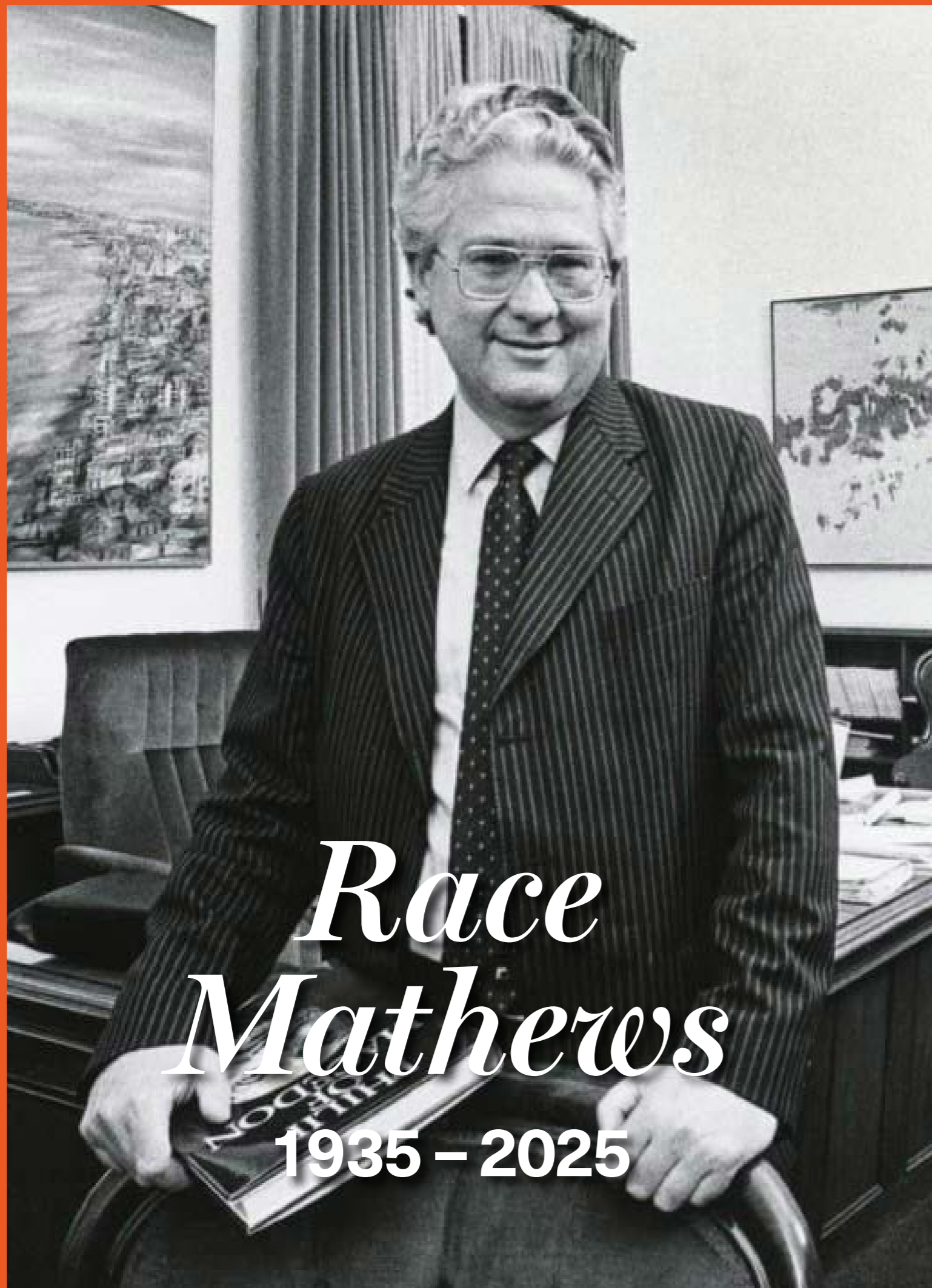




**Australian
Fabians.**

Annual Report

2024-5



Race Mathews

1935 – 2025

National Chair's Report

I am delighted to present to you the Chairs report for the Australian Fabians Annual Report for 2024-25.

In doing so, I would like to announce at the outset that I will be stepping down from the position of Chair at this AGM, to focus on international academic projects, in the next phase of my career.

It has been my absolute privilege to serve as Chair for the past three years, and I am so proud of the progress that we have made as an organisation during that time.

