

RSL Victoria

107th Annual Conference

16 JULY 2022

A G E N D A

Annual General Meeting of RSL Victoria Inc

Item	Time	Topic	Presenter	Ref
1	08:00	Delegation Registration		
2	09:30	State President Welcome	State President	
3	09:45	National President Address	National President	
Annual General Meeting of RSL Victoria Inc				
4	10:00	Opening of AGM	Chair	
5	10:20	State President Report	State President	
6	10:40	State Branch Financial Report	State Honorary Treasurer & Chief Financial Officer	
7	11:10	CEO Address	Chief Executive Officer	
8	11:30	Break		
9	11:45	Suspend Standing Orders for Debate	Chair	
10	12:15	Resume Standing Orders	Chair	
11	12:15	Policy Remits	Chair	<u>Annex B</u>
12	12:45	Lunch		
13	13:45	Rule Remits	Chair	<u>Annex C</u>
14	14:45	Return of Election	Chief Executive Officer	
15	14:50	Close of AGM	Chair	
16	14:50	Open Forum	State President	
17	16:00	Close Forum	State President	

ITEM 1 – DELEGATE REGISTRATION

ITEM 2 – STATE PRESIDENT WELCOME

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The Chair 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 Elders of other communities who may be here today. I also wish to acknowledge all First Nation people who have served or are serving in the Australian Defence force'.

ITEM 3 – NATIONAL PRESIDENT ADDRESS

ITEM 4 – OPENING OF AGM

Pledge of Allegiance

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

"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 Chair 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 107th 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 106th RSL Annual State Conference

The Chair will move that the Minutes of the 106th RSL Annual State Conference, as circulated, be received and adopted.

ITEM 5 – 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 2021 and move the following motion:

That the 2021 Annual Report, as circulated, be received and adopted.

ITEM 6 – STATE BRANCH FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statements

The State Honorary Treasurer will give the Treasurer's Report for 2021 with supporting remarks from the Chief Financial Officer and move the following motion:

That the 2021 Financial Statements, as circulated, be received and adopted.

Appointment of Auditor

The State Honorary Treasurer will move the following motion:

That Grant Thornton be re-appointed as Auditor for the 2022 Financial Year.

Branch Officer Honorariums

The Chair will request the Chair of the State Executive Risk, Audit and Governance Sub-Committee – Mr Simon Thorn - to temporarily assume the role of meeting Chair for this item who will then present a motion to the members on Branch Officer Honorariums.

ITEM 7 – CEO ADDRESS

Current and Planned Strategic Initiatives

The Chief Executive Officer will provide a presentation on the operations and achievements of the Branch in 2021 and provide an update on the current status of initiatives.

ITEM 8 – BREAK

The Chair will adjourn the meeting for a 15 minute break

ITEM 9 – SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS FOR DEBATE

The Electoral Reform Advisory Group (ERAG) was formed after the 2021 RSL Victoria State Conference with a goal to identify opportunities for improvement in RSL Victoria’s electoral processes. Whilst the electoral practices of our League have historically served us well, it is all of our responsibility to ensure our processes are fit for purpose now and into the future.

Comprising Presidents and a Vice-President from 10A, 10B, and 10C Sub-Branched, ERAG undertook to engage with members and Sub-Branched across the League and report those findings to the State Executive. It is the belief of many that the greatest strength of the RSL is its members, and for this reason, ERAG deemed it essential that members had their opportunity to voice their opinions and views regarding the League and its electoral governance. Our League has been vital to veterans and their families for more than 100 years, and we believe that for RSL Victoria to continue its important role in supporting and advocating for veterans and their families, that debate and discussion are essential so we can understand the thoughts and views of our members.

Glen Ferrarotto, Chair, ERAG

ITEM 10 – RESUME STANDING ORDERS

ITEM 11 – POLICY REMITS

The following policy remits will be proposed and debated. These remits require a simple majority to be passed. See Annex B for detail on each remit.

