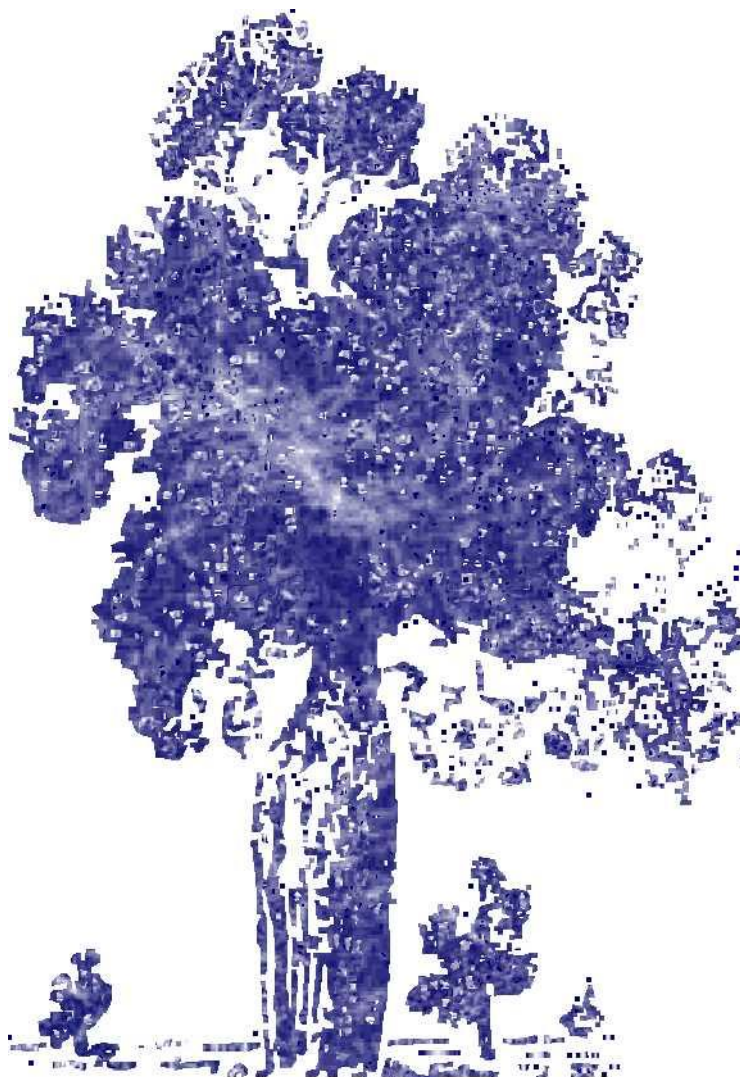




# Landcare What we're all about Overview for Committee Members 2010



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## Introduction

The Taroom Shire Landcare Group is in the unusual position of having no financial members. Instead we operate on the basis that every rate payer is automatically a member (our newsletter has a local distribution of 1156, with an additional 35 individually addressed), others within the community may also become members by actively participating in any of our activities. As a result the area we cover is quite vast (18, 654 square kilometres) and takes approximately 2 ½ to 3 hours to travel either the length or width. The shire falls within two different regions, those used by the Departments (Southern – Toowoomba / Brisbane based) and catchment boundaries (The Fitzroy or Central Queensland- Rockhampton based.)

The committee consists of 8 representatives from Taroom and Wandoan (Division 1 & 2 respectively) areas, a council representative from each division and a representative from local Department of Natural Resources office. Following the establishment of a steering committee the first committee was elected in 1989. Since then the group has focused on sustainable production activities such as:

- Property Management Planning (property map)
- Sub-catchment Action Group activities
- Parthenium and other weed activities
- Sustainability of Production Systems
- Soils & water monitoring
- Tree planing

Over the past years effective partnerships have been developed with other organisations such as the Dawson Catchment Coordination Association, the department of Natural Resources & Mines, Queensland Parks and Wildlife and the Fitzroy Basin Association.

