

FRIENDS OF GEELONG BOTANIC GARDENS INCORPORATED

Registration Number A13509G

PURPOSES & RULES 2013

In accordance with

CONSUMER AFFAIRS VICTORIA

Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012

**PO Box 235
GEELONG 3220**

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PURPOSES AND RULES

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Note

The persons who from time to time are members of the Association are an incorporated association by the name given in Rule 1 of these Rules.

Under Section 46 of the **Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012**, these Rules are taken to constitute the terms of a contract between the Association and its members.

PART 1 — PRELIMINARY**1 Name**

The name of the incorporated association is *FRIENDS OF GEELONG BOTANIC GARDENS INCORPORATED* (in these Rules called “the Association”).

Note

Under Section 23 of the Act, the name of the Association and its registration number must appear on all its business documents.

2 Statement of Purposes

The Purposes of the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Incorporated (‘the Association’):

- (a) To conserve, protect and enhance the Geelong Botanic Gardens and its environs, including Eastern Park.
- (b) To act in partnership with the body known as Gardens Management, created by the statutory body currently known as the City of Greater Geelong to conserve, develop and support the Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park;
- (c) To encourage the community to support and appreciate the Geelong Botanic Gardens;
- (d) To promote community awareness of the scientific, conservation, educational, historical and cultural functions, facilities, public programs and activities of the Geelong Botanic Gardens;
- (e) To provide for information, education, interpretation, public programs and activities deemed relevant by the Association;
- (f) To promote and increase membership of the Association and conduct activities for the benefit of members;
- (g) To publish and disseminate among members and the community newsletters or other publications relating to the activities of the Association or the Geelong Botanic Gardens;
- (h) Where appropriate, to act as Trustee of any charitable or other Trust established for the betterment of the Geelong Botanic Gardens.
- (i) To carry out appropriate activities to raise funds for the Association, the Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park.

3 Financial Year

The Financial Year of the Association is each period of 12 months ending on 30 June.

4 Definitions

In these Rules:

Absolute majority of the Committee, means a majority of the Committee members currently holding office and entitled to vote at the time (as distinct from a majority of Committee members present at a Committee meeting).

Associate member means a member referred to in Rule 14(5).

Chairperson, of a General Meeting or Committee meeting, means the person chairing the meeting as required under Rule 46.

Committee means the Committee of Management of the Association.

Committee meeting means a meeting of the Committee held in accordance with these Rules.

Committee member means a member of the Committee elected or appointed under Division 3 of Part 5 of these rules.

Co-opted member means a member with the necessary skills and expertise co-opted to advise, as appropriate.

Disciplinary appeal meeting means a meeting of the members of the Association convened under Rule 23(3)

Disciplinary meeting means a meeting of the Committee convened for the purposes of Rule 22.

Disciplinary Subcommittee means the Subcommittee appointed under Rule 20.

Financial year means the 12 month period specified in Rule 3.

General Meeting means a General Meeting of members of the Association convened in accordance with Part 4, and includes an Annual General Meeting, a Special General Meeting, and a Disciplinary appeal meeting.

Gift Fund means the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Gift Fund 1997.

Member means a member of the Association.

Member entitled to vote means a member who under Rule 13(2) is entitled to vote at a General Meeting.

Ordinary Member of the Committee means a member of the Committee who is not an officer of the Association.

Special Resolution means a resolution that requires not less than three-quarters of the members voting at a General Meeting, whether in person or by proxy, to vote in favour of the resolution.

Subcommittee means those members of the Association forming groups to carry out specific functions (eg Growers, Guides and Music in the Gardens).

The Act means the **Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012** and includes any regulations made under that Act.

The Gardens means the Geelong Botanic Gardens.

The Gardens Management means the director and/or curator and staff appointed by the City of Greater Geelong.

The Registrar means the Registrar of Incorporated Associations.

The Rules means these Rules of the Association as they may be amended from time to time.

PART 2 — POWERS OF ASSOCIATION

5 Powers of Association

- (1) Subject to the Act, the Association has power to do all things incidental or conducive to achieve its Purposes.
- (2) Without limiting Subrule (1), the Association may—
 - (a) acquire, hold and dispose of real or personal property;
 - (b) open and operate accounts with financial institutions;
 - (c) invest its money in any security in which Trust monies may lawfully be invested;
 - (d) raise and borrow money on any terms and in any manner as it thinks fit;
 - (e) secure the repayment of money raised or borrowed, or the payment of a debt or liability;
 - (f) appoint agents to transact business on its behalf;
 - (g) enter into any other contract it considers necessary or desirable.
- (3) The Association may only exercise its powers and use its income and assets (including any surplus) for its Purposes.

6 Not for profit organisation

- (1) The Association must not distribute any surplus, income or assets directly or indirectly to its members.
- (2) Subrule (1) does not prevent the Association from paying a member—
 - (a) reimbursement for expenses properly incurred by the member; or
 - (b) for goods or services provided by the member—

if this is done in good faith on terms no more favourable than if the member was not a member.

Note

Section 33 of the Act provides that an incorporated association must not secure pecuniary profit for its members. Section 4 of the Act sets out in more detail the circumstances under which an incorporated association is not taken to secure pecuniary profit for its members.

PART 3 — MEMBERS, DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES AND GRIEVANCES

Division 1—Membership

7 Minimum number of members

The Association must have at least 5 members.

8 Who is eligible to be a member

Any person who supports the Purposes of the Association is eligible to apply for membership.

9 Application for membership of the Association

- (1) Shall be made in writing on the form approved by the Committee, stating that the applicant:
 - (a) wishes to become a member of the Association; and
 - (b) supports the Purposes of the Association; and
 - (c) agrees to comply with these Rules.
- (2) The application must:
 - (a) be signed by the applicant; and
 - (b) be accompanied by the required subscription, according to the membership type; and
 - (c) be lodged with the Secretary of the Association.

