

FABIAN! 

2022
**Annual
Report**

Australian Fabians Incorporated

Chairperson's Report

2022 was an election year for Australian Fabians, as for our federal government in this year, there were changes afoot.

Although our long-term National Chair Billy Colless had hoped to continue in the role for another year, sadly he was unable to do so and departed with our best wishes and grateful thanks for all his hard efforts on behalf of Australian Fabians.

Having been elected as National Deputy Chair in 2022, I was honoured that the Board, which determines casual vacancies in between election years, elected me as the National Chair. Leading up to and after our internal election there were a few others changes before office bearer roles settled towards the end of the year.

Earlier in the year the involvement of many Fabians, including office bearers, in the effort to rid ourselves of the Liberal National Government had an impact on our capacity—but all worth that change in the end!

There were two major projects at a national level that came to fruition during 2022.

Our commitment towards our flagship publication Fabian Review was strong throughout, notably with a bumper Issue 3 put out in this year. The Editor, Zann Maxwell the worked to plan in preparing a digital edition. The Board formed a Publications Committee and called for expressions of interest to fill that group. We have been overwhelmed with the expertise o voluntarily on offer from members and supporters.

In late 2022 the National Board and active State Branches, co-funded the first stage of a program of Leadership, Organising and Action training. This followed the practices developed by Prof Marshall Ganz at Harvard University and his former online course Coordinator oversaw a successful commencement to the capacity building initiative led by our National Membership Secretary, Philip O'Donoghue.

Our membership has continued to grow and at the end of 2022 stood at 1,704.

In line with a new focus for the Fabians in developing a new research agenda, I am also pleased to report on significant progress achieved with our new 'pilot action research project' that we hope will provide a model for future research efforts by the Australian Fabians. A project that we have developed in partnership with the Labor Environmental Action Group (LEAN) and focuses on the sustainability both employment and environmentally, of our agricultural industry which we are developing in concert with Fabians members, trade unions and other think tanks.

The Fabians have also launched the Reg Coutts Memorial Prize. Reg was active in the Victorian Fabians and the Australian Labor Party, and was a Professor of Telecommunications at the University of Adelaide. Currently, Reg's friend and long-term South Australian Fabian John Tons is fundraising for the prize which will award a grant to a researcher interested in writing a short book to be published on 'ICT's role in shaping the future of Australian Society.'

In addition to this I have been working hard to strengthen our relationships with other think tanks and publishers, including Arena, Per Capita, Prosper and the Australia Institute.

Our branches continued to provide a bedrock of activity reported in detail below.

I with to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the Board of Australian Fabians and make mention of my appreciation for the hard work of our Treasurer, Dani Pain, who has done a magnificent job.

SARAH HOWE
NATIONAL CHAIR

State branch reports

Victorian Branch

This has been another good year for Victorian Branch, with a lot of activity and a lot of hard work from our Executive and our members. There has been a little difficulty extracting membership numbers this year, but it appears that Victorian membership at May 2023 is at least 580 members, and that membership growth over recent years continues.

The focus of our branch remains on Events and Publications around key issues of the day. The topics covered in our events this year were:

Housing affordability

Co-ops and Food Security

Should all Australian schools be public?

Australia caught in a US China conflict

Inflation—profits and war

The Republic—Barry Jones at our annual dinner

Australian health care in crisis

Land, rent and inequality—co-hosted with Prosper, the School of Political Economy

Events have continued to be mainly online, but we are making a cautious return to some in person events. As well as our annual dinner, we held a members' social event which attracted a good roll up, and we co-hosted the in-person Land, Rent and Inequality event.

On Publications, Vic Exec members have put their focus on supporting National activities, including through membership and support of the National Publications Committee.

In a really pleasing example of synergy between Branch and National efforts, the video of our China event has clocked up 26,000 views on YouTube, with the help of our new Digital Ideas Editor. This eclipses anything we have been able to achieve before. Our recently published Inflation event video is heading towards 400 views within a fortnight.

We have also continued with our Co-ops and Food Security policy group and are looking at the possibility of further such groups.

Following our AGM last Monday, we have a strong Executive team to take us forward into 2023/4:

Chair: Jeff McCracken-Hewson (National Board rep)

Vice Chair: Fernanda Trecenti

Secretary: Robyn Saltmarsh

Treasurer: David Redfearn

Membership Secretary: Megan Poad

General committee members: Julia Thornton, Sarah Howe, Chris Blake, Peter Norden and Ryan Flynn

JEFF MCCRACKEN-HEWSON

Western Australian Branch

WA Fabians is guided by an Organising Group currently comprising Tim Dymond (Convenor), Natalie Mast, Phil O'Donoghue, Amanda Rainey, Damien Smith, Janine Freeman and Will van den Wall Bake.

During 2022 we organised the following events:

Job Security, COVID and Recovery (May). Van Badham and Ben Davidson from The Week on Wednesday podcast discussed job security, the pandemic and economic recovery during a Zoom event.

