

THE KARPATHIAN PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION IN AUSTRALIA
CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE: **BE IT KNOWN** that this organisation was established at a meeting held in Canberra on ACT, on the 20th September 1959

NAME: **ARTICLE:1**
The organisation shall be known as “**THE KARPATHIAN PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION IN AUSTRALIA**”

ADDRESS: **ARTICLE:2**
The main office of the Association will be in Canberra ACT

PURPOSE: **ARTICLE:3**
The object and purposes of the Association are as follows: The union in brotherhood of all Karpathians; the cooperation among members and the development of brotherly ties with all Karpathians all over the World. Assistance to the family of a deceased member and to sick members. Assistance towards carrying out charitable deeds on the Island of Karpathos; the orderly entertainment of the members through various forms of functions, picnics and gatherings which will be taking place from time to time. The development of closer relationship between all Karpathians in Australia into the Australian community. The education of children of members of the Association.

ARTICLE:4
The purpose of the Association will be best achieved through the generous contribution of the members and their due respect to the current Executive Committee of the Association.

INCOME: **ARTICLE:5**
The Association’s sources of income: Annual membership fees, occasional contributions and donations and proceeds from various social functions.

MEMBERSHIP:

ARTICLE:6

Regular members: of the Association may be all those who originate from Karpathos and reside in Australia and who are above the age of 18 years.

Financial members: may be others who do not originate from Karpathos but these have no right to elect or be elected.

FEES:

ARTICLE:7

Regular members of the Association are considered only those who can pay their annual membership fees and their names appear in the Association's Members Register. Annual membership fee for each member is set at \$10.00 for males/females at the age of 18 or above. Members under the age of 18 irrespective of their sex have no right of electing or being elected.

Active members: are considered only those who are up to date financial members or those who have been regular financial members in the past.

ARTICLE:8

Every member who delays paying his/her contribution ceases to be an active member. He/She is to be considered active again only when he/she has paid his/her arrears. Exempted are those who departed from Australia and upon their return they are not obliged to pay arrears. They may however, become active members after they have paid membership fees for the current years. The right to elect and be elected will apply only to those who are active members and/or those who have paid their membership fees and are 18 years of age or above.

ARTICLE:9

No member who is regular, active or financial has the right to claim refund of his/her already paid contribution.

RECEIPT FOR

CONTRIBUTIONS

ARTICLE:10

For every contribution paid a receipt will be issued bearing the Treasurer's signature and the seal of the association.

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

ARTICLE:11

The Association is led by the Executive Committee consisting of seven (7) members elected by the active members of the Association at the General Meeting during the first fortnight of the month of July every second year by secret ballot with ballot paper signed by the President, the Vice President, the Treasurer, the Secretary and three members of the committee.

ARTICLE:12

The Executive Committee convenes and decides on the success of the purpose of the Association, seeks to subscribe new and auxiliary members, sets up various committees comprising members of the Association and assigns to them various tasks. Review whenever deemed necessary the financial position of the Association and suggests through the President at the General Meetings items for discussion and carry out the resolutions of the General Meetings.

ARTICLE:13

The Executive Committee is obliged to convene regular in the first or second week of each month, for examination of existing business and for making decisions on future activities and irregularly when ever the President or at least three members of the Executive Committee deem such meetings necessary.

ARTICLE:14

The meetings of the Executive Committee are considered to have a quorum if four(4) members of the Committee are present. If there is no quorum, the meeting is postponed for eight days when it is regarded as having a quorum irrespective of the number of members present decisions are made by the majority and in case of equal votes the vote of the President or his replacement is the decisive one. The minutes of the ordinary and extraordinary meetings are to be kept in the minute book and are to be endorsed by all present.

ARTICLE:15

It is strictly forbidden any profitable transaction on the part of the Executive Committee using the services are rendered free. No member of the Committee may act on behalf of the Association without prior decision by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE:16

The Executive Committee cannot appropriate for whatever purpose pursued by the Association, charitable, educational or in aid, a sum in excess of \$500.00 per year and this only once on behalf of the same receiving person or group of persons. For sums in excess of \$500.00 the Executive Committee must seek the approval of the General Meeting.

ARTICLE:17

Any member of the Executive Committee who does not fulfil his/her obligations and absents themselves for three(3) consecutive meetings without valid reason, ceases to be a member of the said Committee and is replaced by one of the members with the most votes at the last election after the person is replaced.

ARTICLE:18

OBLIGATIONS OF

THE PRESIDENT:

The President calls the Executive Committee at the regular and extraordinary meetings of the said Committee. He/She chairs the meetings and guides the discussions, signs the documents of the Association with the Secretary, and the cheques with the Treasurer, checks the Treasury whenever he/she deems necessary, ensures the conformity to the existing constitution and represents with the Executive Committee the Association in all its functions.

ARTICLE:19

VICE-PRESIDENT:

The Vice President replaces the President whenever the latter is absent or unable to attend.

ARTICLE:20

SECRETARY:

The Secretary keeps the Seal of the Association, the minutes of the meetings and the correspondence of the Association, and signs, with the President, all the documents and generally carries out all the correspondence of the Association.

ARTICLE:21

TREASURER:

The Treasurer receives on duplicate receipt monies on behalf of the Association and deposits such with the bank in the name of the Association, keeps up to date account books, submits detailed statements to the Executive Committee on the financial position of the Association whenever such statement is required, and to General Meeting whenever such are convened, with the certificate and receipts of cheques and other relevant

documents. Does not make payments without prior approval of the Executive Committee. He/She is personally responsible for any monetary loss, and on termination of his/her office, or his/her resignation, submits a true accurate account and surrenders to the General Meeting or his/her successor the books, registers and property of the association.

