



WOMENS INTERNATIONAL MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATION INC AUSTRALIAN DIVISION CONSTITUTION

(as amended by the 2003 AGM)



Article 1: Name

This Association shall be known as the "WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED" for it links together members from many countries of the world in a common interest. Its nucleus is American Unit, representative of the United States of America. It was founded in the USA by Louise Scherbyn in the 1950's and now has divisions all over the world. This Constitution is applicable to Women's International Motorcycle Association Inc, Australian Division only. The location of the headquarters of the Australian Division the Association is, at present ACT, with the National Executive rotating every 2 years between the States.

Article 2: Object

The object of the Association shall be in the interests of improving and promoting activities, goodwill and camaraderie of women motorcycle enthusiasts.

Article 3: Membership

Membership

Membership shall be open to all women subscribing to the objectives of the Association and paying the subscribed fee. No restrictions shall be imposed on any person by virtue of religious or political belief, nationality, race, creed or colour. The Committee retains the right to refuse any application. Members must be 16 years and over, and two or three-wheel enthusiasts. Candidates shall be of good character. Candidates must submit their request for membership on the official Membership Application Form.

Honorary Membership:

Honorary Membership shall be granted to a person who has given the Association service and has received no reward for so doing. This person shall have an interest in the Association may not wish to, or cannot be involved in the activities of the Association. An Honorary Member may not hold any committee position and shall not be eligible to vote in any way. Any nomination for honorary membership will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting by any financial member and must be accepted by 90% of members attending that meeting. Duration of honorary membership shall be specified at nomination and shall not exceed 5 years

Life Membership:

The Committee may recommend the appointment of life members from amongst those who have rendered the Association outstanding service.

Guidelines for Awarding Life Membership of WIMA AUSTRALIA

1. Members present at the Annual General Meeting may by majority vote declare a nominated member to be a Life Member of the Association.
2. The nomination must be in accordance with procedures in paragraph five, and the person must fulfil the criteria in paragraph four.
3. A Life Member retains all rights and privileges of a member of the Association but is not required to pay the annual membership fee.
4. Life Membership may be awarded under the Constitution for members who have rendered outstanding service. The criteria for this are interpreted as:
 - i. have been a member for a minimum of five (5) consecutive years;
 - ii. provided unpaid service to the Association well beyond that normally provided by or expected of members, members of the Executive or members of the Committee, at the State or national level, over a significant period of time.
5. Procedure for Nomination
 - i. The member must be nominated by two members.
 - ii. The nomination must be approved by majority vote of the relevant State Executive and Committee
 - iii. Once approved at State level, the application along with details of reasons for the nomination, is forwarded to the Committee of WIMA Australia.
 - iv. The Committee of WIMA Australia has the power under the Constitution to recommend a nomination for Life Membership.

v. If the Committee of WIMA Australia decides to recommend the nomination, the name, State Branch and reasons for nomination will be notified to members in an issue of the national newsletter which is distributed before the next Annual General Meeting, and the matter placed on the agenda of the AGM.

Article 4: Committee Members

The elected committee shall be the Captain, Treasurer, Secretary, Editor(s), Publicity Officer, Website Manager and Merchandise Officer. There may also be further nominations for positions of Assistant Captain, Membership Officer, Historian and Committee Member.

Article 5: Duties of Committee Members

Captain

The Captain shall be the main representative of her Division and shall preside at all Divisional meetings. She must communicate with other Divisional Captains and Assistant Captains and State Representatives whenever the need arises. She shall co-sign cheques with the Secretary or Treasurer. She shall have power to perform other duties assigned or required of her from time to time by the Committee.

Assistant Captain

The duties of Assistant Captain shall be to assist the Captain and, in the Captain's absence, assume the duties of the Captain.

Secretary

The Secretary shall table all correspondence at each Committee Meeting. She shall answer correspondence as directed by the Committee and/or Captain. She shall co-sign cheques with the Treasurer or Captain. She shall collect the mail from the mailbox. She shall take minutes of each Committee Meeting, Special Committee, General Meeting, Special General Meeting and Annual General Meeting and will present such minutes to be read and accepted at the next appropriate meeting.

