
Guidelines for awarding a Life Membership of the Victorian Folk Music Club

1.0 Introduction:

This document is intended to:

1. Lay out the general guidelines for determining the eligibility of a member of the Victorian Folk Music Club to be awarded a Life Membership.
2. Be a guide to the process of awarding a Life Membership

2.0 Life Membership

Life Membership is the highest Award available to recognize the exceptional contribution of individuals to the Victorian Folk Music Club. It is therefore only to be awarded in exceptional circumstances

3.0 Nomination for Life Membership

Any financial Member may nominate another member for consideration for the Life Membership award. Nominations must be submitted in writing & must be signed by two current financial members (unrelated members) of the Club.

The nomination should be prepared so as to set out the achievements & activities of the nominee & at a minimum must meet the award criteria as set out below in section 4.0. Nominations must be received by the General Committee no later than the 1st of March in the year which the nomination is to be considered (see Timeline Sect 8.0).

4.0 Award Criteria

In considering the award of Life Membership an individual should have demonstrated significant, sustained and high quality service enhancing the reputation and the furthering of the aims of the Victorian Folk Music Club.

These points will be taken into account when considering any nomination:

- The nominee's length of service to the Club shall be at least 10 years and include significant and outstanding time serving as an office bearer or on a committee or serving in other positions within the club.
- The general attitude and overall demeanor of the nominee to ensure that the attitude is one that reflects a dedication to the values of the Victorian Folk Music Club.
- The nominee will have provided valued leadership and/or been an outstanding role model to the members in general.
- The nominees' service must reflect favorably on and brought credit to the Club.

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- The nominee must be a currently active financial member.

4.1 Important Note

These points apply in whatever role the nominee has participated in during their service in the Victorian Folk Music Club. Achieving the minimum service levels will not in any way automatically guarantee the award of Life Membership

Retrospective allocation of this award to individuals no longer involved in The Victorian Folk Music Club will not be made.

5.0 Process for Assessment of Applications

All nominations must demonstrate attainment of minimum service requirements and other details of exemplary service.

- The General Committee (a minimum quorum is required) will assess any nominations for Life Membership based on the established criteria.
- The General Committee will discuss & consider the application over two (2) regular meetings prior to the May General Committee meeting prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- The General Committee will assess all nominations put forward & only those nominations that the Committee considers worthy of Life Membership shall be endorsed & put to a vote at the May General Committee meeting.
- The final list of endorsed nominations for the award of Life Membership will be individually voted upon at the May general committee meeting (a unanimous vote will be required for approval).

If the General Committee decides that no suitable candidates have been nominated or there is not unanimous agreement then no Life Membership shall be awarded for that year.

6.0 Awarding of Life Membership

Life Memberships will be awarded at the next Victorian Folk Music Club Annual General Meeting.

7.0 Retraction of a Life Membership

Retraction of a Life Membership Award may occur where the recipient has conducted him/herself in a manner that reflects directly and adversely on the image or activities of the Victorian Folk Music Club. This provision will only be exercised in exceptional circumstances and will require the unanimous agreement of the General Committee to be enacted. As part of the deliberations, the Life Member in question is to be given an opportunity to present their case for retention of their Life Membership status.

8.0 Benefits of Life Membership

In addition to the status of membership of a select group within the Victorian Folk Music Club, Life Membership will be recognized by:

- Award of the Life Membership at the Victorian Folk Music Club at the Annual General meeting.
- Exemption from membership fee associated with the Victorian Folk Music Club.
- Listing in the Victorian Folk Music Club Web site and other official documents.
- Invitations to attend all official Club functions.

9.0 Time Line

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| • Receive nominations (Sect 3.0) | 1 st March |
| • Consider nominations (Sects 4.0 & 5.0) | March & April meeting of the General Committee |
| • Make decisions (Sect 6.0) | May meeting of the General Committee |
| • Award Life Membership (<u>if</u> one is to be awarded) | Annual General Meeting |