



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)
and The Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2015
ABN 75 368 639 375

Patron: Her Excellency The Hon. Margaret Beazley, AC QC, Governor of New South Wales

ANNUAL REPORT 2020





Barbara & Richard Tighe at the AGM at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron



Peter Beattie, Carole Osborne and Ann Andry at the Christmas lunch at the Union, University & Schools Club



Michael Hook, Col. Sandy MacGregor and Maj. Gen Jim Molan at the Remembrance Day lunch at the UUSC



Lynn and Ken Bock and Ian Jagger at the AGM



Southern Highlands Committee 1-r: Sue Hawick, Malcolm Stephens, Lyn Stephens, Barry Todd and Jan Bell



Arthur Delbridge

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BACKGROUND OF THE SOCIETY

The Society was formed in 1971 under the auspices of Sir Robert Menzies, former Prime Minister of Australia, to nurture and promote cultural links that both Britain and Australia share through their common heritage. This was reflected by the British Prime Minister Sir Alec Douglas-Home establishing a complementary sister society in Britain called the Britain-Australia Society.

The Society in Australia is made up of a Foundation and branches in Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne and Perth.

The Australia-Britain Society Foundation is based in Canberra ACT and holds reserves of around \$270,000 being the proceeds of the former National body of the Society, wound up in 2007/8. The Foundation raises money in its own right directly and from investment earnings as well as contributions from Branches towards specific projects such as the Shakespeare in Schools programme. Members can make direct donations to the Foundation where a tax deduction is available. Branch committee nominees are Trustees of the Foundation. Pooling of donations from branches enables the Foundation to make discrete larger contributions to worthwhile cultural activities that support our British heritage.

The majority of New South Wales members are based in greater Sydney or in the Southern Highlands where there is an active informal sub-branch. Most members are people born in Britain or who have lived there for some years. Conversely in Britain most members are Australians or British people with links to Australia.

The Australia-Britain Society is an independent non-political Australian organisation, whose role is to maintain, encourage and strengthen the numerous cultural links between Australia and Britain in a spirit of friendship. These bonding links are expressed through history, language, literature, education, sport and cultural events. The Society places emphasis on the role of youth in supporting a modern and evolving relationship between Australia and Britain.

The Society's aims are met through a range of events with an emphasis on fellowship and fun, which preserve occasions that both societies honour. These include Australia Day, and the Queen's Birthday as the flagship celebration events. Surplus proceeds enable grants to be made for a diverse series of programmes within the charter of nurturing our common bonds and with a focus on young people.

The committees of the various Society structures comprise a wide range of skills and energies given freely by their members.

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH STRUCTURE

Our branch has approximately 250 members. Most members live in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs, North Shore and the Peninsula. Many members are retired and a large group is based in the Southern Highlands around Bowral, Moss Vale and Mittagong.

Function attendances range from 30-150 people, comprising our members and their guests as well as friends from collegiate societies.

By amalgamating some functions with collegiate groups, a better patronage is possible. This enables us to provide entertainment at events and enables friends of various groups with kindred interests to meet periodically. A large number of our members are also members of these various groups and it is expedient for us to share one major event rather than compete for attendances against other societies with a common membership who are unlikely to attend every similar function.

2019-20 YEAR IN REVIEW

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President:

Richard Nott, AM, Dip FP, Dip FS, BSc (Hons), Grad Dip Insce, MBA, MCom, MIRM, ThA (Hons), ANZIIF (Fellow), FCII, SF Fin, FCIB, FIPA, FGIA FCG (CS, CGP) CAHRI, FCMI

Hon Secretary and Deputy President:

David Adams, LLB

Treasurer and Immediate Past President:

Kenneth Bock, OAM, BCom, ANZIIF (Fellow), F Fin, CPA

Vice President and Sail Training Co-ordinator:

Commander Richard Tighe, OAM, RFD, RD, RANR (Retd)

Administration and Membership Secretary:

