

ANARE CLUB Inc.
2023 Annual General Meeting
Re Proposal from the NSW Branch to increase the Annual Capitation
from 5% per financial Branch / Territory Member to 15%.

Item No. 10.2b

Dear Councillors,

To enable informed debate on the proposal submitted by the NSW Branch Committee, we have provided the following comments /observations & suggested recommendations on the impact/timing and other related matters over the adoption of this proposal on the financial standing of the Club, in particularly, the effect on the level of our annual subscription, which have stood at \$45.00 (Australia -wide, \$55.00 Overseas) since 2016. (and Digital subs at \$30.00 since 2021).

1.The effect of the proposal on our Subscription Levels.

The Constitution provides (section 12) for each AGM to set the level of Subscription for the ensuing year – at the 2023 AGM the meeting will set the Subscriptions for the 2024-25 Subscription Year, i.e., to take effect from 30 June 2024. Accordingly, any changes must wait to take effect for the **2024-2025** Subscription year. However, the Club has been ‘subsidising’ these sub levels for some years and NSW proposal will cause the Club to reach the ‘tipping point’ and increase subscription levels.

Given that the financial charges for paying subs (including digital subscriptions) by Credit Card or PayPal, the current effect with our present 5% capitation arrangements reduces the % return from each annual Subscriptions per member of approximately; - (by a 15% capitation increase -a further reduction shown (ie. 36 %).

Overseas Sub. \$55.00	less PayPal, Bank, 5% Capitation, Postage X4	\$25.40 Reduction 46% (36%)
Standard Sub. \$45.00	“ “ “ “ “	\$34.70 “ 77% (68%)
Digital Sub. \$30.00	“ “ “ “ “	\$26.85 “ 89% (81%)

Based on the number of 2023-2024 payments, the increased 15% Capitation sum payable to Branches would be approximately; - \$2,770.00 per annum.

Given that it now costs around \$30,000 per annum to run the Club, subs would have to increase from the current Standard sub (presently \$45), by \$10.00 to \$55.00; Overseas Sub \$55 by \$10.00 to \$65; and Digital Subs \$30.00, by \$10 per annum to \$40.00, with a consequential psychological effect and potential subs income short fall.

2.An Easy Alternative to 1. above

The other alternative is of course is to hold the Subs at their present levels and run down the Club’s reserves (Term Deposits) which have been the result of previous Council’s/Member’s initiatives and efforts, prudently managed over the years and contain special allocations for Aurora Publishing and Donations. We don’t believe this is an appropriate way of treating these hard-earned investments.

3. Another approach to Branch funding.

The National Council has been aware of the impact which the Covid pandemic has had on the activities of State/ Territory Branch Committees and their branch members and the continuing cost of living pressures which now bedevil the Australian community.

At the same time, the Council readily acknowledges that the ongoing strength of the Club as a whole revolves around a vibrant and active Branch organisation, acting and engaging in inclusive ways to their members of the Club, particularly with the new wave of Subscriber members and is supportive of assisting Branches ‘*get back on their feet*’.

The Purposes of our Club as set out in our Constitution / Rules, (see below), provides a wide range of activity areas in which Branch Committees can consider ways to introduce and enhance their Branch offerings in an inclusive manner to their State/Territory members.

The Constitution/ Rules (section 76 see below) specifically tasks the Branch / Territory Committee), as *being responsible for the efficient and economical running of social activities for the Club within the Branch.*

(‘Social activities’ when the Rules were adopted in 2013, would today have a much wider meaning and would encompass; ‘welfare, engagement, caring and reaching out’, to its Branch membership). After all the Branches have a close interface with their local members and are well placed to organise these expanded tasks.

In his regard, while the Branch organisation of the annual Mid-Winter Dinners has always been the highlight of the year, has any thought been given to having a Mid-Winter Luncheon to enable our Old and Bold to attend since they may not like the thought of coming out at night. The NSW Branch have already introduced this change with welcome attendance results.

The following suggestions have been put together as a result of discussions with David Ellyard earlier this year and are made as a way of re-invigorating the activities / offerings of the Branch (*these are not in any particular order*); -

- (a). Arrange quarterly luncheons or speakers at historic venues such as a Maritime, RAAF, Navy, installations / Museums.
- (b). Arrange for speakers from the AAD (and the Bureau of Meteorology, etc.), to talk about current Antarctic Shipping, Aviation, Science and Weather activities.
- (c). Organise a “slide night” (to use an old-fashioned term), where attendees can show some of their favourite images from *Down South* and share some stories in a convivial atmosphere.
- (d). Organise a bus trip to a location of Antarctic related interest.
- (e). Arrange visits to old expeditioners in aged care.
- (f). Arrange phone calls to old expeditioners in regional areas.
- (g). Sponsor a day flight to Antarctica for an outstanding secondary school student boy and girl from a socio-disadvantaged situation.
- (h). Arrange a roster of members to respond to requests from schools and other organisations for guest speakers.
- (i). Become active in the collection of oral history interviews, especially from older expeditioners.
- (j). Reporting of the passing of members, arranging notification for our Website/ Aurora/ etc., in accordance with the *deceased member’s reporting policy*.
- (k). Develop a Branch project with a historically ANARE Antarctic-national -related theme.
- (l). Appoint a Branch Social Secretary / Publicity Officer / Privacy Officer to drive the above tasks.