Messaging Research on Race and Jobs (May).

WA Fabians co-hosted with the McKell Institute, UnionsWA, and the University of WA Centre for Public Policy a discussion of research commissioned by the Victorian Trades Hall Council (VTHC) and conducted Australian Council of Trade Union Insights Unit undertook on messaging on race and jobs via a Zoom event.

Early Childhood Development—The Next Great Social Reform (June). An address by former SA Labor Premier Jay Weatherill, in his role as CEO of the Minderoo Foundation to the WA Fabians AGM .

2022 Federal Election Analysis (July). Two presentations, one of quantitative data, by William Bowe, and another of qualitative data by Karen Luscombe, providing an in-depth discussion of the 2022 Australian Federal Election

The Right, Democracy & Misinformation: Italy Election 2022 (November). In co-operation with the WA Labor Foreign Affairs Branch, WA Fabians hosted a panel of experts discussion the 2022 Italian election.

End of Year Members & Supporters Family Picnic (December). Held at Hyde Park and including an address by long-term Fabian member and WA MLC, Alanna Clohesy.

The branch was active in support of the Leadership, Organising and Action training with most Organising Group member participating.

TIM DYMOND

ACT Branch

Branch members were advised of events held by other similar groups in Canberra at which there was the chance to catch up. In December the branch hosted a Zoom event, *Progressive Think Tanks: What are they good for?* that included speakers from Per Capita and the Chifley Research Centre.

DANIEL GERRARD

State branch reports cont.

New South Wales Branch

2022 was a year of consolidation rather than expansion. Meetings took place via Zoom rather than in person. The executive remained essentially unchanged from the previous year with Amanda Rose in the Chair, Mark Bonanno as Secretary. However, the State maintained its numbers overall and continued to undertake some interesting and well attended presentations.

Events included:

Squid Games – Children’s Culture and Capitalist Critique (April). One out of left field this Zoom event heard from Dr Jessica Balanzategui of Swinburne who gave a presentation. This one was a little unusual in that it did not deal with the more economic, social and political issues we usually present at Fabians, but traversed a wider sociological field, a field we want to do more work in during the forthcoming year.

The importance of social housing (April). Continuing our commitment to housing policy we heard from the then state shadow minister (and now actual minister for Housing) Rose Jackson.

The Kouk on the Federal Budget (May). Steven Koukoulas (the Kouk!) gave a rollicking, freewheeling discussion with plenty of Q&A following the Federal Budget last year.

The CE Martin Dinner in November recommenced after a break during the pandemic. The dinner, held at the Apprentice restaurant at Ultimo, and staffed by current TAFE NSW Students, has become a fixture in the NSW calendar and it was good to return to fact to face meetings and actually seeing people in person and having a discussion with them across and actual table without having to say, “you’re on mute”.

We also had a number of our members (Anthony van den Broek and Matthew Jeffrey) undertake the Marshall Ganz training organised by WA. We have also voted funds to allow more indigenous members undertake the training to expand the Fabians’ ability to encourage progressive change.

Victoria Collins and Matthew Jeffrey have also been organising for a Central Coast Fabians Branch. The executive want to expand the Fabians in NSW, so we are not an inner city grouping solely, and this is a great initiative to create a deeper membership base. And best of all it has come spontaneously from members in the area themselves.

MARK BONANNO

Queensland Branch

The AGM of the Queensland branch of the Australian Fabians was held in December and new committee was elected:

Convenor: Jason McKenzie

Secretary: Annie Humphries

Committee members: Hayden Sheppard, Yara Jabbour, Ella Factor, Brianna Hammond, and Danielle Pain

North Queensland representative: David Cassells

The Queensland branch expressed its sincere gratitude for outgoing co-convenors Yara Jabbour and Ella Factor for their service especially during the pandemic. The branch also thanked long-standing retiring committee member Paul Cantrall.

Queensland Fabian members have continued to benefit from the post-COVID introduction of online events which have been well attended by Queensland branch members including the recent inflation event with Steve Keen and Frank Stilwell, and the September event on US-China relations hosted by the Victorian branch. These online events allow Fabians across the large state of Queensland to participate in events that they might not have been able—even if held in Brisbane.

The Queensland branch was proud to sponsor several training places in the Marshall Ganz Leadership, Organising and Action training held by the Fabians in collaboration with UnionsWA. We support ongoing investment in this train-the-trainer model for upskilling today and tomorrow’s organisers and activists.

An energetic planning day was held in early May 2023 and planning is now underway for a series of future focused events on socialism themes in sci-fi, climate resilience, electrification, implications of technology on the military industrial complex, modern monetary theory, and a universal job guarantee. The committee also hopes to set-up sub-committees in regional centres where there are Fabian members with the goal of organising more activities locally. (If you’re interested, please let us know!)

The Fabians will also be at the Queensland Labor party state conference in Mackay in early June and at the National ALP conference in Brisbane in August.

