

ANNUAL REPORT



**Australian
Fabians.**

**2016
ANNUAL
REPORT**





Australian Fabians Inc.

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2016

Dear members,

Thank you for your support of the Australian Fabians over the last year. This has been an important year from a governance perspective. We've ended a period of experimentation with free new membership and have settled on a low-fee basis for both new and existing members.

We knew the free new membership promotion would inflate membership, and that not all those people would be willing to pay to renew the following year. But we now have a sizable bank of people who have clearly felt a connection to our aims and activities and we need to make every effort to entice these people to re-join in the coming year.

Our social media activities have generated great results this year, with some huge responses to certain posts, both in relation to our original content and the curated material we choose to share. That shows that a growing body of people see us a useful and credible source of information on aspects of inequality that concern them.

I'd like to thank everyone involved in FabianTV, Equality and the range of publications/podcasts that branches (especially NSW) have produced in the last year. There is some great new FabianTV content coming out in the months ahead so look out for some of the special interviews.

There are always challenges for any organisation. We need to have a careful think of the long term viability of the branch model, and we are far from an acceptable position on gender equality in our leadership positions. 2018 is the next year for National Board elections and I hope we can use that AGM as an opportunity to welcome a lot of new female Fabians members into key positons.

I'll finish by briefly thanking the members of the National Board, and all the members of the Branch Committees. These roles are too often a thankless task but we would not exist without you and I know that all members appreciate your efforts.

Yours in equality,

Tim Sonnreich
National Chairman



**Australian
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Australian Fabians Inc.

NATIONAL SECRETARY & MEMBERSHIP OFFICERS' ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016

Secretary's Report:

We have had another great year rebuilding the Australian Fabians, with many great & a few weaker outcomes:

- Completed our AGM in Sydney. Elected members will be due for reelection at the 2018 AGM in Brisbane.
- Got our new Nation Builder web site fully functioning under Osmond Chiu and Billy Colless. Thanks to both.
- Highly active National Board & reactivated State branches in QLD but had difficulties with TAS & ACT.
- Undertook Strategic Planning day in Sydney and developed several major projects some of which have been completed. Some are still being acted on, and others no action.
- Enhanced our email subscriber and social media access through Facebook and twitter increasing our listings to record levels (11,000).
- Continued our efforts on recruiting young Fabians and reducing our age profile, but lack of age records continues to make this difficult, but it is key 2016 target.
- Modernized the National Financial reporting system and finalized Commbiz electronic systems for National and Branch accounts eliminating the need for branch Treasurers.
- Produced 12 monthly Equality newsletters. Thanks to the wonderful efforts of Victoria Fielding with help from Pauline Gambley.
- Completed regulatory reporting requirements to CAV and ASIC.

Activities Undertaken in 2016

Events/Branch	VIC	NSW	QLD	ACT	SA	WA	TAS	NT	NAT
Forums	11	7	3	0	2	3	0	0	NA
Dinners	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	NA
AGM's	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
Exec Meetings	6	7	4	1	2	2	0	0	14
Planning Days	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
Totals	20	17	10	1	6	7	0	0	16

I refer all readers to the individual branch reports for 2016 that will be circulated to branch members separately via email.

Membership Officers Report:

We have had another great year rebuilding the Fabian Society. However the matter of membership has been a disappointment. With the changes to our web site and issues with the new membership system we have had difficulty in sustaining our high levels of membership renewals and new growth.

As at 31 December 2015 membership is 913, representing 116% of our total 2014 figures. By 31 December 2016 we had fallen to approx. 600. See the 31 December 2016 Membership Drive Reports attached for more details and the trends over the last 10 years.

The key reasons for this were multiple including:

- Troubles with our new web site.
- The changes in our membership categories
- Our failure to implement the branch ring around approach

I believe that we are now on top of all these factors and current membership is back on trend.