# Projects

## Active Projects

- FBA Innovations Grant – Regenerating Soils and the Rangelands July 2006 – September 2007
- DCCA upper Dawson Field Officer – Administration and office support for Field officer (Andrea)
- DCCA / NLP Communications grant – Soil Health Coordinator, 2 days per week

## Completed Projects

- NRM Field Officer Upper Dawson (funded through Fitzroy Association) –to cover general Landcare operating expenses for 2004. Total budget \$83 000 (employs 1 full time and 1 casual).
- Bioremediation of Productive Soils (Funded though national Landcare program, natural resource innovation grant) – This project aims to identify cost effective and practical methods of enhancing soil environment function to improve pasture productivity by comprehensive analysis of the soil environment and trialing a range of applied treatments and strategies. Total budget \$26000 ends March 2005.
- Water Quality – Community Ownership (funded though Envirofund0 – established a community based water quality-monitoring program. Providing the opportunity for pesticides, nutrient, pH, EC, sediment and salinity measurements to be conducted on waterways, lakes and dams within the shire
  - Providing skills and opportunity for local land managers to monitor and protect their natural resources.
  - Ascertain the effect mobility and relationships with sediment movement
  - Assess the persistence of chemicals such as atrazine
  - Increase awareness of the need to follow label instructions correctly
  - Identify areas with salinity potential
  - Identify amounts and try to ascertain the cause of high sediment load
  - Trigger changes in land management – to reduce sediment / erosion and/or pesticide use
  - Monitor nutrient loads to assess blue-green algae bloom risk
- ARCGIS Community Conservation Grant – small grant to purchase additional mapping package to enable mobile mapping eg onsite property planning
- Golden West Traineeship (currently in application process) – to employ a trainee full time for one year to carry out office and administration duties.

## Our Services & Equipment

- Our Landcare Resource Centre has an extensive collection of relevant maps, literature and videos covering quite a range of topics such as weeds, pests, water conservation and quality, soils, etc. The centre is constantly being updated with as much of the latest information that is possible. Our reference material is available for loan from the office. We also stock a small range of books for purchase.
- Our services that we provide:
  - Extensive water testing enabling landowners to test their stock and domestic water. This service is at the moment at no cost to the landholder due to this being carried out under our “Water Quality – community Ownership” Project.
  - Extensive Soil Testing enabling landholders to find out what is going on in their soils. This is done at cost price.
  - Property Maps – we provide assistance to complete property management plans ie Soils, vegetation, area and length calculations etc. We can also supply Regional Ecosystem Maps to members.
  - Plant identification
- We have an extensive range of equipment for loan and hire for the community. These are listed following:
  - Two quick spray units, one four wheel motor bike sprayer and one knapsack
  - Brushcutter (main use – controlling mimosa)
  - Generator
  - Soil Corer

## **Committee Members**

2001-2002

Ken Copeland, Jeff Noller, Sam Rathbone, Michael Bell, Gwen Copeland, Keith Barlow, Ken Hodgkinson, Alan Rodger, Ian Staines, Andrew Cousell.

2002-2003

Ken Copeland, Jeff Noller, Sam Rathbone, Michael Bell, Alex Hall, Robert Acton, Melissa MacAllister, Rosemary Heard, Keith Barlow, Alan Rodger, Ian Staines, Andrew Cousell

2003-2004

Jeff Noller, Sam Rathbone, Michael Bell, Melissa Macallister, Keith Barlow, Rosemary Herad, Harold Ball, Russell Gillingham, Alan Rodger, Ian Staines, Andrew Cousell.

2004-2005

2005-2006

Sam Rathbone, Melissa Macallister, Keith Barlow, Harold Ball, Russell Gillingham, Darby Blackley, Dennis Cormack, Bill Blackley, Colin Boyce.

2006-2007

Keith Barlow, Harold Ball, Russell Gillingham, Darby Blackley, Dennis Cormack, Bill Blackley, Colin Boyce, Sam Jerrard, Andrea Monk, Malcolm Monk.

## **Meeting Days**

Meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month, except December (no meeting). Meetings start around 6pm and finish between 9pm. Previous meeting minutes are any information for discussion at the next meeting (including a draft Agenda) are also included. Meetings are held alternatively at the Wandoan Office and the Taroom Bowls Club. Tea, coffee and dinner is available during the meeting.

# Constitution of the Taroom Shire Landcare Committee

Note: Where the word “ratepayer” appears in this Constitution it includes the nominee of a ratepayer.

