



# 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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**Hon. Sec.: David Adams, LL.B  
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**Administration Secretary: Sue Labordus**

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**NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER, 2017**

**2017.05**

## **1. COMING EVENTS**

- a) Remembrance Day Service Saturday 11 November at 11.00am St. James' Church King Street Sydney with the Ode read by Ken Bock and lessons by Sue Labordus and David Barker. Decorations.**
- b) Queen's 70<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary and Christmas Gala Luncheon Monday 20 November with Guest of Honour Diana "Bubbles" Fisher. Noon-4.00pm at Union, University and Schools Club (UUSC), 25 Bent Street, Sydney NSW. Cost: Members \$110.00, Guests \$115.00**

This celebratory luncheon is a double event at the UUSC for which we encourage you to book early, and no later than 10 November. It is being organised in conjunction with our friends from Australians for Constitutional Monarchy, Friends of St. George's and Descendants of the Knights of the Garter, The Royal Society of St. George and The Cook Society. The event cost includes a special Christmas meal of roast turkey, stuffing, vegetables, Christmas pudding, ice cream, fruit salad, mince pies, and beverages. There will be some limit on the drinks, however we have allowed for a starter drink and a glass at the table plus several bottles will be on each table for thirsty souls, as well as soft drinks. Extra drinks for those well and truly into the afternoon spirit can be bought from Richard Nott at \$35 a bottle at cost.

Our special guest is Mrs. Diana 'Bubbles' Fisher who will be speaking on royal weddings and this will be supported by a slide show and music hopefully engineered by the Committee. During the afternoon we have been fortunate to secure some wonderful entertainment via a master of the piano, John Martin (who played for us at a recent Queen's Birthday Dinner), and Ms. Melody Beck who will be appearing soon in her show "Marni Nixon Presents", Marni Nixon being the voice behind many of the great Hollywood musicals. Melody will delight us with John's support in a range of these great songs and later in the day to lead us in a few carols under MC Ken Bock's baton.

A great raffle will be included with some prizes you will love to have but would never usually buy yourself, including theatre and concert tickets and hotel accommodation.

A congratulatory letter has been sent to Her Majesty's Private Secretary extending our collective appreciation and best wishes for her service and that of the Prince Philip as a couple, to the Nation and the Commonwealth.

A flyer is attached with some further details. We aim to price these events as close as we can to a small margin and for recent events run at cost still did not attract many attendances resulting in operating losses covered by the Committee. This double-header occasion is one we are confident you will enjoy immensely and hopefully give us a small return to cover our grants programmes and justify all the entrepreneurial work involved. Hurry in your acceptances and consider bringing along some family and friends as one of your special seasonal treat events.

**c) Nine Carols and Lessons Sunday 17 December at 7.30pm St. James' Church King Street, followed by drinks and mince pies in the crypt.**

This service is a calendar fixture and is one modelled on the Cambridge Evensong annual event with city dignitaries reading the lessons including Ken Bock our Immediate Past President.

**d) Australia Day Harbour cruise and luncheon Friday 26 January 2018 leaving from King Street Wharf approx. 10.30am in the glass boat the "Starship", returning around 2.30pm. Cost will be approx. \$95 and will include starters, buffet of three roasts, vegetables, desserts of lamingtons and pavlova.**

We have reserved around 60 places on this lovely and unique vessel (and can access more places) that we tested this year and received positive responses from members and friends. The cost is lower than Circular Quay berthing vessels as these add an extra \$25 cost to the event for drinks, whereas this vessel is on an open bar purchasing option. For soft drinkers this extra \$50 for a double is not good value and this has influenced our option to use this vessel and location. Sue Laborus and Richard Nott will be at the ship berth issuing boarding tickets. Great day, chugging gently around the Harbour and alongside the water events. A flyer will issue closer to the date.

## **2. EVENTS GENERAL**

We will be testing some events into 2018 at second-tier clubs using the committee memberships where no room hire charges apply and that are handy to rail and bus services. These venues have slightly lower meal costs and we can cap alcohol allowances that have run some of our recent events at the prime clubs into operating losses. This is predicated on giving value to members with small operating margins and relies on members attending.

Our gala events are usually one a year at the Australian Club and this special birthday and Christmas luncheon at the UUSC, two of the primary clubs in Sydney not normally available to non-affiliated members. We are confident this balance will suit member's calendars and hopefully you can support them.

