



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)
Governor of New South Wales**

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Administration Secretary: Sue Labordus

NEWSLETTER MARCH, 2017

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1. COMING EVENTS

a) **Commonwealth Day Luncheon Wednesday 15 March at Noon at NSW Parliament House**

This event, which is usually attended by a great number of Australia-Britain Society members, was detailed in the last newsletter, and a flyer attached. The closing date would have mitigated any late bookings at this stage. It will be a grand afternoon with H.E. Menna Rawlings CMG, British High Commissioner, as the Guest of Honour.

b) **“A Right Royal Evening” with Diana “Bubbles” Fisher Saturday 25 March at 5.30-7.30pm at Bradman Museum, Bowral. Cost \$65.00 with proceeds supporting the Bradman oval and Lord’s Taverners NSW**

Many members may have an interest in hearing Diana Fisher giving an insider’s view of Royal events from the Queen’s Coronation to William and Kate’s wedding. A flyer is attached for those on email to enable tickets to be purchased on line and provides more details. Bookings are to be made as per details on the flyer, not to the Australia-Britain Society office. For those members who do not have access to a computer, enquiries should be directed to Julie Stafford on 0405-841-016.

c) **Sydney-Portsmouth Sister City Committee reception to be held on Friday 12th May at 6.00-7.30pm in the Lord Mayor’s Reception Room, Sydney Town Hall. Guest of Honour is The Honourable Justice Michael Pembroke, who will be speaking about Governor Arthur Phillip and the first fleet that sailed from Portsmouth in 1787. Cost: \$35.00pp.**

This event celebrates the link between Sydney and Portsmouth via the embarkation place for the first fleet departure that led to the establishment of the colony in Sydney. It is being managed by the Sydney-Portsmouth Sister City Committee and further details can be obtained from Mr. Kieran Tonge on 4285 5685, should you have an interest in attending. Payments to Sydney-Portsmouth Sister City Committee, c/- Mr Kieran Tonge, 4/4-8 Underwood Street, Corrimal NSW 2518.

- d) “Their Finest” - Complimentary Film Preview Tickets Screening 20 March at Events Cinema, George Street in Sydney. For details in other states, check the showfilmfirst link mentioned below.**

We have been offered a series of free tickets to a screening of this film, which typifies Britain’s darkest hours of World War 2, and stars Bill Nighy, Sam Claflin and Gemma Arterton. You can check out the trailer on – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qmRzbnnToiw> to get a better feel for this film. Ticket access is online only and the following link is especially for our members to download tickets: <http://www.showfilmfirst.com/pin/777960>

- e) St. George’s Day luncheon April at Union University and Schools Club**

This event, which is expected to be during last week of April, is hosted by the Friends of St. George’s and Descendants of the Knights of the Garter in conjunction with the Royal Society of St. George to celebrate England’s National Day. Further details will follow when the guest of honour firms the calendar.

- f) Queen’s Birthday Gala dinner Thursday 25 May 2017 from 6.00pm-10.30pm at Australian Club, Corner Macquarie and Bent Streets, (hosts Richard Nott and Professor David Flint) with guests His Excellency General David Hurley and Mrs. Linda Hurley. Cost \$125.00 for two-course dinner with drinks and entertainment. Black tie/decorations**

A flyer is attached for our Queen’s Birthday dinner, our flagship event of the year. If you wish to come, it is suggested that you book as soon as possible, as last year this event was over-subscribed, and a full house of 150 people is expected again this year. The entertainment will include a double act of piano and popular opera/operetta arias from well-known and budding artists of the Sydney musical world. Ms Emily Kim from North Sydney Girls School will be replicating her nine-minute address to the NSW State finals of the Plain English Speaking Competition on the subject “The Wonderful Lingua Franca”, and the 2017 winner of the Tall Ships Award, Ms Abby Dixon will be attending and helping to sell raffle tickets. Our collegiate friends from Australians for Constitutional Monarchy, the Cook Society and Friends of St. George’s and Descendants of the Knights of the Garter will be joining us for what is traditionally a grand evening at one of Sydney’s finest private clubs, with free parking under the building and a cab rank opposite in Bent Street.

- g) Last Night of the Proms Chatswood Saturday 19 August at 7.00pm and Sunday 20 August at 2.00pm - \$47.00**

We have acquired 100 tickets to this event which will include a collection of the heart-stopping classics that promote flag-waving and audience participation. As well, we understand the main event will be a major work by Sir Edward Elgar and details will be advised when this is confirmed.

More than half the tickets have been sold for the best seating available after subscribers, so contact the Secretariat to secure your seats, bring along some friends and consider having a pre-concert luncheon or dinner at one of the adjacent restaurants in the Concourse. A further flyer is attached.

h) Later in the Year

We are hopeful that Dr. Brendan Nelson from the Australian War Memorial can join us for a luncheon and Her Majesty's 70th wedding anniversary being incorporated into our Christmas luncheon in late November.

Opportunities will arise for short-notice half-price luncheons and harbour cruises during the middle of the year and a Christmas in July will be aimed to offer a value two-hour lunch with friends at cost with a small margin for administration costs.

2. RECENT EVENTS

Australia Day Harbour cruise and Buffet luncheon was a great day, despite the showery weather, but fragmented over two vessels due to the availability of seats on the "Captain Cook III" being reduced to 30 places when we had sixty paid for guests. The second wave of attendees were placed in the new glass-walled boat the "Starship" leaving from King Street wharf. The main difference in the vessels was that the "Captain Cook III" provided a drinks inclusive package at \$115, whereas the "Starship" cost was \$90 without drinks. For those guests not drinking it was a better value at a \$50 saving for two people but involved queuing for refreshments. The food was comparable and feedback to date was that both vessels were pleasant places to be on the day. Let the Committee know of your preferences, however the indication at this stage is to take the cheaper initial cost options as all the Captain Cook vessels are booked out every year and we then rely on collegiate friends to welcome us to join them. A \$5 administration fee is all that is added to the cost of hiring the vessel.

3. NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome **Robert Hardie** as a new member and thank our friends for recommending us as a worthwhile organisation that provides interesting, varied and fun events. These give the committee heart in organising events at as low a cost as we can plus generate small margins to fund our charitable activities. Thank you again for your continuing support.

4. PASSINGS

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Andrew Hilton on 9 March. He had been President of the Victorian branch of the Australia-Britain Society and a Foundation committee member for many years, and prior to that a long-serving member of the Society. He was well known to many members in New South Wales. We extend our sympathy to his family and friends, and would like to express our appreciation for his many years of Society service.

With best wishes,

Richard Nott