## AIM

To foster Landcare within Taroom Shire so as to achieve a balanced ecosystem in which soils and the native flora and fauna species are maintained, together with sustainable productivity of the land.

This aim to be achieved by:

1. Identifying the problem
2. Tabulating solutions we already have
3. Establishing what resources are presently available
4. Determining what future solutions are required
5. Determining what future resources are required
6. Promoting land management measures in the community by education and dissemination of information
7. Making representations to the relevant Local, State and Federal Government departments and elected representatives

## Membership Classes 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5

The Taroom Shire Landcare Committee shall consist of a maximum of twelve voting members and four non-voting associate members.

1. Ratepayer Representatives – Two members, who shall be ratepayers, elected from each shire division, by ratepayers of the division, at a biennial or special meeting.
2. Shire Council Representative – the member nominated by Taroom Shire Council.
3. Queensland Government Representative – The committee shall nominate, for ministerial approval, a

- member from the Queensland Government.
4. Additional Members – The committee may co-opt members with special qualifications, including personnel from relevant Government departments, providing that total membership from classes 1, 2, 3, & 4 does not exceed twelve.
5. Associations may be invited and decided by the committee.

## Terms of Office on the Committee shall be:

Classes 1 & 2 – membership of the executive limited to two consecutive terms, ie four years.

Members may be nominated again after standing down for one term.<sup>1</sup>

Classes 3,4 & 5 – membership reconsidered every two years by class 1 & 2 members.

Casual Vacancies – If a casual vacancy of an elected representative occurs the Committee shall appoint another member from the same division to serve the remainder of the term. Other casual vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

## Executive & Office Bearers

#Chairman and Vice Chairman shall be elected by Committee members to serve for two years.

The chairman shall have both deliberative and casting votes.

#The Secretary-Treasurer may be a Committee member, elected by the committee to serve for two years. Alternatively the Committee may appoint a Secretary – Treasurer from outside the Committee if

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<sup>1</sup> Constitution modified September 2004, the following was replaced. ~~#Classes 1 & 2 – membership limited to two consecutive terms, ie four years. Members may be nominated again standing down for one term.~~

that is desirable. Such as appointee shall not have a vote.

The Executive shall consist of the Chairman and two voting members of the Committee.

The Executive shall have the power consist of the Chairman and two voting members of the Committee.

The Executive shall have the power to act only on matters of emergency and its decision shall be subject to ratification by the committee.

### **Committee Meetings**

Meetings of the Committee shall be held at the discretion of the Chairman, but at least every two months.

### **Quorum**

A Quorum shall consist of a majority of voting members of the committee.

### **Standing orders**

A copy of standing orders shall be available at all Committee meetings. Standing orders shall only be suspended on a resolution from the floor.

### **Finances**

The business of the Committee shall be conducted at a financial institution of its choice.

The Treasurer shall be responsible for detailed statement of that account.

A statement of accounts shall be presented at each Committee meeting and an audited report at the end of the financial year.

Cheques are to be signed by two elected members of the committee.

A member of the Committee may request a written statement of account with seven days notice.

### **Protection of Ratepayers' Interests**

A minimum of two discussion groups or field days must be held at which the Committee will present a report.

A special meeting of ratepayers must be called on receipt, by the Committee Secretary, of letters of request individual written by at least twenty ratepayers. Such a meeting to be held as soon as practicable, but with fourteen days notice.

All committee positions may be declared vacant by resolution passed by a sixty-six percent majority of ratepayers present at a special meeting. A motion to declare all positions vacant must be preceded by a Notice of Motion, in writing, received by the committee Secretary at least fourteen days prior to the special meeting.

Changes to the Constitution may be effected at biennial meetings or special meetings provided they are supported by sixty-six percent of ratepayers present.

