



# **LOWRY BAY YACHT CLUB (INC.)**

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NEW ZEALAND

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## **REGULATION and POLICY for LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

### **RATIONALE AND PURPOSE**

1. Life membership is a class of membership that acknowledges exemplary service to the club by members that goes beyond the contributions regularly made by members in the running of the club.
2. At the 2018 AGM the Commodore asked the incoming Executive to define the criteria for Life membership so there were clear guidelines.
3. At the EGM in September 2018 proposed rule changes were put forward for discussion with a background paper circulated prior to.
4. A wide range of opinions were expressed as to the criteria and process. Much of this was contradictory.
5. Whilst rule changes were suggested for the Life membership there was a body of opinion that the matter should be dealt with by the Executive committee, and that a clear process should be followed.
6. The need for regulations is recognised in the club's General Rules in Clause 47 Regulations which states:  
  
"The Executive Committee shall have the power to make regulations or bylaws dealing with all matters not provided for by these rules, provided that such regulation or by-laws are not inconsistent or repugnant to the Incorporated Societies Act, 1908 or to these rules."  
  
This has been considered by the Executive to be a more appropriate course, as it allows flexibility and will not expose previous decisions to scrutiny.
7. This policy defines a process for dealing with Life membership applications and sets out criteria to be considered.
8. The purpose of the process is to ensure the necessary information about the applicant is received and that the application is appropriate, and the proposed candidate wants to be a Life member.
9. The criteria used includes many of the suggestions made and will provide flexibility in reviewing applications for the current and future Executive committees.

## **LIFE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS**

1. Application form (attached) is completed by a proposer.
2. The application provides information on the type of member, the length of time the applicant has been a club member, the reason for the application and why the service is considered exemplary. The application needs to detail the service provided to the club that will be used as the citation when the decision is made at the AGM.
3. The application requires a seconder from a club member.
4. The application is then considered by the Executive committee who will review it to ensure it meets the criteria and the exemplary standard for Life Membership.
5. The Executive committee will need to ensure the application is consistent with the number of Life members compared to the number of senior members in the club (7.5%).
6. When approved by the Executive committee, the Commodore will discuss the application with proposed Life member to be sure this is what they want and are willing for the matter to go to the AGM for a decision.
7. If the applicant agrees as above the application will be advised to members by posting on the noticeboard and by a note to be sent out with the Notice of AGM.
8. Club members will be asked to reply to the Commodore prior to the meeting if there are significant reasons to oppose the application and if there would be reason to vote against it.
9. The application will be voted on at the AGM and will require 80% of eligible members to vote for the application as defined in the club's General Rules.
10. The Commodore will advise the applicant of the AGM decision.
11. A framed certificate will be prepared and sent to the new Life member.

## **THE CRITERIA FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

1. Members being proposed for Life membership are required to be financial members of the club for the past ten years.
2. Assessment of the criteria will be judged by the Executive committee based on the information provided by the proposer.
3. The seconder will have to affirm the information provided by the proposer.
4. Inconsistencies may be evident in the information provided and the Executive committee will have to reconcile these and make further enquiries as required.
5. Exemplary service refers to service well beyond that provided by most members that serve the club. It includes the willingness to take on tasks and co-operate with other members serving the club.
6. The time served as a volunteer will be nine years of continuous service, however in exceptional circumstances six years of continuous service would be considered.
7. Paid service to the club is not included in the assessment.
8. Service to the club will be as an Executive committee member or officer of the club typically, but not exclusively. Exemplary service in other roles will also be recognised.
9. The maximum number of Life members at any one time will be 7.5% of the number of senior members expected at the time of the AGM allowing for all Life membership applications to be approved by the AGM.
10. Life membership is awarded for the service of an individual senior member but in the case of family members that have also provided exemplary service both shall be eligible.