JASON MCKENZIE

Financial statement

*Australian Fabian Inc.
Profit and loss by location
January-December 2022*

	National Branch	New South Wales Branch	Queensland Branch	Victorian Branch	Western Australian Branch	Total
Income						
Donations	229.25				100.00	329.25
Event income		150.09		14,076.50		14,226.59
NSW Stripe Income		3,639.87				3,639.87
Total Event income	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 3,789.96	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 14,076.50	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 17,866.46
Membership	62,036.79					62,036.79
Other /raffles/book sales etc.				555.00		555.00
Sales of Product Income	1,086.05					1,086.05
Sales - Online Store	350.86					350.86
Total Sales of Product Income	A\$ 1,436.91	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 1,436.91
Services	0.98					0.98
Total Income	A\$ 63,703.93	A\$ 3,789.96	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 14,631.50	A\$ 100.00	A\$ 82,225.39
Cost of Sales						
Fabian Store						0.00
Supplies and materials - Lulu Press	255.88					255.88
Total Fabian Store	A\$ 255.88	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 255.88
Total Cost of Sales	A\$ 255.88	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 255.88
Gross Profit	A\$ 63,448.05	A\$ 3,789.96	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 14,631.50	A\$ 100.00	A\$ 81,969.51
Other Income						
Interest income	227.82			39.08		266.90
Total Other Income	A\$ 227.82	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 39.08	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 266.90
Expenses						
Event Expenses				397.45	345.00	742.45
Equipment Hire				220.87		220.87
Speaker Travel Expenses	1,181.34				1,181.34	2,362.68
State Dinner Expenses		3,420.00		5,137.60		8,557.60
Venue Hire					909.09	909.09
Total Event Expenses	A\$ 1,181.34	A\$ 3,420.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 5,755.92	A\$ 2,435.43	A\$ 12,792.69
Fabian Administration						0.00
Accounting and bookkeeping	316.98					316.98
Quickbook fees	650.00					650.00
Total Accounting and bookkeeping	A\$ 966.98	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 966.98
Bank Charges	1,224.47					1,224.47
Merchant Fees - Stripe	262.80					262.80
Total Bank Charges	A\$ 1,487.27	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 1,487.27
Board	1,640.80		129.92			1,770.72
Leadership and Organising Course	4,750.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	3,250.00	11,000.00
Office/General Administrative Expenses	112.65				155.00	267.65
Total Board	A\$ 6,503.45	A\$ 1,000.00	A\$ 1,129.92	A\$ 1,000.00	A\$ 3,405.00	A\$ 13,038.37
Board Election Fees	439.71					439.71
Insurance	1,237.18					1,237.18
Membership Expenses						0.00
Chargebee	1,089.77					1,089.77
WA Membership Calls	525.00					525.00
Total Membership Expenses	A\$ 1,614.77	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 1,614.77
Michon International	330.00					330.00
Other / non allocated	-78.04					-78.04
Subscriptions / Dues	161.97					161.97
Telephone & internet expenses						0.00
Telephone	1,080.23					1,080.23
Zoom Teleconferencing	975.61					975.61
Total Telephone & internet expenses	A\$ 2,055.84	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 2,055.84
Total Fabian Administration	A\$ 14,719.13	A\$ 1,000.00	A\$ 1,129.92	A\$ 1,000.00	A\$ 3,405.00	A\$ 21,254.05
Fabian Digital and Publications	196.42					196.42
Advertising and marketing	602.15					602.15
Facebook Adverts	163.12					163.12
Total Advertising and marketing	A\$ 765.27	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 765.27
Designer Fees	223.84					223.84
Fabian Magazine	1,585.90					1,585.90
Fabian Magazine Edition 2	450.00					450.00
Fabian Magazine Edition 3	31,801.10					31,801.10
Fabian Magazine Edition 4	700.00					700.00
Total Fabian Magazine	A\$ 34,537.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 34,537.00
Fabian TV	270.00					270.00
Filming , Editing & Loading Costs	348.00					348.00
Total Fabian TV	A\$ 618.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 618.00
Publications	315.00					315.00
Website	1,125.39					1,125.39
Domain Names	133.05					133.05
Nation Builder fees	3,238.89					3,238.89
Supporterbase	134.80					134.80
Total Nation Builder fees	A\$ 3,373.69	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 3,373.69
Total Website	A\$ 4,632.13	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 4,632.13
Total Fabian Digital and Publications	A\$ 41,287.66	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 0.00	A\$ 41,287.66
Total Expenses	A\$ 57,188.13	A\$ 4,420.00	A\$ 1,129.92	A\$ 6,755.92	A\$ 5,840.43	A\$ 75,334.40
Net Earnings	A\$ 6,487.74	-A\$ 630.04	-A\$ 1,129.92	A\$ 7,914.66	-A\$ 5,740.43	A\$ 6,902.01

fabians.org.au