



Australia-Britain Society (NSW Branch) Inc

(Incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act, 1984(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

NEWSLETTER MAY 2018

2018. 03

1. COMING EVENTS

- a) Queen's Birthday Dinner, Wednesday 27 June, 2018 from 6.00pm at Australian Club, 165 Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW. Dress Black tie, decorations. Hosts Richard Nott and David Flint. Cost \$125 members and guests includes two-course dinner, starter and meal drinks, entertainment. A raffle will be held.**

A flyer is attached with more details. Please note that the club has limited this private dining room to 130 attendees to avoid crowding and bookings will be on a first-come basis. It will be held in conjunction with our collegiate friends, Australians for Constitutional Monarchy, Friends of St. George's and Descendants of the Knights of the Garter, The Cook Society and Royal Society of St. George.

His Excellency the Governor and Mrs. Hurley will be our guests of honour, who will arrive around 6.20pm to meet as many guests as possible before the dinner that starts at 7.00pm. Free parking is available in the club garage under the club entrance from Bent Street after 6.00pm.

The focus this year is on Her Majesty's birthday, the end of World War I, and a celebration of St. George's Day usually held on 23 April but incorporated with this event to avoid conflicts with Anzac Day and Easter. There will be the Loyal Toast, plus a celebratory toast to HRH Prince Harry and his bride, Ms. Meghan Markle, and to St. George the Patron Saint of England.

A lament "Death Shall Have No Dominion" by Dylan Thomas will be read and followed by a melody based on Burns' poem "Ae Fond Kiss" played by our concert pianist and the last two verses by one of Sydney's finest pipers, James Bruce.

One of the finalists in the NSW State Plain Speaking Awards, Tom Hodgson of Scots College, will display his linguistic and oratory skills in replicating his address in the finals. Each of these six finalists receives a \$100 encouragement award and the State winner a further \$250 grant. This winner then competes in the National awards and that winner in the global finals held in London. This address will reassure you that the elucidation of argument, wit, and wisdom is alive and well despite the truncated use of language and its active replacement by technology communication. Long live the great gift to Australia of the mighty English language!

The entertainment section of the evening includes a focus on the legacy of the British cinema in the 1940's with our concert pianist Glenn Amer playing "The Dream of Olwen", "Cornish Rhapsody" and "Warsaw Concerto", all British melodies inspiring great British cinema. Two aspiring musical talents will join the evening; Ayako Ohtake, soprano, and Barbara Jin, mezzo soprano, each of whom will sing an aria and a duet from "Lakmé" finishing with an audience participative well-known melody. The raffle will provide some surplus funds to support as well our grants to the Tall Ships awards, and the recipients this year, Luxmi Selvakumaran and Emma Johnson, will be with us for the evening. This event is the Society flagship occasion and we encourage you to attend with friends for a marvellous evening.

Please note that the Secretariat will not be manned from 1 June until 17 June due to overseas travel, hence our encouragement for you to book by 28 May to enable seating plans and attendance levels to be done. Thanks for your help to this end.

b) Last Night of the Proms Saturday 18 August 7.00pm and Sunday 19 August 2.00pm at Chatswood Concourse concert hall, cost \$47.00. Flyer attached.

We have 100 seats for this rollicking event, most of which are for the Sunday afternoon with either stalls or box seating options. These concerts are sell-out events so please consider coming, and order tickets for you and your friends as soon as you can. Our committee of frustrated conductors will be located throughout the hall to lead the flag waving for the traditional Albert Hall standards, "Jerusalem", "Land of Hope and Glory" and surprise musical treats led by conductor Dr. Nicholas Milton AM.

The Concourse is easily accessed by a 5-minute walk from the train station and parking is available under the building for a modest charge. Also, numerous restaurants are nearby so you may wish to consider a luncheon group before the event.

c) Plain English Speaking NSW Finals Friday 6 July from 9.30am to noon at NSW Teachers Federation Conference Centre, 37 Reservoir St, Surry Hills. Admission free. Dress casual

This event with six finalists from New South Wales secondary schools presenting a nine-minute standard subject argument followed by an impromptu 3-minute address, both to demonstrate their ability to paint argument, inspiration, passion, humour and belief via the wonderful English language. This is a delightful morning, with schools and relatives supporting the event. With the volume of language being impacted by SMS and technology, it is reassuring to note that the wonderful gift to us from Britain and the world is the English language, marvellously demonstrated by students in the final years of their secondary education. The location is but a five to ten minute walk from Central railway underground.

d) Annual General Meeting, Tall Ships presentations, and silver service dinner on Monday 24 September from 5.30pm and dinner following. Venue to be confirmed closer to the date and will be either the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, Kirribilli or the Royal Exchange Club, Gresham Street Sydney.

e) Christmas luncheon Booked for either 14th or 21st November subject to our mystery guest availability. Venue UUSC in Bent Street from noon.

f) Nine Carols and Lessons St. James' Church King Street, Sydney at 7.30pm Sunday 16 December

g) Australia Day Cruise Saturday 26 January, 2019. Moving from either Circular Quay or King Street wharves (to be confirmed)

2. Royal wedding HRH Prince Harry and Ms. Meghan Markle, St. George's Chapel Windsor, UK on 19 May. Black tie Australian celebratory dinner at Four Seasons Hotel, 199 George Street, Sydney from 6.30pm until late on Saturday evening cost \$280.00 pp. Dress: Black tie

This spectacular evening event with television link to Windsor is being hosted by the Australian-British Chamber of Commerce, and a flyer is attached for members on email for this event, to which all members of the Australia-Britain Society are invited. Please reply as per the details on the flyer as this event is not organised by this Society but we certainly appreciate the opportunity to bring this occasion to our members' attention. For those of our members not on email, direct enquiries to Jennifer Cramond of the Australian-British Chamber of Commerce on 9247-6271.

3. PASSINGS

We regret to advise the recent sudden death of Bill Galvin OAM, former National President of the Order of Australia Association, and generous supporter of this Society's events. Our sympathies are extended to his family and friends.

4. SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please check with the secretariat, tel. 9449-7532 or on absociety@idx.com.au, if you are unsure as to the status of your membership subscription as we do have fixed costs in running the Society, particularly insurances, mail, printing and administrative overheads. The membership fees are well below what comparable groups charge and recognising that many members are now retired we aim to keep these as low as we can. Also we have a large component of life members. The fees for this now obsolete category is a peppercorn payment considering that we relied on high interest rates to show some earnings on fees that now attract virtually nothing to defray costs. If you could make a donation to assist keeping these charges constant, there is provision on the event flyers to do so. Our thanks.

5. EVENT PLANNING

We are taking an Oliver Twist approach ("I want some more") towards getting more international and well-known popular identities as event special guests. This requires constant work and some salesmanship in getting their attendances, some of whom are booked well ahead and subject to late non availability. This access intelligence aims as well to secure some visiting royal personalities, plus British entertainers. An example of these potential guests includes Dr. Brendan Nelson, Curator of the Australian War Memorial. Some occasions with these types of guests may mean we can give short time frames for such events but add some popularity and colour to our events as we have seen with the recent lunches with Mrs. Diana Fisher and Mrs. Hilary Kay. If you have any contacts to facilitate the expansion of contacts please ring Richard Nott on 0439944926.

Thank you for support of this Society and to the Committee for its ongoing help.

With continuing best wishes,

Richard Nott