10 Consideration of the application

- (1) As soon as is practicable after the receipt of the application accompanied by the subscription, the Secretary shall refer the application for approval at a Committee meeting.
- (2) As soon as practicable after receipt of the application, the Committee shall determine whether to approve or to reject the application.
- (3) No reason need be given for the Committee's rejection of the application. If the Committee has rejected the application, it must return any money accompanying the application to the applicant.
- (4) The Secretary shall, with as little delay as possible, notify the applicant in writing whether the application for membership of the Association has been approved.

11 New Membership

- (1) Upon an application being approved by the Committee:
 - (a) the Secretary must record the resolution to accept the membership in the minutes of the Committee meeting; and
 - (b) the Secretary must, as soon as practicable, enter the name and address of the new member, and the date of becoming a member, in the Register of members.
- (2) A person who becomes a member of the Association and, subject to Rule 13(2), is entitled to exercise his or her rights of membership from the date on which the Committee approves the person's membership.

12 Annual Subscription

- (1) At each Annual General Meeting, the Association must—
 - (a) determine the amount of the annual subscription (if any) for the following financial year; and
 - (b) confirm that the date for payment of the annual subscription shall be the first day of July.
- (2) The Association may determine that a lower annual subscription is payable by Associate members.
- (3) The Association may determine that any new member who joins after the start of a financial year must, for that financial year, pay a fee equal to—
 - (a) the full annual subscription; or
 - (b) a pro rata annual subscription based on the remaining part of the financial year; or
 - (c) a fixed amount determined from time to time by the Association.

13 General rights of members

- (1) A member of the Association who is entitled to vote has the right:
 - (a) to receive notice of General Meetings and of proposed Special Resolutions in the manner and time prescribed by these Rules; and
 - (b) to submit in writing, items of business for consideration at a General Meeting or a Committee meeting; and
 - (c) to attend and be heard at General Meetings; and
 - (d) to vote at a General Meeting; and
 - (e) to have access to the minutes of General Meetings and other documents of the Association as provided under Rule75; and
 - (f) to inspect the Register of members.
- (2) A member is entitled to vote if—
 - (a) the member is a member other than an Associate member; and
 - (b) when their membership has been approved by the Committee, and
 - (c) the member's membership rights are not suspended for any reason.
- (3) The rights of a member (including the right to vote) who has not paid the annual subscription by the due date, July 1, are suspended until the subscription is paid.

14 The Members of the Association

- (1) The members of the Association are:
 - (a) the members of the Association immediately prior to the date of adoption of these Rules, and
 - (b) all members who hereafter are elected members of the Association in accordance with the Rules.
- (2) There shall be the following types of members:
 - (a) Honorary Members
 - (b) Ordinary Members.
 - (c) Corporate Members being legal entities other than natural persons.
 - (d) Life Members
 - (e) Honorary Life Members
 - (f) Associate Members
- (3) Honorary Members and Honorary Life Members are persons or corporations who are admitted under these Rules being persons or corporations who have provided a benefit to the Association or to the Gardens, which the Committee declares to be outstanding, or who have given service to the Association, which the Committee declares to be outstanding.

The Committee may nominate the category of such Honorary Membership, but Honorary Membership shall not be conferred upon any such person or corporation unless the nomination has been approved by resolution passed at an Annual General Meeting of the Association.

- (4) A Corporate Member shall nominate in writing a natural person to be its representative in the affairs of the Association. That nominee is, during the currency of the nomination, entitled to act as though an Ordinary member. A Corporate Member may, by notice in writing sent to the

Secretary substitute its nominee. Such substitution shall be effective upon its receipt by the Secretary.

(5) Associate Members

- (a) Associate Members of the Association include—
 - (i) any members under the age of 18 years; and
 - (ii) any other category of member as determined by Special Resolution at a General Meeting.
- (b) An Associate Member must not vote but may have other rights as determined by the Committee or by resolution at a General Meeting.

15 Rights not transferable

The rights of a member are not transferrable and end when the membership ceases.

16 Ceasing membership

- (1) The membership of a person ceases on resignation, expulsion or death.
- (2) If a person ceases to be a member of the Association, the Secretary must, as soon as practicable, enter the date the person ceased to be a member in the Register of members.

17 Resigning as a member

- (1) A member may resign by notice in writing given to the Association.

Note

Rule 74(3) sets out how notice may be given to the Association. It includes by post or by handing the notice to a member of the Committee.

- (2) A member is taken to have resigned if:
 - (a) the member's annual subscription is more than 12 months in arrears; or
 - (b) where no annual subscription is required (as with Honorary and Life members):
 - (i) the Secretary has made a written request to the member to confirm that he or she wishes to remain a member; and
 - (ii) the member has not, within 3 months after receiving that request, confirmed in writing that he or she wishes to remain a member.

18 Register of Members

- (1) The Secretary must keep and maintain a Register of members that includes-
 - (a) for each current member –
 - (i) the member's name;
 - (ii) the address for notice last given by the member;
 - (iii) the date of becoming a member;
 - (iv) the type of membership,
 - (b) for each former member, the date of ceasing to be a member, and
- (2) Any member may apply in writing to inspect the Register of members, with 7 working days notice and free of charge.

Note

Under Section 59 of the Act, access to the personal information of a person recorded in the Register of members may be restricted in certain circumstances. Section 58 of the Act provides that it is an offence to make improper use of information about a person obtained from the Register of Members.

Division 2—Disciplinary action**19 Grounds for taking disciplinary action**

The Association may take disciplinary action against a member in accordance with this Division if it is determined that the member—

- (a) has failed to comply with these Rules; or
- (b) refuses to support the Purposes of the Association; or
- (c) has engaged in conduct prejudicial to the Association.

20 Disciplinary Subcommittee

- (1) If the Committee is satisfied that there are sufficient grounds for taking disciplinary action against a member, the Committee must appoint a Disciplinary Subcommittee to hear the matter and determine what action, if any, to take against the member.
- (2) The members of the Disciplinary Subcommittee—
 - (a) may be Committee members, members of the Association or anyone else; but
 - (b) must not be biased against, or in favour of, the member concerned.

