

The Rural Media Association of WA. (RMAWA)

CONSTITUTION AND RULES

Name

1. The name of the Association shall be "The Rural Media Association of W.A. (RMAWA)"
2. The objectives of the Association shall be:
 - (a) To foster and encourage relationships and networks between rural media, agribusiness and natural resource management stakeholders in Western Australia
 - (b) To provide a range of relevant and timely agricultural industry events in Western Australia
 - (c) To recognise the achievements of rural media representatives in Western Australia
 - (d) Provide opportunities for greater cooperation between similar organizations and businesses nationally
 - (e) To promote the agricultural industry as a whole within the rural community as well as to the non-rural community

Office Bearers

3. The Office Bearers of the Association shall comprise:
 - (a) The President who shall be directly employed in the rural media of WA.
 - (b) The Secretary
 - (c) The Treasurer
 - (d) A maximum of 12 committee members including appointed office bearers.
 - (e) Honorary Life Members.

Election of Members

- 4.1 Any person, firm or corporate body that is directly or indirectly involved in
 - (f) Agriculture
 - (g) Associated rural-based industries
 - (h) Rural media
 - (i) Metropolitan media
 - (j) Public Relations
 - (k) Agricultural landscape and environmental management

May apply for admission and to full membership with the Association by delivering to the Treasurer a signed Membership Application Form and paying current membership fee.

Re-admission to Membership

- 4.2 Any person, firm or corporate body which was formerly a member of the Association may apply for re-admission to membership by delivering to the Treasurer a signed membership application form headed "Membership Renewal" with the appropriate membership fee.
- 4.3 The Committee may at any time after receipt of any nomination as aforesaid and without giving any reason therefore reject the application of any applicant as a member of the Association or in the case of a firm or company reject the nomination of any person as the nominee of such firm or company and thereupon any moneys paid by such applicant or firm or company as the case may be shall be refunded to such applicant firm or company who shall thereupon cease to have any rights in regard to the Association.

Honorary Life Members

- 4.4 The Association at a General Meeting of members may elect any person first recommended by the Committee to be an Honorary Life Member of the Association in recognition of any special services rendered to the Association.

Register of Members

5. A register of the names and addresses of all members shall be kept and maintained by the Treasurer.

Privileges of Members

6. The privileges of membership of the Association shall be:
 - (a) Special Discounted entry to official RMAWA events and functions.
 - (b) The right to join the Committee
 - (c) The right to enter Annual RMAWA Awards
 - (d) The right to attend and vote at any General Meeting of the Association.
 - (e) Such other privileges as the Committee may from time to time determine.

Disqualification of a Member

7. If any complaint be received by the Committee (or if the Committee is of opinion) that a member or a nominee of any firm or company a member has committed a breach of these Rules or has been guilty of any act or conduct calculated to bring the Association into disrepute or to prejudice the Association in carrying out any of the objects of the Association the Committee may give to any such member or nominee notice in writing of such alleged breach act or conduct and summon such member or nominee to appear before the Committee at the time, date and place stated in such notice and to answer the same.

The Committee may after hearing such member or nominee in answer to such alleged breach, act or conduct or if they shall fail to appear at the time date and place aforesaid then in their absence either exonerate the member from or impose upon them and the firm or company of which they are the nominee such penalty by way of reprimand suspension from membership or expulsion from the Association as the Committee may think fit.

Resignation of Members

8. Any member may by written notice to the Secretary tender their resignation from the Association, but no such resignation shall relieve any member from payment of any subscription or other monies due by him to the Association at the time of resignation, and any such subscription or other monies shall be deemed to be a debt due to the Association and shall be recoverable at law.

Subscription

9. The entrance fee and annual subscription payable by members of all descriptions shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting of the Association as required PROVIDED that the Committee has the power to increase subscriptions annually by not more than the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for the Perth Metropolitan Area from time to time, not exceeding Five (5) percent per annum, without having to refer such limited increase to the Annual General Meeting. Annual Subscriptions shall be due and payable on the thirty-first day of January in each year.

Arrears of Subscription

10. Any member who shall be six months in arrears in payment of his subscription shall not be entitled to any privileges of membership or to hold any office in the Association.
11. The Committee may strike off the roll of members the name of any member twelve months in arrears in the payment of his subscription.

Financial Year

12. The financial year of the Association shall commence on the first day of November in each year and end on the thirty-first day of October next ensuing.

