



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 2026



The Australia Britain Society NSW is a Friend of the Duke of Edinburgh International Award Australia, a proud long-term supporter of the Plain English-Speaking Award, a contributor to the Australian Commonwealth Scholarship Fund of the Royal College of Music London and a corporate member of the Royal Exchange of Sydney



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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 reserve funds being the proceeds of the former National body of the Society, which 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. Pooling of donations from branches enables the Foundation to make discrete larger contributions to worthwhile cultural activities that support our British heritage.

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

Our branch has approximately 200 members. Most members live in the Greater Sydney area but there are a number from the Southern Highlands, the Blue Mountains and regional New South Wales. Our members share a passion for British culture and the arts; many are people born in Britain or who have lived or studied there.

The Society, through its social celebratory programmes, aims to generate surplus funds to provide grants, with an emphasis on young people that support cultural links between Australia and Britain expressed through music, sport, language, the arts and law. Function attendances range from 30-120 people, comprising our members and their guests as well as friends from collegiate societies.

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

Australia-Britain Society Foundation

Chair: Richard Forster

Email: rick.forster@bigpond.com

Australian Capital Territory

President: Ann Sutton, OAM

Email: adminact@ausbrit.org

New South Wales

President: David Glasson, MVO

Email: adminnsw@ausbrit.org

Victoria

President: Rob Perry

Email: adminvic@ausbrit.org

Western Australia

President: Kevan Barrett

Email: Joymack1@bigpond.com

BRITAIN-AUSTRALIA SOCIETY IN THE U.K.

Members visiting Britain are extended an open invitation to attend the events hosted by our sister society, which are primarily in London. Members with family working and living in Britain may have an interest in joining the British body. If you are in the UK and wish to attend events, 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 +44 020 7630 1075. Email: office@britain-australia.org.uk

Website: www.britain-australia.org.uk

AUSTRALIA-BRITAIN SOCIETY NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President:

David Glasson, MVO

Deputy President:

David Adams

Vice-President:

Janatha Adams

Treasurer:

Kenneth Bock, OAM

Secretary:

Catherine Barker, OAM

Sail Training Co-Ordinator:

Edward Farrell

Committee Members:

Philippa Armfield

Immediate Past President:

Richard Nott, AM

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The mission of the Australia-Britain Society is to promote and foster cultural links between Australia and Britain, and through its social celebratory programmes the New South Wales Branch aims to generate surplus funds to provide grants, with an emphasis on young people that support those cultural links. By any measure, we have certainly achieved those aims this year but there is more to be done, and we are on track to do even better next year. The New South Wales Branch of the Australia-Britain Society held five well received events that have raised funds to support our charitable endeavours. In November members attended a very solemn and moving Remembrance Day Service at St James Church Sydney followed by Lunch where we heard the story of the Royal Australian Navy's only Victoria Cross recipient, Teddy Shean, VC. In December we enjoyed a joyous Christmas Lunch and in March this year members were treated to a glorious sunny Cruise on Sydney Harbour. The King's Birthday Gala Dinner was the jewel in the crown, with 120 attendees, our Patron Her Excellency the Governor of New South Wales as guest of honour and guest speaker and wonderful music provided by alumni of the Royal College of Music London.

During the year we continued our support to the New South Wales Plain English-Speaking Award Finals. The 2025 New South Wales State Champion, Miss Olivia Wright went on to win the Australian National Championship and was then selected to represent Australia in the Grand Final of the English-Speaking Union International Public Speaking Competition. The Australia-Britain Society New South Wales Branch together with the Australia-Britain Society Foundation were able to help support Olivia's travel to attend the Grand Final in London.

We continue our support as a Friend of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme which seeks to provide financial assistance to disadvantaged, disengaged and/or disabled young Australians undertaking the Duke of Ed Framework.

Unfortunately, we had a number of setbacks in fulfilling the Sail Training Scholarship this year. There are very limited international sail training opportunities but after extensive effort, the Sail Training Coordination Committee were able to find an appropriate sail training organisation, Maybe Sailing Ltd based in Leeds. Unfortunately, after organising flights, accommodation and transfers, the planned voyage from Menai to the Humber in September was cancelled due to



Australia Britain Society members enjoying a Christmas Lunch and a remarkably sunny day on Sydney Harbour

historically low tides on the Humber. We are working on an alternative solution to support our scholarship winner.

