



Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices

ACN 004 226 448

Chief Patron: The Governor of Victoria

Patron: The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Melbourne

CONSTITUTION of The Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices

Australian Company Number (ACN) 004 226 448
Australian Business Number (ABN) 29 004 226 448

A company limited by guarantee

Table of contents

Preliminary

- 1 Name of the company
- 2 Type of company
- 3 Limited liability of members
- 4 The guarantee
- 5 Definitions

Charitable purposes and powers

- 6 Object
- 7 Powers
- 8 Not-for-profit
- 9 Amending the constitution

Members

- 10 Membership and register of members
- 11 Who can be a member
- 12 How to apply to become a member
- 13 Directors decide whether to approve membership
- 14 Categories of membership
- 15 When a person becomes a member
- 16 When a person stops being a member

Dispute resolution and disciplinary procedures

- 17 Dispute resolution
- 18 Disciplining members

General meetings of members

- 19 General meetings called by directors
- 20 General meetings called by members
- 21 Annual general meeting
- 22 Notice of general meetings
- 23 Quorum at general meetings
- 24 Auditor's right to attend meetings
- 25 Using technology to hold meetings
- 26 Chairperson for general meetings
- 27 Role of the chairperson
- 28 Adjournment of meetings

Members' resolutions and statements

- 29 Members' resolutions and statements
- 30 Company must give notice of proposed resolution or distribute statement
- 31 Circular resolutions of members

Voting at general meetings

- 32 How many votes a member has
- 33 Challenge to member's right to vote
- 34 How voting is carried out
- 35 When and how a vote in writing must be held
- 36 Appointment of proxy
- 37 Voting by proxy

Directors

- 38 Number of directors
- 39 Election and appointment of directors
- 40 Election of chairperson
- 41 Term of office
- 42 When a director stops being a director

Powers of directors

- 43 Powers of directors
- 44 Delegation of directors' powers
- 45 Payments to directors
- 46 Execution of Documents

Duties of directors

- 47 Duties of directors
- 48 Conflicts of interest

Directors' meetings

- 49 When the directors meet
- 50 Calling directors' meetings
- 51 Chairperson for directors' meetings
- 52 Quorum at directors' meetings
- 53 Using technology to hold directors' meetings
- 54 Passing directors' resolutions
- 55 Circular resolutions of directors

Secretary and Finance Director

- 56 Appointment and role of secretary
- 57 Appointment and role of finance director

Minutes and records

- 58 Minutes and records
- 59 Financial and related records

By-laws

- 60 By-laws

Notice

- 61 What is notice
- 62 Notice to the company
- 63 Notice to members
- 64 When notice is taken to be given

Financial year

- 65 Company's financial year

Indemnity, insurance and access

- 66 Indemnity
- 67 Acting in Good Faith
- 68 Insurance
- 69 Directors' access to documents

Winding up

- 70 Surplus assets not to be distributed to members
- 71 Distribution of surplus assets

Definitions and interpretation

- 72 Definitions
- 73 Reading this constitution with the Corporations Act
- 74 Interpretation

Preliminary

1. Name of the company

1.1. The name of the **company** is the Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices, (the **RVAHJ**).

2. Type of company

2.1. The **RVAHJ** is a not-for-profit public **company** limited by guarantee which is established to be, and to continue as, a charity.

3. Limited liability of members

3.1. The liability of members is limited to the amount of the guarantee in clause 4.

4. The guarantee

4.1. Each member must contribute an amount not more than \$10 (the guarantee) to the property of the **RVAHJ** if the **RVAHJ** is wound up while the member is a member, or within 12 months after they stop being a member, and this contribution is required to pay for the:

4.1.1. debts and liabilities of the **RVAHJ** incurred before the member stopped being a member, or

4.1.2. costs of winding up.

5. Definitions

5.1. In this Constitution, words and phrases have the meaning set out in Clause 73.

Charitable purposes and powers

6. Object

6.1. Provide open, equitable and accessible Honorary Justice services for all members of the community.

6.2. To assist vulnerable people, including aboriginal, cognitively impaired, mentally ill and children during their interaction with the police and the legal system

6.3. To facilitate appropriate care and support for children facing interim accommodation orders

6.4. Support the professional development of Honorary Justices.

6.5. To provide training for other authorised witnesses to enhance access to key justice services.

6.6. Ensure access to services for marginalised members of the community through advancing public education and awareness about the Honorary Justices' role in Victoria via public engagement, informational campaigns, and education.

6.7. Ensure advocacy for people requiring the services of an Honorary Justice by engaging stakeholders and policy makers as the representative body of Honorary Justices in Victoria.

7. Powers

7.1. Subject to clause 8, the **RVAHJ** has the following powers, which may only be used to carry out its purpose(s) set out in clause 6:

7.1.1. the powers of an individual, and

7.1.2. all the powers of a **company** limited by guarantee under the **Corporations Act**.

8. Not-for-profit

8.1. The **RVAHJ** must not distribute any income or assets directly or indirectly to its members, except as provided in clauses 8.2, 71 and 72.

8.2. Clause 8.1 does not stop the **RVAHJ** from doing the following things, provided they are done in good faith:

8.2.1. paying a member for goods or services they have provided or expenses they have properly incurred at fair and reasonable rates or rates more favourable to the **RVAHJ**, or

8.2.2. making a payment to a member in carrying out the **RVAHJ**'s charitable purpose(s).

8.2.3. reimburse a member for expenses properly incurred by the member in connection with the affairs of the **RVAHJ**.

9. Amending the constitution

- 9.1. Subject to clause 9.2, the members may amend this constitution by passing a **special resolution**.
- 9.2. The members must not pass a **special resolution** that amends this constitution if passing it causes the **RVAHJ** to no longer be a charity.

