

The Village

Village Matrix Foundation

Rules of Association



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1 Interpretation

- (1) In these rules—

Act means the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981*.

Active member is a member of the Association that is entitled to participate in governance and election of leadership positions at Association meetings, as defined in Rule 6(4).

Circle of Consent Decision means a decision made according to the *Village Governance Model*.

Leadership Circle means the management committee of the Association.

present—

- (a) at a Leadership Circle meeting, see rule 23(6); or
(b) at a general meeting, see rule 37(2).

Social member is a member of the Association that is not entitled to participate in governance decisions or election of leadership positions at Association meetings, as defined in Rule 6(2).

Village Gathering means community gatherings which occur from time to time.

Village Governance Model refers to the governance principles as set out in Appendix D.

- (2) A word or expression that is not defined in these model rules, but is defined in the Act has, if the context permits, the meaning given by the Act.

2 Name

The name of the incorporated association is Village Matrix Foundation (*the Association*).

3 Vision, Mission, Objectives and Core Values

- (1) The vision, mission and objectives of the Association are specified at Appendix A.
(2) The Core Values of the Association are specified at Appendix B.

4 Non-profit organisation

The assets and income of the Association shall be applied solely to further its objectives and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to the members of the Association except as genuine compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the organisation.

5 Powers

- (1) The Association has the powers of an individual.
(2) The Association may, for example—
(a) enter into contracts; and

The Village

- (b) acquire, hold, deal with and dispose of property; and
 - (c) make charges for services and facilities it supplies; and
 - (d) do other things necessary or convenient to be done in carrying out its affairs.
- (3) The Association may take over the funds and other assets and liabilities of the present unincorporated association known as the Village Matrix (the ***unincorporated association***).
- (4) The Association may also issue secured and unsecured notes, debentures and debenture stock for the Association.

6 Classes of members

- (1) The membership of the Association consists of “Social Members” and “Active Members”.
- (2) Social Members are members of the Association that are not entitled to participate in governance decision making or the election of leadership positions at Association meetings, or hold office within the Association. Social Members become members of the Association by participating in a social event, or gathering, created by the Association.
- (3) The number of Social Members is unlimited.
- (4) Active Members are members of the Association that are entitled to participate in governance decision making and the election of leadership positions at Association meetings and hold office within the Association. Active Members are required to pay an annual membership fee.
- (5) The number of Active Members is unlimited.

7 New membership

- (1) People wishing to become Social Members of the Association must first:
- (a) Attend a social event or gathering created by the Association and pay the entrance fee required to attend that social event or gathering; and
 - (b) Read and endorse (by signature) the Peace Treaty (see Appendix C).
- (2) People wishing to become Active Members of the Association must first:
- (a) Be a Social Member of the Association, and have been to at least three Village Gatherings.
 - (b) Read and endorse (by signature) the key founding documents of the Association, including (but not limited to, as decided by the Leadership Circle from time to time):
 - (i) The Core Values and Ethical Guidelines; and
 - (ii) Vision, Mission and Objectives Statement
 - (c) Pay the membership fee, as decided by the Leadership Circle from time to time.
 - (d) Complete an application form.
- (2) An application for membership as an Active Member must be—

The Village

- (a) in writing;
- (b) in the form decided by the Leadership Circle; and
- (c) include the following details:
 - (i) full name;
 - (ii) residential or postal address;
 - (iii) Phone number;
 - (iv) email address; and
 - (v) such other details as the Leadership Circle decides.

8 Membership fees

The membership fee for membership as an Active Member—

- (a) is the amount decided by the Leadership Circle from time to time; and
- (b) is payable when, and in the way, the Leadership Circle decides.

9 Admission and rejection of new members

- (1) Any person from the general community may become a Social Member of the Association, subject to Rule 7(1).
- (2) The procedure for deciding whether to approve an application for Active Membership will be determined by the Leadership Circle from time to time.

10 When membership ends

- (1) A member may resign from the Association by giving a written notice of resignation to the secretary.
- (2) The resignation takes effect at—
 - (a) the time the notice is received by the secretary; or
 - (b) if a later time is stated in the notice—the later time.
- (3) The Leadership Circle may adjust a member's membership, from Active Member to Social Member, if the member conducts himself or herself inconsistently with the Core Values and Ethical Guidelines and Vision, Mission and Objectives Statement of the Association, or acts otherwise in a way considered to be injurious or prejudicial to the character or interests of the Association.
- (4) If the Leadership Circle adjusts a member's membership status under Rule 10(3), that person may be allowed to return to the status of Active Member after a period of observation of 12 months, if the Leadership circle deems it appropriate.
- (5) Before the Leadership Circle adjusts a member's membership under Rule 10(3), the committee must give the member a full and fair opportunity to show why the membership should not be adjusted.
- (6) If, after considering all representations made by the member, the Leadership Circle decides to adjust the membership, the secretary of the committee must give the member a written notice of the decision.

11 Appeal against adjustment or termination of membership

The Village

- (1) A person whose application for membership has been rejected, or whose membership has been adjusted under Rule 10(3), may give the secretary written notice of the persons intention to appeal against the decision.
- (2) A notice of intention to appeal must be given to the secretary within 1 month after the person receives written notice of the decision.
- (3) If the secretary receives a notice of intention to appeal, the secretary must, within 1 month after receiving the notice, call a general meeting to decide the appeal.

12 General meeting to decide appeal

- (1) The general meeting to decide an appeal must be held within 3 months after the secretary receives the notice of intention to appeal.
- (2) At the meeting, the applicant must be given a full and fair opportunity to show why the application should not be rejected or the membership should not be adjusted under Rule 10(3).
- (3) Also, the Leadership Circle and the members of the committee who rejected the application or adjusted the membership must be given a full and fair opportunity to show why the application should be rejected or the membership should be adjusted.
- (4) An appeal must be decided by the members present and eligible to participate at the meeting, according to the Village Governance Model, as set out in Appendix D.
- (5) If a person whose application for membership has been rejected does not appeal against the decision within 1 month after receiving written notice of the decision, or the person appeals but the appeal is unsuccessful, that person's membership fee is forfeited.

13 Register of members

- (1) The Leadership Circle must keep a register of Active Members of the Association.
- (2) The register must include the following particulars for each member—
 - (a) the full name of the member;
 - (b) the postal or residential address of the member;
 - (c) the phone number of the member;
 - (d) the date of admission as a member;
 - (e) the date of death or time of resignation of the member;
 - (f) details about the adjustment or reinstatement of membership; and
 - (g) any other particulars the Leadership Circle or the members at a general meeting decide.
- (3) The particulars of an Active Member may only be shared with other Social or Active Members with the permission of the Active Member whose details are sought.

The Village

14 Prohibition on use of information on register of members

- (1) A member of the Association must not—
 - (a) use information obtained from the register of members of the Association to contact, or send material to, another member of the Association for the purpose of advertising for political, religious, charitable or commercial purposes;
 - (b) disclose information obtained from the register to someone else, without the prior permission of the member concerned; or
 - (c) disclose information obtained from the register to someone else, knowing that the information is likely to be used to contact, or send material to, another member of the Association for the purpose of advertising for political, religious, charitable or commercial purposes.
- (2) Subrule (1) does not apply if the use or disclosure of the information is approved by the Association.

