

THEATRE NEW ZEALAND INC.

REMIT FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE 2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Establishment of the Fellowship of Theatre New Zealand, Theatre New Zealand Hall of Fame, and Revised Membership Structure

Submitted by: The National Executive of Theatre New Zealand Inc.

Purpose

The purpose of this remit is to modernise Theatre New Zealand's honours and membership structure by:

1. Retiring the awarding of new Life Memberships.
2. Establishing the Fellowship of Theatre New Zealand as the organisation's highest honour for living individuals.
3. Establishing a separate Theatre New Zealand Hall of Fame.
4. Preserving and recognising the contribution of existing Life Members and Past Presidents.
5. Introducing a clearer, more inclusive and sustainable membership structure.
6. Revising membership fees and voting entitlements.

REMIT

That the members of Theatre New Zealand Inc., assembled at the 2026 Annual General Meeting, resolve as follows:

1. Life Membership

1.1 Theatre New Zealand shall cease awarding new Life Memberships from the conclusion of the 2026 Annual General Meeting.

1.2 All existing Life Members shall retain the honour, recognition, benefits and voting rights previously granted to them.

1.3 Existing Life Members shall be recognised as the inaugural Fellows of Theatre New Zealand and shall be entitled to use the post-nominal **FTNZ**.

1.4 The retirement of Life Membership shall not diminish or remove any recognition previously granted by Theatre New Zealand.

2. Fellowship of Theatre New Zealand

2.1 The **Fellowship of Theatre New Zealand** shall be established as the highest honour Theatre New Zealand may bestow upon a living individual.

2.2 Fellowship shall recognise exceptional achievement and contribution in one or more of the following areas:

- Artistic practice
- Leadership
- Directing
- Performance
- Playwriting
- Design
- Technical theatre
- Teaching and mentoring
- Theatre administration
- Service to Theatre New Zealand
- Service to community theatre in Aotearoa New Zealand
- Children's and youth theatre
- Age on Stage and theatre involving older participants
- The wider development and advancement of theatre

2.3 Fellowship shall be awarded for the quality, significance and lasting effect of an individual's contribution, rather than solely for length of service.

2.4 Recipients shall be known as **Fellows of Theatre New Zealand** and shall be entitled to use the post-nominal **FTNZ**.

2.5 Fellows shall receive free membership of Theatre New Zealand for life.

2.6 Each Fellow shall hold one individual vote at General Meetings of Theatre New Zealand.

2.7 Nominations for Fellowship shall be considered jointly by the National Executive and the existing body of Fellows, under criteria and procedures approved by the National Executive.

2.8 Fellowship shall normally be presented at the annual Theatre New Zealand National Awards or another appropriate national occasion.

2.9 Fellowship shall not be granted automatically through the holding of office, completion of a particular period of service, or previous receipt of another Theatre New Zealand award.

3. Theatre New Zealand Hall of Fame

3.1 A **Theatre New Zealand Hall of Fame** shall be established as a separate and enduring form of recognition.

3.2 The Hall of Fame shall honour individuals, living or deceased, whose major and sustained contributions have significantly shaped both Theatre New Zealand and community theatre in Aotearoa New Zealand.

3.3 Induction into the Hall of Fame shall be based upon the significance, influence and enduring legacy of the individual's contribution.

3.4 A Fellow may subsequently be inducted into the Hall of Fame, but Fellowship shall not automatically result in Hall of Fame induction.

3.5 A person may be inducted into the Hall of Fame without first having been appointed a Fellow, particularly where the person is deceased or where historical recognition is appropriate.

3.6 Living Hall of Fame inductees shall receive free membership of Theatre New Zealand for life.

3.7 The National Executive shall establish appropriate nomination, research, selection and induction procedures for the Hall of Fame.

4. Recognition of Past Presidents and Theatre New Zealand History

4.1 Theatre New Zealand shall maintain a permanent public record of:

- Fellows of Theatre New Zealand
- Existing Life Members
- Hall of Fame inductees
- Past Presidents
- Other individuals whose service or contribution warrants permanent recognition

4.2 Theatre New Zealand shall develop and publish biographical narratives recording the achievements and contributions of those recognised.

4.3 These records shall be made available through the Theatre New Zealand website, official programmes, archives and other appropriate publications.

