



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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NEWSLETTER JUNE - JULY 2016

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1. COMING EVENTS:

- a) PLAIN ENGLISH SPEAKING AWARDS Friday 22 July at 9.30am–Noon.**
Venue: NSW Teachers' Federation Conference Centre, Reservoir Street, Surry Hills.
Admission free. Dress casual

Members are invited to attend this event where the NSW finalists deliver their verbal presentations which are the pathway towards the National championships and eventual global award in London. This Society presents \$100 encouragement awards to each finalist and \$250 to the NSW winner. One of these participants is invited to replicate the presentation at the next Queen's Birthday dinner. It is reassuring to know that the wonderful English language is alive and so well enunciated by such a talented group of secondary school finalists.

- b) LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS Sunday 21 August, 2016 at 2.00-4.00pm Concourse
Concert Hall, Victoria Avenue, Chatswood. Cost \$47.00**

We have around 40 seats left for this concert including a small supply for the Saturday 20 August evening concert at the same price as at the box office less any mail out charges. It is a rollicking grand two hours of all your favourite British musical items performed by the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra and Willoughby Philharmonic Choir with plenty of flag-waving from the audience. The theatre is a five-minute walk from Chatswood railway station and plenty of value parking underneath the venue. If you would like to attend or, better still, bring some friends, please send in a stamped addressed return envelope with your money and the tickets will be sent to you. There are seats in the stalls, dress circle and boxes upstairs – please indicate your seating preference on the attached flyer when booking.

At the Chatswood Concourse centre there are plenty of restaurants adjacent to the theatre if you decide to arrive early and enjoy a meal before the concert. Please phone or email the Secretariat if you have any queries on this event.

**c) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SILVER SERVICE DINNER
Monday 19 September at 5.30pm Royal Yacht Squadron Kirribilli NSW**

Details of the AGM will issue closer to the date and nomination forms for committee roles. If you would like to join the committee we will be pleased to arrange for nominators/seconders. We have an open-standing invitation for members to join our small committee and we restrict meetings to a quarterly basis and always require some help in sourcing raffle prizes and selling these tickets at events or using special areas of skill and interest. The Annual Report will be available at the AGM and will be posted on the Society's website in due course.

The AGM is free and will start at 5.30pm with Ms Kelley Priest presenting her Tall Ships report along with the usual committee reports. Thanks to our Squadron members, Commander Richard Tighe and David Adams, we have secured a private room for a limited number (usually around four tables) for a single course silver-service dinner for those members who wish to experience this special venue with Harbour views and a chance to catch up with member friends. A flyer will issue in late August.

d) FAREWELL TO THE BRITISH CONSUL-GENERAL, NICK McINNES

We have enjoyed the tangible support of the British Consul-Generals since the Society's inception; our current Consul-General Nick McInnes' posting term expires at the end of this year and he has graciously offered to open the Consulate residence at Vaucluse to members for an afternoon tea at a nominal cost to enable us to farewell Nick appropriately and enjoy the ambience of his wonderful residence. This event timing has yet to be fixed however we are looking at around late October to ensure it does not conflict with other seasonal calendar items and further details will follow. To avoid city traffic it is suggested a weekend afternoon may be more suitable to our members. You could advise the Secretariat if you have preferences on this timing.

Nick McInnes has been a wonderful friend of this Society with his constant support during his term in Sydney and we thank him for making his home available to us. The cost will be kept low and we can hold a raffle as well as accommodate up to 100 people.

**e) REMEMBRANCE DAY 11 November 2016: Service at St. James' Church King Street
11.00am and luncheon afterwards at the Macleay Room, Australian Club, 165 Macquarie
Street (cnr Bent and Macquarie sts)**

This service of remembrance is tailored to the Society with wonderful hymns, **Eternal Father Strong to Save, Parry's Jerusalem, and Holst's Vow to Thee My Country**, as well as lessons read by Society members and guests.

The luncheon from noon onwards to 3.00pm is restricted to 50 people and the guest of Honour is **Brigadier William Sowry AM CSC**, who was responsible for British/Australian defence liaison and who will be speaking on the current defence interface with Britain, and if time permits an observation on the current risk issues emanating out of Europe. Further details will be sent closer to the time.

- f) Christmas luncheon. Monday 5 December, 2016 Union, University and Schools Club, Bent Street, Sydney. Noon until 3.00pm in conjunction with Australians for Constitutional Monarchy and Friends of St. George's**

This Christmas fare luncheon of turkey and pudding plus drinks will be held at the UUSC in a special room that can accommodate 100 plus people and will be charged at the buffet rate plus a margin for the special nature of the meal. Further details will issue closer to the date, however please note it in your diaries to avoid seasonal conflicts.