15 Appointment or election of secretary

- (1) The Leadership Circle shall appoint a person to be secretary.
- (2) The secretary must be an Active Member of the Association.
- (3) The term of appointment of secretary expires at the Annual General Meeting, however, the current secretary may be re-elected at the Annual General Meeting.
- (4) If the Association has not elected an interim officer as secretary for the Association before its incorporation, the members of the Leadership Circle must ensure a secretary is appointed or elected for the Association within 1 month after incorporation.
- (5) If a vacancy happens in the office of secretary, the members of the Leadership Circle must ensure a secretary is appointed or elected for the Association within 1 month after the vacancy happens.
- (6) The secretary may be a person who is on the Leadership Circle, but could also be a person who is not on the Leadership Circle.

16 Removal of secretary

- (1) The Leadership Circle of the Association may at any time remove a person appointed by the Circle as the secretary.
- (2) If the Leadership Circle removes a secretary, and the secretary is a person on the Leadership Circle, then that person can nonetheless remain on the Leadership Circle until the end of their term unless that person is also removed from the Leadership Circle by the process specified in Rule 20.

17 Functions of secretary

The secretary's functions include, but are not limited to—

- (a) calling meetings of the Association, including preparing notices of a meeting and of the business to be conducted at the meeting in consultation with the president of the Association; and
- (b) keeping minutes of each meeting; and

The Village

- (c) keeping copies of all correspondence and other documents relating to the Association; and
- (d) maintaining the register of members of the Association.

18 Membership of Leadership Circle

- (1) The Leadership Circle of the Association consists of 13 people, including a president, treasurer, and 11 other Active Members that are elected at a general meeting of Active Members.
- (2) A member of the Leadership Circle must be an Active Member of the Association.
- (3) After incorporation, the Association shall hold a general meeting at which the Leadership Circle shall be selected.
- (4) Thereafter, the selection process of the Leadership Circle shall take place at the Annual General Meeting each year.
- (5) Subject to Rule 18(6), the term of office of each member of the Leadership Circle shall be three years. A person can be reselected for a position on the Leadership Circle, with no maximum number of reselections.
- (6) At the first general meeting to select the Leadership Circle (immediately after incorporation), five people will be selected for a three-year term, four people will be selected for a two-year term, and four people will be selected for a one-year term.
- (7) An Active Member of the Association may be appointed to a casual vacancy on the Leadership Circle under Rule 21.

19 Selection of the Leadership Circle

- (1) A member of the Leadership Circle may only be selected as follows—
 - (a) any 2 Active Members of the Association may nominate another Active Member (the *candidate*) to serve as a member of the Leadership Circle;
 - (b) the nomination must be—
 - (i) in writing; and
 - (ii) signed by the candidate and the members who nominated him or her; and
 - (iii) given to the secretary at least 14 days before the annual general meeting at which the selection process is to be held;
 - (c) if, at the start of the meeting, there are not enough candidates nominated, nominations may be taken from the floor of the meeting.
- (2) A person may be a candidate only if the person—
 - (a) is an adult; and
 - (b) is not ineligible to be elected as a member under section 61A of the Act.
- (3) A list of the candidates names in alphabetical order, with the names of the members who nominated each candidate, must be posted in a conspicuous place in the office or usual place of meeting, or regular online meeting place of the

The Village

Association for at least 7 days immediately preceding the Annual General Meeting.

- (4) The Leadership Circle must ensure that, before a candidate is selected as a member of the Leadership Circle, the candidate is advised—
 - (a) whether or not the Association has public liability insurance; and
 - (b) if the Association has public liability insurance—the amount of the insurance.
- (6) Each Active Member of the Association present and eligible to participate at the annual general meeting may suggest one candidate for each vacant position on the Leadership Circle;
- (7) The selection process of the Leadership Circle shall take place, at the Annual General Meeting, according to the Village Governance Model outlined at Appendix D.

20 Resignation, removal or vacation of office of Leadership Circle member

- (1) A member of the Leadership Circle may resign from the committee by giving written notice of resignation to the secretary.
- (2) The resignation takes effect at—
 - (a) the time the notice is received by the secretary; or
 - (b) if a later time is stated in the notice—the later time.
- (3) A member of the Leadership Circle may be removed from office at a general meeting of the Association, where that decision has been made in accordance with the Village Governance Model as described in Appendix D.
- (4) Before a Circle of Consent Decision is taken about removing the member from office, the member must be given a full and fair opportunity to show cause why he or she should not be removed from office.
- (5) A member has no right of appeal against the members removal from office under this rule.
- (6) A member immediately vacates the office of member in the circumstances mentioned in section 64(2) of the Act.

21 Vacancies on Leadership Circle

- (1) If a casual vacancy happens on the Leadership Circle, the continuing members of the Circle may appoint another member of the Association to fill the vacancy until the next annual general meeting.
- (2) The continuing members of the Leadership Circle may act despite a casual vacancy on the Leadership Circle.
- (3) However, if the number of committee members is less than the number fixed under rule 24(1) as a quorum of the Leadership Circle, the continuing members may act only to—

The Village

- (a) increase the number of Leadership Circle members to the number required for a quorum; or
- (b) call a general meeting of the Association.

22 Functions of the Leadership Circle

- (1) Subject to these rules or a resolution of the Active Members of the Association carried at a general meeting, the Leadership Circle has the general control and management of the administration of the affairs, property and funds of the Association.
- (2) The Leadership Circle has authority to interpret the meaning of these rules and any matter relating to the Association on which the rules are silent, but any interpretation must have regard to the Act, including any regulation made under the Act.

Note—The Act prevails if the Associations rules are inconsistent with the Act—see section 1B of the Act.

- (3) The Leadership Circle may exercise the powers of the Association—
 - (a) to borrow, raise or secure the payment of amounts in a way the members of the Association decide; and
 - (b) to secure the amounts mentioned in paragraph (a) 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, including by the issue of debentures (perpetual or otherwise) charged upon the whole or part of the Association’s property, both present and future; and
 - (c) to purchase, redeem or pay off any securities issued; and
 - (d) to borrow amounts from members and repay the amounts borrowed; and
 - (e) to issue debentures and other securities, whether outright or as security for any debt, liability or obligation of the Association; and
 - (f) to provide and pay off any securities issued; and
 - (g) to invest in a way the members of the Association may from time to time decide.
- (4) For subrule (3)(d), the Association may only borrow money from a member if that member has agreed for the loan to be repaid without interest.
- (5) Members of the Leadership Circle shall not be held responsible for the private actions of individuals at Village Gatherings.

23 Meetings of Leadership Circle

- (1) Subject to this rule, the Leadership Circle may meet and conduct its proceedings as it considers appropriate.
- (2) The Leadership Circle must meet at least once every six months to exercise its functions.
- (3) The Leadership Circle must decide how a meeting is to be called.
- (4) Notice of a meeting is to be given in the way decided by the Leadership Circle.

