

# Welcome



**Eleanor Scully, Richard Mainey, Garry Lee, Gary Rebgetz, Lorraine Smith and Richard Barwick**

The Constitution Review Working Party has now completed its review of the Club's Constitution. The working party accepted the responsibility of canvassing members and accepting submissions. It was then a process of working through the current document and making recommendations to the Board.

All proposed changes will be voted on at the AGM at our National Rally in October. All Ordinary Members will have the opportunity to vote at the AGM or by proxy. For any changes to take place, a 75 per cent majority of votes is required. Evidently, the members decide whether or not we amend the Constitution.

There have been a number of changes proposed in regard to the wording and grammar of the current document. These have no significant impact to the overall meaning of the Constitution. Some of the proposed changes include replacing Ordinary Member with Full Member, Honorary Life Member with Life Member, and Family Unit with Family Membership.

It's also been suggested that we no longer refer to *The Wanderer* as the official organ of the company, while also recognising that *The Wanderer* is available in hard copy or digital format. Another proposal suggests that an electronic address and electronic communication should be acceptable, which is presently not the case.

Further amendments have been proposed that will change the substance of the Constitution. These need to be fully understood by the members before the AGM and if any member is unsure of any of these changes, the Board are more than happy to discuss. All the recommendations will have an impact on the Club, but the Board believes the

revised Constitution will lead the Club forward in a direction that will facilitate CMCA continuing as the premier RV Club in Australia. We need to maintain our presence at all levels of government and in the RV industry in general, to continue the ongoing protection of our 'freedom of choice'.

The Board understands that some members question this strategic direction, with the thought that the Club should remain exactly the same. We, the Board, do not believe this is an option. The Club has changed and will continue to change. As the saying goes, 'nothing stays the same forever'. Some members fear that CMCA will become too corporate, ultimately losing that 'Club' feeling. Again, we disagree. It is all about the culture of CMCA. Maintaining a certain culture within any organisation is about the attitude of members, not necessarily about the Board, the Constitution or the number of members.

So, what are the major changes to the Constitution that were recommended to the working party? There are five significant issues which can briefly be discussed here. Obviously, more information will be provided to members by way of future newsletters and the actual voting papers, when distributed.

The first proposed change, as mentioned in January's *The Wanderer*, is the definition of a 'qualifying vehicle.' The proposal is to change the requirements needed to become an Ordinary/Full Member. An Ordinary/Full Member will need to own or jointly own an RV that meets the criteria as per the Club's Self Contained Vehicle Policy. This will also include a clause, whereby an existing Ordinary Member (to be called

Full Member) will continue their current membership status even if their current vehicle does not meet the revised qualifying vehicle criteria. Therefore, all current members will be 'grand fathered' so that no current members will be disadvantaged by this amendment.

Another proposed change that was mentioned in both January and February's *The Wanderer*, is to give the Board the responsibility of setting the annual membership fees. This topic has been the subject of much discussion and two letters sent into April's *The Wanderer*, supporting this change, summarise the Board's view of this matter. A copy of these letters can be provided upon request.

A change to Life Member entitlements has also been suggested, clarifying the rights and privileges of Life Members. It establishes their obligations in respect to meeting all the requirements of Full Members in order to stand for the Board.

It has also been proposed that the Club should implement electronic voting, a change that members have been requesting for a long time. As many members travel regularly, voting at Board elections or for motions presented at AGMs would be more convenient. Changes to Clause 28 of the Constitution would facilitate this.

The final amendment I will discuss is in regard to Clause 48.1, 48.2 and 48.3 of the Constitution. There is an anomaly in these Clauses that treat the service of a notice differently in respect to a postal notice as compared to an electronic notice. The problem here is that a postal notice is provided with more time, which can create logistical issues when posting out notices of business to be conducted at an AGM. The proposed change will treat both services of notice the same, i.e. the day it is physically posted or sent electronically.

Previous Boards have been discussing the Constitution for many years. The Board made a commitment to complete a fair review of the document, hence appointing an independent committee of members to participate in the working party. The above is a result of their deliberations on the many submissions made by members. The Board would like to thank everyone who participated.

*Travel Safely and  
Laugh More, Live Longer.  
Garry Lee A67278  
Chairman, on behalf of the CMCA  
Board of Directors*