



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) and The Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2015

ABN 75368639375

Postal Address: PO Box 647, Gordon NSW 2072

Phone: 02-9449-7532 / Email: absociety@idx.com.au / Website: ausbrit.org

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

**Branch President: Richard Nott, AM
Email: richardnott1942@gmail.com**

**Hon. Sec.: David Adams, LL.B
Email: ravesmarsh@msn.com.au**

Administration Secretary: Sue Labordus

NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER, 2018

2018.06

1. COMING EVENTS

- a) Southern Highlands branch: Presentation by Anna Martin Beaumont from The Sir David Martin Foundation speaking on “Safety, hope and Opportunity for all Young Australians”. Friday 9 November 5.30-7.30pm at CWA, 40 Wingecarribee Street, Bowral, Cost \$25 pp, which includes refreshments and canapés. Dress smart casual.**

A flyer is enclosed, and should you feel like motoring down to Bowral for this event (and perhaps staying the weekend and enjoying the wonderful Spring blossoms and tulips). These events in the Highlands are wonderful, intimate local occasions where most of the guests are well known to each other and these are happy convivial gatherings with more than interesting guest speakers.

- b) Remembrance Day Service St. James’ Church King Street Sunday 11 November at 10.45am. Entrance free (there will be a collection)**

This service on a Sunday this year will be embraced into the Choral Matins service with special hymns and the Ode, and lessons read by Society members. It is the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I and a significant anniversary to the end of hostilities and remembering the dead, injured and shell-shocked survivors and the families all impacted by such a terrible event.

- c) Christmas Luncheon Wednesday 21 November from Noon until 4.00pm at Union, University and Schools Club, Bent Street Sydney, Dress jacket and tie. Cost members \$110, Guests \$115 with traditional Christmas fare two-course luncheon, drinks, entertainment, carols, raffle, lucky seat prizes. Guest of Honour: Michael Ward, British Consul-General**

This event will be similar to the popular one we held last year, with a traditional hot Christmas luncheon of turkey and pudding, On this occasion we will welcome Michael Ward, British Consul-General, who will be updating members on the current trends and relationship between Britain and Australia plus the role of the British Consulate in Sydney. Ken Bock will lead a short bracket of carols and will be joined by one of Australia’s best concert pianist and accompanists John Martin, plus a mystery singer who will help you relax with a bracket of jazz and well-known musical comedy songs. Our collegiate friends from Australians for Constitutional Monarchy and Friends of St. George’s and Descendants of the Knights of the Garter will be joining us to swell the ranks for an afternoon where members can catch up and celebrate the event with

friends and enjoy the fellowship of the day. A flyer is enclosed. (Please note the menu and advise in your booking of any special dietary needs)

d) Service of Nine Carols and Lessons at St. James' Church King Street Sunday 23 December at 7.30pm followed by drinks and mince pies in the crypt.

Admission free beyond 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 and organ. Special pews are reserved for our members and this is a popular traditional evening at Christmastide.

e) Australia Day Harbour Cruise

This event has proved to be a difficult one to provide a balance between cost and quality of the offering. The King Street glass boat this year was good value, but packed and there were difficulties in boarding, plus a lot of noise. The Circular Quay boat hired by the Order of Australia Association is no longer taking bookings from other groups (mainly due to administrative issues) and its price will increase to \$130 a head in 2019 for a two-hour cruise that may stretch some members' budgets and liking. Also its members are limited to bringing five guests that effectively limits our ability to house our members. For us to hire a pleasant vessel it is difficult as it requires us to guarantee at least 100 people take-up to recover the hire costs that we do not wish to incur as attendances in the past have usually capped at around 60 members and friends. For 2020 we will investigate hiring a smaller vessel, however these hires usually roll over from one year to the next and a difficult market to break into and still offer a reasonable price outing.

Alternative land venues with water views are expensive hires due to double-time public holiday labour rates and hence lack of demand from members. A long time has passed since the heady days we enjoyed at the American Club in Macquarie Street! This land option will be pursued as well for 2020. A few years ago, the Kirribilli Club overlooking the harbour was reserved for us in a special room to avoid the general crammed public gallery noise but meant limited access to harbour views and members did not enjoy the offering. The option will be reviewed again but the day is generally a boisterous one at reasonably priced venues. Another alternative is to try to reserve an open picnic type area subject to weather vagaries and outside most senior member interests. Your views on this are welcomed as it is a great day to be out and about even for a few hours and we will continue to try and capture a location that the majority like.

f) February luncheon with special guest Dr. Brendan Nelson, Director of the Australian War Memorial (date to be selected by Dr. Nelson) and the Union University and Schools Club main dining room has been secured for Tuesday-Thursday inclusive for the whole of February, to meet Dr. Nelson's itinerary. Dress: jacket, tie and decorations. Cost \$110 members guests \$115. Two-course luncheon, drinks, lucky seat prizes, raffle, entertainment. Noon until 3.30pm

A flyer will be sent closer to the date when known, however we are giving advance notice due to the special nature of this event. Dr. Nelson is one of Australia's most emphatic and sought-after speakers whom we have been seeking to secure for two years. His subject on the current development and challenges at the Australian War Memorial will be his address focus with a general military theme for the afternoon with special poem readings, and entertainment of songs from both World Wars including "Roses of Picardy", and Vera Lynn favourites "We'll Meet Again" and "A Nightingale sang in Berkeley Square", with guest participation led by a concert pianist and emerging singing star of opera and stage.

