

THE NEW ITALY MUSEUM INCORPORATED

NOTICE OF SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

To be considered at the 2026 Annual General Meeting

In accordance with the constitution of New Italy Museum Inc., notice is hereby given that the following **Special Resolutions** will be put to members for approval at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

Special Resolution 1 – Committee Composition

That the constitution be amended to reduce the number of committee members from ten (10) to nine (9), by having 4 ordinary committee members, not 5.

Special Resolution 2 – Payment of Membership Fees

That the constitution be amended so that membership fees are paid at the time a membership application is submitted, with fees refunded in full if an application is not approved.

Special Resolution 3 – Membership Anniversary Date

That the constitution be amended so that each member's anniversary date is the date on which their membership fee was first paid, and that this date be used for renewal in each following calendar year. Also, we will amend the cost of membership from \$12 to \$20 - as it has been that amount for a few years now.

Special Resolution 4 – Voting Eligibility for New Members

That the constitution includes - that new members become eligible to vote only after six (6) months of continuous membership from the date their application is approved.

Special Resolution 5 – Questions to be included on the Membership Application form

That the Membership Application be amended with the addition of more relevant questions that enable the Committee to assess an applicant's interest in Historic New Italy and their connection to the organisation.

SUPPORTING EXPLANATORY NOTES

Resolution 1 – Committee Composition

For a few years it has been difficult to fill all ten committee positions, and the committee has often operated with casual vacancies while still meeting a quorum. On advice from the

Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission we want to reduce the committee size to nine positions which makes it more achievable to fill all roles.

Constitution states

14 Composition and membership of committee

(1) The committee is to consist of:

(a) the office-bearers of the association, and

(b) at least 5 ordinary committee members,

each of whom is to be elected at the annual general meeting of the association under clause 15.

(2) The total number of committee members is to be 10.

(3) The office-bearers of the association are as follows:

(a) the president,

(b) two vice-presidents,

(c) the treasurer,

(d) the secretary.

(4) A committee member may hold up to 2 offices (other than both the offices of president and vice-president).

(5) There is no maximum number of consecutive terms for which a committee member may hold office.

(6) Each member of the committee is, subject to this constitution, to hold office until immediately before the election of committee members at the annual general meeting next following the date of the member's election and is eligible for re-election.

Resolution 2 – Payment of Membership Fees

The constitution requires payment within 28 days of membership acceptance by the committee, but in practice, applicants have been paying upfront for many years because it streamlines the process. Formalising this approach aligns the constitution with established practice and ensures clarity and efficiency.

Fees will be refunded if an application is not approved.

Constitution states

3 Application for membership

(1) An application by a person for membership of the association:

(a) must be made in writing (including by email or other electronic means, if the committee so determines) in the form determined by the committee, and

(b) must be lodged (including by electronic means, if the committee so determines) with the secretary of the association.

(2) As soon as practicable after receiving an application for membership, the secretary

must refer the application to the committee, which is to determine whether to approve or to reject the application.

(3) As soon as practicable after the committee makes that determination, the secretary must:

(a) notify the applicant in writing (including by email or other electronic means, if the committee so determines) that the committee approved or rejected the application (whichever is applicable), and

(b) if the committee approved the application, request the applicant to pay (within the period of 28 days after receipt by the applicant of the notification) the sum payable under this constitution by a member as entrance fee and annual subscription.

(4) The secretary must, on payment by the applicant of the amounts referred to in subclause (3) (b) within the period referred to in that provision, enter or cause to be entered the applicant's name in the register of members and, on the name being so entered, the applicant becomes a member of the association

Resolution 3 – Membership Anniversary Date

The constitution currently sets all membership anniversary dates at the end of the financial year, resulting in unequal membership periods. With the updated computerised database and automated reminders, individual renewal dates can now be tracked accurately. Setting each member's anniversary date as the date they first paid ensures fairness and consistency.

Constitution states

8 Fees and subscriptions

(1) A member of the association must, on admission to membership, pay to the association a fee of \$1 or, if some other amount is determined by the committee, that other amount.

(2) In addition to any amount payable by the member under subclause (1), a member of the association must pay to the association an annual membership fee of \$12 or, if some other amount is determined by the committee, that other amount:

(a) except as provided by paragraph (b), before the first day of the financial year of the association in each calendar year, or

(b) if the member becomes a member on or after the first day of the financial year of the association in any calendar year—on becoming a member and before the first day of the financial year of the association in each succeeding calendar year.

Resolution 4– Voting Eligibility for New Members

A six-month waiting period for voting rights helps safeguard the stability and integrity of governance. It allows the committee time to understand new members' engagement and ensures voting rights are held by those with a demonstrated interest in the wellbeing of Historic New Italy.

Resolution 5 – Questions to be included on the Membership Application form

The current application form asks only whether an applicant is a descendant and if they want to support New Italy Museum, which does not provide enough information for the committee to make an informed decision on acceptance of that person. Adding a couple of relevant questions will help the committee understand an applicant's interest in Historic New Italy and the skills or knowledge they may bring, strengthening both governance and community engagement.

Questions to be included –

1. Are you a descendant of the New Italy settler families? If so, which family / families?
2. Are you from a Northern Rivers Italian family? If so, which family / families.
3. What has prompted you to apply for membership? We'd appreciate hearing what interests you.
4. In what ways might you contribute to Historic New Italy? Areas you'd like to be involved in.