4.4 Theatre New Zealand shall maintain a dedicated **Roll of Honour of Past Presidents**.

4.5 Each Past President's record should, where information is available, include:

- Their period of leadership
- Significant initiatives undertaken during their presidency
- Their contribution to Theatre New Zealand
- Their contribution to the wider theatre community

4.6 Inclusion on the Roll of Honour of Past Presidents shall not automatically confer Fellowship or Hall of Fame induction.

REVISED MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE

5. Membership Categories

The membership categories of Theatre New Zealand shall be:

Membership Category	Annual Fee	Voting Entitlement
Gold Card Membership, aged 65 and over	No fee	No vote
Emerging Voices Membership, under 25	\$25	One collective vote
Individual Membership, aged 25–64	\$50	One collective vote
Advocate Membership	\$100	One collective vote
Patron Membership	\$250	One collective vote
Fellow of Theatre New Zealand	Granted	One individual vote per Fellow
Associate Membership	Reciprocal arrangement	No vote
Society or Theatre Company Membership	\$75–\$300	One to three votes

6. Gold Card Membership

6.1 Free Gold Card Membership shall be available to individuals aged 65 years and over.

6.2 Gold Card Membership shall be a recognition and participation category designed to maintain the connection of senior theatre practitioners and supporters with Theatre New Zealand.

6.3 Gold Card Members shall receive the ordinary benefits of membership, including communications, access to member opportunities and participation in Theatre New Zealand activities, subject to any applicable charges or eligibility requirements.

6.4 Gold Card Membership shall carry no voting entitlement at General Meetings.

6.5 A Gold Card Member wishing to exercise voting rights may take out an appropriate paid membership or exercise rights arising through membership of a paid-up member society, where applicable.

6.6 Gold Card Membership shall not itself constitute an honour or award and shall remain separate from Fellowship and Hall of Fame recognition.

7. Emerging Voices Membership

7.1 Emerging Voices Membership shall be available to individuals under 25 years of age.

7.2 The annual fee for Emerging Voices Membership shall be **\$25**.

7.3 Emerging Voices Membership shall provide an affordable entry point for young actors, directors, playwrights, designers, technicians, administrators and other emerging theatre practitioners.

7.4 Emerging Voices Members shall collectively exercise one vote at General Meetings through a process determined by the National Executive.

8. Individual Membership

8.1 Individual Membership shall be available to individuals aged between 25 and 64 years.

8.2 The annual fee for Individual Membership shall be **\$50**.

8.3 Individual Members shall collectively exercise one vote at General Meetings through a process determined by the National Executive.

8.4 An individual associated with a paid-up member society may receive membership benefits through that society, subject to the Constitution, bylaws and membership procedures of Theatre New Zealand.

8.5 Automatic membership through a society shall not create an additional individual vote unless the person also holds a membership category carrying a separate voting entitlement.

9. Advocate Membership

9.1 Advocate Membership shall be available to individuals or organisations wishing to provide an enhanced level of support to Theatre New Zealand.

9.2 The annual fee for Advocate Membership shall be **\$100**.

9.3 Advocate Members shall be acknowledged in Theatre New Zealand publications and communications where appropriate.

9.4 Advocate Members shall collectively exercise one vote at General Meetings through a process determined by the National Executive.

10. Patron Membership

10.1 Patron Membership shall be available to individuals or organisations making a major annual contribution towards sustaining the work of Theatre New Zealand.

10.2 The annual fee for Patron Membership shall be **\$250**.

10.3 Patron Members shall be publicly acknowledged as Patrons of Theatre New Zealand unless they request anonymity.

10.4 Patron Members shall collectively exercise one vote at General Meetings through a process determined by the National Executive.

11. Associate Membership

11.1 Associate Membership shall be available to festivals, training organisations, professional bodies, cultural organisations and other sector partners sharing objectives compatible with those of Theatre New Zealand.

11.2 Associate Membership shall normally operate through a reciprocal partnership or agreement approved by the National Executive.

11.3 Associate Members shall have no voting entitlement.

11.4 The rights, benefits and responsibilities applying to each Associate Member shall be recorded in the relevant partnership agreement.

SOCIETY AND THEATRE COMPANY MEMBERSHIP

12. Society Membership Categories and Fees

Annual membership fees and voting rights for societies and theatre companies shall be based upon the organisation's annual operating budget as follows:

Category	Annual Operating Budget	Annual Fee	Votes
-----------------	--------------------------------	-------------------	--------------

Pre-Set	\$0–\$20,000	\$75	1
Act One	\$20,001–\$99,999	\$100	2
Act Two	\$100,000–\$249,999	\$150	2
Act Three	\$250,000–\$499,999	\$200	3
Act Four	\$500,000–\$999,999	\$250	3
Finale	\$1,000,000 and over	\$300	3

12.1 No society or theatre company shall hold more than three votes.

12.2 Each society or theatre company shall declare its applicable annual operating budget category when renewing its membership.