# Model Rules

## 1. Name

The name of the incorporated association shall be **The Taroom Shire Landcare Inc.**

## 2. Objects

The objects for which the Association is established are to:  
Foster Landcare in the Taroom Shire so as to achieve a balanced Ecosystem in which soils and the native flora and fauna species are maintained, together with sustainable production from the Land. This will be achieved by the following:

- a. Self help PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PLANNING WORKSHOPS
- b. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PLANNING
- c. PASTURE ESTABLISHMENT & RENOVATING TRAILS
- d. CONSERVATION TILLAGE
- e. LANDCARE EDUCATION WITHIN SHIRE SCHOOLS
- f. WOODY WEED CONTROL TRAILS
- g. INCREASING LANDCARE AWARENESS WITHIN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

## 3. Powers

The powers of the Association are: -

1. To take over the funds and other assets and liabilities of the present unincorporated association known as the "TAROOM SHIRE LANDCARE COMMITTEE"
2. To subscribe to, become a member of and co-operate with any other association, club or organisation, whether incorporated or not, whose objects are altogether or in part similar to those of the Association provided that the Association shall not subscribe to or support with its funds any club, association or organisation which does not prohibit the distribution of its income and property among its members to an extent at least as great as the imposed on the Association under or by virtue of rule 28 (10);
3. In furtherance of the objects of the Association to buy, sell and deal in all kinds of articles commodities and provisions, both liquid and solid, for the members of the Association or persons frequenting the association's premises;
4. To purchase, take on lease or in exchange, hire and otherwise acquire any lands, building easements or property, real and personal, and any rights or privileges which may be objects of the Association: Provided that in case the Association shall take or hold any property which may be subject to any trusts the Association shall only deal with the same such manner as is allowed by law having regard to such trusts;

5. To enter into any arrangements with the Government or Authority that are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects and the exercise of the powers of the Association; to obtain from any such Government or Authority any rights, privileges and concessions which the Association may think is desirable to obtain; and to carry out, exercise and comply with any such arrangements, rights, privileges and concessions.
6. To appoint, employ, remove or suspend such managers, clerks, secretaries, servants, workmen and other persons as may be necessary or convenient for the purposes of the Association.
7. To remunerate any person or body corporate for services rendered, or to be rendered and whether by way of brokerage or otherwise in placing or assisting to place or guaranteeing the placing of any unsecured or in or about the incorporated association or promotion of the incorporated association or in the furtherance of its objects.
8. To construct, improve, maintain, develop, work, manage, carry out, alter or control any houses, buildings, grounds, works or conveniences which may seem calculated directly or indirectly to advance the Association's interests, and to contribute to, subsidise or otherwise assist and take part in the construction, improvement, maintenance, development, working, management, carrying out, alteration or control thereof;
9. To invest and deal with the money of the Association not immediately required in such manner as may from time to time be thought fit;
10. To take, or otherwise acquire and hold shares, debentures or other securities or any Company or body corporate;
11. In furtherance of the objects of the Association to lend and advance money or give credit to any person or body corporate; to guarantee and give guarantees or indemnities for the payment of money or the performance of contracts or obligations by any person or body corporate, and otherwise to assist any person or body corporate;
12. To borrow or raise money either alone or jointly with any other person or legal entity; in such manner as may be thought proper and whether upon fluctuation advance account or overdraft or otherwise to represent or secure any moneys and further advances borrowed or to be borrowed alone or with others as aforesaid by notes secured or unsecured, debentures or debenture stock perpetual or otherwise, or by mortgage, charge, lien or other security upon the whole or any part or the incorporated association's property assets present or future and to purchase, redeem or pay-off such securities;
13. To draw, make, accept, endorse, discount, execute and issue promissory notes, bills or exchange, bills or lading and other negotiable or transferable instruments;
14. In furtherance of the objects of the Association to sell, improve, manage, develop, exchange, lease, dispose or, turn to account or otherwise deal with all or any part of the property and rights of the Association;
15. To take or hold mortgages, liens or chargers, to secure payment of the purchase price, or an unpaid balance of the purchase prices, of any part of the Association's property of whatsoever kind sold by the

