



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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NEWSLETTER JUNE/JULY 2013

No. 03/13

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this Newsletter from the New South Wales Branch of the Australia-Britain Society.

1. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- a) **PLAIN ENGLISH SPEAKING AWARDS – NSW FINAL Monday 29 July at 9.30am-1.00pm at NSW Teachers Federation Conference Centre, Corner Reservoir/Mary Streets, Surry Hills, Sydney. Public transport to Central station / parking at Goulburn Street car park**

As before, the Plain English Speaking Awards final is open to all our members and is free of charge. This is another “young people’s” activity that your Society has espoused over the years and it is indeed inspiring to be at the final and hear the astonishingly high standard of public speaking that the finalists produce. We will again present prizes of \$100 to each of the six finalists and a further \$250 to the ultimate winner.

- b) **SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS – Talk by past President, Richard Nott AM, entitled “Reminiscences Australia-Britain” on Friday 9 August at 5.30-7.30pm at CWA Rooms, 40 Wingecarribee Street, Bowral. Cost: \$25 per person, which includes nibbles and drinks.**

The hard-working Southern Highlands Committee, based in the Moss Vale to Mittagong area, regularly conducts enjoyable functions. The next example of this, as detailed above, will be when Richard will entertain us with his thoughts on the links between Australia and Britain. Richard is well known as an erudite speaker, and we hope that as many members as possible will be able to attend. Those coming from Sydney may wish to make a weekend of it! Enquiries to Miss Cynthia Parker on 4871 1267, bookings with cheque to Mr. Malcolm Stephens, 38 Argyle Street, Bong Bong Hill, Moss Vale 2577.

- c) **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - Tuesday 24th September 5.00pm**

Another year of the Society’s activities has recently concluded and your Committee is now busily preparing for the Annual General Meeting. It will take place on Tuesday 24th September at 5.00 p.m. at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron at Kirribilli. The choice of this venue was very well received by members at the 2012 meeting and the dinner following was enjoyed by all. Your Committee has decided, therefore, to hold it at the same venue this year and again with a dinner to follow. *Please diarise this date and attend.* We are in the process of preparing our Annual Report, which will be available to members at the meeting. The official notice and AGM papers will be

sent with our next newsletter. Of particular importance will be an address by Jo Garsia, our Tall Ships Award Winner for this year, giving you an overview of her voyage. This is a highlight of our AGMs each year.

c) REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE AND LUNCH Monday 11th November

We have again been invited by the Rector of St. James, King Street to join in the service at the historic church to mark this important date in the calendar and we will arrange a luncheon venue for after the service. This year the day falls on a Monday and we expect that making arrangements will be somewhat less difficult than was the case last year.

In conjunction with Mrs Lily Murray, the Australian Representative of the Royal Over-Seas League, we are negotiating to have Major Roddy Porter, the Director-General of the League as our Guest Speaker. He will be visiting Australia at the time. I have met him at the ROSL premises in London; he is a very outgoing person and will, I'm sure, be a most entertaining speaker.

Details will be sent to you closer to the date. In the meantime, please diarise this event.

2. OTHER FORTHCOMING EVENTS

a) In celebration of the Centenary of the Royal Australian Navy, The Order of Australia Association are holding their annual dinner on Friday, 26 July at 7.00 for 7.30pm at the Four Seasons Hotel, 199 George Street, Sydney. Dress: Black tie and decorations. Cost: \$110. Enquiries: John Archer OAM, Tel (02) 9150 7243, Mobile 0407 919 235. Cheques payable to The Order of Australia Association (NSW). Post your bookings with names of all guests to: OAA Annual Dinner, PO Box 175, Bexley NSW 2207 by 19 July. ABS members on email will receive the flyer.

d) Something a Little Different:

Do you remember the days of radio drama, the serials, the Lux Radio Theatre, the Caltex Radio Theatre? It was the theatre of the mind in the days before Television.