4. Where do we go from Here ! - How about the Availability of a Branch Rejuvenation Grant.

Given that there is nothing to stop Branches developing a Project(s) of significant Antarctic of national importance aimed at enhancing the opportunities for engagement with their Branch members, I sure the National Council would welcome such ideas for support funding from the Branches, providing that the Branches engage in a consultative transparent development of their proposal with the Council and undertake a proper business case for the project.

Finally, we don’t believe it was ever the Club’s (Council’s) intention that Branches should amass large amounts of funds, but rather that they would develop their funding requirements to meet and maintain the level of activities that a vibrant and energetic Branch would be expected to undertake.

5. Summary of Suggested Enabling Recommendations for Consideration.

5.1 That Council agree to the recommendation put forward by the NSW State Branch to increase Capitation to 15%, noting that the increase will take effect from the 2024-2025 Club Year (1 July 2024) (requiring Changes to the Constitution / Rules -to be ratified at the following 2023 AGM).

5.2 That Council agreeing to Recommendation 5.1, agree to increase the annual subscription levels by \$10.00 each to take effect from 1 July 2024 and that this increase be ratified by the following 2023 AGM.

5.3 That Council invite each State and Territory Branch Committees to apply for ‘Rejuvenation Grants’ during the forthcoming Club Year 2023-2024 for enhancement of their Branch activities to include a proper business case for their project endeavours.

5.4 That in respect to Recommendation 5.3, that Council in approving Branch ‘Rejuvenation Grants’, authorise the prudent draw down of funds from its Financial Reserves (Term Deposits).

We hope these background observations and suggested recommendations will be helpful during the debate the proposal from the NSW Branch Committee

David Dodd and Chris Eavis

27 July 2023

Extract from the Club’s Rules

2. Purposes

The purposes of the association are;

- (1) To promote and sustain contact and interaction between and among current and previous Australian Antarctic expeditioners.**
 - (2) To provide services of value to members.**
 - (3) To provide support and assistance to expeditioners and their families.**
 - (4) To maintain a mutually supportive relationship with the Australian Antarctic Division.**
 - (5) To liaise with other organisations and agencies involved in Antarctic activities and affairs.**
 - (6) To generate awareness of Australian Antarctic history, and to contribute to archival resources.**
 - (7) To serve as a source of information and informed opinion on Antarctic issues and developments.**
 - (8) To generate awareness and interest among the wider public in issues and developments affecting Antarctica and in particular the Australian Antarctic Territory and Macquarie Island.**
 - (9) To establish and operate Club facilities as required.**
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76 State and Territory Councils

- (1) State and Territory Councils may be established in each State and Territory in Australia.
- (2) State and Territory Councils are responsible for the efficient and economical running of social activities for the Club within the Branch.**
- (3) State and Territory Councils are at all times answerable to the National Council and decisions made at State and Territory Council Meetings may be overruled by the National Council.
- (4) The State or Territory Council may consist of the following elected members:
 - a. President, b. Vice-President, c. Secretary, d. Treasurer, and, e. A maximum of 5 Council Members.
- (5) A quorum of a State or Territory Council shall consist of three members.
- (6) The State or Territory Council may co-opt any member to fill a vacancy on the State or Territory Council.
- (7) State and Territory Councils may appoint Regional Representatives in any town or district within the Council area, with a maximum of four Regional Representatives on any State or Territory. In any case, all members of National Council or State and Territory Councils shall be deemed to be Regional Representatives when visiting other Branch Councils or the National Council.
- (8) Unless otherwise notified in writing or in the Club Journal all State and Territory Annual General Meetings shall be held during the State or Territory Mid-Winter celebrations.
- (9) Capitation will be paid to each State and Territory Council representing five percent of the annual subscription for each financial Club Member within the State or Territory area. Capitation shall be paid at the commencement of the financial year and based on numbers at that date.**
- (10) Unless otherwise specified the rules that govern the conduct of the National Council Meetings shall also govern the State and Territory Councils Meetings.**
- (11) Each State and Territory Council shall prepare an Annual Report detailing its deliberations and activities and that Report shall be presented to the Annual General Meeting of the Club.**
- (12) The National Council may withhold payment of capitation levy to a State or Territory Council, pending receipt of a satisfactorily audited report of its financial affairs.**
- (13) For the purposes of these Rules, the Australian Capital Territory Council will include members living in the Queanbeyan, Bungendore Yass and Cooma district.