ARTICLE:22

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

The members of the Committee attentively observes the business of the Association and cooperate with the President, Treasurer and Secretary.

ARTICLE:23

PERIOD OF

The office of the Executive Committee is for two years.The

OFFICE:

members of the Executive Committee reserves the right to stand for re-election at the next election.

ARTICLE:24

ENDORSEMENT

Bank cheques rendered for payment must be signed by the

OF CHEQUES:

President, Secretary and the Treasurer, or only by two of the above three in order for them to be valid and payable by the bank.

ARTICLE:25

BANK:

The bank of the Association will be the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. The Association does not to anyone and under any circumstances offer loans.

ARTICLE:26

MEETINGS:

The General Meeting is convened regularly in the first fortnight of the month of July every second year. An extraordinary General Meeting is held whenever the Executive Committee deems absolutely necessary, or when at least ten(10) members request this in writing from the President referring at the same time to the items for discussion.

ARTICLE:27

QUORUM:

Quorum of the General Meetings for both regular and extraordinary meetings will be when the members present are more than half by one. In the absence of a quorum the meeting is postponed for one hour beyond the originally appointed time when the meeting is restored, and is regarded as having a quorum irrespective of the number of members present provided the members have been notified at least four(4) days before the General Meeting is due to be held. The

decisions are taken by the majority of members present and are regarded as valid. The agenda for the General Meeting is made by the Executive Committee by decision.

ARTICLE:28

It is forbidden at the meetings to have any personal or political discussion as well as the interruption of a member who has been given the right to speak. Any discussion will be conducted through the President, and the speaker will address himself/herself to the President, looking at him/her while he/she speaks and this in order to avoid personal discussion among members.

ARTICLE:29

At the General Meetings the Executive Committee accounts for all actions during its term of office and proposes to the members to elect a tripartite audit committee as well as a tripartite Scrutineering Committee for functions outlined below. Whoever wishes to speak he/she will seek the right to speak from the President who has the power to withdraw that right if he/she deems that the speaker is out of order if they display disrespect towards the members of the Association singly or collectively.

ARTICLE:30

The Audit Committee which is appointed at the General Meetings of the Association checks all the actions of the Executive Committee and receives from the Secretary his/her report with all the books of the Association and verifies or otherwise the accuracy of the statement at the meeting. Upon completion of the auditing it announces its conclusions to the members of the Association.

ARTICLE:31

For the election of the new Executive Committee the scrutineering committee undertakes the conduct of the elections, the counting of the votes and the announcement of the election results. Each active member of the Association can propose one candidate provided the proposal is supported by a second member and is accepted by the member who has been proposed. The number of the candidates must not be less than seven(7). The names of the candidates are written on ballot paper by the Scrutineering Committee. Subsequently the Scrutineering Committee transcript the names of the candidates on as many ballot papers as the number of the members at the meeting and gives

one to every member explaining to the members that they must elect seven(7) of the candidates crossing off the names of those who do not wish to elect and leaving intact the names of those they wish to elect as members of the Executive Committee. The Scrutineering Committee takes receipt of the register of all active members of the Association from the Secretary or the outgoing Executive Committee. The Chairperson of the Scrutineering Committee signs and seals the ballot papers. Following the crossing out of those candidates whom each member does not wish to elect the ballot papers are dropped into the ballot box from which they are taken out by the Scrutineering Committee and after it has checked the number, proceeds to the counting of the votes and then announces to the general meeting the results of the election.

ARTICLE:32

Every ballot paper bearing more or less than seven(7) names is regarded as not valid.

ARTICLE:33

If any member of the Association notices any anomaly during the election or during the counting of the votes, he/she must immediately lodge an appeal, for after the conclusion of the election an appeal will not be accepted and the result of the election will be regarded as valid. In the case of equal number of votes between two candidates the result will be decided by lot. After the conclusion of the counting of votes and the announcement of the results of the election the Scrutineering minutes and resigns.

ARTICLE:34

The newly elected Executive Committee within one week from its election convenes and through a secret ballot or by voice and the Chairmanship of the oldest of the members elects its President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary, then called upon the outgoing Executive Committee and receives from it the books, the Seal and all other documents as well as the property of the Association. This transaction is signed by both incoming and outgoing Executive Committees.

ARTICLE:35

In the case of equal number of votes in the Executive Committee or at the General Meeting, the vote of the President decides the result.

ARTICLE:36

The seal of the Association will be round, will carry in its middle the map of the Island of Karpathos and inside the circular margin will be inscribed in circle:
“Karpathian Progressive Association”

ARTICLE:37

The Association celebrates officially on the **5th of October** each year the day of the liberation of the Island of Karpathos.

ARTICLE:38

The Association dissolves only when the number of its members is reduced to less than fifteen(15). In such an eventuality its property may be disposed of as follows: One third will be given to Canberra Community Hospital and the other two thirds to all municipalities of Karpathos for educational purposes.

ARTICLE:39

Anything that the existing Constitution does not provide will be complemented by resolution at the General Meeting and by two thirds majority of its members present and such resolution will be formulated into an Article of the Constitution provided such a resolution does not run contrary to the existing and registered articles.

ARTICLE:40

The present Constitution consisting of forty(40) Articles was approved Article by Article and voted singly and in its entirety at the General Meeting which took place in Canberra, ACT, on the 20th September 1959 and was put into effect immediately overriding any preceding ones and any previous resolution of the Association.