12.3 The National Executive may request reasonable supporting information where clarification of a society's category is required.

12.4 A society's operating budget category shall be determined from its ordinary annual theatrical and organisational operations and not solely from isolated capital grants, one-off bequests or exceptional non-recurring transactions.

12.5 The National Executive may issue further guidance concerning the calculation of annual operating budgets and the administration of society membership categories.

VOTING AND GOVERNANCE

13. Collective Voting

13.1 The following membership groups shall each collectively hold one vote at General Meetings:

- Emerging Voices Members
- Individual Members
- Advocate Members
- Patron Members

13.2 The National Executive shall establish a transparent process through which each collective membership group appoints or elects a representative to exercise its vote.

13.3 Each Fellow shall hold one individual vote.

13.4 Society and theatre company members shall hold the number of votes allocated to their membership category.

13.5 Gold Card Members and Associate Members shall hold no vote.

13.6 No individual shall exercise more than one personal vote in addition to acting as an authorised delegate for a society or theatre company, unless expressly permitted by the Constitution.

13.7 All voting arrangements shall remain subject to the Constitution and any legislative requirements applying to incorporated societies.

IMPLEMENTATION

14. Authority to Implement

The National Executive shall be authorised to:

- Prepare any constitutional amendments required to give effect to this remit
- Develop Fellowship and Hall of Fame nomination and selection procedures
- Establish collective voting procedures
- Prepare membership application and renewal processes
- Determine reasonable transitional arrangements
- Update Theatre New Zealand's website, policies, forms and publications
- Prepare a Roll of Honour and biographical records
- Correct minor drafting, numbering or cross-referencing errors
- Take all other reasonable administrative steps necessary to implement the resolutions

Any administrative policy adopted by the National Executive must remain consistent with the intent of this remit and the Constitution of Theatre New Zealand.

Any substantive change to the rights, eligibility or voting entitlement established by this remit must be referred to the membership for approval in accordance with the Constitution.

15. Transitional Arrangements

15.1 The revised structure shall take effect from the beginning of the next Theatre New Zealand membership year following adoption of the necessary constitutional amendments.

15.2 All memberships current at the date of implementation shall remain valid until their existing renewal date.

15.3 Existing Life Members shall be transferred automatically to the Fellowship category without requiring an application or nomination.

15.4 No existing Life Member shall lose any honour, benefit or voting right because of the transition.

15.5 Current society and individual members shall be advised of their new category, fee and voting entitlement before the new structure takes effect.

RATIONALE

Life Membership has historically been one of Theatre New Zealand's highest forms of recognition. However, the term combines two different functions: administrative membership and distinguished honour.

This has created uncertainty as to whether Life Membership is primarily a fee exemption, recognition of length of service, or the organisation's highest award.

The proposed structure separates these functions.

The **Fellowship of Theatre New Zealand** will provide a selective and aspirational honour for living individuals whose artistry, leadership, teaching or service has made an exceptional contribution.

The **Theatre New Zealand Hall of Fame** will preserve the enduring legacy of people, living or deceased, whose work has significantly shaped Theatre New Zealand and community theatre in Aotearoa.

Existing Life Members will retain their recognition and become the inaugural Fellows of Theatre New Zealand, ensuring continuity and protecting the mana of those previously honoured.

The revised membership categories will provide:

- An affordable pathway for people under 25
- Free recognition membership for people aged 65 and over

- Clearer opportunities for individual supporters
- Reciprocal relationships with sector partners
- Fairer society fees based upon organisational scale
- Defined and transparent voting rights

The proposal is intended to honour Theatre New Zealand's history while establishing a clear, inclusive and sustainable structure for its future.

PROPOSED AGM MOTION

That the remit establishing the Fellowship of Theatre New Zealand, the Theatre New Zealand Hall of Fame, the recognition of existing Life Members and Past Presidents, and the revised Theatre New Zealand membership, fee and voting structure be adopted, subject to any constitutional amendments required to give effect to it.

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

AGM Decision

- ☐ Carried
- ☐ Carried with amendment
- ☐ Lost
- ☐ Referred back to the National Executive

Amendments adopted by the meeting