Remit No	Topic	Moved By	Remit Detail
1	RSL Victoria cease soliciting donations or requests for bequeaths (sic) directly from RSL members.	Warragul	Annex B – Remit 1 of 2
2	RSL Reward Logo to be exempt from the 2021 Policy excluding commercial operations on membership cards	Rosebud	Annex B – Remit 2 of 2

ITEM 12 – LUNCH

The Chair will adjourn the meeting for a 60 minute lunch break

ITEM 13 – RULE REMITS

The following remits that seek to amend the Branch Rules will be proposed and debated. These remits are special resolutions and therefore require a 75% majority to be passed. See Annex C for detail on each remit.

Remit No	Topic	Moved By	Remit Detail
1	Company Secretary	State Branch	Annex C – Remit 1 of 5
2	Term limit provisions for State Executive Members and Branch Officers	State Branch	Annex C – Remit 2 of 5
3	Provision for no more than 50% of the State Executive to be required to stand for election at any given State Annual Conference	State Branch	Annex C – Remit 3 of 5
4	Expand the applicability of honorariums to all Sub-Branch Committee members.	Altona	Annex C – Remit 4 of 5
5	One Service Member, One Vote	Hawthorn	Annex C – Remit 5 of 5

ITEM 14 – RETURN OF THE STATE EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS

Victorian Branch Elections

The Independent Returning Officer has conducted eligibility verification on all candidates nominated for this year's Victorian Branch Elections. The Independent Returning Officer in his report has noted that no positions were contested in this year's ballot.

Therefore, consistent with those provisions in State Branch Rule 10.3 (b), all nominated candidates will be duly elected, with their respective terms commencing immediately at the conclusion of the 2022 State Annual Conference, Saturday 16 July 2022. The nominated candidates:

- Dr Robert Webster OAM, State President
- Mr Timothy Holden, State Honorary Treasurer
- Mr Simon Thorn, Metropolitan State Executive Member
- Mr Ange Kenos, Metropolitan State Executive Member
- Mr John Beslee, Metropolitan State Executive Member
- Mr David Martin, Country State Executive Member

- Mr Andrew Hanns, Country State Executive Member
- Mr Lindsay Guerin, Country State Executive Member

ITEM 15 – CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

Vote of Thanks

The Chair, on behalf of the delegates to the 107th Annual State Conference of the RSL Victorian Branch, will move a vote of thanks to those who contributed to the success of the Conference.

Date & Location – 2023 Annual State Conference

The Chair will move the following motion:

That the 108th Annual State Conference of the RSL Victorian Branch be held in July 2023 at a time and venue to be determined.

Closure of Conference

The Chair will declare the 107th Annual State Conference of the RSL Victorian Branch closed.

ITEM 16 – OPEN FORUM

Items submitted for discussion:

1. Sources of funds of the Branch submitted as a proposed remit (Hawthorn RSL)
2. Affiliate Badge design (State Executive)

ITEM 17 – CLOSE FORUM

ANNEX A,B & C

- Annex A – Meeting Instructions and Standing Orders
- Annex B – Policy Remits 1 to 2
 - Remit 1 of 2
 - Remit 2 of 2
- Annex C – Rule Remits 1 to 5
 - Remit 1 of 5
 - Remit 2 of 5
 - Remit 3 of 5
 - Remit 4 of 5
 - Remit 5 of 5

ANNEX A - MEETING INSTRUCTIONS

Annual Conference Procedure

Agenda

All Sub-Branches shall receive a 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

Delegates must register their intention to attend via the registration link provided to Sub-Branch Secretaries. Registrations will not be accepted after Saturday 2nd July 2022 [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 either present to the microphone in the room or use the 'raise your hand function' if joining remotely 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 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 deemed to be 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 Chair, 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 themselves in regard to something material in part of their speech which the Chair 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.

