

Tuesday, 2 April 2024

Dear Members,

Proposed Change to the Constitution

At the upcoming Annual General Meeting of Regional Arts Victoria, the members will be asked to vote on a proposed change to eligibility for membership of RAV.

Reasons for the Change to the Constitution

In recent months the Board of RAV has been considering changes in regionally based creative organisations such as open studios networks, music ensembles, artist run initiatives and collectives.

Currently, these organisations are ineligible for RAV membership because they are not “not-for-profit or charitable organisations”. However, they are important to the regional arts sector and contribute enormously to our communities.

Current Eligibility

Currently RAV’s constitution admits members are follows:

14 Application for ordinary membership

14.1 Any individual who:

- (1) is not less than 18 years of age at the date of application; and*
- (2) ordinarily resides in the State of Victoria, may apply for ordinary membership of the Company.*

14.2 Any body corporate which:

- (1) either:*
 - (a) is incorporated in the State of Victoria, Australia; or*
 - (b) has its principal place of business in the State of Victoria, Australia; and*
- (2) has the promotion of regional arts or cultural pursuits as a primary or principal focus;*
- (3) is a not-for-profit or charitable organisation*
may apply for ordinary membership of the Company.

Proposed Change

We think it is important that RAV responds to the changing nature of creative organisations in regional Victoria and having sought legal advice, we propose that 14.2(3) is struck from the constitution.

The Motion at the AGM will be as follows:

That Clause 14.2(3) is removed from the constitution. That the Members of Regional Arts Victoria adopt the amended Constitution.

The Board of RAV will maintain its discretionary powers to accept or decline membership applications, ensuring our focus is on smaller organisations whose purposes and

activities are consistent with the interests of other members and Regional Arts Victoria.

There is no change to the nature of individual members.

Please contact our CEO Jo Porter at jporter@rav.net.au if you have any questions about this proposed change to the Constitution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sue Hunt', written in a cursive style.

Sue Hunt AM
Chair, Regional Arts Victoria