



# NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

## President's Report

You are looking at Volume 32 of the *Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia* (JNAA). It is a result of authors who have been sufficiently excited about a numismatic topic to carry out original research and put 'pen to paper', reviewers who have been willing to offer constructive criticisms to make the manuscripts the best they can be and the efforts of the editor who shepherds all the articles through the whole process and adds a 'final polish'. I acknowledge everyone involved, with special thanks to Managing Editor Gil Davis and Production Editor Barrie Newman for their continued efforts at maintaining a high-quality journal.

Much has happened since the last president's report published in Volume 31. The opening up of COVID-19 restrictions saw a welcome return to the NAA conference (NAAC2023), which was held in Adelaide at the Naval, Military & Air Force Club on the weekend of 19 – 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023, and hosted by the Numismatic Society of South Australia (NSSA). The conference was preceded by the 1000<sup>th</sup> meeting of the NSSA on the evening of Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023. I would like to congratulate the NSSA for reaching this impressive milestone and for their major efforts in hosting the 9<sup>th</sup> NAA conference. The conference was an outstanding success, with attendees from every state of Australia and New Zealand. The conference program consisted of an opening talk by Ms Lainie Anderson (author of the *Long Flight Home*), two plenary lectures, 12 regular talks and a short talk. All talks were of a high standard and highlighted the diverse interests of the Australian and New Zealand numismatic community.

One of the highlights of the conference was the dinner, during which the Ray Jewell Silver Medal was awarded to the JNAA Managing Editor, Associate Professor Gillan Davis. This important award for 'outstanding contribution to Australian numismatics and the Numismatic Association of Australia' recognises Gil for his services to the NAA, and his numismatic research in Australia and overseas for which he is internationally renowned. Given that Gil is only the 8<sup>th</sup> recipient since the award was first presented in 1998, I have asked Walter Bloom to prepare a separate short report based on his presentation speech, which can be found in this volume.

The AGM, held at the conference, saw a 'changing of the guard', with Walter Bloom and Lyn Bloom handing over the reins as president and treasurer respectively. I personally want to thank Walter and Lyn for their tireless efforts in maintaining the local and international profile of the NAA over many years, including during the difficult COVID-19 period.

The following Office Bearers were elected at the 2023 AGM:

Treasurer – Rachel Mansfield

Secretary – Bridget McClean

President – Richard O’Hair

Vice President – Walter Bloom

Managing Editor – Gil Davis

I would like to thank our sponsors for their continued support of the NAA: Noble Numismatics (Gold), Coinworks, Downies (Silver), Drake Sterling, Mowbray Collectables and Sterling & Currency.

Finally, a valuable part of NAAC2023 was a round table discussion on the future of the Numismatic Association of Australia. Prior to the conference, clubs and societies were asked to send their feedback on the following:

- Any views of the Society/Club about the NAA, especially its activities and how these serve Australian numismatics.
- What would the Society/Club like to see from the NAA in the future?

The feedback received and the discussions had at the conference were valuable and the Council will work through the issues raised. The most important issue which was identified is one with which many societies are grappling: how to maintain an active membership that is willing and able to volunteer to help out with the various activities required to maintain the society. So, I would encourage all of you to think about how you might contribute to your local club or society and the NAA. We welcome your submissions to the JNAA and hope to see you at the NAAC2025 (details to appear in 2024)!

Professor Richard A. J. O’Hair

President, NAA

27 November 2023