Respect to Chair

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

Suspension of order of business

The motion by two members supported by 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.

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 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 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 Chair, 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 be 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 to special resolutions shall not be entertained that substantially changes the motion from that provided in the notice.

Amendments lost

In the case of all amendments being lost, the Chair is to put the original motion to discussion and vote.

Points of Order

A point of order may be raised by a delegate. Immediately a point of order is raised, current discussion will cease, and the Chair 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).

A point of order shall deal only with the conduct or procedure of the debate and the Member shall state their point without irrelevant details, The Delegate 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

As the Annual Conference will be held both in person and online, voting will take the following form

- via a 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.

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 Chair 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 Chair’s ruling be disagreed with” the Chair forthwith shall leave the Chair. The Senior Vice-President present shall take the Chair or if none present a Chair 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 Chair for the currency of the meeting.

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

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.

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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.

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ANNEX B - POLICY REMITS

POLICY REMIT 1 OF 2 | WARRAGUL SUB-BRANCH

That the State Branch adopt the following policy position that RSL Victoria cease soliciting donations or requests for bequeaths (sic) directly from RSL members.

Rationale -

RSL Victoria currently solicits donations and/or bequests from members of RSL Sub Branches via various means, including email and text messaging.

Currently State Branch is in compliance with its Rule 3.2 (w) that allows State Branch to “take such steps by personal or written appeals, public meetings or otherwise, as may from time to time be deemed expedient for the purpose of procuring contributions to the funds of the Branch, in the shape of donations, annual subscriptions or otherwise;”

A Sub Branches primary source of funding for veteran welfare and support is obtained primarily from the ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day appeals.

Fifty percent of the funds generated through the appeals is remitted to RSL Victoria for RSL Victoria to use for veteran welfare and support, and fifty percent is retained by the sub branch. Generally, at the end of each financial year, any unused appeals funds are remitted to RSL Victoria.

The soliciting of donations and bequests by RSL Victoria directly to members undermines the capacity of sub branches to generate appeals funds for supporting their local veterans.

Sub branch members should be encouraged to support their sub branch and not be confused by the soliciting of donations and bequests from RSL Victoria.

RSL Victoria already directly raises donation through an arrangement with Woolworths supermarkets which further erodes the capacity of sub branches to generate appeals funds.

Whilst it is acknowledged that a sub branch may seek additional funding from RSL Victoria for welfare support if its funds are insufficient, it should be recognized that the profile of the ANZAC day and Remembrance Day appeals is generated at the sub branch level, and that the sub branches should be recognised for that contribution and benefit from it.

In addition, the soliciting of bequests can be confronting to veterans and their families, particularly those who may be facing challenges in life.

POLICY REMIT 2 OF 2 | ROSEBUD SUB-BRANCH

That the State Branch adopt the following policy position That the internal RSL Rewards logo be exempt from the 2021 Policy Remit excluding commercial operations from marketing on the membership card.

Rationale -

RSL Rewards is a statewide loyalty program run by the RSL, for the benefit of the RSL Members. The commercial intention of this program is to reward the members for patronising a Sub Branch. It is by us for us. The program allows members to earn and redeem points in all 10A Sub Branches (excluding Box Hill) across the state.

- The reciprocal nature of the program encourages members travelling within Victoria to access other RSL's, knowing they will earn and redeem points wherever they are.
- Any commercial benefit is to the betterment of the Sub Branch and the League.
- This is not sponsorship or advertising; this is promotion of an internal program.
- RSL Rewards is a program that is a food and beverage loyalty initiative and not gaming related in any way shape or form.

ANNEX C - RULE REMITS

RULE REMIT 1 OF 5 | STATE BRANCH

That the Rules of the Branch be amended to establish the Company Secretary role, ensuring RSL Victoria's Governance is consistent with contemporary best practice.