Additionally, we intend to donate a special item to the War Memorial, a limited edition print of the "First Flight of the Spitfire", beautifully mounted and framed, signed by Jeffrey Quill the test pilot, Mitchell's Supermarine designers and Rolls Royce engineers. These prints were made in 1978 to fund the launch of the Battle of Britain museum at Hendon, London, and only three copies are known to exist in Australia. This print will be on display during the luncheon.

This is a red-letter day event and we encourage you to join us in one of the most emphatic addresses on the calendar from a great Australian.

2. RECENT EVENTS

a) Annual General Meeting

“Should we call the meeting to order, or let them enjoy themselves awhile longer?” - Anon (supplied by Tom Jackson)

Our thanks to Vice President, Commander Richard Tighe, OAM, RFD, RD, for making the Royal Yacht Squadron available for the meeting and a private room silver service dining room for the 32 members, friends and Tall ships awardees and families who attended.

Thirty-three members attended the meeting and seven apologies were received. The following members were re-elected unopposed to the positions:

Richard Nott AM	President
David Adams	Deputy President and Secretary
Commander Richard Tighe, OAM, RFD, RD	Vice President and Tall Ships Co-ordination
Ken Bock, OAM	Treasurer
Sue Labordus	Administration Secretary
Janatha Adams	
Catherine Barker, OAM	
Diana Rich	
Philippa Armfield	

Our thanks were extended to our Honorary Auditor, Ian Jagger, who was re-elected for the coming year.

The Southern Highlands sub-committee were re-affirmed:

Malcolm Stephens CB	Co-Ordinator
Sue Hawick AM	Treasurer
Jan Bell	Secretary
Lynette Stephens	
Barry Todd	

A special thanks was extended to our “shadow” committees who assist with the following functions as follows:

a) Tall ships Evaluation committee and Tall Ships Alumni group:

Alix Miller, Meredith Rundle, Martin Radunz

b) Raffle ticket sale assistance and votes of thanks proposals:

Andrea Havers, Carole Osborne, Tom Jackson, Geoff McIntyre AM, Professor David Flint AM

An Annual Report was prepared by Sue Labordus and hard copies issued to the members present with copies sent as well to our Patron His Excellency the Governor and the NSW Public Library, plus to significant donors. The report was posted also on the Society website that members and the general public can access at **www.ausbrit.org**

The President’s address acknowledged the support of the committee and vacancies for members who wish to join this group to consider helping with membership data, promotion and some advertising. Also, to

supplement the Annual Report, a Strategic and operational review was produced and available upon request to members that gives a summary of the Society history, its challenges and focus going forward.

It was noted that through the Friends of St. George's and Descendants of the Knights of the Garter, Buckingham Palace has supported visiting Royals to Sydney and Melbourne considering affording time for them to meet at luncheons or dinners with members principally to raise funds to support the maintenance of St. George's Chapel Windsor, with some surplus sharing with this Society that would manage the occasion. This has yet to eventuate but a positive example of how function sharing can work to the benefit of the various organisations with kindred members.

Our two Tall Ships awardees, Luxmi Selvakumaran and Emma Johnson, spoke of their experiences after the meeting backed by a sound and slide show, that was well enjoyed and followed by a lot of member questions. Alix Miller, a past Tall ships awardee made presentations of Certificates of Appreciation and Achievement to both Luxmi and Emma.

c) Marconi 100th anniversary of first wireless message to Australia on 22 September at Wahroonga

This was an important occasion, and whilst not a Society event, there were a number of past Presidents and members present including your current President making a short address on the acorn of change that became the seed of continuous development in the course of communication, bringing Australia into the instantaneous world of contact from this initial message from Wales to Wahroonga received by Sir Ernest Fisk, founder of AWA. The area around the monument to Fisk was closed to traffic and an extensive record of the event was on display at St Andrew's Church hall. A more descriptive record, written by Malcolm Longstaff OAM, former Society President is attached, that I am sure you will find of interest.

d) Invictus Games

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex are currently in Australia for the Invictus Games, and on Friday Prince Harry and the Prime Minister raised an Invictus Games flag on the Harbour Bridge. In the evening, the British team and families were welcomed to Sydney by the British High Commissioner at the Museum of Contemporary Art. Richard Nott and Sue Labordus represented the Society.

e) British Film Festival - 23 October to 14 November. Palace Cinemas

This Festival features some of the most eagerly anticipated British films of the year, including powerful true stories, literary adaptations and biographies and modern classics starring some of Britain's best-known and beloved stars. In addition to the latest films, this year's festival features a suite of films from the Swinging 60's with a spotlight on Michael Caine. For those on email, go to www.britishfilmfestival.com.au for more information.

f) Subscriptions

Thank you to those members who have renewed or to Life Members who have sent us donations. Also, by your attendance at events, apart from hopefully enjoying yourselves, you are enabling us to keep membership fees low and to provide some facility to provide grants and maintain our status as a Not For Profit charity. Our focus is always on engendering occasions that perpetuate and enhance our traditional British links and promote our young people in furthering those links through Tall Ships challenges, Plain English Speaking and providing opportunities to those in the performing arts. You are an important part of what we believe is more than a worthwhile organisation, and the Committee thanks you for your fellowship and endorsement of what we aim to sustain here in greater Sydney.

Continuing best wishes,

Richard Nott