# RSL Victoria

## 105th Annual Conference

28 November 2020

### AGENDA

**Annual General Meeting of RSL Victoria Inc**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Ref</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Delegation Online Registration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>09:45</td>
<td>Opening of AGM</td>
<td>Chair</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>State President Report</td>
<td>State President</td>
<td>Enclosure 1 &amp; 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>State Branch Financial Report</td>
<td>State Honorary Treasurer</td>
<td>Enclosure 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>CEO Address</td>
<td>Chief Executive Officer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>Policy Remits</td>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Annex B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>11:50</td>
<td>Rule Remits</td>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Annex C</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Break 12:30 - 13:00)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>15:30</td>
<td>Return of election</td>
<td>Chief Executive Officer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>16:00</td>
<td>Close of AGM</td>
<td>Chair</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
ITEM 1 – OPENING OF AGM

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The Chairman will acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands on which we meet.

‘I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we are meeting. I pay my respects to their Elders, past and present, and the Aboriginal Elders of other communities who may be here today.’

‘I also wish to acknowledge Aboriginal people who have served or are serving in the Australian Defence force’.

Pledge of Allegiance

The RSL Pledge of Allegiance will be given by group recitation led by the Chairman:

“I (name of member) do hereby swear allegiance to the Commonwealth of Australia and its people and do hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia and the Constitution of the Returned & Services League of Australia”.

Message of Loyalty

The Chairman will move that the following Message of Loyalty be sent to our Patron, Her Majesty the Queen, to be conveyed through Her Excellency the Governor of Victoria:

“We, the delegates of the 105th Annual State Conference of the Victorian Branch of the Returned & Services League of Australia, assembled in Victoria tender to Your Majesty in warmest affection, our expressions of continued loyalty to the Throne, and our hope that Your Majesty and family will be blessed with unbounded health and happiness, now and in the years ahead”.

Minutes of the 104th RSL Annual State Conference

The Chairman will move that the Minutes of the 104th RSL Annual State Conference, as circulated, be received and adopted.
ITEM 2 – STATE PRESIDENTS REPORT

President’s Report

The President will make an address to the Annual Conference on the achievements and highlights of the State Branch in 2019 and move the following motion:

That the 2019 Annual Report, as circulated, be received and adopted.

ITEM 3 – STATE BRANCH FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statements

The Honorary Treasurer will give the Treasurer’s Report for 2019 with supporting remarks from the Chief Financial Officer and move the following motion:

That the 2019 Financial Statements, as circulated, be received and adopted.

Appointment of Auditor

The Honorary Treasurer will move the following motion:

That Grant Thornton be re-appointed as Auditor for the 2020 Financial Year.

Branch Officer Honorariums

The Chair will request a member of the State Executive Governance Sub-Committee to temporarily assume the role of chair for this item.

The Conference will be then addressed by the Chair of the State Executive Governance Sub-Committee who will present a motion to the members on Branch Officer Honorariums.

Note: at the time of the sending of this agenda the Governance Sub-Committee had not yet made a recommendation on the payment of or amount of honorariums.

ITEM 4 – CEO ADDRESS

Current and Planned Strategic Initiatives

The Chief Executive Officer will provide a presentation on current and planned Strategic Initiatives for RSL Victoria.
ITEM 5 – POLICY REMITS

The following policy remits will be proposed and debated. These remits must be passed by a simple majority.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Remit No</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Moved By</th>
<th>Remit Detail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Royal Commission into Veteran Suicide</strong></td>
<td>Hawthorn</td>
<td>Annex B – Remit 1-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>That RSL Victoria adopt a policy of publicly supporting the call for a Royal Commission into veteran suicide</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** The Agenda Committee resolved that no policy remits would be included on the Annual Conference agenda for 2020. However, due to the importance of this remit it was decided to accept this single policy remit.