The Village

- (5) The Leadership Circle may hold meetings, or permit a Leadership Circle member to take part in its meetings, by using any technology that reasonably allows the member to hear and take part in discussions as they happen.
- (6) A Leadership Circle member who participates in the meeting as mentioned in subrule (5) is taken to be present at the meeting.
- (7) At a Leadership Circle meeting, questions, matters or resolutions of significance and/or strategic importance must be decided in accordance with the principles laid out in the Village Governance Model as specified in Appendix D. Questions, matters or resolutions of lesser importance shall be decided according to a consent/consensus decision making process.
- (8) Should there be a doubt, even by one person at the meeting, as to whether a question, matter or resolution is of sufficient importance to warrant use of the Village Governance Model, then the matter shall be decided by way of the Village Governance Model.
- (9) A member of the Leadership Circle must not participate in the decision making process in relation to a question about a contract or proposed contract with the Association if the member has an interest in both sides of the contract or proposed contract and, if the member does participate in such a decision, the member's contribution must not be taken into account.
- (10) The responsibility to "chair" a Leadership Circle meeting may be shared equally by all members of the Circle from time to time, as the Leadership Circle sees fit.

24 Quorum for, and adjournment of, Leadership Circle meeting

- (1) At a Leadership Circle meeting, a quorum is reached when seven members of the Leadership Circle are present.
- (2) If there is no quorum within 30 minutes of the time for a Leadership Circle meeting called for any reason,
 - (a) the meeting is to be adjourned for at least 1 day; and
 - (b) the members of the Leadership Circle who are present are to decide the day, time and place of the adjourned meeting.
- (3) If, at an adjourned meeting mentioned in subrule (2), there is no quorum within 30 minutes after the time fixed for the meeting, the meeting lapses.

25 Special meeting of Leadership Circle

- (1) If the secretary receives a written request signed by at least 33% of the members of the Leadership Circle, the secretary must call a special meeting of the committee by giving each member of the committee notice of the meeting within 14 days after the secretary receives the request.
- (2) If the secretary is unable or unwilling to call the special meeting, the president must call the meeting.
- (3) A request for a special meeting must state—
 - (a) why the special meeting is called; and
 - (b) the business to be conducted at the meeting.
- (4) A notice of a special meeting must state—

The Village

- (a) the day, time and place of the meeting; and
 - (b) the business to be conducted at the meeting.
- (5) A special meeting of the Leadership Circle must be held within 14 days after notice of the meeting is given to the members of the Leadership Circle.

(a) Minutes of Leadership Circle meetings

- (1) The secretary must ensure full and accurate minutes of all questions, matters, resolutions and other proceedings of each Leadership Circle meeting are entered in a minute book.
- (2) The minute book may be kept in a digital format.
- (3) To ensure the accuracy of the minutes, the minutes of each Leadership Circle meeting must be verified for accuracy by the chairperson of the meeting, or the chairperson of the next Leadership Circle meeting.

27 Appointment of sub-circles

- (1) The Leadership Circle may appoint a “sub-circle” consisting of members of the Association considered appropriate by the Leadership Circle to help with the conduct of the Association’s operations.
- (2) A member of the sub-circle who is not a member of the Leadership Circle is not entitled to vote at a Leadership Circle meeting.
- (3) A sub-circle may elect a chairperson of its meetings.
- (4) If a chairperson is not elected, or if the chairperson is not present within 10 minutes after the time fixed for a meeting, the members present may choose 1 of their number to be chairperson of the meeting.
- (5) A sub-circle may meet and adjourn as it considers appropriate.
- (6) A question arising at a sub-circle meeting is to be decided in accordance with the Village Governance Model, as described in Appendix D.

28 Acts not affected by defects or disqualifications

- (1) An act performed by the Leadership Circle, a sub-circle or a person acting as a member of the Leadership Circle is taken to have been validly performed.
- (2) Subrule (1) applies even if the act was performed when there was a defect in the appointment of a member of the Leadership Circle, subcommittee or person acting as a member of the Leadership Circle.

29 Resolutions of Leadership Circle without meeting

- (1) A written resolution signed by each member of the Leadership Circle is as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a Leadership Circle meeting that was properly called and held.
- (2) A resolution mentioned in subrule (1) may consist of several documents in like form, each signed by 1 or more members of the Leadership Circle.

The Village

30 First annual general meeting

The first annual general meeting must be held within 6 months after the end date of the Association's first reportable financial year.

31 Subsequent annual general meetings

Each subsequent annual general meeting must be held at least once each year.

32 Business to be conducted at annual general meeting of level 1 incorporated associations and particular level 2 and 3 incorporated associations

- (1) This rule applies only if the Association is—
 - (a) a level 1 incorporated association; or
 - (b) a level 2 incorporated association to which section 59 of the Act applies; or
 - (c) a level 3 incorporated association to which section 59 of the Act applies.
- (2) The following business must be conducted at each annual general meeting of the Association—
 - (a) receiving the Association's financial statement, and audit report, for the last reportable financial year;
 - (b) presenting the financial statement and audit report to the meeting for adoption;
 - (c) electing members of the Leadership Circle;
 - (d) for a level 1 incorporated association—appointing an auditor or an accountant for the present financial year;
 - (e) for a level 2 incorporated association, or a level 3 incorporated association, to which section 59 of the Act applies—appointing an auditor, an accountant or an approved person for the present financial year.

33 Business to be conducted at annual general meeting of other level 2 incorporated associations

- (1) This rule applies only if the Association is a level 2 incorporated association to which section 59A of the Act applies.
- (2) The following business must be conducted at each annual general meeting of the Association—
 - (a) receiving the Association's financial statement, and signed statement, for the last reportable financial year;
 - (b) presenting the financial statement and signed statement to the meeting for adoption;
 - (c) electing members of the Leadership Circle; and
 - (d) appointing an auditor, an accountant or an approved person for the present financial year.

The Village

34 Business to be conducted at annual general meeting of other level 3 incorporated associations

- (1) This rule applies only if the Association is a level 3 incorporated association to which section 59B of the Act applies.
- (2) The following business must be conducted at each annual general meeting of the Association—
 - (a) receiving the Association's financial statement, and signed statement, for the last reportable financial year;
 - (b) presenting the financial statement and signed statement to the meeting for adoption; and
 - (c) electing members of the Leadership Circle.

35 Notice of general meeting

- (1) The secretary may call a general meeting of the Association.
- (2) The secretary must give at least 14 days notice of the meeting to each Active Member of the Association.
- (3) If the secretary is unable or unwilling to call the meeting, the president must call the meeting.
- (4) The Leadership Circle may decide the way in which the notice must be given.
- (5) However, notice of the following meetings must be given in writing—
 - (a) a meeting called to hear and decide the appeal of a person against the Leadership Circle's decision—
 - (i) to reject the person's application for membership of the Association; or
 - (ii) to adjust the person's membership of the Association;
 - (b) a meeting called to hear and decide a proposed special resolution of the Association.
- (6) A notice of a general meeting must state the business to be conducted at the meeting.
- (7) A general meeting of the Association may take place using Digital Video Meeting platforms such as (but without being limited to) Zoom or Microsoft Teams.

36 Quorum for, and adjournment of, general meeting

- (1) The quorum for a general meeting of the Association is at least 7 members of the Leadership Circle as well as 10% of Active Members.
- (2) No business may be conducted at a general meeting unless there is a quorum of members when the meeting proceeds to business.
- (3) If there is no quorum within 30 minutes after the time fixed for a general meeting called on the request of members of the Leadership Circle or the Association, the meeting lapses.