21 Notice to member

- (1) Before disciplinary action is taken against a member, the Secretary must give written notice to the member—
 - (a) stating that the Association proposes to take disciplinary action against the member; and
 - (b) stating the grounds for the proposed disciplinary action; and
 - (c) specifying the date, place and time of the meeting at which the Disciplinary Subcommittee intends to consider the disciplinary action (the ***Disciplinary meeting***); and
 - (d) advising the member that he or she may do one or both of the following—
 - (i) attend the Disciplinary meeting and address the Disciplinary Subcommittee at that meeting;
 - (ii) give a written statement to the Disciplinary Subcommittee at any time before the Disciplinary meeting; and
 - (e) setting out the member's appeal rights under Rule 23.
- (2) The notice must be given no earlier than 28 days, and no later than 14 days, before the Disciplinary meeting is held.

22 Decision of the Subcommittee

- (1) At the Disciplinary meeting, the Disciplinary Subcommittee must:
 - (a) give to the member an opportunity to be heard;
 - (b) give due consideration to any written statement submitted by the member.

- (2) After complying with Subrule (1) the Disciplinary Subcommittee may:
 - (a) take no further action against the member; or
 - (b) subject to Subrule (3)
 - (i) reprimand the member; or
 - (ii) suspend the membership rights of the member for a specified period; or
 - (iii) expel the member from the Association.
- (3) The Disciplinary Subcommittee may not fine the member.
- (4) The suspension of membership rights or the expulsion of a member by the Disciplinary Subcommittee under this Rule takes effect immediately after the vote is passed.

23 Appeal rights

- (1) A person whose membership rights have been suspended or who has been expelled from the Association under Rule 22 may give notice to the effect that he or she wishes to appeal against the suspension or expulsion.
- (2) The notice must be in writing and given:
 - (a) to the Disciplinary Subcommittee immediately after the vote to suspend or expel the person is taken; or
 - (b) to the Secretary not later than 48 hours after the vote.
- (3) If a person has given notice under Subrule (2), a Disciplinary appeal meeting must be convened by the Committee as soon as practicable, but in any event not later than 21 days, after the notice is received.
- (4) Notice of the Disciplinary appeal meeting must be given to each member of the Association who is entitled to vote as soon as practicable and must:
 - (a) specify the date, time and place of the appeal meeting; and
 - (b) state:
 - (i) the name of the person against whom the Disciplinary action has been taken; and
 - (ii) the grounds for taking that action; and
 - (iii) that at the Disciplinary appeal meeting the members present must vote on whether the decision to suspend or expel the person should be upheld or revoked.

24 Conduct of Disciplinary appeal meeting

- (1) At a Disciplinary appeal meeting—
 - (a) no business other than the question of the appeal may be conducted; and
 - (b) the Committee must state the grounds for suspending or expelling the member and the reasons for taking that action; and
 - (c) the person whose membership has been suspended or who has been expelled must be given an opportunity to be heard.

- (2) After complying with Subrule (1), the members present and entitled to vote at the meeting must vote by secret ballot on the question of whether the decision to suspend or expel the person should be upheld or revoked.
- (3) A member may not vote by proxy at the meeting.
- (4) The decision is upheld if not less than three-quarters of the members voting at the meeting vote in favour of the decision.

Division 3—Grievance procedure

25 Application

- (1) The grievance procedure set out in this Division applies to disputes under these Rules between—
 - (a) a member and another member;
 - (b) a member and the Committee;
 - (c) a member and the Association.
- (2) A member must not initiate a grievance procedure in relation to a matter that is the subject of a disciplinary procedure until the disciplinary procedure has been completed.

26 Parties must attempt to resolve the dispute

The parties to a dispute must attempt to resolve the dispute between themselves within 14 days of the dispute coming to the attention of each party.

27 Appointment of mediator

- (1) If the parties to a dispute are unable to resolve the dispute between themselves within the time required by Rule 26, the parties must within 10 days—
 - (a) notify the Committee of the dispute; and
 - (b) agree to or request the appointment of a mediator; and
 - (c) attempt in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation.
- (2) The mediator must be—
 - (a) a person chosen by agreement between the parties; or
 - (b) in the absence of agreement—
 - (i) if the dispute is between a member and another member—a person appointed by the Committee; or
 - (ii) if the dispute is between a member and the Committee or the Association—a person appointed or employed by the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria.
- (3) A mediator appointed by the Committee may be a member or former member of the Association but in any case must not be a person who—
 - (a) has a personal interest in the dispute; or

- (b) is biased in favour of or against any party.

28 Mediation process

- (1) The mediator to the dispute, in conducting the mediation, must—
 - (a) give each party every opportunity to be heard; and
 - (b) allow due consideration by all parties of any written statement submitted by any party; and
 - (c) ensure that natural justice is accorded to the parties throughout the mediation process.
- (2) The mediator must not determine the dispute.

29 Failure to resolve dispute by mediation

If the mediation process does not resolve the dispute, the parties may seek to resolve the dispute in accordance with the Act or otherwise at law.

PART 4—GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION

30 Annual General Meetings

- (1) The Committee must convene an Annual General Meeting of the Association to be held within 5 months after the end of each financial year.
- (2) The Committee may determine the date, time and place of the Annual General Meeting.
- (3) The ordinary business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:
 - (a) to confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and of any Special General Meeting held since that meeting;
 - (b) to receive and consider:
 - (i) the annual report of the Committee on the activities of the Association during the previous financial year; and
 - (ii) the financial statements of the Association for the preceding financial year submitted by the Committee in accordance with Part 7 of the Act.
 - (iii) audited financial statements of the Gift Fund for the preceding financial year submitted by the Committee; (refer Rule 48(2)(d))
 - (iv) any audited accounts and auditor's reports or report of a review accompanying the financial statements that are required under the Act, or by decision of the Association.
 - (c) to elect members of the Committee;
 - (d) to set amounts of annual subscriptions.
 - (e) to appoint an auditor in accordance with Rule 30(3)(b)(iv);
 - (f) to approve conferring of Honorary Members and Honorary Life Members

- (g) to appoint Association members as Liaison or other officers, as required.
- (5) The Annual General Meeting may also conduct any other business of which notice has been given in accordance with these Rules.