ITEM 6 – RULE REMITS

The following remits that seek to amend the Branch Rules will be proposed and debated. These remits seek to amend the Branch rules and must be passed by a special resolution.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Remit No</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Moved By</th>
<th>Remit Detail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Eligibility for State Executive</strong></td>
<td>State President</td>
<td>Annex C – Remit 1-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>That the Rules of the Branch be amended so that the only eligibility requirement to be a Member of the State Executive or a Branch Officer is that they are (1) a Service or Life member of RSL Victoria, and (2) have been a member of RSL Victoria for a minimum of 4 continuous years.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>Nomination for election to State Executive</strong></td>
<td>State President</td>
<td>Annex C – Remit 2-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>That the Rules of the Branch be amended so that any eligible Service or Life member of RSL Victoria may be nominated for election to the State Executive (Branch Officer and State Executive Member) by no fewer than 10 other Service or Life members of RSL Victoria. This removes the need for a Sub-Branch General Meeting.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>(Proposal)</td>
<td>(Result)</td>
<td>(Reference)</td>
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<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Canvassing for election to State Executive allowed</strong></td>
<td>That the Rules of the Branch be amended so that members standing for election to any position on the State Executive can engage with the membership to set forth their case for why they should be elected. In setting forth that case, no member should denigrate another member of the League, and to do so would constitute conduct unbecoming.</td>
<td>State President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><strong>Appointment of Returning Officer</strong></td>
<td>That the Rules of the Branch be amended so that the returning officer is not an employee of RSL Victoria or a Sub-Branch and that the State Executive may appoint any person or organisation to undertake the duties of a returning officer and carry out the function of running the election.</td>
<td>State President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>Direct member voting for the State Executive</strong></td>
<td>That the Rules of the Branch be amended so that all service and life members of RSL Victoria individually cast their vote without a need for the Sub-Branch to hold a General Meeting. A majority of votes cast by members of a Sub-Branch then direct the way that the SUB-BRANCH MEMBER votes (i.e., the vote of the overall Sub-Branch).</td>
<td>State President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td><strong>Remove the role of State Honorary Treasurer</strong></td>
<td>That the Rules of the Branch be amended so that the position of State Honorary Treasurer is removed.</td>
<td>State President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><strong>Incorporated Sub-Branch Committee permitted to appoint a Secretary</strong></td>
<td>That the Rules of the Branch be amended to allow an incorporated Sub-Branch Committee to appoint its Secretary.</td>
<td>State President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td><strong>Member Transfers – Approval by gaining Sub-Branch</strong></td>
<td>That the Rules of the Branch be amended so that a Sub-Branch may accept or reject a proposed transfer of a member to their Sub-Branch. This will make the State Branch rules consistent with RSL National by-law 2(11)(e). That the Rules of the Branch be amended so a member may not transfer to another Sub-Branch more than once a year (being 365 days) without the approval of the Chief Executive Officer.</td>
<td>State President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><strong>Definition Social Member to include 10C Sub-Branch</strong></td>
<td>That the Rules of the Branch be amended to change the definition of Social Member to include 10C Sub-Branches.</td>
<td>Dunolly - Bealiba</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 105th Annual Conference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Remit</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Annexation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>State Branch Employee may not hold a Sub-Branch Committee Position</td>
<td>That the Rules of the Branch be amended so that a Branch remunerated employee of the Branch with position of manager or above may not hold any position on a Sub-Branch Committee.</td>
<td>Hawthorn</td>
<td>Annex C – Remit 10-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Immediate past President not a member of State Executive</td>
<td>That the Rules of the Branch be amended so that sub clauses 7.5(a)(5) and 9.5 are deleted.</td>
<td>Hawthorn</td>
<td>Annex C – Remit 11-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>CEO and CFO not members of State Executive</td>
<td>That the Rules of the Branch be amended so that sub clause 7.4(a)(4) is deleted and sub-clauses 7.4(e)(8) and 9.7(e) are amended.</td>
<td>Hawthorn</td>
<td>Annex C – Remit 12-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>No right of address by the CEO</td>
<td>That the Rules of the Branch be amended so that Rule 9.12 is amended to remove the words ‘or the Chief Executive Officer’.</td>
<td>Hawthorn</td>
<td>Annex C – Remit 13-13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Item 7 – Return of the State Executive Elections

### Victorian Branch Elections

The Returning Officer (Chief Executive Officer) will announce the results of the elections for the Branch Officer position of State President and State Executive member(s) (Metropolitan and Country) for 2020-2022.

The returning officer will move the following motion(s):

*That all elected candidates of the State Executive be congratulated.*

*That all retiring members of the State Executive be acknowledged for their time and commitment to veterans and the League.*

### Permission to Destroy Ballot Papers

The returning officer will move the following motion:

*That the Returning Officer be granted permission to destroy the ballot papers.*
ITEM 8 – CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

Date & Location – 2021 Annual State Conference

The chairman will move the following motion:

*That the 106th Annual State Conference of the RSL Victorian Branch be held in July 2021 at a time and venue to be determined.*

Vote of Thanks

The Chairman, on behalf of the delegates to the 105th Annual State Conference of the RSL Victorian Branch, will move a vote of thanks to those who contributed to the success of the Conference.

Closure of Conference

The Chairman will declare the 105th Annual State Conference of the RSL Victorian Branch closed.
ATTACHMENTS AND ENCLOSURES

- **Annex A** – Meeting Instructions and Standing Orders
- **Annex B** – Policy Remits 1-1
  - Remit 1-1
- **Annex C** – Rule Remits 1-13
  - Remit 1-13
  - Remit 2-13
  - Remit 3-13
  - Remit 4-13
  - Remit 5-13
  - Remit 6-13
  - Remit 7-13
  - Remit 8-13
  - Remit 9-13
  - Remit 10-13
  - Remit 11-13
  - Remit 12-13
  - Remit 13-13

- **Enclosure 1** – Draft Minutes of the 2019 Annual Conference
- **Enclosure 2** – 2019 RSL Victoria Annual Report
- **Enclosure 3** – 2019 Financial Statements
ANNEX A - MEETING INSTRUCTIONS

Annual Conference Procedure

Agenda
All Sub-Branches shall receive one copy of the Agenda and the Annual Report of the Branch. Only the items included on the Agenda may be discussed without leave of the Chair and only where the Chair deems such a discussion to be in the League’s interest.

Quorum
One 1/4 of the number of Delegates who have registered to be present shall be a quorum at Conference.

Delegates
In accordance with Rule 8.4(a), a Sub-Branch Delegate can only be a Service, Life or Affiliate Member (subject to Rule 8.4 (b) of the Sub-Branch and may represent the members of the Sub-Branch at the Annual Conference).

Delegates must register their intention to attend via the registration link provided to Sub-Branch Secretaries. Registrations will not be accepted after the 14th November 2020 [Rule 8.4(g)]. Delegates must be in attendance before the start of the Conference, late delegates will not be admitted entry into the State Conference once proceedings have begun.

Identification of Delegates
A Delegate must use the ‘raise your hand function’ and await recognition by the chair to speak. The delegate shall announce their full name and Sub-Branch (e.g. John Citizen, Melbourne Sub-Branch) each time they speak. Anyone that does not follow this process shall not be permitted to address the Conference.

