



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**

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Administration Secretary: Sue Labordus

NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2018

2018.05

1. COMING EVENTS

- a) Annual General Meeting and Silver Service Dinner afterwards at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, 33 Peel Street, Kirribilli on Monday 24 September, 2018 at 5.30pm. Cost: AGM free; Dinner \$60.00 starting at 7.00pm**

Attached are the Agenda and Notice of Meeting including booking form for the AGM and/or dinner, plus proxy and nomination forms for the committee. Thanks to Commander Richard Tighe OAM, we have again secured a private area for an exclusive one-course dinner with drink and coffee for \$60. Parking is available under the club. As you approach the entrance barrier to the car park, press the buzzer and indicate that you are there as Commander Tighe's guest for the dinner and the barrier will allow you entry to the car park. Dress: smart casual with jacket for gentlemen.

We are looking to fill a Committee position to focus on Membership and some promotion of the Society, and the existing committee (of very capable and lovely people) invite you to join them. Formal committee meetings at the Royal Exchange Club are only every three months and supported by email contact. Also, some Committee members cannot attend every meeting due to other time demands so we would welcome further new members to help with management of events, source raffle prizes and any areas of special interest to you. To update the Society programme and plans I have prepared a draft Business Plan (yet to be reviewed by the Committee) and when done, it will provide a background to members and the committee of the Society outlook. Hopefully this can issue to interested members at the AGM or soft copies obtained from the Secretariat upon request (The President's AGM address will outline some of this plan detail).

The AGM has been held at the Royal Yacht Squadron for some years to give members access to what is normally a member-only venue. The numbers attending are fairly small, and we would like some feedback as to whether you would prefer an alternative venue closer to the city and to transport, such as the Royal Exchange Club in the City. If you cannot attend for venue type reasons could you send an email to the Secretariat to help us meet most members' interest in where you like meetings to be held (we have been reluctant to use another location as we may not gain access to the Squadron easily on an ad hoc basis), hence our request for your feedback.

This year we have had two Tall Ships awardees due to the inseparability of the nomination finalists standards, and both of them, namely **Luxmi Selvakumaran** and **Emma Johnson** will be at the AGM

conclusion to give members a short summary of these amazing experiences and answer any questions you may have.

The Tall Ships awards have been the Society's primary grants programme for 22 years and all the alumni awardees have gone on to great progress in industry, and many have continued their introduction into this unique aspect of team sailing to amazing heights. This is a chance for our members to see how the current programme is faring from a report by Commander Tighe OAM and the two awardees.

- b) Remembrance Day service St. James' Church King Street Sydney 10.45am on Sunday 11th November will be part of the Choral Matins service.**

Details will be sent closer to the date. Attendance at the service is free beyond a normal church collection. Closer to the date we will advise whether a local venue will be available for a small casual luncheon.

- c) Christmas Luncheon at the Union, University and Schools Club, Bent Street, Sydney NSW. Either Wednesday 14 November or Wednesday 21 November (subject to guest of honour availability)**

This event will be along similar lines to the popular event last year with Mrs. Diana Fisher speaking about Royal Weddings and include a Christmas fare menu, entertainment and hopefully a prominent guest of honour, rounded off with some robust carol singing. Flyer will issue with details in October.

- d) Service of Nine Carols and Lessons at St. James' Church King Street Sydney (usually held on the Sunday before Christmas) and this year on Sunday 23 December at 7.30pm followed by drinks in the crypt.**

Admission free beyond a normal church collection, and dress casual. This service is modelled on the King's College Cambridge service and involves city dignitaries reading the lessons supported by one of Sydney's finest choirs.

- e) Australia Day Harbour Cruise Saturday 26 January, 2019**

A limited number of seats may be available for members to join a Circular Quay cruise from mid-morning including drinks and luncheon. Details will issue closer to the date. This was supplemented this year with a public offering vessel from King Street but feedback suggests that the vessel was crowded and noisy despite being a cheaper offering than the Circular Quay sailings so we will not be pursuing this for next year.

2. RECENT EVENTS

Last Night of the Proms

This was held at Chatswood Concourse on both Saturday evening 18 August and Sunday matinée 19 August where over 90 members and guests joined in the fun and flag waving led by Sue Labordus and your President on stage with the large chorus and orchestra getting the full house of guests on their feet to Rule Britannia !

The tickets were obtained immediately after subscribers and we had access to the best public seats and slightly cheaper than subscribers costs and \$3 lower than box office sales. The New South Wales Government has introduced from this financial year a maximum load to re-sold tickets of 10% meaning the price for next year will be much the same at \$47.00. If you have not attended and miss the Royal Albert Hall offerings this concert is as good as it gets in Sydney and half the price of the comparable Opera House

event. It will be held on 24th and 25th August next year (please mark your diaries!) and if you are not on a European summer holiday do come along and have two hours of musical fun. This year we had five tickets left and these were replaced at no extra charge for a Christmas concert that will be offered as raffle prizes at the Christmas luncheon.

3. NEW MEMBERS

We have pleasure in welcoming the following members to our Society, and look forward to seeing them at future functions:-

. **Arthur Winckler** . **Sandy Lamb** . **Jennifer Cowham** . **Jan Clement**
. **Christine Walsh** . **Ann & Peter Parsons**

4. MEMBERSHIP

Begging bowl time again! Many members are life members who joined decades ago at a time when interest rates were around 15%, bringing in good returns for the Society on these investments. Alas, with rates so low now, we really do not now earn much at all and this puts pressure on keeping annual renewals low as we have for many years, recognising that a lot of members are retired and on fixed incomes. If you can see your way to send us a small donation or re-join if you are an annual subscriber, it will be appreciated, as we aim to keep costs as low as we can.

Thank you for supporting this Society. Your Committee are a wonderful group of people who try hard to provide enjoyable events and your feedback is welcomed to enable us to “get it right” most of the time to everyone’s contentment and conviviality.

With continuing best wishes,

Richard Nott

STOP PRESS

We have just received from Professor David Flint, ACM National Convenor and Spectator Australia contributor, an invitation for our members to attend The Spectator Anglo-Australian Forum on the future of Australian-British relations in the post-Brexit world. This is to be held in Sydney on Friday 7 September 2018 at 8.00am-1.00pm at Pier One, Sydney Harbour. Hosted by the UK editor of The Spectator, Andrew Neil, keynote speakers will be Tony Abbott and the former leader of UKIP, Nigel Farage, who is touring Australia. For ABS members who are on computer, book now at: www.spectator.com.au/forum. Tickets are priced at \$42.75, or \$32.21 for Spectator subscribers.