31 Special General Meetings

- (1) All General Meetings other than the Annual General Meeting or a Disciplinary appeal meeting, shall be called Special General Meetings.
- (2) The Committee may convene a Special General Meeting whenever it thinks fit.
- (3) No business other than that set out in the notice under Rule 33 may be conducted at the meeting.

Note

General business may be considered at the meeting if it is included as an item in the notice under Rule 33 and the majority of the members at the meeting agree.

32 Special General Meeting held at the request of members

- (1) The Committee must convene a Special General Meeting if a request to do so is made in accordance with Subrule (2) by at least 10% of the total number of members.
- (2) A request for a Special General Meeting must—
 - (a) be in writing; and
 - (b) state the business to be considered at the meeting and any resolutions to be proposed; and
 - (c) include the names and signatures of the members requesting the meeting; and
 - (d) be given to the Secretary.
- (3) If the Committee does not convene a Special General Meeting within one month after the date on which the request is made, the members making the request (or any of them) may convene the Special General Meeting.
- (4) A Special General Meeting convened by members under Subrule (3)—
 - (a) must be held within 3 months after the date on which the original request was made; and
 - (b) may only consider the business stated in that request.
- (5) The Association must reimburse all reasonable expenses incurred by the members convening a Special General Meeting under Subrule (3).

33 General Meetings Notice

- (1) The Secretary of the Association (or, in the case of a Special General Meeting convened under Rule 32(3), the members convening the meeting), must give to each member of the Association—in accordance with Rule 74(1).
 - (a) at least 21 days notice of the holding of a General Meeting if a Special Resolution is to be proposed at the meeting, or

- (b) at least 14 days notice of a General Meeting in any other case,
- (2) The notice must:
- (a) specify the date, time and place of the meeting; and
 - (b) indicate the general nature of each item of business to be considered at the meeting; and
 - (c) specify electronic modes, or other, which are available for members to access, and
 - (d) if a Special Resolution is to be proposed—
 - (i) state in full the proposed resolution; and
 - (ii) state the intention to propose the resolution as a Special Resolution; and
 - (e) comply with Rule 34(5).
- (3) This Rule does not apply to a Disciplinary appeal meeting.

Note

Rule 23(4) sets out the requirements for notice of a Disciplinary appeal meeting.

- (4) A member desiring to bring any business before a General Meeting may give notice of that business in writing to the Secretary, who shall include that business in the notice calling the next General Meeting after the receipt of the notice.
- (5) No business other than that set out in the notice convening the meeting shall be transacted at the meeting.

34 Proxies

- (1) Each member shall be entitled to appoint another member as his or her proxy to vote and speak on his or her behalf at a General Meeting other than a Disciplinary appeal meeting.
- (2) The appointment of a proxy must be in writing and signed by the member making the appointment.
- (3) The member appointing the proxy may give specific directions as to how the proxy is to vote on his or her behalf, otherwise the proxy may vote on behalf of the member in any matter as he or she sees fit
- (4) If the Committee has approved a form for the appointment of a proxy, the member may use any other form that clearly identifies the person appointed as the member's proxy and that has been signed by the member.
- (5) Notice of a General Meeting given to a member under Rule 33 must—
 - (a) state that the member may appoint another member as a proxy for the meeting; and
 - (b) include a copy of any form that the Committee has approved for the appointment of a proxy.
- (6) A form appointing a proxy must be given to the Chairperson of the meeting before or at the commencement of the meeting.

- (7) A form appointing a proxy sent by post or electronically is of no effect unless it is received by the Association no later than 24 hours before the commencement of the meeting.

35 Use of Technology

- (1) A member not physically present at a General Meeting may be permitted to participate in the meeting by the use of technology that allows that member and the members present at the meeting to clearly and simultaneously communicate with each other.
- (2) For the purposes of this Part, a member participating in a General Meeting as permitted under Subrule (1) is taken to be present at the meeting and, if the member votes at the meeting, is taken to have voted in person.

36 Quorum at General Meetings

- (1) No business shall be conducted at a General Meeting unless a quorum of members, entitled under these Rules to vote, is present.
- (2) The quorum for a General Meeting is the presence (physically, by proxy, or as allowed under Rule 35) of ten per cent of the members entitled to vote.
- (3) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the notified commencement time of a General Meeting—
 - (a) In the case of a meeting convened by, or at the request of members under Rule 32—the meeting must be dissolved.

Note

If a meeting convened by, or at the request of, members is dissolved under this Subrule, the business that was to have been considered at the meeting is taken to have been dealt with. If members wish to have the business reconsidered at second special meeting, the members must make a new request under Rule 32.

- (b) In any other case—
 - (i) the meeting must be adjourned to a date not more than 21 days after the adjournment; and
 - (ii) notice of the date, time and place to which the meeting is adjourned must be given at the meeting and confirmed by written notice given to all members as soon as practicable after the meeting.
- (4) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the time to which the second General Meeting has been called, the members present at the meeting (if not fewer than 12 members, and at least 6 of these being Committee members) may proceed with the business of the meeting as if a quorum were present.
- (5) A member shall be entitled to invite any guest or guests to attend any General Meeting of the Association. A member inviting a guest or guests shall enter the names of his or her guests in the meeting book.

37 Adjournment of a General Meeting

- (1) The Chairperson of a General Meeting at which a quorum is present may, with the consent of a majority of members present at the meeting, adjourn the meeting to another time at the same place or to another place.
- (2) Without limiting Subrule (1), a meeting may be adjourned—

- (a) if there is insufficient time to deal with the business at hand; or
- (b) to give the members more time to consider an item of business.

Example

The members may wish to have more time to examine the financial statements submitted by the Committee at an Annual General Meeting.

- (3) No business shall be conducted at an adjourned meeting other than the business that remained unfinished when the meeting was adjourned.
- (4) Notice of the adjournment of a meeting under this Rule is not required unless the meeting is adjourned for 14 days or more, in which case notice of the meeting must be given in accordance with Rule 33.