Delegates who have transferred their right to speak or vote on a subject to a proxy Delegate shall not be entitled to address the Conference or vote.

Agenda Discussion
Delegates are asked to deal with items as they appear on the Agenda Paper. If a delegate seeks to have their agenda item dealt with out of turn because of an emergency, they are to seek to the permission of the Chair and other delegates, to do so.

Discussion Confined to Motions
Subject to the Chair’s right to permit discussion upon any matter they deem of importance to the meeting, no discussion shall take place except on a motion or amendment moved and seconded.
Delegates Cannot Voice Personal Grievances
No delegate may voice their personal grievance to the Conference, except where the Chair is informed beforehand of their desire to do so and approves of the personal details being furnished.

Speakers Time Limit
Unless otherwise resolved by Conference, the mover shall be limited to five minutes, the seconder to three minutes, and speakers on the motion to three minutes each.

A member seconding a motion or amendment without remark is not to be held to have spoken thereon.

When a motion or an amendment is moved and seconded, debate may ensue; not more than two speakers shall speak in succession either for or against any question and if, at the conclusion of the second speaker’s remarks and upon a call from the Chairperson, no Member rises to speak on the opposite side, the motion or amendment shall, after the mover of the motion has replied, at once be put to the vote.

A member who has spoken to a question may again be heard to explain himself in regard to something material in part of his speech which the chairperson agrees may have been misquoted or misunderstood, but such member must not introduce any new matter or interrupt a member who may be speaking, and no debatable matter must be brought forward or debate arise upon such explanation.

Addressing the Chair
On all questions, and during all discussion, the member speaking shall stand and address the meeting through the Chair. The motion by two members supported a two thirds majority vote of members present, may suspend the order of business provided the suspension is limited to the purpose for which it was granted.

Respect to Chair
Members must resume their seats upon the chairperson rising to speak, and any member refusing to so resume their seat must be liable to immediate suspension by the chairperson.

Motions

 Amendments to Rules of the Victorian Branch RSL

A motion to alter any of the Branch Rules shall be moved at Conference only where the same has been submitted from a Sub-Branch, the State President and/or State Executive in accordance with the rules.
No such motion shall be dealt with by Conference unless notice thereof shall have been given in writing to the Chief Executive Officer, approved for inclusion by the Agenda Committee and full details have been forwarded to each Sub-Branch no later than one 21 days prior to the Conference.

A motion to alter any of the Rules, must be in the proper form and carried by a three quarters majority of Delegates present and entitled to vote at the conference.

- **Other Motions**

No motion shall be dealt with by Conference unless notice thereof shall have been given in writing to the Chief Executive Officer, approved for inclusion by the Agenda Committee and full details have been forwarded to each Sub-Branch no later than 28 days month prior to the Conference.

A simple majority of votes of Delegates present and entitled to vote is all that is required to carry such resolutions.

**Motion not seconded**
A motion not seconded is not to be debated and no entry of the motion is to be made in the minutes.

**Motions discharged from agenda**
A motion may, by permission of the chairperson, be superseded at any time by another motion "That it be discharged from the notice paper", "That the question be adjourned", "That the question be now put", "That the next business be proceeded with" or "That the meeting be adjourned".

No member who has spoken to the main question will be permitted to so move.

**Amendments to Motions**
Only one amendment, which must be relevant to the question to which it is proposed to be made, shall be entertained at the one time. If the amendment be carried it shall before the substantive motion, the original motion lapsing, and there shall be no necessity to put the original motion to the meeting.

An Amendment proposed but not seconded, shall not be entertained nor entered into the Minutes. Whether an amendment is carried or not, other amendments may be submitted, one at a time, to be decided in like manner until the subject is finally disposed of.

No Member shall propose or second more than one amendment.
Amendments lost
In the case of all amendments being lost, the chairperson is to put the original motion to discussion and vote.

Debate
When a motion or an amendment is moved and seconded, debate may ensue. Not more than two speakers are entitled, except in committee, to speak in succession either for or against any question, and if at the conclusion of the second speaker's remarks, and upon a call from the chairperson, no member rises to speak on the opposite side, the motion or amendment is, after the mover of the motion has replied, at once be put to the vote.

All amendments are to be progressively resolved prior to further discussion of the motion.

Points of Order
A point of order may be raised by a Member. Immediately a point of order is raised, current discussion will cease, and the Chairperson will determine the question and no discussion on a point will be permitted. (Points of correction such as that a speaker is not stating the truth are not points of order).

It shall deal only with the conduct or procedure of the debate and the Member shall state his point without irrelevant details, The Member must establish that-

- They are speaking outside the question, or
- They are transgressing a Rule of the Branch, or
- They are infringing Standing Order or acting contrary to the general custom of debate.

Motion for “Question to be Put”
A motion “that the question be now put” may be moved at any stage of a debate and shall be put immediately without discussion. No member who has spoken to the motion or any amendment shall be permitted to move or second such a motion.

If lost, the debate shall continue. If carried, the mover shall have the right to reply, and the motion or amendment as the case may be, shall be put to the meeting without further discussion.

Delegate – Voting
To ensure reliable, transparent and live voting information we will be using a specific web-based voting platform. One (1) registered Delegate per Sub-Branch will be required log into the platform and will cast the required vote on behalf of their members.
Each vote will be weighted, i.e.: if the Sub-Branch has four (4) entitled Delegates, the vote cast will register as four (4) votes in the system. Having one Delegate vote will help minimise accidental differences in voting within one Sub-Branch. Only registered delegates are allowed to vote. Further information regarding voting will be communicated to the delegated registered voter for the Sub-Branch.

