

# S A M V O A



South African Military Veterans Organisation of Australasia

Constitution of the:  
**South African Military Veterans Organisation of Australasia  
(SAMVOA)**

*SAMVOA's dedication, motto and inspiration:*

*This Veteran Organisation dedicates itself, in grateful recognition and memory of our countrymen, the Immortal Dead of South Africa, who, at the call of Duty, made the great Sacrifice on the battlefields of Africa, Asia and Europe, in the Air and on the Sea.*

*Their ideal is our legacy,  
Their sacrifice our inspiration.*

**Updated January 2017 as per Business Planning 2016.**

**SAMVOA Aims and Objectives:**

**Lest we forget:**

SAMVOA Veterans will participate nationally in recognised Memorial Services and Ceremonies, notably:

- a. ANZAC Day Celebrations.
- b. Armistice Day Celebrations.

**Marketing:**

- a. Promote the ultimate sacrifice paid by ordinary South Africans in the defence of their country.
- b. Promote the image of SAMVOA and the recognition of its Veterans.
- c. Promote the image of the SANDF and its predecessor, the SADF.
- d. Promote the image of the Corps, Regiments and Units within the SANDF and the former SADF.
- e. Promote the roll of the Reserve Forces in the defence of South Africa.
- f. Promote the Community Upliftment Projects that SAMVOA runs.

**Mutual support and brotherhood:**

- a. Comradeship and good fellowship.
- b. Networking to better support each other.
- c. Care and support for aged, former South Africans living in Australia and New Zealand.
- d. Facilitate and encouraging the development of Branches of Regimental Associations.

**Projects:**

The project that SAMVOA focusses on most is the "Just Love Remote Community Upliftment Program" (RCUP), which places SAMVOA and its entities SAMVOA, SAMVOZA and SAMVOUSA into a different category of service provider when compared to other veteran organisations, because we actively put back into communities, using the skills our members gained whilst rendering their military service.



### Our Resources:

- The **Just Love Project** is based on the use of the Antonov An-2 type aircraft, which is registered under the category of ZU, which means it cannot be used for commercial purposes, but it can be used for “not for profit” projects.
- The An-2 is a light utility, slow-flying transport biplane that has no stall speed and a 2,140 kg payload capability. It has a very good short field take-off and landing performance, suited for short, unimproved fields, which makes it ideal to fly into remote areas.
- As a Veteran Organisation we have many pilots and aircraft-skilled crew members all around the world in reach of remote regions where people live, in many cases without a sustainable supply of the basic essentials such as fresh water.
- We also have an abundance of tradesmen and skilled personnel within our membership.

### The main projects currently undertaken by SAMVOINT include:

#### Water to remote areas

We solicit donations of pumps and borehole sinking equipment and fly into remote areas where we drill the borehole and install the storage tank and borehole equipment with solar driven pumps, and merry-go-rounds for the kids, which when required, can also be used to drive the pumps. Whilst setting this benefit up for the local population, we provide the children with aerial pleasure flights, which will more than likely be the one and only flight that these children will ever have in their lifetimes.

#### Joy rides.

We have provided aerial joy-rides flights on various occasions. On one such occasion in South Africa, we entertained as many as 110 disadvantaged, orphaned; abandoned and/or abused children on an amazing day, doing something they would never otherwise have done – fly in an aeroplane. **The Just Love Team** felt that this made a meaningful difference in their lives and that they, in turn, “will pay it forward” in their own way, so that others may benefit and ultimately contribute to better societies being built for the future.

#### Race for Rhinos;

The Just Love Project has participated in fund-raising drives against rhino poaching in Africa.

#### Other potential projects;

This could include repairing facilities or building schools; however, these projects have not been undertaken as yet.

### **Other:**

- a. Recognition of Veterans military contributions by facilitating due process to ensure the just award of Decorations, Medals and awards.
- b. The collection and display of suitable militaria as a record for future generations.
- c. Other projects as they arise and are ratified by the National Executive.