Sadly, this year we mourned the loss of our most distinguished and remarkable past President, Rear Admiral Rothesay 'Ross' Swan, AO, CBE, RAN (retd). After a distinguished career in the Navy, Ross Swan was instrumental in the early development of the Australia-Britain Society, especially the International Sail Training Program.

We continue to enjoy a strong relationship with the British Consulate-General Sydney with many of their staff attending our various events. We wish the former Consul-General, Ms Louise Cantillon all the best as she takes on her exciting new diplomatic posting as the British High Commissioner to New Zealand. We welcome the new British Consul-General, Ms Anna Shotbolt to Sydney.

This year thanks to a contact through the British Consul-General, we have embarked on a relationship with the Royal College of Music London to support their new Australian Commonwealth Scholarship Fund. This initiative helps outstanding young Australians realise their potential at the College by easing the financial challenges of studying abroad. Thanks to the generous support of our members and the success of the King's Birthday Gala Dinner we were able to contribute \$5000 towards the scholarship fund and the Australia-Britain Society Foundation generously matched that support by also contributing \$5000.

We warmly welcomed 20 new members to our society this financial year, who come from a range of backgrounds and include a number younger members. This is great news, but we still need to do more to grow our society and make it attractive to more diverse members. There is still more to be done, and I welcome new ideas, new members and new ways of doing things. We must continue to evolve as the relationship between Britain and Australia has evolved over so many years.

David Glasson, MVO
President



The King's Birthday Gala Dinner in May raised funds for the Royal College of Music London's new Australian Commonwealth Scholarship Fund

TREASURERS REPORT

The financial results for the year were quite satisfactory, although the Surplus at \$2,959 was lower than that for 2024/25, \$3,150.

Key features of the year's financial operations were:-

- An increase in Members' Subscriptions. This arose from an increase in membership and also a reduction in the amount by which some members were in arrears with their Subscriptions.
- Cessation of the Secretarial Services cost.
- A significant increase in the surplus from Functions. The major contributor was the King's Birthday Dinner which contributed a net \$3,406 out of a total of \$4,980 from Functions.
- A Donation of \$5,000 made to the Royal College of Music. It had been intended that an amount equal to the Surplus from the King's Birthday Day dinner be donated to the College. After due consideration, your Committee resolved to increase the donation to \$5,000 reflecting the overall success of the evening and the goodwill built up with the College. It should be noted that the NSW Branch donation was matched by an equal donation amount from the Australia Britain Society Foundation.
- A contribution of \$1,850 to the Plain English-Speaking Award for the year. This amount comprised the usual \$850 to the finalists and eventual winner, plus a further \$1,000 to the State winner, Ms Olivia Wright from Hurlstone Agricultural High School, following her also winning the National competition. This amount contributed to the expense of sending her to the international competition in London where she reached the Grand Final. Had this abnormal additional expense not been incurred, the overall year's Surplus would have been accordingly higher. This additional support was also matched by an equal amount donation by the Australi-Britain Society Foundation. It should be noted that this "usual" expense was not incurred during 2024/25 because the event did not occur during that accounting year. It was deferred by the organisers from the usual month of June to July i.e. the first month of the ensuing accounting year.

In summary, the year's result was quite satisfactory given that expenses for the previous year were lower than normal and for 2025/26, a usual expense item returned to normal and an abnormal item also was incurred.

Overall, the Society's financial position remains sound with adequate liquidity and a term deposit earning a satisfactory return.

Finally, I thank the Society's Honorary Auditor, Mr Ian M. Jagger, RFD, FCPA for his expeditious carrying out of the annual audit.