Delegate – Absence
In the absence of a delegate from a Sub-Branch which has submitted an item on the agenda, the Chair may allow any delegate to move such item.

Disagree with Ruling
The ruling of the Chairperson upon any question under the Standing Orders or on points of order or explanation shall be final, unless challenged by at least one fifth of those present, and two thirds of the members present vote against such ruling.

Upon the submission of a motion “That the Chairperson’s ruling be disagreed with” the Chairperson forthwith shall leave the Chair. The Senior Vice-President present shall take the Chair or if none present a chairperson appointed by the meeting. The motion shall then resume the Chair and debate on the original question shall proceed.

Penalty for breaches of decorum
A member violating any of these standing orders may be suspended by the chairperson for the currency of the meeting.

A member refusing to retract any expression deemed by the chairperson to be offensive is to be suspended until a retraction is made.

Conference Resolutions are Binding
The resolutions of a Conference shall be binding on all Sub-Branches and shall, except where the Conference expressly decides otherwise, be operative from the time of the passing of such resolution, irrespective of any requirement for confirmation of the Minutes of such Conference or approval by Consumer Affairs Victoria where the rules are amended.

Recording Devices
No recording devices are permitted to be used during the Conference by anyone in attendance for the purpose of recording (either audio or visual) and part of the Conference.
Copyright
RSL Victoria’s 105th Annual State Conference AGM 2020 Live streams and recordings of Ordinary and Special Council Meetings and any other public forums and meetings authorised by RSL Victoria remain the property of RSL Victoria and are protected by the Copyright Act. Access to live streams and recordings of RSL Victoria 105th Annual State Conference AGM 2020 is provided for personal and non-commercial use. Video, images and audio must not be altered, reproduced or republished without the permission of RSL Victoria.

Disclaimer
Live streaming allows members to watch and listen to the meeting in real time, giving them greater access to RSL Victoria decision making and debate and encouraging openness and transparency. Every care is taken to maintain privacy and attendees are advised that they may be recorded.

RSL Victoria does not accept any responsibility or liability for any loss, damage, cost or expense that may be incurred as a result of viewing, using or relying on information or statements provided in the live streaming or recording of the RSL Victoria 105th Annual State Conference.

Whilst RSL Victoria will make every effort to ensure that live streaming is available, it takes no responsibility for, and cannot be held liable for technical issues beyond its control. Technical issues may include, but are not limited to, the availability of the internet connection, device failure or malfunction, unavailability of social media platforms or power outages.

Media
Any media presence at Conference is at the discretion of the Chair and must be pre-registered. Media are reminded of copyright rules identified above.
**ANNEX B - POLICY REMITS**

**REMIT 1-1 | HAWTHORN SUB-BRANCH**

That RSL Victoria adopt a policy of publicly supporting the call for a Royal Commission into veteran suicide

**Rationale -**

It should be said that our calls for a Royal Commission aren’t to assign blame or simplify the problems that veterans are facing. Rather, our calls for a Royal Commission into Veteran Suicide are an acknowledgement that the problems our veteran community is facing are extremely complex and beyond the scope of those currently dealing with them. Rather than assigning blame to organisations or individuals, we’re seeking answers, solutions and ideas.

A large number of lives have already been lost, and more lives remain at risk. Suicide is a terrifying spectre for the Australian community, but especially for veterans, regardless of age and service. Veterans of the ADF, whether they’ve deployed on operations or served their country at home, are choosing to end their lives at a hugely disproportionate rate compared to regular society. And this has been occurring since the Boer War, 120 years ago. There is nothing more important to the RSL, and us as its members, than the lives of our brothers and sisters. Ensuring the wellbeing of veterans was the reason the RSL was formed originally, and remains the primary focus of it. Regardless of the directions from others, we are focussed on the wellbeing and welfare of our members, our mates, and anyone who has served. We know we’re not alone in this, and look forward to other RSL states adding their voice to ours. As the ADF taught us, we’re stronger when we work as a team.

Moreover, this is personal for us. These are not just names on a wall. These are our mates. Our brothers and sisters. People we have fought alongside, and served alongside. People with whom we have shared extraordinary experiences. And they’re choosing to end their own lives at 8 times the national average.

Asking a sample of younger RSL members if they know former comrades who’ve chosen to kill themselves is a confronting experience. Far too many of them will tell stories of mates they looked up to; that they thought were fine; that were having struggles; that were getting better, or any number of variations of what become a familiar tale. They’ll then tell you how shocked and saddened to suddenly hear that mate or former colleague had been found dead by friends or family or police or strangers. The trauma of suicide carries on in the friends and families of those effected. In the ADF, whether we serve 4 years or 40, we are all one big family.

Complex problems require complex solutions and answers. In our society, the best way to gain those solutions and answers is through a Royal Commission. Suicide is a national crisis; understanding what needs to be done to reduce the suicide of veterans is a meaningful and valuable step in solving this crisis for us all. The current commissioner does not deliver the answers that veterans deserve and is not equipped to gain those answers.
ANNEX C - RULE REMITS

REMIT 1-13 | STATE PRESIDENT

That the Rules of the Branch be amended so that the only eligibility requirement to be a Member of the State Executive or a Branch Officer is that they are (1) a Service or Life member of RSL Victoria, and (2) have been a member of RSL Victoria for a minimum of 4 continuous years.