The Village

- (4) If there is no quorum within 30 minutes after the time fixed for a general meeting called other than on the request of members of the Leadership Circle or the Association—
 - (a) the meeting is to be adjourned for at least 7 days; and
 - (b) the Leadership Circle is to decide the day, time and place of the adjourned meeting.
- (5) The chairperson may, with the consent of any meeting at which there is a quorum, and must if directed by the meeting, adjourn the meeting from time to time and from place to place.
- (6) If a meeting is adjourned under subrule (5), only the business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place may be conducted at the adjourned meeting.
- (7) The secretary is not required to give the members notice of an adjournment or of the business to be conducted at an adjourned meeting unless a meeting is adjourned for at least 30 days.
- (8) If a meeting is adjourned for at least 30 days, notice of the adjourned meeting must be given in the same way notice is given for an original meeting.

37 Procedure at general meeting

- (1) An Active Member may take part and participate in decision making in a general meeting in person, by proxy, by attorney or by using any technology that reasonably allows the member to hear and take part in discussions as they happen.
- (2) Social Members of the Association may attend and speak at general meetings, but are not entitled to participate in decision making processes.
- (3) A member who participates in a meeting as mentioned in subrule (1) is taken to be present at the meeting.
- (4) At each general meeting—
 - (a) the president is to preside as chairperson; and
 - (b) if there is no president or if the president is not present within 15 minutes after the time fixed for the meeting or is unwilling to act, the members present must elect 1 of their number to be chairperson of the meeting; and
 - (c) the chairperson must conduct the meeting in a proper and orderly way.

38 Decision-making at general meetings

- (1) At a general meeting, questions, matters or resolutions of significance and/or strategic importance must be decided in accordance with the principles laid out in the Village Governance Model as specified in Appendix D. Questions, matters or resolutions of lesser importance shall be decided by a consent/consensus decision making process.
- (2) Should there be a doubt, even by one person at the meeting, as to whether a question, matter or resolution is of sufficient importance to warrant use of the Village Governance Model, then the matter shall be decided by way of the Village Governance Model.

The Village

- (3) An Active Member is not entitled to participate at a general meeting if the member's annual subscription is in arrears at the date of the meeting.

39 Special general meeting

- (1) The secretary must call a special general meeting by giving each member of the Association notice of the meeting within 14 days after—
- (a) being directed to call the meeting by the Leadership Circle; or
 - (b) being given a written request signed by—
 - (i) at least 33% of the number of members of the Leadership Circle when the request is signed; or
 - (ii) at least the number of Active Members of the Association equal to double the number of members of the Association on the Leadership Circle when the request is signed plus 1; or
 - (c) being given a written notice of an intention to appeal against the decision of the Leadership Circle—
 - (i) to reject an application for membership; or
 - (ii) to adjust a person's membership.
- (2) A request mentioned in subrule (1)(b) must state—
- (a) why the special general meeting is being called; and
 - (b) the business to be conducted at the meeting.
- (3) A special general meeting must be held within 3 months after the secretary—
- (a) is directed to call the meeting by the Leadership Circle; or
 - (b) is given the written request mentioned in subrule (1)(b); or
 - (c) is given the written notice of an intention to appeal mentioned in subrule (1)(c).
- (4) If the secretary is unable or unwilling to call the special meeting, the president must call the meeting.

40 Proxies

- (1) An instrument appointing a proxy must be in writing and be in the following or similar form—

[Name of association]:

I, _____ of _____, being
an Active Member of the Association, appoint _____

of _____
as my proxy to voice an opinion for me on my behalf at the (annual) general meeting of the
association, to be held on the _____ day of _____
20____

and at any adjournment of the meeting.

Signed this _____ day of _____ 20____.

Signature

- (2) The instrument appointing a proxy must
be signed by the appointor or the appointor's attorney properly authorised in
writing

The Village

- (3) A proxy must be an Active member of the Association.
- (5) Each instrument appointing a proxy must be given to the secretary before the start of the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the person named in the instrument proposes to participate.
- (6) Unless otherwise instructed by the appointor, the proxy may voice any opinion the proxy considers appropriate.
- (7) If a member wants a proxy to support or oppose a resolution, the instrument appointing the proxy must be in the following or similar form—

[Name of association]:

I, _____ of _____, _____ being
a member of the association, appoint _____
_____ of _____
as my proxy to voice an opinion for me on my behalf at the (annual) general meeting of the
association, to be held on the _____ day of _____
_____ 20_____
and at any adjournment of the meeting.
Signed this _____ day of _____ 20_____. _____

Signature

This form is to be used *in favour of/*against [*strike out whichever is not wanted*] the
following resolutions—

[List relevant resolutions]

41 Minutes of general meetings

- (1) The secretary must ensure full and accurate minutes of all questions, matters, resolutions and other proceedings of each general meeting are entered in a minute book.
- (2) The minute book may be kept in a digital format.
- (3) To ensure the accuracy of the minutes—
 - (a) the minutes of each general meeting must be verified for accuracy by the chairperson of the meeting, or the chairperson of the next general meeting; and
 - (b) the minutes of each annual general meeting must be verified for accuracy by the chairperson of the meeting, or the chairperson of the next meeting of the Association that is a general meeting or annual general meeting.
- (3) If asked by an Active Member of the Association, the secretary must, within 28 days after the request is made—
 - (a) make the minute book for a particular general meeting available for inspection by the member at a mutually agreed time and place; and
 - (b) give the member copies of the minutes of the meeting.
- (4) The Association may require the member to pay the reasonable costs of providing copies of the minutes.

42 By-laws

- (1) The Leadership Circle may make, amend or repeal by-laws, not inconsistent with these rules, for the internal management of the Association.

The Village

- (2) A by-law may be set aside by a decision of Active Members at a general meeting of the Association.

43 Alteration of rules

- (1) Subject to the Act, these rules may be amended, repealed or added to by a special resolution carried at a general meeting.
- (2) However an amendment, repeal or addition is valid only if it is registered by the Leadership Circle with the government department overseeing the Act.

44 Common seal

- (1) The Leadership Circle must ensure the Association has a common seal.
- (2) The common seal must be—
 - (a) kept securely by the Leadership Circle; and
 - (b) used only under the authority of the Leadership Circle.
- (3) Each instrument to which the seal is attached must be signed by a member of the Leadership Circle and countersigned by—
 - (a) the secretary; or
 - (b) another member of the Leadership Circle; or
 - (c) someone authorised by the Leadership Circle.

