



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 2021





Group of attendees with The Hon John Howard at the Queen's Birthday dinner



Geoffrey and Ann McIntyre at the Queen's Birthday dinner



RADM Ian Crawford and Cathy Crawford at the Queen's Birthday dinner



H.E. The Governor with Dr Douglas Sturkey, Val Grogan and Sir Peter Cosgrove at the lunch at the UUSC



Barbara Tighe, Alix Miller, CMDR Richard Tighe and Edward Farrell



Ann McIntyre and The Hon Michael Kirby at the Queen's Birthday Dinner

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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 220 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.

2020-21 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, 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:

Sue Labordus, OAM, BA

General Committee Members:

Janatha Adams

Catherine Barker, OAM

Philippa Armfield

Edward Farrell

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Southern Highlands Co-ordinator:

Malcolm Stephens, CB, MA

Treasurer:

Arthur Delbridge, AM BA (Psych) B Comm LFPRIA

Secretary:

Jan Bell

Lyn Stephens, BA

Barry Todd

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

"This too will pass away" - King Solomon

Human nature does not appear to change that much over the centuries of recorded texts, and certainly scriptural records in many faiths keep re-iterating this cyclical movement of great benefits and calamities that tend to befall us. Being largely insulated through a wonderful standard of living and experiencing the wonders of the modern age, we are largely shielded from the reminder of our mortality and that life is a risk from conception, with an indefinite outcome. On the positive side, this maxim reminds us that all times of trial tend to fade away or are successfully countered by the wonders of man's ingenuity and adaption to the rigours of the time. We lose as well the pearls of great price, but also the ills and afflictions of the global Covid manifestations that are reminiscent of the great plagues of the Middle Ages and the test to new and old threats on our survival from nature and impacts on our way of life.

At a social level, it is hard to plan beyond broad terms, confident that the situation will revert to normal soon and avoid a worse economic and social impact. Luckily, we were able to celebrate two major events earlier this year after almost six months of shut-down. The first was the long-deferred luncheon with Sir Peter and Lady Cosgrove, our former Governor-General and long-time supporter of this Society, where he spoke in an intimate way about his relationship with the Queen and the strength of the Constitutional framework that has served us so well in Australia since federation. Our Patron the Governor attended this luncheon, together with former Governor, Dame Marie Bashir, and a full dining room at the Union, University and Schools Club. The Queen's Birthday grand dinner, where we celebrated this Society's 50th anniversary and a tribute to The Prince Philip was held in June just before the current Covid restrictions returned. This dinner was attended by 130 guests including the guest of honour Hon John Howard and Mrs. Howard, former Prime Minister of Australia, Colonel Michael Miller representing the Governor who read a message from the Queen, and many guests from this Society, the Friends of St. George's and Descendants of the Knights of the Garter, the Cook Society and Australians for Constitutional Monarchy. A presentation was made by the Hon Lloyd Waddy, a former Branch President, to Commander Richard Tighe for his decades of dedicated service to the Tall Ships Awards programme he assumed from Rear Admiral Ross Swan some decades ago. The toast to the memory of the Prince was supported by James Bruce playing the lament on the pipes, two films of the Prince's life and short extracts from his funeral service, followed by a musical programme from stars of the Pacific and Australian opera. It was a wonderful night and I thank not only members and guests for attending but to the committee for its support and to this fine club for providing such a venue for us.

What is planned for the coming year? Our Annual General Meeting, to be held electronically, will take place on Wednesday 20 October at 5.00pm. Then, subject to Covid easing, we hope that the 11.00am Remembrance Day service on 11 November at St. James' King Street will take place, the planned luncheon having been postponed until next year. The annual Christmas lunch is scheduled for 1 December and is a relaxed one with a focus on members enjoying the seasonal fare, catching up with old and new friends and enjoying the artistry of Simon Ward and John Martin who were with us at the last Christmas luncheon and were wildly popular. With the availability of video screenings at the Union, University and Schools Club, we can reintroduce at the Christmas luncheon short reflections on British personalities who have graced the ages as we have done in the past with Churchill and some poets. This year is the 30th anniversary of the untimely death of British rock legend Freddie Mercury, who by age 45 could fill the Wembley stadium with fans and has had a recent film made about his life. His extraordinary talent will be remembered by showing a series of his later songs, mostly sung with Montserrat Caballé, the famous Spanish diva, where Freddie wrote the songs and was moving towards a more flexible part of his emerging career versatility.

