

Australian Hunting Net Inc (AHNI)

CONSTITUTION AND RULES Under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984 (NSW)

**Incorporation Number..... INC9888909
Date of Incorporation
22 February 2008**

**This Constitution was officially adopted by
the Association at the Special General
Meeting held on
26/01/2008.**

1. ARTICLES OF AUSTRALIAN HUNTING NET, Inc.

The name of the Association shall be "Australian Hunting Net Incorporated" (AHNI).

The principal office of the Corporation shall be the business address within New South Wales of the Public Officer for AHNI.

2. Definitions

In these rules except insofar as the context or subject matter otherwise indicates or requires:-

"Act" means the Associations Incorporation Act 1984 as amended from time to time

"Public Officer" is a person designated to hold and carry out the functions and duties required by the Act.

"Association" means Australian Hunting Net, Incorporated, (AHNI)

"Committee" shall mean and include the Executive Committee together with the President, the Vice President, Secretary and the State and Territorial Representatives

“Hunting” shall mean all aspects of outdoor experiences including Camping, Fishing, Bush walking or riding, Photography and Land care.

3. Purposes

The objects and purposes of the Association shall be:-

- (a) To collect, organise and distribute educational information and data regarding the game, feral animals and waterfowl of Australia, Including the South Pacific region and the world.
- (b) The Assets and Income of the Association shall be applied solely in furtherance of its objectives and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to the members of the Association except as bona fide compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the organisation providing:-
 - (i) They produce written evidence of the expenditure
 - (ii) The Executive Committee approves such reimbursement.
 - (iii) The Secretarial expenses will be reimbursed on a pro-rata basis, inclusive of a Petty Cash account for the Club such as determined by the Executive Committee.
- (c) To provide donations to other organisations or individuals pursuing the same or similar goals as this Association.
- (d) To promote, establish and conduct scientific and biological studies regarding the wild animals and waterfowl of the world; to learn more of the genealogy, habitat and environmental requirements.
- (e) To participate in and generally encourage and support either financially or otherwise any proper management programme concerning the conservation of indigenous wild life including conservation and protection of their habitat.
- (f) To promote, encourage and otherwise take an active role in the control and management of game and feral animals.
- (g) To organise and run in Australia all manner of courses in the safe and efficient use of firearms and firearm ownership and to aid and abet other individuals, associations and organisations in the instruction and maintenance of firearm usages, to run shooting and firearm classes for its members and the public generally.
- (h) To promote hunting as a legitimate cultural and recreational pursuit.
- (i) To purchase, lease, sell, hire or otherwise deal with property for the purpose of implementing the purposes of the Association.
- (j) To conduct and promote hunting competitions for the benefit of the Members.
- (k) To hold a portion of member’s subscription for the assistance of Fellow Associations or AHNI itself, providing:
 - (i) The sum held be no more than 10% per annum of the said subscriptions.

- (ii) That the funds be approved for distribution by the Executive Committee.
- (iii) That the funds be maintained separate to the general revenue of AHNI.
- (iv) That the funds be not invested in any other than bank secure deposit.
- (l) To do all things incidental to the above objects and to carry out such other business as determined from time to time.
- (m) To promote the preservation of Australia's heritage of Militaria, and associated paraphernalia from our historical past.

4. **Membership**

There shall be five classes of membership being:-

- (a) Regular membership.
- (b) Honorary Life membership
- (c) Junior Membership.
- (d) Affiliate Membership.
- (e) Family Membership

(a) **Regular Membership**

To be eligible for Regular Membership a person must be of good moral character, provide sufficient evidence, if required, as to his character and an active interest in both hunting and conservation. Membership needs two or more referrals from existing members, or two personal referees that have known the applicant for Two (2) years or more, it is also at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

- (b) **Honorary Life Membership** will be conferred on a member of the Executive Committee, or Regular Member who has demonstrated extraordinary dedication to the purposes and goals of the Association.

(c) **Junior Membership**

To be eligible for "Junior Membership" a person must be either:

- (i) Under the age of eighteen years, and over the age of 12 at the time he applies to join as a junior member.
On the member's eighteenth birthday he shall cease to be a junior member and may apply to become a Regular Member and shall pay the membership fee on a pro rata basis for that class of membership for the balance of the year for which his membership would but for his turning 18, be current.
- (ii) A junior member, shall have all of the rights and privileges of a regular member but will be ineligible to vote.

