



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 75368639375

Postal Address: PO Box 647, Gordon NSW 2072

Phone: 02-9449-7532 / Email: absociety@idx.com.au / Website: ausbrit.org

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

**Branch President: Richard Nott, AM
Email: richardnott1942@gmail.com**

**Hon. Sec.: David Adams, LL.B
Email: ravesmarsh@msn.com.au**

Administration Secretary: Sue Labordus

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2017

2017.04

1. COMING EVENTS

- a) **Luncheon with Hon. Tim Fischer AC, former leader of the National Party and Deputy Prime Minister, Ambassador to the Holy See in Rome and Special Envoy to Bhutan, Eritrea and South Sudan. Thursday 7 September at the Union, University and Schools Club (UUSC), Bent Street, Sydney from noon until 3.00pm, dress lounge suit. Cost including drinks, coffee, petits fours; members \$75.00, guests \$80.00.**

This luncheon is in lieu of our usual Remembrance Day luncheon as that day is on a Saturday this year and close to the scheduled event for Her Majesty's 70th wedding anniversary (see later in this newsletter). The Hon Tim Fischer will be reflecting on the amazing life of our great citizen general, Sir John Monash, and a comment on the move to make him posthumously a Field Marshal. Apart from Tim's career flagged above, he is Vice Chairman of the Global Crop Diversity Trust with a Seed Vault in North Norway, and extensive memberships of agricultural funds. Tim is a Vietnam veteran and active in Reserve Forces Day events as well as an author of four bestselling books on Trains, Bhutan, the Holy See and of course General Monash. There will be time for some questions on an interesting subject.

The attached flyer has more details. Please note the long postal delivery time and try to send acceptances as soon as you can.

- b) **Annual General Meeting and election of officers. Tuesday 19 September 5.30 pm at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron Kirribilli. Admission free. Followed by a silver service main course dinner and drinks (limited numbers) cost \$60.00 members and guests.**

An Agenda/flyer is attached for this dinner which is in a unique special location but limited to around 30 attendees so an early response is suggested. The AGM is at no cost to members and Election Forms are enclosed for those considering joining the Committee. The Annual report is in production and will be available on the website after the event and this includes reports from the various officers plus the financial results for the year.

Ms. Abby Dixon will be delivering her Tall Ships sailing experience report and this is your chance to question the Committee on the progress of the Society and its plans for the coming year. Our biggest

challenge is to refresh the committee with new faces as the key incumbents are now all approaching their vintage years, and many hands make light work. Do consider joining our happy band to keep the Society thriving.

- c) **Combined Christmas luncheon and Queen's 70th Wedding Anniversary luncheon on the actual wedding day, Monday 20 November at the UUSC, Bent Street Sydney from noon until 3.00pm in conjunction with Australians for Constitutional Monarchy, Royal Society of St. George, and Friends and Descendants of the Knights of the Garter. A flyer will issue closer to the date, with Ms. Diana Fisher speaking on the experience of Royal Weddings, plus entertainment and attendees singing two or three carols.**

This luncheon will be a grand afternoon, with traditional Christmas fare of turkey, pudding, fruit platter, drinks, plus a slide show of Royal weddings plus some live entertainment appropriate for the occasion. Diana Fisher is a well-known TV personality and Royal Wedding participant since the Coronation with her father-in-law Dr. Geoffrey Fisher, the former Archbishop of Canterbury. Please note the date for your diaries

- d) **Remembrance Day service Saturday 11 November at 11.00am St. James' Church King street, Sydney**
- e) **Nine Carols and Lessons choral service Sunday 17 December at 7.30pm St. James' Church King Street Sydney followed by drinks and mince pies in the crypt**
- f) **Australia Day Harbour cruise 26 January from King Street wharf around 11.00am including buffet luncheon.**

In addition to these definite dates, we are awaiting details from both the Director of the War Memorial, **Dr. Brendan Nelson**, and **Ms. Hilary Kay** from the Antiques Road Show as to when they can join us in the early New Year.

2. RECENT EVENTS

- a) **Plain English Speaking Awards, New South Wales finals**

This morning event at the NSW Education Centre auditorium in Surry Hills was another balming and reassuring event that proves that the mighty English Language is alive and well and living in Sydney. Six finalists, chosen from across all NSW schools, delivered an eight-minute address followed by a three-minute impromptu address on a subject given to them just beforehand.

Ms. Emily Kim, the Captain of North Sydney Girls High, who addressed the Queen's Birthday Dinner attendees this May on her Korean adoption of the mighty Lingua Franca, won the 2017 State final and later won the national final. Emily will now compete in London for the International prize. A wonderful achievement for a student who did not win in 2016 but persevered and re-entered the competition with such success this year.

This annual programme has been dominated by female finalists, but this year we saw the finals include a young man from **The Scots College, Tom Hodgson**, who has been invited to replicate his address at the Queen's Birthday Dinner in May 2018.

This Society awards each finalist \$100 encouragement award and the State winner \$250. The programme is supported as well by the Australia-Britain Society Foundation at a National level as well as the BBM and English Speaking Union.

b) Last Night of the Proms

We were allocated 100 tickets for both performances and a sell-out crowd joined in this rollicking event with the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. It was a little more subdued than the Albert Hall but there was plenty of flag-waving and streamer-throwing in the event's second half, supported by ten members of the Pacific Opera in costume singing Mozart and leading "Rule Britannia". The conductor, Dr Nicholas Milton, gave our Society a good mention and employed some of your committee as flag wavers that all encouraged the singing. A wonderful Saturday night and Sunday afternoon. This will be held again next year on 18 and 19 August at Chatswood Concourse. Flag wavers are wanted to stand strategically in the stalls. Please volunteer and wear some red white and blue.

3. SUBSCRIPTIONS

These have been kept stable for some years. If you haven't renewed we should certainly appreciate your help to keep the operating costs under control and enable us to price events at a small margin for first-class locations.

4. THANK YOU

The Committee appreciates your support through membership and attendance at events plus the number of donations in the form of cash, postage stamps and raffle prizes, which we have received from members. Many thanks.

With continuing best wishes,

Richard Nott