Mrs. Sue Labordus, OAM, BA

General Committee Members:

Mrs. Janatha Adams

Mrs. Catherine Barker, OAM

Mrs. Diana Rich

Mrs. Philippa Armfield

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Southern Highlands Co-ordinator:

Malcolm Stephens, CB, MA

Treasurer:

Ms Sue Hawick, AM, BA Dip Ed Couns. (*Resigned March 2020*)

Arthur Delbridge, AM BA (Psych) B Comm LFPRIA (*Appointed July 2020*)

Secretary:

Mrs. Jan Bell

Mrs. Lyn Stephens, BA

Barry Todd

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*“The currents and eddies swirl around us but the tide bears us forward on its broad resistless flood”
Winston Churchill.*

We are reminded of how good a quality of life we have enjoyed here in Australia, particularly in the past sixty years, by the sudden advent of the coronavirus and the severe impacts on our overall health; physical, mental, social and economic. It is a stark reminder of how many areas have been neglected, particularly in aged care facilities and the strategic dependence upon other countries for supply of critical medications and equipment. Global markets and world travel have altered our lives negatively in the short term, and economic recovery will indeed take time considering the regional impacts within our own country. The virtual shut-down of gatherings such as those which our members enjoy impacts our financial stability, ability to rejoice collectively in great functions and support the various grants to young people linked to our British heritage. The lessons of history show that the resolutions of mankind invariably result in a rising phoenix of opportunity, when we reflect on our own lifetimes the recovery from the slaughter and destruction of the Second World War and the great advances made in pharmacology, science and technology, giving us an expanded life term beyond all our expectations and more comfortable services in our senior years. Also, compared to the Middle Ages with the impacts of the plague, black death and countless wars, and even the post-World War I in the last century, with the Spanish flu killing millions more, we are facing relatively less disastrous times. This is little solace of course to all of us who are impacted from restrictions on mobility as well as loss of friends or ability to see them. Luckily, we have the phone and electronic links, but life is a risk and our committee sends its best of wishes to all its members who are now in this time of trial. Things will return to the greatness we have enjoyed but may take a little time. Adjust as you can. Pick up the phone and develop other good habits such as staying in touch or meeting for coffee where practicable. The greatest gifts you have are your time and affection. Give them lavishly.

In reflecting upon this past year, the first half until December 2019 was an enjoyable one, with support to The Plain English Speaking Awards, Last Night of the Proms, the Remembrance Day service at St. James' followed by a grand luncheon with Major-General Jim Molan, and the Christmas luncheon that included as well as our seasonal fare, a farewell to our Governor His Excellency the Hon David Hurley and Mrs. Linda Hurley, and special entertainers from the Highlands who captivated the mood with marvellous songs assisted by our Treasurer and MC. Ken Bock. The year 2020 and the emerging pandemic meant we had to defer our programme of a luncheon with Sir Peter and lady Cosgrove and the balance of events into the rest of the year.

During this time, Sue Labordus has refunded the moneys paid in advance for events and taken the opportunity to clear out our emerging long-term records by placing some in electronic form and shredding other data.

Our major fundraiser application is the Tall Ships awards whereby a finalist is selected by a special committee of the Young Endeavour and this Society and late last year we announced the award to Ms. Taylor Weetman who was due to join the British sailing crew in the Mediterranean. This has now been deferred until events next year become clearer as to availability. Due to the long-term contact with the travel agency, Commander Richard Tighe was able to gain a 100% refund of the award fare payment. Hopefully if the voyage is ordained for next year, Taylor Weetman will be able to take up the award, along with the awardee for 2021 when, all going well, a further grant will be made. A former Tall Ships awardee, Mr. Edward Farrell has agreed to join our selection committee, and as well to progressively assume this role from Commander Tighe by initially joining the Society's full committee.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been forced to cancel bookings for the luncheon on Remembrance Day with Mr. Michael Pembroke. A date in early December has been earmarked for a Christmas luncheon along similar lines to the popular one last year, together with a luncheon around February next year with Sir Peter and Lady Cosgrove. Peter Raines from Kings School, who was to speak to us in

September this year, will hopefully join us to speak on the wonderful British cinema and remind us of names long lost on the radar some time later in 2021.

