

Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association

Constitution

1 Introductory rules

1.1 Name

The name of the society is Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association Inc (in this **Constitution** referred to as the '**Society**').

1.2 Definitions

In this **Constitution**, unless the context requires otherwise, the following words and phrases have the following meanings:

'Act' means the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 or any Act which replaces it (including amendments to it from time to time), and any regulations made under the Act or under any Act which replaces it.

'Annual General Meeting' means a meeting of the **Members** of the **Society** held once per year which, among other things, will receive and consider reports on the **Society**'s activities and finances.

'Council' means the **Society**'s governing body.

'Councillor' means an elected natural person who is a member of the **Council**, including the **President**

'Constitution' means the rules in this document.

'Deputy President' means the **Councillor** appointed by the **Council** to deputise in the absence of the **President**.

'General Meeting' means either an **Annual General Meeting** or a **Special General Meeting** of the **Members** of the **Society**.

'Interested Member' means a **Member** who is interested in a matter for any of the reasons set out in section 62 of the **Act**.

'Interests Register' means the register of interests of **Officers**, kept under this **Constitution** and as required by section 73 of the **Act**.

'Matter' means—

1. the **Society**'s performance of its activities or exercise of its powers; or
2. an arrangement, agreement, or contract (a transaction) made or entered into, or proposed to be entered into, by the **Society**.

'Member' means a Society that has consented to become a **Member** of the **Society** and has been properly admitted to the **Society**, and who has not ceased to be a **Member** of the **Society**.

'Notice' to **Members** includes any notice given by email, post, or courier or other digital means, including social media platforms.

'Officer' means a natural person who is occupying a position in the **Society** that allows them to exercise significant influence over the management or administration of the **Society**.

'President' means the **Councillor** responsible for chairing **General Meetings** and committee meetings, and who provides leadership for the **Society**.

'Register of Members' means the register of **Members** kept under this **Constitution** as required by section 79 of the **Act**.

'Secretary' means the **Officer** responsible for the matters specifically noted in this **Constitution**.

'Special General Meeting' means a meeting of the **Members**, other than an **Annual General Meeting**, called for a specific purpose or purposes.

1.3 1.3 Purposes

The primary purposes of the **Society** are to

1. coordinate and promote the interests of all member clubs which pursue recreational activities in and around the Tongariro National Park (hereinafter referred to as the "Park") with regard to the preservation, use and enjoyment of the Park by all Members and their members whilst observing and protecting the rights and privileges of Members individually pertaining to their activities within the Park.
2. in particular, but not by way of limitation, monitor, advise Members and co-ordinate responses to matters arising pursuant to any statute by-law or under any powers of any national local or other duly constituted authority and where appropriate to act on behalf of Members in this regard.
3. encourage interest and participation in all forms of alpine sports and related recreational activities and in membership of clubs formed to promote such activities.
 - to promote and advance the development of individual skills and safety in the recreational use of the Park.
 - to encourage preservation, use and enjoyment of the Park and surrounding areas by all persons.
 - to promote interest in and protection of the flora, fauna and natural scenery and history of the Park and surrounding areas by all persons.

1.4 1.4 Act and Regulations

Nothing in this **Constitution** authorises the **Society** to do anything which contravenes or is inconsistent with the **Act**, any regulations made under the **Act**, or any other legislation.

1.5 1.5 Restrictions on society powers

The **Society** must not operate for the purpose of, or with the effect of:

- distributing, any gain, profit, surplus, dividend, or other similar financial benefit to any of its **Members** (whether in money or in kind).

The **Society** will not operate for the financial gain of Members simply if it

- pays a **Member** for matters that are incidental to the purposes of the **Society**, and the Member is a not-for-profit entity,
- reimburses a **Member** for reasonable expenses legitimately incurred on behalf of the **Society** or while pursuing the **Society's** purposes

No member of the organisation or any person associated with a Member, shall participate in or materially influence any decision made by the organisation, in respect of the payment to or on behalf of that member or associated person of any income, benefit, or advantage whatsoever. Any such income shall be reasonable and relative to that which would be paid in an arm's length transaction (being open market value).

1.6 1.6 Contact person

The **Society** shall have at least 1 but no more than 3 contact person(s) whom the Registrar of Incorporated Societies can contact when needed.

The **Society's** contact person must be:

- at least 18 years of age, and
- ordinarily resident in New Zealand.

A contact person can be appointed by the **Council** or elected by the **Members** at a **General Meeting**.

Each contact person's name must be provided to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies, along with their contact details, including:

- a physical address or an electronic address, and
- a telephone number.

Any change in that contact person or that person's name or contact details shall be advised to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies within 20 **Working Days** of that change occurring, or the **Society** becoming aware of the change.

2 Members

2.1 Minimum number of members

The **Society** shall maintain the minimum number of **Members** required by the **Act**.

2.2 Becoming a member: consent

Every applicant for membership must consent in writing to becoming a **Member** by a duly authorised officer of that Society.

2.3 Becoming a member: process

An applicant for membership must complete and sign any application form, supply any information, or attend an interview as may be reasonably required by the **Council** regarding an application for membership and will become a **Member** on acceptance of that application by the **Council**.

The **Council** may accept or decline an application for membership at its sole discretion. The **Council** must advise the applicant of its decision.

The signed written consent of every **Member** to become a **Society Member** shall be retained in the **Society's** membership records.