Members

10. Membership and register of members

- 10.1. The members of the **RVAHJ** are:
 - 10.1.1. **initial members**, and
 - 10.1.2. any other person that the directors allow to be a member, in accordance with this constitution.
- 10.2. The **RVAHJ** must establish and maintain a register of members. The register of members must be kept by the Secretary and must contain:
 - 10.2.1. for each current member:
 - 10.2.1.1. name
 - 10.2.1.2. honorary justice registration number(s)
 - 10.2.1.3. address
 - 10.2.1.4. any alternative address nominated by the member for the service of notices, and
 - 10.2.1.5. date the member was entered on to the register.
 - 10.2.2. for each person who stopped being a member in the last 7 years:
 - 10.2.2.1. name
 - 10.2.2.2. address
 - 10.2.2.3. any alternative address nominated by the member for the service of notices, and
 - 10.2.2.4. dates the membership started and ended.
- 10.3. The **RVAHJ** must give current members access to the register of members in the following circumstances:
 - 10.3.1. in accordance with clause 20.2.2, or
 - 10.3.2. any other purpose in accordance with legislation
- 10.4. Information that is accessed from the register of members must only be used in a manner relevant to the interests or rights of members.

11. Who can be a member

- 11.1. A person who is an Honorary Justice appointed by the Governor in Council as a Justice of the Peace and/or as a Bail Justice for the State of Victoria and supports the purposes of the **RVAHJ** is eligible to apply to be a member of the **RVAHJ** under clause 12.
- 11.2. In this clause, 'person' means an individual.

12. How to apply to become a member

- 12.1. A person may apply to become a member of the **RVAHJ** by applying in writing.
 - 12.1.1. indicating that they are a Justice of the Peace and/or a Bail Justice including their registered number, and
 - 12.1.2. that they agree to comply with the Code of Conduct and the **RVAHJ** constitution including to pay the guarantee under clause 4 if required.

13. Directors decide whether to approve membership

- 13.1. The Directors must consider an application for membership at the first meeting of the Board following a person's application.
- 13.2. If the Directors approve an application, the applicant must be notified as soon as possible that their application was accepted.
- 13.3. The new member will be added to the register of members.

- 13.4. The new member will be sent a letter of welcome and their membership certificate.
- 13.5. If the directors reject an application, the Secretary must write to the applicant as soon as possible to tell them that their application has been rejected but does not have to give reasons.

14. Categories of Membership

- 14.1. **Ordinary Members.** Every Justice of the Peace and Bail Justice for the State of Victoria shall be eligible for election as an Ordinary Member of the Association.
- 14.2. **Associate Members.** Persons described hereunder shall be eligible for membership as Associate Members, namely:
 - 14.2.1. Any retired Honorary Justice who chooses to remain a member but does not wish to have voting rights or privileges of full membership
 - 14.2.2. any Justice of the Peace in any of the States or Territories of the Commonwealth of Australia, other than Victoria
 - 14.2.3. any Magistrate or Judge
 - 14.2.4. any person engaged in honorary work in the justice field of a class considered appropriate by a simple majority of the Board is also eligible to become an Associate Member.
- 14.3. **Life Members.** Any Ordinary Member of the Association in recognition of special services rendered to the Association may be elected as a Life Member of the Association, whereupon he/she shall be entitled to all the benefits and privileges of Ordinary Membership but shall not be liable for subscriptions or any other dues. A Member shall only be elected as a Life Member by a 75% majority of a properly constituted meeting of the Board. Life Members who cease to be a Justice of the Peace or Bail Justice shall retain their Life Membership, except where their appointment has been revoked pursuant to Clause 16.1.4 and 16.1.5 herein.

15. When a person becomes a member

- 15.1. Other than **current members (who are all current members in all categories at the time of the adoption of this constitution)**, an applicant will become a member when they are entered on the register of members.

16. When a person stops being a member

- 16.1. A person immediately stops being a member if they:
 - 16.1.1. die
 - 16.1.2. are wound up or otherwise dissolved or deregistered (for an incorporated member)
 - 16.1.3. resign, by writing to the Secretary
 - 16.1.4. if their appointment as an Honorary Justice has been revoked under the Honorary Justices Act
 - 16.1.5. are expelled under clause 17, or
 - 16.1.6. have not responded within three months to a written request from the Secretary that they confirm in writing that they want to remain a member and pay any outstanding membership fees.

Dispute resolution and disciplinary procedures

17. Dispute resolution

- 17.1. The dispute resolution procedure in this clause applies to disputes (disagreements) under this Constitution between a member or director and:
 - 17.1.1. one or more members
 - 17.1.2. one or more directors, or
 - 17.1.3. the **RVAHJ**.
- 17.2. A member must not start a dispute resolution procedure in relation to a matter which is the subject of a disciplinary procedure under clause 18 until the disciplinary procedure is completed.

- 17.3. Those involved in the dispute must try to resolve it between themselves within 14 days of knowing about it.
- 17.4. If those involved in the dispute do not resolve it under clause 17.3, they must within 10 days:
 - 17.4.1. tell the directors about the dispute in writing
 - 17.4.2. agree or request that a mediator be appointed, and
 - 17.4.3. attempt in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation.
- 17.5. The mediator must:
 - 17.5.1. be chosen by agreement of those involved, or
 - 17.5.2. where those involved do not agree.
 - 17.5.2.1. for disputes between members, a person chosen by the directors, or
 - 17.5.2.2. for other disputes, a person chosen by either the Commissioner of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission or the president of the law institute or society in the state or territory in which the **RVAHJ** has its registered office.
- 17.6. A mediator chosen by the directors under clause 17.6:
 - 17.6.1. may be a member or former member of the **RVAHJ**
 - 17.6.2. must not have a personal interest in the dispute, and
 - 17.6.3. must not be biased towards or against anyone involved in the dispute.
- 17.7. When conducting the mediation, the mediator must:
 - 17.7.1. allow those involved a reasonable chance to be heard
 - 17.7.2. allow those involved a reasonable chance to review any written statements
 - 17.7.3. ensure that those involved are given natural justice, and
 - 17.7.4. not make a decision on the dispute.