45 Public Fund

- (1) The Association will establish and maintain a public fund.
- (2) Donations will be deposited into the public fund listed on the Register of Cultural Organisations. These monies will be kept separate from other funds of the association and will only be used to further the principal purpose of the Association. Investment of monies in this fund will be made in accordance with guidelines for public funds as specified by the ATO.
- (3) The Association must comply with any rules that the Treasury Minister or the Minister for the Arts make to ensure that gifts made to the public fund will only be used for the Association's principal purpose.
- (4) The public will be invited to contribute to the fund.
- (5) The fund will be administered by the Leadership Circle or a sub-circle of the Leadership Circle, the majority of whom, because of their tenure of some public office or their professional standing, have an underlying community responsibility, as distinct from obligations solely in regard to the cultural objectives of Village Matrix Foundation.
- (6) No monies/assets in this fund will be distributed to members or office bearers of the Association, except as reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred on behalf of the fund or proper remuneration for administrative services.
- (7) The Department responsible for the administration of the Register of Cultural Organisations will be notified of any proposed amendments or alterations to provisions for the public fund, to assess the effect of any amendments on the public fund's continuing Deductible Gift Recipient status.

The Village

- (8) Receipts for gifts to the public fund must state:
 - a. the name of the public fund and that the receipt is for a gift made to the public fund;
 - b. the Australian Business Number of the Association;
 - c. the fact that the receipt is for a gift; and
 - d. any other matter required to be included on the receipt pursuant to the requirements of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.
- (8) If upon the winding-up or dissolution of the public fund listed on the Register of Cultural Organisations, or its endorsement as a deductible gift recipient is revoked, there remains after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property or funds, the property or funds shall not be paid to or distributed among members of the Association, but shall be given or transferred to some other fund, authority or institution having objects similar to the objects of this public fund, and whose rules shall prohibit the distribution of its or their income among its or their members, such fund, authority or institution to be eligible for tax deductibility of donations under Subdivision 30-B, section 30-100, of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.
- (9) The Association must provide to the Department responsible for the administration of the Register of Cultural Organisations statistical information on the gifts made to the public fund every 6 months.

46 Operational Fund and accounting

- (1) The funds of the Association must be kept in an account in the name of the Association in a financial institution decided by the Leadership Circle.
- (2) Records and accounts must be kept in the English language showing full and accurate particulars of the financial affairs of the Association.
- (3) All amounts must be deposited in the financial institution account as soon as practicable after receipt.
- (5) If a payment of \$250 or more is to be made, it must be authorised in writing by any two of the following:
 - (a) the president;
 - (b) the secretary;
 - (c) the treasurer;
 - (d) any 1 of 3 other members of the Association who have been authorised by the Leadership Circle to approve expenditure of the Association.
- (6) However, 1 of the persons who approves the expenditure in writing must be the president, the secretary or the treasurer.
- (8) There must be receipts and records kept for all petty cash expenditure . The Leadership Circle must decide the amount of petty cash to be kept in the account.
- (9) All expenditure must be approved or ratified at a Leadership Circle meeting.

The Village

47 General financial matters

- (1) On behalf of the Leadership Circle, the treasurer must, as soon as practicable after the end date of each financial year, ensure a financial statement for its last reportable financial year is prepared.
- (2) The income and property of the Association must be used solely in promoting the Association's objects and exercising the Association's powers.

48 Documents

The Leadership Circle must ensure the safe custody of books, documents, instruments of title and securities of the Association.

49 Financial year

The end date of the Association's financial year is 30 June in each year.

50 Distribution of surplus assets to another not-for-profit entity

- (1) This rule applies if the Association—
 - (a) is wound-up under part 10 of the Act; and
 - (b) has surplus assets.
- (2) The surplus assets must not be distributed among the members of the Association.
- (3) The surplus assets must be given to another entity —
 - (a) which is a not-for-profit organisation;
 - (b) having objects similar to the Association's objects; and
 - (c) the rules of which prohibit the distribution of the entity's income and assets to its members.
- (4) In this rule— *surplus assets* see section 92(3) of the Act.

The Village

Appendix A: Vision, Mission and Objectives

Vision

Establishment of community spaces for the active co-creation of a creative society in balance, peace and freedom, held by love.

Mission

To embody our vision as an inspiring, living and working model, collaborating as free human beings together on the land.

Objectives:

1. Creative Arts and Entertainment

Our community nurtures and facilitates creative expression through all manner of fine, performance and multi-media arts – inclusive but not limited to music, theatre, dance, poetry, painting, literature, crafts, photography and film.

Our community provides the best facilities (spaces and tools) that it can manage to enable that expression and its presentation. Regular art exhibitions and performance opportunities are facilitated by members to witness expression and support interaction, appreciation, education and trade in artistic, creative and entertainment endeavours.

2. Proper Community Governance

We strongly adhere to the principle and practice of Self Responsibility. We customise and utilise best practice organisational models for circular, egalitarian, transparent, ethics-based, horizontal and effective collaboration to form the foundation of our governance in alignment with our core values and agreements. As such, we draw upon the “Circle of Thirteen” principle of decision making, as referred to in Appendix D, or other consent/consensus processes as deemed appropriate by the Leadership Circle and Active Membership for holding meetings and for electing people for roles and functions and other responsibilities. Sub circles are mandated to make decisions within their spheres of responsibility and within specified limits. These report back to the whole and are accountable to the group.

All persons of age 18 and over who have agreed to, and abide by, the terms of our Key Founding Documents and have been fully inducted and accepted into our Community shall have equal decision-making power, irrespective of financial contribution. For matters that bear wide and diverse impact upon our collective life, the Village Governance Model is used so as to ensure due breadth of our considerations.

Should disagreement arise between individual participants, the matter is dealt with first by open-hearted communication party to party. If this does not create resolution the matter proceeds to mediation by a mutually agreed third party. Should that not achieve

The Village

a satisfactory outcome, the matter moves to a Village Governance Circle of Thirteen. While individuals may seek the solutions-based wisdom and counsel of others on interpersonal matters, as a rule, we follow the above protocols, and conscientiously avoid speaking negatively about each other to others – so as not to propagate hostility.

Thorough record keeping is implicit in all our governance conduct. Our first and last references in all matters of governance are alignment with our core values and vision.

3. Proper Finance and Economics

Our community operates with clear, precise and completely transparent accounting procedures, making accounts available to every member of our community.

We establish and use a fair, reasonable and transparent system whereby members regularly contribute financially towards:

1. meeting the ongoing costs of maintenance and development,
2. equalising the financial inputs of members, and
3. building our capacity to reimburse members' inputs should they decide to exit the community.

We establish fair and equitable ways to recognise financial contribution and the contribution of hours and effort. We encourage our membership in private and cooperative entrepreneurial enterprises for the benefit of the entrepreneur/s, our immediate community and the wider community - enhancing our abundance, our local self-reliance and quality of life, and fairly recompensing our Village Community for use of our land and resources in business ventures.

4. Good Health

Our community supports individuals expressing their uniqueness, passions and lifestyle choices in accordance with our core values and agreements. We undertake to minimise interpersonal hostility and create a safe and healthy environment, investigating and employing health strategies that focus on nutrition and preventative health strategies (eg. herbs, ritual, food and other nourishments) while staying present to the value of intervention practices and the Western medical model according to each individual choice for their personal well-being and the well-being of their dependants.

We see health as an area of self-responsibility and community responsibility, encouraging a holistic approach to health and continuing to seek the best available information and knowledge.

We undertake to have at least one person trained in first aid procedures and safety procedures as a minimum facility to the community.

The Village

5. **Spiritual Freedom**

Our community recognises that we are all spiritual beings and thus provide facilities and resources including creating a temple as a space for spiritual engagement and practice in alignment with our core values and vision.

