



# 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 Marie Bashir, AC, CVO, Governor of New South Wales***

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**Administration Secretary: Sue Labordus**

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## **NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY/MARCH 2013**

**No. 01/13**

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the first Newsletter for 2013 and what we hope will be a productive and entertaining programme of activities during the year.

In the latter regard, your Committee is always concerned that your Society undertake activities that the majority of members enjoy and provide stimulating content. Coupled with this is the objective of keeping functions reasonably economic on the "pocket". Many members have expressed concern on this point but it must be remembered that inflation, although under control in the eyes of the Reserve Bank, nevertheless continues to put upward pressure on prices and thus on the costs incurred in conducting our functions.

It is important therefore that your Committee be aware of what the members want by way of functions so as to maximise their enjoyment of being a member. Accordingly we would like to hear from you if you have constructive ideas for function formats. If you do, please pass them on to our Administration Secretary, Mrs Sue Labordus.

### **1. FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**a) Luncheon aboard the "YOUNG ENDEAVOUR" moored at Woolloomooloo  
Thursday 7 March at 12 noon for 12.30pm**

This is our second function for 2013 and is the annual lunch on board the tall ship "Young Endeavour" at which we farewell our Tall Ships candidates, Jocelyn Garsia, who will be sailing in Europe, and Peita McGoogan, who will be going to Auckland.

Full details are given on the attached flyer. Please do try to attend, as this is a wonderful occasion, and we gain the advantage of being on the Harbour with no swell!

- b) Commonwealth Day 2013 Luncheon Monday 11 March at 12.00 for 12.30pm Strangers' Dining Room, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney in the presence of HE Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales. Guest Speaker: Mr Nick McInnes, British Consul-General**

Cost of tickets: \$90 per person. RSVP by Friday 22 February 2013. All enquiries should be directed to Janet Stewart at email [commonwealthday@gmail.com](mailto:commonwealthday@gmail.com) or phone 0412 901 180, **not** the Australia-Britain Society office. Cheques payable to NSW Commonwealth Day Council. ABS Members on email will receive full details.

**c) OTHER**

**The Admiral Arthur Phillip Royal Navy Tribute Memorials and Legacy:**

In July 2014, there will be the unveiling of memorial plaques to Admiral (previously Capt) Arthur Phillip in both Westminster Abbey and in Bath (He lived at Bathampton a few miles outside Bath).

The unveilings are being organised by the Britain-Australia Society. Members of the Australia-Britain Society are welcome to attend.

**Visitors planning to attend these most prestigious celebrations are invited to be in the UK between 8<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014.**

The key dates in 2014 for the dedications in London are 8<sup>th</sup> 9th or 10th July and in Bath will be 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13th and departing on 14<sup>th</sup> July. Special programmes will soon be available from the Britain-Australia Society website for both London and Bath events.

Seating in The Abbey and ancillary events in London and Bath will be available for booking later this year.

In Bath, as well as the special dedication for the memorial, there will be a programme of events based around Civic Buildings and local attractions. An all-inclusive "package" containing several levels of choice for hotel accommodation and local transportation is being arranged with a Bath-based travel expert. Choices and costs will be published before Easter on their website.

Arrangements can be planned and booked, however enquiries can be made now. If you are interested in attending please contact me on email kenbock@optusnet.com.au or by phone on 9871 6869. I will advise the information I have received to date and will pass on further details as they are received from England.

This Bulletin is addressed to all interested parties in the UK and Australia and recipients are asked to forward it on to any other interested individuals or organisations. Updates will follow.

### **Informal afternoon teas:**

Last year, at the suggestion of member Gail Windeatt-White, an afternoon tea was held at her home to allow members to get together in an informal setting and have a pleasant chat. It was highly successful and good fellowship was enjoyed by all.

