

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023  
FOR  
THE NORTHCOTE TRUST**

**CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

	<b>Page</b>
<b>Reference and Administrative Details</b>	1
<b>Report of the Trustees</b>	2 to 3
<b>Independent Examiner's Report</b>	4
<b>Statement of Financial Activities</b>	5
<b>Balance Sheet</b>	6
<b>Notes to the Financial Statements</b>	7 to 11

# THE NORTHCOTE TRUST

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

<b>TRUSTEES</b>	G D Fergusson Dr S Sleight Dr M Mayston Professor P Austin Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke (resigned 23.10.23) P Madden (appointed 23.10.23)
<b>PRINCIPAL ADDRESS</b>	Australia Centre Strand London WC2B 4LG
<b>REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER</b>	207813
<b>INDEPENDENT EXAMINER</b>	Oury Clark Chartered Accountants Herschel House 58 Herschel Street Slough Berkshire SL1 1PG
<b>BANKERS</b>	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ  Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ground Floor Tower 1 201 Sussex Street Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
<b>INVESTMENT MANAGERS</b>	M&G Investments PO Box 9038 Chelmsford CM99 2XF  Schroders Unit Trust Ltd 1 London Wall Place London EC2Y 5AU

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Objectives and aims**

The Trust's present objectives are to fund graduate studies at Australian universities and colleges for students resident in the UK. The Trust's objectives have changed in the past due to the need to adapt to circumstances.

The original objectives as determined by Lady Northcote's will became neither desirable nor feasible. As a result of a strategic review the Trustees sought wider powers in 1974 from the Charity Commissioners. These wider powers now allow the Trust to pursue their present objectives.

It is the Trustees' responsibility to review the current strategy on a regular basis to ensure that the strategy is appropriate and that there remains a demand from students for Northcote scholarships as well as an interest from Australian universities and colleges in taking graduate students from the UK.

**Public benefit**

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance "Public Benefit Running a Charity" (PB2) and are satisfied that the Charity's activities, set out above, met the criteria for public benefit.

**ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

**Charitable activities**

The Trustees again launched their awards application process in 2023 for study commencing in 2024. In light of previous volatility in financial markets and in order to exercise caution to support all existing students, the Trustees made an award to one PhD student (for 3 years to James Cook University). The Masters student (up to 2 years at the University of Western Australia) who was due to commence studies in 2023 deferred commencement to early 2024 due to visa delays.

The Trustees also continued to meet their obligations to the students currently undertaking or completing their post-graduate studies and made grants totalling £130,607 (2022: £149,026).

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

**Financial position**

The net gain for the year amounted to £188,143 (2022: loss £226,731). The Trust incurred a net surplus of £48,483 (2022: surplus £18,357) prior to an investment surplus arising on the Trust's investment portfolio totalling £139,660 (2022: deficit £245,088).

Principal funding came from the investment income arising on the Trust's investment portfolio. Investment returns increased from £184,922 in the year to 31 December 2022 to £200,115 for the year ended 31 December 2023.

It is the aim of the Trustees to maximise the levels of grants paid each year whilst maintaining the Trust's capital, thereby ensuring the availability of income in future years so that grants giving may be maintained.

**Investment policy and objectives**

The investment objectives are firstly to protect, and secondly to enhance, the capital and income values of the investments in real terms in order that the aims of the Trustees can be fulfilled in future years at or above the current level of expenditure. The Trustees are risk averse. The current investment policy requires all investment funds to be held in unit trusts appropriate for British charities. The performance of the unit trust managers is monitored and the asset allocation is reviewed on an annual basis.

**Reserves policy**

The Charity's total reserves at 31 December 2023 amounted to £4,349,648 comprising £4,156,368 held in an expendable endowment fund and the balance of £193,280 in unrestricted general funds. The endowment fund represents the carrying value of the investments at the Balance Sheet date and demonstrates that these assets are held for the long-term to generate future income. The unrestricted general funds represent the free reserves of the Charity.

# THE NORTHCOTE TRUST

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

### STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

#### Governing document

The Charity administers a Trust Fund established under the will of Baroness Northcote, subsequently altered by a scheme approved by the Charity Commissioners in 1974 and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

#### Recruitment and appointment of new Trustees

Trustees are appointed by resolution of Trust Deeds.

#### Organisational structure and administration

Trustees are appointed by resolution of the Trustees. They meet twice a year. The Britain-Australia Society is responsible for the administration of the Trust under the instruction of the Trustees.

Approved by order of the board of Trustees on **May 23, 2024** ..... and signed on its behalf by:



George Fergusson (May 23, 2024 13:53 GMT+1)

G D Fergusson - Trustee

# INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE NORTHCOTE TRUST

## Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of The Northcote Trust

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Northcote Trust (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

## Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity Trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

## Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*Oury Clark*

[Oury Clark \(May 23, 2024 17:30 GMT+1\)](#)

Oury Clark

Oury Clark Chartered Accountants  
Herschel House  
58 Herschel Street  
Slough  
Berkshire  
SL1 1PG

Date: **May 23, 2024**

**THE NORTHCOTE TRUST**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Endowment fund £	31.12.23 Total funds £	31.12.22 Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
Investment income	2	<u>200,115</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>200,115</u>	<u>184,922</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
<b>Charitable activities</b>	3				
Charitable Activities		<u>151,632</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>151,632</u>	<u>166,565</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		<u>-</u>	<u>139,660</u>	<u>139,660</u>	<u>(245,088)</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		48,483	139,660	188,143	(226,731)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>144,797</u>	<u>4,016,708</u>	<u>4,161,505</u>	<u>4,388,236</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u><u>193,280</u></u>	<u><u>4,156,368</u></u>	<u><u>4,349,648</u></u>	<u><u>4,161,505</u></u>

**CONTINUING OPERATIONS**

All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.