On Sunday 5 December, the Last Night of the Proms at the Concourse, Chatswood, which has had to be postponed three times since its scheduled date in August, will take place (Covid permitting), with a matinée at 2.00pm and evening performance at 7.00pm.

In the New Year, we are aiming to secure guests that will include the British High Commissioner, Hon Vicki Treadell, Hon Tony Abbott, and another grand evening event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum anniversary on 8 June, with more video celebrations of her life and a new set of over 500 slides from the past decades of events and scenes from Britain and the Royal family, with guest artists appearing as well. The positive part of the Covid experience is that many guests of honour are more easily available as they cannot leave the country easily and are in principle terms at least happy to join with us.

Later in the year we will re-schedule Peter Rainey to speak with us about the wonders of the British cinema, and its little-known gems as well as its great masterpieces probably around September next year.

The Plain English-Speaking Awards were deferred from this year due to the finals being held electronically and to follow our restrictions on grants to be made from a trading surplus to preserve our reserve assets. This coming year, these totalling \$850 will be reinstated.

The Tall Ships Awards is a longer bow towards re-institution as it involves not only an open travelling ability to join a British Tall Ships crew sailing from the Canary Islands to Britain, but the availability of the vessel and the situation prevailing in Britain and the countries providing the vessel crew.

Our grants follow the organisation maxim to foster cultural links with Britain with an emphasis on young people but the quantum of these aims is to work within our operating surpluses and not dissipate our reserves, our financial life blood, so these will be impacted by our ability to resume our various events as we are primarily a social group that loves to meet and enjoy interesting events that we are confident will resume.

We issue regular Newsletters and I thank Sue Labordus for correcting my often abuse of the mighty English language and for organising the various events and sitting people with friends, plus organising the menus and payments. Largely Sue does most of the work and I take most of the credit. I thank as well the committee of wonderful people who are always ready to help to ensure events move fairly well and they are always supportive.

Ken Bock is more than a Treasurer. He and his wife Lynn attend all events and Ken acts as MC and gives vent to his latent talent as a raconteur and great reminder of Noel Coward and jokes we had forgotten.

Having mentioned the wonderful committee, I remind members again that our success relies on this support and we need some help with input to our membership and review of our constitution and by-laws plus wider access to interesting guest speakers and other valued venue accesses.

The Southern Highlands committee being re-elected is but for only the balance of this year as its sub-committee has decided to end its local operation. For many years its Convenors Malcolm and Lynn Stephens have managed this local wonderful group supported during this period as well by Jan Bell and Barry Todd. In recent years the committee was supported by Arthur Delbridge. Our thanks are extended to this wonderful group for enhancing the Society name in the Highlands for some decades and we hope that they and the local members may be able to continue to join in our Sydney based events.

During this year we had a visit from the Chairman of the Britain-Australia Society in London, Damian Walsh, who is keen to explore ways to invigorate our mutual memberships. London has a wider membership base and younger working members, so their programmes include more weightings on business and trade type gatherings as well as access to the various historical sites, supported by the Australian High Commission and Australian businesses in London. Our members are given automatic membership to the Society in London and we remind members that if you are visiting England, consider attending some of the events either in London or at the various branches in Counties as sent out in this annual report. Sue Labordus can provide you with contact and activity

details. Conversely, if you have UK friends or family visiting us in Sydney remind them that they enjoy reciprocal membership with us and we are always glad to see them at functions. Our website shows the contact details.

Thank you again for sending us donations, especially from Life members and regular attendees. We aim to price events close to our costs to ensure members get good value for the offerings, but with low interest rates we earn virtually nothing on our bank deposits and we may have to consider buying some blue chip stocks to give us some insulation from this lack of interest income. In the short term, as Ken Bock's report will detail, we are sufficiently liquid and with reserves to weather the current restrictions on our activities.