- (iii) A junior member must also provide written support for their membership from their Parent or Legal Guardian except where this membership falls under the Family membership category.
- (d) **Affiliate Membership**

Any incorporated association, or any corporation which has as its goals similar aims or objectives to those of Australian Hunting Net Incorporated shall be entitled to apply for Affiliate Membership.

An Affiliate member shall NOT have:-

 - (i) The right to vote.
 - (ii) The right to stand for the Executive Committee.
- (e) **Family Membership**

Family membership will be granted for a family comprising up to 2 parents and their children less than 18 years. Children will be granted junior (non voting) membership and be allocated a member number without the need for referrals. On reaching 18 years of age children will be eligible to roll over their junior membership into a full adult membership after payment of the appropriate fees as outlined under section 4 (c) junior membership.

All applications for either one of the classes of membership, except Honorary Life Membership, must be recommended, by two or more members, and approved by the Executive Committee. Any application for Honorary Life Membership shall be submitted to the members at the Annual General Meeting, along with a recommendation from the Executive Committee, as to whether Honorary Life Membership should be granted and any such application must be approved by a majority of the members entitled to and voting at the Annual General Meeting.

Notwithstanding any class of membership that is held by a member, that member shall, without more, also be registered in the branch of the Association in the State or Territory in which he or she lives, or in the case of affiliates, the State in which it has its registered office.

5. **Branches**

There may be constituted in each State of Australia as well as the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory a branch of the Association. The State representative holding office from time to time for that State or Territory respectively shall be the Chairman of any meeting of the members of the branch; provided that if any member of the Executive Committee is present at the meeting he or she shall chair the meeting. In the event that there is more than one member of the Executive Committee present then the more senior member of the Executive Committee shall chair the meeting.

6. Register of Members

There shall be kept with the Secretary a register detailing the names and addresses of all members and their class of membership.

7. Voting

Each Regular Member who is current in the payment of his dues and every Honorary Life Member shall be entitled to one vote on every matter submitted to a vote of the members. Voting by proxy in any meeting convened by the Association is not permitted.

8. Fees

The entrance fees and yearly subscriptions shall be determined one year in advance by the Executive Committee and shall be paid yearly in advance. If any Regular Member fails to pay his fees within sixty (60) days of each anniversary of renewal date as determined by the Association he shall not be entitled to vote on any matter until his fees are paid.

The Executive Committee may from time to time allow multiples of yearly subscriptions at a pro rata rate, in set blocks up to and including 15 years , this excludes the implementation of any form of Life Membership.

Honorary Life Members shall not be obliged to pay any entrance fees and yearly subscription fees.

9. Resignation of Members and Re-Application

Any member may resign by notifying the Secretary in writing of his resignation and the date of such resignation shall be from the date nominated in the letter or if not so nominated from when the letter is received by the Secretary. Money for fees, subscriptions and dues paid by the resigning member shall not be refunded.

Any application for membership being from a member who has previously resigned or had his membership terminated shall be made in the same manner as any other applications for membership, however if such member had at the date of resignation or termination any dues or fees outstanding it is a condition of application that all outstanding fees be brought up to date.

The liability of a member to the Association to contribute towards the payment of the debts and liabilities of the Association or the costs, charges, and expenses of the winding up of the Association is limited to the amount, if any, unpaid by the member in respect of membership of the Association as required by Clause 11.

10. Termination for Cause

A member who makes false statements on his membership or awards applications or whose conduct is deemed detrimental to the Association may be dealt with by the Executive Committee in accordance with the following provisions. Prior to the Executive Committee taking any such action it shall cause to be sent to the member by either certified post, security post or registered post addressed to the last address recorded in the register kept of the member and such notice shall be deemed to have been received seven (7) business days after posting, a statement of the allegations against him and invite such member to attend before the Executive Committee on a date and place nominated by the Executive Committee in the notice being not less than fourteen (14) days from the date of the notice to answer the allegations.

Any member who wilfully disregards the Firearm laws of the State or Territory while they are attending an Association organised event will be subject to this termination clause.

If the member appears before the Executive Committee he shall be given an opportunity to be heard, either, with or without legal Counsel and to call witnesses on his behalf. Any other person wishing to address the Executive Committee may, in the Executive Committee's absolute discretion, be permitted to so address it.