- Association, or any money due to the Association from the purchasers and others;
16. To take any gift of property whether subject to any special trust or not, for any one or more of the objects of the associations but subject always to the proviso in sub-rule (4);
  17. To take such steps by person or written appeal, public meetings or otherwise, as may from time to time be deemed expedient for the purpose of procuring contributions to the funds of the Association, in the shape of donations, annual subscriptions or otherwise;
  18. To print and publish any newspapers, periodical, books or leaflets that the Association may think desirable for the promotion of its objects;
  19. In furtherance of the objects of the Association to amalgamate with any one or more incorporated associations having objects altogether or in part similar to those of the Association and which shall prohibit the distribution of its or their income and property among its or their members to an extent at least as great as the imposed upon the Association under or by virtue of rule 28 (10);
  20. In furtherance of the objects of the Association to transfer all or any part o the property, assets, liabilities and engagements of any one or more of the incorporated associations with which the association is authorised to amalgamate;
  21. In furtherance of the objects of the Association to transfer all or any part o the property, assets, liabilities and engagements of the Association to any one or more of the incorporate associations with which the Association is authorised to amalgamate;
  22. To make donations for patriotic, charitable or community purposes;
  23. To transact any lawful business in aid of the Commonwealth of Australia in the prosecution of any war in which the Commonwealth of Australia is engaged;
  24. To do all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects and the exercise of the powers of the Association.

#### **4. Classes of members**

- a. The membership of the association shall consist of the following classes of members: -
  - i. Ordinary members
  - ii. Life members
  - iii. Honorary members
  - iv. Junior members
  - v. Committee members
    1. Four elected form each Shire Division
    2. Shire Council Representative
    3. Queensland Government Representative
    4. Additional members, Who may be co-opted because of special qualifications or skills
- b. Ordinary membership shall be open to all ratepayers or ratepayer nominees

- c. Life membership may be granted to individuals or organisations who have made a significant contributions to Landcare in the Shire
- d. Honorary membership shall be open to individuals and nominees of organisations and companies who have a specific interest in Landcare activities.
- e. Junior membership is open to all Shire residents under eighteen years of age.

## **5. Membership**

- f. Every person who at the date of incorporation of the Association was a member of an unincorporated association and who on or before the day of incorporation, agrees in writing to become a member of the Association shall be admitted by the Management Committee to the same class of membership of the Association as that member held in the unincorporated association and shall not be required to pay any further subscription until next due date for payment.
- g. Every applicant for any class of membership of the Association (other than the members of the unincorporated Association referred to in sub rule (10)) shall be proposed by one member of the Association and seconded by another member.

## **6. Membership Fees**

- h. The membership fees for each class of membership shall be such sum, as the members shall from time to time at any general meeting so determine.
- i. The membership fees for each class of membership shall be payable at such time and in such manner as the Management Committee shall from time to time determine.

## **7. Admission And Rejection of Members**

- j. At the next meeting of the Management Committee after the receipt of any application and the fee applicable for any class of membership, such application shall be considered by the management Committee, who shall thereupon determine upon the admission or rejection of the applicant.
- k. Any applicant who receives a majority of the votes of the members of the Management Committee present at the meeting at which such applicant is being considered shall be accepted as a member to the class of membership applied for.
- l. Upon the acceptance or rejection of an application for any class of membership the secretary shall forthwith give the applicant notice in writing of such acceptance or rejection.

## **8. Termination of Membership**

- m. A member may resign from the Association at any time by giving notice in writing to the secretary. Such resignation shall take effect at

the time such notice is received by the secretary unless a later date is specific in the notice when it shall take effect on that later date.

- n. If a Member –
  - i. Is convicted of an indictable offence; or
  - ii. Fails to comply with any of the provisions of these Rules; or
  - iii. Has membership fees in arrears for a period of six months or more; or conducts himself in a manner considered to be injurious or prejudicial to the character or interests of the association, the Management Committee shall consider whether his membership shall be terminated.
- o. The member concerned shall be given full and fair opportunity of presenting his case and if the Management Committee resolves to terminating his membership it shall instruct the secretary to advise the member in writing accordingly.

## **9. Appeal Against Rejection or Termination of Membership**

- p. A person whose application for membership has been rejected or whose membership has been terminated may within one month of receiving written notification thereof, lodge with secretary written notice of his intention to appeal against the decision of the Management Committee.
- q. Upon receipt of a notification of intention to appeal against rejection or termination of membership the secretary shall convene, within three months of the date of receipt by him of such notice, a general meeting to determine the appeal. Ant any such meeting the applicant shall be given the opportunity to fully present his case and the Management Committee or those members thereof who rejected the application of membership or terminated the membership subsequently shall likewise have the opportunity of presenting its or their case. The appeal shall be determined by the vote of the members present at such meeting.
- r. Where a person, whose application is rejected, does not appeal against the decision of the Management Committee within the time prescribed by these Rules or so appeals but the appeal is unsuccessful, the secretary shall forthwith refund the amount of any fee paid.