Our big event for 2021 is scheduled for May subject to Her Excellency's calendar, the Queen's Birthday Dinner and celebration of St. George's Day at the Australian Club. This will be the 50th anniversary of the Australia-Britain Society inauguration and we are hopeful that our inaugural members, Dame Marie Bashir, and the Hon Lloyd and Mrs. Edwina Waddy will be present along with the Hon John Howard, former Prime Minister and, of course, our Patron her Excellency the Governor. The musical soirée will include a group of past performers from the Pacific Opera who have delighted us previously. All of this is subject to the unknown status of world health, political and economic situations but we are confident that good times will be restored and a chance for old Society friends to re-meet and enjoy themselves.

In view of the calendar cancellations, we have suggested that annual membership fees be deferred for this year. Also, many life and general members have sent donations, for which the committee is gratefully appreciative.

The Committee is one that adds value to our suggested programme for which I thank them all and especially Sue Labordus who was awarded an OAM last year for her many years of dedication to the Society and Friends of St. George's. Also, you will be delighted as I am, to welcome to the Southern Highlands sub-committee, Mr. Arthur Delbridge AM, as Treasurer, taking over this position from Ms. Sue Hawick to whom we express our thanks for her role over the past few years. This smaller group holds quarterly drinks and lectures from a wide range of people and contributes positively to the financials of the Society. Ken Bock, our Treasurer and MC, has provided a more detailed report of our resources, and despite virtually no interest being earned on our reserves, we do have sufficient assets to enable us to continue for many years without having to place reserves at investment risk or curtail the grants that we make to demonstrate our tax-free eligibility as a charity. Our main challenge is getting new blood on our committee to enable some of us approaching our use-by date to hand over the reins to a younger and more energetic cadre of members. Edward Farrell, as well as running his own business, is a Captain in the Army Reserve, and he will be a wonderful addition to the management group. Please consider joining the committee if you have some time. Formal meetings are only quarterly and most contact is by emails and phone. The main areas needing some help and review is in the Membership management and review of the Constitution and by-laws to embrace changes impacted by government such as privacy legislation, provision for electronic meetings and special resolution processing. The Business Plan was reviewed earlier this year and is available to members who may have a more detailed interest in our focus.

This AGM is the first attempt at an electronic format that means we will not have the current Tall Ships awardee to report on the deferred voyage or the silver service dinner at the Royal Yacht squadron. My thanks to Edward Farrell for guiding my illiterate technology state towards some acceptable meeting result. Also, the notices of meeting to be sent out by Sue Labordus, will provide for the meeting to be held in November and contain an abridged version of this report, voting proxies, and provision for questions that Ken Bock and I will attempt to answer on the meeting night.

Thank you all again for reading this report. To the committee for its guidance, encouragement, and help with events, and to all our members, new and long-term, thank you for being such wonderful people to know and your endless support to such a good cause as this dear Society. God Save the Queen!

Richard Nott, AM
President

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For the year to 30th June 2020, the following programme of events was held:

- . **Plain English Speaking Awards NSW finals** at NSW Teachers' Federation
- . **Last Night of the Proms at Chatswood Concourse**
- . **Annual General Meeting and Dinner** at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron
- . **Remembrance Day Service** at St. James' Church, King Street
- . **Nine Carols and Lessons** service at St. James' Church, King Street
- . **Christmas Lunch with entertainment by John Martin and Simon Ward** at the Union, University & Schools Club, Sydney

Further planned events for this year were cancelled owing to the COVID-19 pandemic

EVENTS IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS:

The Southern Highlands Sub-Committee organises its own regional functions, makes donations from the funds raised and adds to our general reserves. This has worked well for many years and strong communication channels exist with the main branch committee..