I would like to thank the entire Board for its enormous support and advice during my tenure as Chair, as well as members of the organisation, many of whom I communicated with daily, on various projects and inspirational ideas for policy reform, and I want to express my immense appreciation for the opportunity to lead the organisation.

During my tenure as Chair, we have strengthened our financial position, consolidated our membership, improved our output in existing activities such as publications; made great strides with the Leading and Organising focus of the organisation, as well as expanding the breadth of involvement in new activities including developing a new independent research agenda, establishing a Young Fabians sub committee and progressing discussions with the Commonwealth government towards securing DGR status for the organisation.

The last year has seen a tremendous amount of activity within the organisation.

Vale Race Mathews

In the past weeks, the Fabians shared the sad news with members that that Race Mathews, the former Secretary and President of the Australian Fabian Society from 1960 to 2006 had passed away recently.

Race was Secretary or President of the Australian Fabian Society for nearly fifty years, and worked tirelessly with the Fabians to promote greater equality of power, wealth and opportunity in Australia.

He galvanised Fabians into becoming a real force in influencing Labor policy.

Race's impact on the Fabians was immeasurable, radically increasing the membership of the organisation, strengthening its national structure and commissioning important long essays and pamphlets such as that by Moss Cass and Bill Hayden on national health policy which led to the national health program, Medicare being introduced.

In October 2024, the Australian Fabians helped to organise a book launch of Race Mathews: A Life in Politics, by Iola Mathews, with Monash University Publishing at the Kelvin Club, Melbourne.

The launch was attended by over one hundred Fabians and was a celebration of Race's productive and life dedicated to progressive social change, with the Trades Hall Choir singing many of Race's favourite folk songs from the 1960s protest era.

A State funeral is to be held for Race Mathews in the next couple of weeks, details of which will be shared with the membership via an email and on social media.

Leadership and Organising training

The Australian Fabians has continued over the past year, to offer leadership and organising training, based on the work of Marshall Ganz from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. This training focuses on developing public narrative and organising skills for campaign strategy, engagement, and supporting others in problem-solving.

Training directly delivered by Fabians included short courses in Melbourne in August 2024 and Brisbane in January 2025 targeting Fabian members and other progressive activists. Two of our trainers, Daniel Gerrard and Phil O'Donoghue were invited to help deliver a program in Melbourne during August that was co-hosted by the Australian Trade Union Institute and Australian Progress. The National Board, Fabian members and supporters make donations to sponsor an SA Fabian member to undertake that program.

Publications

Issue 7 of the Review, Editor Paul Read, Designer Vice Chair Amanda Rainey, was produced in July 2024, as an online edition, and focused on cutting edge essays from leading thinkers, on the public policy challenges presented in tackling inequality, poverty, homelessness and climate change. This edition also contained two new sections; the first, a new Fellow Travellers series, that had been suggested by ACT Fabians Convenor, Daniel Gerrard and Fabians National Secretary Mark Bonanno in which Fabian's members are invited to share their thoughts on their own struggles and victories in support of progressive policies. The second, another new section that highlights the work of younger writers.

Earlier this year in 2025, we celebrate the 140th anniversary of the first Fabians Society, in Britain in 1884, producing a magazine of collected essays entitled Songlines to the Future, under the stewardship of Fabians Review Editor Dr Paul Read, and Artistic Designer and Deputy Chair of the Australian Fabians, Dr Amanda Rainey.

This special anniversary edition contained many powerful and impactful essays from past editions,

starting with an essay from the Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, showcasing the ideas of the best of our great thinkers and political leaders from across the Australian political landscape across a range of areas including housing, health, indigenous, media, welfare, industry and population policy.

Research

The newly formed Fabians Research Advisory committee, that was established early in my term as Chair, continues to meet quarterly and members have been active in identifying research projects to pursue and seek investment to fund. Members include Eva Cox, Max Ogden, Stephen Alomes, Tony Webb, Paul Read and Linda Hancock.

In relation to research, I am pleased to announce that we have finalised our first pilot research study, A Feasibility Study on the establishment of a pilot food/beverage/dairy cooperative using the Murray Goulburn region as a case study, written by researcher Jackson Hewitt.

The report was commissioned as a priority piece of research by the Fabians Research Advisory Committee, and was developed by a working group including Fabian, LEAN and trade union activists with experience in agricultural policy. The focus on co-operatives was seen as fitting for the Fabians, given the long policy involvement in this area of Race Mathews, long term former Chair and Secretary of the organisation.

