



# 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**

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## NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2014

**No. 05/14**

### **1. FORTHCOMING FUNCTIONS**

#### **A) Christmas Party**

The British Consul-General Mr. Nick McInnes, is hosting this event at the Consulate residence at 25 Gilliver Avenue, Vacluse on Wednesday 10 December at 5.30pm to 7.30pm for a celebratory seasonal evening. Details are on the accompanying flyer and Mrs Janatha Adams and her team will be providing the food, with drinks donated by the Committee. A raffle with prizes including a Christmas hamper will be held and we look forward to celebrating the year with you.

#### **B) Nine Carols and Lessons at St. James' Church, King Street, Sydney**

Sunday 21 December, at 7.30pm followed by drinks and Christmas pies in the crypt.

This service is modeled on the annual Advent service at King's College Cambridge and with the church choir and organ it is a glorious occasion. No charge is made beyond a service offertory.

#### **C) Australia Day: 25 January bus trip**

This event is being held on Sunday 25 January to keep costs as low as possible and is a part of the Order of Australia programme available at cost to the Society of \$95.00 and includes the bus journey to Tobruk Sheep Station en route to Wiseman's Ferry, morning tea, a BBQ luncheon, working sheep dog demonstrations and other farm life. The bus leaves the city at 8.30am and returns at 4.30pm so it is a full day outing. The attached flyer gives more details of the pick-up. We need to give the Order of Australia Society firm bookings by the end of the year and we have reserved 50 seats on the coach. This is a different Australian-flavoured event that some city-bound members may welcome.

#### **Further Events into 2015:**

#### **D) President's Luncheon - March**

This is the first of luncheons planned at the Australian Club, corner of Macquarie and Bent Streets, to accommodate 50 members and guests, where we plan to have various guest speakers talking on relevant subjects including World War II and the lives of Captain Cook and Admiral Arthur Phillip, These will be run at cost with a \$5 margin to provide member value, and the date is to be advised in the early New Year. A further luncheon of this type is planned for September subject to interest.

### **E) Queen's Birthday Dinner- May**

His Excellency Sir Peter Cosgrove, Governor-General, and Lady Cosgrove have been invited to this event as our Guests of Honour. The Vice-Regal calendar will not be confirmed until February when we can advise the actual date of this event in May. In addition, we intend to invite some other dignitaries in view of the wide number of supportive remembrance events including Gallipoli, deaths of Churchill and T.S.Eliot, Waterloo and Magna Carta.. This will be a black-tie early dinner from 6.00pm at the Australian Club that can accommodate 150 members and guests, with free parking under the building. Further details will be advised when a firm date is received.

### **F) Concerts:**

We have negotiated to receive tickets for the best seats (after subscribers' bookings) in the Concourse Theatre, Chatswood for two events that we believe will be of interest for members, that are excellent value at \$45.00, no booking fee and held on Sunday afternoons. The Concourse Theatre is a short walk from Chatswood station, or if you wish to drive, parking is available under the building. Both events will feature the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra and Chorus of over 100 voices.

Telephone or email the Secretariat for a maximum of four seats on a first come basis and send a cheque for \$45 a head plus a stamped addressed envelope and the tickets will be sent to you by the middle of January.

#### **i) Grand Opera Gala Sunday 22 February at 2.00pm (50 tickets available)**

This is a spectacular event with all the well-known opera favourites supported by a cadre of rising opera star soloists.

#### **ii) Last Night of the Proms Sunday 25 October at 2.00pm (100 tickets available)**

This concert will be modelled on the London Albert Hall programmes and include Elgar, Parry, Handel, Coates, Walton, Brahms, and Respighi. For the climax, the Willoughby City Band will join the Orchestra in a truly powerful rendition of Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*.

These concerts are a new initiative where we have to underwrite the ticket sales to get the best seats and a small margin for the Society but at less cost to members buying directly that incurs a booking fee of \$4.50.

### **G) General**

Your Committee aims to provide a series of annual flagship events that are part of our British heritage and supplement these with seasonal events such as the range of celebrations and remembrances in 2015. In addition, we will try and introduce new initiatives to add colour to the programmes, and hope you may be able to attend some of these. Let the Secretariat know if you have other areas of interest. Our aim is to provide enjoyable events where members can meet with friends and receive excellent value that enables us also to support our charitable programme with the accent on young people and our British heritage.

## **2. RECENT EVENTS**

In spectacular weather, members enjoyed a wonderful day at the home of our committee members Janatha and David Adams in the Southern Highlands, supported by the Committee and the Southern Highlands Committee to make for a great day in a beautiful part of Australia. The day was made most enjoyable by not only the wonderful catering by Janatha (and some memorable jokes from David), but also the display of antique cars and valuation of antiques. Whilst these events involve high costs in hiring marquees and other equipment, the members' generosity in supporting the raffle enabled us to provide a unique outing that we all enjoyed and we thank the Adams' for their work and dedication towards a great day.

### **3. NEW MEMBERS**

We are pleased to welcome the following new members and seeing them at coming functions:

. Andrea and Laura Havice

. Brian Wallis

### **4. VALE**

We are saddened to advise of the passing of our long-term member and former Committee member Mrs Maureen Giddings OBE who was a well-known, loyal supporter of this Society and its values for many years and who is held dear to many of us. Condolences are sent to her family, especially Mrs Meredith Rundle, her daughter, who is an active member of the Committee.

### **5. GENERAL**

The secretariat will be closed from 16 December until 2 January due to overseas absences. Please send back your flyers for the Christmas party as soon as you can as well as for the New Year bus trip by the end of the year if you have an interest in this event.

This newsletter carries with it the seasonal greetings of the Committee and our best wishes for a Happy Christmas and wonderful New Year.

*Richard Nott*  
President.