38 Voting at a General Meeting

- (1) On any question arising at a General Meeting—
 - (a) subject to Subrule (3), each member who is entitled to vote has one vote; and
 - (b) members may vote personally or by proxy; and
 - (c) except in the case of a Special Resolution (Rule 39), the question must be decided on a majority of votes.
- (2) If votes are divided equally on a question, the Chairperson of the meeting has a second or casting vote.
- (3) If the question is whether or not to confirm the minutes of a previous meeting, only members who were present at that meeting may vote.
- (4) This Rule does not apply to a vote at a Disciplinary appeal meeting conducted under Rule 24.

39 Special Resolutions

A Special Resolution is passed if not less than three quarters of the members voting at a General Meeting (whether in person or by proxy) vote in favour of the resolution.

Note

In addition to certain matters specified in the Act, a Special Resolution is required—

- (a) to remove a Committee member from office ;
- (b) to alter these Rules, including changing the name or any of the Purposes of the Association.

40 Determining whether resolution carried

- (1) Subject to Subsection (2), the Chairperson of a General Meeting may, on the basis of a show of hands, declare that a resolution has been—
 - (a) carried; or
 - (b) carried unanimously; or
 - (c) carried by a particular majority; or
 - (d) lost—

and an entry to that effect in the minutes of the meeting is conclusive proof of that fact.

- (2) If a poll (where votes are cast in writing) is demanded by three or more members on any question—
 - (a) the poll must be taken at the meeting in the manner determined by the Chairperson of the meeting; and
 - (b) the Chairperson must declare the result of the resolution on the basis of the poll.
- (3) A poll demanded on the election of the Chairperson or on a question of an adjournment must be taken immediately.
- (4) A poll demanded on any other question must be taken before the close of the meeting at a time determined by the Chairperson.

41 Minutes of a General Meeting

- (1) The Committee must ensure that minutes are taken and kept of each General Meeting.
- (2) The minutes must record the names of the people present, business considered at the meeting, any resolution on which a vote is taken and the result of the vote.
- (3) In addition, the minutes of each Annual General Meeting must include—
 - (a) the names of all people attending the meeting; and
 - (b) proxy forms given to the Chairperson of the meeting under Rule 34(6); and
 - (c) the financial statements submitted to the members in accordance with Rule 30(3)(b); and
 - (d) the certificate signed by two Committee members certifying that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of:
 - (i) the Association, and
 - (ii) the Gift Fund (refer to Rule 48(2)(c)); and
 - (e) any accounts and auditor's report or report of a review accompanying the financial statements that are required under the Act, or by Trust Deed, or by decision of the Association.

PART 5—COMMITTEE

Division 1—Powers of Committee

42 Role and powers

- (1) The business of the Association shall be managed by or under the direction of a Committee.
- (2) The Committee may exercise all the powers of the Association that these Rules or the Act require to be exercised by General Meetings of the members of the Association.

- (3) The Committee may—
- (a) appoint and remove staff, and
 - (b) establish Subcommittees consisting of members with terms of reference it considers appropriate—
 - (i) the members of those Subcommittees may co-opt Association members to be members of Subcommittees;
 - (ii) each Subcommittee shall have at least one Committee member;
 - (iii) chairpersons of Subcommittees shall be appointed annually by those Subcommittees, and shall report back to the Committee at each convened Committee meeting; and
 - (c) invite guest consultants to the Committee or a Subcommittee for limited and specific purposes to advise on matters requiring special expertise.
- (4) The Gift Fund
- (a) The Committee shall control and manage the business and affairs of the Association in exercising the powers of the Association as Trustee under the Deed establishing the Friends of the Geelong Botanic Gardens Gift Fund under Section 78(5) of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936 for the benefit of the Gardens.
 - (b) A quorum for any decision of the Committee acting as Trustee under Friends of the Geelong Botanic Gardens Gift Fund, Section 78(5) of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936 shall be 6, at least 2 of whom shall be office bearers.
 - (c) The Treasurer on behalf of the Association will;
 - (i) ensure that all proper accounts and records are separately kept in accordance with Rule 48(2)(c)
 - (ii) prepare the financial statements in accordance with Rule 48 (2)(d).
 - (d) The Secretary, on behalf of the Association, will prepare and submit all relevant documents as are required by statute.

43 Delegation

- (1) The Committee may delegate to a member of the Committee, a Subcommittee or staff, any of its powers and functions other than—
 - (a) this power of delegation; or
 - (b) a duty imposed on the Committee by the Act or any other law.
- (2) The delegation must be in writing and may be subject to the conditions and limitations the Committee considers appropriate.
- (3) The Committee may, in writing, revoke a delegation wholly or in part.

Division 2—Composition of Committee and duties of members

44 Composition of the Committee

The Committee consists of—

- (a) a President; and
- (b) 2 Vice-Presidents; and
- (c) a Secretary; and
- (d) a Treasurer; and
- (e) 5 Ordinary members elected under Rule 53

each of whom shall also be members of the Association.

45 General Duties

- (1) As soon as practicable after being elected or appointed to the Committee, each Committee member must become familiar with these Rules and the Act.
- (2) The Committee is collectively responsible for ensuring that the Association complies with the Act and that individual members of the Committee comply with these Rules.
- (3) Committee members must exercise their powers and discharge their duties with reasonable care and diligence.
- (4) Committee members must exercise their powers and discharge their duties—
 - (a) in good faith in the best interests of the Association; and
 - (b) for a proper purpose.
- (5) Committee members and former Committee members must not make improper use of—
 - (a) their position; or
 - (b) information acquired by virtue of holding their position—
 so as to gain an advantage for themselves or any other person or to cause detriment to the Association.

Note

See also Division 3 of Part 6 of the Act, which sets out the general duties of the office holders of an incorporated association.

- (6) In addition to any duties imposed by these Rules, a Committee member must perform any other duties imposed from time to time by resolution at a General Meeting.