The report explored the scope and feasibility for community cooperative ventures linking farmers, workers and community stakeholders to create more sustainable dairy industry supply chains and will form the basis of advocacy on not only future research investment for the Fabians research agenda but also by establishing the social need and business case for a Co-operative Development Agency to be established by government, to help finance co-operative development in the future.

Fabians and young people

We now have an active Young Fabians sub-committee, led by Fabian's member Campbell Frost and centred

around the Monash University student base.

The group is active on social media and in the process of organising events and a new publication 'Young Fabian Review' of which Campbell is the editor.

Financial position and membership

We are in a great financial position, having recorded a surplus of \$22,333.69 this financial year.

Membership is strong at 1,225 financial members.

We have actively pursued DGR status, and conducted a stint of political lobbying in Canberra and met with Andrew Leigh, MP to pursue this agenda, an agenda which will continued to be pursued by the new board in 2025-26.

International engagement

The Australian Fabians held a massively attended event in Melbourne on July 5th 2024 at the Sherlock Holmes tavern in the city, to watch the election results of the British election live on a large screen and participants saw the Labor Party leader Keir Starmer get elected as the new Prime Minister, with his exciting manifesto of five 'national missions' including reform of the economy, NHS, crime, education and climate change.

The Fabians also organised a social lunch in Melbourne with the UK Fabians visiting Young Fabians representative Ed Selkirk Ford and Fabians members that was focused on shared ideas for publications and sharing policy papers on our respective websites, as well as consolidating the idea of bringing out a British MP in the future for a speaking tour.

Roundtable on a Second Term Agenda for a Federal Labor government

The Australian Fabians member Max Ogden, helped to organise a partnership between the Fabians and Search Foundation, towards setting up joint events around soliciting new policy ideas for a second term Albanese government, and a Roundtable has been established for June 2025 in Melbourne, with many Fabians and Search members to discuss ideas and present a publication to the government with papers arising from the meeting.

SARAH HOWE

State Branch Reports

VICTORIAN BRANCH

CHAIR: JEFF MCCRACKEN-HEWSON

During this year, we have remained focused on our core aim, of supporting the progressive movement in the development of ideas and arguments, which inform and enthuse activists, and which make a difference to the political debate and to political outcomes.

We seek to deliver on our aims principally through our Events and Publications. We try to identify key issues for the progressive movement and to give a platform to leading thinkers and activists to present and debate their thoughts on these issues with our members.

In the 24/25 period we have held events on:

- The media in Australia and their role in democratic politics
- Israel/Palestine and how our government is responding to the conflict in Gaza
- The rise of the far right around the world, and its implications for Australia
- Threats to freedom of speech. This was the speaker topic for our annual dinner
- Australia's path to net zero, and the obstacles we must overcome to get there
- Inequality and its impact on the social fabric.

Our Annual Dinner was once again the crowning event of our year. We had around 80 people in attendance, and a very rewarding evening was had by all, with special Guest Speaker Greg Barns, SC in the house.

Turning to publications, we have worked hard to generate a pipeline of items. These included:

- Our first Fabians Essay for some time – by David Richardson and Franks Stillwell -

on Tax Reform – which also appeared in a shorter form as an article.

- Tristan Ewins on “a socialist programme for Labor”
- Jeff McCracken-Hewson on Modern Monetary Theory
- Peter Norden on A Housing Policy for Social Cohesion
- Tony Webb on the health dangers of nuclear power.

All these pieces had Fabian's members as authors.

Our membership numbers have remained fairly constant. We finished the year with 427 members in Victoria, 7 less than last year.

Our achievements are due to the hard work and enthusiasm of our Victorian Executive committee: Jeff McCracken-Hewson (Chair), Fernanda Trecenti (Vice chair and Events), Robyn Saltmarsh (Secretary), David Redfearne (Treasurer), Megan Poad (Membership Secretary), Sarah Howe, Chris Blake, Julia Thornton and Peter Norden

ACT BRANCH

CHAIR: DANIEL GERRARD

Australian Fabians continue to participate in the political and intellectual life of Canberra. In both the Territory election held in late 2024, and the Federal election, our members were re-elected, and it is particularly pleasing to note that past leaders of our branch, Katy Gallagher and Andrew Leigh, were both re-elected.

The ACT branch of Australian Fabians have continued operate in the pattern of the last few years, participating in the life of the wider society, whilst maintaining a network in the Territory. We have

continued to welcome members transferring from interstate for work, and recruit some new members.

The richness of the offerings of Canberra's intellectual life continues to be both a blessing and a curse for our branch. Barely a week goes by without several terrific offerings of events by universities, think tanks or other organisations to participate in. However, this crowded schedule makes it difficult to develop our own schedule of events.