Rules affected 1.1, 4.6, 4.17, 5.10, 5.20, 7.2, 7.4, 7.6,8.4, 8.5, 8.8, 9.7, 9.8, 9.9, 11.1, 13.6, 13.7, 17.3 and 17.6.

Delete existing Rules 1.1, 4.6, 4.17, 5.10, 5.20, 7.2, 7.4, 7.6,8.4, 8.5, 8.8, 9.7, 9.8, 9.9, 11.1, 13.6, 13.7, 17.3 and 17.6

Replace with:

Rule 1.1	<p>Definitions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - INSERT: "Company Secretary" means ...
Rule 4.6	<p>Common Seal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AMEND (a) to read: "The common seal of the Branch is to be kept in the custody of the Company Secretary" - AMEND (c) to read: "The Branch Officers, or a member of the State Executive who has been nominated by the State Executive for that purpose in writing and the names shall be entered in the appropriate register kept for that purpose and the Company Secretary, are entitled to be an attesting signatory on the affixing of the common seal of the Branch."
Rule 5.10	<p>Associate member of a Sub-Branch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AMEND (c)(3)(ii) to read: "deliver such election to all the Sub-Branches of which they are a member and associate with a copy to be lodged with the Company Secretary."

<p>Rule 4.17</p>	<p>Custody of Branch books and inspection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AMEND (a) to read: "Except as otherwise provided in these rules, the Company Secretary of the Branch is to keep in its custody or under its control all the books, accounts, minute books, records, documents, statutory registers (if any) and securities of the Branch"
<p>Rule 5.20</p>	<p>Cessation of membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AMEND (a) to read: "A member may resign from the League by giving one month's notice in the form prescribed by National Bylaw 3 to the secretary of the Sub-Branch or the Company Secretary (as applicable) of their intention to resign whereupon they cease to be a League member at the expiration of that period of notice." - AMEND (b) to read: "Upon expiration of the notice given under rule 5.20(a), the Company Secretary or the secretary of the Sub-Branch must record in the register of Unattached List members, Miscellaneous List members or the register of members of the Sub-Branch (as applicable) the date the person ceased to be a League Member." - AMEND (c)(3) to read: "is to return the League Badge to the secretary of the Sub-Branch or the Company Secretary (as applicable)."
<p>Rule 7.2</p>	<p>General Powers of State Executive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - INSERT new: (e) "the State Executive shall have the power to appoint a Company Secretary."
<p>Rule 7.4</p>	<p>Composition of the State Executive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - INSERT new: (a)(6) "the Company Secretary - who shall not have a vote."
<p>Rule 7.6</p>	<p>Meetings of the State Executive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AMEND (o) to read: "The Chairperson must ensure that minutes of a State Executive meeting are kept by the Company Secretary and the minutes must be signed by the Chairperson."

<p>Rule 8.4</p>	<p>Sub-Branch and Branch Delegates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AMEND (b)(2) to read: "the Sub-Branch has advised the Company Secretary prior to the Annual Conference that because no Life member or Service member of the Sub-Branch is available to attend as a Sub- Branch Delegate, an identified Affiliate being either a member of the Sub-Branch Committee or the holder of a Sub-Branch appointment, is requested to attend in lieu." - AMEND (g) to read: "The secretary of a Sub-Branch must notify the Company Secretary in writing of the appointment of a Sub-Branch Delegate at least fourteen days before the Annual Conference or an Extraordinary Conference." - AMEND (h) to read: "If a Sub-Branch Delegate is elected as a Branch Officer, they must cease to be the Sub-Branch Delegate and the Sub- Branch may appoint a replacement without written notice to the Company Secretary."
<p>Rule 8.5</p>	<p>Proceedings at the Annual Conference and an Extraordinary Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AMEND (h) to read: "The Company Secretary must give a written notice to the SUB-BRANCH MEMBERS of the adjourned Annual Conference or Extraordinary Conference at least fourteen days before the adjourned Annual Conference or Extraordinary Conference." - AMEND (q) to read: "A Sub-Branch Delegate or a Branch Delegate is entitled to appoint a Member as their proxy by notice given to the Company Secretary no later than fourteen days before the time of the Annual Conference or Extraordinary Conference in respect of which the proxy is appointed."