18. Disciplining members

- 18.1. In accordance with this clause, the Directors may resolve to recategorise, warn, suspend or expel a member from the **RVAHJ** if the Directors consider that:
 - 18.1.1. the member has breached this Constitution, or
 - 18.1.2. the member's behaviour is causing, has caused, or is likely to cause harm to the **RVAHJ**
 - 18.1.3. the member's appointment as an Honorary Justice has been suspended or removed under the **Honorary Justice Act**
- 18.2. At least 14 days before the Directors' meeting at which a resolution under clause 18.1 will be considered, the Secretary must notify the member in writing:
 - 18.2.1. that the Directors are considering a resolution to warn, suspend or expel the member
 - 18.2.2. that this resolution will be considered at a Directors' meeting and the date of that meeting
 - 18.2.3. what the member is said to have done or not done
 - 18.2.4. the nature of the resolution that has been proposed, and
 - 18.2.5. that the member may provide an explanation to the Directors, and details of how to do so.
- 18.3. Before the Directors pass any resolution under clause 18.1, the member must be given a chance to explain or defend themselves by:
 - 18.3.1. sending the Directors a written explanation before that Directors' meeting, and/or
 - 18.3.2. speaking at the meeting.
- 18.4. After considering any explanation under clause 18.3, the Directors may:
 - 18.4.1. take no further action
 - 18.4.2. warn the member
 - 18.4.3. suspend the member's rights as a member for a period of no more than 12 months
 - 18.4.4. expel the member
 - 18.4.5. refer the decision to an unbiased, independent person on conditions that the Directors consider appropriate (however, the person can only decide that the Directors could have made under this clause), or
 - 18.4.6. require the matter to be determined at a **general meeting**.
- 18.5. The Directors cannot fine a member.

- 18.6. The Secretary must give written notice to the member of the decision under clause 18.4 as soon as possible.
- 18.7. Disciplinary procedures must be completed as soon as reasonably practical.
- 18.8. There will be no liability for any loss or injury suffered by the member as a result of any decision made in good faith under this clause.

General meetings of members

19. General meetings called by Directors

- 19.1. The Directors may call a **general meeting**.
- 19.2. If members with at least 5% of the votes that may be cast at a **general meeting** make a written request to the **RVAHJ** for a **general meeting** to be held, the Directors must:
 - 19.2.1. within 21 days of the members' request, give all members notice of a **general meeting**, and
 - 19.2.2. hold the **general meeting** within 2 months of the members' request.
- 19.3. The percentage of votes that members have (in clause 19.2) is to be determined as at midnight before the members request the meeting.
- 19.4. The members who make the request for a **general meeting** must:
 - 19.4.1. state in the request any resolution to be proposed at the meeting
 - 19.4.2. sign the request, and
 - 19.4.3. give the request to the **RVAHJ**.
- 19.5. Separate copies of a document setting out the request may be signed by members if the wording of the request is the same in each copy.

20. General meetings called by members

- 20.1. If the Directors do not call the meeting within 21 days of being requested under clause 19.2, 50% or more of the members who made the request may call and arrange to hold a **general meeting**.
- 20.2. To call and hold a meeting under clause 20.1 the members must:
 - 20.2.1. as far as possible, follow the procedures for **general meetings** set out in this Constitution
 - 20.2.2. call the meeting using the list of members on the **RVAHJ**'s member register, which the **RVAHJ** must provide to the members making the request at no cost, and
 - 20.2.3. hold the **general meeting** within three (3) months after the request was given to the **RVAHJ**.
- 20.3. The **RVAHJ** must pay the members who request the **general meeting** any reasonable expenses they incur because the Directors did not call and hold the meeting.

21. Annual general meeting

- 21.1. A **general meeting**, called the annual **general meeting**, must be held at least once in every calendar year.
- 21.2. Even if these items are not set out in the notice of meeting, the business of an annual **general meeting** may include:
 - 21.2.1. a review of the **RVAHJ**'s activities
 - 21.2.2. a review of the **RVAHJ**'s finances
 - 21.2.3. any auditor's report
 - 21.2.4. the election of directors, and
 - 21.2.5. the appointment and payment of auditors, if any.
- 21.3. Before or at the annual **general meeting**, the Directors must give information to the members on the **RVAHJ**'s activities and finances during the period since the last annual **general meeting**.
- 21.4. The chairperson of the annual **general meeting** must give members a reasonable opportunity at the meeting to ask questions or make comments about the management of the **RVAHJ**.

22. Notice of general meetings

- 22.1. Notice of a **general meeting** must be given to:
 - 22.1.1. each member entitled to vote at the meeting
 - 22.1.2. each director, and
 - 22.1.3. the auditor (if any).
- 22.2. Notice of a **general meeting** must be provided in writing at least 21 days before the meeting.
- 22.3. Subject to clause 22.4, notice of a meeting may be provided less than 21 days before the meeting if:
 - 22.3.1. for an annual **general meeting**, all the members entitled to attend and vote at the annual **general meeting** agree beforehand, or
 - 22.3.2. for any other **general meeting**, members with at least 95% of the votes that may be cast at the meeting agree beforehand.
- 22.4. Notice of a meeting cannot be provided less than 21 days before the meeting if a resolution will be moved to:
 - 22.4.1. remove a director
 - 22.4.2. appoint a director in order to replace a director who was removed, or
 - 22.4.3. remove an auditor.
- 22.5. Notice of a **general meeting** must include:
 - 22.5.1. the place, date and time for the meeting (and if the meeting is to be held in two or more places, the technology that will be used to facilitate this)
 - 22.5.2. the general nature of the meeting's business
 - 22.5.3. if applicable, that a **special resolution** is to be proposed and the words of the proposed resolution
 - 22.5.4. a statement that members have the right to appoint proxies and that, if a member appoints a proxy:
 - 22.5.4.1. the proxy must be a member of the **RVAHJ**
 - 22.5.4.2. the proxy form must be delivered to the **RVAHJ** at its registered address, or the address (including an electronic address) specified in the notice of the meeting, and
 - 22.5.4.3. the proxy form must be delivered to the **RVAHJ** at least 48 hours before the meeting.
- 22.6. If a **general meeting** is adjourned (put off) for one (1) month or more, the members must be given new notice of the resumed meeting.