2.4 Members' obligations and rights

Every **Member** shall provide the **Society** in writing with that **Member's** registered name and their Society's contact details (namely, physical or email address and a telephone number) and promptly advise the **Society** in writing of any changes to those details.

- a. all **Members** shall provide the **Council**, in writing, with the name and contact details of the person who is the organisation's authorised representative, and that person shall be deemed to be the organisation's authorised representative for the purposes of attending, or nominating a delegate or proxy, for voting at **General Meetings**
- b. a **Member** is only entitled to exercise the rights of membership (including attending and voting at **General Meetings**, accessing or using the **Society's** premises, facilities, equipment and other property, and participating in **Society** activities) if all subscriptions and any other fees have been paid to the **Society** by their respective due dates, but no **Member** is liable for an obligation of the **Society** by reason only of being a **Member**
- c. the **Council** may decide what access or use **Members** may have of or to any premises, facilities, equipment or other property owned, occupied or otherwise used by the **Society**, and to participate in **Society** activities, including any conditions of and fees for such access, use or involvement.

2.5 Subscriptions and fees

The annual subscription and any other fees for membership for the then current financial year shall be set by resolution of a **General Meeting** (which can also decide that payment be made by periodic instalments).

Any **Member** failing to pay the annual subscription (including any periodic payment), any levy, or any capitation fees, within 3 months of the date the same was due for payment shall be considered as in arrears. If such arrears are not paid within 1 year and 3 months of the due date for payment of the subscription, any other fees, or levy the **Council** may terminate the **Member's** membership (without being required to give prior notice to that **Member**).

2.6 Ceasing to be a member

A **Member** ceases to be a **Member**:

- a. by resignation by written notice signed by that **Member** to the **Council**, or
- b. on termination of a **Member's** membership following a dispute resolution process under this **Constitution**, or
- c. on liquidation or deregistration, or
- d. by resolution of the **Council**, where—
 - e. the **Member** has failed to pay a subscription, levy or other amount due to the **Society** within 1 year and 3 months of the due date for payment, or
 - f. in the opinion of the **Council** the **Member** has brought the **Society** into disrepute, or
 - g. in the opinion of the **Council** the Member has breached any bylaws promulgated by the **Council** from time to time, or
 - h. with effect from (as applicable)
 - I. the date of receipt of the **Member**'s notice of resignation by the **Council** (or any subsequent date stated in the notice of resignation), or the date of termination of the **Member**'s membership under this **Constitution**
 - II. , or the date of the Members liquidation or deregistration, or
 - III. the date specified in a resolution of the **Council**, and when a **Member**'s membership has been terminated, the **Council** shall promptly notify the former **Member** in writing

2.7 Becoming a member again

Any former **Member** may apply for re-admission in the manner prescribed for new Members and may be re-admitted only by resolution of the **Council**.

If a former **Member**'s membership was terminated following a disciplinary or dispute resolution process, the applicant may be re-admitted only by a resolution passed at a **General Meeting** on the recommendation of the **Council**.

3 General meetings

3.1 Procedures for all general meetings

The **Council** shall give all **Members** at least **4 weeks** written **Notice** of any **General Meeting** and of the business to be conducted at that **General Meeting**.

That **Notice** will be addressed to the **Member** at the contact address notified to the **Society** and recorded in the **Society's** register of members. The **General Meeting** and its business will not be invalidated simply because one or more **Members** do not receive the **Notice** of the **General Meeting**.

Any financial members of a **Member** may attend and speak at **General Meetings**.

Each **Member** may have only one voting representative at the meeting. This may be:

- a. the **Member's** authorised representative, as recorded by the **Society**, in person, or
- b. by a written proxy signed or digitally signed (an email or copy not being acceptable) by the registered authorised representative of the **Member** in

favour of some individual otherwise entitled to be present at the meeting and received by, or handed to, the **Secretary** before the commencement of the **General Meeting**, or

- c. by appointment of a **Delegate** in writing signed or digitally signed (an email or copy being acceptable) by the registered authorised representative of the **Member** and passed to the **Secretary** before the commencement of the **General Meeting**, and
- d. no other proxy voting shall be permitted.

No **General Meeting** may be held unless at least 10 eligible representatives, delegates or authorized proxies attend throughout the meeting, and this will constitute a quorum.

- If, within half an hour after the time appointed for a meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting – if convened upon request of **Members** – shall be dissolved.
- In any other case it shall stand adjourned to a day, time and place determined by the **President** of the **Society**, and if at such adjourned meeting a quorum is not present those **Members** present in person or by proxy shall be deemed to constitute a sufficient quorum.

A **Member** is entitled to exercise one vote on any motion at a **General Meeting** in person or by proxy, and voting at a **General Meeting** shall be by show of hands unless a poll is demanded by not less than three persons present and entitled to vote

All **General Meetings** shall be chaired by the **President**. If the **President** is absent, the meeting shall be chaired by the Vice President. If the Vice President is absent the meeting shall elect another member of the **Council** to chair that meeting.

A declaration by the Chairperson that a resolution has been carried or earned by a particular majority or lost shall be conclusive, PROVIDED THAT such a declaration by the Chairperson shall not prevent the subsequent but immediate demand for a poll in the manner set out in this Clause.

Unless otherwise required by this **Constitution**, all questions shall be decided by a simple majority of those in attendance in person or by proxy and voting at a **General Meeting** or voting by remote ballot.

