



# 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: His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley, AC DSC (Ret'd)  
Governor of New South Wales**

**Branch President: Richard Nott, AM  
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**Administration Secretary: Sue Labordus**

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## NEWSLETTER JULY 2015

2015/2

### 1. COMING EVENTS

- a) Plain English Speaking Awards Friday 24 July 9.30am -1.00pm NSW Teachers Federation  
Conference Centre, 37 Reservoir Street / Corner Mary Street, Surry Hills.**

This event has been a part of the Society's annual grants programme for many years, whereby the finalists each receive \$100 and the NSW winner a \$250 award. The winner then competes nationally, and that winner in the International competition in London.

This is a wonderful example of secondary schools students using the tapestry of the English language to argue specific topics, some of which are selected on the day. In an age of an increasing use of truncated speech and over-use of words such as "like" and "absolutely" these presentations show the wonderful English language and its tapestry at its best. Members are invited to attend and support the programme. No charge is made and it is a refreshing morning that reminds us of the great gift that the English language has given us (and hope in its future).

- b) Patronal Festival St. James' Church King Street Sydney Sunday 26 July at 3.00pm in the company of His Excellency the Governor and other dignitaries.**

This special service includes the dedication of a special plaque in gratitude and memory to Governor Lachlan Macquarie that has been donated by this Branch of the Society and the National Foundation at a cost of \$3,500. It will be placed near the Northern door opposite the plaque to Governor Arthur Phillip. A number of pews have been reserved for our Society and some of the Committee will be included in the dedication process. Refreshments will be served in the courtyard afterwards.

Please consider attending this event which is being made on behalf of our members and it is a fitting tribute to a marvellous Governor at the oldest church in the city. Also, if you could consider making a donation through the Secretariat towards this grant it will be greatly appreciated (the Committee and Southern Highlands have donated \$1000 to date, that is welcomed).

- c) President's Luncheon Wednesday 2 September, Australian Club, 165 Macquarie Street, Macleay Room  
Guest speaker Colonel Sandy MacGregor MC RFD, Limit 50 people.**

This event will be charged out at cost plus a small margin and is focussed on a military event in keeping with the Gallipoli year. Colonel MacGregor was the spearhead of soldiers in Vietnam confronting the terror of unearthing enemy fighters in a series of defensive tunnels. His post-war work involves guidance and support to people with severe mental disabilities particularly depression and post traumatic experiences. A flyer is attached with more details.

- d) AGM and dinner at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron 15 September**

The AGM will be followed by a dinner restricted to 30 people in a private room at the Squadron. Please diarise this event, and fuller details will issue closer to the date.

**e) Last Night of the Proms Chatswood Concourse Concert Hall Sunday 25 October 2.00pm Cost \$45**

This concert is sold out at the box office and we have a small number of tickets left, together with some for the Saturday evening 24 October. This will be a fun afternoon and over 80 members are attending to date with plenty of red, white and blue colours and a programme including all the Albert Hall favourites plus the 1812 overture performed by the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra and choir plus a regional brass band providing the 1812 sound effects. Please contact the Secretariat for tickets at \$45 as soon as possible as the remaining tickets are shortly to be offered to other groups.

**f) Remembrance Day 11 November 11.00am service at St. James' followed by a private room luncheon at the Australian Club**

A flyer will issue closer to the time. The service has been especially constructed for the Society with favourite hymns and readings by our members. The luncheon guest speaker will be reflecting on the World War II issues of Australia's support and the struggle for priorities between Winston Churchill and Robert Menzies to give background to the issues facing us on a wide series of fronts and priorities. Again the special venue is limited to 50 people so please diarise this event.

**g) Christmas Luncheon December**

We will advise the allocated date shortly, and the aim is to reserve a restaurant close to Wynyard at excellent value to members. This will likely be a two-course event of either lamb, pork, schnitzel or schnapper plus salads, followed by Christmas pudding or fruit salads plus tea/coffee. As many of our members do not drink it is more equitable to keep the costs to food and a small margin and let guests buy their own drinks. On this basis we are aiming to provide a good venue and function at around \$45.00. The flyer will enable you to select the type of meal you prefer.

Roast beef is a preferred option but value locations from our testing do not provide the quality meal we would support. Please let the secretariat know if you have favourite spots that can hold up to 70 or more guests.

**h) Nine Carols and Lessons St James' Church Sunday 20 December 7.30pm**

This wonderful evening is a standard calendar item and the service is modelled on the King's College Cambridge service, with various city dignitaries reading the lessons plus well throated singers and one of the best choirs in the city. If you have not attended to date consider this event. Depending upon interest a small party dinner can be arranged afterwards, however the church does usually provide mince pies and drinks in the crypt after the service.

## **2. RECENT EVENTS**

The **Queen's Birthday Dinner** held at the Australian Club in the Members' Dining Room in late May was also an occasion to showcase the Tall Ship awardees, to provide a forum to meet the new Governor, His Excellency General David Hurley and to express our appreciations to Professor Dame Marie Bashir and Sir Nicholas Shehadie with a musical interlude. A full house of almost 150 people attended including some from kindred groups. It is over a decade since we held an evening function. Unsolicited comments were very positive; your feedback on this event is welcomed. If you would like us to continue to provide these early evening events at special venues, please advise the secretariat. Our thanks go to the committee for a well-organised evening.

## **3. SUBSCRIPTIONS**

We are attaching a subscription renewal notice for membership and it would be appreciated if you would send your payment before 15 August – this would help us tremendously! If you are a new member who joined in March of this year or later, there is no need to do anything, as you are financial until 30 June 2016.

## **4. MEMBERS' NEWS**

We are pleased to welcome **Peter Lamb** and **Julia Holland** to the Society, and look forward to seeing them at functions.

We regret to report the passing of **Katherine Saville-Peck**, **Mary Caucino** and **Geoffrey St Maur Mills** and we should like to extend our sincere condolences to their families.

With best wishes,  
*Richard Nott*