### **Affiliations and Associations:**

- a. The Returned Services League of Australia.
- b. The Returned Services Association of New Zealand.
- c. The Council of Military Veterans Organisations of South Africa.
- d. The Reserve Forces Council of South Africa.
- e. The Memorable Order of Tin Hats (MOTH).
- f. The South African Legion.
- g. The Australian Reserve Forces Day Council.
- h. Specific individuals in South Africa who have special skills and contacts to facilitate other SAMVOA needs.

**The organisation:**

SAMVOA is an ex-servicemen organisation comprised of Military Veterans who were called up or volunteered to serve their country, South Africa in the SADF or the SANDF, and who now reside in Australia or New Zealand, or in countries peripheral to this region.

SAMVOA is a non-political, non-religious and non-sexist organisation and these subjects will never be raised or discussed.

SAMVOA is a single rank organisation with "Veteran" being the only rank. The organisation's strength will come from veteran membership and comradeship at Club level, and the organisation will take its lead and direction from this membership level. All Veterans will belong to a Club, irrespective of the office they hold, and any Veteran will be able to aspire to serve in any office of the organisation, based on his or her dedication and capability.

**Membership categories:****Ordinary Membership:**

In order to qualify for Ordinary Membership of SAMVOA, prospective members need to produce their Force Number, as issued by the UDF/SADF/SANDF/SAP/SAPS/RSF, and show evidence that they completed at least the Basic Training element of their National or Voluntary Service. These Veterans will be entitled to vote and to hold office, and their continued membership will be assured by their dedication to the ideals of SAMVOA and their good standing as a member of their Club.

Applicants with known extremist and/or terrorist activities before or after 1994 will not be considered for membership.

The National Executive retains the right to refuse membership and no correspondence will be entered into.

**Heritage Membership:**

In order to qualify for Heritage Membership of SAMVOA, prospective members need to have had a parent or grandparent who served South Africa in a military capacity, but who has since passed on. They will need to prove this relationship, be 16 years or older and their application will be considered on the basis that they will be the sole family representative of that person within SAMVOA. Heritage Membership applications will need to be ratified by the Regional Executive. On acceptance, these Veterans will enjoy normal membership and they will be entitled to vote and hold office. Their continued membership will be assured by their dedication to the ideals of SAMVOA and their good standing as a member of their Club.

**Selective Skills Membership:**

Selective Skills Membership may be conferred on individuals, who do not qualify for membership, but have special skills deemed to be important enough for the SAMVOA to acquire in order to improve the image and performance of the Organisation. In this instance, membership will need to be promoted at Regional Executive level and ratified at National Executive level. On acceptance, these Veterans will enjoy normal membership and they will be entitled to vote and hold office. Their continued membership will be assured by their dedication to the ideals of SAMVOA and their good standing as a member of their Club.

**Associate Membership:**

In order to qualify for Associate Membership of SAMVOA, prospective members need to have belonged to an allied force or regiment, which served alongside South African Forces at some stage in



the military history of South Africa. They will need to prove this association and to produce their Force Number, as issued by their respective Defence Force, and show evidence that they completed at least the Basic Training element of their country's Military Service. Associate Membership applications will need to be ratified by the Regional Executive and, on acceptance, these Veterans will enjoy normal membership, except that they will not be entitled to vote and hold office. Their continued membership will be assured by their dedication to the ideals of SAMVOA and their good standing as a member of their Club.

#### Junior Family Membership:

In order to qualify as a Junior Family Member of SAMVOA, prospective members need to have or have had a parent or grandparent who served South Africa in a military capacity. They may be required to prove this relationship and/or connection and be between the ages of 8 and 16.

Junior Family members are required to have a parent who will be solely responsible, and accompany the member at all events and functions.

Junior Family Members will not participate in marches on ANZAC day and commemorative parades, but they may attend the event in their capacity as a Junior Family member. However, they may not attend events which, due to a legal requirement, do not permit attendance and when attending will hold the correct permits; and at other times as determined by the National Executive or under SAMVOA policy.