Any decisions made when a quorum is not present are not valid.

The **Society** may pass a written resolution in lieu of a **General Meeting**, and a written resolution is as valid for the purposes of the **Act** and this **Constitution** as if it had been passed at a **General Meeting** if

- a. it is approved by no less than 75 percent of the **Members** who are entitled to vote on the resolution.
- b. a written resolution may consist of 1 or more documents in similar form (including letters, electronic mail, or other similar means of communication) each proposed by or on behalf of 1 or more **Members**.

- c. a **Member** may give their approval to a written resolution by signing the resolution or giving approval to the resolution in any other manner permitted by the **Constitution** (for example, by electronic means).
- d. **General Meetings** may be held at one or more venues by **Members** present in person and/or using any real-time audio, audio and visual, or electronic communication that gives each **Member** a reasonable opportunity to participate.
- e. any person chairing a **General Meeting** may:
 - i. With the consent of a simple majority of **Members** present at any **General Meeting** adjourn the **General Meeting** from time to time and from place to place but no business shall be transacted at any adjourned **General Meeting** other than the business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place.
 - ii. direct that any person be removed from the **General Meeting** who is
 - not entitled to be present at the **General Meeting**, or
 - is obstructing the business of the **General Meeting**, or behaving in a disorderly manner, or being abusive, or failing to abide by the directions of the chairperson
 - iii. in the absence of a quorum or in the case of emergency, adjourn the **General Meeting** or declare it closed.
- f. the **Council** may propose motions for the **Society** to vote on (“**Council Motions**”), which shall be notified to **Members** with the notice of the **General Meeting**.
- g. Any **Member** may request that a motion be voted on (“**Member’s Motion**”) at a **General Meeting**, by giving notice to the **Secretary or Council** at least 5 weeks before that meeting. The **Member** may also provide information in support of the motion (“**Member’s Information**”). If notice of the motion is given to the **Secretary or Committee** before written **Notice of the General Meeting** is given to **Members**, notice of the motion shall be provided to **Members** with the written **Notice of the General Meeting**.

3.2 Minutes

The **Society** must keep minutes of all **General Meetings**.

3.3 Annual General Meetings: when they will be held

An **Annual General Meeting** shall be held once a year at a venue in the Ruapehu District, preferably at Mt Ruapehu, or using any electronic communication determined by the **Council** and consistent with any requirements in the **Act**, and the **Constitution** relating to the procedure to be followed at **General Meetings** shall apply.

The **Annual General Meeting** must be held no later than the earlier of the following

- a. 6 months after the balance date of the **Society**, or
- b. 15 months after the previous annual meeting.

3.4 Annual General Meetings: business

The business of an **Annual General Meeting** shall be to

- a. confirm the minutes of the last **Annual General Meeting** and any **Special General Meeting(s)** held since the last **Annual General Meeting**,
- b. adopt the annual report on the operations and affairs of the **Society**,
- c. adopt the **Council's** report on the finances of the **Society**, and the annual financial statements,
- d. set any subscriptions for the current financial year,
- e. consider any motions of which prior notice has been given to **Members** with notice of the **Meeting**, and
- f. consider any general business.

g. The **Council** must, at each **Annual General Meeting**, present the following information—

- a. an annual report on the operation and affairs of the **Society** during the most recently completed accounting period,
- b. the annual financial statements for that period, and
- c. notice of any disclosures of conflicts of interest made by **Officers** during that period (including a summary of the matters, or types of matters, to which those disclosures relate).

3.5 Special General Meetings

Special General Meetings may be called at any time by the **Council** by resolution.

The **Council** must call a **Special General Meeting** if it receives a written request signed by at least 6 **Members**.

Any resolution or written request must state the business that the **Special General Meeting** is to deal with.

The rules in this **Constitution** relating to the procedure to be followed at **General Meetings** shall apply to a **Special General Meeting**, and a **Special General Meeting** shall only consider and deal with the business specified in the **Council's** resolution or the written request by **Members** for the **Meeting**.

4 Council

4.1 Council composition

The **Council** will consist of an elected **President**, 6 elected **Councillors** and up to two additional **Officers**

- The **President** and **Councillors** on the **Council** must be representatives of a Member that is a **Member** of the **Society**.
- The **Council** shall appoint a **Treasurer** and a **Secretary** either
 - a) from among its number, or

- b) by appointing non-elected natural person(s) to the position(s).

4.2 Functions of the Council

From the end of each **Annual General Meeting** until the end of the next, the **Society** shall be managed by, or under the direction or supervision of, the **Council**, in accordance with the Incorporated Societies Act 2022, any Regulations made under that **Act**, and this **Constitution**

4.3 Powers of the Council

The **Council** has all the powers necessary for managing and for directing and supervising the management of the operation and affairs of the **Society**, subject to such modifications, exceptions, or limitations as are contained in the **Act** or in this **Constitution**.

4.4 Sub-committees

The **Council** may appoint sub-committees consisting of such persons (whether or not they are from **Members** of the **Society**) and for such purposes as it thinks fit. Unless otherwise resolved by the **Council**.

- a. the quorum of every sub-committee is half the members of the sub-committee but not less than 2,
- b. no sub-committee shall have power to co-opt additional members,
- c. a sub-committee must not commit the **Society** to any financial expenditure without express authority from the **Council**,
- d. a sub-committee must not further delegate any of its powers, and.
- e. any actions or decisions of the sub-Committee must be reviewed and endorsed by the **Council**.

