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# Life Membership Policy

Version 1.1

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## Life Membership Guidelines

1. Life membership is an honour bestowed on individual members who's exceptional, loyal and outstanding service and contribution has provided a measurable benefit to the Association over an extended period of time.
2. Honorary Life Membership is recognised by the Armidale Show Society as the highest form of recognition that can be awarded to a member in acknowledgement of exceptional service, dedication and contribution. It should retain its prestige and not be awarded frivolously.
3. Life Membership should not be considered as a competitive matter, and nominees must be considered individually, and on their own attributes, achievements and merits, rather than in comparison to others.
4. Criteria are provided as guidance, but it is the overall contribution of the nominee that must be evaluated. While a nominee may meet the criteria as outlined below, this does not automatically guarantee the award of Life Membership.
5. Once conferred, Life Membership of the organisation remains with the nominee. It is not transferrable to a spouse, family member or other individual.
6. Life Membership nominations can only be done for an individual.
7. Any existing Paid Life Members from before 01/01/2018, will be referred to as 'Paid Life Member' in the organisation's records, as opposed to 'Honorary Life Member', and upon turning 18 years old, will cease receiving the benefits of Paid Life Membership status.

## Criteria

8. To assist with the nomination, the following criteria should be considered:
  - A minimum of 15 years of active membership, OR a minimum of 10 years in Executive roles;
  - Extensive service in a range of roles that contribute to the benefit of the organisation, which may include but not restricted to executive roles, coordinator roles, fund-raising activities, promotional and marketing activities etc;
  - Demonstrated attitudes, behaviour and demeanour that reflects the values of the organisation;
  - The nominee represented the organisation with distinction on committees, state bodies and other relevant parties;
  - The nominee has provided valued leadership (both actual and perceived) for the organisation and can be considered a 'role model';
  - The nominee has gone above and beyond what is usually expected in their roles for an extended period of time;
  - The nominee must be a financial member of the organisation

## Nominations Process

9. Any current fully financial member can nominate any full or retired member, with the nomination to be seconded by at least one financial member
10. Nominations are to be done via the Life Member Nomination Form, and submitted to the Secretary BEFORE the October Monthly Meeting.
11. Nominations cannot be nominated by or supported by an immediate family member
12. In the event of a nominee serving on the Committee at the time of nomination, the nominee will be ineligible to participate in any deliberation relating to the nomination, and to vote on the nomination.
13. As outlined in the Constitution Section 17.1, nominations are deemed successful if they receive 75% of the vote held in a secret ballot
14. The awarding of the Life Membership will take place at the first annual Agricultural Show to take place AFTER the nomination was successful, and will be published on the Association's media channels as deemed appropriate.

## Objections & Retractions of Life Membership

15. In the case of an objection, the objecting member must provide strong reasons and/or evidence that counteracts the fundamentals of the Life Membership criteria, and this needs to be provided to the Executive Committee in a hard-copy form.
16. Any frivolous or unsubstantiated objections may result in expulsion of the offending member/s
17. Retraction of Life Membership may occur where the recipient has conducted themselves in a manner that adversely reflects on the image and activities of the organisation. This provision will only be exercised in exceptional circumstances and will require the full support of the Executive Committee.
18. As part of the deliberation, the Life Member in question is also to be given an opportunity to present their case for retention

## Review

19. This Policy and its implementation will be reviewed annually, or on a needs basis as required to align with legislative or practice changes

## Approval and amendment history

<b><i>Version</i></b>	<b><i>Approval Authority</i></b>	<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b><i>Amendment Summary</i></b>
1.1	Executive	6/2/2024	Amendments post-January Meeting