

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP OF THE FRIENDS – GUIDELINES FOR NOMINATIONS

### Background

Life membership is an honour bestowed on individual Friends, whose exceptional and outstanding service and contribution has provided measurable benefit to the Friends over an extended period of time.

Criteria are provided below as guidance, but it is the nominee's overall contribution that must be evaluated. There will likely be some subjectivity in the granting of a life membership, and a nominee's strengths against the various criteria will vary.

In a nutshell, the nominee should have demonstrated an exceptional contribution beyond the ordinary for an extended period of time, which has a measurable benefit to the association; and has provided valued leadership around the Friends and the Arboretum and is considered a role model.

### Purpose

To outline how a nomination for Life Membership can be made

### Procedure

1. Anyone at any time can suggest (nominate) to a Council member (and thereby Council in general) that a person might be deserving of a Friends life membership. It is unlikely that the person suggested is not a Friend, but a situation might arise (eg a significant donation or bequest).
2. The nominator may choose to communicate the suggestion by emailing the Friends using the website Contact email.
3. Upon receiving a suggestion, Council will assess its merits against documented criteria including that the contribution warranting Life Membership has been shaped towards the running of the Friends or its activities (for the benefit of the Friends) rather than volunteering associated more directly with, or under the direction and management of, the National Arboretum Canberra.
4. If there is significant merit in the suggestion, Council will assess the suitability of the nominee against the criteria and possibly seek further information to determine whether a Life Membership is warranted.
5. In some cases, it may be clear at the time of the suggestion that Life Membership is not appropriate. This can be confirmed by Council and subsequently communicated to the nominator.
6. If a Life Membership is agreed to be appropriate, it can be announced and awarded at the following AGM.
7. Life Membership would be for life (unless the member opts out).
8. Under our current membership database system, some administrative arrangements may need adjusting to ensure that life members have a membership card – perhaps a friendly communication to these members at some interval that, in part, confirms that they still have their membership card (if these are still in use).
9. Note that it is a Council decision, and the final decision rests with Council.

10. Council will manage and update Life Membership guidelines as necessary, should this set of guidelines not cover the situations for which Life Membership is bestowed.

### **Outcomes sought**

This procedure is being communicated so that loyal, dedicated and long-serving Friends can be acknowledged for their outstanding commitment to the work of the Friends; and so that the Friends of the National Arboretum are acknowledged for demonstrating the considerable dedication their volunteers make to the Arboretum.

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**Attachment:** Nomination Form for Life Membership

8 October 2024