



Australia-Britain Society (NSW Branch) Inc

(Incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act, 1984(NSW))

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NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2015

2015/03

1. LONG MAY SHE REIGN!

In September we reach a milestone when Her Majesty the Queen becomes the longest-serving British monarch. To give thanks and celebrate this unique timeline of exemplary service to the Commonwealth, constancy and endeared affection, the following events are in train:

- a) Evensong special liturgy at St James' Church King street on **Wednesday 9 September at 6.15pm**
- b) Festival choral evensong at St. Andrew's Cathedral George street on **Thursday 17 September at 5.30pm**

Both churches extend a warm welcome to our members and friends to attend these services of gratitude and appreciation, which will include various affiliated and collegiate bodies.

Whilst we understand that Her Majesty does not want this milestone to be highlighted, based on her service being measured on its quality rather than tenure, it is still a unique milestone we are unlikely to witness again in our lifetimes and these church services will be designed to focus on the exemplary and unsurpassable example and devotion to her peoples' welfare through the various institutions she heads and her personal example of citizenship and service. This is a celebratory time for her life example and we hope that it may well continue for many years. The Queen's Birthday dinner planned for May 2016 will be celebrating Her Majesty's 90th year and your committee will be aiming to provide a function worthy of this occasion.

2. RECENT EVENTS

The **Patronal festival** was held at St. James' at a splendid choral evensong on Sunday 26 July, attended by many dignitaries as well as Society members and kindred groups. This service included the dedication of the commemorative plaque to Governor Lachlan Macquarie donated by this Society and unveiled by His Excellency the Governor. This plaque was funded by the Society Foundation, together with generous donations from the Sydney and the Southern Highlands Committees. This unique grant was possible, thanks to our members attending various functions and the small surplus funds collectively enabling this to be done on your behalf.

The **Plain English Speaking Awards** were held in July between the six NSW finalists who each received a Society award of \$100 and the winner, Isabella Monardo of Kincoppal Rose Bay a \$250 Society grant. Another stimulating morning of excellent verbal argument and language tapestry enjoyed by the large audience.

3. COMING EVENTS

These were detailed in the recent newsletter, however further details on the **Christmas party luncheon** are now available. The **Athenian Restaurant, Barrack Street** (between George and York Streets near Martin Place and a short walk from Wynyard station) has been secured from noon until 3.00pm on **Monday 14 December**. The menu includes an à la carte table setting of 10-12 people and offers a starter soft drink, either roast lamb/pork, fish with salads/vegetables, schnitzel and chips, Christmas pudding, fresh fruit salad or Greek custard tarts, coffee (wines etc available at the bar). Member price will be \$45 and has been subsidised by the Committee supplying the desserts. Dress casual and a small raffle will be held. Around November a flyer will issue asking for you to nominate food preferences to expedite the table service. Please note the date and bring along some friends as the restaurant can hold up to 100 guests.

4. DIARY

- . **Wednesday 2 September: Luncheon Australian Club with guest Colonel Sandy McGregor MC**
- . **Tuesday 15 September: AGM and dinner Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, Kirribilli**
- . **Saturday evening 24 October at 7.00pm and Sunday afternoon 25 October at 2.00pm: Last Night of the Proms Chatswood Concert Hall 2.00pm (a few tickets still available at \$45)**
- . **Wednesday 11 November Remembrance Day service 11.00am St. James' King Street and luncheon at Australian Club (guest subject: relationships between Menzies and Churchill during World War II)**

5. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER

We welcome the appointment of Her Excellency **Menna Rawlings CMG** as the British High Commissioner to Australia. Since 1989, Menna has served in a wide range of Diplomatic Service roles including postings in Washington DC, Ghana, Israel, Kenya and Brussels. In London she served as Private Secretary to the Permanent Under Secretary as well as the Press Office and the Africa and EU Directorates. Menna is married with three children and we extend a warm welcome to her family whilst in Australia and towards welcoming them to some of our functions.

6. PASSINGS

We regret to advise the death of our long-time member and friend **Keith Salt ACA**, and extend our sympathies to his partner Maurice and dear friends. Keith was the Society pro bono Hon Auditor for many years as well as being a kindly, gentle man who enriched our lives and those of the British Public Schools Alumni that he and Maurice supported. We appreciate his long contribution to the welfare and fellowship of the Society.

7. NEW MEMBER

We are pleased to welcome **Pauline Cutchey** of the Southern Highlands to the Society, and we look forward to seeing her at future functions.

8. MAIL-OUTS

Subscriptions have been kept low due to most of our members being on email contact. We do however have a sizeable number of Life Members on printed mail who rarely attend events due to age, location, access etc. If you would still like to receive the newsletter we will be pleased to continue to send them. However with mail to soon reach \$1 a letter plus stationery and posting, we are looking to reduce this cost where we can to save funds. I am sure you will understand our need to control expenses where it is efficient to do so without prejudicing the services. Telephone the secretariat on 9449-7532 **if you wish to continue receiving notices**. If we do not hear from you, we will assume that you would like to be taken off the mailing list.

With best wishes,

Richard Nott