We are eclectic - respecting and freely drawing upon the various sacred paths in the world that are aligned with our core values and vision. We do our best to design our lives according to our inner wisdom in harmony with all.

We cultivate a vibrant spiritual life together bringing spirit into our communal life by sanctifying the sharing of food, the holding of meetings, the initiation of projects and other aspects of everyday life.

We create opportunities to come together on special occasions appropriate to our members to join in ceremony.

6. **Proper Use of the Built Environment**

We listen to the land, acquainting ourselves with the land's aspects, seasonal rhythms and natural attributes (e.g., feng shui), and seeking out the solutions-based counsel and advise of Indigenous Knowledge Keepers, experts (e.g., permaculturalists) and local and regional authorities before pursuing development.

7. **Proper Use of Tools and Technology**

Our community focuses on and provides technology and tools of as renewable and sustainable nature as our resources permit. We have a collective pool of communal tools and technologies and establish a clear set of protocols for their use, maintenance and care. We instruct in the use and careful maintenance of tools and equipment to extend their life and utility.

We remain aware and continue to take care to minimize exposure to harmful technologies including setting aside dedicated communal areas for internet and wireless, making use of fibre-optic cable internet wherever possible as a first option. Individuals may determine their own exposure to such frequencies in their own homes taking care not to extend coverage into communal space without due consultation.

8. **Good Education**

Our community embraces learning as a way of life and commits to the provision of an on-community free schooling opportunity for all community members.

We deeply appreciate that all of humanity stands now upon the start of a Great Learning Curve: we contribute to that curve, by encouraging and providing opportunities for our membership to teach what they know, and by organising our various Project Teams - such that each Team develops itself, acquiring and integrating new knowledge and experience, both individually and collectively by:

- 1) Searching for and applying optimal, locally-tuned ways to achieve the desired results;
- 2) Evaluating the performance of the implemented technique – keeping a log book (or another appropriate form of memory system) to facilitate evaluation;

The Village

- 3) Seeking to refine working techniques;
- 4) Sharing 'best practice' working solutions;
- 5) Making relevant information available to others;
- 6) Integrating learning through teaching; and
- 7) Contributing to an ever evolving compendium of relevant knowledge and 'best practice' working solutions.

We pass on knowledge to those willing to learn. The curriculum is designed to suit the individual choice of the student, based on their excitement and activation. Our community will provision teachings to support our core values for all members and we provide opportunities for visitors / students from outside our community to come to our village to immerse and train up in various facets of our culture. This includes but is not limited to subjects such as Permaculture, compassionate communication and egalitarian organisational processes.

Our community is dedicated to develop, generate and maintain an extensive library.

9. Respect for Engineering, Science & Mathematics

Our community embraces the best of Engineering, Science and Mathematics to enable and assist in providing benefits to our community, delivering efficacy in integrous form, calculable and measurable interaction with the physical world, opportunity for sustainable and better than sustainable interaction with our environments, seeking harmony with current social structures and regulation where those genuinely offer benefits in safety and integrity to our community in alignment with our core values and vision.

We plan, create and design our structures and buildings using traditional and sacred geometrics in addition to new sustainable technologies, imbuing our village with the best practices we can discern.

We embrace, utilise and endeavour to contribute to the great pool of humanity's knowledge, aligning our development of the land and its productive systems and also our design, lay-out and building of structures to reflect and embody the holistic, all-connected and fractal nature of existence – thereby, enhancing the beauty, harmony and sustainability of our works.

The Village

10. Respect of the Individual/Self

Our community proclaims that every individual has the right to express their uniqueness, speak their truth and realise their dreams, follow their passions and do what they love to do in accordance with our core values and vision.

We recognise that we are a group of individuals while simultaneously an individual group. Each of us has strengths and weaknesses and spirit has put us together to complement each other. We bring our continued attention to balancing self and group interests and understand that every thought, word and deed from every individual directly affects our community. We hold personal responsibility as key and encourage self-reflection as our first port of call in every interaction.

We support individual freedom, sovereignty, autonomy and self-reliance while offering the continuous support of the community. We recognise community property and personal property both have a place in our community.

Every individual is self-determining and self-responsible, that is a free sovereign being contained by the self-chosen bonds of our guiding core values and vision. Our community supports and encourages self-expression in all aspects of being human, those being physical, emotional, mental, sexual, and spiritual – also in alignment with our core values and vision.

11. Respect of Psychology/Imagination

Our community supports and encourages the exploration of the limits of possibility of being human, directing energy to peace of mind and heart while exploring the gifts of our imagination and support of our dreamings.

We embrace the knowledge that imagination is the seat for manifestation of diversity, freedom and abundance. In our ability to envision, and take real steps to embody a vision beyond the current mainstream paradigm, we recognise that (along with countless other worldwide) we are the imaginal cells of humanity's metamorphosis into a greater expression of its authenticity and magnificence: we know and understand that imagination – the ability to envision something different – is crucial to moving forward, to charting a course to a new destination, and to successfully negotiating the shift to a life-sustaining and humane world.

We provide a supportive space for individual expression and uniqueness recognising that private “alone” time is as valuable as community shared time. We encourage and support a “know thyself” ethos while paying attention to emotional cause and effect. We interpret fantasy into our way of life in the way of festivals, stories, habits and rituals.

We see the Spirit, and, therefrom, the multi-dimensional and all-connected resonance and beauty that underlies all things: we actively re-enchant the world, bringing everything – even the so-called 'mundane' - alive in the glow of deep awareness.

The Village

12. Society/Culture

Our community is modelling a new society based on the premises established in our core values and vision.

We celebrate, integrate and practically embody the universal law of one – that is, the understanding that all things are made of intelligent energy and are a part of the AllOne. We welcome all expression and ways which celebrate life and respect this fundamental law of the unity and sentience of all that is.

One key matter is self-responsible participants operating in self-governing communities or “villages”, co-operating with nearby communities to engage locally. Our new society is holistic: we understand that the whole is as strong as each part, that the whole flourishes when each part functions as a self-responsible and self-determining whole, operating collaboratively within ever-greater wholes– that is, from the individual participant, to the core social units of family, friends and co-workers / team members, to our village community, and therefrom, to our local, regional, national and global communities. We are a dynamic society, ever learning, ever evolving, ever creating – dedicated to best practice and locally-tuned and locally generated solutions.

Our culture emerges from our celebration of life; it is enlivened and sustained by our contribution to one another and our voluntary commitment to our core values and vision.

13. Good Relationships/Community

We hold and cherish each other in respect and love. We celebrate the diversity and treasure the uniqueness of our membership: within the parameters of our agreed core values, ethical guidelines and vision, we strongly uphold the individual's right of choice in all things, and support each being's freedom of sexual expression.

In all our interactions, both within and beyond our community, we engage with commitment to treat each other respectfully and with love supporting freedom of sexual expression, celebrating diversity and uniqueness.

We actively foster open heart to heart communication amongst our membership in order to support healthy interpersonal interactions and the positive vibration of the whole community.

We are proactive in doing our utmost to ensure the harmony, longevity and fruitfulness of our community - using best-practice tools and methods and exercising a willingness to continue to discover and uncover best practices.