However our total strength also lies in our other forms of participation we now have the following approximate numbers as compared with 2015 shown in brackets:

1. Membership list	600	(850)
2. Mail lists (email)	4300	(4300)
3. Facebook Page	1800	(1800)
4. Twitter Accounts	550	(550)
5. TOTAL	7100	(7100)

This total mail list picture represents a far greater level of exposure for Fabians than we have ever had before and is reflective of our objective of recruiting younger members using modern social media trends.

The membership categories for 2016 showed the following numbers compared with 2015 numbers in brackets:

	2016	2015
Individual Members	230	(359)
Concession Members	195	(195)
New Members	160	(incl above)
Young Fabians	(inc above)	(347)
Life Members	11	(11)
TOTAL	598	(850)

Our changes in membership categories and reduced pricing for 2017 have been well accepted by the membership, so far, however only the full year will tell. The new web site will substantially reduce the administrative effort that has been required this year. It will also offer greater ability for branches to communicate with members.

Conclusions & Acknowledgements:

The Australian Fabian are rebuilding and are operating nationally with a growing our total contacts with a younger age profile, all promoting greater equality within our Australian Society.

I would like to thank all the National Board members and Branch Executives for their support and hard work. I would especially like to thank the National Chairman Tim Sonnreich, Treasurer, Jill Byrne, Publications Director Victoria Fielding and Web Director/s Osmond Chiu & Billy Colless for their great support.

Regards

Roger Byrne

National Secretary & Membership Officer

February 2017



**Australian
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**National Treasurers Report for 2016
Financial (Calendar) Year**

To National Board Members, Branch Secretary's and Members

The National Accounts (Including branches) for the 2016 Financial Year and the official statement for our regulators (CAV& ASIC) are attached:

I ask you to read these in association with the following comments.

- Total income of \$25,060, fell to almost 50% of last year's income.
- There was a net profit of \$3,975 which was quite good since there was such a reduction of total income.
- A net loss was budgeted for but did not happen due to the expected large discretionary expenditure being deferred due to reduced membership income.
- The transfer of all accounts (National & Branch) to the 'Commbiz System' has now been completed and is working most effectively for both branches and national.
- BAS statements have been completed on time, with reduced effort.
- We have now eliminated the necessity for branch Treasurers, with all accounting now being carried out by the National Treasurer after approval from relevant branch officers.
- We are still working with the Australian Taxation as to our status as a Not-for-profit and the necessity of completing taxation returns.

The Australian Fabians accounts are still in good shape and when we consider the sums held in branch and national accounts amounting to approx. \$94,519, however with the ALP Academy project and other key activities it is important that we restore the membership income to more normal levels.

Regards

Jill Byrne CPA

6/03/17

National Treasurer Australian Fabians Inc.

Mobile Phone +61 416 017 089

Fabian email: treasurer@fabian.org.au

AUSTRALIAN FABIANS NATIONAL & BRANCHES
FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2016 AGAINST BUDGET & QUARTERS

