

Constitution

Ross House Association Incorporated

ABN: 98 304 224 784



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Rules of Ross House Association

PART 1 - PRELIMINARY

1. NAME

The name of the Association is ROSS HOUSE ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED.

2. DEFINITIONS

In these Rules, unless the contrary intention appears:

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)

Act means the Associations Incorporation Act 2012 (Vic)

Annual General Meeting means the annual general meeting of Members convened under Rule 30

Appointed Committee Members means the members of the Committee who are appointed under Rule 49.2

Associate Member means a member referred to in Rule 14

The Association means the Ross House Association Inc. ABN 98 304 224 784

Chairperson means the person elected under Rule 52 at a General meeting of the Association

Committee means the Committee having management of the business of the Association

Committee Member means a member of the Committee elected or appointed under Division 1

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

Disciplinary meeting means a meeting of the Committee convened for the purposes of Rule 24

Disciplinary subcommittee means the subcommittee appointed under Rule 20

Financial year means each period of 12 months ending on 30 June

General Manager means the officer-in-charge of the daily operations of the Association as appointed by the committee

General meeting means a general meeting of the 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

Nominated Member's Representative means the person defined in Rule 12

Officers mean the officers of the Association as specified under Rule 44

Register of Members means the register as defined in Rule 18

Registrar means the Registrar of Incorporated Associations

Ross House means the property of that name at 247-251 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, 3000

Ross House Member is an organisation having paid in full all membership dues to RHA for the current financial year

Ross House Trust means the Trust established by the Ross House Trust Deed

Ross House Trust Deed means the Deed made between ANZ Trustees Limited and the Association in or about 2010

Ross House Trust Fund means the Fund established by the Ross House Trust Deed

Secretary means the Act Secretary of the Association as defined in Rule 47

Small Community Organisations means small community based and self-help organisations active in the welfare sector who generally lack funds and resources

Special Resolution means a resolution as defined in Rule 39

Subcommittee means a subcommittee of the Association as defined in Rule 42.3.2

Tenant refers to an organisation which pays rent for floor space at Ross House

Treasurer means the Treasurer of the Association as defined in Rule 48

3. MISSION AND PURPOSES

3.1 The mission of the Association is:

To work towards a socially just, environmentally sustainable and non-discriminatory society based on the community development principles of inclusion, consultation and collaboration, by supporting and enhancing the contribution of small community organisations towards their communities and the broader society.

3.2 The purposes of Ross House Association are:

3.2.1 To act as trustee of the Ross House Trust;

3.2.2 In its capacity as Trustee of the Ross House Trust to use and employ Ross House to provide office accommodation and services, including meeting rooms and general secretarial and communication facilities, to Small Community Organisations (which is defined to mean small community based and self-help organisations active in the welfare sector who generally lack funds and resources) and do all things associated with and ancillary thereto

3.2.2.1 so that a substantial part of Ross House is used by such organisations on terms whereby they pay rent on their ability to pay even if below market rates (even if these means rent-free); and

3.2.2.2 to repair, maintain and renovate Ross House.

3.3 To carry out all of its obligations under the Ross House Trust Deed.

3.4 Subject to its obligations as Trustee of the Ross House Trust as set out in subclauses (2) and (3)

3.4.1 to carry out such charitable purposes as it considers convenient and appropriate to assist small community organisations; and

3.4.2 to carry out such other charitable purposes as from time to time it considers convenient or appropriate.

3.5 To provide:

3.5.1 A model of leadership in information and education sharing, raising community awareness, environment sustainability and capacity building.

3.5.2 Direct training, resources and networking opportunities to enable the development of skills, and the sharing of expertise and information to members and tenants.

3.5.3 An environment fostering small community not for profit groups who are addressing disadvantage, discrimination and inequality.

PART 2 - POWERS OF ASSOCIATION

4. POWERS OF ASSOCIATION

- 4.1 Subject to the Act, the Association has power to do all things incidental or conducive to achieve its purposes.
- 4.2 Without limiting subrule (1), the Association may:
 - 4.2.1 acquire, hold and dispose of real or personal property;
 - 4.2.2 open and operate accounts with financial institutions;
 - 4.2.3 invest its money in any security in which trust monies may lawfully be invested;
 - 4.2.4 raise and borrow money on any terms and in any manner as it thinks fit;
 - 4.2.5 secure the repayment of money raised or borrowed, or the payment of a debt or liability;
 - 4.2.6 appoint agents to transact business on its behalf;
 - 4.2.7 enter into any other contract it considers necessary or desirable.
- 4.3 The Association may only exercise its powers and use its income and assets (including any surplus) for its purposes.

5. NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANISATION

- 5.1 The Association must not distribute any surplus, income or assets directly or indirectly to its members.
- 5.2 Subrule (1) does not prevent the Association from paying a member:
 - 5.2.1 reimbursement for expenses properly incurred by the member; or
 - 5.2.2 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

6. MINIMUM NUMBER OF MEMBERS

The Association must have at least five (5) members.

7. ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP

- 7.1 Membership of the Association shall be open to:
 - 7.1.1 Small Community Organisations who work within social justice or environmental sustainability; and
 - 7.1.2 Organisations whose purpose is to provide resources to or act as umbrella organisations for the Small Community Organisations provided that these organisations:
 - 7.1.2.1 are willing to play a role commensurate with their size and resources in developing communications networks, links and building a strong Ross House community.

8. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

8.1 To apply to become a member of the Association, any eligible organisation must submit in writing a current application form to the committee stating that the organisation:

8.1.1 wishes to become a member of the Association; and

8.1.2 supports the purposes of the Association; and

8.1.3 agrees to comply with these Rules.

8.2 The application:

8.2.1 must be signed by the applicant; and

8.2.2 may be accompanied by the joining fee.

Note

The joining fee is the fee (if any) determined by the Association under Rule 11(3).

9. CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATION

9.1 As soon as practicable after an application for membership is received, the Committee must decide by resolution whether to accept or reject the application.

9.2 The Committee must notify the applicant in writing of its decision as soon as practicable after the decision is made.

9.3 No reason need be given for the rejection of an application.

10. NEW MEMBERSHIP

10.1 If an application for membership is approved by the Committee:

10.1.1 the resolution to accept the membership must be recorded in the minutes of the committee meeting; and

10.1.2 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.

10.2 An organisation becomes a member of the Association and, subject to Rule 13.2, is entitled to exercise their rights of membership from the date, whichever is the later, on which:

10.2.1 the Committee approves the membership and the membership fee is paid; or

10.2.2 the joining fee (if any as may be determined by the Committee) is paid.

11. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION AND FEE ON JOINING

11.1 At each annual general meeting, the Association must determine:

11.1.1 the amount of the annual subscription and joining fee (if any) for the following financial year; and

11.1.2 the date for payment of the annual subscription.

11.2 The Association may determine that a lower annual subscription is payable by associate members.

11.3 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:

- 11.3.1 the full annual subscription; or
 - 11.3.2 a pro rata annual subscription based on the remaining part of the financial year; or
 - 11.3.3 a fixed amount determined from time to time by the Association.
- 11.4 The rights of a member (including the right to vote) who has not paid the annual subscription by the due date are suspended until the subscription is paid.

12. NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBERS

- 12.1 Each Member shall nominate one natural person and two alternate representatives as its Nominated Member's Representatives, who may represent the Member and vote at the General Meetings (unless the Member has nominated a proxy under Rule 34.1 and who is entitled to nominate candidates for election to the Committee as referred to in Rule 52.
- 12.2 The Member may change one or more of its Nominated Member's Representatives by notifying the Secretary in writing.
- 12.3 No person shall represent more than one organisation at any one time.

13. GENERAL RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

- 13.1 A member of the Association who is entitled to vote has the right:
- 13.1.1 to receive notice of general meetings and of proposed special resolutions in the manner and time prescribed by these Rules; and
 - 13.1.2 to submit items of business for consideration at a general meeting; and
 - 13.1.3 to attend and be heard at general meetings; and
 - 13.1.4 to vote at a general meeting; and
 - 13.1.5 to have access to the minutes of general meetings and other documents of the Association as provided under Rule 75; and
 - 13.1.6 to inspect the register of members.
- 13.2 A member is entitled to vote if:
- 13.2.1 the member is a member other than an associate member; and
 - 13.2.2 more than 10 business days have passed since it became a member of the Association; and
 - 13.2.3 the member's membership rights are not suspended for any reason

14. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- 14.1 Associate members of the Association are:
- any other category of member as determined by special resolution at a general meeting.
- 14.2 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 transferable and end when membership ceases.

16. CEASING MEMBERSHIP

- 16.1 The membership of an organisation ceases on resignation, insolvency, winding up or expulsion of that organisation, or if in the reasonable opinion of the Committee, the organisation has ceased to operate.
- 16.2 If an organisation ceases to be a member of the Association, the Secretary must, as soon as practicable, enter the date it ceased to be a member in the register of members.