General Meeting

13. An Annual General Meeting of Members shall be held in each calendar year on such date, and at such time and place as may be determined by the President. The business to be transacted at such meeting shall be:
 - (a) Yearly Statement of Accounts.
 - (b) The election of Office-Bearers.

(c) Such general business as it is competent for the Annual Meeting to deal with.

14. A Special General Meeting may be called at any time by the Secretary on the direction of the President and shall be called as soon as convenient on the requisition of at least 6 members but no business shall be transacted at any such meeting other than that for which it has been called.
15. The quorum for all General Meetings of the Association shall be a minimum of six and the Chairman shall have a deliberative vote and, in the case of equality of votes, a casting vote.
16. Fourteen days' notice shall be given to members of all General Meetings and in the case of special meetings the notice convening the meeting shall specify the nature of the business for which the meeting is being called.

How Matters are to be Decided

17.1 All matters to be dealt with at General Meetings shall unless a division is called for be determined by a show of hands PROVIDED that upon such division one fourth of the persons present at the meeting and voting may demand a secret ballot on the matter the subject of the division AND FURTHER PROVIDED that on a show of hands or a ballot, each member shall only have one vote.

17.2 Any member unable to attend a General Meeting may appoint a proxy to direct their vote and they need not be a member

Management of the Association

18. Subject to these rules the business of the Association shall be managed by a Committee comprising the Office Bearers set out in Clause 3 hereof and such Committee shall in addition to all other powers hereby conferred on it have-

- (a) The control and management of the income and expenditure of the funds of the Association.

Presiding Officer

19. The President shall preside at all meetings and in the absence of the President, a nominated Chairperson from the Committee. The person presiding shall have a deliberative vote and in the case of equality of votes a casting vote.

Nomination of Office Bearers

20. (a) Any person desiring to nominate for the position of President or Committee member of the Association shall be a financial member or the nominee of a firm or company a financial member of the Association.
- (b) If the number of nominations for any office is equal to the number required the Chairman of the Annual General Meeting shall declare all candidates to be elected.
- (c) If the number of nominations for any office exceeds the number of vacancies an election by secret ballot by the simple majority method shall be held to decide who shall fill the vacancy.
- (d) If the number of nominations for any office is equal to, or less than the number of vacancies, all candidates shall be declared elected and the unfilled vacancies may be filled by the Committee provided that the person elected by the Committee shall only remain in office for the remainder of the term for which his predecessor was elected.

Special Vacancies

21. If a casual vacancy in any office shall occur between two Annual General Meetings, the Committee may fill such vacancy provided that the person elected shall only remain in office for the remainder of the term for which his predecessor was elected.

Retirement of Office Bearers

22. (a) The President shall retire annually, but shall be eligible for re-election PROVIDED that no person shall be eligible to hold the office of President for more than two (2) years in succession.
- (b) All elected Office bearer positions must retire annually but shall be eligible for reelection provided the person doesn't hold the same position for longer than (2) years in succession.

Committee Meetings

23. Ordinary Meetings of the Committee shall be held at least six times in each year. A special meeting of the Committee shall be held on the direction of the President at such time and on such a date as they determine. The President shall call a special meeting of the Committee on the request of five or more Committeemen.
24. For any special meeting of the Committee the notice convening the meeting must set out the business for which the meeting is being called and no business other than that set out on the notice paper shall be dealt with.
25. Fourteen days' notice shall be given for ordinary Committee meetings and five days' notice for special Committee meetings.
26. At all Committee meetings four members present shall constitute a quorum.

Financial

27. (a) All moneys received on behalf of the Association shall be banked at a bank to be decided upon by the Committee and all moneys to be paid out of the Association's funds shall be paid by cheque or Electronic Funds Transfer.
- (b) Cheques shall be signed by the Nominated signatories as determined by the Committee.
- (c) All accounts shall be reviewed annually and presented by the Treasurer at the Annual General Meeting

General

28. Any question whatsoever arising and for which no specific Rule is herein provided shall be decided by the Committee whose ruling shall be final.

Definitions

29. For the purpose of these Rules and any By-Laws or Regulations thereto the following definitions shall wherever the context reasonably permits apply:

"Association" means the Rural Media Association of W.A. (Inc).

"Committee" means the Committee as set out in Clause 24 hereof.

"Member" means a member of the Association and means a member whose subscription is not in arrears for more than (6) six months.