



# AUSTRALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

FOSTERING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN TWO GREAT NATIONS

## NEWSLETTER

Issue No: 31 - January 2016



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### NEWSLETTER

Juliette Reay

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### Executive Council Meeting—November 2015

Executive Council met for the first time under the leadership of our new President, Mary Ann Wright, on 25 November 2015. The meeting was relaxed though business like as Mary Ann efficiently steered the meeting through the lengthy agenda. Roles on the Committee were discussed and it was agreed that a Functions Committee was in order. Marice has agreed to contact members to seek support for this Committee so keep an eye out for her email. The Functions Committee performs a very important role in bringing together all the elements for a successful event. It is very rewarding work and a lot of fun so please give some thought to joining this Committee and making our future functions a great success.

### Upcoming Functions

As the weather warms up, so too does our social calendar. We have a few functions organised for early 2016.

**31 January—** Following the devastating fires in our south-west we are holding a Fundraiser event for the People of Yarloop and nearby towns that were affected.

The event will be on Sunday January 31st, at the Mosman Park home of our President Mary Ann Wright. This will be a real "Sundowner", and we will actually see the sun set, over the ocean.

The Invitation with details, and payment form have been emailed to members. By the way, dress is "Smart Casual"

So come and join us for what will be a worthwhile event. It will be good to meet up with some of our new members and enjoy each other's company. As the numbers will be limited, it is vital that you book as soon as possible.

**February—** we are planning a lovely Swan River cruise. Details soon.

Information on functions is also on our website with a handy calendar tool and directions to venues.

Remember to like our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/aaawesternaustralia>



## Growing US and Australia Connections

The Australian Financial Review published an article titled “How the US and Australia are building a new connection.” a summary of which appears below. If you would like to read the full article, click here:

<http://www.afr.com/news/world/north-america/how-the-us-and-australia-are-building-a-new-connection-20150304-13vi18>

Australia’s prominence in US foreign policy is at it’s greatest since 1942-45. It has grown to become a medium sized regional power with the 12th largest economy in the world. Over the past 25 years Australia has avoided a recession and backed the US campaign against Islamic State.



Australia’s position between the Pacific and Indian oceans offers rich and strategic options that interest Washington. It also has valuable trade ties with China in the areas of energy, raw materials and food that fuel the interests of the US for deeper engagement through increased US military presence both in Darwin and in Perth (US nuclear submarines). The US-Australian partnership has become a special relationship with few equivalents in the world.

The US-Australian relationship goes back a long way with a lot of common ground in language, traditions and values. Australia has supported US led military action in Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, Afghanistan and Iraq. An Australian counter-insurgency expert, Brig. Ted Serong, provided high level advice to the US military and the Pentagon during the Vietnam war.

The US-Australia relationship is not limited to security and defence ties. Economic ties between the two countries continue to grow and strengthen with the US being the largest investor in Australia. The successful Australia-US Free Trade Agreement (AUSFTA) has been working for ten years by eliminating barriers on bilateral merchandise trade.

Australia and the US will both continue to benefit from strengthening economic and social ties as Washington recognises the importance of Australia’s geographical location, politics and economy.

## Members’ Corner

This section of the newsletter is available for Member’s contributions. You may like to list items you would like to buy/sell/swap or you may like to contribute a recipe, a story or even tales of your travels.

If you are interested in contributing to the newsletter or you have some suggestions please email them to [jreay@space.net.au](mailto:jreay@space.net.au)

**Funny stuff:** - contributed by Marice Purser-Bailey

*Why do cows lie down in the rain?* To keep each udder dry.

*What lies in a pram and wobbles?* A jelly-baby.

*Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving—Albert Einstein*

## Birthdays



### Members!

If your birthday does not appear in our newsletter and you would like it to, please email us.

### January

8 - Evelyn Barrett  
15 - Sandra Williams  
23 - Laurel Peet  
24 - Norma Kay  
25 - Josh Whitehall  
31 - Josie Moore

### February

4 - David Grace  
6 - Christopher Shulha  
14 - Kath LeCras  
19 - Lol Butler

### March

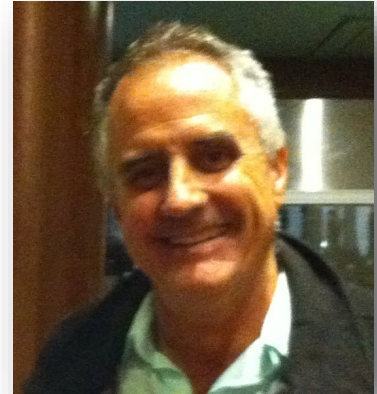
19 - Juliette Reay

## Executive Committee - Chris Castle

This Newsletter we introduce one of our newly elected Vice Presidents; Chris Castle.

In an effort to extend his travel experiences Chris came to Australia in 1980 after completing his university studies in his home town of Denver, Colorado. Working for a high flying entrepreneur he gained management experience in a wide variety of businesses eventually becoming a licensee of hotels, taverns and even a casino. Departing from an employee role Chris started his own decorative lighting business which was awarded major contracts in Australia, Dubai and South East Asia.