17. RESIGNING AS A MEMBER

- 17.1 A member may resign by notice in writing given to the Association.
- 17.2 A member is taken to have resigned if:
 - 17.2.1 the member's annual subscription is more than 3 months in arrears

18. REGISTER OF MEMBERS

- 18.1 The Secretary must keep and maintain a register of members that includes:
 - 18.1.1 for each current member:
 - 18.1.1.1 the member's name;
 - 18.1.1.2 the address for notice last given by the member;
 - 18.1.1.3 the date of becoming a member;
 - 18.1.1.4 if the member is an associate member, a note to that effect;
 - 18.1.1.5 any other information determined by the Committee; and
 - 18.1.2 for each former member:
 - 18.1.2.1 the date of ceasing to be a member.
- 18.2 Any member may, at a reasonable time and free of charge, inspect 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:

- 19.1 has failed to comply with these Rules; or
- 19.2 refuses to support the purposes of the Association; or
- 19.3 has engaged in conduct prejudicial to the Association.

20. DISCIPLINARY SUBCOMMITTEE

- 20.1 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.

- 20.2 The members of the disciplinary subcommittee:
- 20.2.1 may be Committee members, members of the Association or anyone else; but
 - 20.2.2 must not be biased against, or in favour of, the member concerned.

21. NOTICE TO MEMBER

- 21.1 Before disciplinary action is taken against a member, the Secretary must give written notice to the member:
- 21.1.1 stating that the Association proposes to take disciplinary action against the member; and
 - 21.1.2 stating the grounds for the proposed disciplinary action; and
 - 21.1.3 specifying the date, place and time of the meeting at which the disciplinary subcommittee intends to consider the disciplinary action (**the disciplinary meeting**); and
 - 21.1.4 advising the member that they, via their nominated representative, may do one or both of the following:
 - 21.1.4.1 attend the disciplinary meeting and address the disciplinary subcommittee at that meeting;
 - 21.1.4.2 give a written statement to the disciplinary subcommittee at any time before the disciplinary meeting; and
 - 21.1.5 setting out the member's appeal rights under Rule 23.
- 21.2 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 SUBCOMMITTEE

- 22.1 At the disciplinary meeting, the disciplinary subcommittee must:
- 22.1.1 give the member an opportunity to be heard; and
 - 22.1.2 consider any written statement submitted by the member.
- 22.2 After complying with subrule (1), the disciplinary subcommittee may:
- 22.2.1 take no further action against the member; or
 - 22.2.2 subject to subrule (3):
 - 22.2.2.1 reprimand the member; or
 - 22.2.2.2 suspend the membership rights of the member for a specified period; or
 - 22.2.2.3 expel the member from the Association.
- 22.3 The disciplinary subcommittee may not fine the member.
- 22.4 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

- 23.1 A member whose membership rights have been suspended or who has been expelled from the Association under Rule 22 may give notice to the effect that they wish to appeal against the suspension or expulsion.
- 23.2 The notice must be in writing and given:
- 23.2.1 to the disciplinary subcommittee immediately after the vote to suspend or expel the person is taken; or

23.2.2 to the Secretary no later than 48 hours after the vote.

23.3 If a member 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.

23.4 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:

23.4.1 specify the date, time and place of the meeting, and

23.4.2 state:

23.4.2.1 the name of the organisation against whom the disciplinary action has been taken; and

23.4.2.2 the grounds for taking that action; and

23.4.2.3 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

24.1 At a disciplinary appeal meeting:

24.1.1 no business other than the question of the appeal may be conducted; and

24.1.2 the Committee must state the grounds for suspending or expelling the member and the reasons for taking that action; and

24.1.3 the member whose membership has been suspended or who has been expelled must be given an opportunity to be heard.

24.2 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.

24.3 A member may not vote by proxy at the meeting.

24.4 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

25.1 The grievance procedure set out in this Division applies to disputes under these Rules between:

25.1.1 a member and another member;

25.1.2 a member and the Committee;

25.1.3 a member and the Association.

25.2 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

- 27.1 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:
 - 27.1.1 notify the Committee of the dispute; and
 - 27.1.2 agree to or request the appointment of a mediator; and
 - 27.1.3 attempt in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation.
- 27.2 The mediator must be:
 - 27.2.1 a person chosen by agreement between the parties; or
 - 27.2.2 in the absence of agreement:
 - 27.2.2.1 if the dispute is between a member and another member—a person appointed by the Committee; or
 - 27.2.2.2 if the dispute is between a member and the Committee or the Association - a legally accredited mediator.
 - 27.2.3 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:
 - 27.2.3.1 has a personal interest in the dispute; or
 - 27.2.3.2 is biased in favour of or against any party.