<p>Rule 8.8</p>	<p>Agenda and the Agenda Sub-Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AMEND (h) to read: "Rule 8.8 shall not apply where the Sub-Branches pursuant to Rule 8.8(b) have called an Extraordinary Conference. In this event the Company Secretary shall provide material to the delegates at the time of calling the meeting, setting out the general nature of the matters to be discussed and any other material that they consider relevant."
<p>Rule 9.7</p>	<p>Chief Executive Officer of the Branch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - REMOVE (b): "the CEO of the Branch is the State Secretary of the Branch." - REMOVE (d): "The CEO is the First Secretary for the Purposes of the Act."
<p>New Rule 9.8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - INSERT: "The State Executive shall appoint the Company Secretary." - INSERT: "The Company Secretary is responsible for the administrative affairs of the Branch as required from time to time."
<p>Rule 9.9</p>	<p>Auditor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AMEND (e) to read: "The Branch Officers, the Chief Executive Officer, the Company Secretary and employees of the Branch must provide information that the auditor reasonably requires to perform their duty." - AMEND (f) to read: "The auditor must attend at the office of the Branch for such purposes and on such occasions as are arranged with the Chief Executive Officer or the Company Secretary but not less than once each half year."
<p>Rule 11.1</p>	<p>Submission of the Reports and Statements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AMEND (c) to read: "The Company Secretary must, within one month after the Annual Conference, give to the Registrar of Incorporated Associations a Statement in the form prescribed by the Regulations..."

<p>Rule 13.6</p>	<p>Sub-Branch Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AMEND (n) to read: "The secretary of a Sub-Branch must notify the Company Secretary of a change in the members of a Sub-Branch Committee within fourteen days of a change." - AMEND (r)(6) to read: "prepare all returns and Statements required by the Branch, and forward same to the Company Secretary forthwith;"
<p>Rule 13.7</p>	<p>Elections of the Sub-Branch Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AMEND (i) to read: "The secretary of a Sub-Branch must notify the Company Secretary within fourteen days of the meeting that appointed or elected the Sub-Branch Committee the members of that Sub-Branch Committee."
<p>Rule 17.3</p>	<p>Notice to the Registrar of Incorporated Associations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AMEND (a) to read: "The Company Secretary must, within 28 days after the passing of a special resolution altering these rules, lodge with the Registrar of Incorporated Associations a written notice of the special resolution setting out particulars of the alteration together with a declaration signed by at least two of the Branch Officers to the effect that the special resolution was passed in accordance with the Act."
<p>Rule 17.6</p>	<p>Consequential Amendments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AMEND (a) to read: "Notwithstanding other provisions in these Rules the State Executive may authorise amendments to these Rules as a consequence of a resolution by a State Conference to amend the Rules that necessitate renumbering of the Rules or amendment to a reference to another Rule that has changed as a consequence of an amendment by a State Conference. Any such consequential amendment shall be notified by the Company Secretary to all Sub-Branches and Regional Committees."

Rationale -

The establishment of a Company Secretary role is an important step in ensuring RSL Victoria’s Governance is consistent with contemporary best practice. This role provides for the separation of the Chief Executive Officer’s responsibilities from that of a Company Secretary and seeks to further strengthen RSL Victoria’s overall governance.

