



AUSTRALIA-BRITAIN SOCIETY (ACT) Inc.

The ACT Branch is wholly free of party political connections and in a spirit of traditional friendship, maintains, encourages and strengthens the numerous links between the two countries. These include history, language and literature, culture, education and sport. We emphasise the role of youth in supporting a modern and evolving relationship between Australia and Britain.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

ACT ABS members do enjoy our social functions and we look forward to welcoming new members! However, within our limited budget, the Committee either supports national ABS projects or fully funds its own. So, for your information, below are listed our present projects, in no order of priority.

PESA (Plain English Speaking Award)

This is an annual competition of high standard held in secondary schools and colleges. The winner of an elimination competition in the ACT goes on to represent the Territory in the national finals, held in rotation in capital cities, Canberra hosted it in 2001 and 2007. The winner of the national competition then competes in the international finals in the UK. Committee member Mrs Ann Sutton has done a wonderful job for many years organising the ACT competition and escorting the ACT winner to the national finals. Our Branch funds PESA in the ACT.

YOUNG ENDEAVOUR

Every year, the Branch provides the funding to a young ACT person to experience being a crewmember of the *Endeavour Replica* during separate ten-day voyages between two Australian ports. This tall ship was a present from Britain to Australia and a passage on it teaches leadership and self reliance. While this is not a cheap project, we believe it to be worthwhile and very exciting for the lucky winners.

ACADEMIC AND MUSICIANSHIP PRIZES

ABS (ACT) awards an annual prize for excellence to an ANU **History Honours** student. This Prize assists the winner to undertake further studies. Until recently scholarship was awarded to the top ANU Voice student for travel and experience in England.



AUSTRALIA-BRITAIN SOCIETY IN AUSTRALIA

The Society was founded in 1971 with a charter to maintain and enhance the traditional links between the two countries as well as the numerous less formal associations.

The Society is a non-political organisation and does not involve itself in the issues of the proposed Australian republic nor suggested changes to the national flag.

Branches of the Society exist in most States and Territories and there is a London-based associated organisation, the Britain-Australia Society, with which contact is maintained.

Through the Australia-Britain Society Foundation, which is listed on the Commonwealth Register of Cultural Organisations, and through the Branches of the Society, a yearly program of sponsorships and awards is conducted. These activities reflect the Society's belief that youth has a strong role to play in the evolving Australia-Britain relationship and must be supported.

The Society acknowledged that the Centenary of Australian Federation presented a significant opportunity to focus on this flourishing relationship and the adoption of *Magna Carta Monument and Place* in Canberra was a key initiative in the Society's contribution to the Centenary. The area is a semi-circular one-

hectare site to the west of Old Parliament House. The Society, in conjunction with the National Capital Authority, conducted an international public competition for design proposals and the winning design and development of the area cost \$900,000.

- The monument consists of a bronze domed pavilion backed by a granite wall. Two long etched murals display a description of historic political events that led to the emergence of Magna Carta in England and later to the development of legislation and civil rights in Australia. The murals are given relevance by a display of texts, set in the curved section of the wall and in the pavilion.
- A time capsule to be opened in 2101 is buried under the pavilion in the centre of the monument. Prime Minister John Howard unveiled Magna Carta Monument on 26 September 2001.
- The area is a public place where Australians and visitors alike, are able to relax and reflect on Australia's "Freedom under Law", which through its British associations derives from the Magna Carta over 700 years ago. Apart from the Chairman, the Magna Carta Committee was composed of members of the Canberra Branch who worked hard and long to successfully conclude this project.

In Britain, significant ceremonies were held in 2000 to celebrate the granting of Royal Assent to the British Parliament's *Commonwealth of Australia Act, 1900*. Our Society jointly with the Britain-Australia Society sponsored a scheme whereby a young Australian was selected to represent the youth of this country in Britain on this important anniversary.



THE AUSTRALIA-BRITAIN SOCIETY (ACT) INC.
ABN 78 141 054 261

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APPLICATION FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP 2019

Annual Membership Family @ \$60 Single @ \$35 **(please circle membership category)**
OR Life Membership a \$500 once only payment

Name of Applicant(s) (BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)

	<i>Title</i>	<i>Given Name</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Decorations</i>
1.				
2.				
3.				

Email Address
.....

Mailing Address
.....

.....State.....Postcode.....

Telephone: Home: Business: Mobile:

Signature: Date:

OR

Cheques payable to *Australia Britain Society(ACT) Inc.*

Direct Credit:

Please return form and any cheques to:

BSB: 833-205
Account: 20539328
Description/Text: Surname, initial(s)and AGM

**Hon Secretary
Australia-Britain Society (ACT) Inc
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Please send email details to: a.jutton@netspeed.com.au