28. MEDIATION PROCESS

- 28.1 The mediator to the dispute, in conducting the mediation, must:
 - 28.1.1 give each party every opportunity to be heard; and
 - 28.1.2 allow due consideration by all parties of any written statement submitted by any party; and
 - 28.1.3 ensure that natural justice is accorded to the parties throughout the mediation process.
- 28.2 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

- 30.1 The Committee must convene an annual general meeting of the Association to be held within 5 months after the end of each financial year.
- 30.2 The Committee may determine the date, time and place of the annual general meeting.
- 30.3 The ordinary business of the annual general meeting is as follows:
 - 30.3.1 to confirm the minutes of the previous annual general meeting and of any special general meeting held since then;

30.3.2 to receive and consider:

30.3.2.1 the annual report of the Committee on the activities of the Association during the preceding financial year; and

30.3.2.2 the financial statements of the Association for the preceding financial year submitted by the Committee in accordance with Part 7 of the Act;

30.3.3 to elect the members of the Committee;

30.3.4 to confirm or vary the amounts (if any) of the annual subscription and joining fee.

30.4 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

31.1 Any general meeting of the Association, other than an annual general meeting or a disciplinary appeal meeting, is a special general meeting.

31.2 The Committee may convene a special general meeting whenever it thinks fit.

31.3 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 for consideration in the notice under Rule 33 and the majority of members at the meeting agree.

32. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS HELD AT REQUEST OF MEMBERS

32.1 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.

32.2 A request for a special general meeting must:

32.2.1 be in writing; and

32.2.2 state the business to be considered at the meeting and any resolutions to be proposed; and

32.2.3 include the names and signatures of the members requesting the meeting; and

32.2.4 be given to the Secretary.

32.3 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.

32.4 A special general meeting convened by members under subrule (3):

32.4.1 must be held within 3 months after the date on which the original request was made; and

32.1.2 may only consider the business stated in that request.

32.5 The Association must reimburse all reasonable expenses incurred by the members convening a special general meeting under subrule (3).

33. NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETINGS

33.1 The Secretary (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:

33.1.1 at least 21 days' notice of a general meeting if a special resolution is to be proposed at the meeting; or

33.1.2 at least 14 days' notice of a general meeting in any other case.

33.2 The notice must-

33.2.1 specify the date, time and place of the meeting; and

33.2.2 indicate the general nature of each item of business to be considered at the meeting; and

33.2.3 if a special resolution is to be proposed:

33.2.3.1 state in full the proposed resolution; and

33.2.3.2 state the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution; and

33.2.3.3 comply with Rule 34.5.

33.3 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.

34. PROXIES

34.1 Every Member shall be entitled to one vote at every General Meeting and may appoint in the absence of the Nominated Member Representative any person from their organisation or the Chairperson of the Association, as their proxy to vote and speak on their behalf at a general meeting other than at a disciplinary appeal meeting.

34.2 The appointment of a proxy must be in writing and signed by the member making the appointment.

34.3 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.

34.4 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.

34.5 Notice of a general meeting given to a member under Rule 33 must:

34.5.1 state that the member may appoint another member as a proxy for the meeting; and

34.5.2 include a copy of any form that the Committee has approved for the appointment of a proxy.

34.6 A form appointing a proxy addressed to the Chairperson in person, 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

35.1 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.

35.2 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

36.1 No business may be conducted at a general meeting unless a quorum of members is present.

36.2 The quorum for a general meeting is the presence (physically, by proxy or as allowed under Rule 35 of 10% of the members entitled to vote.

- 36.3 If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the notified commencement time of a general meeting:
- 36.3.1 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 another special meeting, the members must make a new request under Rule 32.

- 36.3.2 in any other case:
- 36.3.2.1 the meeting must be adjourned to a date not more than 21 days after the adjournment; and
- 36.3.2.1 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.
- 36.4 If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the time to which a general meeting has been adjourned under 36.3.2 the members present at the meeting (if not fewer than 3) may proceed with the business of the meeting as if a quorum were present.

37. ADJOURNMENT OF GENERAL MEETING

- 37.1 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 at another place.
- 37.2 Without limiting subrule (1), a meeting may be adjourned:
- 37.2.1 if there is insufficient time to deal with the business at hand; or
- 37.2.2 to give the members more time to consider an item of business.
- 37.3 No business may be conducted on the resumption of an adjourned meeting other than the business that remained unfinished when the meeting was adjourned.
- 37.4 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 GENERAL MEETING

- 38.1 On any question arising at a general meeting:
- 38.1.1 subject to subrule (3), each member who is entitled to vote has one vote; and
- 38.1.2 Nominated representatives may vote personally or by proxy; and
- 38.1.3 except in the case of a special resolution, the question must be decided on a majority of votes.
- 38.2 If votes are divided equally on a question, the Chairperson of the meeting has a second or casting vote.
- 38.3 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.
- 38.4 This Rule does not apply to a vote at a disciplinary appeal meeting conducted under Rule 24.

39. SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

- 39.1 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:

- 39.1.1 to remove a committee member from office;
- 39.1.2 to alter these Rules, including changing the name or any of the purposes of the Association.

40. DETERMINING WHETHER RESOLUTION CARRIED

- 40.1 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:
 - 40.1.1 carried; or
 - 40.1.2 carried unanimously; or
 - 40.1.3 carried by a particular majority; or
 - 40.1.4 lost; and
 - 40.1.5 an entry to that effect in the minutes of the meeting is conclusive proof of that fact.
- 40.2 If a poll (where votes are cast in writing) is demanded by three or more members on any question:
 - 40.2.1 the poll must be taken at the meeting in the manner determined by the Chairperson of the meeting; and
 - 40.2.1 the Chairperson must declare the result of the resolution on the basis of the poll.
- 40.3 A poll demanded on the election of the Chairperson or on a question of an adjournment must be taken immediately.
- 40.4 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 GENERAL MEETING

- 41.1 The Committee must ensure that minutes are taken and kept of each general meeting.
- 41.2 The minutes must record the business considered at the meeting, any resolution on which a vote is taken and the result of the vote.
- 41.3 In addition, the minutes of each annual general meeting must include:
 - 41.3.1 the names of the members attending the meeting; and
 - 41.3.2 proxy forms given to the Chairperson of the meeting under Rule 34.6; and
 - 41.3.3 the financial statements submitted to the members in accordance with Rule 30.5.2; and
 - 41.3.4 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 the Association; and
 - 41.3.5 any audited accounts and auditor's report or report of a review accompanying the financial statements that are required under the Act.

PART 5—COMMITTEE

Division 1—Powers of Committee

42. ROLE AND POWERS

- 42.1 The business of the Association must be managed by or under the direction of a Committee.

- 42.2 The Committee may exercise all the powers of the Association except those powers that these Rules or the Act require to be exercised by general meetings of the members of the Association.
- 42.3 The Committee may:
- 42.3.1 appoint and remove staff;
 - 42.3.2 establish subcommittees consisting of members with terms of reference it considers appropriate.

43. DELEGATION

- 43.1 The Committee may delegate to a member of the Committee, a subcommittee or staff, any of its powers and functions other than:
- 43.1.1 this power of delegation; or
 - 43.1.2 a duty imposed on the Committee by the Act or any other law.
- 43.2 The delegation must be in writing and may be subject to the conditions and limitations the Committee considers appropriate.
- 43.3 The Committee may, in writing, revoke a delegation wholly or in part.

Division 2—Composition of Committee and duties of members

44. COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE

- 44.1 The Committee consists of:
- 44.1.1 Officers
 - 44.1.1.1 a Chairperson; and
 - 44.1.1.2 a Deputy Chairperson; and
 - 44.1.1.3 a Secretary; and
 - 44.1.1.4 a Treasurer; and
 - 44.1.2 ordinary members elected under Rule 53.
- 44.2 All members of the Committee as per Rule 44.1 must be Nominated Members Representatives
- 44.3 Appointed Members as specified under Rule 49.2
- 44.4 The General Manager is an ex-officio member of the Committee and does not have any vote at any meeting of the Committee

45. GENERAL DUTIES

- 45.1 As soon as practicable after being elected or appointed to the Committee, each committee member must become familiar with these Rules and the Act.
- 45.2 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.
- 45.3 Committee members must exercise their powers and discharge their duties with reasonable care and diligence.
- 45.4 Committee members must exercise their powers and discharge their duties:
- 45.4.1 in good faith in the best interests of the Association; and

45.4.2 for a proper purpose.

45.5 Committee members and former committee members must not make improper use of:

45.5.1 their position; or

45.5.2 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.

45.6 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. CHAIRPERSON AND DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

46.1 Subject to subrule (2), the Chairperson or, in the Chairperson's absence, the Deputy Chairperson is the Chairperson for any general meetings and for any committee meetings.

46.2 If the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson are both absent, or are unable to preside, the Chairperson of the meeting must be:

46.2.1 in the case of a general meeting - a member elected by the other members present; or

46.2.2 in the case of a committee meeting - a committee member elected by the other committee members present.

47. SECRETARY

47.1 The Secretary must perform any duty or function required under the Act to be performed by the secretary of an incorporated association.

