



Australia-Britain Society (NSW Branch) Inc

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

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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: rnott@optusnet.com.au

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

Administration Secretary: Sue Labordus

NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER, 2016

05.2016

1. COMING EVENTS

- a) Afternoon tea and drinks: Farewell to British Consul-General Nick McInnes at the Consulate residence at 25 Gilliver Avenue, Vacluse NSW on Sunday 30 October 3.00-6.00pm. Cost \$35.00 for members and friends. Dress: smart casual. No jackets or ties required. A raffle will be held.**

A flyer is enclosed for this event, a final one hosted by our popular British Consul-General Nick McInnes whose term in Australia ends in January next. This is a chance to enjoy a pleasant afternoon at the British residence where we have enjoyed many Christmas cocktail parties, thanks to the generosity of the Consuls-General. There will be little formality on the afternoon, with Nick drawing the raffle and making some closing remarks. It is our intention to make a small presentation to farewell Nick and to express our appreciation for his support to the Society during his term with us.

- b) Remembrance Day Service on Friday 11 November at 11.00am, St. James' Church King Street, Sydney. Admission free with a regular service collection. Decorations.**

This service is a part of our calendar fixture and has been designed with our members in mind including our traditional hymn favourites; "Eternal Father Strong to Save", "Jerusalem", "I Vow to Thee My Country" and accompanying music with a military theme. Lessons will be read by Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir and Sue Labordus, with Ken Bock delivering the Ode. This is a wonderful penitential morning to remember those fallen, maimed and who served in conflicts of the Commonwealth.

- c) Remembrance Day Luncheon on Friday 11 November after the Service from 12.15-3.00pm at the Macleay Room, Australian Club, 165 Macquarie Street, (Cnr Macquarie and Bent Streets), Sydney. Dress jacket/tie. Cost: Members \$90.00, Non-Members \$95.00. Guest speaker: Brigadier William Sowry AM CSC, Defence Attaché / Liaison Officer Australian Army**

A flyer with details is attached. Brigadier Sowry retired recently from the Australian Army where he was responsible for Australian-British defence liaison and his final role was involved in the investigation of the downing of the MH17 airliner where 298 people, including 38 Australians, lost their lives. Brigadier Sowry will be commenting on this incident and several of the world's trouble spots and erratic despotic leaders. He is travelling from Canberra specifically for this private luncheon and places are limited to 50 people. This will be an interesting luncheon for a world in troubled times. It is suggested you book early to ensure a place.

- d) Christmas Luncheon Monday 5 December, 2016 at noon-3.00pm at the Union, University and Schools Club (UUSC) Bent Street, Sydney. Cost: Members \$85.00, Non-Members: \$90.00. Traditional Christmas turkey and pudding fare, plus a short interlude of carols led by MC Ken Bock and Mrs. Lynn Bock.**

A flyer will issue closer to the date for this Christmas luncheon where members asked for a venue where they had a chance to catch up with friends, free from the restaurant noise of the festive season. We are aiming to invite members of Australians for Constitutional Monarchy and Friends of St. George's. Please note your diary for this relaxed afternoon.

- e) Australia Day Harbour cruise and Buffet Luncheon 26 January, 2017 approx. 10.30am-2.30pm. Departure from Circular Quay. Details yet to be confirmed, as hosted in conjunction with the Order of Australia Association.**

A flyer will issue in December, when we expect to hear of an allocation of up to 40 places for this event and the pricing charged by the luxurious vessel. Dress casual. Bring friends along for a wonderful time on the harbour with all the National Day festivities.

f) Events into 2017

- i. "Australians All let us Rejoice" with Dr. Brendan Nelson of the Australian War Memorial**

This luncheon at the UUSC is scheduled for late January subject to Dr. Nelson's commitments. Dr. Nelson is one of Australia's most respected and eloquent speakers covering current renewals at the War Memorial and the symbolic remembrances of the fallen it evokes. Not to be missed.

- ii. Antiques Road Show Guest of Honour Hilary Kay. Late February/Early March.**

Hilary Kay is well known to viewers of this popular ABC programme and has agreed to join us in conjunction with our collegiate friends to speak at a buffet luncheon at the UUSC and answer any questions on the behind-the-scenes activities of the Antiques Road Show. The timing will likely be during the last week of February/first week of March and when firmed by Hilary Kay we will advise you as this will be a sought-after event.

- iii. St. George's Day Buffet luncheon last week of March 2017**

This luncheon will be in the last week of March, hosted by the Friends of St. George's and the Royal Society of St. George at the UUSC with a notable guest speaker. Members will be invited to join in this luncheon, which was held this year with Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir as Guest of Honour.

- iv. Queen's Birthday Gala Dinner late May, 2017**

This dinner will be a formal evening similar to the sell-out event at the Australian Club members' dining room with 150 members and guests with collegiate groups and musical entertainment. The date will be subject to His Excellency the Governor's calendar availability.

- v. Her Majesty's 70th wedding Anniversary 20th November, 2017**

We will aim to rejoice in this event if we are fortunate to have both the Queen and Prince Philip still with us for this occasion and will be a wonderful time-line to celebrate. (Will she receive a congratulatory letter from herself?)