4.5 General matters: committees

The **Council**. and any sub-committee may act by resolution approved during a conference call using audio and/or audio-visual technology or through a written ballot conducted by email, electronic voting system, or post, and any such resolution shall be recorded in the minutes of the next **Council**. or sub-committee meeting.

Other than as prescribed by the **Act** or this **Constitution**, the **Council**. or any sub-committee may regulate its proceedings as it thinks fit.

5 Council meetings

5.1 Procedure

The quorum for **Council** meetings is at least 4 members of the **Council**.

A meeting of the **Council** may be held either—

1. by a number of the members of the **Council** who constitute a quorum, being assembled together at the place, date and time appointed for the meeting; or

2. by means of audio, or audio and visual, communication by which all members of the **Council** participating and constituting a quorum can simultaneously hear each other throughout the meeting.

A resolution of the **Council** is passed at any meeting of the **Council** if a majority of the votes cast on it are in favour of the resolution. Every **Councillor** and **Officer** on the **Council** shall have one vote.

If at a meeting of the **Council**, the **President** is not present,

- the **Vice President** shall act as the Chairperson.
- if the **Vice President** is also absent, the members of the **Council** present may choose one of their number to be chairperson of the meeting.
- the chairperson does have a casting vote in the event of a tied vote on any resolution of the **Council**.

Except as otherwise provided in this **Constitution**, the **Council** may regulate its own procedure.

5.2 Frequency

The **Council** shall meet as required at such times and places and in such manner (including by audio, audio and visual, or electronic communication) as it may determine and otherwise where and as convened by the **President** or **Secretary**.

The **Secretary**, or other **Council** members nominated by the **Council**, shall give to all **Council** members not less than 2 weeks' notice of **Council** meetings, but in cases of urgency a shorter period of notice shall suffice.

6 Councillors and Officers

6.1 Qualifications of Councillors and Officers

Every **Councillor** and **Officer** must be a natural person who:

1. has consented in writing to be a **Councillor** or **Officer** of the **Society**, and
2. certifies that they are not disqualified from being elected or appointed or otherwise holding office as a **Councillor** or **Officer** of the **Society**.

In addition, the **President** must have previously served as an elected **Councillor** of the **Society** for at least one 2-year Term

Every **Councillor** must be a current financial member of a **Member**.

The following persons are disqualified from being elected as a **Councillor** or appointed or otherwise holding office as an **Officer** of the **Society**:

1. a person who is under 16 years of age
2. a person who is an undischarged bankrupt

3. a person who is prohibited from being a director or promoter of, or being concerned or taking part in the management of, an incorporated or unincorporated body under the Companies Act 1993, the Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013, or the Takeovers Act 1993, or any other similar legislation
4. a person who is disqualified from being a member of the governing body of a charitable entity under the Charities Act 2005
5. a person who has been convicted of any of the following, and has been sentenced for the offence, within the last 7 years—
 - a. an offence under subpart 6 of Part 4 of the **Act**
 - b. a crime involving dishonesty (within the meaning of section 2(1) of the Crimes Act 1961)
 - c. an offence under section 143B of the Tax Administration Act 1994
 - d. an offence, in a country other than New Zealand, that is substantially similar to an offence specified in subparagraphs (1) to (3)
 - e. a money laundering offence or an offence relating to the financing of terrorism, whether in New Zealand or elsewhere
6. a person subject to:
 - a. a banning order under subpart 7 of Part 4 of the **Act**, or
 - b. an order under section 108 of the Credit Contracts and Consumer Finance Act 2003, or
 - c. a forfeiture order under the Criminal Proceeds (Recovery) Act 2009, or
 - d. a property order made under the Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act 1988, or whose property is managed by a trustee corporation under section 32 of that Act.
7. a person who is subject to an order that is substantially similar to an order referred to in paragraph (6) under a law of a country, State, or territory outside New Zealand that is a country, State, or territory prescribed by the regulations (if any) of the **Act**.

Prior to election or appointment as a **Councillor or Officer** a person must:

1. consent in writing to be a **Councillor or Officer**, and
2. certify in writing that they are not disqualified from being elected or appointed as a **Councillor or Officer** either by this **Constitution** or the **Act**.

Note that only a natural person may be a **Councillor or Officer**, and each certificate shall be retained in the **Society's** records.

6.2 Councillor and Officers' duties

At all times each **Councillor or Officer**:

1. shall act in good faith and in what he or she believes to be the best interests of the **Society**,
2. must exercise all powers for a proper purpose,
3. must not act, or agree to the **Society** acting, in a manner that contravenes the **Act** or this **Constitution**,

4. when exercising powers or performing duties as a **Councillor or Officer**, must exercise the care and diligence that a reasonable person with the same responsibilities would exercise in the same circumstances taking into account, but without limitation:
 - a. the nature of the **Society**,
 - b. the nature of the decision, and
 - c. the position of the **Councillor or Officer** and the nature of the responsibilities undertaken by him or her
5. must not agree to the activities of the **Society** being carried on in a manner likely to create a substantial risk of serious loss to the **Society** or to the **Society's** creditors, or cause or allow the activities of the **Society** to be carried on in a manner likely to create a substantial risk of serious loss to the **Society** or to the **Society's** creditors, and
6. must not agree to the **Society** incurring an obligation unless he or she believes at that time on reasonable grounds that the **Society** will be able to perform the obligation when it is required to do so.