The notes form part of these financial statements

**THE NORTHCOTE TRUST**

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**31 December 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Endowment fund £	31.12.23 Total funds £	31.12.22 Total funds £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Investments	7	-	4,156,368	4,156,368	4,016,708
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Cash in hand		194,965	-	194,965	146,482
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	8	(1,685)	-	(1,685)	(1,685)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>193,280</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>193,280</u>	<u>144,797</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>193,280</u>	<u>4,156,368</u>	<u>4,349,648</u>	<u>4,161,505</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u><u>193,280</u></u>	<u><u>4,156,368</u></u>	<u><u>4,349,648</u></u>	<u><u>4,161,505</u></u>
<b>FUNDS</b>	9				
Unrestricted funds				193,280	144,797
Endowment funds				<u>4,156,368</u>	<u>4,016,708</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				<u><u>4,349,648</u></u>	<u><u>4,161,505</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on **May 23, 2024** and were signed on its behalf by: .....

  
George Fergusson (May 23, 2024 13:53 GMT+1)  
.....  
G D Fergusson - Trustee



**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

At the time of approving the accounts, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

**Income**

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

**Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

**Fixed asset investments**

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

**Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts

**Allocation and apportionment of support costs**

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the Trust but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include office costs and governance costs which support the Trust's activities. These costs have been allocated to expenditure on charitable activities.

**Taxation**

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued****Foreign currencies**

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating result.

**Financial instruments**

Basic Financial Instruments, as covered by Section 11 of FRS 102, are measured at amortised cost. The company does not have any Other Financial Instruments, as covered by Section 12 of FRS 102.

**Realised/unrealised gains and losses**

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value if acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains and losses are combined in the Statement of Financial Activities.

**2. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	31.12.23	31.12.22
	£	£
Dividends - equities	172,563	172,931
Interest - fixed interest securities	26,840	11,722
Interest on cash deposits	<u>712</u>	<u>269</u>
	<u>200,115</u>	<u>184,922</u>

**3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS**

	Grant funding of activities £	Support costs (see note 4) £	Totals £
Charitable Activities	<u>130,607</u>	<u>21,025</u>	<u>151,632</u>

**4. SUPPORT COSTS**

	Management £	Finance £	Other £	Totals £
Charitable Activities	<u>13,860</u>	<u>6,942</u>	<u>223</u>	<u>21,025</u>

**5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

There were no Trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2023 nor for the year ended 31 December 2022.

**Trustees' expenses**

There were no Trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2023 nor for the year ended 31 December 2022.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

**6. GRANTS PAYABLE**

Grants for the year ended 31st December 2023 represent awards to various individuals. Grants are made on approval by the Trustees and are paid to support recipients that are normally residents in the UK whilst studying abroad in Australia.

**7. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS**

	Unlisted investments £
<b>MARKET VALUE</b>	
At 1 January 2023	4,016,708
Revaluations	<u>139,660</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>4,156,368</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 31 December 2023	<u>4,156,368</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>4,016,708</u>

Market value analysed by type of investment

	<b>2023</b> £	<b>2022</b> £
UK fixed interest	1,214,021	577,102
UK equities	2,652,116	2,997,338
Overseas equities	<u>290,231</u>	<u>442,268</u>
	<u>4,156,368</u>	<u>4,016,708</u>

Cost or valuation at 31 December 2023 is represented by:

	Unlisted investments £
Valuation in 2023	<u>4,156,368</u>

If fixed asset investments had not been revalued they would have been included at the following historical cost:

	31.12.23 £	31.12.22 £
Cost	<u>3,316,490</u>	<u>3,316,490</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

**8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	31.12.23 £	31.12.22 £
Other creditors	<u>1,685</u>	<u>1,685</u>

**9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	At 1.1.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.23 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	144,797	48,483	193,280
<b>Endowment funds</b>			
Endowment funds	4,016,708	139,660	4,156,368
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>4,161,505</u>	<u>188,143</u>	<u>4,349,648</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	200,115	(151,632)	-	48,483
<b>Endowment funds</b>				
Endowment funds	-	-	139,660	139,660
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>200,115</u>	<u>(151,632)</u>	<u>139,660</u>	<u>188,143</u>

**Comparatives for movement in funds**

	At 1.1.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.22 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	126,440	18,357	144,797
<b>Endowment funds</b>			
Endowment funds	4,261,796	(245,088)	4,016,708
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>4,388,236</u>	<u>(226,731)</u>	<u>4,161,505</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

**9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	184,922	(166,565)	-	18,357
<b>Endowment funds</b>				
Endowment funds	-	-	(245,088)	(245,088)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>184,922</u>	<u>(166,565)</u>	<u>(245,088)</u>	<u>(226,731)</u>

**10. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2023.