47.2 The Secretary must:

47.2.1 maintain the register of members in accordance with Rule 18; and

47.2.2 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

47.2.3 subject to the Act and these Rules, provide members with access to the register of members, the minutes of general meetings and other books and documents; and

47.2.4 perform any other duty or function imposed on the Secretary by these Rules.

47.3 The Secretary must give to the Registrar notice of his or her appointment within 14 days after the appointment.

48. TREASURER

48.1 The Treasurer must:

48.1.1 receive all moneys paid to or received by the Association and issue receipts for those moneys in the name of the Association; and

48.1.2 ensure that all moneys received are paid into the account of the Association within 5 working days after receipt; and

48.1.3 make any payments authorised by the Committee or by a general meeting of the Association from the Association's funds; and

48.1.4 ensure all cheques, drafts, bills of exchange; promissory notes and other negotiable instruments shall be signed by two persons approved by the Committee to carry out these tasks, of which at least one is a Committee Member.

48.2 The Treasurer must:

48.2.1 ensure that the financial records of the Association are kept in accordance with the Act; and

48.2.2 coordinate 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.

48.3 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

49.1 Nominated Representatives

49.1.1 A Nominated Members Representative is eligible to be elected or appointed as a committee member if the nominated representative member is 18 years or over.

49.2 Appointed Committee Members

49.2.1 The Appointed Committee Members shall consist of-

49.2.1.1 one representative nominated by and from employees of the Association.

49.2.1.2 up to six (6) natural persons nominated by the Committee and confirmed at an Annual General Meeting to provide expertise to the Committee. This does not include Committee Members that are Officers or eligible to be elected under Rule 49.1.

50. POSITIONS TO BE DECLARED VACANT

At the 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 any positions on the Committee which are vacant and hold elections for those positions in accordance with Rules 52 to 55.

51. NOMINATIONS

51.1 Twenty-one days prior to the AGM the Chairperson must call for nominations to fill vacant positions.

51.2 Such nominations, endorsed by two (2) other member's nominated representatives, to be returned no later than seven (7) days prior to the AGM.

51.3 At the AGM a nominated representative of an eligible member organisation of the Association may be nominated by two (2) other nominated Representative members for unfilled positions with the nominee's verbal or written consent.

51.4 A Nominated Representative member who is nominated for a position and fails to be elected to that position may be nominated for any other position for which an election is yet to be held.

51.5 Elected Committee Members

51.5.1 Six (6) Elected Committee Members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting for a two (2) year term in accordance with the following requirements:

- 51.5.2 A majority of the Elected Committee Members shall be Nominated Member's Representatives of tenant Members of the Ross House, however, up to two (2) Elected Committee Members may be Nominated Member's Representatives of non-tenant Members of the Ross House; and
- 51.5.3 At least three (3) of the Elected Committee Members should come from organisations whose membership consists of people who experience disadvantage or discrimination.

52. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- 52.1 At the annual general meeting, separate elections must be held for each of the following positions:
- 52.1.1 Chairperson;
 - 52.1.2 Deputy Chairperson;
 - 52.1.3 Secretary;
 - 52.1.4 Treasurer.
- 52.2 If only one person is nominated for the position, the Chairperson of the meeting must declare the person elected to the position.
- 52.3 If more than one person is nominated, a ballot must be held in accordance with Rule 54.
- 52.4 On his or her election, the new Chairperson may take over as Chairperson of the meeting.

53. ELECTION OF ORDINARY MEMBERS

- 53.1 The annual general meeting must comply with Rule 30 which determines the number of committee members.
- 53.2 A single election may be held to fill all of those positions.
- 53.3 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.
- 53.4 If the number of members nominated exceeds the number to be elected, a ballot must be held in accordance with Rule 54.

54. BALLOT

- 54.1 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.
- 54.2 The returning officer must not be a member nominated for the position.
- 54.3 Before the ballot is taken, each candidate may make a short speech in support of his or her election.
- 54.4 The election must be by secret ballot.
- 54.5 The returning officer must give a blank piece of paper to:
- 54.5.1 each Nominated Representative present in person; and
 - 54.5.2 each proxy appointed by a member organisation
- 54.6 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.
- 54.7 If the ballot is for more than one position:

54.7.1 the voter must write on the ballot paper the name of each candidate for whom they wish to vote;

54.7.2 the voter must not write the names of more candidates than the number to be elected.

54.8 Ballot papers that do not comply with subrule 54.7.2 are not to be counted.

54.9 Each ballot paper on which the name of a candidate has been written counts as one vote for that candidate.

54.10 The returning officer must declare the elected candidate or, in the case of an election for more than one position, the candidates who received the most votes.