6.3 Election of Councillors and appointment of Officers

The election of **Councillors** shall be conducted as follows.

- a. the **President** and six elected **Councillors** shall be elected in every second year in the following manner. Hereafter references to dates and years shall be read and construed as referring only to the years in which elections are to be held.
- b. no later than the first day of June the **Secretary** shall mail Notice to all Members calling for nominations for election to the **Council**
- c. all nominations shall be in the hands of the **Secretary** no later than the fifteenth (15th) day of July. There shall be no limitations to the number of nominations that a Member may make.
- d. no later than the fifteenth (15th) day of August the Secretary shall mail to Members notice of nominations received and if more nominations have been received than positions available a ballot paper supported by Information contained in candidates' nominations. Completed ballot papers are to be delivered to the **Secretary** no later than the thirtieth (30th) September.
- e. each Member shall be entitled to one vote for the **President** and shall vote for not more than six **Councillors**

At least **2 weeks** before the date of the **Annual General Meeting**, the **Society** shall give **Notice** to all **Members** by posting or emailing to them such information (not exceeding one side of an A4 sheet of paper) as may be supplied to the **Society** by or on behalf of each nominee, in support of the nomination

Only nominees who are not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as an **Officer** (as described in the 'Qualification of Officers' rule above) may stand for election and vote in elections.

If there are insufficient valid nominations received under this rule, but not otherwise, **Council** may reopen nominations.

If there are still insufficient valid nominations received under this rule, but not otherwise, those nominated will be deemed elected and no later than the fifteenth (15th) day of August, the Secretary shall give notice of intention to call for further nominations at that year's **Annual General Meeting**.

Votes shall be cast in such a manner as the **Chairperson** of the **Annual General Meeting** shall determine.

- a. two **Members** (who are not nominees) or non-**Members** appointed by the **Chairperson** of the **Annual General Meeting** shall act as scrutineers for the counting of the votes and destruction of any voting papers.
- b. the failure for any reason of any financial **Member** to receive such **Notice** shall not invalidate the election.
- c. the nominees receiving the highest number of valid votes cast shall be declared duly elected to hold office for a period of approximately two years from the end of the **Annual General Meeting** following their election. In the event of equality of votes received by two or more candidates the successful candidate shall be decided by the drawing of lots
- d. In the event of any vote being tied, the tie shall be resolved by the incoming **Council** (excluding those in respect of whom the votes are tied).

In addition to **Councillors** elected under the foregoing provisions of this rule, the **Council** may appoint other **Officers** for a specific purpose, or for a limited period, or to fill a vacancy, or generally until the next **Annual General Meeting**.

- unless otherwise specified by the **Council**, any person so appointed shall have full speaking and voting rights as an **Officer** of the **Society**
- any such appointee must, before appointment, supply a signed consent to appointment and a certificate that the nominee is not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as an **Officer** (as described in the 'Qualification of Officers' rule above)

6.4 Term

The term of office for all **Councillors** elected to the **Council** shall be 2 year(s), expiring at the end of the **Annual General Meeting** in the year corresponding with the last year of each **Councillor's** term of office.

- no **President** shall serve for more than 6 consecutive years as **President**.
- on taking office the **Council** shall select at their sole discretion from amongst the elected **Councillors** a **Vice-President** who shall also hold office for two years.

6.5 Removal of Councillors or officers

A **Councillor** or **Officer** shall be removed by resolution of the **Council** or the **Society**, where in the opinion of the **Council** or the **Society** —

- a. The **Councillor** or **Officer** has brought the **Society** into disrepute.
- b. The **Councillor** or **Officer** has failed to disclose a conflict of interest of sufficient seriousness
- c. The **Council** passes a vote of no confidence in the **Councillor** or **Officer**.
- d. The officer ceases to be a financial member of a member
- e. with effect from (as applicable) the date specified in a resolution of the **Council** or **Society**.

6.6 Ceasing to hold office

A **President**, **Councillor** or **Officer** ceases to hold office when they resign (by notice in writing to the **Council**, are removed, die, or otherwise vacate office in accordance with section 50(1) of the **Act**.

Each **President**, **Councillor** or **Officer** shall within 8 weeks of submitting a resignation or ceasing to hold office, deliver to the **Council** all books, papers and other property of the **Society** held by such former **President**, **Councillor** or **Officer**.

The Council may request, at any time during the year, nominations from **Members** to fulfil any vacant position.

In the event the **President's** position falls vacant the **Council** may appoint a **Councillor** to fulfil the duties of the **President** until the next **Annual General Meeting**

6.7 Conflicts of interest

A member of the **Council** or member of a sub-committee who is an **Interested Member** in respect of any Matter being considered by the **Society**, must disclose details of the nature and extent of the interest (including any monetary value of the interest if it can be quantified)

- a. to the **Council** and or sub-committee, and
- b. in an **Interests Register** kept by the **Council**

Disclosure must be made as soon as practicable after the **Council member** or member of a sub-committee becomes aware that they are interested in the Matter.

A **Council** member or member of a sub-committee who is an **Interested Member** regarding a Matter

- a. must not vote or take part in the decision of the **Council** and/or sub-committee relating to the Matter unless all members of the **Council** who are not interested in the Matter consent; and
- b. must not sign any document relating to the entry into a transaction or the initiation of the Matter unless all members of the **Council** who are not interested in the Matter consent; but

- c. may take part in any discussion of the **Council** and/or sub-committee relating to the Matter and be present at the time of the decision of the **Council** and/or sub-committee (unless the **Council** and/or sub-committee decides otherwise).

