

Minutes of RRVV Special General Meeting
Friday 28 June at 10:30
Via Zoom

1. Open and welcome

The meeting chairperson (**Chair**), Acting President Helen Betros, opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.

2. Housekeeping notes

Laurine Georges of LG Collective (Zoom meeting support) ran through the housekeeping and protocols.

3. Confirmation of quorum

The Chair confirmed that the meeting had a quorum. The quorum for a Special General Meeting is 50. For this meeting there were 203 proxies (which count as attendances) and there were more than 75 attendees. It was noted that there were 2 or more in attendance at 13 of the 75 registered email addresses.

10 apologies were received.

4. Agenda

The agenda was confirmed

5. Presentation of the resolution to be put to the meeting

The Chair presented the special resolution of the meeting:

That Residents of Retirement Villages Victoria Inc. (Association) in the furtherance of its purposes, increase annual membership subscription for the membership year from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 to:

- Single annual membership up by \$5 to \$25
- Joint annual membership up by \$10 to \$35
- Single life membership up by \$50 to \$200
- Joint life membership up by \$50 to \$250
- Whole of village up by \$3 to \$18 per unit

Motion moved: Ken Clarke (RRVV Treasurer)

Motion seconded: Andrew Pierson (Cameron Close)

Ken then spoke to the motion. He noted that current membership fees could not provide sufficient income to cover the increasing costs of running RRVV. While acknowledging that the proposed increase could not be the complete solution, Ken advised that, on current membership numbers, it would provide an additional \$10,000 to \$12,000 of income. This amount would allow RRVV to go close to a break-even point in 2024/25. He also emphasised the need for another 3-4 people put their hands up to assist the present committee.

6. The reasons for increasing the membership fees

To support the motion, the Chair presented the key reasons for the proposal to increase membership subscriptions:

- Expenses more than income for 4 of the last 5 years.
- Due to deficit, reserves are being used up and will have disappeared by December 2025.
- Despite CPI and substantial increases in costs, there have been very few increases in fees in the last 5 years. This increase is in effect a catch-up increase.
- The Committee considers the increase is essential to allow RRVV to continue to operate.

Following the presentation of these points, the Chair called on anyone who would like to speak against the motion to do so.

No-one wanted to speak against the motion, but a question was raised about why the new annual fees were shown as concluding on 30 June 2025, and whether this meant there would be further increases.

The Chair explained that fees could be increased by a vote of members at the AGM which is generally held in October/November. Such an increase would apply from 1 July 2025.

Another question was asked on reporting of the number of members in each category. The Chair indicated that current system reporting did not provide enough opportunity to categorise the data, and this was an area that was going to be improved in the coming months.

Another member indicated that she supported increases in fees given the increase in costs. She noted that printing of newsletters was a significant cost, and more could be done to distribute it by email, and perhaps members wanting a printed copy could pay for that.

The Chair responded that our format does allow for emailing the newsletter. She noted we have just been advised that our current printer is going out of business and that this provided the opportunity to look at how we deliver the newsletter.

A whole-of-village member further noted that they would be happy to look at reducing their reliance on paper copies of the newsletter, utilising such alternatives as shared copies at the library and more emailed copies.

Kevin La Fontaine asked to speak to the motion. He presented a statement to the meeting, noting the importance of supporting the motion to ensure the RRVV could continue assisting residents of retirement villages. He noted that RRVV was in a difficult phase with decreasing income, increasing costs and a shortage of committee volunteers.

He felt the meeting should be about more than increasing fees as he was concerned that residents who did not know enough about RRVV would be reluctant to join or renew. He made several proposals for future consideration by the committee, including having the services of a marketing professional and marketing strategy to help RRVV become a stronger, more vibrant and effective organisation. He specifically recommended whole-of-village membership fees to be dropped by half to \$9 per unit.

The Chair checked with Kevin on whether he was looking to amend the motion or whether this was for future consideration of the committee. Kevin confirmed that it was for future consideration.

Terri Jackson then made the point that as Resident Liaison Officer she had worked hard to get her members to renew already and had achieved a good response. However this was at the current fee, and Terri was not comfortable to be the one to go back the residents to ask for an additional payment. The Chair confirmed that RRVV would take on the responsibility for such follow-up payments and that it would not be expected that RLOs take this on.

The Chair also stated that RRVV's RLOs are very important to how we operate, and we do not want to put them in difficult situations.

7. Vote on the motion

The Chair re-read the motion and confirmed it was moved by Ken Clarke and seconded by Andrew Pierson.

7.1 Explanation of the online voting process

The voting process was explained including the process for multiple attendees at one laptop to cast their votes. .

7.2 Confirmation of proxy votes

The attendance of proxies was confirmed. One proxy was not in attendance and his votes were not counted. All others were counted.

7.3 Voting

The general voting then commenced.

The online poll voting was completed first. Before announcing these results, the proxy and secondary votes needed to be completed.

Proxy vote results were confirmed next:

- 180 proxy votes were received in favour of the motion and 7 against.
- 5 proxy votes nominated the Chair as their proxy, who voted in favour.
- 1 proxy vote nominated Pauline Niels as proxy, she voted in favour.
- 1 proxy vote nominated Kaye Graham as proxy, she voted in favour.

Lastly, secondary attendees at one laptop submitted their votes – these 11 votes were submitted in favour of the motion. Now that all voting had been completed, the results were finalised.

8. Announce the result

The results of the voting were as follows:

- 255 votes were received for the motion
- 8 against.

The Chair pronounced the motion carried.

9. Where to from here?

Several areas will now be looked at:

- Cost reduction: reviewing printing systems requirements
- A concerted membership drive and village visits
- Addressing the need for active volunteers to join the Committee
- Improve marketing and communication, through a volunteer or a graduate

The Chair thanked everyone for coming, and commented on how heartening this was as it says that there is a real interest in, and support for RRVV, which the committee will work hard to retain going forward. Thank you.

10. Meeting close

The meeting closed at 11:25am.