## **3. RECENT EVENTS**

**a) Luncheon with The Hon. Tim Fischer, Former Deputy Prime Minister**

This was a rollicking good luncheon at the UUSC with Tim reflecting on the life of our greatest Citizen-General Sir John Monash and the current move to elevate him to the rank of Field Marshal. This lunch was in lieu of the usual Remembrance Day gathering due to the fact that it falls on a Saturday this year and lack of lower-cost venues in the area of St. James' Church. As a small token of member attendance the Committee provided half a dozen lucky seat prizes to supplement a great meal and drinks.

## **b) AGM AND COMMITTEE ELECTION**

This annual formal review of the Society was held on Tuesday 19 September at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron Kirribilli arranged by Commander Richard Tighe. A smaller number of members attended and this was followed by a Tall Ships award presentation by Rear Admiral Ross Swan to the current awardee Ms. Abby Dixon who gave a thrilling video presentation of her cruise aboard the Lord Nelson. Most attendees attended later a silver service dinner at the club.

The Society Annual Report is available on our website: [ausbrit.org](http://ausbrit.org), then go to: New South Wales/Annual Reports.

Office-Bearers confirmed for the coming year are:

Richard Nott	President
David Adams	Deputy President
Richard Tighe	Vice President and Sail Training Co-Ordinator
Ken Bock	Treasurer and Immediate Past President
Sue Labordus	Administration Secretary
Catherine Barker	
Janatha Adams	
Philippa Armfield	
Diana Rich	

Southern Highlands Sub-Committee:

Malcolm Stephens	Co-ordinator and Treasurer
Jan Bell	Secretary
Lynn Stephens	
Barry Todd	

This year the Highlands farewelled Christa and David Brown, who returned to live in New Zealand after many years as enthusiastic supporters of the local Highlands group. They carry our good wishes and appreciation for their long service to the Society.

Members were reminded of the various sub-groups that meet periodically, including the Tall Ships alumni of prior year awardees headed by Alix Miller and the Tall Ships selection committee including Richard Tighe, David Adams, Alix Miller, Meredith Rundle and a representative of the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme. This latter group meets for virtually a whole day evaluating and interviewing the finalist candidates for the next annual voyage. This grant and evaluation process has been in operation for 23 years and the success of it is measured by the aggregate of senior business roles these awardees have achieved, hopefully emanating from the team and skills nurturing environment they have experienced in this genesis part of their personal and skills development.

Periodically we call upon members and former committee members to act as support MC or deliver various speeches to guests of honour and over many years. I mention Meredith Rundle, a former long-term Committee member, and Geoff McIntyre especially for their support.

The future of the Society depends upon two key issues; whether we continue to have solvency, funds in the bank and an active committee. Ken Bock reported on our financial state of funds held around \$78,000 that will sustain us for many years, however it is impaired by the present-day low interest rates compared with around \$10,000 a year which we earned in interest a decade ago. Our aim is to run the operations of the Society at a small surplus to preserve our asset base and ultimately the financial life of the Society. This requires us not only to run and organise a variety of events that members enjoy, but also to maintain the

growth of our membership base and gain fresh blood on the committee, especially as many of the current incumbents approach their use-by dates.

If you can spare a small amount of time to help us manage the Society, with only four committee meetings a year and mainly email contacts, to support the operation of events, raise raffle prizes, sell tickets, make an occasional speech or eventually underpin the President, Treasurer and Sail Training roles, we will be delighted to give interested people more details. We are a happy small group so do not be put off as tasks do not require a PhD and we could do with someone to handle memberships and beating the drum for new members and some publicity as many British people in greater Sydney are not aware we exist, or what a great little Society we are. Thank you for all those people who have stayed with us for 2018.

#### **4. NEW MEMBER**

We are pleased to welcome as a new member **Spencer White**, whom we look forward to meeting at future functions.

#### **5. PASSINGS**

We regret to advise you of the passing of **Mrs. Patricia Bridges OBE**, a long-term member and supporter of the Australia-Britain Society, and we extend our condolences to her family and friends.

#### **6. MEMBERSHIP**

Have you overlooked your small annual membership fee that has not been increased very much over the years? Please contact Sue Labordus if you are unsure of your status. We do not put your home under siege, however we do depend upon annual renewals and occasional donations from long-term life members whom we thank for monies and stamp donations. Stay with us if you can.

With continuing best wishes,

*Richard Nott*