However, a **Councillor** or member of a sub-committee who is prevented from voting on a Matter may still be counted for the purpose of determining whether there is a quorum at any meeting at which the Matter is considered.

Where 50 per cent or more of **Council** members are prevented from voting on a Matter because they are interested in that Matter, a **Special General Meeting** must be called to consider and determine the Matter, unless all non-interested **Officers** agree otherwise.

Where 50 per cent or more of the members of a sub-committee are prevented from voting on a Matter because they are interested in that Matter, the **Council** shall consider and determine the Matter.

7 Records

7.1 Register of Members

The **Council** shall keep an up-to-date register of **Members**.

For each current **Member**, the information contained in the Register of Members shall include —

1. their registered name, and
2. the date on which they became a **Member** (if there is no record of the date they joined, this date will be recorded as 'Unknown'), and
3. the contact details or their authorised representative, including:
 - a. a physical address or an electronic address, and
 - b. a telephone number, and
 - c. a postal address and/or an email address

Every current **Member** shall promptly advise the **Council** of any change to the **Member's** contact details.

The **Society** shall also keep a record of the former **Members** of the **Council**. For each **Member** who ceased to be a **Member** within the previous 7 years, the **Council** will record:

1. the former **Member's** registered name, and
2. the date the former **Member** ceased to be a **Member**

7.2 Interests Register

The **Committee** shall at all times maintain an up-to-date register of the interests disclosed by **Councillor** or **Officers** and by members of any sub-committee.

7.3 Access to information for members

A **Member** may at any time make a written request to the **Council** for existing information held by the **Council**.

The request must specify the information sought in sufficient detail to enable the information to be identified.

The **Society** must, within a reasonable time after receiving a request:

- a. provide the information, or
- b. agree to provide the information within a specified period, or
- c. agree to provide the information within a specified period if the **Member** pays a reasonable charge to the **Council** (which must be specified and explained) to meet the cost of providing the information, or
- d. refuse to provide the information, specifying the reasons for the refusal.

Without limiting the reasons for which the **Council** may refuse to provide the information, the **Council** may refuse to provide the information if

- a. withholding the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons, or
- b. the disclosure of the information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial position of the **Council** or of any of its **Members**, or
- c. the disclosure of the information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the financial or commercial position of any other person, whether or not that person supplied the information to the **Council**, or
- d. the information is not relevant to the operation or affairs of the **Council**, or
- e. withholding the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege, or
- f. the disclosure of the information would, or would be likely to, breach an enactment, or
- g. the burden to the **Council** in responding to the request is substantially disproportionate to any benefit that the **Member** (or any other person) will or may receive from the disclosure of the information, or
- h. the request for the information is frivolous or vexatious, or
- i. the request seeks information about a dispute or complaint which is or has been the subject of the procedures for resolving such matters under this **Constitution** and the **Act**.

If the **Council** requires the **Member** to pay a charge for the information, the **Member** may withdraw the request, and must be treated as having done so unless, within 2 weeks after receiving notification of the charge, the **Member** informs the **Council**.

- Nothing in this rule limits Information Privacy Principle 6 of the Privacy Act 2020 relating to access to personal information.

8 Data Protection and Privacy Clause

All **Members** have the right to digital privacy within the **Council**, including the right to know how their data is used, to access any data held about them, and to request deletion or correction of such data.

The **Council** shall ensure that all personal data of **Members** is collected, stored, processed, and used in accordance with applicable data protection laws, and only for legitimate purposes related to the functioning of the **Council**.

9 Finances

9.1 Control and management

The funds and property of the **Council** shall be

1. controlled, invested and disposed of by the **Council** subject to this **Constitution**
2. devoted solely to the promotion of the purposes of the **Society**
3. banked within 1 week of receipt when received on account of the **Society**

The **Council** shall maintain bank accounts in the name of the **Society**

All accounts paid or for payment shall be submitted to the **Council** for approval of payment.

The **Council** must ensure that there are accounting records always kept that:

1. correctly record the transactions of the **Council**, and
2. allow the **Council** to produce financial statements that comply with the requirements of the **Act**, and
3. would enable the financial statements to be readily and properly audited (if required under any legislation or the **Council's Constitution**).

The **Council** must establish and maintain a satisfactory system of control of the **Society's** accounting records.

The accounting records must be kept for the current accounting period and for the last 7 completed accounting periods of the **Council**.

9.2 Budgeting and Financial Planning

The **Council** must establish and maintain a satisfactory system of budgeting.

9.3 Balance date

The **Society's** financial year shall commence on 1st of August of each year and end on 31st of July (the latter date being the **Society's** balance date).

10 Dispute resolution

10.1 Meanings of dispute and complaint

A dispute is a disagreement or conflict involving the **Council** and/or its **Members** in relation to specific allegations set out below.

1. the disagreement or conflict may be between any of the following parties:

- 2 or more **Members**
- 1 or more **Members** and the **Council**
- 1 or more **Members** and 1 or more **Officers**
- 2 or more **Officers**
- 1 or more **Officers** and the **Council**
- 1 or more **Members** or **Officers** and the **Council**.

