

**RHSV Special General Meeting
Revision of RHSV Constitution
Tuesday 21 May 2019, 5 pm
239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne**

To adopt amendments to the RHSV's Constitution. These proposed amendments had been circulated to RHSV members together with a paper on Reasons for Change by RHSV Councillor Cathy Butcher.

Minutes of the Special General Meeting

1 Attendance, Acknowledgement, Apologies

Present: Acting President Elisabeth Jackson in the chair, approximately 50 RHSV members and 40 visitors.

Elisabeth Jackson stated: 'We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which the Royal Historical Society of Victoria currently stands, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, their Elders past and present, and those young people destined to become leaders.'

Elisabeth welcomed all those present at the meeting to discuss revision of the RHSV Constitution and she read out the apologies:

Apologies were received from Sheila Byard, Janice Bate, Chris Bate, Tristan Bate, Mandy Bede, Sam Hicks, Robert Renton, Gwladys Mclachlan, Helen Menadue, Ann Gibb, George Fernando, Susan Priestley, David McCarthy, Judith Smart, Rosemary Nixon, John Schauble, Madonna Grehan, Dianne Reilly, John Drury, Virginia Nixon, Russell Yeoman, David Hall, Chris Manchee, Barbara D Latham, Deborah Towns, Charles Parkinson, Stephen Shelmerdine, Pera Wells, Valda Cole.

2 Discussion of proposed amendments

Cathy Butcher, RHSV Councillor, spoke to the amendments to the Constitution pointing out that most of the changes were to ensure clarity in wording and consistency across provisions, and to reflect modern business practices. Two additional provisions have been added to the current Constitution – one to provide for the making of by-laws and the other to include co-opted members in the definition of Council to ensure their status as voting members.

Margaret Birtley questioned the lack of specificity in the purposes, in particular the removal of the wording of the current 2.3 which refers to 'museum collections'. She was concerned that the lack of reference to 'museum' could be an issue for Museum Accreditation. Cathy Butcher and the RHSV Executive Officer Rosemary Cameron assured her that the accreditation would not be affected. Rosemary Cameron explained that the benefit of broad purposes is that it allows the RHSV to adjust to changed circumstances as they arise without having to continually revise the Constitution.

Julia Jackson suggested adding 'and collections' after 'resources' in 2.6.

Simon Smith suggested that Council should consider updating the Council operation provisions as having 16 Councillors can be operationally unwieldy. He suggested looking at similar organisations which operate with a Board running the organisation and a Council meeting less frequently. This was offered as something to be considered by the Council and not for consideration of the current amended Constitution.

3 Proposals for acceptance of revision

Elisabeth Jackson then put the following proposals to the meeting:

'That the revised Purposes in the Constitution be amended at 2.6 by adding 'and collections' after 'resources.'

Moved Richard Broome, seconded Lucy Bracey. Carried.

That the amendments to the Constitution of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria as circulated and amended as above be adopted.

Moved Elisabeth Jackson, seconded Margaret Birtley. Carried.

The meeting closed at 5.20 pm.