46 President and Vice-Presidents

- (1) Subject to Subrule (2), the President or, in the President's absence, a Vice-President is the Chairperson for any General Meetings and for any Committee meetings.
- (2) If the President and both Vice-Presidents are absent, or are unable to preside, the Chairperson of the meeting must be—
 - (a) in the case of a General Meeting—a member elected by the other members present; or
 - (b) in the case of a Committee meeting—a Committee member elected by the other Committee members present.

47 Secretary

- (1) The Secretary must perform any duty or function required under the Act to be performed by the Secretary of an incorporated association.

Example

Under the Act, the Secretary of an incorporated association is responsible for lodging documents of the Association with the Registrar.

- (2) The Secretary must—
- (a) maintain the Register of members in accordance with Rule 18; and
 - (b) keep custody of the common seal (if any) of the Association and, except for the financial records referred to in Rule 70(3), all books, documents and securities of the Association in accordance with Rules 72 and 75; and
 - (c) subject to the Act and these Rules, provide members with access to the Register of members in accordance with Rule 18(2), the minutes of General Meetings and other books and documents; and
 - (d) perform any other duty or function imposed on the Secretary by these Rules.
- (3) The Secretary must give to the Registrar notice of his or her appointment within 14 days after the appointment.

48 Treasurer

- (1) The Treasurer must—
- (a) receive all moneys paid to or received by the Association and issue receipts for those moneys in the name of the Association; and
 - (b) ensure that all moneys received are paid into the account of the Association within 5 working days after receipt; and
 - (c) make any payments authorised by the Committee or by a General Meeting of the Association from the Association's funds; and
 - (d) ensure cheques are signed by at least 2 authorised Committee members.
- (2) The Treasurer must—
- (a) ensure that the financial records of the Association are kept in accordance with the Act; and
 - (b) co-ordinate the preparation of the financial statements of the Association and their certification by the Committee prior to their submission to the Annual General Meeting of the Association; and
 - (c) on behalf of the Association ensure that all proper accounts and relevant records are separately kept relating to the exercise by the Association of its powers as Trustee under the Trust Deed: Friends of the Geelong Botanic Gardens Gift Fund; and
 - (d) co-ordinate the preparation of the financial statements of the Association's Gift Fund and their certification by the Committee prior to their submission to the Annual General Meeting of the Association.
- (3) The Treasurer must ensure that at least one other Committee member has access to the accounts and financial records of the Association.

Division 3—Election of Committee members and tenure of office

49 Who is eligible to be a Committee member

A member is eligible to be elected or appointed as a Committee member if the member—

- (a) is 18 years or over; and
- (b) is entitled to vote at a General Meeting

50 Positions declared vacant

At any Annual General Meeting of the Association, after the annual report and financial statements of the Association have been received, the Chairperson of the meeting must declare all positions on the Committee vacant and hold elections for those positions in accordance with Rules 51 to 54.

51 Nominations

- (1) Nominations of all candidates for election as officers of the Association, or as Ordinary members of the Committee, shall be made:
 - (a) in writing, signed by two members of the Association, and
 - (b) accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the form of nomination); and
 - (c) shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Association not less than 7 days before the date fixed for the holding of the Annual General Meeting.
- (2) A candidate may be nominated for only one position.
- (3) If the number of nominations received is less than or equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the persons nominated shall be deemed to have been elected.
- (4) The ballot for the election of officers and Ordinary members of the Committee shall be conducted at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with Rule 54.

52 Election of the President *et al.*

- (1) At the Annual General Meeting, and in accordance with Rule 51, separate elections must be held for each of the following positions—
 - (a) President;
 - (b) each of two Vice-Presidents;
 - (c) Secretary;
 - (d) Treasurer.
- (2) If only one member is nominated for the position, the Chairperson of the meeting must declare the member elected to the position.
- (3) If more than one member is nominated, a ballot must be held in accordance with Rule 54.
- (4) On his or her election, the new President may take over as Chairperson of the meeting.

53 Election of Ordinary members

- (1) A single election may be held in accordance with Rule 51 to fill all of those positions.
- (2) If the number of members nominated for the position of Ordinary Committee member is less than or equal to the number to be elected, the Chairperson of the meeting must declare each of those members to be elected to the position.
- (3) If the number of members nominated exceeds the number to be elected, a ballot must be held in accordance with Rule 54.

54 Ballot

- (1) If a ballot is required for the election for a position, the Chairperson of the meeting must appoint a member to act as returning officer to conduct the ballot.
- (2) The returning officer must not be a member nominated for the position.
- (3) Before the ballot is taken, each candidate may make a short speech in support of his or her election.
- (4) The election must be by secret ballot.
- (5) The returning officer must give a blank piece of paper to—
 - (a) each member present in person; and
 - (b) each proxy appointed by a member.

Example

If a member has been appointed the proxy of 5 other members, the member must be given 6 ballot papers—one for the member and one each for the other members.

- (6) If the ballot is for a single position, the voter must write on the ballot paper the name of the candidate for whom they wish to vote.
- (7) If the ballot is for more than one position—
 - (a) the voter must write on the ballot paper the name of each candidate for whom they wish to vote;
 - (b) the voter must not write the names of more candidates than the number to be elected.
- (8) Ballot papers that do not comply with Subrule (7)(b) are not to be counted.
- (9) Each ballot paper on which the name of a candidate has been written counts as one vote for that candidate.
- (10) The returning officer must declare elected the candidate or, in the case of an election for more than one position, the candidates who received the most votes.
- (11) If the returning officer is unable to declare the result of an election under Subrule (10) because 2 or more candidates received the same number of votes, the returning officer must—
 - (a) conduct a further election for the position in accordance with Subrules (4) to (10) to decide which of those candidates is to be elected; or
 - (b) with the agreement of those candidates, decide by lot which of them is to be elected.

Examples

The choice of candidate may be decided by the toss of a coin, drawing straws or drawing a name out of a hat.