The Village

14. Respect of Law, history, records

Our community interacts respectfully with the law of the land, the lore of the original peoples and our core values and vision. We recognise that our rules, lore, laws and core values are our guides and thus require our continued attention to maintain relevance. We keep as extensive record of knowledge as we are able and clear record of our laws, lore, accounts, meetings and stories for reference, edification and efficacy of decision making for our lives and the lives of generations to come.

We encourage extensive study of a wide range of paths and information and act under the universal law of one (comprehension that all things are made of intelligent energy and are a part of the All-One).

We share stories, bringing them to life.

In the case of offence, we ascribe to addressing the cause as first priority rather than the symptom and set about healing misconduct rather than delivering punishment.

We operate transparently, keep accurate records and maintain freedoms. We live our core values and agreements, remaining willing to further develop, improve and change them for the collective good of our community.

15. Respect of Philosophy/Wisdom

Our community embraces, encourages and facilitates a philosophy of living in respect and communion with each other and with the other beings present in our community and who interact with our community. We encourage and facilitate the gathering of knowledge, experience and philosophical engagement to generate wisdom and the sharing of wisdom. We accept all different expressions and ways to acquire and teach philosophies and knowledge in accordance with our core values. We support and encourage individuals to share freely, oneness over separation, inclusivity over exclusivity and freedom over control. We educate members and young people to ask questions as a path to learning and becoming free autonomous thinking individuals.

16. Commitment to Sustainability, Resilience and Self-reliance.

Our community is dedicated to and aspires to operating in a sustainable and better than sustainable manner in all aspects of being in order to enhance our resilience and our own immediate and local community's self-reliance.

We are dedicated to improving and maintaining our natural environment, growing food, medicine and fibres to self-sustain and become self-sufficient considering all aspects.

Where we are unable to provide our own self-reliance, we choose local trading first.

Our dedication to sustainability includes a commitment to:

1. *Physical*: best practice land, water, air use while attending to the needs of our physical bodies,
2. *Emotional*: emotional balance and freedom of expression
3. *Mental*: continuing to explore and improve knowledge so that we can apply wisdom and maintain best practice for our mental well-being; and
4. *Spiritual*: fostering spiritual experiences and practices.

The Village

Appendix B: Core Values

Unity – We are aware that we are all parts of one whole, and that all our thoughts, words and deeds affect the whole. We are together for a common cause.

Diversity – We accept and celebrate differences and uniqueness, recognising that such creates the fullness of experience.

Open Communication – We speak and listen with an open heart and open mind, honestly sharing our views, perceptions and feelings.

Contribution – We encourage and honour each individual to bring forth their gifts in service to the community, in accordance with their passions, interests and capacities.

Celebration – We engage, generate and co-create opportunities – both spontaneously and in special events and occasions for sharing our magic, joy, gratitude and appreciation of life and one another.

Equity / Equality – We acknowledge that all beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and, as such, we organise ourselves in a circular, inclusive manner such that all have an equal voice in decision-making.

Safety – We ascribe to a duty of care for the well-being of one another.

Individuality – We recognise, honour and encourage the uniqueness and authentic expression of all beings – in alignment with our collective agreements.

Self-Responsibility – We encourage the Response-Ability of each of us to take action. We own our own mental and emotional states, reactions and responses, rather than jumping to project guilt, blame or shame upon others.

Respect – We honour the integrity of one's Self, others, and the natural and built environment, by cultivating a centredness in peace and a sensitivity to our surroundings – treating others as we would wish to be treated.

Love – We approach all of life in awe and wonder at the grandeur and magnificence of Being.

Compassion – We care for, and to the best of our individual capacities, endeavour to assist in supporting the well-being, evolution and enlightenment of all.

Freedom – We live our individual Divine Truth, each doing what each would truly love to do – in alignment with our community agreements.

Gratitude – We live in joyous appreciation and awareness of the Divine Gift of Life.

Harmony – We appreciate the diversity and complimentary nature of our unique frequencies and ways – and the harmonic whole that such reveals.

Acceptance – We recognise that what is, is – and that what is, is the field of our opportunity to interact.

Integrity – We maintain alignment between our values, thoughts, words and deeds, and are willing to be held accountable.

The Village

Trust – We surrender to the Divine and have faith in our Selves and others that all shall collaborate and interact for the highest good of all, holding each other safely in our vulnerabilities.

Spirit – We recognise the divine source and substance of All That Is, and cultivate a heightened awareness of this.

Peace – We cultivate inner calm in all circumstances – and, when necessary, seek to skilfully defuse, de-escalate or divert friction and/or aggression.

Sustainability – We consciously live in harmony with each other and nature, maintaining and improving upon our collective quality of life, our natural environment's biodiversity values and our land's productivity – in the interests of enhancing our resilience and our own immediate and local community's self-reliance.

The Village

Appendix C: Peace Treaty

We gather in Balance, Peace and Freedom underpinned by Love.



Peace Treaty

We each individually engage in The Village, Village Matrix Foundation and other related village activities in our individual private capacities as sovereign sentient human beings and do, at all times, take responsibility and full liability for our own actions and for the actions of the people under our care.

- We come in peace and will not knowingly harm or hinder other participants.
- We hold harmless the owners, custodians and guardians of the land on which we gather or congregate against negligence and effects of personal injury, loss or any other harmful event affecting ourselves and those under our invitation, care or responsibility.
- In the event of any misfortune, we will not pursue the contributors, participants, owners, custodians and guardians of “country” in a public court nor seek compensation through insurance or in any other manner.
- We undertake to notify the people gathered and witness to this treaty if we have any emotional, physical, mental, lawful or other condition that may affect the safety of self or other participants.
- We will not knowingly participate in the use of substances that will be detrimental to attitude and approach and/or may endanger others.
- Each individual will attend to their individual needs or personally provide a carer where required to assist those who require such assistance while understanding that the community will also remain responsive to each member.
- We will be respectful and in mindful of our own and each others’ boundaries.
- We will be responsible for the proper disposal of all waste, rubbish and recycling in all situations.
- We remain aware that we are members of a heart-centred community and that there are consequences should we not remain true to this treaty.
- We fully embrace that we are joined in community, friendship, balance, peace and freedom underpinned by love and undertake a continuous endeavour to remain so with all other participants and members.

