

## **ANZ Pensioners' Association - Annual Report 2023**

As required by our Constitution, the Association's primary objective is to encourage contact, communication and social activities for its Members.

A number of social events were held in 2023 including lunches in Kent, London, Beckenham, Scotland and Harare. We are grateful to the Regional Liaison Officers (RLOs) and others who organise these lunches and maintain contact with Members in their area.

It was decided to no longer hold the Minerva Club meetings at the Mug House in Tooley Street due to lack of support. However, it was agreed to trial an alternative gathering nearer the ANZ office in Canary Wharf on "Committee" days so that Members and current ANZ staff can meet at a venue in Canary Wharf. These "meet the committee" sessions will be held at 2 pm after the Committee meetings and will be advertised on our website and in the Newsletter.

Following a review by the Committee, it was decided that the RLO function was no longer performing a viable role in support of the Association's objectives. This was primarily due to the lack of active volunteers in this role and the unfilled vacancies in nearly 50% of the defined areas. As a consequence of this review, it was decided at the AGM in September to phase out the role over the coming years by not replacing existing RLO's when they ask stand down from the role. Importantly, it allowed the remaining active RLO's to continue in their roles so long as they were happy to do so and enabled them to continue contact with Members in their respective areas. As part of this initiative, it was also decided to organise the dispatch of Christmas cards to UK Members centrally by insertion in the Autumn Newsletter or by direct mail. Overall, this will enable us to send cards to all Members rather than a small percentage due to the lack of active RLO's able to perform this role. Overall, this has cut down on administrative work for the Committee with only a marginal impact on costs.

The Association's Annual Reception was held in September when we returned to the private room at the Mudlark in Montague Close, next to Southwark Cathedral. As in 2022, the AGM was followed by the Association's annual reception which consisted of a full buffet lunch, as well as refreshments which were available until the event closed at 4pm. The Reception was attended by over 40 Members and guests and we were delighted to welcome our Patron and the UK based Head of UK & Europe for ANZ, Richard Dawson, to address our Members. He gave an interesting and insightful update on the ANZ Group's business and cultural development both in Europe and worldwide. He answered several questions from Members.

Our Administration Team was able to attend the ANZ office on a regular basis throughout the year and the Committee met on 3 occasions in the office in March, June and November. The Database Administration Team have continued to keep our records up to date using their office attendance and our online facilities. With more business being conducted in the office we cancelled our "Zoom" license, although impromptu meetings are still held via video link, but now use the Microsoft Teams software included in our Microsoft 365 license.

We are grateful to Richard Dawson, who has continued to keep us informed of ANZ's business activities through his contributions to our Newsletter. He has also ensured that ANZ continued to provide financial, technical and staffing support for the Association's activities, as required during the year.

I was pleased to be re-elected as the Chairperson. During the year, the Committee consisted of Peter Smith (Chairperson), Jeanette Nunn (Deputy Chairperson), Sue Waters (Secretary), Mike Turner (Treasurer) and Committee Members, Richard (Dick) Brewer, Mary Lipscombe, Ann Twinn, Andy Woska, and Denise Murphy, with David Phibbs as Honorary Auditor.

Throughout 2023, we continued attendance at the ANZ's office in order to undertake our administrative work, including dealing with postal correspondence and the database management and liaison with the ANZ Pensions

Department in respect of new Member applications and bereavements. With the assistance of ANZ Facilities Services, we were also able to execute the postal dispatch of our Newsletter to Members.

Sue Waters as Secretary has handled all the Association's correspondence. Mike Turner pays the bills and keeps the accounts up to date. Jeanette Nunn and Denise Murphy have done a great job of keeping the database up-to-date and assisting with correspondence and Members' enquiries as necessary.

Mary Lipscombe has done a wonderful job as Editor of the Newsletter. The three editions which were issued during the year have been popular and well received by our Members with many taking the time to send in positive feedback on the overall Newsletter content and format. Members' individual articles continued to play a pivotal role in the Newsletter. Following Tony Twohey's resignation from the Committee in 2022, Graham Wood has been providing us with technology support, including the Newsletter publication software.

We are grateful to the Bank in London for their support during the year and especially Mary Bacon and her staff in the Pensions Department.

It remains a concern that we have not been able to establish an effective succession plan to cover all the roles, especially the Chairperson. This still leaves the Association's future vulnerable to a lack of support in key roles in the short term.

As of 31st December 2023, our membership was 1,175 which was 2 less than at the beginning of the year. Our thoughts and sympathy go out to the families and friends of the 34 of our Members who died during 2023.

*ANZ Pensioners' Association UK – Committee*

*06 May 2024*