This began as another successful year with three events which all produced useful surpluses. However, the spread of the virus and subsequent "lockdowns" meant that the events planned for the rest of the year were all cancelled.

The three events were

- . 3 August **Bob Dwyer - "Rugby, the Greatest of all Brotherhoods"**
- . 1 November **Lt Colonel Sharryn Parker - "From Kandahar to Kabul; One Soldier's Operational Perspective of Australia's Longest Running War"**
- . 7 February **Michael Baume - "Hidden Meanings and Origins of Nursery Rhymes"**

No donations were made in the 2019/2020 financial year but in July 2020 donations were made to the Sir David Martin Foundation, Legacy and the National Braille Music Camp

Sue Hawick, AM resigned as Treasurer and Committee Member in March 2020. All her work and help are very much appreciated. She was replaced in July by Arthur Delbridge, AM, to whom we extend a warm welcome.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The NSW Branch incurred a Deficit of \$965 for the year compared with a Deficit of \$1,613 for the previous year.

The components of the 2019/2020 year's Deficit were:-

Main Branch operations	\$2,875 Deficit
Southern Highlands operations	\$1,910 Surplus

Needless to say, Main Branch activities were substantially curtailed by the COVID-19 Pandemic and many of our usual activities, as reported elsewhere in the Annual Report, could not take place. Fortuitously, those that were held prior to the incidence of the pandemic generated satisfactory surpluses. However, the incidence of some fixed costs, which are incurred irrespective of activities, continued thus contributing to the Deficit. Once again, Mrs. Sue Labordus's strenuous efforts in containing administrative expenses by the use of electronic mail etc. helped contain those expenses.

Interest earnings were down again in line with the decline of interest rates in general. Fortunately, the term deposit earnings helped in meeting operating expenses.

Also lower was income from both Subscriptions and Donations. In the former case, your Committee decided that in view of the reduced Branch activities, members would not be billed for the ensuing year. Thus, income from those members who forward their subscriptions prior to the end of the financial year were not received. Probably to a degree this also affected Donations given that some members donate simultaneously with paying their subscriptions. Regrettably, for the second consecutive year, the donation usually received annually from the ABS Foundation was not forthcoming. I would assume that reduced interest earnings by the Foundation may well have been a factor in this regard.

The Southern Highlands Committee's activities included its very pleasant regular meetings and these resulted in an overall surplus. It is to be noted that, to conserve funds, the SH Committee did not make any donations during the year. These two factors have, therefore, significantly assisted the Branch's overall financial result for the year.

Having entered the 2020/2021 year, and, at the time of writing, with the pandemic still "raging", it is impossible to see what this year will bring and what the consequent effect on the Branch's financial situation will be. Of course, all will be revealed as the year progresses!

Kenneth W. Bock, OAM
Hon. Treasurer

BRANCHES OF THE SOCIETY IN AUSTRALIA

Whilst branches operate autonomously within a common charter, there is a warm welcome awaiting our members wishing to attend functions held by other branches of the Society. For members travelling interstate, details of the local offices are listed here and the Secretariat can assist in advising forthcoming events in that centre. In reciprocation, the New South Wales newsletters and programme are issued to other states in the event that visitors to Sydney are able to join our functions. Branch event diaries can be accessed on the Society website: **ausbrit.org**.

New South Wales

P.O. Box 647, Gordon NSW 2072
Richard Nott, AM, President
Sue Labordus, OAM, Administration Secretary
Telephone (02) 9449 7532
Email: adminnsw@ausbrit.org

Victoria

P.O. Box 8840, Armadale Vic 3143
Rob Perry, President
Julie Sattler, OAM, Hon Secretary
Telephone (0408) 194 799
Email: adminvic@ausbrit.org

Australian Capital Territory

P.O. Box 9070, Deakin ACT 2600
Captain Bob Nattey, LVO RAN (Rtd),
President
Telephone (02) 6273 3197
Email: adminact@ausbrit.org

Western Australia

P.O. Box 3044, Yokine WA 6060
Madeleine McPherson, President
Email: adminwa@ausbrit.org

BRITAIN-AUSTRALIA SOCIETY IN THE U.K.