- g) Southern Highlands: Address by The Hon. Dr. Brendan Nelson on the role and work of the Australian War Memorial will be held at the Henrietta Room of the Bowral Public Library, Bendooley Street, Bowral from 5.30-7.30pm on Friday 8 July. Cost: \$25.00**

This event is being organised by the Southern Highlands Committee of the Australia-Britain Society. Numbers are limited to this event; however any members interested in attending should contact the Southern Highlands Committee Secretary, Mrs. Jan Bell on 02 4862 1143, email janbell@internode.on.net.

- h) Commemoration of Captain James Cook RN and Sir Joseph Banks - Sunday 24 July 3.00pm at St. James Church, King Street, Sydney**

Members of the Australia-Britain Society are invited to attend a commemoration of the lives of Captain James Cook and Sir Joseph Banks at St James on 24 July at 3.00pm. This tribute will occur in the context of a service of Choral Evensong, during which the Chief Justice and Lieutenant Governor of New South Wales, the Hon Tom Bathurst AC, will unveil a plaque in their memory, and Mr. Paul Brunton OAM, Emeritus Curator of the State Library, will give an address.

The plaque, donated by members of the New South Wales Branch of the Cook Society, is the third in a series of four plaques that mark the history of the land on which the church is built. The previous two commemorate Governors Phillip and Macquarie (the latter donated by the Australia-Britain Society) and the fourth will honour the Eora Nation. These commemorations anticipate the celebration of St. James' 200th anniversary commencing in 2019.

Would you please advise the Secretariat if you plan to attend, so that reserved seating can be provided.

2. RECENT EVENTS:

- a) Queen's Birthday Dinner 25 May, 2016 at the Australian Club**

This black tie event was a sell-out evening with 150 members and collegiate friends from Australians for Constitutional Monarchy, Cook Society and Friends of St. George's, enjoying a unique occasion with our current Governor and past two Governors, Professor the Honourable Dame Marie Bashir and Rear Admiral the Honourable Peter Sinclair attending to celebrate Her Majesty's 90th birthday. As well it was a fitting occasion to acknowledge the guiding hand of our former President Rear Admiral Ross Swan in establishing the Tall Ships award programme; this programme has been maintained for over twenty years thanks to the generosity of members in attending our functions where surplus funds are applied to this unique opportunity for exceptional young Australians, many of whom joined this tribute to Rear Admiral Swan.

Ms Isla Collee replicated her address at the finals of the Plain English Speaking Awards which this Society supports every year. Additionally, we enjoyed a musical interlude where one of Australia's pre-eminent concert pianists and accompanists Mr. John Martin delighted us with Chopin and supporting Ms Leah Thomas who flew from the Australian Opera programme in Melbourne to render a bracket of wonderful arias.

This year is the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare and an appropriate toast to the Bard of Avon was a part of the evening.

The exclusive venue was made available to us by the Social Committee of the Australian Club under your President's membership, and has become a flagship event for us. We had a waiting list of over 15 people, so to avoid disappointment, please consider noting in your diary for next May a similar wonderful formal but relaxing event with our Vice Regal guest of Honour, our Patron the Governor.

b) Queen's Birthday Weekend Garden Party at Government House

A number of members attended this event hosted by His Excellency the Governor in the grounds of Government House along with other collegiate groups and we hope many of you enjoyed the afternoon in such an illustrious location. We are hoping to extend this location and event in 2017 subject to His Excellency's calendar.

3. SUBSCRIPTIONS:

We are attaching a subscription renewal notice for membership and it would be appreciated if you would send your payment before 15 August – this would help us tremendously! If you are a new member who joined in March of this year or later, there is no need to do anything, as you are financial until 30 June 2017. If you are a Life Member, it would be much appreciated if you would consider giving a donation, which will help support our Grants Scheme for young Australians. Thank you in anticipation.

4. MEMBERS' NEWS:

We are pleased to extend a warm welcome to new members **Anne Cole, Diana Howell and Kathleen Payne**, whom we look forward to meeting at future functions.

Dame Leonie Kramer, AC DBE: Owing to time constraints, our last newsletter did not enable us to report beyond a short advice of the death of Dame Leonie; a memorial service was held on Monday, which members of your Committee attended on your behalf to acknowledge especially Dame Leonie's role as National President of the Australia-Britain Society and Life Member over many years, in addition to a plethora of other organisations in which she was involved for most of her long life. She was an exceptional Australian with a wide range of academic and musical interests. Your President shared committee roles with her on the Sydney Festival of New Music for some years, and some of our longer-term members will remember her as well with affection.

With continuing best wishes,

Richard Nott