

# CANBERRA ALPINE CLUB INC



## **Ballot Paper – Constitutional Changes**

**Ballot paper(s) are enclosed with this information sheet. If ballot paper has been lost in transit, please contact**

**[secretary@cac.org.au](mailto:secretary@cac.org.au)**

**Please return completed ballots by 5pm, Friday 19 April 2019**

# Canberra Alpine Club Inc

## Background to proposed Constitutional changes

### **Change of minimum Youth Membership age to 18:**

Increasingly over recent years, the age at which members move from Junior membership to Youth membership has caused debate and concern in the Committee. Currently, Juniors are offered advancement to Youth membership at the end of the year in which they turn 17. This means that there is up to a year in which a member is a Youth member, but under the age of 18.

Youth members have effectively the same rights and responsibilities as Ordinary (Adult) members, however there are potential issues with enforcing contracts with minors. There are also higher potential liabilities for the Club if, for example, under 18s are allowed to stay unaccompanied at Club lodges.

The “under 18 gap” is not new – Junior members have progressed to Youth membership at this age (or Adult membership prior to the introduction of Youth membership) for decades. However the legal environment, and more importantly community expectations, have changed over the years, and the Committee considers that this gap should be addressed.

### **Removal of transitional clauses that are no longer relevant:**

These clauses refer to transitional arrangements relating to the introduction of Youth Membership and change of financial year. These clauses are no longer relevant as they were only valid for a certain period of time after previous Constitutional changes.

Clause 2(1), which is proposed to be amended, currently reads “*“financial year” means the period of 12 months commencing on 1 January. The financial year commencing 1 November 2000 shall extend to 31 December 2001 and thereafter each financial year will commence on 1 January;*”

Clause 9A(4), which is proposed to be deleted, reads “*A person described in paragraph (1)(a) who is an Ordinary Member immediately before the date that this clause comes into effect may, within 3 years of that date, apply for Youth Membership on terms acceptable to the Committee.*”

Clause 22(e), which is proposed to be amended, currently reads “*at the Committee meeting last preceding an Annual General Meeting, submit to the Committee audited financial statements showing as at the immediately preceding 31 October the assets and liabilities, income and expenditure, receipts and payments of the Club for the period of 12 months preceding that*

*date, together with such other statements as may from time to time be prescribed in the By-laws.”*

**Removal of Life Members that the Club has been unable to contact:**

Currently, if the Club has been unable to contact a Life Member for 3 years, they can be excluded from the Club membership limit of 600 people. However there is no actual mechanism for removing such members from Club membership completely, regardless of how unlikely it is that they still wish to be members (or even whether they are still likely to be alive). There obviously needs to be a mechanism to readmit any such members who do later make contact with the Club again. The proposed new clauses are intended to allow the Club to remove Life Members who the Club has been unable to contact for a significant period, while allowing re-entry if required.

**Removal of the concept of “leave” for Committee meetings:**

Currently, where a Committee member fails to attend 3 successive Committee meetings without obtaining leave of absence, or 6 successive meetings regardless of leave of absence, their office becomes vacant. However, leave of absence is not defined, and it is not clear how in practice it is intended to be used. The current Committee does not consider leave of absence to be a necessary feature, and recommends removing this part of the clause.

Clause 20(4), which is proposed to be amended, currently reads:

*”Where a Committee member—*

*(a) fails to attend 3 successive Committee meetings without obtaining leave of absence from the Committee; or*

*(b) fails to attend 6 successive Committee meetings, whether or not he or she has obtained leave of absence;*

*the office shall automatically become vacant and shall be filled in accordance with this clause.”*

Jenny McLeod

Secretary, Canberra Alpine Club

March 2019

If undeliverable, return to

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