23. Quorum at general meetings

- 23.1. For a **general meeting** to be held, at least eight (8) members (a quorum) must be present (in person or by proxy) for the whole meeting. When determining whether a quorum is present, a person may only be counted once (even if that person is a proxy of more than one member).
- 23.2. No business may be conducted at a **general meeting** if a quorum is not present.
- 23.3. If there is no quorum present within 30 minutes after the starting time stated in the notice of **general meeting**, the **general meeting** is adjourned to the date, time and place that the Chairperson specifies. If the Chairperson does not specify one (1) or more of those things, the meeting is adjourned to:
 - 23.3.1. if the date is not specified – the same day in the next week
 - 23.3.2. if the time is not specified – the same time, and
 - 23.3.3. if the place is not specified – the same place.
- 23.4. If no quorum is present at the resumed meeting within 30 minutes after the starting time set for that meeting, the meeting is cancelled.

24. Auditor's right to attend meetings

- 24.1. The auditor is entitled to attend any **general meeting** and to be heard by the members on any part of the business of the meeting that concerns the auditor in the capacity of auditor.
- 24.2. The **RVAHJ** must give the auditor any communications relating to the **general meeting** that a member of the **RVAHJ** is entitled to receive.

25. Using technology to hold meetings

- 25.1. The **RVAHJ** may hold a **general meeting** at two or more venues using any technology that gives the members a reasonable opportunity to participate, including to hear and be heard.
- 25.2. Anyone using this technology is taken to be present in person at the meeting.

26. Chairperson for general meetings

- 26.1. The **elected Chairperson** is entitled to chair **general meetings**.
- 26.2. If the **elected Chairperson** is unable to chair the meeting for any reason, the **elected Deputy Chairperson** may chair the meeting.
- 26.3. The members present and entitled to vote at a **general meeting** may choose a director or member to be the chairperson for that meeting if:
 - 26.3.1. there is no **elected Chairperson**, or **elected Deputy Chairperson**
 - 26.3.2. the **Chairperson** is not present within 30 minutes after the starting time set for the meeting, or
 - 26.3.3. the **Chairperson** is present but says they do not wish to act as Chairperson of the meeting.

27. Role of the Chairperson

- 27.1. The Chairperson is responsible for the conduct of the **general meeting**, and for this purpose must give members a reasonable opportunity to make comments and ask questions (including to the auditor).
- 27.2. The Chairperson has the casting vote in the event of an otherwise equal number of votes.

28. Adjournment of meetings

- 28.1. If a quorum is present, a **general meeting** must be adjourned if a majority of **members present** direct the Chairperson to adjourn it.
- 28.2. Only unfinished business may be dealt with at a meeting resumed after an adjournment.

Members' resolutions and statements

29. Members' resolutions and statements

- 29.1. Members with at least 5% of the votes that may be cast on a resolution may give:
 - 29.1.1. written notice to the **RVAHJ** of a resolution they propose to move at a **general meeting** (members' resolution), and/or
 - 29.1.2. a written request to the **RVAHJ** that the **RVAHJ** give all its members a statement about a proposed resolution or any other matter that may properly be considered at a **general meeting** (members' statement).
- 29.2. A notice of a members' resolution must set out the wording of the proposed resolution and be signed by the members proposing the resolution.
- 29.3. A request to distribute a members' statement must set out the statement to be distributed and be signed by the members making the request.
- 29.4. Separate copies of a document setting out the notice or request may be signed by members if the wording is the same in each copy.
- 29.5. The percentage of votes that members have (as described in clause 29.1) is to be worked out as at midnight before the request or notice is given to the **RVAHJ**.

- 29.6. If the **RVAHJ** has been given notice of a members' resolution under clause 30.1.1, the resolution must be considered at the next **general meeting** held no more than two (2) months after the notice is given.
- 29.7. This clause does not limit any other right that a member must propose a resolution at a **general meeting**.

30. RVAHJ must give notice of proposed resolution or distribute statement

- 30.1. If the **RVAHJ** has been given a notice or request under clause 29:
- 30.1.1. in time to send the notice of proposed members' resolution or a copy of the members' statement to members with a notice of meeting, it must do so at the **RVAHJ's** cost, or
 - 30.1.2. too late to send the notice of proposed members' resolution or a copy of the members' statement to members with a notice of meeting, then the members who proposed the resolution or made the request must pay the expenses reasonably incurred by the **RVAHJ** in giving members notice of the proposed members' resolution or a copy of the members' statement. However, at a **general meeting**, the members may pass a resolution that the **RVAHJ** will pay these expenses.
- 30.2. The **RVAHJ** does not need to send the notice of proposed members' resolution or a copy of the members' statement to members if:
- 30.2.1. it is more than 1,000 words long
 - 30.2.2. the directors consider it may be defamatory
 - 30.2.3. clause 31.1.2 applies, and the members who proposed the resolution or made the request have not paid the **RVAHJ** enough money to cover the cost of sending the notice of the proposed members' resolution or a copy of the members' statement to members, or
 - 30.2.4. in the case of a proposed members' resolution, the resolution does not relate to a matter that may be properly considered at a **general meeting** or is otherwise not a valid resolution able to be put to the members.

31. Circular resolutions of members

- 31.1. Subject to clause 31.3, the Directors may put a resolution to the members to pass a resolution without a **general meeting** being held (a circular resolution).
- 31.2. The directors must notify the auditor as soon as possible that a circular resolution has or will be put to members and set out the wording of the resolution.
- 31.3. Circular resolutions cannot be used:
- 31.3.1. for a resolution to remove an auditor, appoint a director or remove a director
 - 31.3.2. for passing a **special resolution**, or
 - 31.3.3. where the **Corporations Act** or this Constitution requires a meeting to be held.
- 31.4. A circular resolution is passed if all the members entitled to vote on the resolution sign or agree to the circular resolution, in the manner set out in clause 31.5 or clause 31.6.
- 31.5. Members may sign:
- 31.5.1. a single document setting out the circular resolution and containing a statement that they agree to the resolution, or
 - 31.5.2. separate copies of that document, if the wording is the same in each copy.
- 31.6. The **RVAHJ** may send a circular resolution by email to members and members may agree by sending a reply email to that effect, including the text of the resolution in their reply.

Voting at general meetings

32. How many votes a member has

- 32.1. Each member of the following categories has one vote each:
 - 32.1.1. Ordinary Members
 - 32.1.2. Life Members
- 32.2. Associate Members are ineligible to vote.

33. Challenge to member's right to vote

- 33.1. A member or the Chairperson may only challenge a person's right to vote at a **general meeting** at that meeting.
- 33.2. If a challenge is made under clause 33.1, the Chairperson must decide whether the person may vote. The Chairperson's decision is final.