We are mindful that members are also members of other groups and do not want to overload their calendars; however we do not want to miss a good excuse for a happy meeting of minds and souls especially when unique opportunities arise and hope you can attend many of them with your friends. Thank you for the support you show to the Society and for the donations you send if you are unable to attend events due to the tyranny of distance.

2. RECENT EVENTS

a) AGM and Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron Dinner

The Annual General Meeting was attended by 27 members including our Tall Ships awardee, Kelley Priest, who gave a wonderful report of her journey in rhyme, much to the enjoyment of the group. The Annual Report is too large a file for many members' emails and is available on the Society website (www.ausbrit.org).

The following existing committee members and new members were elected:

Richard Nott	President
David Adams	Deputy President and Hon. Secretary
Richard Tighe	Vice President
Ken Bock	Immediate Past President and Treasurer
Sue Laborus	Administration Secretary
Janatha Adams	
Philippa Armfield	
Diana Rich	
Catherine Barker	

The meeting noted the passing of former committee member Terry Rich and his role carried on by his wife Diana who has been an intermittent committee member over many years. Also, it is a delight for us to welcome Catherine Barker OAM to the committee where she will be focusing on membership and the annual reports. David and Catherine Barker have been strong supporters of the Society for many years and before that in instigating the branch of our reciprocal body, The Britain-Australia Society, at Cambridge in the UK. The Committee meets around four times a year and contact is supported via email reports as needed. If you have some time and would like to be part of this special group, please contact any one of the committee members.

The Southern Highland sub-committee, which operates out of the Bowral area and is an active part of the Society, was re-elected as follows:

Malcolm Stephens	Co-coordinator
Christa Brown	Treasurer
Jan Bell	Secretary
Lynette Stephens	
David Brown	
Barry Todd	

The Southern Highlands branch holds four events every year, mainly drinks events with a prominent guest speaker and these are well supported and advertised in the Newsletter programme when timing allows. Members are welcome to attend all of these events usually held in the Bowral or Mittagong area.

Commander Tighe reported on the continuation of the Tall Ships alumni group who meet periodically and led by former awardee Alix Miller who also presented the certificate to our current awardee, Kelley Priest. Alix is supported by a cadre of former awardees, including Sam Redward, Sarah Howard, Felicity Cox and Lauren Szewczyk. Also, it was mentioned that one of the British sailing ships that accept crews for the Tall Ships awards, *Tenacious*, is on a round-the-world voyage with a significant berthing period in Sydney, during which time we are hopeful members will be given an exclusive boarding access to the vessel whilst it is moored in Darling Harbour during the coming summer months. This will be mentioned in a future newsletter.

The AGM noted the support given by ex-officio members such as Mrs. Meredith Rundle, who has previously been a long term-committee member with her late mother Mrs. Maureen Giddings, a National Vice President and NSW Committee member. Meredith acts as one of the members of the Tall Ships Awards evaluation panel and her experience and help is greatly appreciated.

Mr. Ian Jagger, FCPA, graciously agreed to act as our Auditor again for the coming year, and we expressed our appreciation for his work in the past years.

Thanks to Commander Tighe a private dining room was made available for a post-AGM silver service dinner in a lovely harbour setting that most meeting attendees also attended.

b) Gilbert and Sullivan: “Patience” was held last weekend at the Shore School theatre, together with performances around Sydney and Southern Highlands over the past two weeks. It was a highly entertaining operetta, brilliantly performed by the principals and cast, and enjoyed by a number of our members.

3. NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome to the Society:

. Jordan Grantham . Valerie Smith

and look forward to meeting you at one of our coming events.

4. HISTORY OF THE NAVY LEAGUE IN AUSTRALIA

The history of the Navy League has been magnificently written by former NSW President of our society, Malcolm Longstaff OAM, and it is crammed with historical detail and a multitude of photographs. A flyer is attached with more details on this wonderful publication that is part of our historic Naval tradition and sets out how you can obtain a copy.

5. GENERAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

A Society is only as good as its members and committee who collectively support its activities. To this end we are fortunate in having a strong membership base that attends events where time and health allow. If you are not able to join events, hopefully the newsletter keeps you up to date on what is happening. Any suggestions you have as to how we can continue to improve will always be welcomed.

The subscriptions have been kept constant and costs controlled by members using emails. Life members do not pay annual subscriptions, however these were instigated when interest rates were 10-15% and we earned good rates on these pre-payments. With interest rates so low as at present and likely short-term future, our income from subscriptions and interest is low and unless memberships increase it presents a constant cost control challenge. If you cannot attend events but like what the Society is doing and its aims, could you consider sending us a donation no matter how small? Two mites are acceptable.

Structured goals for this coming year include a review of our strategic plan, and simplification of our by-laws. Also, we are investigating how we can access contacts where Royal and parliamentary visits to Australia can be accessed and visits to our members arranged.

Thank you to the committee and membership that give us good heart in looking to expand our range of offerings and forums for us to celebrate our great values and British tradition.

With continuing good wishes,

Richard Nott