

## **LIFE MEMBERSHIP BY LAW**

### **Fairhaven Surf Life Saving Club**

#### **Honorary Life Membership**

##### **1.0 Preamble**

Throughout the years since formation, Fairhaven Surf Life Saving Club, in accordance with the Club Constitution, has recognised and rewarded deserving members with Honorary Life Membership.

##### **2.0 Club Constitution.**

***LIFE HONORARY MEMBERS*** – may be appointed by the Committee from such persons as shall have rendered distinguished and long service to the Club and its members.

*Before each AGM the Life Membership Sub Committee will consider names to be submitted for life membership. The Sub Committee will consider recommending such life membership and will submit the name(s) for acceptance or otherwise to the Committee.*

*The Committee will consider and approve Life Membership. In making the decision as to approval of Life Membership, both the Life Member Sub Committee and Committee shall be mindful of potential conflicts of interest. If approved by the Committee the Life Member will be announced at the next Annual General Meeting of the club.*

*Notice of appointments of any Life Honorary Members should appear in the agenda on the Notice to Members convening such Annual General Meeting.*

##### **3.0 Life Member Sub Committee**

(a) The responsibility of the Life Membership Sub Committee is to consider and recommend to the General Committee, nominations for Life Honorary Membership, in recognition of service to the Fairhaven Surf Life Saving Club.

(b) The Life Membership Sub Committee shall be appointed by the General Committee and shall consist of three to four appropriately qualified and interested persons.

##### **4.0 General Committee**

(a) The responsibility of the General Committee is to consider LMSC recommendations for Life Honorary Membership for acceptance or otherwise.

(b) The general Committee should, if considered necessary, seek further Information and/or clarification from the LMSC.

## **5.0 Both Committees**

### **(a) Club Constitution.**

All considerations, recommendations and decisions by both committees, should be undertaken and formed in accordance with the Club Constitution and this By Law.

### **(b) Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest**

In accordance with the Constitution the LMSC and the General Committee should recognise the importance of confidentiality and potential conflict of interest throughout the life member process. All necessary steps should be taken to ensure that such important matters are diligently addressed.

## **6.0 Role and Responsibilities of Life Member Sub Committee**

(a) The LMSC should understand that the awarding of Life Honorary Membership is an important statement from the club that recognises and rewards distinguished and long service to the club by a member.

(b) The potential sensitivity that could be associated with Life Membership should be recognised and the LMSC should be mindful of the importance of a clear and credible process.

(c) The LMSC should recognise that considerations for Life Membership may attract a degree of subjectivity. That is, some decisions and considerations may, of necessity, be linked to personal opinion. To support LMSC decision making and any related subjectivity, it is important that a thorough and consistent process be applied to all candidates.

(d) It is the responsibility of the LMSC, when making decisions on Life Membership, to provide consistent, fair, thorough and well researched consideration of all candidates.

## 7.0 Criteria

(a) The criteria for recommending Life Membership should be considered by the LMSC in accordance within the terms and objectives stated in the Club Constitution.

***“...distinguished and long service...”***

To provide consistency and fairness the LMSC should adopt the following criteria.

**Distinguished** should be taken to reflect service as being demonstrably beyond that of normal membership.

**Distinguished service** should also be considered as clearly recognised by and worthy of respect from others.

### **Long service**

A minimum service period of between 10 and 15 years should be regarded as appropriate by the LMSC for consideration of a candidate.

### **(b) Service to be considered**

When considering service criteria, the LMSC should recognise that the major reason for the club's formation and existence is the ongoing provision of life saving services for the community.

The LMSC should also recognise the broad range of member service, contribution and effort needed to support and fulfil the aims and function of the club.

Such service could stem from a range of club involvement including:-  
Life saving operations, leadership, administration, surf sports, junior activities and training and assessment.

This list is not prescriptive and should be viewed broadly because of the open ended nature of what distinguished service could mean within a surf life saving club and the many ways in which such service could be given.

## **8.0 Process**

It is important for the LMSC to have access and use the broadest range of relevant information available when considering recommendations for Life Membership.

The LMSC should:-

- (a) Consider all information and material contained in and accompanying any nomination or submission received.
- (b) Research and thoroughly consider the full period of the candidate's membership and service using all available club, state and national resources. This would include Surf Guard, annual reports, newsletters, patrol log records, correspondence and any other related material.
- (c) Maintain and use a "watch list" in matrix format of potential candidates' club service to assist consideration and decision making.
- (d) Consider all decisions in an impartial and consistent manner.
- (e) Maintain confidentiality and be mindful of potential conflict of interest.
- (f) Prepare a comprehensive written report on recommendation/s for submission to the General Committee.
- (g) Undertake the Life Member process within an appropriate time frame and frequency of meetings that takes account of the AGM and any related communication with the General Committee.

## **9.0 Conclusion**

The Constitution confirms that LMSC recommendations to the General Committee require acceptance or otherwise.

Following consideration and approval, Life Member/s name/s shall appear in the Annual Report as an item on the AGM Agenda.

Life Member/s will be announced at the following Annual General Meeting.