Appendix D: Village Governance Model

The Village

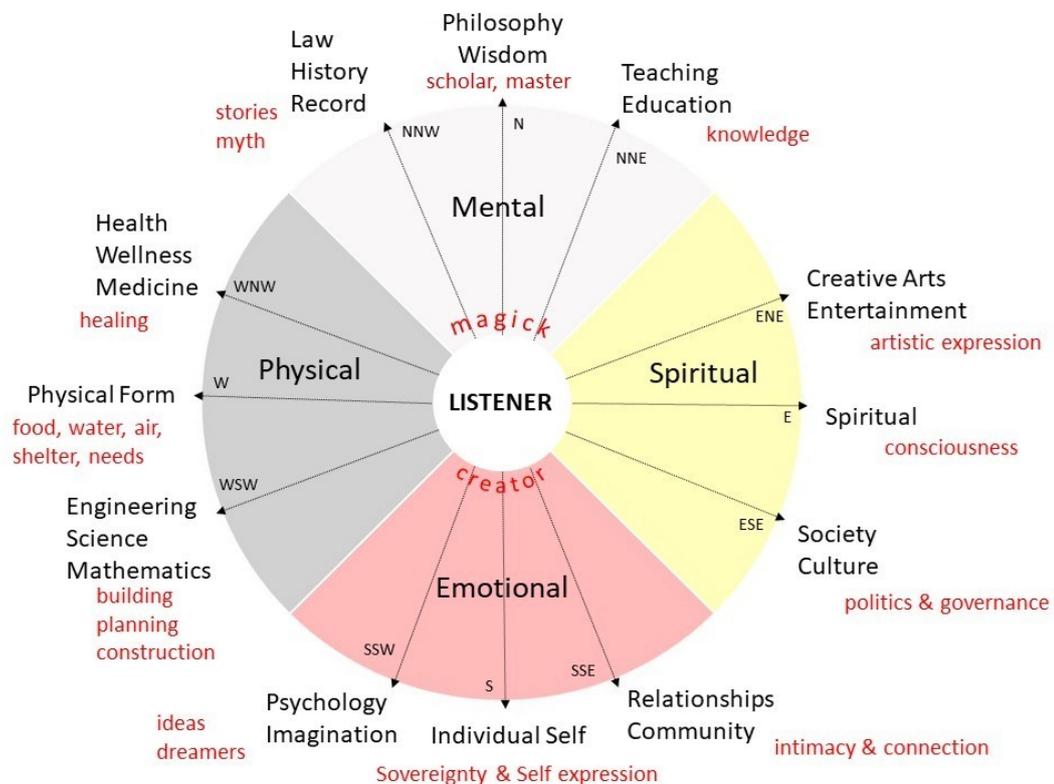
Overview

The Wheel of 13 Governance Model is a non-hierarchical governance process based on thirteen representatives sitting in circle or wheel to determine the lore and law of those people who are part of The Village in community.

Thirteen such circles/wheels comprise a “village”.

This neither a ‘consensus’ model nor a ‘majority-rules’ model but can be referred to as a “consent” model in which the decisions are gleaned by consent to proceed after considering a range of perspectives presented by 12 representatives in circle/wheel and distilled into a conclusion by a 13th representative who has listened closely to all perspectives.

In the case of matters which are considered of sufficient import or merit, the entire adult membership of a “village” (169 adults who are active members) exercise the process. As each “wheel of 13” come to their conclusion, the “listener” from each circle/wheel enters a final “wheel of 13”, again comprising 12 representatives who share the perspective and position agreed to by their circle and a 13th representative who distills those sharings to present a conclusion and thus a decision that applies to the entire community or “village”. In such a situation the ideal situation is that all members who have participated also participate in the final “wheel of 13” by witnessing the final “wheel of 13”.



STEP ONE

This image is a depiction of “The Wheel of 13” also referred to as “The Circle of 13”.

The 13 representatives sit in a circle with one another to address whatever the matter under consideration.

The Village

The positioning of representatives in **the first** such “wheel” is determined by placing tiles in a container with each of the twelve directions (four cardinal directions NSEW and eight non-cardinal directions plus CENTRE). Each representative draws a tile to determine their “sitting place”.

A representative represents the perspective of the position they inhabit in the “wheel” or “circle” rather than a personal perspective.

The representative villager who draws CENTRE is the listener. Their role is to listen with an open heart and an open mind in order to present the “conclusion” they reach having distilled all information presented.

STEP TWO

Having heard each of the perspectives from the twelve directions and the twelve representatives, the LISTENER presents a distillation of what has been heard beginning with the statement:

“This is what I heard you tell me is our decision.....”

The listener does not, of course simply repeat what has been heard, but distils the information into a conclusion based on having heard all perspectives. It is noted too that whenever any representative sitting in any point on the wheel is not sharing, they too are actively listening to each of the other perspectives.

STEP THREE

It is at this point that the sharing of the listener, having also been heard by all, receives a response from the twelve representatives.

Either there is acceptance of the outcome or not. This does not mean that each of the representatives need agree with the proposed “way forward” but that all representatives are willing to consent to what has been presented.

Should this not be so, that is if there are representatives who are not willing to consent to the outcome or “way forward” presented by the LISTENER, return to STEP ONE.

Should this occur, each representative remains in the same position on the wheel or circle, including the LISTENER.

If the second round also fails to reach a place of consent, return once more to STEP ONE. The intent of the three rounds is to take the process into 3, the place of form.

Should the matter not reach a place of consent by the conclusion of three rounds, the matter is closed unresolved for a period not longer than ten days.

In this circumstance, the listener from the first three rounds moves out to the NNE. The representative who was speaking from the North (12 o’clock) perspective becomes the LISTENER. Each of the other representatives moves one place clockwise on the wheel and the process begins again.

The Village

STEP FOUR

A record is kept of the outcome or “way forward” and it is shared with all affected parties.

EXTRAPOLATION to a full Village.

In the case of matters to be decided for a gathering of community members or Villagers, it is to be understood that a “Village” is 169 adults who may or may not reside with one another on a single community.

It is more likely that a range of smaller communities will comprise a Village, though they may well be in close proximity (not a requirement).

Decisions of a nature that will determine outcomes or “way forward” for such a “Village” would wherever possible be conducted at the regular gathering known as “The Village”. These occur approximately four times per year, most often at or close to the equinox and solstice dates. Where such group decisions are required, 169 active “village” members would form thirteen circles of thirteen to consider the same matter. The process occurs for each of the thirteen circles or wheels. Once each circle has consented to a “way forward”, the listeners from each circle gather into a final wheel. Where each of them sits on the wheel, including the LISTENER is decided by tile selection as described above for a single wheel.

This circle/wheel of representatives then also share the outcome from their circle/wheel, considering also the place on the wheel on which they find themselves sitting for this final round.

All villagers are invited/encouraged to witness the proceedings but do not verbally participate. The same process is followed for the final wheel as described above for a single wheel.

FINAL NOTE

Should no outcome be determined by the final circle/wheel by the time three rounds have occurred, the process continues to round four, five and six if necessary – to determine an outcome or way forward. In this case, for round four, the representative who has held the NORTH position for the first three rounds moves into the role of LISTENER for round four, the listener from the first three rounds moves to the NNE position and all other representatives move one place clockwise on the wheel.

Should it be required that there is a round five, the representative who held NORTH position for round four becomes the LISTENER, the round four listener moves to the NNE and so on. Should it be required that there is a round six, the representative who held NORTH position for round five becomes the LISTENER, the round five listener moves to the NNE and so on.

Should no decision by consent be reached after this quite exhaustive process, the whole matter moves back out to the entire Village, with each circle reconvening, the listener moving to the NNE on their original circle/wheel, the representative from the NORTH becomes the LISTENER and each of the representatives moves one place clockwise on their wheel.

The Village

In this instance a single round occurs for each turn of the LISTENER (rather than three as described above). After each round, if the outcome is not determined by consent, the listener moves to the NNE, North representative moves to listener and all representatives move one place clockwise on the wheel, thus presenting different perspectives from different representatives for each round until an OUTCOME or “WAY FORWARD” is determined.