	BUDGET 2016	TOTAL 4 QTRS Actual	1st QTR 31-03-2016	2nd QTR 30-06-16	3rd QTR 30-09-16	4th Qtr 31-12-16
INCOME			\$	\$		
Membership	32,800.00	25,060.02	12,799.68	2,577.82	3,375.35	6,307.17
Donations	5,000.00	2,239.05	865.00	620.00	180.00	574.05
Interest received	850.00	470.47	143.73	139.76	109.16	77.82
Advertising		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Event income	3,750.00	10,313.38	136.36	0.00	50.00	10,127.02
Other /raffles/book sales etc.		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	42,400.00	38,082.92	13,944.77	3,337.58	3,714.51	17,086.06
EXPENDITURE						
Recurring Expenditure						
ADMINISTRATION / MEMBERSHIP						
<i>Bank Fees-Combizz</i> CBA	950.00	560.02	66.50	129.54	177.34	186.64
<i>Merchant Bank Fees</i> CBA	400.00	383.41	183.42	65.45	65.45	69.09
<i>Processing Fees - Credit Card</i>	600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Telephone Calls</i> Various	200.00	260.84	200.04	0.00	60.80	0.00
<i>Printing & Stationery</i> Various	400.00	507.19	54.20	0.00	181.98	271.01
<i>Postage</i>	100.00	74.48	8.18	0.00	0.00	66.30
<i>PO Box Rental & Redirection</i>	950.00	946.32	946.32	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Publications Postage</i>	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Statutory Charges</i>	250.00	66.72	0.00	49.45	17.27	0.00
<i>Insurances</i>	2,200.00	1,938.50	0.00	1,938.50	0.00	0.00
<i>Member Surveys (monkey)</i>	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Secretarial Membership Assistance</i>	850.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Accounting Fees</i>	2,450.00	1,817.10	482.40	428.70	450.00	456.00
<i>Audit fees</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Other / non allocated(tee shirts)</i>	500.00	693.63	545.45	50.00	0.00	98.18
Website						
<i>ISP Hosting</i> Web Central	1,300.00	419.36	133.67	133.65	62.63	89.41
<i>Nation Builder</i>	0.00	508.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	508.20
<i>Domain Names</i>	60.00	321.72	0.00	131.77	189.95	0.00
<i>Mail list fees</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Support / Maintenanc</i> Billy Colles	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Board						
<i>Teleconferencing</i> Hot Air Conferencing	1,200.00	917.55	64.94	196.99	329.21	326.41
<i>Teleconferencing Subcommittees</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>AGM& planning day including Travel</i>	5,000.00	3,575.28	1,449.89	2,056.30	0.00	69.09
<i>Planning Day (included in AGM)</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Election Fees (Electronic if required)</i>	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Publications						
<i>EQUALITY e Newsletter (12 #)</i>	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>FABIAN NEWS (4#)</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Designer Fees</i>	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Editorial Assistance</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Printing (Booklets)</i>	0.00	1,376.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,376.48
Events / Competitions						
<i>Venue Hire</i>	12,800.00	8,946.82	5,534.55	385.91	750.00	2,276.36
<i>Equipment Hire</i>	300.00	45.45	0.00	45.45	0.00	0.00
<i>Speaker fees /gifts/expenses</i>	400.00	4,318.30	0.00	948.81	1,553.21	1,816.28
<i>Event management</i>	0.00	227.79	0.00	72.73	155.06	0.00
<i>Banners (not included in original budget)</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Advertising Facebook</i>	0.00	323.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	323.53
<i>Young Fabian Writers Competition Costs /P</i>	1,000.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fabian TV						
<i>Travel</i>	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Interview Video Activities</i>	1,500.00	4,600.00	0.00	1,800.00	1,000.00	1,800.00
<i>Editing & Loading Costs</i>	1,000.00	879.40	777.28	102.12	0.00	0.00
<i>VIMEO & other licences</i>	800.00	199.09	0.00	199.09	0.00	0.00
SUB TOTAL Recurrent Expenditure	42,410.00	34,107.18	10,646.84	8,734.46	4,992.90	9,732.98

Now part of Stripe fees

Not required 2015

Discretionary / Major Expenditure (Hoped For)

Website Nation Builder Upgrade	600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ALP National conference fringe stall	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Events Banners	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Editorial Software for Publications	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Purchase Audio Equipment for Events	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Special Assistance WA revival	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Special Assistance TAS revival	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Special Assistance QLD revival	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Special Assistance ACT revival	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SUB TOTAL Discretionary Expenditure	9,100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	51,510.00	34,107.18	10,646.84	8,734.46	4,992.90	9,732.98
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) 2016	-9,110.00	3,975.74	\$ 3,297.93	-5,396.88	-1,278.39	7,353.08



National AGM April 2017

Branch Reports

WA Fabians

The past year has been an active one for Fabians in WA, albeit with some pauses due to the Federal, then WA State elections as many active members worked hard in an effort to defeat conservative government.

On 29 April 2016, we held our 2016 AGM with a strong turnout of member and guest to hear from two expert speakers from WA Opinion Polls on their long history of analysing focus group and polling research in a presentation on long term trends in progressive voting.

