



Australia-Britain Society (NSW Branch) Inc

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

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NEWSLETTER JUNE/JULY 2014

No. 02/14

Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to this June 2014 Newsletter as the Society's financial year draws to a close. The year has been a successful one socially and our functions have been pleasant ones with many friendly meetings for our members. The year's full range of operations will be reviewed at the Annual General Meeting in September (details below).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

PLAIN ENGLISH SPEAKING AWARDS – NSW FINAL Friday 25 July 9.30am

The NSW Final of the Plain English Speaking Awards will take place on Friday 25 July at the NSW Teachers Federation Conference Centre at 37 Reservoir Street, Surry Hills. The event will commence at 9:30am and conclude at 12:00pm, after which a light lunch will be served. The PESA final is open to all our members and is free of charge. The Society is one of the sponsors of this competition and presents \$100 to each of the finalists and a further \$250 to the ultimate winner. Why not come along and hear speeches by some of our country's future leaders, who we guarantee will entertain and inspire you with their exceptional talent.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS LITERARY FUNCTION – Friday 25 July 5.30-7.30, Henrietta Rose Room, Bendooley Street, Bowral

The Australian author, Joanna Vink will be speaking about her book, "My dearest Gennie", the story of the author's great-grandfather, Staff Commander John (Jack) Thomas Ewing Gowlland R.N. (1838-74), based on his naval logs and letters to his wife Gennie. A flyer is attached.

LUNCH TO COMMEMORATE THE 200th ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF ADMIRAL ARTHUR PHILLIP - Wednesday 27 August at Strangers' Dining Room, NSW Parliament House, Sydney

As you may already know, there are a number of events taking place, both in England and Australia commemorating the death of Admiral Arthur Phillip, New South Wales' first Governor. The Australia-Britain Society is once again combining with Australians for Constitutional Monarchy to hold a special luncheon, with Mr. Richard Tanner as Speaker. Mr. Tanner is presently Chairman of the Sydney-Portsmouth Sister City Committee and has a special interest in Arthur Phillip and the First Fleet. Please note that the organisers on this occasion are not the Australia-Britain Society, but Australians for Constitutional

Monarchy, and all communications regarding this event should be directed to them, details on the attached flyer.

In addition to the lunch mentioned above, there will be a service commemorating the life of Admiral Arthur Phillip, at St. James' Church, King Street, Sydney on Sunday, 31 August at 3.00pm, during which Her Excellency the Governor will unveil a plaque in his memory.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Tuesday 30 September at 5.30pm at Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, 33 Peel Street, Kirribilli

Please diarise this date and make every endeavour to attend the meeting. Apart from the usual presentation of Reports, including the financial statements, Mr Sam Redward, our Sail Training Award winner for 2014, will present a report of his experiences on his voyage aboard a British Tall Ship earlier this year. He has advised us that his experience on the Tall Ship has been a life-changing one and he deserves a good audience to hear of his “adventures”.

The venue once again will be the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron at Kirribilli. The meeting will commence at approximately 5.30 p.m. and will be followed by a meal in the Squadron's excellent Dining Room. Full details will be issued closer to the date.

JOIN THE CROWD HEADING FOR MITTAGONG ON SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER 2014!

To provide variety in our functions and for something completely different, Committee Members, Mrs Janatha Adams and Mr. David Adams have very generously made available their property just outside Mittagong for an out-of-town family day. It will take the form of a catered luncheon in the grounds of their home and we are planning for exhibits on artistic and other themes. It is intended as a family day so you are invited to bring children AND grandchildren. The Southern Highlands Committee have, of course, been invited to attend and we see this as an excellent opportunity for a combined function for all our members to get together in a social atmosphere. A flyer for the function will be sent to you closer to the date. *But in the meantime, please diarise the date – Sunday 26th October.*

EVENTS PAST

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY LUNCH

This function was held on 16 April, the month of the Queen's actual birthday, at NSW Parliament House. We were delighted that Her Excellency the Governor of NSW accompanied by Sir Nicholas Shehadie were the Guests-of-Honour and Her Excellency gave an memorable address.

We were also pleased to welcome to the luncheon Miss Lucy Burke from Riverside Girls High School, the 2013 NSW Plain English Speaking Award winner. She replicated her winning speech and the standard of it filled all present with a sense of confidence in the future generation.

This particular luncheon was a first for the Australia-Britain Society in that we combined with Australians for a Constitutional Monarchy for the occasion. This worked well and resulted in a quite large attendance from both organisations ably supplemented by members of the Royal Over-Seas League under the leadership of Mrs. Lily Murray. Our Administration Secretary, Mrs Sue Laborus, laboured long and hard on the organisation of this function and we thank also Mr Jai Martinkovits, the Executive Director of ACM, for the organisation of his members and for working in with Sue.

Your Committee has decided that similar combined functions will be considered in the future given the success of this first one in which ABS has participated.

PATRON

We extend our congratulations to our Patron, Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir, Governor of New South Wales, on having had conferred on her the title of Dame in the Queen's Birthday Honours, a title well-deserved.

Further, all good things must come to an end and it is with a tinge of sadness from my viewpoint that Her Excellency, will end her appointment on 1 October. She has performed admirably in the role of the Queen's Representative for this State and she has always been a welcome attendee at the various ABS functions when she has been present. I have been particularly impressed with her range of knowledge on a wide variety of subjects when she has addressed our gatherings, and her pleasant manner has endeared her to all. We thank Dame Marie and Sir Nicholas for their generous support of our Society.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

As we are approaching the end of our financial year, it is now time to renew your membership, and we are sending you with this newsletter a membership renewal form. We request that you pay your dues by 15 August, and if you find it easier, we are accepting electronic payments through your bank. Please note that, if you wish to use this method, it is essential to put the following in the "reference" box in the bank transfer form: "Sub + *your initial and name*" and if possible scan and email us the completed renewal form with the notation "paid by EFT". In the past, we have received one or two payments without this notation, and have not known the identity of the remitter!

NEW MEMBER

We welcome to the Society **Dianne Boardman** and look forward to seeing her at our functions.

COMMITTEE

I repeat here my remarks in previous Newsletters that it is vital that your Society has an adequately-sized Main Committee and breadth of numbers to run our activities. The Committee presently numbers six which makes the organising and running of functions difficult at times. I ask therefore that you consider adding to the Committee numbers and participate in the running of your Society. Please call me on 9871 6869.

Finally, I must mention that, due to the absence of members of the Committee in the UK for the Arthur Phillip functions during July, the office will be unattended and telephone calls therefore cannot be taken. However, emails will for the most part be unaffected. The office will be manned again from 8 August.

With best wishes,

Ken Bock,
President