54.11 If the returning officer is unable to declare the result of an election under subrule (10) because two (2) or more candidates received the same number of votes, the returning officer must:

54.11.1 conduct a further election for the position in accordance with subrules (4) to (10) to decide which of those candidates are to be elected; or

54.11.2 with the agreement of those candidates, decide by lot, which of them is to be elected.

55. TERM OF OFFICE OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

55.1 The Officers shall cease to be Committee Members upon their being removed, retired or resigned as Officers.

55.2 All Elected Committee Members and Appointed Committee Members shall, subject to this Constitution, be elected or appointed, where relevant, until the second Annual General Meeting after the date of their election or appointment.

55.3 Half of the Committee Members shall stand down each year.

55.4 A retiring Committee Member is eligible for re-election or for election to another office.

55.5 A general meeting of the Association may:

55.5.1 by special resolution remove a committee member from office; and

55.5.2 elect an eligible member of the Association to fill the vacant position in accordance with this Division.

56. VACATION OF OFFICE

56.1 A committee member may resign from the Committee by written notice addressed to the Committee.

56.2 A person ceases to be a committee member if he or she:

56.2.1 ceases to be a Nominated Members Representative; or

56.2.2 fails to attend 3 consecutive committee meetings (other than special or urgent committee meetings) without leave of absence under Rule 67; or

56.2.3 otherwise ceases to be a committee member by operation of section 78 of the Act.

Note

A Committee member may not hold the office of secretary if they do not reside in Australia.

57. FILLING CASUAL VACANCIES

57.1 The Committee may appoint an eligible member of the Association to fill a position on the Committee that:

57.1.1 has become vacant under Rule 56; or

57.1.2 was not filled by election at the last annual general meeting.

- 57.2 If the position of Secretary becomes vacant, the Committee must appoint a member to the position within 14 days after the vacancy arises.
- 57.3 Rule 56 applies to any committee member appointed by the Committee under subrule (1) or (2).
- 57.4 The Committee may continue to act despite any vacancy in its membership.

Division 4—Meetings of Committee

58. MEETINGS OF COMMITTEE

- 58.1 The Committee must meet at least six (6) times in each year at the dates, times and places determined by the Committee.
- 58.2 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.
- 58.3 Special committee meetings may be convened by the Chairperson or by any four (4) members of the Committee.

59. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

- 59.1 Notice of each committee meeting must be given to each committee member no later than seven (7) days before the date of the meeting.
- 59.2 Notice may be given of more than one committee meeting at the same time.
- 59.3 The notice must state the date, time and place of the meeting.
- 59.4 If a special committee meeting is convened, this must include the general nature of the business to be conducted.
- 59.5 The only business that may be conducted at the meeting is the business for which the meeting is convened.

60. URGENT MEETINGS

- 60.1 In cases of urgency, a meeting can be held without notice being given provided that as much notice as practicable is given to each committee member by the quickest means practicable.
- 60.2 Any resolution made at the meeting must be passed by an absolute majority of the Committee.
- 60.3 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

- 61.1 The procedure to be followed at a meeting of a Committee must be determined from time to time by the Committee.
- 61.2 The order of business may be determined by the members present at the meeting.

62. USE OF TECHNOLOGY

- 62.1 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.
- 62.2 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

- 63.1 No business may be conducted at a Committee meeting unless a quorum is present.
- 63.2 The quorum for a committee meeting is the presence (in person or as allowed under Rule 62) of a majority of the committee members holding office.
- 63.3 If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the notified commencement time of a committee meeting:
 - 63.3.1 in the case of a special meeting - the meeting lapses;
 - 63.3.2 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

- 64.1 On any question arising at a committee meeting, each committee member present at the meeting has one vote.
- 64.2 A motion is carried if a majority of committee members present at the meeting vote in favour of the motion.
- 64.3 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.
- 64.4 If votes are divided equally on a question, the Chairperson of the meeting has a second or casting vote.
- 64.5 Voting by proxy is not permitted.

65. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- 65.1 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.
- 65.2 The member:
 - 65.2.1 must not be present while the matter is being considered at the meeting; and
 - 65.2.2 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.

66. MINUTES OF MEETING

- 66.1 The Committee must ensure that minutes are taken and kept of each committee meeting.
- 66.2 The minutes must record the following:
 - 66.2.1 the names of the members in attendance at the meeting;
 - 66.2.2 the business considered at the meeting;
 - 66.2.3 any resolution on which a vote is taken and the result of the vote;
 - 66.2.4 any material personal interest disclosed under Rule 65.

67. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

- 67.1 The Committee may grant a committee member leave of absence from committee meetings for a period not exceeding 3 months.
- 67.2 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 joining fees, annual subscriptions, donations, fund-raising activities, grants, interest and any other sources approved by the Committee.

