



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 KC, Governor of New South Wales

ANNUAL REPORT 2023





This Page and Inside back cover: A selection of guests enjoying our various functions

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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 shared 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 \$260,000 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 contribution 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 Presidents 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.

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

Our branch has approximately 200 members. Most members live in the Greater Sydney area and the Southern Highlands.

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.

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: absociety@icloud.com

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
Kevan Barrett, President
Telephone (08) 9349 5043
General enquiries:
Email: joymack1@bigpond.com

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 020 7630 1075. Email: office@britain-australia.org.uk
Website: www.britain-australia.org.uk

2022-2023 YEAR IN REVIEW – NSW BRANCH

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

Administration and Membership Secretary:

Sue Labordus, OAM, BA

Sail Training Co-Ordinator:

Major Edward Farrell, B.InfoTech, CISSP, SSCP, GAICD

General Committee Members:

Janatha Adams

Catherine Barker, OAM

Philippa Armfield

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

"When I remember all the friends so link'd together, I've seen around me fall, like leaves in wintry weather; I feel like one who treads alone some banquet-hall deserted, whose lights are fled, whose garlands dead, And all but he departed."

Thomas Moore: "Oft in the Stilly Night"

This past year, with the loss of Her Majesty the Queen, despite her wonderful long life of unprecedented service, affection and devotion to the peoples of the Commonwealth and in fact probably to the world, was such a unique one in most of our members' lives. We cannot help, like Moore, feel a great sense of mourning and personal loss, despite most of us not having personally met Her Majesty, and yet a deep sense of belonging to the value systems she represented and shone with such unique example. The receipt of numerous letters of acknowledgment to our members and associated friends from her is indicative of the personal connection we shared with our Sovereign and now followed by the King in his continuity, is such a steadfast positive part of our tradition. The televised funeral and coronation were a special personalisation of these events unfolding. My main disappointment in these events was the lack of support by the NSW Government in illuminating the Opera House predicated on cost restraints, whereas every sporting event received no such economic restraints.

This past year for the Society has seen the loss of our Queen, but also the advent and rejoicing in the succession of King Charles III and his almost seamless shift into this long-awaited role. Progress and determination are a part of our natural evolution and growth.

Our event programme was slightly restricted due to the aftermath of COVID but did centre around our standard offerings of Remembrance Day, Christmas luncheon and the primary event of the Coronation dinner. The member patronage was gratifying to the Committee that managed and nurtured these events which were enriched by the number of special distinguished guests, and exceptional musical entertainers. In addition, we have expanded our patronage to include the Friends of St. George's and Descendants of the Knights of the Garter, the Cook Society, and Australians for Constitutional Monarchy. The positive parts of this expanded programme include other societies being able to offer events to its members with little preparatory work on their part and our ability to keep operating costs under control.

Our Annual General meeting for the year 2022-2023 is to be held as usual at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, this venue being made available by Janatha and David Adams; also, in October 2023 a nostalgic reflection on the British cinema by Peter Rainey, and a composite maximum patronage by Societies at the Christmas luncheon. At this event we are hoping to see Hilary Kay from the Antiques Road Show join us

along with two special singers from the Australian Opera and Glenn Amer, pianist and entertainer. The primary event into 2024 will be the King's Birthday dinner supported by a series of smaller specialised events such as reinstituting a mid-week harbour luncheon cruise.

We have managed to retain our grants programme to the Plain English Speaking Awards whereby we make individual small awards to the NSW State finalists and a further \$250 to the State winner who then progresses to the National awards periodically supported by the Society National Foundation. The major grant has been the Sail Training award to enable a former Young Endeavour crew member to join a British sailing vessel. This programme has been re-introduced after some years, thanks to the close-out of COVID cases, and our current awardee, Ms Taylor Weetman, will be reporting on her experiences at this AGM and there will be a special report by our Committee member, Major Ed Farrell, himself a former Sail Training awardee. The primary aim of the Society is to provide a series of events whereby like-minded members can meet and celebrate events common to our British heritage. This is supplemented from any overall financial surplus moneys from events, subscriptions and donations which go towards limited numbers of requests from young people which we are all experiencing in the world-wide economies and overhang from COVID. Our primary aim is to offer a slightly smaller programme of events but with a focus on value and uniqueness that will encourage members to attend. Raising raffles is of little value unless the prizes are donated, and it has proved better for the Committee to provide a small number of items in the event offering price.