34. How voting is carried out

- 34.1. Voting must be conducted and decided by:
 - 34.1.1. a show of hands
 - 34.1.2. a vote in writing, or
 - 34.1.3. another method chosen by the Chairperson that is fair and reasonable in the circumstances.
- 34.2. Before a vote is taken, the Chairperson must state whether any proxy votes have been received and, if so, how the proxy votes will be cast.
- 34.3. On a show of hands, the Chairperson's decision is conclusive evidence of the result of the vote.
- 34.4. The Chairperson and the meeting minutes do not need to state the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour or against on a show of hands.

35. When and how a vote in writing must be held

- 35.1. A vote in writing may be demanded on any resolution instead of or after a vote by a show of hands by:
 - 35.1.1. at least five (5) **members present**
 - 35.1.2. **members present** with at least 5% of the votes that may be passed on the resolution on the vote in writing (worked out as at the midnight before the vote in writing is demanded), or
 - 35.1.3. the Chairperson.
- 35.2. A vote in writing must be taken when and how the Chairperson directs, unless clause 35.3 applies.
- 35.3. A vote in writing must be held immediately if it is demanded under clause 36.1:
 - 35.3.1. for the election of a Chairperson under clause 26.3, or
 - 35.3.2. to decide whether to adjourn the meeting.
- 35.4. A demand for a vote in writing may be withdrawn.

36. Appointment of proxy

- 36.1. A member may appoint a proxy to attend and vote at a **general meeting** on their behalf.
- 36.2. A proxy must be a member.
- 36.3. A proxy appointed to attend and vote for a member has the same rights as the member to:
 - 36.3.1. speak at the meeting
 - 36.3.2. vote in a vote in writing (but only to the extent allowed by the appointment), and
 - 36.3.3. join in to demand a vote in writing under clause 35.1.
- 36.4. An appointment of proxy (proxy form) must be signed by the member appointing the proxy and must contain:
 - 36.4.1. the member's name and address
 - 36.4.2. the **RVAHJ's** name

- 36.4.3. the proxy's name or the name of the office held by the proxy, and
- 36.4.4. the meeting(s) at which the appointment may be used.
- 36.5. A proxy appointment may be standing (ongoing).
- 36.6. Proxy forms must be received by the **RVAHJ** at the address stated in the notice under clause 22.5 or at the **RVAHJ**'s registered address at least 48 hours before a meeting.
- 36.7. A proxy does not have the authority to speak and vote for a member at a meeting while the member is at the meeting.
- 36.8. Unless the **RVAHJ** receives written notice before the start or resumption of a **general meeting** at which a proxy votes, a vote cast by the proxy is valid even if, before the proxy votes, the appointing member:
 - 36.8.1. dies
 - 36.8.2. is mentally incapacitated
 - 36.8.3. revokes the proxy's appointment, or
- 36.9. A proxy appointment may specify the way the proxy must vote on a particular resolution.

37. Voting by proxy

- 37.1. A proxy is not entitled to vote on a show of hands (but this does not prevent a member appointed as a proxy from voting as a member on a show of hands).
- 37.2. When a vote in writing is held, a proxy:
 - 37.2.1. does not need to vote, unless the proxy appointment specifies the way they must vote
 - 37.2.2. if the way they must vote is specified on the proxy form, must vote that way, and
 - 37.2.3. if the proxy is also a member or holds more than one proxy, may cast the votes held in different ways.

Directors

38. Number of directors

- 38.1. The **RVAHJ** must have no less than five (5) and no more than eleven (11) elected directors with the ability to add up to two (2) appointed directors who are external and not elected giving a maximum of thirteen (13) directors.

39. Election and appointment of directors

- 39.1. The Board consists of the Directors, who shall be elected from among the Ordinary Members and Life Members of the Association. Additionally, provision is made for the elected members of the Board to appoint up to two (2) external non-elected directors to the Board.
- 39.2. External Directors are non-members of the Association and may only be appointed by unanimous vote of the Board. Such a vote will be taken at a meeting of the Board to confirm or reject appointment.
- 39.3. External Directors may be appointed for a term of two (2) years and may, by unanimous vote of the Board, have a second and final term of two (2) years. Under no circumstance may an External Director be appointed for a period exceeding four (4) years in totality.
- 39.4. A person is eligible for election as a director of the **RVAHJ** if they:
 - 39.4.1. are an eligible member of the **RVAHJ**
 - 39.4.2. are nominated by two members entitled to vote
 - 39.4.3. give the **RVAHJ** their signed consent to act as a director of the **RVAHJ**, and
 - 39.4.4. are not ineligible to be a director under the **Corporations Act** or the **ACNC Act**.

39.5. The Directors may appoint a person as a director to fill a casual vacancy or as an additional director if that person:

39.5.1. is a member of the **RVAHJ**

39.5.2. gives the **RVAHJ** their signed consent to act as a director of the **RVAHJ**, and

39.5.3. is not ineligible to be a director under the **Corporations Act** or the **ACNC Act**.

39.6. If the number of directors is reduced to fewer than four or is less than the number required for a quorum, the continuing directors may act for the purpose of increasing the number of directors to five (as required for a quorum) or calling a **general meeting**, but for no other purpose.

40. Election of chairperson

40.1. The Directors must elect two (2) directors as the RVAHJ's elected **Chairperson**, and elected **Deputy Chairperson**.

41. Term of office

41.1. At each **general meeting** held in an odd numbered year:

41.1.1. any director appointed by the Directors to fill a casual vacancy or as an additional director must retire, and

41.1.2. the remaining directors who have served a full term of four (4) years or a term of two (2) years as determined by the vote under clause 41.5, must retire.

41.2. Other than a director appointed under clause 39.5, a director's term of office starts at the end of the **general meeting** at which they are elected and ends at the end of the **general meeting** at which they retire.

41.3. Each director must retire at least once every four years.

41.4. A director who retires under clause 41.1 may nominate for election or re-election, subject to clause 41.6.

41.5. If the number of nominations for directors to be elected is greater than half the number of members of the board, the candidates receiving the greatest number of votes at a secret ballot will be elected for four (4) years and the remainder will be elected for a two (2) year period to retire at the next election.