After selling the lighting business Chris devoted his attention to the marine industry where he began with the establishment of Australia's most successful luxury vessel time share program. He is currently Managing Director of West Offshore Products specialising in the provision of marine safety products and services.



Chris has an Australian wife, three daughters and four grandchildren. He is deeply dedicated to the goal of the AAA-WA in fostering friendship between Australia and the United States.

## Upcoming Event

Ingrid Garner is performing a one-woman play at the Fringe World this month and she believes its subject matter may hold particular significance to Australian Americans.

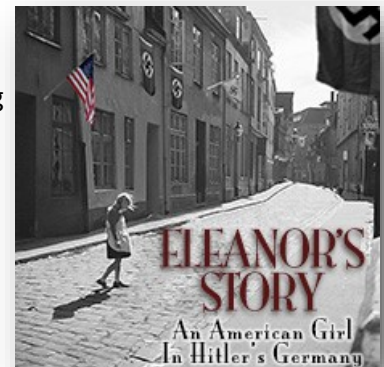
Ingrid is returning to Australia with Eleanor's Story: An American Girl in Hitler's Germany, the one-hour theatrical adaptation of her grandmother's award-winning memoir published in 1999. Ingrid performed it last year in Perth and Adelaide, where the play was listed as one of the "Top-5 Must See" performances, won a Best Theatre Award and a Critics Choice Award out of over 1,000 shows.

Ingrid's show has brief run from January 23-30 at the **Bok Choy Ballroom in Noodle Palace Central Institute of Technology , 19 Francis Street , Perth, WA**

Here's a little information about the show:

In the fall of 1939, at 9 years old, Eleanor and her family left New York on the SS Hamburg bound for Germany. A new job and a secure financial future awaited her father in Berlin. Half-way across the Atlantic, Hitler declared war on Poland and their return to America became impossible.

This is the true story of Eleanor Ramrath Garner growing up as an American trapped in Nazi Germany during WWII. Adapted for the stage and performed by her granddaughter Ingrid, Eleanor's award-winning autobiography details her youth struggling to maintain stability, hope, and identity in a world of terror and contrasts. Her family faces hunger, fascist oppression, carpet bombing, the final fierce battle for Berlin, the Russian invasion and the horrors of Soviet occupancy. The play exposes audiences to an entirely unique story about World War II and provides insight into the seldom seen lives of citizens in wartime.



More information at: [www.eleanorsstory.com](http://www.eleanorsstory.com)

Tickets are available at: <http://www.fringeworld.com.au/program/event/d3921e8f-376a-4610-9185-934d704c2555/>

## Australia Day



January 26 is the anniversary of the arrival of the First Fleet of 11 convict ships from Great Britain, and the raising of the Union Jack at Sydney Cove by its commander Captain Arthur Phillip, in 1788. This national day is celebrated across Australia and also by Australian's living overseas.

Australia Day celebrations reflect contemporary Australia: our diverse society and landscape, our remarkable achievements and our bright future. It also is an opportunity to reflect on our nation's history, and to consider how we can make Australia an even better place in future.

Australia Day celebrations wouldn't be complete without the traditional lamington. Here is a lamington recipe with a twist. Double-chocolate lamingtons have a subtle rich-chocolate flavour and feather-light texture that make them equally good as the more traditional. Putting foil over the cake is recommended because it helps the cake rise more evenly. You'll have about 250 millilitres of coating left over - just the stuff, for lamington milkshakes with ice-cream and coconut.

### Ingredients

300g castor sugar  
50g cocoa  
75ml milk  
50g unsalted butter  
50g dark chocolate  
50ml sunflower oil  
4 medium eggs  
100ml low-fat natural yoghurt  
3 tsp vanilla extract  
175g plain flour  
3 tsp baking powder



### For the coating (makes 750ml)

15g cocoa  
50ml cold milk  
175ml boiling water  
200g dark chocolate, finely chopped  
450g icing sugar  
1-2 250g bags coconut (that is, much more than you would think)

1. Line the base of a deep, 20cm square cake tin with non-stick paper and heat the oven to 170C (150C fan-forced). Put the sugar and cocoa in a bowl and beat in the milk. Melt the butter and chocolate in a saucepan, and add to the sugar mix along with the oil. Beat in the eggs until smooth, stir in the yoghurt and vanilla, and mix in the flour and baking powder. Pour into the tin, cover with a slightly domed sheet of foil and bake for an hour. Lift off the foil for the last 15 minutes. Remove, cool in the tin and, while warm, cover with cling film.

2. For the coating, mix the cocoa and milk until smooth, whisk in the boiling water, then stir in the chocolate until melted. Whisk in the icing sugar until dissolved and pour into a deep, wide jug. Cut the cake into nine, dunk each piece in the coating and fish out with two forks. Roll in coconut and leave to set.

**Makes 9**