In the event of the member not attending at the nominated time and place the Executive Committee may:-

- (a) Proceed to hear and determine the allegations in the absence of the member and proceed to a decision.
- (b) Adjourn the matter to a further date not being less than fourteen (14) days in the future, and notify the member by ordinary post of the adjourned date and place. On the adjourned date the Executive Committee may proceed to hear and determine the allegations against the member or further adjourn the proceedings and the same procedure as herein stated shall apply to any second and subsequent adjournments.

At the conclusion of the evidence the Executive Committee shall conduct a secret ballot and each member of that Executive Committee shall vote whether the allegations are proven. Such proof shall be required on the balance of probabilities. If the allegations are not proven by a majority vote the Executive Committee shall dismiss those allegations. In the event of the allegations being proven the Executive Committee shall by majority either:-

- (a) Terminate the membership of the member forthwith.
- (b) Suspend the membership of the member from all association activities for any period not exceeding twelve (12) months.
- (c) Fine the member up to a maximum of \$1,000 (AUD) but allow the member such time, as the Executive Committee deems just, to pay the fine. The Executive Committee may also extend the time permitted to pay the fine. In the event that the member does not pay the fine by the date allowed, or seek an extension of the time for payment of the fine within the period allowed to pay the fine, then that person's membership shall be suspended until the whole of the fine is paid. Any moneys paid by way of fine shall be used for the objects of the Association.

In neither event will the membership dues paid by the member or any part thereof be refunded.

There shall be no appeal from the decision of the Executive Committee. A person whose Membership has been terminated will not be able to re-apply for membership for a period determined by the Executive Committee of no less than two (2) years and no more than five (5) years

11. General Meetings

Annual Meetings of the members shall be held at a time, date and place to be determined by the Executive Committee. The President shall be the Chairman of each Annual General Meeting and in his absence the Vice President.

The Annual General Meeting shall transact the following business:

- (a) Receive the Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting.
- (b) Receive and pass the Annual Accounts of the Association.
- (c) Elect when their time of Office has expired the following Office Bearers namely: a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and any other members to constitute the Executive Committee and Territorial & State Representatives
- (d) General Business.

Extraordinary General Meetings may be called by the Chairman of the Executive Committee or 25% of that Executive Committee or by not less than ten (10) members giving notice in writing to the Secretary requiring such a meeting. In such event the Secretary shall call a meeting not later than one (1) month after the date of receipt of the notice to him.

Written or printed notice shall state the date, time and place of the holding thereof and shall be delivered personally or by prepaid ordinary post to each Regular Member and Honorary Life Member at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the meeting. Notices sent by post shall be deemed delivered two (2) business days after they are posted, addressed to the member at his address appearing on the Association's records.

Notice may be published on the Club Notice Board in the on-line club room, providing members signal they have read the document.

A quorum of any meeting of members shall consist of ten (10) regular members having the right to vote, and four (4) Committee persons. In the absence of a quorum at such meeting its members present may adjourn the meeting to a later date, time and place.

12. Office Bearers – Executive Committee

The property affairs and business of the Association shall be managed by an Executive Committee of not less than six members. The Executive Committee shall include:-

- (a) President.
- (b) Vice President
- (c) Secretary.
- (d) Treasurer.
- (e) Immediate Past President.
- (f) Eight (8) State Representatives representing each State and a Representative who is representing each of the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.

To be eligible for election as Representative of each State or Territory on the Executive Committee the member must reside in that State or Territory at the time of the Annual General Meeting.

A Representative so elected shall be entitled but not obliged to attend at all Executive Committee meetings but if he or she so attends he or she shall be entitled to vote at those meetings.

The Representative shall have the same duties and rights as the Vice President of the Executive Committee within their respective State or Territory.

Only Honorary Life Members, or Regular Members of 2 or more years can be voted onto the Executive Committee.

Each State/ Territory Representative elected in accordance with paragraph 26 shall report any significant matters in his or her State or Territory affecting the objects of the Association directly to the President.

13. The Executive Committee

The member elected as President shall hold that Office for a period of three years from the date of his election. Upon the expiry of his term the member shall be entitled to offer himself for re-election as President. No member shall be entitled to hold the Office as President continuously for any period of more than six consecutive years.

Nothing however shall preclude a member from being re-elected as President in accordance with this clause, if there is at least a three year gap between the member retiring as President and of being re-elected.