41.6. A director who has held office for a continuous period of twelve years or more may only be re-appointed or re-elected by a **special resolution at a special general meeting or an Annual General meeting if appropriate**.

42. When a director stops being a director

42.1. A director stops being a director if they:

42.1.1. give written notice of resignation as a director to the **RVAHJ**

42.1.2. die

42.1.3. are removed as a director by a resolution of the members

42.1.4. stop being a member of the **RVAHJ**

42.1.5. are absent for two (2) consecutive directors' meetings without notifying the Chair or are absent for three (3) consecutive meetings having notified the Chair but not having requested prior approval from the directors, or

42.1.6. become ineligible to be a director of the **RVAHJ** under the **Corporations Act** or the **ACNC Act**.

Powers of directors

43. Powers of directors

- 43.1. The directors are responsible for managing and directing the activities of the **RVAHJ** to achieve the purpose(s) set out in clause 6.
- 43.2. The directors may use all the powers of the **RVAHJ** except for powers that, under the **Corporations Act** or this Constitution, may only be used by members.
- 43.3. The directors must decide on the responsible financial management of the **RVAHJ** including:
 - 43.3.1. any suitable written delegations of power under clause 43, and
 - 43.3.2. how money will be managed, such as how electronic transfers, negotiable instruments or cheques must be authorised and signed or otherwise approved.
- 43.4. The directors cannot remove a director or auditor. Directors and auditors may only be removed by a members' resolution at a **general meeting**.

44. Delegation of directors' powers

- 44.1. The directors may delegate any of their powers and functions to a committee, a director, an employee of the **RVAHJ** or any other person, as they consider appropriate.
- 44.2. The delegation must be recorded in the **RVAHJ's** minutes.

45. Payments to directors

- 45.1. The **RVAHJ** must not pay fees to a director for acting as a director.
- 45.2. The **RVAHJ** may:
 - 45.2.1. pay a director for work they do for the **RVAHJ**, other than as a director, if the amount is no more than a reasonable fee for the work done, or
 - 45.2.2. reimburse a director for expenses properly incurred by the director in connection with the affairs of the **RVAHJ**.
- 45.3. Any payment made under clause 45.2 must be approved by the directors.
- 45.4. The **RVAHJ** may pay premiums for insurance indemnifying directors, as allowed for by law (including the **Corporations Act**) and this Constitution.

46. Execution of documents

- 46.1. The **RVAHJ** may execute a document without using a common seal if the document is signed by:
 - 46.1.1. two directors of the **RVAHJ**, or
 - 46.1.2. a director and the secretary.

Duties of directors

47. Duties of directors

- 47.1. The directors must comply with their duties as directors under legislation and common law (judge-made law), and with the duties described in governance standard 5 of the regulations made under the **ACNC Act** which are:
 - 47.1.1. to exercise their powers and discharge their duties with the degree of care and diligence that a reasonable individual would exercise if they were a director of the **RVAHJ**
 - 47.1.2. to act in good faith in the best interests of the **RVAHJ** and to further the charitable purpose(s) of the **RVAHJ** set out in clause 6
 - 47.1.3. not to misuse their position as a director
 - 47.1.4. not to misuse information they gain in their role as a director

- 47.1.5. to disclose any perceived or actual material conflicts of interest in the manner set out in clause 48
- 47.1.6. to ensure that the financial affairs of the **RVAHJ** are managed responsibly, and
- 47.1.7. not to allow the **RVAHJ** to operate while it is insolvent.

48. Conflicts of interest

- 48.1. A director must disclose the nature and extent of any actual or perceived material conflict of interest in a matter that is being considered at a meeting of directors (or that is proposed in a circular resolution):
 - 48.1.1. to the other directors, or
 - 48.1.2. if all the directors have the same conflict of interest, to the members at the next **general meeting**, or at an earlier time if reasonable to do so.
- 48.2. The disclosure of a conflict of interest by a director must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- 48.3. Each director who has a material personal interest in a matter that is being considered at a meeting of directors (or that is proposed in a circular resolution) must not, except as provided under clauses 48.4:
 - 48.3.1. be present at the meeting while the matter is being discussed, or
 - 48.3.2. vote on the matter.
- 48.4. A director may still be present and vote if:
 - 48.4.1. their interest arises because they are a member of the **RVAHJ**, and the other members have the same interest
 - 48.4.2. their interest relates to an insurance contract that insures, or would insure, the director against liabilities that the director incurs as a director of the **RVAHJ** (see clause 66)
 - 48.4.3. their interest relates to a payment by the **RVAHJ** under clause 66 (indemnity), or any contract relating to an indemnity that is allowed under the **Corporations Act**
 - 48.4.4. the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) makes an order allowing the director to vote on the matter, or
 - 48.4.5. the directors who do not have a material personal interest in the matter pass a resolution that:
 - 48.4.5.1. identifies the director, the nature and extent of the director's interest in the matter and how it relates to the affairs of the **RVAHJ**, and
 - 48.4.5.2. says that those directors are satisfied that the interest should not stop the director from voting or being present.

Directors' meetings

49. When the directors meet

- 49.1. The directors must meet no less than six (6) times a year, and the directors will decide where and when they meet.

50. Calling directors' meetings

- 50.1. A director may call a directors' meeting by giving reasonable notice to all the other directors.
- 50.2. A director may give notice in writing or by any other means of communication that has previously been agreed to by all the directors.

51. Chairperson for directors' meetings

- 51.1. The **elected chairperson** is entitled to chair directors' meetings.
- 51.2. If the **elected chairperson** is unable to chair the meeting for any reason, the **elected deputy chairperson** may chair the meeting.

- 51.3. The directors at a directors' meeting may choose a director to be the chairperson for that meeting if the **elected chairperson** or **elected deputy chairperson** are:
- 51.3.1. not present within 30 minutes after the starting time set for the meeting, or
 - 51.3.2. present but does not want to act as chairperson of the meeting.

52. Quorum at directors' meetings

- 52.1. Unless the directors determine otherwise, the quorum for a directors' meeting is a majority (more than 50%) of directors.
- 52.2. A quorum must be present for the whole directors' meeting.

