Squadron from 7.00pm details on attached flyer cost \$55.00 includes main course and glass of wine.**

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting at a wonderful setting overlooking the Harbour. The AGM will start at 5.30pm in order to enable some members and guests to attend the Squadron silver service dinner at 7.00pm. The AGM will include reports by the President, Treasurer and Sail Training Co-ordinator followed by the election of officers and committee members, and re-appointment of the honorary auditor. Following the formalities the current Tall Ships award winner, Ms Kelley Priest, will give members a reflection on her voyage and answer any members' questions.

Nominations for all roles on the Committee can be made on the attached forms and either posted/emailed to the secretariat or tendered on the meeting night. If you have a little time and would like to be a part of the event and Society management please consider joining the committee. Meetings are held on average quarterly at the Royal Exchange Club in the city and we keep in touch as well via email and phone. We need some help in organising some events and gathering raffle prizes, plus helping with event management. No special skills required beyond some common sense that our members have an abundance of! Printed copies of the Annual Report will be available to attendees and a soft copy on the website.

The dinner is in a private room at the Squadron and available thanks to our Committee and Squadron members Commander Richard Tighe and Mr. David Adams. The dining room holds a limit of forty people on a first-booked basis so activate your reply early if you are thinking of attending. This is a wonderful relaxed chance to catch up with members and friends in an exclusive location with excellent food and drinks, plus parking under the club. The charge is at the club cost with a nominal margin attached.

b) Gilbert and Sullivan “Patience” performed by the Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Sydney.

Performances are as follows:

Shore School Smith Auditorium Lyric Theatre, William Street, North Sydney: Fri 30 Sept 8pm, Sat 1 Oct 8pm, Sun 2 Oct 2pm, Fri 7 Oct 8.00pm, Saturday 8 Oct 2.00pm and 8pm. **Prices:** Adults \$40 (\$35*), Concessions \$35 (\$32*), Children \$25 (\$22*), Family (\$95*), Group 14+ \$35pp (10+ \$32*)
(* Early Bird prices valid to 31 August 2016); 30c per ticket booking fee applies

Montgomery Pavilion Theatre, RSL Anzac Village, Veterans Pde, Collaroy Plateau: Sun 18 Sept 2pm. **Prices:** Adults \$25, Concessions \$20, Children \$15.

Enquiries for the above two venues: 0412 820 519. Book Online: www.gsosydney.com.au

Soldiers’ Memorial Hall, Railway Avenue, Bundanoon: Sat 24 Sept 2pm & 7.30pm. **Prices:** Adults \$25, Concessions \$20, Children \$15. Bookings for Bundanoon: Gale 4883 7195, or Online as above.

This event is not sponsored by the Society and we aim not to overburden our members with extraneous events unless they bring a special unique appeal and at excellent value as we feel this event does. Please direct all enquiries to the above, not to the Australia-Britain Society.

c) Remembrance Day Church Service and Luncheon Friday 11 November, 2016 at St. James’ Church King Street Sydney 11.00am followed by luncheon at the Australian Club with Guest of Honour Brigadier Bill Sowry AM.

A flyer will issue closer to the date. This Mattins service at St. James’ has been a part of our traditional calendar for many years, and the hymns reflect our heritage with lessons and the ode read by ABS members.

Brigadier Sowry will attend the luncheon and speak of his role as Military liaison between Britain and Australia and if time permits, some comment on the world stage and its potential areas of unrest. Numbers are limited to 50 in a private room setting.

d) Afternoon Tea and drinks at the home of the British Consul General Mr. Nick McInnes in Vaucluse on Sunday 30th October, 2016 3.00pm-6.00pm. Dress smart casual. Cost \$35.00. A raffle will be held.