Upon any member ceasing to hold the position of President that member shall, for a further period of three years following his period as President, be known as an immediate past President and shall, during that three year period, be an ex officio member of the Executive Committee And maintains the right to vote.

In the event that a member resigns his position as President before the expiration of his term, then unless that member has been the President for the previous three years that member shall not become the immediate past President.

Any member elected to the Executive Committee shall hold that position for a term of two years from the date of his or her election, provided that at least half of the members of the Executive Committee, excluding the President, shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting. The Executive Committee shall decide who of the elected members shall from time to time fill the various positions on the Executive Committee.

14. Officer Bearers

The Office Bearers shall have the following duties and powers:-

(a) **The President shall:-**

(i) Preside as Chair at all meetings of the members and the Executive Committee.

- (ii) May sign such documents of another Proper Officer of the Executive Committee as may be authorised by the Executive Committee.
 - (iii) Perform all duties incident to the Office of President and other duties assigned by him to the Executive Committee.
- (b) **The Treasurer shall:-**
- (i) Be responsible for all funds and securities of the Association from all sources and depositors.
 - (ii) May designate with the approval of the Executive Committee such person or persons to assist him as his agent in carrying out the duties of his Office.
 - (iii) Review all records of Association income and expenditure.
 - (iv) Make a report to the members of the financial condition of the Corporation.
 - (v) Perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the majority of the Executive Committee.
 - (vi) Keep appropriate double entry books of account of the Association.
 - (vii) Deposit as soon as practical and without deduction to the credit of the Association's bank account all monies received.
 - (viii) Issue receipts for all monies received as soon as practical after receipt.
 - (ix) Together with not less than one other member of the Executive Committee sign all cheques, promissory notes, drafts, bills of exchange and other negotiable instruments issued by the Association.
- (c) **The Secretary shall:-**
- (i) Keep the Minutes of the meetings of the members and the Executive Committee in a book provided for this purpose.
 - (ii) See that all notices of the meetings of members and Executive Committee members are given in accordance with the provisions of these rules or as required by law.
 - (iii) Maintain all insurances as required by law.
 - (iv) Keep a register of the addresses of each member of the Association and the date on which the member joined the Association.
 - (v) Conduct correspondence.
 - (vi) Prepare agendas for all meetings of members and of the Executive Committee.
 - (vii) Keep all books and records of the Association in his custody as Public Officer other than those kept by the Treasurer for accounting and other financial purposes.
 - (viii) Perform such other duties as the majority of the Executive Committee shall specify.

- (d) **Public Officer**
 - (i) For the purposes of the Act a Secretary who is resident in New South Wales shall be the Public Officer and fulfil and carry out all the duties and functions thereafter.
 - (ii) In the event of the Secretary not being resident in New South Wales the Executive Committee shall appoint either from their membership or otherwise a person duly qualified under the Act to act as Public Officer.

15. Qualification of Executive Committee Members

A member may be elected to the Executive Committee providing he is:-

- (a) A Honorary Life Member.
- (b) At the time of election a current financial member for at least 2 years.
- (c) Has attained the age of eighteen years.
- (d) Is prepared to assume the role of State Representative of his or her State or Territory.

16. Casual Vacancies

If a vacancy becomes available on the Executive Committee it may be filled by the members of the Executive Committee or a majority thereof appointing such member as they think fit. This clause applies notwithstanding that a quorum of the Executive Committee is not present.

The Office of a member of the Executive Committee shall become vacant if:-

- (a) S/He absents himself without approval of the Executive Committee from four (4) consecutive meetings.
- (b) S/He is declared not mentally competent or declared bankrupt.

17. Meetings of Executive Committee

A quorum of the Executive Committee shall be constituted by four (4) members.

- (a) No business may be conducted unless a quorum is present.
- (b) If within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting lapses.

Regular meetings of the Executive Committee may be held at such places and times as the President or a majority of the Executive Committee may nominate.

At any meeting of the Executive Committee a majority vote of 75% of the members present shall be conclusive.

18. Minutes

The Minutes of the last preceding meeting of the Executive Committee shall be read at each Executive Committee meeting unless dispensed with by a majority vote of such Committee members.

At each regular meeting of the Executive Committee the Treasurer shall make a report of receipts and expenditure and give the financial position of the Association unless dispensed with by a majority of such Executive Committee.

19. Common Seal

The Corporate Seal shall be adopted by the Members of the Committee and such seal shall remain in the custody of the Secretary as Public Officer.