53. Using technology to hold directors' meetings

- 53.1. The directors may hold their meetings by using any technology (such as video or teleconferencing) that is agreed to by all the directors.
- 53.2. The directors' agreement may be a standing (ongoing) one.
- 53.3. A director may only withdraw their consent within a reasonable period before the meeting.

54. Passing directors' resolutions

- 54.1. A directors' resolution must be passed by a majority of the votes cast by directors present and entitled to vote on the resolution.

55. Circular resolutions of directors

- 55.1. The directors may pass a circular resolution without a directors' meeting being held.
- 55.2. A circular resolution is passed if all the directors entitled to vote on the resolution sign or otherwise agree to the resolution in the manner set out in clause 55.3 or clause 55.4.
- 55.3. Each director may sign:
- 55.3.1. a single document setting out the resolution and containing a statement that they agree to the resolution, or
 - 55.3.2. separate copies of that document, if the wording of the resolution is the same in each copy.
- 55.4. The **RVAHJ** may send a circular resolution by email to the directors and the directors may agree to the resolution by sending a reply email to that effect, including the text of the resolution in their reply.
- 55.5. A circular resolution is passed when the last director signs or otherwise agrees to the resolution in the manner set out in clause 56.3 or clause 56.4.

Secretary

56. Appointment and role of secretary

- 56.1. The **RVAHJ** must have at least one secretary, who may also be a director.
- 56.2. A secretary must be appointed by the directors (after giving the **RVAHJ** their signed consent to act as secretary of the **RVAHJ**) and may be removed by the directors.
- 56.3. The directors must decide the terms and conditions under which the secretary is appointed, including any remuneration.
- 56.4. The role of the secretary includes:
- 56.4.1. maintaining a register of the **RVAHJ**'s members, and
 - 56.4.2. maintaining the minutes and other records of **general meetings** (including notices of meetings), directors' meetings and circular resolutions.

Finance Director

57. Appointment and role of finance director

- 57.1. The **RVAHJ** shall have a finance director, who may also be a director.
- 57.2. A finance director may be appointed by the Directors (after giving the **RVAHJ** their signed consent to act as finance director of the **RVAHJ**) and may be removed by the Directors.
- 57.3. The Directors must decide the terms and conditions under which the finance director is appointed, including any remuneration.
- 57.4. The role of the finance director includes:
 - 57.4.1. Ensuring the financial management of **RVAHJ**
 - 57.4.2. Overseeing the financial operations and
 - 57.4.3. Facilitating the development of the budget.

Minutes and records

58. Minutes and records

- 58.1. The **RVAHJ** must, within one (1) month, make and keep the following records:
 - 58.1.1. minutes of proceedings and resolutions of **general meetings**
 - 58.1.2. minutes of circular resolutions of members
 - 58.1.3. a copy of a notice of each **general meeting**, and
 - 58.1.4. a copy of a members' statement distributed to members under clause 31.
- 58.2. The **RVAHJ** must, within one (1) month, make and keep the following records:
 - 58.2.1. minutes of proceedings and resolutions of directors' meetings (including reports of any committees), and
 - 58.2.2. minutes of circular resolutions of directors.
- 58.3. To allow members to inspect the **RVAHJ**'s records:
 - 58.3.1. the **RVAHJ** must give a member access to the records set out in clause 57.1, and
 - 58.3.2. the directors may authorise a member to inspect other records of the **RVAHJ**, including records referred to in clause 58.2 and clause 59.1.
- 58.4. The directors must ensure that minutes of a **general meeting** or a directors' meeting are signed within a reasonable time after the meeting by:
 - 58.4.1. the chairperson of the meeting, or
 - 58.4.2. the chairperson of the next meeting.
- 58.5. The directors must ensure that minutes of the passing of a circular resolution (of members or directors) are signed by a director within a reasonable time after the resolution is passed.

59. Financial and related records

- 59.1. The **RVAHJ** must make and keep written financial records that:
 - 59.1.1. correctly record and explain its transactions and financial position and performance, and
 - 59.1.2. enable true and fair financial statements to be prepared and to be audited.
- 59.2. The **RVAHJ** must also keep written records that correctly record its operations.
- 59.3. The **RVAHJ** must retain its records for at least 5 years.
- 59.4. The Directors must take reasonable steps to ensure that the **RVAHJ**'s records are kept safe.

By-laws

60. By-laws

- 60.1. The Directors may pass a resolution to make by-laws to give effect to this Constitution including for the operation of committees, officers of the association or branches not otherwise provided for.
- 60.2. Members and Directors must comply with by-laws as if they were part of this Constitution.

Patron(s)

61. At any **general meeting** any person or persons nominated, at least one (1) month in advance of the meeting, such nomination appearing on the notice of the meeting, may be elected Patron-in-Chief or a Patron of the Association.
 - 61.1. The Governor of Victoria shall be invited to be Patron-in-Chief of the Association during his or her term of office.
 - 61.2. The Lord Mayor of Melbourne or other appropriate Office holder may be invited to be a Patron during his or her term of office.

Notice

62. What is notice

- 62.1. Anything written to or from the **RVAHJ** under any clause in this Constitution is written notice and is subject to clauses 62 to 64, unless specified otherwise.
- 62.2. Clauses 63 to 65 do not apply to a notice of proxy under clause 37.6.

63. Notice to the company

- 63.1. Written notice or any communication under this Constitution may be given to the **RVAHJ**, the Directors or the Secretary by:
 - 63.1.1. delivering it to the **RVAHJ**'s registered office
 - 63.1.2. posting it to the **RVAHJ**'s registered office or to another address chosen by the **RVAHJ** for notice to be provided
 - 63.1.3. sending it to an email address or other electronic address notified by the **RVAHJ** to the members as the **RVAHJ**'s email address or other electronic address, or
 - 63.1.4. sending it to the fax number notified by the **RVAHJ** to the members as the **RVAHJ**'s fax number.