Members visiting Britain are extended an open invitation to attend functions of our sister society in England and Wales. Members with family working and living in Britain may have an interest in joining the British body. Apart from in London, the Britain-Australia Society has branches in Cambridgeshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Hampshire and Somerset and if you are in the UK and wish to attend functions, it is suggested you contact the Head Office in the first instance. Their details are:-

The Britain-Australia Society, Australia Centre, Strand, London WC2B 4LG
Telephone 0207 630 1075 Email: natdir@britain-australia.org.uk
Website: **www.britain-australia.org.uk**

AUSTRALIA-BRITAIN SOCIETY (NSW BRANCH) Inc

*Reg No CFN 15054 under Section 16 of the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW)
and The Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2015*

ABN 75 368 639 375

**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2020**

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AUSTRALIA-BRITAIN SOCIETY (NSW BRANCH) INC.

ABN 75 368 639 375

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2020

	2020			2019		
<u>INCOME</u>	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Functions	20,235.87			36,676.00		
Raffles	605.00	20,840.87		2,805.00	38,761.00	
less:- Costs:						
Functions	16,570.70			31,897.64		
Raffles	370.29	16,940.99	3,899.88	1,099.14	32,996.78	5,764.22
Members' Subscriptions		2,082.00			4,337.00	
Donations		946.00			2,195.00	
Interest		1,032.41			1,355.51	
Sale of Ties		373.00	4,433.41		0.00	7,887.51
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>			8,333.29			13,651.73
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>						
Insurance & Returns		1,027.61			1,486.59	
Secretarial Services		4,800.00			4,800.00	
Postage, Stationery & Telephone		530.88			1,201.73	
Printing		400.00			400.00	
Other (incl Committee Mtg exp & Ties)		61.95	6,820.44		563.45	8,451.77
<u>OPERATING SURPLUS</u>			1,512.85			5,199.96
<u>GRANTS & DONATIONS</u>						
PESA		850.00			850.00	
Sail Training		1,227.66			4,113.11	
Willoughby Symphony Orchestra		400.00				
(2019 – St. James' King Street)					250.00	
Donations by S/Highlands Committee		0.00			1,600.00	
			2,477.66			6,813.11
<u>NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</u>			(964.81)			(1,613.15)
<u>OVERALL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</u>			(964.81)			(1,613.15)

AUSTRALIA-BRITAIN SOCIETY (NSW BRANCH) INC.
ABN 75 368 639 375

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th JUNE 2020

<u>ASSETS</u>		2020		2019	
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>					
<u>Cash at Bank:-</u>					
	N.S.W.	5,075.16		6,993.67	
	Southern Highlands	4,543.95	9,619.11	2,634.76	9,628.43
Petty Cash on Hand		1,000.00		1,000.00	
Net Advance Payments					
2019/20 Functions		0.00	1,000.00	3,155.95	4,155.95
			10,619.11		13,784.38
<u>INVESTMENTS</u>					
Westpac Term Deposit - Sth H'lands			10,000.00		10,000.00
Westpac Term Deposit - Sydney			54,619.77		53,834.31
			64,619.77		63,834.31
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>			<u>75,238.88</u>		<u>77,618.69</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>					
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>					
Subscriptions paid in advance			0.00		0.00
Sundry Creditors			0.00		0.00
Function Contributions received in advance			1,814.00		3,229.00
			1,814.00		3,229.00
<u>NET ASSETS</u>			<u>73,424.88</u>		<u>74,389.69</u>
<u>MEMBERS' FUNDS</u>					
Accumulated Funds as at 1st July, 2019			74,389.69		76,002.84
Add/(Subtract) Surplus/(Deficit) for the year			(964.81)		(1,613.15)
Members' Funds as at 30th June, 2020			<u>73,424.88</u>		<u>74,389.69</u>