At that AGM interim office bearers filled on-going roles and formally marked a transition from a barely functioning arm of Fabians into a genuinely active group. Philip O'Donoghue was appointed Chair, Paul Stewart, Secretary, Keryn Anderson, Membership Officer and committee members include Stephanie Enkle, Ivy Chen and Robert Knox.

On 2 August we held a forum reviewing the 2016 Federal election with guest speakers being William Bowe (aka "The PollBludger"), the CEO of the Conservation Council of WA, Piers Versteegen and the Secretary of UnionsWA, Meredith Hammat.

On 12 October, 2016, with support from UnionsWA, the CPSU-CSA (the main WA state public sector union), we co-hosted a visit to WA by Amanda Tattersall which included a public address on community and unions.

On 6 April 2017 a forum was held on the 2017 WA State election result with addresses from William Bowe and Karen Luscombe (WA Opinion Polls). This was co-hosted with UnionsWA and the CPSU-CSA and was exceptionally well attended.

Philip O'Donoghue
Chair
WA Fabians

QUEENSLAND Fabians

Following a good start by the Interim Committee, a new committee was elected at the AGM held on 16 November 2016. Headed by the driving force of Billy Colless, this committee has a range of ages and backgrounds. This includes Prof John Scott of QUT, and Lara Watson, head of the Indigenous Reference Group of the ALP in Queensland. We also have representatives from regional areas such as the Gold Coast, the Sunshine Coast and Townsville.

Membership - Queensland built up its membership last year through active recruitment at functions and other activities such as Labor Day. This year we are casting the net wider. We have commenced a ring around of non-renewals from the last two years to a reasonable response so far. We have also started a visit to ALP branches to recruit members without previous knowledge. We have also advertised in the ALP newsletter.

Later this year we hope to do community forums to gain progressive thinkers outside the party as well as joint functions and possibly a university based function to reach outside our normal framework.

Another issue is the lack of equality in women committee members and those from other cultures. Queensland will be bringing a motion to the National Planning Day to address this. We are also developing a handbook for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and multi-cultural communities.

Functions - Two successful functions were held last year. The first on Achieving Equality in a Current Environment had Hon Wayne Swan former Federal Treasurer; Hon Grace Crace, Qld Minister for Industrial relations and Mr Phillip Anthony, a lawyer, and long term Community Legal Service Volunteer discussing the factors impacting on equality. Our second function was Improving Minority Participation in Political Process and had as speakers Lara Watson, Indigenous representative; Pat O'Neill Federal Candidate and LGBTI community member and Galila Abdelsalaam and Nora Amath from the Islamic Women's Association discussing the issues that lose support from communities. Significant issues was the lack of meaningful consultations with communities and high vote for One Nation in Aboriginal and multicultural communities due to this feeling of not participating in the conversation.

We will be holding 2017 functions from late May starting with Advocating for Equality with a variety of Community Advocates. Currently David Cassels, our committee member from Townsville, is working with Mike Reynolds, former State Member and long term Mayor of Townsville, to establish a sub-branch in Townsville and hold its first function on Youth Justice. We also plan a function with Clementine Ford as a cocktail function. We will need either sponsorship or Federal guarantee of speaker's fees of \$1500 plus another \$1500 to cover flights and accommodation. A similar function last year attracted 200 guests. We also hope to hold an annual dinner following our AGM in November and the putative National Tour. As well we are in conversation with Prof Mary Crawford of the T.J. Ryam Foundation regarding possible joint functions.

Our aim is to boost the Australian Fabians (Qld) into a significant organisation as it was several years ago. We plan to use a variety of means from investing in Social Media; signing up at functions and community meetings to raise our profile.

Kevin Conway – National Board Representative.

VICTORIAN Fabians

NSW Fabians

SA Fabians

ACT Fabians – Currently being reformed.

TASMANIAN Fabians – Currently being reformed.