With continuing best wishes, the best that I have and more.....

Richard Nott,
Proud to be your President!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For the year to 30th June 2021, the following programme of events was held this year after some respite from the Covid restrictions that curtailed events for most of the year.

- . **Annual General Meeting held electronically at the home of Ken Bock**
- . **Remembrance Day Service** at St. James' Church, King Street via electronic link
- . **Luncheon with Sir Peter Cosgrove, retired Governor-General, and Lady Cosgrove**
- . **Queen's Birthday dinner, celebration of the Society's 50th anniversary, tribute to The Prince Philip**

EVENTS IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

The Southern Highlands Sub-Committee organises its own regional functions, makes donations from some of 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.

The spread of Covid and subsequent "lockdowns" meant that the events planned for the last the year were all cancelled.

No donations were made in the 2019/2020 financial year but in 2021 donations were made to a range of local charities as detailed in the financial statements that encourage local event attendances knowing that funds are applied for local benefits.

TREASURER'S REPORT

As our President Richard Nott has mentioned in his overall report on your Society's 2020/2021 operations, the COVID pandemic had a severe effect on the conduct of our activities for the year, so it will come as no surprise that this also affected your Society's finances. Details of the finances are set out as usual at the end of our year's operations and the comparable results for the previous year were as follows:-

	<u>2020/2021</u>	<u>2019/2020</u>
Sydney activities	\$609 Surplus	\$2,875 Deficit
Southern Highlands Activities	\$848 Deficit	\$1,910 Surplus
	-----	-----
Net Result	\$239 Deficit	\$ 965 Deficit

There was thus an improvement on the NSW Branch's financial outcome to a near break-even position for 2020/21.

There were several factors giving rise to the overall result.

Firstly, in Sydney:-

- Because of the pandemic and the consequent lack of branch activities, members were not asked for a Subscription. This income source was considerably lower than for a normal year. Some members subscribed voluntarily, however, and we thank them for doing so.
- Interest income fell considerably because of the prevailing conditions in the money markets. Only the term deposits, held by both Sydney and the Southern Highlands Committee, contributed to income this year. Interest earnings from the operating bank accounts were practically non-existent.
- The two major functions, in particular the highly successful Queen's Birthday Dinner, that were possible generated useful surpluses thus off-setting income that did not come from other sources.
- Also because of the pandemic, our usual support for worthy activities aimed at supporting younger people, namely the Plain English Speaking annual competition and the sponsoring of a candidate to Sail Training, unfortunately did not eventuate. Accordingly, these expenditures did not occur.
- Also because of curtailed activities, administrative expenses were lower than normal.

Secondly, the Southern Highlands activities, because of COVID, had to be cancelled. This resulted in no surplus from their quarterly meetings. The S.H. Committee did, however, decide to make donations to several charities, mostly local, which caused the group to incur a deficit for the year.

In summary, the small overall deficit has still left the NSW Branch in a satisfactory financial position; our assets are such as to be able form a satisfactory basis for future operations. It will be noted however, that in order to provide satisfactory liquidity in the Sydney operating bank account, just over \$4,600 was withdrawn from the Sydney term deposit. This proved necessary as a form of liquidity management during the year when lack of income over several months meant that there had been no cash inflow to meet ongoing operating costs. Nevertheless, our Balance Sheet is strong.

It is pleasing to present this report in these terms given the conditions that prevailed over the year and I would hope that the ensuing year can show an improvement after a return to normality.