55 Term of Office

- (1) Subject to Subrule (3) and Rule 56, a Committee member holds office until the positions of the Committee are declared vacant at the next Annual General Meeting.
- (2) A Committee member may be re-elected.
- (3) A General Meeting of the Association may, by Special Resolution (Rule 39), remove a Committee member from office.
- (4) A member who is the subject of a proposed Special Resolution under Subrule (3) may make representations in writing to the Secretary or President of the Association (not exceeding a reasonable length) and may request that the representations be provided to the members of the Association.
- (5) The Secretary or the President may give a copy of the representations to each member of the Association or, if they are not so given, the member may require that they be read out at the meeting at which the Special Resolution is to be proposed.

56 Vacation of Office

- (1) A Committee member may resign from the Committee by written notice addressed to the Committee.
- (2) A person ceases to be a Committee member if he or she—
 - (a) ceases to be a member of the Association; or
 - (b) does not attend to Committee obligations for 3 months (unless in exceptional circumstances approved by the Committee) without leave of absence under Rule 67; or
 - (c) ceases to be a Committee member under Rule 55(3)
 - (d) otherwise ceases to be a Committee member by operation of Section 78 of the Act.
 - (e) becomes an insolvent under administration within the meaning of the Incorporations Law.

Note

A Committee member may not hold the office of Secretary if they do not reside in Victoria.

57 Filling casual vacancies

- (1) The Committee may appoint an eligible member of the Association to fill a position on the Committee that—
 - (a) has become vacant under Rule 56; or
 - (b) was not filled by election at the last Annual General Meeting.
- (2) If the position of Secretary becomes vacant, the Committee must appoint a member to the position within 14 days after the vacancy arises.
- (3) Rule 55 applies to any Committee member appointed by the Committee under Subrule (1) or (2).

- (4) The Committee may continue to act despite any vacancy in its membership.

Division 4—Meetings of Committee

58 Meetings of Committee

- (1) The Committee must meet at least 4 times in each year at the dates, times and places determined by the Committee.
- (2) The date, time and place of the first Committee meeting must be determined by the members of the Committee as soon as practicable after the Annual General Meeting of the Association at which the members of the Committee were elected.
- (3) Special Committee meetings may be convened by the President or by any 4 members of the Committee, at least one of whom must be an office bearer.
- (4) The Committee may invite Gardens Management, or a representative of Gardens Management, to attend Committee meetings in whole or in part, and will give the appropriate notice in accordance with Subrule 59(1).

59 Notice of Meetings

- (1) Notice of each Committee meeting must be given to each Committee member no later than 7 days before the date of the meeting.
- (2) Notice may be given of more than one Committee meeting at the same time.
- (3) The notice must state the date, time and place of the meeting.
- (4) If a special Committee meeting is convened, the notice must include the general nature of the business to be conducted.
- (5) The only business that may be conducted at the meeting is the business for which the meeting is convened.
- (6) A member desiring to bring any business before a Committee or special Committee meeting may give notice of that business in writing to the Secretary, who shall include that business in the notice calling the next Committee or special Committee meeting after the receipt of the notice, in accordance with Rules 13(1)(b) and 33(4).

60 Urgent Meetings

- (1) In cases of urgency, a meeting may be called by an office bearer of the Committee, and can be held without notice being given in accordance with Rule 59 provided that as much notice as practicable is given to each Committee member by the quickest means practicable.
- (2) Any resolution made at the meeting must be passed by an absolute majority of the Committee.
- (3) The only business that may be conducted at an urgent meeting is the business for which the meeting is convened.

61 Procedure and order of business

- (1) The procedure to be followed at a meeting of a Committee must be determined from time to time by the Committee.
- (2) The order of business may be determined by the members present at the meeting.

62 Use of Technology

- (1) A Committee member who is not physically present at a Committee meeting may participate in the meeting by the use of technology that allows that Committee member and the Committee members present at the meeting to clearly and simultaneously communicate with each other.
- (2) For the purposes of this Part, a Committee member participating in a Committee meeting as permitted under Subrule (1) is taken to be present at the meeting and, if the member votes at the meeting, is taken to have voted in person.

63 Quorum

- (1) No business may be conducted at a Committee meeting unless a quorum is present.
- (2) Any 5 members of the Committee (in person or as allowed under Rule 62) constitute a quorum for the transaction of business provided that:
 - (a) at least 2 officers of the Association are present, one of whom is President or Vice-President; and
 - (b) a quorum for any decision of the Committee acting as Trustee under Friends of the Geelong Botanic Gardens Gift Fund, Section 78(5) of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936 referred to in Rule 42(1) shall be 6, at least 2 of whom shall be office bearers.
- (3) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the notified commencement time of a Committee meeting—
 - (a) in the case of a special meeting—the meeting lapses;
 - (b) in any other case—the meeting must be adjourned to a date no later than 14 days after the adjournment, and notice of the time, date and place to which the meeting is adjourned must be given in accordance with Rule 59.

64 Voting

- (1) On any question arising at a Committee meeting, each Committee member present at the meeting has one vote.
- (2) A motion is carried if a majority of Committee members present at the meeting vote in favour of the motion.
- (3) Subrule (2) does not apply to any motion or question which is required by these Rules to be passed by an absolute majority of the Committee.
- (4) If votes are divided equally on a question, the Chairperson of the meeting has a second or casting vote.
- (5) Voting by proxy is not permitted.

65 Conflict of interest

- (1) A Committee member who has a material personal interest in a matter being considered at a Committee meeting must disclose the nature and extent of that interest to the Committee.
- (2) The member—
 - (a) must not be present while the matter is being considered at the meeting; and
 - (b) must not vote on the matter.

Note

Under Section 81(3) of the Act, if there are insufficient Committee members to form a quorum because a member who has a material personal interest is disqualified from voting on a matter, a General Meeting may be called to deal with the matter.

- (3) This Rule does not apply to a material personal interest—
 - (a) that exists only because the member belongs to a class of persons for whose benefit the Association is established; or
 - (b) that the member has in common with all, or a substantial proportion of, the members of the Association.