Rules affected
- 7.5 Eligibility and Election of the State Executive
- 9.4 Eligibility to be a Branch Officer

Amend Rule 7.5(a):

FROM:
(a) In addition to the Branch Officers, a Service or Life member of the Victorian Branch is eligible to be a Member of the State Executive if they have been:-
(1) a Service or Life member of the RSL for at least four years, and
(2) completed at least two years as a member of a Sub-Branch executive in Victoria; or
(3) completed at least one year service as a member of a repealed Regional Committee or repealed State Advisory Council; or
(4) completed at least two years' service as a member of the repealed State Council or the State Executive; or
(5) a person who has been co-opted to the State Executive and has been a member of the State Executive for at least one year.

TO:
(a) A Member is eligible to be a member of the State Executive if they have been:
(1) a Service or Life Member of the League for at least four continuous years; and
(2) a member of a Victorian Sub-Branch or a member of the HQ Unattached List for at least two continuous years.

Amend Rule 9.4(a):

FROM:
(a) A Member is eligible to be the State President, the State Senior Vice President or the State Vice President if their principal place of residence is in Victoria or if they are a member of a Sub-Branch which has members from both sides of the Victorian border, their principal place of residence is in the bordering State, and they have been:
(1) a Service or Life Member of the RSL for at least five years, and
(2) completed at least two years as a member of a Sub-Branch executive in Victoria; or
(3) completed at least two years service as a member of a repealed Regional Committee; or
(4) completed at least one year as a member of the State Executive; or
(5) a person who has been co-opted to the State Executive and has been a member of the State Executive for at least one year.

TO:
(a) A Member is eligible to be a member of the State Executive if they have been:
(1) a Service or Life Member of the League for at least four continuous years; and
(2) a member of a Victorian Sub-Branch or a member of the HQ Unattached List for at least two continuous years.

Rationale -
Any long serving member of the RSL should be able to nominate for election to the State Executive. The State Executive requires a diverse range of skills and expertise and restrict the available pool to only those who have served on Sub-Branch committee or other forums limits the League’s ability to attract this range of skills and expertise.

It is believed that the bar is set too high to even be considered for nomination and by that very virtue discourages otherwise outstanding candidates for nominating.
That the Rules of the Branch be amended so that any eligible Service or Life member of RSL Victoria may be nominated for election to the State Executive (Branch Officer and State Executive Member) by no fewer than 10 other Service or Life members of RSL Victoria. This removes the need for a Sub-Branch General Meeting.

**Rules affected**
- 10.2 Election of a Branch Officer
- 7.5 State Executive

**Amend Rules:**

**10.2(a)**

**FROM:** A member of a Sub-Branch who is eligible to be a Branch Officer under Rule 9.4 may be nominated by a General Meeting of any Sub-Branch to be elected as a Branch Officer

**TO:** Any eligible Service Member or Life Member of the League may be nominated by no fewer than ten (10) other current Service or Life Members of the League (and the Branch) to be elected as a Branch Officer.

**10.2(b)**

**FROM:** The nomination must be made in writing and signed by the secretary of the Sub-Branch and the nominee

**TO:** The nomination must be made in writing and signed by ten (10) current Service or Life Members of the League (and the Branch) and the nominee.

**10.2(c)**

**FROM:** The nomination must be lodged with the Chief Executive Officer no later than forty-nine days before the Annual Conference.

**TO:** The nomination must be lodged with the Returning Officer no later than forty-nine days before the Annual Conference.

**7.5(c)**

**FROM:** That the election for all State Executive members under this rule shall be conducted in accordance with Branch Rules, Part 10.

**TO:** That the nomination and election for all State Executive members under this rule shall be conducted in accordance with Branch Rules, Part 10.

Subsequent amendments to Bylaws 10A, B and C to reflect these changes.
**Rationale -**

The requirement for an eligible member to be nominated by a General Meeting of a Sub-Branch creates an unnecessary burden on the Sub-Branch to meet, vote and consider this matter. The requirement to be nominated by the Sub-Branch also creates another unnecessary hurdle for a member to leap when aspiring to be considered for election by the membership. By including the requirement to gather the support of at least 10 other service members assists to reduce the likelihood of ‘vexatious candidates’ or candidates extremely unlikely to be elected. This is a low bar but not inconsistent with general electoral practice (eg, to State for State Government election as an individual one is required to obtain 100 signatures from voters.)
REMIT 3-13 | STATE PRESIDENT

That the Rules of the Branch be amended so that members standing for election to any position on the State Executive can engage with the membership to set forth their case for why they should be elected.

In setting forth that case, no member should denigrate another member of the League, and to do so would constitute conduct unbecoming.

Rules affected
- 4.9 Canvassing Not Permitted

Delete Rule 4.9 and replace with:

4.9

a) There must be no canvassing for:
   
i) Any elected position in a Sub-Branch, a Region, the Women's Council or a Women's Auxiliary save and except that candidates for the aforementioned positions may provide, for publication and distribution to those members entitled to vote, a resume or statement on such conditions as the State Executive from time to time determines; or
   
ii) any matter before, or to be put before, the State Executive, a Sub-Branch, Region, the Women's Council or a Women's Auxiliary

b) Campaigning for an elected position on the State Executive or as a Branch Officer is permitted.

c) Subject to Rule 4.9(b), in undertaking a campaign for election, no member shall denigrate another member of the League, the act of which would constitute conduct unbecoming.

