

Updating the GTCASA Constitution

Background

The current GTCASA constitution is very old. Several items are outdated, and it does not meet current requirements. Our constitution refers to the Associations Incorporation Act of 1956, whereas the current Act is dated 1985 and has additional requirements.

Most importantly, the quorum required for an AGM in our current constitution is 20 people, and this is very difficult to achieve with current membership numbers. This needs to be changed.

The committee of GTCASA has updated the constitution and it is now ready for GTCASA members to read and give their approval or otherwise.

How do we change the constitution?

The constitution can be changed by a Special Resolution presented at the AGM.

A majority of all members of GTCASA must vote in favour of changing the constitution.

Members may choose to vote by proxy or in person at the AGM. To make this as easy as possible, we have set up on-line voting [here](#). Members may also vote by [e-mail](#).

The updated constitution will then need to be sent to the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs for approval and registration.

Summary of main changes to the constitution

1. Changes to the quorum for an AGM, and the procedure for what to do if quorum not met. The current constitution requires GTCASA to keep rescheduling the AGM until the required number of 20 are present. The revised version proposes a quorum of 10 people or one-sixth of the members, whichever is the lesser. It also has provisions for rescheduling the AGM once, and that if the quorum is not achieved on the second occasion, the people present are considered a quorum. The new constitution also specifically mentions that proxy votes are allowed, and that members can attend the AGM by proxy.
2. References to affiliate members have been removed. The current constitution mentions affiliate members although GTCASA does not ever seem to have had this category of membership. New membership categories better meet this need without the onerous tasks outlined in the current constitution
3. Date of AGM. The time available for holding the AGM has been increased from 3 months after the end of the financial year to 4 months, simply to provide increased flexibility.
4. Committee positions. The old constitution mentions two separate Vice-President positions (teacher Vice-President and parent Vice-President). This has been amended to a single Vice-President position
5. Definition of Writing. The definition 'writing' has been expanded to include electronic writing. Some new definitions have been added that are in the example constitution provided by the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs that were missing from the old

constitution. These are: 'general meeting', 'member', 'the Act', 'special resolution', and 'month'.

6. Special resolutions and changing the constitution. The current Act requires the incorporated associations provide 21 days' notice to members of a special resolution (not 14 as in the current GTCASA constitution). The Act also specifies that special resolutions must be passed by at least three-quarters of members (not a majority as in the current GTCASA constitution). The new constitution has been updated to reflect the legal requirements, and to indicate that the constitution must be changed by Special Resolution (not an ordinary resolution).

Copies of the old and new constitution are available on the GTCASA website:

- [old constitution](#)
- [new constitution](#)