The membership base has remained stable despite its increasing age and fewer resignations/deaths and in the past year has increased marginally due to members bringing friends to events who subsequently later join the society. This membership role on the Committee has been vacant since the death of Terry Rich some years ago, and since then it has been a passive one, filled temporarily by Sue Labordus. We are hoping, with fresh membership on the committee, we can reinstate this focus that will also lead towards replacement people in the Administration Secretary and President roles that will enable Sue Labordus and Richard Nott, who have both been in their respective positions for more than 20 years, to revert to emeritus or supportive Committee roles.

My thanks to the Committee for its collective support and the primary support roles of Administration Secretary, Treasurer/MC and Sail Training Officer.

The world is a continually disruptive place at most levels impacting local societies and population shifts provoking many uncertainties and a shift in interests and priorities. It is disappointing to see, for example, the closure of the NSW Savage Club, a musical society operative since 1946, despite holding strong local funds. This was due to an inability to secure a committee to meet regulatory needs and enable keen helpers to retire owing to advancing age. We are hopeful these supplemental changes through new committee members will enable the baton to be passed and some of us to step down from office. In the meanwhile, my thanks to the Committee for its support, and especially to the membership of so many loyal supporters who not only attend many events but appear to enjoy themselves, giving us all a continuing good heart.

Richard Nott

TREASURER'S REPORT

Yet again, the Society incurred a deficit in its operations, the causes of which are varied. The amount, \$4,557, compares with a deficit of \$3,160 for the previous year.

The principal factors giving rise to this deficit are:-

- A reduction of slightly under \$3,000 in the surpluses on social functions. Whilst the King's Birthday and Coronation Dinner provided a healthy surplus, other functions, in particular the Remembrance Day Lunch, incurred losses.
- The resumption of support for the Sail Training activity amounting to \$3,944. This amount represented the air fare for the recipient incurred shortly after international flights resumed normal frequency after the COVID pandemic subsided. At that time, fares were particularly high and were much higher than levels prevailing pre-COVID.

Fortunately these higher costs were offset by:-

- A very welcome donation of \$2,000 from the Australia-Britain Society Foundation. The Committee was particularly grateful for this support.
- The support amount \$850 for the schools' Plain English Speaking competition was half that of the previous year because the competition was held twice during 2021-2022.
- The absence of costs incurred during the previous year and not repeated during the year under review. These were charitable donations totalling \$1,500 by the Southern Highlands group, which ceased operations shortly before the end of the previous year, and the entertainment costs of \$715 incurred as part of that closure.

Despite this overall result, I believe that the NSW Branch remains financially sound. It is expected that with the rise in interest rates in the financial markets, our cash reserves will be more productive during 2023 – 2024. Much will of course depend on the support for our social functions, the number of which and their pricing will need close management. I expect that there will be some increment in our operating expenses, consequent on the inflation that has taken place over the past year. This, also, will need to be carefully managed.

I also thank our Auditor, Mr. Ian Jagger RFD FCPA JP for his expeditious work in carrying out the Audit. His contribution is very much valued.

Kenneth W. Bock
Treasurer

SAIL TRAINING REPORT

After an absence for many years, it was a privilege to reinitiate the Tall Ships Award and continue the activity after nearly 20 years of operation prior to COVID. Tall Ships awards are made each year to one or two applicants in New South Wales who have crewed aboard the Young Endeavour, Britain's Bi-Centennial gift to Australia and part of the Navy fleet. Initiated by Rear Admiral Rothesay Cathcart Swan AO CBE RAN and overseen by the late Commander Richard Tighe OAM, RFD, RD for many years, the program seeks to build on the journey our attendees have undertaken onboard the Endeavour and foster one of the numerous links between the United Kingdom and Australia. Having taken on the role of coordinating the award, I've had quite the shoes to fill.

In August of this year our 2019 awardee, Taylor Weetman, undertook her passage from Norway to England onboard the SV Tenacious followed by a brief travel around the United Kingdom before returning as this report is being written. Taylor will be due to provide her report at the Annual General Meeting which I'm sure we're all looking forward to.