66 Minutes of meeting

- (1) The Committee must ensure that minutes are taken and kept of each Committee meeting.
- (2) The minutes must record the following—
 - (a) the names of the members in attendance at the meeting;
 - (b) the business considered at the meeting;
 - (c) any resolution on which a vote is taken and the result of the vote;
 - (d) any material personal interest disclosed under Rule 65.

67 Leave of absence

- (1) The Committee may grant a Committee member leave of absence from Committee obligations for a period not exceeding 3 months.
- (2) The Committee must not grant leave of absence retrospectively unless it is satisfied that it was not feasible for the Committee member to seek the leave in advance.

PART 6—FINANCIAL MATTERS**68 Source of funds**

The funds of the Association may be derived from annual subscriptions, donations, fund-raising activities, grants, interest and any other sources approved by the Committee.

69 Management of funds

- (1) The Association must open an account with a financial institution from which all expenditure of the Association is made and into which all of the Association's revenue is deposited.
- (2) Subject to any restrictions imposed by a General Meeting of the Association, the Committee may approve expenditure on behalf of the Association.
- (3) The Committee may authorise the Treasurer to expend funds on behalf of the Association (including by electronic funds transfer) up to a specified limit without requiring approval from the Committee for each item on which the funds are expended.
- (4) All cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes, and other negotiable instruments must be signed by 2 authorised Committee members.

- (5) All funds of the Association must be deposited into the financial account of the Association no later than 5 working days after receipt.
- (6) With the approval of the Committee, the Treasurer may maintain a cash float provided that all money paid from or paid into the float is accurately recorded at the time of the transaction.
- (7) The Treasurer or Secretary may approve purchase of essential items or services between Committee meetings:
 - (a) with the approval of at least 2 Committee members; and
 - (b) such approval may be obtained via electronic media.

Note

Financial management of the Gift Fund is detailed in the Trust Deed and in Rules 42(4), 48(2)(c) and (d).

70 Financial records

- (1) The Association must keep financial records that—
 - (a) correctly record and explain its transactions, financial position and performance; and
 - (b) enable financial statements to be prepared as required by the Act.
- (2) The Association must retain the financial records for 7 years after the transactions covered by the records are completed.
- (3) The Treasurer must keep in his or her custody, or under his or her control—
 - (a) the financial records for the current financial year; and
 - (b) any other financial records as authorised by the Committee.

71 Financial Statements

- (1) For each financial year, the Committee must ensure that the requirements under the Act relating to the financial statements of the Association are met.
- (2) Without limiting Subrule (1), those requirements include—
 - (a) the preparation of the financial statements;
 - (b) if required, the review or auditing of the financial statements;
 - (c) the certification of the financial statements by the Committee;
 - (d) the submission of the financial statements to the Annual General Meeting of the Association;
 - (e) the lodgement with the Registrar of the financial statements and accompanying reports, certificates, statements and fee.
- (3) The Committee must ensure that other statutory requirements are met and relevant statements lodged.

Example

Obligations with payroll (PAYG and superannuation) and taxation (GST).

PART 7—GENERAL MATTERS

72 Common seal

- (1) The Association may have a common seal.
- (2) If the Association has a common seal—
 - (a) the name of the Association must appear in legible characters on the common seal;
 - (b) a document may only be sealed with the common seal by the authority of the Committee and the sealing must be witnessed by the signatures of two Committee members;
 - (c) the common seal must be kept in the custody of the Secretary.

73 Registered address

The registered address of the Association is the address determined from time to time by resolution of the Committee.

74 Notice requirements

- (1) Any notice required to be given to a member or a Committee member under these Rules may be given—
 - (a) by handing the notice to the member personally; or
 - (b) by sending it by post to the member at the address recorded for the member on the Register of members; or
 - (c) by email.
- (2) Subrule (1) does not apply to notice given under Rule 60.
- (3) Any notice required to be given to the Association or the Committee may be given—
 - (a) by handing the notice to a member of the Committee; or
 - (b) by sending the notice by post to the registered address; or
 - (c) by leaving the notice at the registered address; or
 - (d) if the Committee determines that it is appropriate in the circumstances by email to the email address of the Association.

75 Custody and inspection of books and records

- (1) Members may, with 7 days notice, request to inspect free of charge—
 - (a) the Register of members;
 - (b) the minutes of General Meetings;
 - (c) subject to Subrule (2), the financial records, books, securities and any other relevant document of the Association, or Gift Fund, including minutes of Committee meetings.

Note

See note following Rule 18 for details of access to the Register of members.

- (2) The Committee may refuse to permit a member to inspect records of the Association that relate to confidential, personal, employment, commercial or legal matters or where to do so may be prejudicial to the interests of the Association.
- (3) The Committee must on request make copies of these Rules available to members and applicants for membership free of charge.
- (4) Subject to Subrule (2), a member may make a copy of any of the other records of the Association referred to in this Rule and the Association may charge a reasonable fee for provision of a copy of such a record.
- (5) For purposes of this Rule—

relevant documents means the records and other documents, however compiled, recorded or stored, that relate to the incorporation and management of the Association and its Gift Fund, including the following—

- (a) its membership records;
- (b) its financial statements;
- (c) its financial records;
- (d) records and documents relating to transactions, dealings, business or property of the Association.

76 Winding up and cancellation

- (1) The Association may be wound up voluntarily by Special Resolution.
- (2) In the event of the winding up or the cancellation of the incorporation of the Association, the surplus assets of the Association must not be distributed to any members or former members of the Association.
- (3) Subject to the Act and any court order made under Section 133 of the Act, the surplus assets must be given to a body that has similar purposes to the Association and which is not carried on for the profit or gain of its individual members
- (4) The body to which the surplus assets are to be given must be decided by Special Resolution.

77 Alteration of Rules

These Rules may only be changed by Special Resolution of a General Meeting of the Association, in accordance with Rule 39.

Before any proposed Special Resolution for alteration to these Rules or the Statement of Purposes in accordance with the Act is submitted to such a General Meeting, any alteration to the Rules should first be considered by the Committee.

Note

An alteration of these Rules does not take effect, unless, or until it is approved by the Registrar.