The disagreement or conflict relates to any of the following allegations—

- **Member** or an **Officer** has engaged in misconduct
- **Member** or an **Officer** has breached, or is likely to breach, a duty under the **Council's Constitution** or bylaws or the **Act**
- the **Council** has breached, or is likely to breach, a duty under the **Council's Constitution** or bylaws or the **Act**
- **Member's** rights or interests as a **Member** have been damaged or **Member's** rights or interests generally have been damaged.

A **Member** or an **Officer** may make a complaint by giving to the **Council** (or a complaints subcommittee) a notice in writing that—

1. states that the **Member** or **Officer** is starting a procedure for resolving a dispute in accordance with the **Society's Constitution**; and
2. sets out the allegation(s) to which the dispute relates and whom the allegation or allegations is or are against; and
3. sets out any other information or allegations reasonably required by the **Council**.

The **Council** may make a complaint involving an allegation against a **Member** or an **Officer** by giving to the **Member** or **Officer** a notice in writing that—

- i. states that the **Council** is starting a procedure for resolving a dispute in accordance with the **Council's Constitution**; and
- ii. sets out the allegation to which the dispute relates.

The information setting out the allegations must be sufficiently detailed to ensure that a person against whom an allegation or allegations is made is fairly advised of the allegation or allegations concerning them, with sufficient details given to enable that person to prepare a response.

A complaint may be made in any other reasonable manner permitted by the **Council's Constitution**.

All **Members** (including the **Councillors**) are obliged to cooperate to resolve disputes efficiently, fairly, and with minimum disruption to the **Council's** activities.

The complainant raising a dispute, and the **Council**, must consider and discuss whether a dispute may best be resolved through informal discussions, mediation, arbitration, or a tikanga-based practice. Where mediation or arbitration is agreed on, the parties will sign a suitable mediation or arbitration agreement.

10.2 How a complaint is made

1. a **Member** or an **Officer** may make a complaint by giving to the **Council** (or a complaints subcommittee) a notice in writing that—
 - a. states that the **Member** or **Officer** is starting a procedure for resolving a dispute in accordance with the **Council's Constitution**; and
 - b. sets out the allegation or allegations to which the dispute relates and whom the allegation is against; and
 - c. sets out any other information reasonably required by the **Council**.
2. the **Council** may make a complaint involving an allegation or allegations against a **Member** or an **Officer** by giving to the **Member** or **Officer** a notice in writing that—
 - a. states that the **Council** is starting a procedure for resolving a dispute in accordance with the **Council's Constitution**; and
 - b. sets out the allegation to which the dispute relates.
3. the information given under subclause (1b.) or (2b.) must be sufficient to ensure that a person against whom an allegation is made is fairly advised of the allegation or allegations concerning them, with sufficient details given to enable that person to prepare a response.
4. a complaint may be made in any other reasonable manner permitted by the **Council's Constitution**.

10.3 A person who makes a complaint has the right to be heard

1. a **Member** or an **Officer** who makes a complaint has a right to be heard before the complaint is resolved or any outcome is determined.
2. if the **Council** makes a complaint—
 - a. the **Council** has a right to be heard before the complaint is resolved or any outcome is determined; and
 - b. an **Officer** may exercise that right on behalf of the **Council**.
3. without limiting the manner in which the **Member**, **Officer**, or **Council** may be given the right to be heard, they must be taken to have been given the right if:
 - a. they have a reasonable opportunity to be heard in writing or at an oral hearing (if one is held); and
 - b. an oral hearing is held if the decision maker considers that an oral hearing is needed to ensure an adequate hearing; and
 - c. an oral hearing (if any) is held before the decision maker; and
 - d. the **Member's**, **Officer's**, or **Council's** written or verbal statement or submissions (if any) are considered by the decision maker.

10.4 Person or organisation who is the subject of a complaint has the right to be heard

1. this clause applies if a complaint involves an allegation that a **Member**, an **Officer**, or the **Council** (the 'respondent')—
 - a. has engaged in misconduct; or
 - b. has breached, or is likely to breach, a duty under the **Council's Constitution** or bylaws or this **Act**; or
 - c. has damaged the rights or interests of a **Member** or the rights or interests of **Members** generally.
2. the respondent has a right to be heard before the complaint is resolved or any outcome is determined.
3. if the respondent is the **Council**, an **Officer** may exercise the right on behalf of the **Council**.
4. without limiting the manner in which a respondent may be given a right to be heard, a respondent must be taken to have been given the right if—
 - a. the respondent is fairly advised of all allegations concerning the respondent, with sufficient details and time given to enable the respondent to prepare a response; and
 - b. the respondent has a reasonable opportunity to be heard in writing or at an oral hearing (if one is held); and
 - c. an oral hearing is held if the decision maker considers that an oral hearing is needed to ensure an adequate hearing; and
 - d. an oral hearing (if any) is held before the decision maker; and
 - e. the respondent's written statement or submissions (if any) are considered by the decision maker.

10.5 Investigating and determining disputes

1. the **Council** must, as soon as is reasonably practicable after receiving or becoming aware of a complaint made in accordance with its **Constitution**, ensure that the dispute is investigated and determined.
2. disputes must be dealt with under the **Constitution** in a fair, efficient, and effective manner and in accordance with the provisions of the **Act**.