RULE REMIT 2 OF 5 | STATE BRANCH

That the Rules of the Branch be amended to include Term limit provisions for State Executive members and Branch Officers, where these members/officers would be constrained to 3-year terms, with a maximum number of 3 consecutive terms able to be served as either a State Executive member or as a Branch Officer

Rules affected 7.4, 9.1, 9.3 and 9.4

Delete existing Rules 7.4, 9.1, 9.3 and 9.4

Replace with:

<p>Rule 7.4</p>	<p>Composition of the State Executive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AMEND (b) to read: "Subject to Rule 7.4(f), a member of the State Executive who holds office pursuant to Rule 7.4(a)(1), (2) or (3) is to hold office until the closure of the Annual Conference three years after their election or appointment but is eligible for re-election or reappointment in accordance with Rule 7.4(c)." - INSERT new (c): "A member of the State Executive who holds office pursuant to Rule 7.4(a)(1), (2) or (3) may only hold such office for not more than three terms (of three years each in accordance with Rule 7.4(b)) served either consecutively or not consecutively." - AMEND (d) (previously (c)) to read: "If a vacancy in an office of a member of the State Executive who holds this office pursuant to Rule 7.4(a)(1) arises, the position is to be filled pursuant to Rule 9.3 or 9.1(e)." - INSERT new (f) (previously (e))(10): "have served three terms of three years each, served either consecutively or not consecutively."
<p>Rule 7.5</p>	<p>Eligibility and Election of the State Executive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - INSERT new (a)(6): "is not otherwise ineligible in accordance with the Rules."

<p>Rule 9.1</p>	<p>Branch Officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AMEND (c) to read: "A Branch Officer is to hold office until the closure of the Annual Conference three years after their election." - INSERT new (d): "A Branch Officer who holds office pursuant to Rule 7.4(a)(1) may only hold such office for not more than three terms (of three years each in accordance with Rule 7.4(b)) served either consecutively or not consecutively." - AMEND (e) (previously (d)) to read: "Except as provided for under Rule 9.3, if a vacancy of a Branch Officer arises, the State Executive may appoint one of it's members to the vacant office and the person so appointed may continue in office until the closure of the next Annual Conference." - INSERT new (f) (previously (e))(8): "have served three terms of three years each, served consecutively or not consecutively as a Branch Officer."
<p>Rule 9.3</p>	<p>Casual Vacancy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AMEND (a) to read: "Despite the provision of 9.1(e)" [Previously 9.1(d) – reference change only] - AMEND (a) (1) to read: "If the office of State President becomes vacant, the State Senior Vice President shall assume the office of State President and may continue in the office until the closure of the next Annual Conference." - AMEND (a)(2) to read: " if the office of State Senior Vice President becomes vacant, the State Vice President shall assume the office of State Senior Vice President and may continue in the office until the closure of the next Annual Conference." - AMEND (a)(3) to read: "a vacancy arising in the office of the State Vice-President or State Honorary Treasurer may be filled as provided for in either Rule 9.1(e) or Rule 9.6(b) as applicable." [Previously 9.1(d) reference change only]

Rule 9.4	Eligibility to be a Branch Officer <ul style="list-style-type: none">- INSERT new (a)(3): "A member of the State Executive for not more than three terms of three years each, served either consecutively or not consecutively."
Rule 9.6	State Honorary Treasurer <ul style="list-style-type: none">- AMEND (b) to read: "if the office of State Honorary Treasurer becomes vacant the State Executive shall appoint a qualified Member to be the State Honorary Treasurer who shall hold office until the closure of the next Annual Conference"

Rationale -

Term limit provisions for State Executive members and Branch Officers, where these members/officers would be constrained to 3-year terms, with a maximum number of 3 consecutive terms able to be served as either a State Executive member or as a Branch Officer

RULE REMIT 3 OF 5 | STATE BRANCH

That the Rules of the Branch be amended to include provision for no more than 50% of the State Executive to be required to stand for election at any given State Annual Conference.

