



## **Australian Fabians Inc.**

### **NATIONAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2014**

---

Dear members,

As this is my first report as Chair since taking over the role from Andrew Hunter six months ago I would like to start by acknowledging and thanking him for the enormous contribution he made to the successful efforts we've taken as an organisation to rebuild over recent years. Initiatives that Andrew spearheaded, such as the new logo, website and FabiansTV have continued to embed themselves in the organisation and form a strong platform for us to build on over the coming year.

Can I also thank the National Board for their enthusiasm and dedication to the Fabians and to the goal of equality over the last year. I'm loathe to diminish the collective efforts of the group, but it would be remiss of me not to recognise the utterly tireless efforts of our National Secretary Roger Byrne and our National Treasurer Jill Byrne, who each have made extraordinary commitments of time and energy this year.

That said, this has been another strong year for the Australian Fabians, but not without its challenges. Membership growth and engagement, as well as overall organisational activity levels are up and growing. Our finances are in good shape and the new financial transparency framework is working well so you can be confident that we are making every effort to spend your resources prudently and effectively.

We have delivered some outstanding events this year, two especially notable examples of which are the NSW forum on the ALP Constitution's Socialist Objective (which resulted in an excellent publication available from our website) and the mini-conference in Melbourne in June for which over 150 tickets were

sold and a wealth of FabiansTV content was captured which will be available soon.

Growth in the number of Young Fabians members continues strongly and a number of these new members have made it onto state branch committees, which is an exciting injection of new blood into the organisation.

Last year we managed to restart both the Tasmanian and West Australian Branches which had been dormant for some years. With those branches operating we had active branches in every state and the ACT. This was a difficult exercise but important to the strength and relevance of the organisation going forward. The Tasmanian branch seems to be travelling well with a solid membership, active branch committee and good prospects. The WA branch hasn't fared as well and we'll need to make every effort to provide services and value for our WA members through our publications, podcasts and FabiansTV while we look for way to reignite the local branch.

With new progressive governments in Victoria and Queensland, as well as the potential for a federal election in the next 12 months the Fabians are needed more than ever to ensure that issues of inequality in wealth, power and opportunity remain front and centre in the public policy debate.

We have some great events and new publications planned for the coming year which will help re-position the Fabians as a true research body once again.

For that to happen we need our members. So let me finish by thanking you for your support of the Fabians this year. I hope we have lived up to your high ideals, demonstrated our value to you and that you'll remain a part of our movement in the vital year ahead.

In equality,

Tim Sonnreich  
National Chairman