10.6 Society may decide not to proceed further with complaint

Despite the 'Investigating and determining dispute' rule above, the **Society** may decide not to proceed further with a complaint if—

1. the complaint is considered to be trivial; or
2. the complaint does not appear to disclose or involve any allegation of the following kind:
 - a. that a **Member** or an **Officer** has engaged in material misconduct;
 - b. that a **Member**, an **Officer**, or the **Council** has materially breached, or is likely to materially breach, a duty under the **Council's Constitution** or bylaws or the **Act**;
 - c. that a **Member**'s rights or interests or **Members**' rights or interests generally have been materially damaged;

3. the complaint appears to be without foundation or there is no apparent evidence to support it; or
4. the person who makes the complaint has an insignificant interest in the matter; or
5. the conduct, incident, event, or issue giving rise to the complaint has already been investigated and dealt with under the **Constitution**; or
6. there has been an undue delay in making the complaint.

The **Council** may refer a complaint to—

- a. a subcommittee or an external person to investigate and report; or
- b. a subcommittee, an arbitral tribunal, or an external person to investigate and make a decision.

The **Council** may, with the consent of all parties to a complaint, refer the complaint to any type of consensual dispute resolution (for example, mediation, facilitation, or a tikanga-based practice).

10.7 Decision makers

A person may not act as a decision maker in relation to a complaint if 2 or more members of the **Council** or a complaints subcommittee consider that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the person may not be—

1. impartial; or
2. able to consider the matter without a predetermined view.

11 Liquidation and removal from the register

11.1 Resolving to put society into liquidation

The **Council** may be liquidated in accordance with the provisions of Part 5 of the **Act**.

The **Council** shall give **8 Weeks** written **Notice** to all **Members** of the proposed resolution to put the **Council** into liquidation.

The **Council** shall also give written Notice to all **Members** of the **General Meeting** at which any such proposed resolution is to be considered. The **Notice** shall include all information as required by section 228(4) of the **Act**.

Any resolution to put the **Council** into liquidation must be passed by a two-thirds majority of all **Members** present and voting.

11.2 Resolving to apply for removal from the register

The **Council** may be removed from the Register of Incorporated Societies in accordance with the provisions of Part 5 of the **Act**.

The **Council** shall give **8 weeks** written **Notice** to all **Members** of the proposed resolution to remove the **Council** from the Register of Incorporated Societies.

The **Council** shall also give written **Notice** to all **Members** of the **General Meeting** at which any such proposed resolution is to be considered. The **Notice** shall include all information as required by section 228(4) of the **Act**.

Any resolution to remove the **Council** from the Register of Incorporated Societies must be passed by a simple majority of all **Members** present and voting.

11.3 Surplus assets

If the **Council** is liquidated or removed from the Register of Incorporated Societies, no distribution of assets shall be made to any **Member**.

On the liquidation or removal from the Register of Incorporated Societies of the **Society**, its surplus assets, after payment of all debts, costs and liabilities, shall be vested in some other organisation or body with similar objects to the **Society** or for some other similar charitable purpose, within New Zealand.

12 Alterations to the Constitution

12.1 Amending this Constitution

All amendments must be made in accordance with this **Constitution**. Any minor or technical amendments shall be notified to **Members** as required by section 31 of the **Act**.

The **Society** may amend or replace this **Constitution** at a **General Meeting** by a resolution passed by a simple majority of those **Members** present and voting.

That amendment may be approved by a resolution passed in lieu of a meeting but only if authorized by this **Constitution**.

Any proposed resolution to amend or replace this **Constitution** shall be signed by at least **10 per cent** of eligible **Members** and given in writing to the **Council** at least **8 weeks** before the **General Meeting** at which the resolution is to be considered and accompanied by a written explanation of the reasons for the proposal.

At least **4 weeks** before the **General Meeting** at which any amendment is to be considered the **Council** shall give to all **Members** notice of the proposed resolution, the reasons for the proposal, and any recommendations the **Council** has.

When an amendment is approved by a **General Meeting** it shall be notified to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies in the form and manner specified in the **Act** for registration and shall take effect from the date of registration.

No addition to, or alteration of, the objects, personal benefit clause or the winding up clause shall be made which affect the tax-exempt status/not-for-profit status. The provisions and effect of this clause shall not be removed from this document and shall be included and implied into any document replacing this document.

13 Insurance and Indemnity

The **Council** indemnifies its current and former Officers as permitted by section 96 of the Act.

With the prior approval of the **Councillors**, the **Council** may effect insurance for its current and former Officers as permitted by section 97 of the Act.

The **Council** is authorised to indemnify an Officer under section 96 of the Act or effect insurance for an Officer under section 97 of the Act for the following matters:

1. liability (other than criminal liability) for a failure to comply with a duty under sections 54 to 61 of the Act or any other duty imposed on the Officer in their capacity as an Officer; and
2. costs incurred by the Officer for any claim or proceeding relating to that liability.

14 Other

14.1 Common seal

The **Council** will have a common seal that must be kept in the custody of the **Secretary**

The common seal may be affixed to any document:

1. by resolution of the **Council**, and must be countersigned by 2 **Councillors** or
2. by such other means as the **Council** may resolve from time to time.

14.2 Bylaws

The **Councillors** from time to time may make and amend bylaws, and policies for the conduct and control of **Council** activities and codes of conduct applicable to **Members**, but no such bylaws, policies or codes of conduct applicable to **Members** shall be inconsistent with this **Constitution**, the **Act**, regulations made under the **Act**, or any other legislation.