



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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NEWSLETTER APRIL/MAY 2013

No. 02/13

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this Newsletter from the Australia-Britain Society.

1. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

a) Queen's Birthday Luncheon at Members' Dining Room, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney, Friday 14th June at 12.00 for 12.30pm

Your Committee is aware that many members enjoy having these lunches at the NSW Parliament House. For this year, we have been able to obtain the use of the Members' Dining Room which has a capacity of 80. The lunch will be held on Friday 14th June and our Parliamentary Host will be the Hon Jillian Skinner, the Minister for Health. Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir, the Governor of NSW and Sir Nicholas Shehadie have accepted our invitation to be in attendance.

We have also invited Isabel Crawford, the State winner for 2012 of the Plain English Speaking Award to attend and replicate her winning speech. Your Society has supported this event for some years and it is an excellent way of encouraging the development of young people. We hope to have in attendance also the Tall Ships Award winners for 2013, Jo Garsia and Peita McGoogan so members may meet them.

A flyer for this function is attached setting out the full details and arrangements for the Lunch.

b) OTHER EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Annual General Meeting Tuesday 24th September

Last year's meeting was held at the Royal Yacht Squadron at Kirribilli and proved most successful by those who attended. Your Committee has therefore decided to use this venue again. As was the case last year, we will have a one-course dinner at the conclusion of the formal meeting at which members may fraternise and generally enjoy themselves.

Remembrance Day Service and Lunch Monday 11th November

Further details of the above two events will be advised at a later date.

2. RECENT EVENTS

Young Endeavour Luncheon

The Annual Luncheon aboard Young Endeavour was held on 7 March 2013. The Guest of Honour was the Commander Australian Fleet RADM T.W. Barrett AM CSC RAN, who presented certificates to our Tall Ships Award winners, Jo Garsia and Peita McGoogan. It was a fitting occasion to farewell Jo Garsia who departed for the United Kingdom on 31 March 2013 to join the British Tall Ship *Tenacious*, sailing from Gibraltar to the Azores to Southampton, a voyage of some 32 days' duration.

It was a beautiful autumn day and a very successful occasion for those attending, including family members of both Award winners with an enjoyable finger food luncheon provided by our caterer. The only downside was the relatively poor attendance by members with only fourteen participating. As this is a signature event for the Tall Ships Award Program, the Society's major sponsorship of the year, members are encouraged to give their support to this function in future years.

We are indebted to the Executive Director, Young Endeavour Youth Scheme, CMDR Steve Moss and the Commanding Officer of Young Endeavour LCDR Michael Gough for enabling us to hold the luncheon on board.

3. OTHER MATTERS

Afternoon Teas

In previous Newsletters we have floated the idea, following a suggestion from a member, that there may be members who would like to meet up in an informal atmosphere in a private home so as to have a chat and a cuppa and enjoy themselves in this way as an alternative to the larger functions we conduct. If you would be willing to make your home available and host such an afternoon tea, please telephone our Administration Secretary, Sue Labordus, on 9449 7532 and speak to her about it. Details will then be published in the first available newsletter.

Functions

Your Committee is concerned that we should consider a wider range of functions to entertain members and maintain their interest in the Society. If you have a suggestion for a type of function, please let me (phone 9871 6869) or Sue Labordus know and we can discuss your ideas,

Finances

I should like to bring before you your Society's current financial situation. At our Annual General Meeting last September, in presenting the financial statements for adoption, I observed that the organisation was in a good financial position with a healthy cash balance. This continues to be so, but our operations for the year to date have resulted in a deficit of slightly over \$4,000. A major cause of this has been the reduced patronage by members at our functions and consequently this has restricted the proceeds from raffles at those functions. This year, your Committee decided to sponsor an additional excellent candidate in the Tall Ships Award program, on a voyage from Sydney to Auckland in the British tall ship, Lord Nelson, on her round-the-world voyage. Absorbing most of the cost of this in the current year's expenditure has added to the current situation.

In these circumstances, I invite you to consider making a one-off donation to the Society's funds to help us at least break even for the year. We also seek your patronage of our annual Queen's Birthday Luncheon (details above) with the aim of generating a surplus from that function. Please give this your serious consideration.

I conclude this Newsletter with my usual request – your Society will continue into the future only if we have a good-sized membership base. Please consider nominating a friend or colleague for membership.

With best wishes,
Ken Bock,
President