As a small branch, we are particularly grateful for the larger branches who include us in their online events.

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

CHAIR: ANNIE HUMPHRIES

During the last 12 months, the Queensland branch of the Australian Fabians has continued its efforts in promoting progressive ideas and fostering leadership within the community. Over the past year, the branch has engaged in a range of activities that have contributed to the political and social discourse in Australia.

One of the standout achievements, both nationally and in Queensland, has been the Marshall Ganz-based leadership organising training. One session delivered in January 2025.

The branch has also participated in a series of events. The first was the Terry Hampson Dinner (Nov 24) where Aaron Fa'aoso was the guest speaker, Aaron had just stood down as co-chair with Professor Tom Calma of the Treaty and Truth Telling Committee. He invigorated us with his ideas to promote policy and action in this area.

In Feb 25 we offered a face-to-face and online event about referendum reform delivered by committee member, Martin Falcongren.

In Jan 25 we offered a free short session on the Marshall Ganz community organising training. While these events were organised by the Qld committee they were not well attended.

In March this year we sent out a survey to members and supporters to get their feedback on potential topics we could organise for future events.

This will be reviewed and subject matter identified for future events.

The branch is also proud of its contributions to the Fabian Review and the Fabian's efforts in providing a platform to discuss urgent and important issues such as the tragedy that has unfolded in Gaza – particularly the poignant essays by Captain Paul Watson and Tony Webb.

The branch's membership remains steady, and the branch has maintained a small surplus.

Finally, in an organisation run entirely by volunteers who are passionate about progress, the Queensland branch thanks the current Convenor, Annie Humphries. The branch also thanks executive committee members, Brianna Hammond, David Cassells, Martin Falcongren, Marcia Conlon and Kevin Conway for their service.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

CO CHAIRS: TIM DYMOND & NATALIE MAST

WA Fabians is guided by an Organising Group currently comprising Steve Howe (Secretary), Tim Dymond (Co-Convenor), Natalie Mast (Co-Convenor), Amanda Rainey, Damien Smith, Lutz Elber, and Will van den Wall Bake.

WA Fabians have a financial membership of 175 and an WA email of members and supporters of 549.

Since May 2024 we have organised the following events:

*Why the world is F***ed (25 May 2024)*

A summary of global conflicts and their causes by The Redline podcast founder and presenter, Michael Hilliard.

Show some Pride (26 July 2024)

A special Screening of the 2014 movie 'Pride' which tells the inspiring true story of a group of LGBTQ+ activists who form an unexpected alliance with Welsh miners during the 1984 UK miners strike - which was 40 years ago this year!

Proceeds went to Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA in support of their efforts in Palestine. It was supported by WA Fabians, UWA Labor, the UWA student Guild, and the CFMEU Youth Crew.

Marshall Ganz Conversation on Leadership (31 July 2024)

A conversation between Harvard Professor Marshall Ganz and Victorian Trades Hall

Council Assistant Secretary Wil Stracke. Chaired by Amanda Rainey, the National

Deputy Chair of Australian Fabians, and co-hosted with Australian Progress.

End of year get together - to Vent About Elections in 2024 (8 December 2024)

WA Fabian members and supporters got together socially and debrief in the Chamber Room, Molly's Irish Pub.

2025 WA Election Analysis (8 March 2025)

An analysis of the West Australia state election's voting and trends by William Bowe, aka The Poll Bludger, with responses from Keating Pollster Karen Luscombe and WA Labor Director of Local Campaigns Mark Fahey.

Planned upcoming events include:

- Election analysis for the 2025 Federal election result.
- A fundraising event themed on Bastille Day.



Treasurer's Report

The National Accounts (including Branches) for the 2024 Calendar Year (our Financial Year) for our regulators (CAV, ASIC, & ACNC) are attached. My additional comments are as follows:

- The National accounts have been produced using QuickBooks and finalised using Microsoft Excel to consolidate the financial information and for the calculation of depreciation and accumulated depreciation on Property, Plant, and Equipment (a Webcam for Events) purchased during 2023.
- During the year, we resolved issues with income and expenditure linked to stripe membership fees and issues with the linking of CommBank reports and had to cancel our automation process as the company who were providing the services to us are dormant.
- In previous years, the Budget versus Actual Results and Bank Account Balances have been provided to the AGM. The Consolidated Income Statement and Consolidated Statement of Financial Statement that compares the previous years results.
- We are not registered for GST and are under the threshold for mandatory registration for GST, which is \$150,000 for not-for-profit entities (as at May 2025).
- Actual total income increased by 9%, mainly because event and interest income exceeded expectations.
- Expected Membership income decreased by 14%. The main reasons provided for this include change in financial circumstances for members

and the cost-of-living crisis. Membership income forms a significant income stream for our organisation. It is recommended that we continue to review and invest in understanding, maintaining, and increasing membership in all states and territories.

