



# 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: Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir, AD CVO, Governor of New South Wales**

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**Administration Secretary: Sue Labordus**

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**NEWSLETTER AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2014**

**No. 03/14**

Dear Members and Friends,

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Tuesday 30 September at 5.30pm at Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, 33 Peel Street, Kirribilli**

The all-important Annual General Meeting will take place at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron in the Kirribilli Room and will commence at 5.30 p.m. There is no cost for the AGM. It will be followed by an optional one-course dinner priced very reasonably at \$55 in the Sirius Cove Room, part of the Squadron dining room with uninterrupted views over Sydney Harbour. There are limited places at the dinner, so you are urged to send in your booking form early, should you wish to attend.

The AGM is of course the time when your Society's operations for the preceding year can be reviewed and the financial position examined. There will be an election for membership of the Society's Committee, but I wish to stress that there will be no coercion as regards standing for election. You will be welcome to offer yourself for office, but it will be entirely voluntary. So please consider attending the AGM.

Apart from the customary topics dealt with at an AGM, we will have our other usual item being the report from this year's Tall Ships Award winner, Mr Sam Redward, who sailed with the Jubilee Sailing Trust in the U.K. Sam was a very worthy candidate for this event and we look forward to his presentation. On this occasion, Sam will be presented with his certificate by Rear Admiral Ross Swan, a past President of the Society, who instigated the Sail Training Award.

### **COUNTRY BUFFET LUNCHEON IN THE GARDEN OF "TETBURY PARK", MITTAGONG – Sunday 26 October at 12.00 for 12.30pm – combined Southern Highlands and Sydney Event**

"Tetbury Park" is the Southern Highlands home of committee members Janatha and David Adams, who have kindly made their home available for all members and friends to a buffet luncheon. There will be a private collection of vintage cars on view and Fine Arts expert, Phillip Thomas, will be present to provide on-site valuations. Planning is at an advanced stage, but please save the date – SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER. Details to follow in the next newsletter.

### **COMMONWEALTH DAY COUNCIL COCKTAIL FUNCTION TO FAREWELL OUR GOVERNOR – Wednesday 17 September 2014 at 6.00-8.00pm, Victoria Room, The Royal Automobile Club of Australia, 89 Macquarie Street, Sydney**

The Commonwealth Day Council invite all members of the Australia-Britain Society to a special cocktail function to farewell Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO, Governor of NSW. Dame Marie is not only Patron of the Commonwealth Day Council, but also Patron of the Australia-Britain Society. She is well loved by all, and we hope to see as many of our members as possible at this event. Enquiries: Janet Stewart on 0412 901 180.

Cost: \$85.00 per person. Bookings: Cheque payable to NSW Commonwealth Day Council, to be sent to 138 Kurraba Road, Kurraba Point, NSW 2089 by 3 September. Email: commonwealthday@gmail.com, fax 02 9953 0176.

## **RECENT EVENTS:**

### **ADMIRAL ARTHUR PHILLIP DEATH BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIONS**

During July, Immediate Past President, Richard Nott, Administration Manager, Sue Labordus, my wife, Lynn, and I attended the commemorative celebrations in England marking the bicentenary of the death of Captain (later Admiral) Arthur Phillip, the inaugural Governor of modern Australia under white settlement. An extensive programme of events was organised by the Britain-Australia Society, the principal events being:-

- the unveiling of a memorial stone plaque in the centre of the nave of Westminster Abbey in the distinguished presence of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh
- the unveiling of a sculpture at the Assembly Rooms located in Bennett Street, Bath where Admiral Phillip resided for some years
- the planting of a tree at Lyndhurst in the New Forest where Admiral Phillip conducted farming for some time. This tree was immediately adjacent to the eucalyptus tree planted in 1987 on the then occasion of the departure of the First Fleet re-enactment leading to the bicentennial celebrations in January 1988.

Of particular note was the presence during these celebrations of our Patron, Her Excellency Professor Dame Marie Bashir, Governor of NSW. Her attendance was eminently relevant to celebrate Admiral Arthur Phillip, the first Governor, and Her Excellency was afforded the honour of planting the tree mentioned above. On that occasion, she was interviewed for BBC Television.

The NSW Branch of the Australia-Britain Society and the Australia-Britain Foundation combined in making a donation of one thousand Pounds toward the two memorial projects which was acknowledged at a reception at Australia House in London hosted by the Australian High Commissioner, the Hon. Alexander Downer.

I am pleased to report that our NSW Branch "touring party" was made very welcome at the functions and, in this regard, my thanks go to the President of the West Country Branch of the Britain-Australia Society, Mr. Keith Newton.

### **PLAIN ENGLISH SPEAKING COMPETITION**

At another event during July, the ABS NSW Branch was pleased to provide prizes in the secondary schools Plain English Speaking Awards competition. The primary sponsors of this event are the English Speaking Union and the NSW branch of the ABS who provided monetary prizes to the six State finalists for NSW and an additional prize to the ultimate winner who on this occasion was Theodora Von Arnim from Sydney Girls' High. Theodora went on to win the national final in Adelaide on 11 August and will represent Australia in the international final in London in May 2015.

As is usual for this competition, the standard of speeches was phenomenally high and the finalists acquitted themselves very well. It was pity that there could be only one winner!

We will be inviting Theodora to replicate her winning speech at our Queen's Birthday lunch in 2015.

### **LUNCH AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE TO COMMEMORATE ARTHUR PHILLIP**

On 27 August, the NSW Branch combined with Australians for a Constitutional Monarchy in holding a lunch at the NSW Parliament House to acknowledge Admiral Phillip and an interesting and amusing address was given by Mr. Richard Tanner, Chairman of the Sydney-Portsmouth Sister City Committee on the 1988 Bicentennial First Fleet re-enactment. This was the second occasion when we combined with ACM for such a function, and was well attended.

### **SERVICE TO DEDICATE A MEMORIAL TO ADMIRAL ARTHUR PHILLIP AT ST. JAMES' CHURCH**

On 31<sup>st</sup> August, your Branch was represented at a special civic and ecumenical Evensong at St. James Church in King Street to mark the Phillip bicentennial, that date being that on which he died. At the service, a memorial plaque was unveiled in the Church and the opportunity was taken by your Branch to make a Donation to the Church to mark the occasion.

## **MEMBERS' NEWS**

We welcome the following new members to the Society:-

. **Jessica Carr-Walker**     . **Robert Estcourt**     . **Lyn Fergusson**     . **Sandra Holland**     . **James Starmach**

It is with regret that we advise the death of member **Lothar Markiewicz** and our sincere condolences go out to his family.

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

As there are some renewals outstanding from members, we would ask you to send us your subscriptions without delay, if you have not already done so. Thank you in advance.

With best wishes,

*Ken Bock,*  
President