

**RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO SOCIETY'S RULES**

**INTRODUCTION**

When the Friends of the Museum subscription was introduced several years ago, relevant changes were not made to the Society's Rules to reflect this new category. Over the last year the Committee has been discussing the Society's membership categories and has made the following decisions:

- 1 The Friends of the Museum subscription should cease and there should just be an Annual Membership as currently specified in the Rules.
- 2 That Life Membership with a single subscription be ceased, but current Life Members will retain their Life Membership status. There is still the opportunity to give honorary life membership to any person who has given exceptional or special services to the Society.

The Committee made the decision that changes to the membership clauses would be put to the Society's next AGM for approval, along with some minor changes to other clauses to reflect current practice. While making these decisions, the Committee bore in mind that major changes are being made to the Incorporated Societies Act, which will require further changes to be made to the Rules over the next few years. Please email [jo.haswell@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jo.haswell@xtra.co.nz) if you would like a copy of the current registered Rules or if you need any clarification on the recommended changes.

**RECOMMENDED CHANGES**

***Change 1 – Membership applications be made in writing and can be made on line. This is current practice and applications in writing are a future requirement. (Additions underlined)***

4.1 The Society's membership shall be open to individuals with an interest in the objectives of the Society, who may apply in writing for membership at the Registered Office of the Society during normal opening hours or through the Society's website or at an AGM.

***Change 2 – Date membership subs due. This date be changed to 1 April (currently 1 October) to align with our financial year. (Change underlined)***

4.4 The subscription shall be determined from time to time by the Committee and shall become effective from 1 April following that decision.

***Change 3 – That the Friends of the Museum subscription is not continued (it is not currently covered in our Rules) and there only be one class of membership. This would result in Life Membership with one single subscription being removed as a membership option. All current Friends would be offered Annual Membership. There will no longer be Family or Child subscriptions.***

Current Clause

- 4.2 There shall be two classes of member:
- (i) Annual Membership with a subscription to be due 1 October each year.
  - (ii) Life Membership with a single subscription.

Recommended New Clause

- 4.2 There shall be Annual Membership with a subscription to be due 1 April each year.

**Change 4 - A new clause would be required to protect the status of current Life Members. (Suggested clause)**

- 4.9 Before (*date of AGM*) the Society had a category of membership for Life Members who paid a single subscription. This category of membership ceased on (*date of AGM*) and will no longer be offered but those with Life Membership at that date will retain their Life Member status for their lifetime.

**Change 5 - Change committee meeting clause to allow variation of meeting day and to change the month when no meeting is held from January to December. (Current practice)**

Current Clause

- 6.1 Committee Meetings, of which each Committee Member shall receive due notice of time and place from the Secretary, shall be held on the third Thursday of every calendar month, with the exception of the month of January when no meeting shall be held.

Recommended New Clause

- 6.1 Committee Meetings, of which each Committee Member shall receive due notice of time and place from the Secretary, shall be held on a day of every calendar month as decided by the Committee, with the exception of the month of December when no meeting shall be held.

**Change 6 - Change of word ('souvenir' to 'retail') to reflect current practice. (Change underlined)**

- 8.2 The Society shall be funded by subscription, through grants and donations obtained from whatever sources, by admission fee to exhibits, (such fees to be set by the Committee), by retail sales and by fund raising events which may from time to time be organised by the Committee.

**Change 7 – Change the following clause to reflect that local bodies we come under can change. The phrase “Rodney District Council or other” and “may in future” have been removed so it reads “ ... paid to the local authority which holds ....”**

- 12.2 If the Society is wound up in accordance with Clause 12.1 hereof, the surplus assets and funds after the payment of the Society's liabilities and the expenses of winding up shall be paid to the local authority which holds title to the land upon which the Society's buildings are situated.

**Change 8 – Change the review of the accounts from annually to biennially. The frequency is reduced for cost reasons whilst ensuring an independent review is carried out at least every two years. (Change underlined)**

Current Clause

- 7.1 (ii) To receive from the Treasurer a balance sheet and an independently checked statement of accounts for the preceding year.

Recommended New Clause

- 7.1 (ii) To receive from the Treasurer a balance sheet and a biennial independently checked statement of accounts for the preceding year.