



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 FEBRUARY/MARCH 2014

No. 01/14

Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to the first Newsletter for 2014 and what we hope will be an entertaining programme of activities during the year.

1. QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON – Wednesday 16 April at 12.00 for 12.30pm at Strangers' Dining Room, NSW Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney

Planning is at an advanced stage for the 2014 Queen's Birthday Lunch to be held at Parliament House. An innovation on this occasion will be that we are joining with the Australians for a Constitutional Monarchy in the running of the function. ACM will be well-known to many of our members and is led by our own member, Professor David Flint AM who is seen often on TV News programmes when issues relating to the Monarchy arise. We will again have present the Plain English Speaking Award winner, on this occasion Miss Lucy Burke, who will replicate her award-winning speech from 2013. But of particular interest is that we will be favoured by the presence with us again of Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir as Guest of Honour and she will be accompanied by Sir Nicholas Shehadie.

Please reserve this date so as to help make it an outstanding function.

2. PASSINGS

The year began on a sad note, with the passing on 2nd January of our beloved Southern Highlands Committee Chairman, **Miss Cynthia Parker, OAM**. During her working life, Cynthia was an outstanding educator and greatly enriched the operations of Frensham Girls' School in Mittagong during her 26-year tenure as its Headmistress. A memorial service will be held for Cynthia at Frensham, Clubbe Hall, Range Road, Mittagong, at 10.00am on **Sunday 6 April**. As there will be no reserved seats, we advise you to arrive early if planning to attend. An obituary relating to Cynthia and her many achievements was published in The Sydney Morning Herald, Saturday 22 February 2014.

The Memorial Service will be followed at **3.00pm** by a **Tribute Concert entitled, "Music for Awhile"** to be held at the Mittagong Playhouse the same day, 6th April. A flyer for this function is attached.

We also wish to report the passing of **Mr. Ian Stanwell, AM**, another distinguished member of the Society. Our sympathies are extended to his wife, Jan, on this sad loss.

3. YOUNG ENDEAVOUR AWARD WINNER

We are pleased to advise you that our "Young Endeavour" scholarship winner for 2014 is Sam Redwood. Sam will be sailing on the "*Tenacious*" in April. It has been our usual custom to present the winner with his/her certificate at a lunch aboard the "*Young Endeavour*", but unfortunately, the YE is not available this year for such a function due to an extensive maintenance programme. It has therefore been decided to present Sam with his certificate following our

Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 30 September, which commences at 5.30pm, at the **Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, Kirribilli**. The AGM will be followed by dinner. Please note this date in your diaries.

4. ADMISSION: ONE SHILLING

We have been approached by the producers of the show "Admission: One Shilling" to offer members of the Australia-Britain Society a discount of \$10 on all tickets. This production stars Patricia Routledge (best known as Hyacinth in *Keeping up Appearances*) and Piers Lane (an internationally acclaimed Australian pianist) and will tour Australia in May. The show is about the piano virtuoso Dame Myra Hess who kept up the morale of Londoners during the darkest days of the Second World War with an hour of music every day at the London National Gallery.

Show times are: Fri 16 May at 8.00 at the Glen Street Theatre, phone 9975-1455. Prices are: Adult \$89, Child (under 16) \$49, Groups 8+ \$79; Sat 17 May at 8.00pm and Sun 18 at 4.00pm at the City Recital Hall, Angel Place, phone 8256-2222 or 1300 797 118. Price: \$99, concessions also available. The discount of \$10 off the quoted prices will be applied upon giving the password: SHILLING.

5. RECENT EVENTS: AUSTRALIA DAY HARBOUR CRUISE AND LUNCH

Some 120 members of The Order of Australia Association and the Australia-Britain Society enjoyed a sumptuous lunch aboard the "*Captain Cook III*", watching the numerous events taking place on the Harbour. It was a simply beautiful sunny day, and a good time was had by all who attended.

6. NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members, who have joined the Society recently:

. **William Galvin, OAM** . **Craig White** . **Robert & Finola McMahon**

We look forward to seeing them at forthcoming functions.

7. YOUR SOCIETY

As the matters referred to in paragraph 2 saddened me, so it is that I write this paragraph:

Often in newsletters and at our functions, particularly the Annual General Meeting when our operational reports are tabled, I have repeatedly lamented the absence of members making themselves available to sit on our executive committee. This situation continues and we are now operating with a Committee comprising **five** members. Note that number – **FIVE**.

It is a sad fact that our membership average age must now be very high. This is one factor that hampers the Committee as it now stands in organising functions – we need to conduct them to suit the personal situations of an ageing membership. The passing of time inevitably will see existing members depart and in the absence of an influx of new members, particularly by the existing members introducing their friends and acquaintances as new members, *your Society will continue to stagnate and eventually disappear*.

There is no other way to put this but:-

- 1. IF YOU WANT THE AUSTRALIA-BRITAIN SOCIETY (NSW BRANCH) INC TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE, MORE MEMBERS MUST JOIN THE COMMITTEE.**
- 2. ALL MEMBERS MUST SEEK TO BOOST OUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS.**

Please contact me (phone 9871 6869) or Sue Labordus (9449 7532) on this matter.

With best wishes,

Ken Bock,
President