Treasurer

All dues in the Australian Division are to be collected by the Treasurer. All dues are to be retained in a WIMA bank account and record of dues received and expenditure recorded by her. She shall collect all other money due to the Division and keep an itemised account of disbursements and accumulated Club funds in a book provided for the purpose. At Committee Meetings she shall present a financial statement. She shall co-sign cheques with the Secretary or Captain. She shall have charge of all fees belonging to her Division. All books shall be open to inspection by all members at all times.

She or the membership officer (if one is elected), shall acknowledge all new memberships with a membership card and a copy of this Constitution. She shall acknowledge all renewals, honorary members and life members with an updated Membership card.

Editor(s)

There shall be provision for two positions of Editor of WIMA NEWS, but only one needs to be permanently filled. The Editor(s) shall be responsible for collection, editing, producing and posting the quarterly WIMA NEWS. She (they) shall liaise with the State Representatives regarding content of the magazine.

Publicity Officer(s)

The duties of the Publicity Officer(s) are to promote the stated aims and objectives of WIMA and publicise the existence of WIMA to other motorcycle bodies, the media and general publications. She/they shall be responsible for fund-raising activities. All correspondence and forthcoming promotions shall be discussed with the Committee and/Captain.

Merchandise Officer

The Merchandise Officer shall be responsible for storage and distribution of all National WIMA Merchandise. State Divisions may have separate merchandise from the National body but must seek approval for any merchandise that utilises the WIMA logos. The Merchandise Officer shall be responsible for ordering stock as directed by the committee. She shall keep records of all stock received and distributed as well as all monies accepted and will provide receipts from a receipt book provided and forward monies directly to the Treasurer or into the appropriate bank account. At Committee Meetings she shall present a statement of stock sold and stock on hand.

Membership Officer

The Membership Officer shall acknowledge all new memberships with a membership card and a copy of this Constitution. She shall acknowledge all renewals, honorary members and life members with an updated Membership

card. She shall maintain a record of all memberships and the hospitality and provide this to the committee and State Representatives when required to do so.

Website Manager

The Website Manager shall be responsible for maintaining the WIMA website. She shall liaise with the Captains, State Representatives and Editors regarding content for the website.

Historian

The Historian shall be responsible for collection and storage of WIMA memorabilia.

Rides Captain

The Rides Captain shall be responsible for the organisation, coordination and advertising of any rides/social activities.

Committee Member

She shall be called upon whenever necessary by the Committee to assist in whatever capacity is required.

Article 6: Election

Election of Committee Members shall take place each year at the Annual General Meeting.

Election shall be by closed ballot if there is more than one member nominated for a position..

Terms of Committee members.

Terms of all Committee Members shall be for a period of one year. Committee Members shall be eligible for re-election. If the Member is unable to complete her term of office, she shall submit her written resignation to the Captain or the Committee. In the case of a vacancy in the Committee, an affirmative vote of the remaining Committee Members may approve a temporary successor to hold office until the election of the successor at the next convenient General Meeting. The election of the successor shall be by a majority vote and shall be a closed ballot if more than one person is standing for the position. Financial members only shall be permitted to hold office and vote. Honorary Members shall not be eligible to vote in any way.

Article 7: State Representation

Each state shall have a committee. The elected committee shall be the State Representative, Treasurer, Secretary Editor, Website Manager and Merchandise Officer. There may also be further nominations for positions of Assistant State Representative, Publicity Officer, Membership Officer, Historian, Rides Captain, and Committee member. A single person may hold more than one position on the State committee.

The State Representative shall be elected by-a majority vote of the members of her state. She shall be responsible for communicating her state's activities to the Committee. Each State shall be responsible for its own advertising and fund-raising. All proceeds thus raised shall be forwarded to the Treasurer of that State, as soon as practicable.

In the case of major policy amendments or other matters that may affect all WIMA members, all State Representatives shall be notified in writing of the intended proposals. Each state shall hold a meeting to discuss the proposals, and decisions made at this meeting shall be notified in writing to the National Executive within 4 weeks of the original notification.