- Actual expenses amounted to around 58% of budgeted expenses. The main reason for this was the decision not to spend as much on Print and Digital Publications and the fact that the Print Publication expenses and Research expenses have been incurred in the 2025 calendar year.
- There was a surplus of \$22,333.69. This was far better than the budgeted deficit of \$11,530.00.
- During the year, multiple events were held by branches including Summer School, Leadership and Organising Training, the WA Pride Event, QLD Terry Hampson Dinner, and the Victorian Annual Dinner.
- From the 2023/24 income year, Australian Fabians Inc will need to lodge annual not for profit returns to self-assess as income exempt (Reporting requirements are changing for NFPs). The National Executive will action the reporting and lodgement requirements on behalf of Australian Fabians Inc.

The Australian Fabians Accounts are in very good shape. The Bank Balance total as at the 31 December 2024 was \$152,579.76. An increase of \$22,446.11 from the previous year. See the 2024 Financial Statements on the next page.

DANIELLE PAIN

Consolidated Financial Statements

BUDGET VERSUS ACTUAL RESULTS As at 31 December 2024

	Budget 2024 (\$)	Actual 2024 (\$)	Variance (\$)
INCOME			
Donations	2,000.00	24.26	- 1,975.74
Total Event Income		14,454.91	14,454.91
Membership	54,000.00	46,384.70	- 7,615.30
Interest Received	200.00	466.03	266.03
Online Store	-	166.46	166.46
TOTAL INCOME	56,200.00	61,496.36	5,296.36
EXPENDITURE			
Event Expense	5,000.00	10,468.56	5,468.56
Fabian Administration	3,470.00	2,036.10	- 1,433.90
Accounting and Bookkeeping	970.00	1,209.21	239.21
Bank Charges	1,600.00	416.47	- 1,183.53
Online Store	-	830.94	830.94
Insurance	1,300.00	1,242.85	- 57.15
Membership	2,400.00	2,982.69	582.69
Advertising and Marketing	3,000.00	1,830.95	- 1,169.05
Telephone and Internet	2,000.00	2,203.79	203.79
Subscriptions	1,700.00	695.60	- 1,004.40
Digital Publications	15,000.00	1,850.00	- 13,150.00
Print Publications	15,000.00	1,017.50	- 13,982.50
Designer Fees		264.00	264.00
Website	6,290.00	7,134.13	844.13
Research	10,000.00	5,000.00	- 5,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	67,730.00	39,182.79	- 28,547.21
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-\$ 11,530.00	22,313.57	33,843.57
BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES			
1-Jan-24			130,133.65
31-Dec-24			152,579.76
Gain/Loss			22,446.11

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT As at 31 December 2024

	2023 (\$)	2024 (\$)
INCOME		
Donations	3,841.16	24.26
Total Event Income	20,252.62	14,454.91
Membership	50,327.89	46,384.70
Interest Received	1,247.99	466.03
Online Store - Gross Income	92.80	- 664.48
TOTAL INCOME	75,762.46	60,665.42
EXPENDITURE		
Event Expense	48,364.62	10,468.56
Fabian Administration	731.92	2,036.10
Accounting and Bookkeeping	3,607.50	1,209.21
Bank Charges	1,300.41	416.47
Insurance	1,240.72	1,242.85
Membership	1,533.23	2,982.69
Advertising and Marketing	1,116.49	1,830.95
Telephone and Internet	2,208.21	2,203.79
Subscriptions	-	695.60
Digital Publications	543.66	1,850.00
Print Publications	964.00	1,017.50
Designer Fees	209.90	264.00
Website	3,158.51	7,134.13
Research	-	5,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	64,979.17	38,351.85
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	10,783.29	22,313.57

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET As at 31 December 2024

	2023 (\$)	2024 (\$)
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank Account	130,133.65	152,579.76
TOTAL ASSETS	130,133.65	152,579.76
EQUITY		
Surplus (Deficit)	10,783.29	22,313.57
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit)	119,350.36	130,266.19
TOTAL EQUITY	130,133.65	152,579.76

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