



Australia-Britain Society (NSW Branch) Inc

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

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NEWSLETTER AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2012

No. 04/12

1. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- a) **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday 25 September at Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, 33 Peel Street, Kirribilli at 5.30pm. AGM in Kirribilli Room, followed by dinner in Sirius Cove Room at 6.45pm**

Your Committee has selected this venue because of its excellent setting on the harbour and hopes members will find it attractive and a pleasant experience. The meeting will of course include the usual items presented at an annual general meeting – a report from me as President on our year's activities, the financial statements plus reports on our other activities. Our Tall Ships award winner, Sarah Rowsell, will present a report on her participation in the sailing events during the year. Following the meeting a dinner for up to 30 people will take place in one of the Squadron's very elegant dining rooms. Please see the flyer accompanying this Newsletter for full details.

The important thing is – please attend the meeting so you can be informed on your Society's activities and what your Committee has been doing.

- b) **SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS FUNCTION: Saturday 6 October commencing at 11.30am – Visit to Frensham Girls' Boarding School; picnic lunch with drinks provided; Cost: \$25**

Accompanying this newsletter is a flyer prepared by the Southern Highlands Committee about a function that they are conducting on 6th October. Spring is a beautiful time of year in the Southern Highlands, and it should prove to be a very pleasant day. Please support our Highlands members in their activities and endeavour to attend. A map of the campus will be sent to those who book.

- e) **REMEMBRANCE DAY SUNDAY 11 NOVEMBER AT 11.00am**

This year the remembrance event occurs on a Sunday and we will be participating in one of the regular Sunday morning services at St. James Church, King Street. The Rector, the Reverend Andrew Sempell, has kindly allowed us some participation in the service.

Following the service, there will be a lunch at the Sir Stamford Hotel in Macquarie Street. Those who attended the Queen's Birthday Lunch this year will remember this venue, its attractive décor and excellent service by their staff. We have arranged for the lunch to be held in a private room and your Committee is sure that you will enjoy the atmosphere it will provide. We have arranged for new member, John David Olsen, to speak about Winston Churchill and his influence on events in World War II. Details are being worked on and we will advise you in our next Newsletter but in the meantime, do diarise this function.

4. RECENT EVENTS

a) PLAIN ENGLISH SPEAKING AWARDS

During July, members of your committee attended the finals of the Schools Plain English Speaking competition held under the patronage of the Sydney Morning Herald, the English Speaking Union, and the Australia-Britain Society. The standard of the speeches was, as usual, excellent, and it was quite thrilling to hear the young people speaking knowledgeably on complex topics in the news and with such authority. There were six finalists who were required to give eight-minute prepared speeches and later, a three-minute impromptu speech on a topic on which they were given three minutes' notice!

The winner was Isabel Crawford from Smiths Hill High School. It was pleasing to hear that subsequently Isabel won the national competition in Brisbane and will now represent Australia at the World competition in Britain.

Isabel will be invited to replicate her speech at our Queen's Birthday Lunch in 2013.

b) AFTERNOON TEA AT GAIL WHITE'S HOUSE

A total of ten people attended this sumptuous afternoon tea, and thanks go out to Gail for her very kind hospitality. The group was small and intimate enough to allow all present to join in the conversation, and a good time was had by all.

5. ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME

Your Committee has been in discussion with the British Chamber of Commerce by way of exploring possible additional activities for A-B members. We will be able to make available access to the Chamber's activities and we will soon commence regular advice to A-B members of the dates and locations of the Chamber's activities. We hope to present the first advice of these with our next newsletter.

6. NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome **John David Olsen** and **Melissa Anne Perry** as new members to our Society, and look forward to seeing them at our functions.

With best wishes,

Ken Bock,
President