AUSTRALIA-BRITAIN SOCIETY (NSW BRANCH) INC.
ABN 75 368 639 375

ANALYSIS OF FUNCTIONS FOR THE YEAR TO 30th JUNE 2020

Function	Income - \$			Expenses \$	Surplus/ (Deficit) \$
	Charge to Members	Net Raffle	Net Income		
Proms – August 2019	4,003.00	0.00	4,003.00	3,617.95	385.05
AGM	1,560.00	0.00	1,560.00	1,350.00	210.00
Remembrance Day	4,844.00	0.00	4,844.00	4,567.00	277.00
Christmas Lunch	6,975.00	304.70	7,279.70	5,847.00	1,432.00
Australia Day Cruise	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sir Peter Cosgrove Lunch <i>Cancelled</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Queen's Birthday Dinner <i>Cancelled</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<u>Southern Highlands Functions</u>					
Address by Bob Dwyer	1,028.67	0.00	1,028.67	349.75	678.92
Address by Colonel Parker	1,070.00	0.00	1,070.00	389.00	681.00
Address by Michael Baume	755.20	0.00	755.20	450.00	305.20
TOTALS	20,235.87	234.71	20,470.58	16,570.70	3,899.88

DONATIONS BY SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS COMMITTEE

	2020	2019
RECIPIENT	\$	\$
National Braille Music Camp	-	600.00
Sir David Martin Foundation	-	500.00
St. Jude's Music Association for Young Performers	-	500.00
TOTAL DONATIONS		1,600.00

1. STATEMENT BY SOCIETY TREASURER

I, Kenneth William Bock, Hon Treasurer of the Australia-Britain Society (NSW Branch) Inc., declare that in my opinion:-

- a) The Financial Statements for the year to 30th June, 2020 give a true and fair view of the financial operations of the Society for the year to 30th June, 2020;
- b) The Provisions of the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 under which the Society was granted a continuing approval as a charitable body, approval no. CFN15054 by the Office of Charities, Department of Gaming and Racing on 2nd May 2003 have been complied with;
- c) The internal controls exercised by the Society are appropriate and effective;
- d) The Society is able to meet its debts as and when they fall due.

Kenneth W. Bock, OAM, B.Com, ANZIIF (Fellow), F.Fin, CPA

Hon. Treasurer

6 August, 2020

2. STATEMENT BY INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

We have examined and audited the books and the records of the Australia-Britain Society (NSW Branch) Inc., incorporating the Southern Highlands sub-branch group, for the financial year ended 30th June 2020.

It is our opinion that the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 30th June, 2020, together with the Balance Sheet as at that same date, are properly drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the financial results and of the position of the NSW Branch of the Society for the period of that year ended and as at that date.

Further, we consider that the accounts and associated records have been properly kept in a manner appropriate to the Society's needs.

We believe that the Society can meet its debts as and when they fall due.

STEEL, JAGGER & ASSOCIATES

Certified Practising Accountants

Ian Maxwell Jagger, RFD, FCPA, JP

Registered Company Auditor

12 August, 2020

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Abby Dixon and Peter Sofatzis



Robert Estcourt and Greg Bray at the RSYS



Em Prof. David Barker and Ed Farrell



The Hon. Lloyd Waddy and David Adams



Sue Labordus, Dr. Nicholas Milton, conductor, and Richard Nott
at the Proms



Janatha Adams and Felicity Cox at the RSYS



Barbara Tighe, Alix Miller, Peter Sofatzis, Taylor Weetman, Ed Farrell and Richard Tighe at the Sail Training lunch at the RSYS



Tom Jackson and Catherine Barker at the AGM



Benita Boger, Peter Beattie and Andrea Havers at the AGM



John and Philippa Armfield at the RSYS



Greg & Maxine Baker-Moss, Philippa Glasson & Group Captain David Glasson at the AGM at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron



Richard Nott, Sue Labordus and Diana Rich