## **10. Register of Members**

- s. The management Committee shall cause a Register to be kept in wich shall be entered the names and residential addresses of all persons admitted to membership of the association and the dates of their admission.
- t. Particulars shall also be entered into the Register of deaths, resignations, terminations and reinstatement's of membership and any further particulars as the Management Committee or the members at any general meeting may require from time to time.
- u. The register shall be open for inspection at all reasonable times by any member who previously applies to the secretary for such inspection.

## 11. Membership Of Management Committee

- v. The Management Committee of the Association shall consist of eight elected representatives all of whom shall be members of the Association, and such numbers of other members of the Association at any general meeting may from time to time elect or appoint providing the maximum number is twelve.
- w. At the general meeting of the Association, all the members of the management Committee for the time being shall retire from office, but shall be eligible upon nomination for re-election. *The maximum continuous terms on the committee executive is four years.*
- x. The election of officers and other members of the management Committee shall take place in the following manner: -
  - i. Any two members of the Association shall be at liberty to nominate any other Management Committee;
  - ii. The nomination, which shall be in writing and signed by the member and his propose and seconder, shall be lodged with the secretary at least fourteen days before the annual general meeting at which the election is to take place;
  - iii. A list of the candidates' names in alphabetical order, with the proposers' and seconders' names, shall be posted in a conspicuous place in the office or usual place of meeting of the Association for at least seven dyad immediately preceding the annual general meeting.
  - iv. Balloting lists shall be prepared (if necessary) containing the names of the candidates in alphabetical order, and each member present at the annual general meeting shall be entitled to vote for any number of such candidates not exceeding the number to vacancies.
  - v. Should, at the commencement of such meeting, there be an insufficient number of candidates nominated, nominations may be taken from the floor of the meeting.

## 12. Resignation from the Management Committee

Any member of the management Committee may resign from membership of the Management Committee at any such time by giving notice in writing to the secretary but such resignation shall take effect at the time such notice is received by the secretary unless a later date is specified in the notice when it shall take effect on that later date or such member may be removed from office at a general meeting of the Association where that member shall be given the opportunity to fully present their case. The question of removal shall be determined by the vote of the members present at such a general meeting.

## 13. Vacancies of Management

- a. The Management Committee shall have power at any time to appoint any member of the Association to fill any casual vacancy on the Management Committee until the next annual general meeting.

- b. The continuing members of the Management Committee may act notwithstanding any casual vacancy in the Management Committee, but if and so long as their number is reduced below the number fixed by or pursuant to these Rules as the necessary quorum of the Management Committee, the continuing member or members may act for the purpose of increasing the number of members of the Management Committee to that number of summoning a general meeting of the Association, but for no other purpose.

#### **14. Functions of the Management Committee**

1. Except as otherwise provided by these Rules and subject to resolutions of the members of the Association carried at any general meeting the Management Committee: -
  - a. Shall have the general control and management of the administration of the affairs property and fund of the Association; and
  - b. Shall have authority to interpret the meaning of these rules and any matter relating to the Association on which these Rules are silent.
2. The Management Committee may exercise all the powers of the Association: -
  - a. To borrow or raise or secure the payment of money in such manner as the members of the Association may think fit and secure the same or the same or the payment or performance of any debt, liability, contract, guarantee or other engagement incurred or to be entered into by the association in any way and in particular by the issue of debentures, perpetual or otherwise, charged upon all or any of the Association's property, both present and future, and to purchase, redeem or pay off any such securities;
  - b. To borrow money from members at a rate of interest not exceeding interest at the rate for the time being charged by bankers in Brisbane for overdrawn accounts on money lent, whether the term of the loan be short or long, and to mortgage or charge its property or any part thereof and issue debentures and other securities, whether outright or as security for any debt, liability or obligation of the association, and to provide

*At the annual general meeting of the Association all the members of the Management Committee for the time being shall retire from office, but shall be eligible upon nomination for re-election. That Class 1 (Ratepayer Representatives) serve any number of consecutive terms (ie 2 years terms) Executive and Office Bearers term of office be limited to two consecutive terms (ie four years) and that members may be nominated again after standing down for one term.*