

# The Australiana Society

Researching, collecting and preserving Australia's heritage.

## Annual General Meeting, 2 September, 2023

### AGENDA ITEMS

1. Welcome to members present and members via Zoom
2. Apologies
3. Notification of Conflicts of Interest
4. Confirmation of Minutes of AGM 2022
5. Presentation of President's Report
6. Presentation of Treasurer's Report including financial statements FYE 30 June 2023
7. Tabling of the Society's Annual Summary of Financial affairs: Tier 2 Form A12-T2
8. Election of Office Bearers and Directors for 2023 – 2025

Nominations received did not outnumber the vacancies available. Therefore, the following members, whose nominations have been received, are declared elected for a period of two years.

Deputy President: Andrew Simpson  
Treasurer: Lynda Summers  
Board Member: 2 vacant positions remain

9. Meeting Close
10. Any informal questions of the Board



## President's Annual Report for the 2023 Financial Year

It is my great privilege to present the 2023 financial years annual Presidents Report on behalf of the Society's National Board of Directors.

The 2023 financial year has proven to be another great year for the Society. With the disaster that was COVID-19 behind us your board got to work at a National and State level to deliver what we believe were enhanced opportunities for members to benefit from. Events included the annual National Tour in March 2023 to Canberra and environs led by NSW Branch Chair Robert Hannan, assisted by our National Secretary Peter Crawshaw and NSW Committee member Gail Darby. This was the first occasion the National Tour had attended the ACT and a wonderful time of learning and fellowship was experienced by the members who attended. Special thanks are extended to Robert, Peter and Gail for their skill in arranging an event which was of the highest standard and ran very smoothly.

Our State Branches continue to provide opportunities for events within their respective jurisdictions which are advertised nationally so all members can attend if they wish. This again adds value to membership of the Society. The enhanced activities of our state branches in particular, has resulted in fully paid membership pushing past the 500 member level for the first time that I am aware of. This is a great achievement which does not just happen by chance.

Some members may have noticed improvements to our flagship magazine *Australiana*. These have been implemented on a virtual quarter by quarter basis and may go unnoticed however we are continually identifying "tweaks" here and there to enhance this most important part of membership. The major change during the year was engaging a new magazine printer. Not only is the printing of a higher standard the change has also resulted in less cost. As always special thanks must be extended to our Editor John Wade, Designer Kylie Kennedy, our various authors for their wonderful research, and the volunteers led by Vice President Andy Simpson who address, pack and post the magazine each quarter. Thank you one and all!

Financially the Society continues to grow despite the many increased pressures a high inflationary environment presents. Our Treasurer Lynda Summers ensures financial compliance which the Board believes satisfies the highest requirement of an organisation such as ours. Thank you, Lynda, for your efforts in this regard. In respect to costs your Board has made the decision that it is our intention to retain the annual membership fee at \$90 per annum for as long as possible. This will be achievable if we can continue to manage our costs of operation, continue to grow the membership base and increase income streams from user pay advertising and events. Members will note our web site and internet costs have incurred quite a significant expense increase this financial year. This was due to the number of improvements made and also in part, timing issues. Information Technology (IT) will continue to be a significant expense in the future however this is a necessary change and with it comes enhanced efficiencies and security of information. All part of the rapidly changing world we live in and what is expected of a modern organisation. Thank you to the IT Committee who presided over the improvements made.

Thank you also to our many members who assisted in our "call to arms" in respect to the proposed non funding of TROVE. Your efforts in responding in the manner you did has seen TROVE's funding guaranteed for at least the next four financial years. Let's continue to use this wonderful research medium and ensure its future funding is never in doubt again.

In summing up I would thank all current Directors, State Chairs and their Committees and all the volunteers who continue to give of their time, skill and expertise to enable the Society to continue to grow and provide such wonderful opportunities to our current and future members. I believe it is also opportune to thank all the Committee members who served the Society since its formation in 1978 for their past efforts to ensure the continuance of this wonderful Society. Without you we would not be able to do what we do today.

Colin S Thomas,  
President, *Australiana Society*