



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

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NEWSLETTER JULY, 2018

2018.04

1. COMING EVENTS

- a) LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS Saturday evening 18 August 7.00pm and Sunday afternoon 19 August 2.00pm at Chatswood Concourse. Cost \$47.00. Parking underneath concert hall or short walk from railway and bus at door.**

The Box Office charge for this popular event is the same price plus booking fee. We acquired 100 tickets early and the best seats available in stalls and boxes that can be selected on application. Flyer attached.

This event is an annual sell-out and half the price of similar Opera House concerts, with the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra and Symphony Choir covering a wide range of stirring items plus crowd participative items typical at the Albert Hall and many guests dressing up in red, white and blue, with your committee in these colours on stage waving the flags during “Jerusalem” and “Land of Hope and Glory”. Do come along and enjoy this two hours of fun. Consider getting a group together for a pre-concert luncheon at one of the restaurants in the concourse area.

Last year Richard Nott’s flag waving was too robust and the flagpole top flew off and bowled out the third violinist (maybe he should stand for the Australian cricket team) and he has been banned to the front row. Plenty of afternoon fun and wearing of wild British flavoured jackets and bow ties.

- b) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Monday 24 September at 5.30pm at the Royal Yacht Squadron Kirribilli, followed by a silver service one-course dinner at 7.00pm. Parking underneath the Squadron, or take a ferry from Circular Quay to Kirribilli wharf**

Thank you for supporting this event that does involve formality but it is your open chance to discuss the future of the Society and to hear a report from our current Tall Ships awardees. Also, we are interested in your feedback on the venue location and value of the dinner as to whether we seek an alternative venue to provide variety and good value close to the city such as the Royal Exchange Club, five minutes from Wynyard station. Your committee are members of a range of city clubs and these can be made accessible to our members through them that is a unique option for our members.

- c) **REMEMBRANCE DAY service Sunday 11 November at 11.00am will be a part of the Sunday Morning Prayer service with British focussed military hymns and members reading the lessons and ode.**

- d) **CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON will be held during a mid-month date in November and fixed when our mystery guest speaker is confirmed. This luncheon will be held at the Union, University and Schools Club, Bent Street Sydney from noon and will include a few carols and a raffle.**

2. RECENT EVENTS

The **Queen's Birthday Dinner** was held on 27 June this year, due to His Excellency being unavailable during our usual preferred May date. This mid-winter event took its toll with seasonal 'flu and other illnesses but over 100 guests from this Society, Australians for Constitutional Monarchy, The Cook Society, and Friends of St. George's and Descendants of the Knights of the Garter enjoyed the proceedings. His Excellency's erudite address was supported by Tom Hodgson from Scots College replicating his address at the finals of the Plain English Speaking Awards on "The Threat to Free Speech". The entertainment sector was under the direction of our dear concert pianist friend Glenn Amer who travelled from Bowral to play two tributes to melodies from British cinema in the 1940's, along with two emerging stars of the operatic stage, Ayako Ohtake and Barbara Jin, singing favourites, and James Bruce, one of Sydney's finest Scottish pipers playing a lament to the end of World War I.

In addition, our guest list included current and prior years' Tall Ships awardees, and special guests, namely Jim Frecklington, a former member of the Royal Household who designed and built the Australian coach in the Royal Mews plus the priceless Royal Egg, inspired by Fabergé, on show at this year's Chelsea Flower Show; also, Dr. David Sturkey, former Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and private secretary to the Governor-General, who came from Canberra for the evening.

Holding this event in May is a preferred option due to conflicting demands of Easter and Anzac Day in April, plus overseas travel conflicts in June and challenges of winter weather. Hopefully this timeframe can be arranged with His Excellency for next year.

Thanks to the hard-working committee for covering the problems of some bookings going astray in the mail, and some guests not telling us of special diets that delayed alternative meal options. Our thanks as well to all the guests who, from many reports, thought the evening was a very enjoyable one. Please convey your thoughts to our secretariat so we can continue to improve our functions.

3. MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

This annual begging bowl comes around too quickly, however the positive is that we have held this charge at a small nominal figure despite many ageing members being life members not paying an annual fee where we now earn little on interest from this pre-payment. If you are in this category, perhaps you could consider sending us a small donation to help keep costs under control. Apart from a small administration fee, the overheads are kept low thanks to your committee giving freely of their time and financial support to raffle and lucky seat prizes.

Part of membership renewals requires us to ring the "Committee Bell" so that we can get fresh blood and ideas to these roles in the Society and to spread the load. The Committee is a small group of wonderful

people who meet quarterly and who now can communicate electronically so it is not a horrendous time demand. Also our current senior committee roles are held by those of us who feel they have passed their use-by dates and we need to swell the ranks to enable them to be put out to pasture and to follow other interests. Please approach any of the committee if you believe you would like to join “this happy breed”.

4. NEW MEMBERS

We should like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members of our Society:

- . **Barry & Brenda Woods**
- . **Justine Nelson**
- . **Gregory (“Mossy”) & Maxine Baker-Moss**
- . **Mimi Zhong**

all of whom we look forward to meeting at our functions.

5. PASSINGS

We are always saddened by those dear members and friends who have met their departure gate and we mention names well-known to you, one a long-term but inactive member in recent years, **Sir Laurence Street AC KCMG KStJ, QC**, and **Bill Galvin OAM**, one of our most generous supporters not only in attendances at events but donating marvellous raffle prizes and then buying hundreds of tickets and re-donating prizes he won! Our sympathies to the families and friends of these members who have given us much support and joy.

6. GENERAL

Our thanks to Catherine Barker and Diana Rich for manning the mail and office support during our recent absence overseas and to all the committee who help these functions work smoothly.

With continuing best wishes,

Richard Nott