



Australia-Britain Society (NSW Branch) Inc

(Incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act, 1984(NSW)

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**Patron: His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley, AC DSC (Ret'd)
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Administration Secretary: Sue Labordus

NEWSLETTER JULY 2017

2017.03

1. COMING EVENTS:

- a) Plain English Speaking Awards. NSW State finals Friday 28 July 9.30am to 12.00pm
NSW Teachers Federation Conference Centre, 37 Reservoir Street, Surry Hills.**

This annual event, organised by the NSW Department of Education, brings together six of the State finalists from schools throughout NSW to compete for the State PESA award and who will then compete in the National finals. The Australian winner will compete in an International competition in London. This event is supported by our Society with \$100 encouragement awards to each finalist and \$250 to the State winner. One of these participants may be invited to replicate his or her address at the 2018 Queen's Birthday dinner.

If you wish to enjoy a series of witty, intelligent, well-structured arguments, and the best of our wonderful English language, consider spending the morning with us. No bookings are necessary and the venue is a short walk from Central railway station.

- b) Last Night of the Proms Saturday night 19 August 7.00pm, Sunday afternoon 20 August 2.00pm. Chatswood Concourse, tickets \$47.00.**

We have two front stalls tickets left for the Saturday night concert and four tickets Row S stalls left for Sunday. Thank you to those who have bought the other 94 tickets. This will be a grand event. Apart from the popular items played at the Albert Hall in London, the concert will present a world-class cellist playing Elgar's Cello Concerto. If you are attending, consider wearing some red, white and blue and bring a Union Jack, Australian or St. George flag to add to the fun of the event.

If you would like some of the remaining tickets, please phone Sue Labordus on 9449-7532 as soon as you can.

- c) Luncheon Thursday 7 September, Noon until 3.00pm Union, University and Schools Club (UUSC), Bent Street Sydney. Guest of Honour: Hon Tim Fischer AC, retired former Leader of the National Party and Deputy Prime Minister, addressing the life of our most famous General Monash and the case for him to be elevated to the rank of Field Marshal**

Tim Fischer is one of our most admired retired politicians and later, Australian Ambassador to the Holy See. He is an active advocate of the deserved elevation in ranking of our greatest General to that of Field

Marshal. This address by Tim Fischer is an important exposé on one of Australia's greatest sons, not only in military struggles at Gallipoli and the European theatre of World War I, but in later civic roles in Victoria. Whilst he was the only General knighted in the field by King George V, the question arises as to why such a commander was overlooked for the ultimate military rank of recognition. Tim Fischer will add to these questions and others that you may have at the end of his address. A flyer will issue closer to the date, however we encourage you to join us for a special occasion.

d) AGM Royal Yacht Squadron Tuesday 19 September 5.30pm followed by silver service main course/coffee/drinks dinner at 7.00pm

The AGM will be held at this special venue, at no member charge, where our Tall Ships winner Ms. Abby Dixon will present her cruise report. Flyer for the dinner that will be priced around \$60, will issue closer to the date.

Committee members are still required to spread the workload and more focus on membership and raising monies to keep event costs low so as to retain a profitable base. If you have some time to attend our four Committee meetings a year and support some of the big events and raffle sourcings, please consider attending the AGM and nominate for a role on the Committee. A major issue involves getting fresh skills to assume the key roles as the current incumbents face the issues of advancing years. The Committee are a happy group and fun to be with. Also they keep the President under often needed control.

e) Rugby League World Cup Tickets

A flyer is attached with contact details on the upcoming rugby league tour in Australia. The interesting games appear to be: 1. Australia v England Melbourne Friday 27/10, Australia v France Canberra Friday 3/11, England v Lebanon Sydney Saturday 4/11, Australia v Lebanon Sydney Saturday 11/11, Final Rugby League World Cup Brisbane Saturday 2/12. Tickets are available at Ticketek.

f) Her Majesty the Queen's 70th wedding anniversary and Christmas buffet luncheon. Union, University and Schools Club, Bent Street Sydney, Monday 20 November Noon until 3.00pm. Guest of Honour: Mrs. Diana Fisher, who will be speaking on the Royal Wedding of Her Majesty and subsequent weddings of the Royal Family.

A flyer will issue closer to the date, however please note this double-header event in your diary. It is being held on the actual date of the Royal wedding in 1947 and special congratulations have been sent to Her Majesty's private secretary on your behalf. Mrs. Diana Fisher has had a close association with a series of royal wedding events and is an entertaining speaker and television celebrity. This luncheon will incorporate our annual Christmas luncheon, with the UUSC's usual grand luncheon, and Ken Bock our MC leading a short bracket of carols.

g) Remembrance Day, Saturday 11 November at 11.00am St. James' Church King Street, Sydney.

h) Service of Nine Carols and Lessons: Sunday 17 December at 7.30pm St. James' Church King Street, Sydney followed by drinks and mince pies in the crypt.

i) Australia Day 26 January, 2018 Harbour cruise aboard the "Starship" leaving from King Street wharf, including a two-course and starter buffet at value cost and bar for drinks.