Rationale -

The non-canvassing rule may be appropriate in small organisations where members all know each other and there is a desire to minimise individual members unduly influencing other members in how to vote. In a large, geographically dispersed, and complicated organisation like the RSL this risk is not relevant. By not permitting candidates to put forth their case it unduly reinforces the status quo and stifles debate. Members should clearly understand what a candidate stands for, what they hope to achieve, and they should be able to talk with them and question them on their ideas and motives. In the conduct of any campaign there must remain a standard of behaviour that is reflective of the values of the League. In this there must be a positive campaign undertaken and not one that seeks to denigrate or damage the reputation of other candidates. The candidate should put forward a case of why they should be elected, not why the other people should not.

Canvassing shall still be prohibited at a Sub-Branch and Region level where the rationale behind a non-canvassing rule is still relevant.
That the Rules of the Branch be amended so that the returning officer is not an employee of RSL Victoria or a Sub-Branch and that the State Executive may appoint any person or organisation to undertake the duties of a returning officer and carry out the function of running the election.

Rules affected
- 10.2 Nominations
- 10.3 Election

Amend Rules:

10.2(c)

FROM: The nomination must be lodged with the Chief Executive Officer no later than forty-nine days before the Annual Conference.

TO: The nomination must be lodged with the Returning Officer no later than forty-nine days before the Annual Conference.

10.3(a)

FROM: For the purposes of an election, the Chief Executive Officer is the Returning Officer.

TO: For the purposes of an election, the State Executive shall appoint an independent person or organisation to act as the Returning Officer and conduct the election process.

10.3 (d)

FROM: A ballot paper for each Branch Officer listing the nominees as drawn by the Chief Executive Officer (names drawn from a suitable container for the order of the ballot paper) and a copy of the nominee’s League record provided under Rule 10.2(d) must be posted to the Secretary of a Sub-Branch at least forty two days prior to the Annual Conference.

TO: A ballot paper for each Branch Officer listing the nominees as drawn by the Returning Officer (names drawn from a suitable container for the order of the ballot paper) and a copy of the nominee’s League record provided under Rule 10.2(d) must be posted to the Secretary of a Sub-Branch at least forty two days prior to the Annual Conference.

[Note Remit 6 deals with a subsequent amendment to Rule 10.3(d)]

Subsequent amendments to Bylaws 10A, B and C to reflect these changes.

Rationale -

The Chief Executive officer is an employee of the State Branch appointed by the State Executive. There is the potential for the perception of bias and better governance practice would be to appoint a completely independent third party to conduct the election process from beginning to end.
REMIT 5-13 | STATE PRESIDENT

That the Rules of the Branch be amended so that so that all Service and Life members of RSL Victoria individually cast a vote without a need for the Sub-Branch to hold a General Meeting.

Rules affected

• 10.3 Election

Amend Rules:

10.3(d)

FROM: A ballot paper for each Branch Officer listing the nominees as drawn by the Chief Executive Officer (names drawn from a suitable container for the order of the ballot paper) and a copy of the nominee’s League record provided under Rule 10.2(d) must be posted to the Secretary of a Sub-Branch at least forty two days prior to the Annual Conference.

TO: A Ballot Paper for each Branch Officer listing the nominees as drawn by the Returning Officer (names drawn from a suitable container for the order of the ballot paper) and a copy of the nominee’s League record provided under Rule 10.2(d) must be provided to all Service and Life Members at least forty two days prior to the Annual Conference.

10.3(e)(2)

FROM: The Ballot Papers for State Branch elections are to be decided at the Sub-Branch General Meeting and voted upon by those members present at that Meeting. The Ballot Papers are to be completed at that Meeting in accordance with the Meetings wishes, and they are not to be considered in isolation by the Sub-Branch Committee on behalf of the Sub-Branch. (NB: This is a Sub-Branch matter, not a Sub-Branch Committee matter).

TO: The Ballot Papers for State Branch elections are to be completed by eligible Service or Life Members and returned to the Sub-Branch Secretary or Returning Officer as per instructions provided with the ballot papers.

i. Where ballot papers are returned to a Sub-Branch, the Sub-Branch Secretary shall tally the votes in the presence of two other Sub-Branch Officers and inform the Returning Officer and the Sub-Branch members of the result for the distribution of votes for the Sub-Branch Member at least forty-eight hours prior to the Annual Conference.

ii. Where provision is provided for the Returning Officer to tally and assign the votes for the Sub-Branch Member, the Returning Officer shall do so, and shall subsequently advise the Sub-Branch Committee of the result.

Delete Rule 10.3(h)
Subsequent amendments to Bylaws 10A, B and C and Bylaw 23 to reflect these changes.

**Rationale -**

The requirement for to be conducted at a General Meeting of a Sub-Branch creates an unnecessary burden on the Sub-Branch to manage. The process reduces to opportunity for Sub-Branch members to participate in the vote as they must be present at the General Meeting. The process is also open to undue influence by the Sub-Branch. The other rules changes proposed to allow limited canvassing will assist members to be able to make an independent judgement on who they wish their vote to go for.

The Returning Officer is free to choose the manner in which the votes are distributed and collected provided it is valid and the risks associated with vote manipulation are managed. The rule should be drafted to allow freedom for the returning officer to choose to have ballots passed through Sub-Branches, or where the mechanism is made for this to occur direct to the returning officer without excessive cost, logistical burden or complication, then the Returning Officer can undertake this process.

The ballots returned by members of a Sub-Branch are then counted to determine how the vote of the ‘Sub-Branch Member’ is cast. Essentially the members vote and pending the majority view, the number of votes allocated to the ‘Sub-Branch Member’ are cast in accordance with the members wishes. This is not to dissimilar to the way that government elections are held where an ‘electoral college’ type process are used. This essentially means that every service member, other than members on the State Branch Unattached List, can cast a vote.
REMIT 6-13 | STATE PRESIDENT

That the Rules of the Branch be amended so that the position of State Honorary Treasurer is removed.