20. Contracts and Instruments

No person shall have any authority to expend money or bind the Association by any contract or instrument unless authorised by these rules or by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee may authorise any Officer, Officers, Agent or Agents of the Association to execute and deliver any contract, note or other instrument in the name of the Association and such other authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

No contract or other transaction between the Association and one or more of the Executive Committee members or between the Association and any other corporation, firm, association or other entity in which one or more of its committee members are committee members or officers or are financially interested shall be either void or voidable for this reason alone or by reason that such committee members are present at the meeting of the Executive Committee which approves such contract or transaction or that their vote is counted for such purposes:-

- (a) If the fact of such common directorship, officership or financial interest is disclosed or known to the Executive Committee and the Executive Committee approves such contract or transaction by a vote sufficient for such purpose without counting the vote or votes of such interested Executive Committee members.
- (b) Interested members of the Executive Committee may be counted in determining the presence of a quorum at a meeting of the Executive Committee which recommends approval of such contract or transaction.

21. Fiscal year

The fiscal year of the Association shall end on 30th June of each calendar year.

22. Applicable Law

For the purposes of these rules of the Association the law of the State of New South Wales and of the Commonwealth of Australia shall apply where appropriate in interpreting or determining any question under these rules.

23. Property Rights

No member or officer shall have any right, title or interest in any of the assets or property of this Association except the right to make use thereof as a member in accordance with these rules and any rules adopted by the Executive Committee.

24. Establishment of New Branches

The Executive Committee shall make rules and regulations pertaining to the establishment in designated areas of any branches or associations.

All such branches and associations must abide by all motions or rulings adopted by a majority of the Executive Committee.

25. Surplus Assets on Dissolution of the Association

On liquidation, dissolution, or winding-up all the property and assets of the Association shall be transferred or gifted to any other Association which has objects similar to those of this Association and which is not carried on for the object of trading or securing pecuniary gain for its members.

The members of the Association may by special resolution nominate for this purpose the name of the Association to which the surplus property is to be distributed.

The recipient association so named will be subject to review at each AGM as to the continued suitability of the said Association. (Or on the Anniversary of the Presidential election, three years)

26. Source of Funds

Funds of the Corporation shall be derived from entrance fees and Annual Subscriptions of members, donations, applications for award moneys and, subject to any resolution passed by the Association in general meetings, such other sources as the Executive Committee determines:-

- (a) The Executive Committee reserves the right to apply an entrance fee of no more than the Annual Subscription.
- (b) The Executive Committee will justify any rise in members Annual Subscriptions.
- (c) Any rise of Members Subscriptions shall be moved and accepted at the AGM.
- (d) Including the donations or grants made to the Association by its Members.
- (e) By a levy applied for use in emergency as determined by:-
 - (i) The levy is no more than the Annual Subscription.
 - (ii) The levy is unanimously approved by the Executive Committee.
 - (iii) The use of levy be assured as to the urgency of its application by the Executive Committee.

27. Special Members Fund

There will be an amount of no more than 10% of the Members Subscription set aside from AHNI's general revenue for a "Litigation Fund" assuring that:-

- (a) The finance is not invested in any other than bank secured deposit.
- (b) The fund is not used for property or stock.
- (c) The Executive Committee inform the members if said Fund will be used and for what purpose.
- (d) That members may contribute to this fund should they wish.

28. Inspection of Books

The records, books and other documents of the Association shall be open to inspection free of charge at the principal office of the Association by a member of the Association and only for the purposes associated with the Association's business or administration.

29. Amendment of Rules of the Association

After sixty (60) days written notice to the membership of the proposed amendment to the rules, or a new article may be amended or new Articles adopted by vote of three quarters of the membership present at either an Extraordinary General Meeting or the Annual General Meeting.

- (a) The articles may not be amended or repealed by the Committee.

- (b) The Rules of the Association may only be visited for amendment in the election year of the President, (Every three Years)
- or
- (c) In the case of urgent action required by a Special general Meeting

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**Note:** This Document was subject to amendment in accordance with the Act by Annual General Meeting held on 16th April 2009.

President : KARL HOUSEMAN  
(Print name)

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]  
(Signature of President)

Public Officer: MICHAEL JONSSON  
(Print name)

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]  
(Signature of Public Officer)



Dated this day Thursday the 14th of May 2009  
(Day) (Date) (Month)