A flyer will issue closer to the date. Mr. McInnes’ term as British Consul-General comes to an end in early 2017 and he has kindly invited the Society and friends to his home for a farewell gathering at a venue that has been a part of this Society’s programme over many years. It will be a fitting chance to thank Nick for his wonderful support to the Society and hospitality over many Christmas functions.

e) **Future Events: Please note in your diaries:**

- . **Christmas luncheon Monday 5 December, 2016 at UUSC Bent Street Sydney noon-3pm with traditional Christmas fare and drinks.**
- . **Australia Day 26 January, 2017, in conjunction with the Order of Australia Association, our regular Harbour cruise and buffet luncheon aboard a wonderful cruise vessel.**
- . **“Australians All Let Us Rejoice”. Late January/early February at UUSC buffet with guest of honour Dr. Brendan Nelson of the Australian War Memorial (date subject to Dr. Nelson’s availability but not to be missed)**
- . **St. George’s Day anniversary luncheon at UUSC in late April**
- . **Queen’s Birthday Dinner at Australian Club late May, date subject to His Excellency The Governor’s calendar.**

2. RECENT EVENTS

a) **Queen’ Birthday Dinner 25 May, 2016**

This event was a unique one in that it featured all surviving New South Wales Governors, past and present: RADM The Hon Peter Sinclair and Mrs. Shirley Sinclair, Professor The Hon Dame Marie Bashir and Sir Nicholas Shehadie and our current Governor H.E. General The Hon David Hurley and Mrs. Linda Hurley. As well it included a tribute to RADM Ross and Mrs. Margaret Swan for their tireless efforts in supporting the Tall Ships programme over twenty-two plus years supported in the evening by Commander Richard Tighe and Tall Ships awardees and Commander Steve Moss from the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme.

Ms. Isla Collee replicated her NSW finals address at the 2015 Plain English Speaking awards and the evening was capped with a musical interlude of Mr. John Martin playing Chopin and accompanying Ms. Leah Thomas of the Australian Opera singing a bracket of favourite arias. The evening was a sell-out with a long waiting list. Early bookings are suggested for another grand evening in late May next year. Thank you to all our members and friends plus the ACM members along with the Friends of St. George’s who made the night such a memorable one in the superb Australian Club’s exclusive members’ dining room.

b) **Plain English Speaking Awards. NSW finals.**

This competition has been a part of our grants programme for many years where finalists receive a \$100 encouragement award and the NSW winner a further \$250 award. The winner then competes in the National finals and that winner in the international finals in London.

These presentations are held every year in July at the Teachers’ Federation Hall in Reservoir Street, Surry Hills. Entrance is free and open to all our members and friends. It is a marvellous morning of persuasive argument by students from all school entrants throughout New South Wales, and it is a powerful reminder of the magnificent English language being alive and well, often enunciated by students from foreign origins where English is a second language. One of the finalists is invited to replicate his or her address at the following Queen’s Birthday dinner to showcase this award to our members.

c) **Last Night of the Proms**

One hundred members and friends attended this rollicking concert at the Chatswood Concourse last Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon, largely replicated on the Albert Hall event in London, with a wonderful orchestra and chorus and plenty of flag-waving. We expect to reserve another parcel of tickets for next year for an event sold out months in advance. The venue is great, and with parking underneath or a short walk from the railway and bus stops. If you have not been before, please consider joining us next year and bring out your red, white and blue colours with an oiled voice to rejoice in those marvellous songs and anthems. I continued to show off waving a giant Union Jack.

3. NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to extend a warm welcome to new members: **Carolyn Craddock** and **Brian Luhr OAM**, whom we look forward to meeting at future functions.

4. MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

These annual fees have been kept at a minimum to mainly cover the increasing postage and administrative costs of running the society supported by a committee that gives freely of its time. If you are a long-term life member or if you cannot easily attend events, you may like to consider support to the Society by sending us a donation, no matter how small. We notice that some members' subscriptions for the year 2016-2017 are outstanding, and we should appreciate receiving these without delay to help this Society with its smooth running.

Where possible, we are working to affiliate events with kindred bodies to keep costs as low as we can, including cost of events with a small operating margin where we rely on raffles to cover some of the costs and provide a surplus to cover our awards. Low interest rates have eroded earnings from reserves and we need to at least have a positive annual outcome to preserve the long-term viability of the Society. Thank you for continuing your support to a Society now forty-five years young!

With best wishes

Richard Nott.