Rules affected
- 7.4 Composition of the State Executive
- 9.1 Branch Officers
- 9.3 Casual Vacancy
- 9.4 Eligibility to be a Branch Officer
- 9.6 State Honorary Treasurer
- 9.9 Auditor
- 10.3 Election
- 11.1 Submission of the Reports and Statements
- 11.2 Interim Reports
- 11.6 Branch Expenditure and liability

Delete rules:
- Definition of ‘State Honorary Treasurer’
- 9.1(a)(4)
- 9.4(b)
- 9.6
- 10.3(i)(4)

Amend rules to remove reference to the position of State Honorary Treasurer:
- (Definitions of ‘Branch Officer’)
- 7.4(a)(1)
- 9.3(a)(3) – delete and replace with:
  - “a vacancy arising in the office of State Vice President may be filled as provided for in Rule 9.1(d).”
- 11.6(a)
- 11.6(d)

Amend rules to replace reference to ‘State Honorary Treasurer’ with ‘Chief Financial Officer’
- 9.9(h)
- 11.1(a)(3)
- 11.2
Rationale -

All members of the State Executive should have the requisite financial literacy to fulfil their duties as a Director of the League. The State Branch has on the staff, and as a non-voting member of the State Executive, a Chief Financial Officer who has the depth of expertise to advise on financial matters. The State Executive Finance Sub-Committee also provides the mechanism to appoint members with additional financial expertise to advise the State Executive.
**REMIT 7-13 | STATE PRESIDENT**

That the Rules of the Branch be amended to allow the Committee of an incorporated Sub-Branch to appoint its Secretary.

**Rules affected**
- Rule 13.6(f) and consequential amendments.

**Create new sub-clause 13.6(f)**
(f) In the case of an incorporated Sub-Branch, the Sub-Branch Committee may resolve to appoint a Secretary on such terms and conditions as the Sub-Branch Committee from time to time determines, notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in these Rules.

1. A person so appointed must agree to be bound by the Rules of the Sub-Branch, the State Branch, and the National Constitution, before such appointment is confirmed.
2. A person appointed under Rule 13.6(f) shall not have the right to vote as a member of the Sub-Branch Committee, notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in these Rules.

**Consequential amendments:**
- Renumber existing paras (f) to (dd) as (g) to (ee), and renumber any references within the Rules to these existing paras.
- Amend existing references to “13.6(f)” in the following Rules to “13.6(f) or 13.6(g)”
  - Existing 13.6(e) (2)
  - Existing 13.6(l) (8)
  - Existing 13.6(r)
  - Existing 13.6(s)
  - Existing 13.6(aa)
  - Existing 14.7(c) (i)
- New sub-clause 13.6(b)(5)
  “a person appointed under Rule 13.6(f) or 13.6(g)”
- Amend existing sub-clause 13.7(f)(4) from:
  “Secretary Treasurer”
  to
  “Secretary [except if appointed by the Sub-Branch Committee under Rule 13.6(f) or 13.6(g)]
  Treasurer [except if appointed by the Sub-Branch Committee under Rule 13.6(g)]”
- Amend existing 13.7(a) from:
  “Positions on the Sub-Branch Committee become vacant at the Annual General Meeting of the Sub-Branch as provided for in Rule 13.7(a)(2).”
  to:
  “Positions on the Sub-Branch Committee become vacant at the Annual General Meeting of the Sub-Branch as provided for in Rule 13.7(a)(2), except for any person appointed by the Sub-Branch Committee under Rule 13.6(f) or 13.6(g) who shall be entitled to retain their position until the Sub-Branch Committee resolve otherwise.”
Rationale -
Under the current Rules the position of Secretary must be held by a Service Member, with only limited exceptions to this requirement permitted.

1. Under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 ("the Act") the Secretary is the Public Officer of the Sub-Branch.

2. Furthermore, the Secretary/Public Officer is likely to have specific and complicated obligations under a wide range of both State and Federal legislation.

3. If the job is not done to the requisite level of expertise it can result in serious consequences for both the individual incorporated Sub-Branch and the RSL State Branch.

4. These days, for many incorporated Sub-Branches, the role of Secretary and the duties associated with the position are more analogous with the role of a Company Secretary particularly in respect to the various legislative requirements.

This amendment allows the Sub-Branch Committee to appoint a Secretary of the Sub-Branch to act as its Secretary/Public Officer for the purposes of the Act.
REMIT 8-13 | STATE PRESIDENT

That the Rules of the Branch be amended so that a Sub-Branch may accept or reject a proposed transfer of a member to their Sub-Branch to make the State Branch rules consistent with RSL National by-law 2(11)(e).

That the Rules of the Branch be amended so a member may not transfer to another Sub-Branch more than once a year (being 365 days) without the approval of the Chief Executive Officer.

Rules affected
• 5.16 Transfer of a Member

Create new sub-clause to Rule 5.16:

(k) The committee of the gaining Sub-Branch or the State Branch may accept or reject the transfer of a member to their Sub-Branch.

(l) A member may not transfer between Sub-Branches more than once in a twelve month period without the written approval of the Chief Executive Officer.

Subsequent amendments to Bylaws 10A, B and C to reflect these changes.