Kenneth W. Bock OAM
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

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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 2021**

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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, 2021

	2021			2020		
<u>INCOME</u>	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Functions	25,256.00			20,235.87		
Raffles	0.00	25,256.00		605.00	20,840.87	
less:- Costs:						
Functions	21,555.95			16,570.70		
Raffles	141.68	21,697.63	3,558.37	370.29	16,940.99	3,899.88
Members' Subscriptions		540.00			2,082.00	
Donations		500.00			946.00	
Interest		521.30			1,032.41	
Sale of Ties		53.00	1,614.30		373.00	4,433.41
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>			5,172.67			8,333.29
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>						
Insurance & Returns		1,038.29			1,027.61	
Secretarial Services		2400.00			4,800.00	
Postage, Stationery & Telephone		726.20			530.88	
Printing		72.00			400.00	
Other (incl Committee Mtg exp & Ties)		175.00	4,411.49		61.95	6,820.44
<u>OPERATING SURPLUS</u>			761.18			1,512.85
<u>GRANTS & DONATIONS</u>						
PESA		0.00			850.00	
Sail Training		0.00			1,227.66	
Willoughby Symphony Orchestra		0.00			400.00	
Donations by S/Highlands Committee		1,000.00			0.00	
			1,000.00			2,477.66
<u>NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</u>			(238.82)			(964.81)
<u>OVERALL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</u>			(238.82)			(964.81)

AUSTRALIA-BRITAIN SOCIETY (NSW BRANCH) INC.

ABN 75 368 639 375

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th JUNE 2021

<u>ASSETS</u>		2021		2020	
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>					
<u>Cash at Bank:-</u>					
	N.S.W.	8,680.21		5,075.16	
	Southern Highlands	3,695.85	12,376.06	4,543.95	9,619.11
Petty Cash on Hand		1,000.00		1,000.00	
Net Advance Payments					
2021/2022 Functions		0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
			13,376.06		10,619.11
<u>INVESTMENTS</u>					
Westpac Term Deposit - Southern Highlands			10,000.00		10,000.00
Westpac Term Deposit - Sydney			50,000.00		54,619.77
			60,000.00		64,619.77
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>			<u>73,376.06</u>		<u>75,238.88</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			190.00		1,814.00
			190.00		1,814.00
<u>NET ASSETS</u>			<u>73,186.06</u>		<u>73,424.88</u>
<u>MEMBERS' FUNDS</u>					
Accumulated Funds as at 1st July, 2020			73,424.88		74,389.69
Add/(Subtract) Surplus/(Deficit) for the year			(238.82)		(964.81)
Members' Funds as at 30th June, 2020			<u>73,186.06</u>		<u>73,424.88</u>

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

ANALYSIS OF FUNCTIONS FOR THE YEAR TO 30th JUNE 2021

Function	Income - \$			Expenses \$	Surplus/ (Deficit) \$
	Charge to Members	Net Raffle	Net Income		
Proms / Concert	922.00	0.00	922.00	916.00	6.00
AGM	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Remembrance Day	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Christmas Lunch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Australia Day Cruise	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sir Peter Cosgrove Lunch	8,334.00	0.00	8,334.00	7,535.00	799.00
Queen's Birthday Dinner	16,000.00	(141.68)	15,858.32	13,104.95	2,753.37
<u>Southern Highlands Functions</u>					
No functions during 2020/2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS	25,256.00	(141.68)	25,114.32	21,555.95	3,558.37

DONATIONS BY SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS COMMITTEE

RECIPIENT	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Legacy Southern Highlands	200.00	0.00
Mandemar Rural Fire Service	100.00	
National Braille Music Camp	100.00	
OZ Harvest	200.00	
Sir David Martin Foundation	400.00	
	1,000.00	0.00

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, 2021 give a true and fair view of the financial operations of the Society for the year to 30th June, 2021;
- 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, ANZIF (Fellow), F.Fin, CPA

Hon. Treasurer

6 August, 2021

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 2021.

It is our opinion that the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 30th June, 2021, 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

23 August, 2021

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Col Sandy MacGregor and Sandra McGregor at the Queen's Birthday dinner



Rev Fred Nile and Silvana Nile at the Queen's Birthday dinner



Bradley Gilchrist of the Pacific Opera at the Queen's Birthday dinner



Col Michael Miller, Tonia and Imogen Malfitano and the Hon John Howard at the Queen's Birthday dinner



Peter Beattie and Sabina Allman at the Queen's Birthday dinner



Richard Nott, The Hon John Howard and Stephen Moss