The Australia-Britain Society has reserved 60 places on the "Starship" glass-fronted boat with six of the best tables for viewing harbour events and will leave around 10.30am. A wonderful luncheon of starter food, a varied and large main array of food and Australian desserts (lamingtons and pavlova) will be on offer. The cost will be as charged by the "Starship", plus a small \$5.00 handling fee. The added attraction is

that members can buy their own drinks without any drinks package included in the price that, based on last year, will be around \$95.00 for the whole event. Boarding tickets will be issued at the King Street wharf by the committee. Bring along your friends and relatives. A flyer will issue in early December.

2. RECENT EVENTS

a) **St. George's Day luncheon with the Friends of St. George's and Descendants of the Knights of the Garter and the Royal Society of St. George.**

This was a wonderful luncheon at the UUSC in one of its more intimate rooms with Harbour views, made more so by the presence of our dear Life Member Dame Marie Bashir, along with Professor David Flint and Councillor Peter Cavanagh. Our thanks to the Friends of St. George's for including ABS members in this great event.

b) **Queen's Birthday Gala Dinner at the Australian Club on 25 May**

Member feedback suggests this was the best of the recent annual black tie dinners due to a smaller group of 105 guests and easier seating access, plus our Patron His Excellency the Governor and Mrs. Hurley arriving well in advance of the evening formalities to meet most of the attending guests and remaining with us until after 10.30pm.

The address by Emily Kim, Captain of North Sydney Girls High, was well received as was the entertainment provided by Glenn Amer, concert pianist and raconteur, along with one of Opera Australia's rising stars Ms. Imogen-Faith Malfitano, followed by MC Ken Bock and some support in a tribute to Sir Noel Coward and an audience-involved tribute to Dame Vera Lynn who turned 100 in May this year.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Attached is a renewal form for annual memberships and you will be pleased to note we have kept subscriptions unchanged, despite the small deterioration in our net assets. Part of this financial shortfall is due to the high level of Life Members who joined many years ago when life membership rates were set in the expectation that the high interest rates and earnings on funds would continue. Low interest rates are likely to remain, with meagre earnings on our reserve funds. If you are a Life Member, could you please consider sending us a donation with one of the coming event flyers to help us preserve our funds, and the life of the Society. We cannot hope to expand or even maintain our grants programmes unless we are making bigger operating surpluses.

As subscriptions are now due, we should appreciate it if you would send us your payment no later than **15 August 2017**.

4. PASSINGS

We regret to report the passing of members **Gordon Peter Moon, Edrith ("Dickie") Brooks and Richard Sandeman-Gay**, who were all long-term and loyal supporters of our Society and will be sincerely missed. We offer our heartfelt sympathy to their families.

5. NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome the following new members, whom we look forward to seeing at our functions: **Richard and Lale Williamson, Jean Bingle, Susi Baillie, George Stephenson and Kim Stainlay.**

6. RAFFLE PRIZES

Most of our raffle prizes aim to provide items that one would like to own but never buy as well as meals and accommodation at nice venues, plus hampers made up of British products. Your committee harnesses most of these and if you have access to sporting clubs or musical groups that may be willing to donate raffle prizes please let any of our committee know about them. By running raffles we need to have at least 50 people at events and the outcome of these is to enable us to keep event costs at a low margin against costs.

7. “APPRECIATING AUSTRALIA’S CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY, A CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE”

One of our members, Jordan Grantham, has written an article that may be of interest to others that can be accessed by linking in to [Queen’s Birthday for Catholics - Catholic Outlook](#) written by Jordan Grantham, or contact him on jordgran@yahoo.com

8. GENERAL

Thank you for your continued support of our programme and events. The general feedback is that members enjoy what we provide and take comfort in knowing the proceeds maintain small but unique and good causes that young people would not otherwise have access towards.

The quality clubs of Sydney provide wonderful ambience and services, but many of these are now charging room hire and other fixed costs that impact overall charge-outs. To give some balance and keep costs as low as we can we will aim to supplement these with some of the second-tier venues where Committee memberships enable us to access with no fixed charges. Let any of the Committee know your views on this as we otherwise must draw some conclusions based on attendance levels as to the venues, pricing and attraction of the guests of honour.

Thank you for being nice people to share time and fun with.

Best wishes,

Richard Nott