Rules affected 9.1

Delete existing Rule 9.1

Replace with:

Rule 9.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - INSERT new (g): "Notwithstanding Rule 7.4(b), 7.4(c), 7.4(f)(10), 9.1(c), 9.1(d), 9.1(f)(8) no more than four State Executive members (including Branch Officers) or one-third of the total State Executive shall be eligible for re-election or reappointment at each Annual Conference. The following requirements until the Annual Conference 2025 shall apply and thereafter Rule 7.4(b) shall apply. - The State Vice President and two State Executive members shall hold office until the closure of the Annual Conference 2023. - The State Senior Vice President and two State Executive members shall hold office until the closure of the Annual Conference 2024.
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Rationale –

The State Executive members and Branch Officers face difficulty in establishing continuity where the majority of its number face election every 2 years. The proposed Remit is a further important step in ensuring RSL Victoria's Governance is consistent with contemporary best practice.

RULE REMIT 4 OF 5 | ALTONA RSL SUB-BRANCH

That the Rules of the Branch be amended to expand the applicability of honorariums to all Sub-Branch Committee members.

Rules affected 13.6

Delete existing Rule 13.6 (ee)

Replace with:

Rule 13.6 (ee) The Annual General Meeting of the Sub-Branch shall determine if an honorarium is to be paid in the following financial year to Sub-Branch Officers and Committee Members and if so, the amount to be paid.

Rationale -

RSL Committees are made up of many individuals who put in massive amounts of hours in support of local both our local veterans and community endeavours. The Altona RSL is no exception. Our RSL Active Coordinator Compensation Advocate Appeals Officer, Welfare Officer, Funerals Officer, Commemorations Officer and Volunteer Coordinator have all worked very long hours, over many years, much of this work is conducted at times when those who need these service are available and are in the right headspace to concentrate, and verbalise on what support they're actually seeking.

This topic was debated at length, at the AGM held on 20th March 2022. Our members understand that the current Rule stipulates that Honorariums are not paid for long or outstanding service and voluntary work is just that, voluntary, without the want of a monetary reward by, the volunteer.

Our members see the current accepted reward for volunteers OUTSIDE the Executive, of meals or drinks at an authorised function, in reasonable circumstances as unacceptable. It represents an inequity in the current Honorarium (State Branch Rule) and seek to have it amended to better reflect the positive, meaningful work currently being undertaken by all members of the Committee.

RULE REMIT 5 OF 5 | HAWTHORN RSL SUB-BRANCH

That the Rules of the Branch be amended so that each Life or Service Member is entitled to One Vote for the State Executive elections.

Rules affected 10.3, 13.9

Delete existing Rule 10.3(d)

Replace with:

d) 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 sent to every Member of the Branch at their postal, facsimile or electronic transmission address contained in the register of members at least forty two days prior to the Annual Conference

Delete existing Rule 10.3(e)

Replace with:

e) A Member is entitled to vote once for each Branch Officer election.

1) A reference to a Member in this Rule means a Life Member, Life Subscriber or a Service Member of the Branch who has paid the Minimum Subscription Fee.

Delete existing Rule 10.3(h)

Replace with:

h) The ballot paper must be returned to the Returning Officer as per the instructions provided with the ballot paper and must reach the Returning Officer at least forty-eight hours prior to the Annual Conference.

Delete existing Rule 13.9B(b)

Replace with:

b) One such Ordinary General Meeting shall be held within sixty days immediately preceding the Annual Conference under the Branch Constitution to instruct the Sub-Branch delegates to the Annual Conference on how to vote on matters listed in the Agenda for the Annual Conference.

Rationale -

This needs to be reworded to "one service member one vote" also VEC or equivalent oversight and electronic voting allowable by secret vote. In keeping with long-standing common practice in Australian governments and organizations, the Branch adopt democratic voting practices for the election of the State Executive and in any and all instances where a vote of Victorian RSL Members may be required. That " Elections " clauses (d) (e) and 2 which mean that State Executive elections are decided by the votes of Sub-Branches be revoked and replaced with a new Rule. Suggest VEC o oversees vote that can be conducted by electronic and postal ballot.