64. Notice to members

- 64.1. Written notice or any communication under this Constitution may be given to a member:
 - 64.1.1. in person
 - 64.1.2. by posting it to, or leaving it at the address of the member in the register of members or an alternative address (if any) nominated by the member for service of notices
 - 64.1.3. sending it to the email or other electronic address nominated by the member as an alternative address for service of notices (if any)
 - 64.1.4. sending it to the fax number nominated by the member as an alternative address for service of notices (if any), or
 - 64.1.5. if agreed to by the member, by notifying the member at an email or other electronic address nominated by the member, that the notice is available at a specified place or address (including an electronic address).
- 64.2. If the **RVAHJ** does not have an address for the member, the **RVAHJ** is not required to give notice in person.

65. When notice is taken to be given

- 65.1. A notice:
 - 65.1.1. delivered in person, or left at the recipient's address, is taken to be given on the day it is delivered
 - 65.1.2. sent by post, is taken to be given on the third day after it is posted with the correct payment of postage costs
 - 65.1.3. sent by email, fax or other electronic method, is taken to be given on the business day after it is sent, and

65.1.4. given under clause 64.1.5 is taken to be given on the business day after the notification that the notice is available is sent.

Financial year

66. Company's financial year

66.1. The **RVAHJ**'s financial year is from 01 January to 31 December, unless the directors pass a resolution to change the financial year.

Indemnity, insurance and access

67. Indemnity

67.1. The **RVAHJ** indemnifies each officer of the **RVAHJ** out of the assets of the **RVAHJ**, to the relevant extent, against all losses and liabilities (including costs, expenses and charges) incurred by that person as an officer of the **RVAHJ**.

67.2. In this clause, 'officer' means a director or secretary and includes a director or secretary after they have ceased to hold that office.

67.3. In this clause, 'to the relevant extent' means:

67.3.1. to the extent that the **RVAHJ** is not precluded by law (including the **Corporations Act**) from doing so, and

67.3.2. for the amount that the officer is not otherwise entitled to be indemnified and is not actually indemnified by another person (including an insurer under an insurance policy).

67.4. The indemnity is a continuing obligation and is enforceable by an officer even though that person is no longer an officer of the **RVAHJ**.

68. Acting in Good Faith

Subject to the Corporations Act and without limiting the foregoing, no officer of the Association acting in good faith and within the scope of his or her duties or what he or she regards as the scope of his or her duties, is liable for any loss, damage or misfortune which may occur whether the same be occasioned by any mistake, error, oversight or omission on his or her part or not.

69. Insurance

69.1. To the extent permitted by law (including the **Corporations Act**), and if the directors consider it appropriate, the **RVAHJ** may pay or agree to pay a premium for a contract insuring a person who is or has been an officer of the **RVAHJ** against any liability incurred by the person as an officer of the **RVAHJ**.

70. Directors' access to documents

70.1. A director has a right of access to the financial records of the **RVAHJ** at all reasonable times.

70.2. If the directors agree, the **RVAHJ** must give a director or former director access to:

70.2.1. certain documents, including documents provided for or available to the directors, and

70.2.2. any other documents referred to in those documents.

Winding up

71. Surplus assets not to be distributed to members

- 71.1. If the **RVAHJ** is wound up, any **surplus assets** must not be distributed to a member or a former member of the **RVAHJ**, unless that member or former member is a charity as defined in clause 73.1.9.

72. Distribution of surplus assets

- 72.1. Subject to the **Corporations Act** and any other applicable Act, and any court order, any **surplus assets** that remain after the **RVAHJ** is wound up must be distributed to one or more charities:
- 72.1.1. with charitable purpose(s) like, or inclusive of, the purpose(s) in clause 6, and
 - 72.1.2. which also prohibit the distribution of any **surplus assets** to its members to at least the same extent as the **RVAHJ**.
- 72.2. The decision as to the charity or charities to be given the **surplus assets** must be made by a **special resolution** of members at or before the time of winding up. If the members do not make this decision, the **RVAHJ** may apply to the Supreme Court to make this decision.

Definitions and interpretation

73. Definitions

- 73.1. In this constitution:
- 73.1.1. **ACNC Act** means the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (Cth)
 - 73.1.2. **company** means the **RVAHJ** referred to in clause 1
 - 73.1.3. **Corporations Act** means the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth)
 - 73.1.4. **elected chairperson** means a person elected by the directors to be the **RVAHJ**'s chairperson under clause 41, also referred to as the President
 - 73.1.5. **elected deputy chairperson** means a person elected by the directors to be the **RVAHJ**'s chairperson in the absence of the **elected chairperson** under clause 41, also referred to as the Vice President
 - 73.1.6. **general meeting** means a meeting of members and includes the annual **general meeting**, under clause 21.1
 - 73.1.7. **initial member** means a person who is named in the application for registration of the **RVAHJ**, with their consent, as a proposed member of the **RVAHJ**
 - 73.1.8. **member present** means, in connection with a **general meeting**, a **member present** in person or by proxy at the venue or venues for the meeting
 - 73.1.9. **registered charity** means a charity that is registered under the **ACNC Act**
 - 73.1.10. **special resolution** means a resolution:
 - 73.1.10.1. of which notice has been given under clause 22.5.3, and
 - 73.1.10.2. that has been passed by at least 75% of the votes cast by **members present** and entitled to vote on the resolution, and
 - 73.1.10.3. **surplus assets** means any assets of the **RVAHJ** that remain after paying all debts and other liabilities of the **company**, including the costs of winding up.

74. Reading this Constitution with the Corporations Act

- 74.1. The replaceable rules set out in the **Corporations Act** do not apply to the **RVAHJ**.
- 74.2. While the **RVAHJ** is a **registered charity**, the **ACNC Act** and the **Corporations Act** override any clauses in this Constitution which are inconsistent with those Acts.
- 74.3. If the **RVAHJ** is not a **registered charity** (even if it remains a charity), the **Corporations Act** overrides any clause in this Constitution which is inconsistent with that Act.

74.4. A word or expression that is defined in the **Corporations Act** or used in that Act and covering the same subject, has the same meaning as in this Constitution.

75. Interpretation

75.1. In this Constitution:

- 75.1.1. the words 'including', 'for example', or similar expressions mean that there may be more inclusions or examples than those mentioned after that expression, and
- 75.1.2. reference to an Act includes every amendment, re-enactment, or replacement of that Act and any subordinate legislation made under that Act (such as regulations).

Draft