Kenneth W. Bock, OAM
Honorary Treasurer

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2025

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INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2026

	2026			2025		
INCOME	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Functions	29,790.00			29,650.00		
Raffles	2,346.14	32,136.14		1,400.00	31,050.00	
less:- Costs						
Functions	27,155.76			29,140.89		
Raffles	0.00	27,155.76	4,980.38		29,140.89	1,909.11
Members' Subscriptions		4,200.00			3,460.00	
Donations		305.00			415.00	
Interest		2,527.85			2,797.73	
Sale of Ties		0.00	7,032.85		20.00	6,692.73
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>			12,013.23			8,601.84
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>						
Insurance & Returns		1,323.47			1,249.60	
Secretarial Services		0.00			3,000.00	
Postage, Stationery and Telephone		0.00				
Printing		131.20				
Other (Including Comm Mtg Expenses and Presentations)		0.00	1,454.67		212.31	4,461.91
<u>OPERATING SURPLUS</u>			10,558.56			4,139.93
<u>GRANTS, DONATIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS</u>						
PESA			1,850.00			
Sail Training			0.00			
St. James' Church, King Street			250.00			250.00
Royal Exchange Subscription			500.00			500.00
Friends of Duke of Edinburgh Award in Aust						240.00
Royal College of Music			5,000.00			
TOTAL			7,600.00			990.00
<u>NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</u>			2,958.56			3,149.93
<u>OVERALL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</u>			2,958.56			3,149.93

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30th JUNE 2026

<u>ASSETS</u>	2026	2025
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
<u>Cash at Bank:-</u>		
Westpac Banking Corporation	10,594.35	12,149.77
Petty Cash on Hand	0.00	0.00
Pre-Payments	0.00	0.00
Net Advance Payments 2024/25 Functions	0.00	0.00
Total Current Assets	10,594.35	12,149.77
<u>INVESTMENTS</u>		
Westpac Term Deposit	61,200.41	58,705.43
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	71,794.76	70,855.20
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>		
Subscriptions Received in Advance	420.00	1,910.00
Sundry Creditors	0.00	
Function Contributions Received in Advance	136.00	665.00
TOTAL	556.00	2,575.00
<u>NET ASSETS</u>	71,238.76	68,280.20
<u>MEMBERS' FUNDS</u>		
Accumulated Funds as at 1st July, 2025	68,280.20	65,130.27
Add/(Subtract) Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	2,958.56	3,149.93
Members' Funds as at 30th June, 2026	71,238.76	68,280.20

ANALYSIS OF FUNCTIONS FOR THE YEAR TO 30th JUNE 2026

Function	Income \$			Expenses\$	Surplus/ (Deficit) \$
	Charge to Members	Net Raffle	Net Income		
AGM Dinner	1,950.00	0.00	1,950.00	1,973.92	23.92
Remembrance Day	3,145.00	0.00	3,145.00	2,972.29	172.71
Christmas Lunch	6,430.00	630.00	7,060.00	5,849.80	1,210.20
Captain Cook Cruise Lunch	2,819.00	0.00	2,819.00	2,604.00	215.00
King's Birthday Dinner	15,446.00	1,716.14	17,162.14	13,755.75	3,406.39
TOTALS	29,790.00	2,346.14	32,136.14	27,155.76	4,980.38

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, 2026 give a true and fair view of the financial operations of the Society for the year to 30th June, 2026;
- 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

14TH August 2026

STATEMENT BY THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

STEEL JAGGER & ASSOCIATES



Steel Jagger & Associates is a CPA practice

Liability limited by a scheme approved
under Professional Standards Legislation

CERTIFIED PRACTISING ACCOUNTANTS
ABN 11 704 538 765
SUITE 101, 12 THOMAS STREET, CHATSWOOD
MAIL ADDRESS
P.O. BOX 1266, CHATSWOOD, NSW, 2057

I M JAGGER RFD, FCPA, JP

Email: ianj@steeljagger.com.au

PHONE: 0421 201 306

To the Members of the Australia-Britain Society (NSW Branch) Inc.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

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 2026.

On the basis that the Society is not a reporting entity and that the financial statements, as prepared from those records, are expressly and solely for the purposes of members, it is our opinion that the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 30th June 2026, 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.

Dated this 11th day of August 2026

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steel Jagger & Associates'.

Certified Practising Accountants

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read 'Ian Jagger'.

Ian Maxwell Jagger RFD, FCPA, JP

