

ARTICLES OF CULTURAL HERITAGE PRACTITIONERS TASMANIA

Description

An affiliation of Tasmanian cultural heritage practitioners aimed at promoting the cultural heritage of Tasmania and its sound management and interpretation to government, industry and the public.

Statement of Philosophy

To work towards the appropriate conservation of cultural heritage and its promotion with honesty and professionalism and in keeping with the accepted standards and ethics of our profession and associated disciplines/trades.

Objectives

To be proactive in respect of the following -

- ◆ Lobby government and the private sector regarding cultural heritage issues of concern.
- ◆ Act as an independent body to represent the views of cultural heritage practitioners in Tasmania.
- ◆ Encourage and facilitate the exchange of cultural heritage information, concepts and developments and discussion of cultural heritage practices between practitioners in Tasmania.
- ◆ Promote the cultural heritage of Tasmania to the public and managers, and to raise the public profile of cultural heritage and cultural heritage practices through the media, field trips, public lectures and other fora.

Membership

- ◆ Membership is encouraged from the range of practitioners involved in cultural heritage.
- ◆ Members shall act as individuals and not on behalf of organisations.
- ◆ Membership is of two types - core and general. *General members* must have a present involvement, a past involvement, or a demonstrated and active interest in cultural heritage management (as a student or practitioner). General members are not able to comment or work on lobbying matters. *Core members* must be actively working in Tasmania in cultural heritage management, or have worked in Tasmania in cultural heritage management within the last 5 years; and must have a tertiary or other formal qualification in the area of cultural heritage and at least 3 years working experience in cultural heritage management. Core members can be involved in all lobbying. (Note - cultural heritage management is defined broadly (eg, includes interpretation)).
- ◆ Members must work within the ethical guidelines of their respective professions and/or trades.
- ◆ Members must agree to abide by the philosophy and objectives of the organisation.
- ◆ Membership will only be recognised when the prospective member has provided a curriculum vitae, and signed an agreement to abide by the philosophy and objectives of the organisation which will include working within the ethical guidelines of their respective profession/trade.

Organisational Framework

- ◆ Cultural Heritage Practitioners Tasmania (CHPT) is a voluntary affiliation.
- ◆ CHPT works on the basis of consensus, and not by voting.
- ◆ An annual membership fee (to be determined at annual meetings) will be levied to cover CHPT running costs.
- ◆ With respect to structure -
 - ◇ the organisation will operate as a network
 - ◇ each member will have a copy of the membership list which will also list members areas of interest
 - ◇ there will be 1 Co-ordinator who will be responsible for overseeing the running of the network, maintaining the membership list, keeping records relating to the groups operations, maintaining an archive (unless delegated), and act as a contact point for the organisation; the Co-ordinator will be determined at each annual meeting by group consensus
 - ◇ there will be no formal positions other than that of Co-ordinator
 - ◇ there will be a 3 person Membership Committee to assess applications for membership and determine type of member; with its composition to be reviewed at each annual meeting.
- ◆ CHPT members should meet annually to review the operation of the organisation, determine the annual levy, renominate a member to the position of Co-ordinator, and make any other changes to the organisation that are deemed to be necessary.
- ◆ All activities of the organisation (see below) are to be organised by individual members or 'working groups' on a volunteer basis, and include all interested members in the organisation of that activity(s).
- ◆ Any member(s) wishing to hold a meeting, public event, or to lobby on behalf of the group would be responsible for that action/event (and all liaison, paperwork, finances, etc), but must notify and have endorsement of the other members. They must provide copies of all correspondence and other relevant documentation and a brief report of the activity to the Co-ordinator for the organisation's records.

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- ◆ Other than the co-ordinator or other members preparing CHPT submissions, the names of members are kept confidential unless the written approval of the member/s to reveal the information is first given.
- ◆ With respect to lobbying, the member(s) proposing an issue for action will notify every member in writing (usually email) of their intention to action an issue and the views that they wish to put forward on behalf of the organisation. All members if they are interested in the issue or have an objection must respond to the initiator within 7 days or the time frame specified in the correspondence. Lack of response will be taken as agreement to the proposal. Where more than one third of the membership object to the views being put forward, then the member cannot act on that issue on behalf of CHPT unless the major objections can be resolved. The member(s) initiating the action must organise a meeting inviting all core members but making every effort to facilitate the attendance of the members objecting. Objections and the holding of meetings must occur in a reasonable time frame, bearing in mind that actions may be urgent. Where there is agreement to lobby on an issue through the organisation, the member(s) who raised the issue must work with at least one other nominated member of CHPT, and must work with all other CHPT members who wish to be involved.
- ◆ Members who fail to comply with the requirements of the organisation forfeit their membership of CHPT and the right to speak on behalf of CHPT. Termination of membership can be achieved by the member in question putting their resignation in writing, or the Co-ordinator terminating the said member's membership by notifying the said member in writing and putting the reasons for the termination. This action can only be taken by the Co-ordinator after a member has failed to comply with the requirements of CHPT, where the failure is stated in writing and there has been a meeting of members to discuss this issue to which the member in question must be invited, and where the member in question has had the opportunity to justify their action(s) which has led to their membership status being called into question, and it is the majority view of the membership that the membership should be terminated.

Activities

The type of activities that CHPT is concerned with establishing and developing include -

- ◆ Making submissions and lobbying on issues of concern in relation to cultural heritage management in Tasmania.
- ◆ Regular discussion meeting of members and other interested people.
- ◆ An information exchange (regular bulletin or email bulletin).
- ◆ Maintaining an archive of cultural heritage management matters in Tasmania and of the operation of CHPT.
- ◆ Field days for the group and/or the public to visit cultural heritage sites, places, digs, etc of interest.
- ◆ Public lectures on aspects of history, archaeology, and cultural heritage and its management in Tasmania.
- ◆ Provision of media articles and information for public information and education (possibly a regular column).
- ◆ To act as a contact and initial referral point for the public who are pursuing information on cultural heritage management in Tasmania.