So, if you would be willing to host such an event, please contact Sue Labordus (Phone 9449 7532, email absociety@idx.com.au) and advise the day and date and your telephone number. We will then mention it in the next Newsletter and invite members to phone you to indicate their interest in attending. Your address won't be shown in the Newsletter but you would advise callers of it to enable them to attend. Quite clearly, the particular date will need to be set well in advance to allow time for the publishing of the Newsletter.

### **Queen's Birthday Luncheon:**

Your Committee is planning a Queen's Birthday luncheon for early June. Full details when available will appear in the next Newsletter.

## **2. RECENT EVENTS**

### **Christmas Party:**

Our Christmas Party held in late November was simultaneously a happy and a sad affair. Happy because of the goodly number of members and their guests who attended and joined in much pleasant conversation at the home of the British Consul-General at Vacluse; Sad because we farewelled our long-time friend and hitherto Consul-General, Richard Morris and his Wife Alison. They supported many of our functions and we built up a very pleasant rapport with them. Richard has been promoted to a senior post in "Whitehall" in charge of trade promotion in Asia, the Pacific and Australasia. We were delighted to meet his successor, Mark McInnes with whom it was very pleasant to chat. We look forward to seeing more of him.

## **Australia Day:**

Some 180 members of the Order of Australia Association and The Australia-Britain Society took part in a four-hour cruise of Sydney Harbour on a hot, sunny day, enjoying the many activities which were taking place around us.

### **3. FINANCE**

At its recent meeting, the Committee considered the Society's financial position.

Our current situation is satisfactory and we are able to pay our debts as and when they fall due. *However*, in the last couple of years, there has been a slow-down in the revenue from functions, particularly from raffles which help supplement our income, and the numbers attending our functions has contracted. Even though we have saved significantly on costs by the use of electronic correspondence, other costs have increased.

Also you would appreciate that your Committee is anxious to continue the Society's support for the Plain English Speaking Award and the Tall Ships activities. In fact we would be willing to support other activities were the money there to do so.

We are concerned however that we need extra revenue to support our administrative activities and trust that the functions will be self-supporting.

The Committee has noted that our annual subscription rate has remained unchanged for many years at \$35 (\$30 for Seniors) and \$60 for a family. After much deliberation it has been decided therefore to increase each of these amounts by \$5 for the 2013/2014 year. Thereafter the position will be kept under review.

Whilst on the subject, Subscriptions for the year 2012/2013 are now well overdue, and we request those members who have overlooked their payment for this year (easy to do!) to send in their payments as soon as possible, as this will help the Society greatly. Thank you in advance.

One other source of revenue, Donations, has fallen drastically in recent years. Should you be willing to make a one-off donation, it would be very thankfully received. Should you be disposed to do this, please mail it to the Society's Post Office box number.

#### 4. NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to extend a warm welcome to **Gerard Esquilant, Scott Batey, Andrew Roberts, Cynthia Stericker, James Carter** and **Yen Tsai**, and very much look forward to meeting them at future functions.

#### 5. KINDRED SOCIETIES

There are societies similar to ours that continue to operate and we endeavour to co-operate with each other by way of mutual support. They too have functions from time-to-time.

If you would like to find out about them the following may be contacted:-

Royal Commonwealth Society  
PO Box 3289  
Bellevue Hill 2023

Ph: Barbara Jones on 9130 8861

Royal Over-Seas League

Ph: Lily Murray on 9692 9307,  
Email: [murraylily@hotmail.com](mailto:murraylily@hotmail.com)

The English Speaking Union (NSW Branch) Ltd  
PO Box A2156

Sydney South NSW 1235 Ph: Marilyn Jenner on 9286 3111

Finally, my regular reminder that your Society can continue to function only if we have a goodly number of members. Please ask your friends to consider membership and invite them to functions.

Also another regular reminder – please consider joining the Society's Committee. New people bring fresh ideas and can thus widen the range of activities so as to widen the members' enjoyment.

With best wishes,

*Ken Bock,*  
President