Rationale -

The State Branch rules are also not consistent with RSL Australia by-Law 2 which provides that the Sub-Branch for which a person is transferring to may accept or reject the proposed transfer. The current rules are open to potential ‘branch stacking’ whereby members can transfer between Sub-Branches multiple times for no other purpose than to influence the internal operation of that Sub-Branch. This rule change provides for legitimate transfers between Sub-Branches but provides a control mechanism for potential branch stacking. It will also relieve the administration burden in regard to processing membership transfers.
REMIT 9-13 | DUNOLLY-BEALIBA RSL SUB-BRANCH

That the Rules of the Branch be amended to change the definition of Social Member to include 10C Sub-Branches.

Rules affected

- 1.1 Definitions

Amend 1.1 Definitions

From: "Social Member of a Sub-Branch" means a person admitted as a Social member of a Sub-Branch under Branch Bylaw 10A or 10B

To: "Social Member of a Sub-Branch" means a person admitted as a Social member of a Sub-Branch under Branch Bylaw 10A, 10B or 10C

AND

For subsequent amendments to be made to Branch Bylaw 10C to reflect this amendment.

Rationale -

Under current Branch By-Law 10C, only allow Traditional Sub-Branches to recruit Service and Affiliate, Life, Associate and Honorary Members. As a small country town, Traditionally Unincorporated Sub-Branch, we cannot offer Gaming and Liquor, but we feel we have just as much to offer our members as 10A-10B Sub-Branches. As with small country towns like ours [Dunolly/Bealiba] it has become extremely hard to recruit members to the League. Canvassing members of the local community and excluding them from joining the Sub-Branch as social as a member due to being unable to qualify as an Affiliate is discriminative.

By allowing Social Membership it is a very viable alternative to keeping our Sub-Branch active. Unlike Sub-Branch Volunteers, Social Members feel as though they are wanted and accepted as active member, which also gives them an RSL Card which they can use at the bigger RSL Branches when visiting out of town on trips and holidays.

Times have changed, we need to evolve these needs, therefore, we would appreciate your consideration in allowing Social Memberships into Traditional Sub-Branches as per Branch By-Law 10A and 10B.
That the Rules of the Branch be amended so that a Branch remunerated employee of the Branch with position of manager or above may not hold any position on a Sub-Branch Committee.

Rules affected
- 9.8 Branch Employees
- 13.6 Sub-Branch Committee

Amend Rule 9.8 Branch Employees
A Branch remunerated employee of the Branch with position of manager or above may not hold any position on a Sub-Branch Committee.

13.6 Sub-Branch Committee
Create new Sub-Clauses -
New 13.6(e)(2) - “a remunerated employee of the Branch with position of manager or above; or”
New 13.6(l)(8) - “become a remunerated employee of the Branch with position of manager or above”

Rationale -
Governance improvement and conflict of interest avoidance.
That the Rules of the Branch be amended so that sub clauses 7.5(a)(5) and 9.5 are deleted.

**Rules affected**
- 7.4 Composition of the State Executive
- 9.5 Immediate Past State President

**Delete sub clause 7.4 (a) (5)**
5) The immediate past State President (subject to Rule 9.5) – who shall not have a vote.

**Delete entire clause 9.5**
9.5 Immediate past State President
(a) The immediate past State President is entitled to be a member of the State Executive for the period of 12 months after having been replaced as State President, save and except upon the earlier retirement of their successor.
(b) Rule 9.5(a) does not apply if:
(c) the immediate past State President ceases to be a Member; or
(d) the Annual Conference or an Extraordinary Conference resolves otherwise.

**Rationale -**

**Rationale for Rule 7.4(a)(5) Composition of the State Executive**
Only office bearers and no employee is a member of the State Executive.
To ensure the primacy of the Membership in the affairs of the League, no employee or unelected person should serve on or ordinarily be privy to the deliberations of the State Executive.
Employees or other persons not Members of the State Executive may report to the Executive on certain matters as required but should take no part in deliberations upon same.

**Rationale for Rule 9.5 Immediate Past State President**
Bad Governance.
That the Rules of the Branch be amended so that sub clause 7.4(a)(4) is deleted and sub-clauses 7.4(e)(8) and 9.7(e) are amended.

Rules affected

- 7.4 Composition of the State Executive
- 9.7 Chief Executive Officer of the Branch

Delete sub clause 7.4(a)(4)
(4) The Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer – who shall not have a vote;

Amend sub clause 7.4(e)(8)
From: (8) become an employee of the Branch, except as provided for under Rule 9.7;
and

To: (8) become an employee of the Branch, and

Delete sub clause Rule 9.7(e)
(e) The Chief Executive Officer is appointed a member of the State Executive but shall not have a power to vote.

Rationale -

Only office bearers and no employee is a member of the state executive.

To ensure the primacy of the Membership in the affairs of the League, no employee or unelected person should serve on or ordinarily be privy to the deliberations of the State Executive.

Employees or other persons not Members of the State Executive may report to the Executive on certain matters as required but should take no part in deliberations upon same.
That the Rules of the Branch be amended so that Rule 9.12 is amended to remove the words ‘or the Chief Executive Officer’.

Rules affected
- 9.12 State President and Chief Executive Officer right of address

Amend Rule 9.12:
From: If an elected Branch Officer or the Chief Executive Officer is present at a meeting of a Sub-Branch or a Regional Forum, they are entitled to address the meeting.

To: If an elected Branch Officer is present at a meeting of a Sub-Branch or a Regional Forum, they are entitled to address the meeting.

Rationale -
Only elected officials should be entitled to speak. Note this does not stop the Chair from inviting the CEO to speak