Your President has become a member of a theatre group that produces radio plays and performs them under radio conditions i.e. in front of microphones with a sound effects man at the side. It's lots of fun and is a great form of good old nostalgia. It is very instructive if you haven't seen radio performed in the past. The Group's next performance of three plays, a light-hearted Sherlock Holmes mystery and radio adaptations of the movies "My Friend Irma" and "Arsenic and Old Lace" will take place from 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm on Sunday afternoon, 18th August.

The venue is the delightful function room at the Hills Lodge Hotel/Motel on the corner of Windsor and Salisbury Roads, Baulkham Hills. The cost is \$25 and includes a "sumptuous" afternoon tea. Tickets can be obtained by phoning Mr. John Hunt on 0402 00 33 55.

c) Australia Day 26 January 2014

Your Committee is yet to decide the venue and nature of our annual Australia Day celebration for 2014. We should welcome any suggestions from members as to both a format for the function and a venue, bearing in mind that on that day, acceptable venues will be at a premium price for the national celebration. Please call Sue Labordus (9449 7532), email absociety@idx.com.au, or me (9871 6869), email kandlb@optusnet.com.au with any comments and suggestions you may have.

2. RECENT EVENTS

Queen's Birthday Lunch:

My personal view is that this year's lunch was one of the best that we have conducted for some time and the venue, the Members' Dining Room at State Parliament House, was excellent in providing a smaller but completely comfortable room. The catering was of high quality and all who spoke to me at the conclusion expressed how much they enjoyed themselves.

The theme for the occasion was a commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of the Coronation of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II and our Guest-of-Honour, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, The Governor of N.S.W. and, at the time of the lunch, Administrator of the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia, spoke fittingly concerning the occasion, reminding those present of the importance of the heritage we continue to enjoy from the traditional British links.

Of particular interest was the speech by Miss Isabel Crawford, the winner of the 2012 State final of the schools Plain English Speaking Award and who later went on to win the Australian final and, after that, the World title in London. At our lunch she repeated her winning speech that she delivered in London. Her distinctive speaking style easily demonstrated why she won.

Among those present at our lunch were Past Presidents Ross Swan and Lloyd Waddy as well as representatives from the Royal Commonwealth Society, the Big Brother Movement and the Royal Overseas League (a very large number in the latter case). My only disappointment concerning the Lunch was the small attendance by our members. Of a total attendance of 82 there were approximately only 50 of our members. The remainder were the very welcome guests mentioned above.

My disappointment arose because members have in the past expressed a preference for having our functions at a "prestige" venue such as Parliament House. Having organised such a function, it seems members stayed away in large numbers. If cost was an issue for some, *it needs to be remembered that the price we charged reflected the cost nowadays of having a function at such a venue.*

3. MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

It is again membership renewal time, with subscriptions due on 1st July, and a membership renewal form is attached. Please note that, owing to increased costs, your Committee has reluctantly decided to increase subscriptions by \$5 per annum, but please bear in mind that these have remained unchanged for more than 15 years. The new rates are:

General (under 65 years of age):	\$40 pa
Senior (65 and over):	\$35 pa
Combined (with spouse/partner):	\$65 pa

For all members who joined in March 2013 or later, your subscription will run until 30 June 2014, and there is no need to do anything.

4. NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to new members **Barbara Jones** and **Rev The Hon Fred Nile, MP**, and look forward to seeing them at our forthcoming functions.

5. PASSINGS

We regret to advise of the passing of **Elsie Wearden** and **Beryl Lewis**, and we extend our condolences to their respective families.

6. The President's "Usual" Entreaty:

Please: endeavour to obtain new members for our Society and offer to join the Committee. We must not be ostriches; our membership base is not growing, and in this situation, the elapse of time will see our total membership decline. Our Society is a good and useful body. It will be unfortunate to see it wither on the vine.

And last but not least: if you are on email now and would like to receive your newsletters electronically, please do get in touch to absociety@idx.com.au, as this will help us to save on printing and postage costs.

With best wishes,
Ken Bock,
President