69. MANAGEMENT OF FUNDS

- 69.1 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.
- 69.2 Subject to any restrictions imposed by a general meeting of the Association, the Committee may approve expenditure on behalf of the Association.
- 69.3 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.
- 69.4 All cheques, drafts, bills of exchange; promissory notes and other negotiable instruments shall be signed by two persons approved by the Committee to carry out these tasks, of which at least one is a Committee Member.
- 69.5 All funds of the Association must be deposited into the financial account of the Association no later than five (5) working days after receipt.
- 69.6 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.

70. FINANCIAL RECORDS

- 70.1 The Association must keep financial records that:
 - 70.1.1 correctly record and explain its transactions, financial position and performance; and
 - 70.1.2 enable financial statements to be prepared as required by the Act.
- 70.2 The Association must retain the financial records for seven (7) years after the transactions covered by the records are completed.
- 70.3 The Treasurer must keep in his or her custody, or under his or her control:
 - 70.3.1 the financial records for the current financial year; and
 - 70.3.2 any other financial records as authorised by the Committee.

71. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- 71.1 For each financial year, the Committee must ensure that the requirements under the Act relating to the financial statements of the Association are met.
- 71.2 Without limiting subrule (1), those requirements include:
 - 71.2.1 the preparation of the financial statements;
 - 71.2.2 if required, the review or auditing of the financial statements;
 - 71.2.3 the certification of the financial statements by the Committee;
 - 71.2.4 the submission of the financial statements to the annual general meeting of the Association;
 - 71.2.5 the lodgement with the Registrar of the financial statements and accompanying reports, certificates, statements and fee.

PART 7 - GENERAL MATTERS

72. COMMON SEAL

- 72.1 The Association may have a common seal.
- 72.2 If the Association has a common seal:
 - 72.2.1 the name of the Association must appear in legible characters on the common seal;
 - 72.2.2 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;
 - 72.2.3 the common seal must be kept in the custody of the Secretary.

73. REGISTERED ADDRESS

The registered address of the Association is:

- 73.1 the address determined from time to time by resolution of the Committee; or
- 73.2 if the Committee has not determined an address to be the registered address - the postal address of the Secretary.

74. NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

- 74.1 Any notice required to be given to a member or a committee member under these Rules may be given:
 - 74.1.1 by handing the notice to the member personally; or
 - 74.1.2 by sending it by post to the member at the address recorded for the member on the register of members; or
 - 74.1.3 by email or facsimile transmission.
- 74.2 Subrule (1) does not apply to notice given under Rule 60.
- 74.3 Any notice required to be given to the Association or the Committee may be given:
 - 74.3.1 by handing the notice to a member of the Committee; or
 - 74.3.2 by sending the notice by post to the registered address; or
 - 74.3.3 by leaving the notice at the registered address; or

74.3.4 if the Committee determines that it is appropriate in the circumstances:

74.3.4.1 by email to the email address of the Association or the Secretary; or

74.3.4.2 by facsimile transmission to the facsimile number of the Association.

75. CUSTODY AND INSPECTION OF BOOKS AND RECORDS

75.1 Members may on request inspect free of charge:

75.1.1 the register of members;

75.1.2 the minutes of general meetings;

75.1.3 subject to subrule (2), the financial records, books, securities and any other relevant document of the Association, including minutes of Committee meetings.

Note: See note following Rule 18 for details of access to the register of members.

75.2 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.

75.3 The Committee must on request make copies of these rules available to members and applicants for membership free of charge.

75.4 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.

75.5 For purposes of this Rule:

Relevant documents mean the records and other documents, however compiled, recorded or stored, that relate to the incorporation and management of the Association and includes the following -

75.5.1 its membership records;

75.5.2 its financial statements;

75.5.3 its financial records;

75.5.4 records and documents relating to transactions, dealings, business or property of the Association.

76. WINDING UP AND CANCELLATION

76.1 The Association may be wound up voluntarily by special resolution but in no case shall be wound up until another trustee is appointed to the Ross House Trust.

76.2 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.

76.3 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.

76.4 The body to which the surplus assets are to be given must be decided by special resolution; or

76.5 If no such special resolution is passed, by a Judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria or other such court of competent jurisdiction.

76.6 Rules 76.1 to 76.5 are subject to the terms of the Ross House Trust Deed.

77. ALTERATION OF RULES

These Rules may only be altered by special resolution of a general meeting of the Association.

Note: an alteration of these Rules does not take effect unless or until it is approved by the Registrar. If these Rules (other than rule 1, 2 or 3) are altered, the Association is taken to have adopted its own rules, not the model rules.