Article 8: Finances

The annual subscription plus any other fees that the members have agreed to pay shall become due on the first day of February each year and shall be set at the Annual General Meeting. The financial year shall be from the 1st day of February to the 31st day of January. Any member joining in the first half of the financial year (ie 1 February to 31 July), will be required to pay the full annual subscription rate. Those members joining in the second half of the financial year will be required to pay only half of the annual subscription rate for that financial year only. On receipt of dues members become entitled to all rights and privileges of the International Association. Dues must be paid within two months of time specified or a member shall be considered not in good standing. If dues remain unpaid she shall be removed from the Membership Register. Reinstatement can be made by paying the annual dues.

All monies arising from fund-raising activities shall be immediately placed in the appropriate WIMA account and no individual member of the Association shall gain any financial benefit. The Committee shall have the power to open special trust accounts for specific projects from time to time and such accounts may be operated only for the set purpose for which they were opened.

The Committee shall appoint an Auditor for the next 12 months at the Annual General Meeting. She/he shall not be a member of the Association. In the event that the Auditor is unable to continue her/his duties, for whatever reason, a Special General Meeting shall be held to appoint another Auditor. Divisional groups shall also have their financial records audited and a copy of the audited accounts is to be forwarded to the national Committee.

Article 9: General Government

Annual General Meeting

The national Annual General Meeting (NAGM) will be held in a state that shall be nominated and accepted at the previous NAGM. The NAGM will normally be held on the third Saturday of February but may be changed to a time more suitable to the host state in a proposal that is presented and accepted at the prior NAGM.

Each state shall also have an Annual General Meeting prior to the NAGM.

Conduct of General Meetings:

General Meetings shall be open to all members. All decisions made are subject to there being a quorum of Committee Members. A Quorum shall consist of at least two-thirds of the Committee. All financial members have voting rights at General Meetings.

Conduct of Committee Meetings:

Committee Meetings shall be open to all members. All decisions made are subject to there being a quorum of Committee Members. A Quorum shall consist of at least two-thirds of the Committee and will comprise an odd number of members. Only Committee Members have voting rights at Committee Meetings.

Publicity:

Each member has the right to express her views as an individual. NO member has the right to communicate with any publication in the name of WIMA unless Committee approval is given.

General:

The Association is conducted independently of any personal interest and is essentially for the benefit of members. All members will abide by the rules and may face suspension or expulsion from the Association and its activities as ruled by special Committee Meeting. Any person who behaves in a manner which could be detrimental to the reputation of the Association shall be asked to explain his/her actions before a Special Committee Meeting where any action to be taken against that person will be decided upon. This decision must be reported to the person concerned.

Winding Up:

The Association may be dissolved at any time upon resolution at a General Meeting of the Association in the same manner as a resolution to amend the Constitution and subject to formalities required for an amendment to the Constitution. Upon such resolution being carried any property of the Association remaining after payment of all debt and legal liabilities shall be donated to a body having like objective or such charity(ies) as the Committee may decide.

Amendments:

Proposals for amendments are to be submitted to the Committee. Proposals will then be published in WIMA NEWS, inviting all members to contribute ideas and opinions. All correspondence concerning the proposed amendment(s) is to be discussed by the Committee and a formal proposal is to be drafted.

The formal proposal for the amendment(s) is to be published in WIMA NEWS. Amendments are to be voted on at the AGM with absent members eligible to vote by post. Postal votes must be received by the day prior to the AGM. For amendments to be passed, at least 30% of members must return either postal or personal votes and a majority of these must be in favour. All amendments are to be notified in WIMA NEWS.

Indemnity:

The members of the Committee and their respective executors and administrators shall be at all times indemnified out of the funds of the Association from and against all damages, costs, charges and expenses paid or incurred by them or any of them as such members unless the same shall be the result of their gross negligence or wilful act or default. All servants, employees and agents of the Association shall also have a like indemnity.

Article 10: By-Laws:

To help achieve the objectives of the Association, a national gathering in the form of a rally shall be organised from time to time. The venue of this rally shall be varied to suit the needs of the members.

THIS CONSTITUTION INCORPORATES ALL AMENDMENTS ENDORSED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS UP TO AND INCLUDING FEBRUARY 2003.