As I reflect on the near 20 years of the award and what it has done for many of us, I'm reminded of a video we prepared for Richard Tighe and had the opportunity to present to him in 2022. The efforts of the society and its contribution to the formation of us lucky few to undertake the journey has been formative for many of us and I would encourage you all to watch what we've put together. <https://youtu.be/SZZ0dhRtZIY>



I look forward to catching up with many of you in the coming months.

Edward Farrell

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, 2023**

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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, 2023

	2023		
INCOME	\$	\$	\$
Functions	23,365.00		
Raffles	0.00	23,365.00	
Less:-			
Costs			
Functions	22,838.86		
Raffles	0.00	22,838.86	526.14
Members' Subscriptions		3,475.00	
Donations		2,706.00	
Interest		562.02	
Tie sales		0.00	6,743.02
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>			7,269.16
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
Insurance & Returns		1,176.19	
Secretarial Services		4,800.00	
Postage, Stationery and Telephone		439.98	
Printing		360.00	
Other (Incl. Comm Mtg Exps & Ties)		55.40	6,831.57
<u>OPERATING SURPLUS</u>			437.59
<u>GRANTS & DONATIONS</u>			
PESA			850.00
Sail Training			3,944.23
St. James' Church, King Street			200.00
Farewell Dinner - Southern Highlands Group			0.00
Donations by S/Highlands Committee			0.00
			4,994.23
<u>NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</u>			(4,556.64)
<u>OVERALL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</u>			(4,556.64)

2022		
\$	\$	\$
28,646.00		
	28,646.00	
25,024.30		
	25,024.30	3,621.70
	3,515.00	
	860.00	
	261.56	
	106.00	4,742.56
		8,364.26
	1,093.01	
	4,800.00	
	838.59	
	73.80	
	604.00	7,409.40
		954.86
		1,700.00
		0.00
		200.00
		715.00
		1,500.00
		4,115.00
		(3,160.14)
		(3,160.14)

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

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th JUNE 2023

ASSETS	2023		2022	
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>				
Cash at Bank:-				
N.S.W.	15,274.12		17,621.02	
Southern Highlands	0.00	15,274.12		17,621.02
Petty Cash on Hand	1,000.00		1,000.00	
Pre-Payments	0.00			
Net Advance Payments 2023/24 Functions	0.00	1,000.00		1,034.90
		16,274.12		18,655.92
<u>INVESTMENTS</u>				
Westpac Term Deposit - Sth H'lands		0.00		0.00
Westpac Term Deposit - Sydney		55,361.16		55,000.00
		55,361.16		55,000.00
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>		71,635.28		73,655.92
<u>LIABILITIES</u>				
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>				
Subscriptions Received in Advance		2,040.00		2,810.00
Sundry Creditors		200.00		200.00
Function Contributions Received in Advance		3,926.00		620.00
		6,166.00		3,630.00
<u>NET ASSETS</u>		65,469.28		70,025.92
<u>MEMBERS' FUNDS</u>				
Accumulated Funds as at 1st July, 2022		70,025.92		73,186.06
Add/(Subtract) Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		(4,556.64)		(3,160.14)
Members' Funds as at 30th June, 2023		65,469.28		70,025.92

AUSTRALIA-BRITAIN SOCIETY (NSW BRANCH) INC.

ABN 75 368 639 375

ANALYSIS OF FUNCTIONS FOR THE YEAR TO 30th JUNE 2023

Function	Income - \$			Expenses \$	Surplus/ (Deficit) \$
	Charge to Members	Net Raffle	Net Income		
Proms/Concert	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rainey Lunch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
AGM Dinner	1,040.00	0.00	1,040.00	950.00	90.00
Remembrance Day Lunch	2,200.00	0.00	2,200.00	2,787.50	(587.50)
Christmas Lunch	5,715.00	0.00	5,715.00	5,827.49	(112.49)
King's Coronation Dinner	14,410.00	0.00	14,410.00	13,273.87	1,136.13
TOTALS	23,365.00	0.00	23,365.00	22,838.86	526.14

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, 2023 give a true and fair view of the financial operations of the Society for the year to 30th June, 2023;
- 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
2 August, 2023

2. STATEMENT BY INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

We have examined and audited the books and the records of the Australia-Britain Society (NSW Branch) Inc., for the financial year ended 30th June 2023.

It is our opinion that the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 30th June, 2023, 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
2 August, 2023



This Page and Inside front cover: A Selection of guests attending our various functions