Their continued membership will be assured by their dedication to the ideals of SAMVOA and their good standing as a member of their club.

Veterans who hold higher office will, in the execution of their duties, receive the full and undivided support of all other Veterans.

All veterans will strive to increase membership and to further the aims of SAMVOA. They will honour the SAMVOA spirit and they will remain obedient to the law of the land.

#### **SAMVOA Structure:**

The broad structure of SAMVOA will be Club Veterans, Club Executive, Regional Executive and National Executive.

#### The Regional demarcations are:

New South Wales / ACT

New Zealand

Queensland / Northern Territories

South Australia

South East Asia

Victoria / Tasmania

Western Australia

#### **Drill, dress and discipline:**

A SAMVOA Veteran will be recognised as a veteran when he/she wears the SAMVOA beret and badge. This is the sole recognition factor and will be worn with pride along with a suit and tie or jacket and tie or blazer and tie, as determined by the dress code at the time. Veterans may wear their own headdress on parade however, if directly representing SAMVOA in some official capacity, the SAMVOA headdress should be worn.



Should a Veteran have received recognition in the form of a medal or medals, these will be worn on the left chest/breast. Ordinary, Heritage and Associate Veterans, whose deceased family members have earned a medal or medals, may wear these on the right chest/breast.

Veterans will, at all times display good drill, dress and discipline. The dress code of SAMVOA will be a developing one as proposed by the National Master-at-Arms and ratified by the National Executive. This code must be clearly communicated to all members who will be required to conform.

SAMVOA encourages the development and growth of individual Corps or Regimental pride and Corps or Regiments may be recognised by wearing the appropriate "baltjie" or emblem below the SAMVOA badge. Masters-at-Arms at both Club and Regional levels will be responsible to ensure this, and they may, at their sole discretion, either permit or deny an offending Veteran to continue to parade. However, a post parade re-view will need to be held at Regional Executive level, which will take in the views of the offender, and a binding decision will be made.

#### Controlled Items:

The purchase of the SAMVOA beret and beret badge, SAMVOA tie, SAMVOA lapel badge and SAMVOA blazer pocket badge will be controlled and issued to Veterans against payment when joining SAMVOA or as supplies become available. Any subsequent issues of these items will require the appropriate claim form to be submitted and approved at Club level. These items will not be available for public sale at any SAMVOA Shop.

#### Uncontrolled Items:

Uncontrolled items will include the SAMVOA plaque and other official SAMCOA recognition and promotional items as put onto the market by the office of the National Public Relations and Liaison Officer.

#### **Modus Operandi:**

##### The Club Executive:

The Club Chairman will be responsible to the Regional Chairman for the good standing of his Club and its members, and for its smooth running and effectiveness. He/she will be the official SAMVOA representative at functions within the Club district.

The Club Master-at-Arms will act as 2IC, and he/she will be responsible for increasing membership and for the drill, dress and discipline of the Club's Veterans.

The Club Public Relations and Liaison Officer will act as the marketing officer of the Club, and will be responsible for promoting the Club and for lifting the profile of SAMVOA. He/she will also be the historian of the Club and ensure the correct recording of the Club's functions and activities.

The Club Treasurer will be the Club Fund-raiser and will account for the good financial standing of the Club and of its members. The Club Treasurer will also act as the "SAMVOA Shop" logistic manager and will coordinate inventory requisitioning from the Regional Quartermaster.

The Club Special Projects Officer will run specific projects in line with SAMVOA policy and guidelines. He/she will be responsible to the Club Chairman for the success of the Club's projects and he/she will liaise with the Regional Special Projects Officer on Regional projects.



#### The Regional Executive:

The Regional Chairman will be responsible to the National Chairman for the good standing of the Clubs and members within the Region, and for its smooth running and effectiveness. He/she will be the official SAMVOA representative at functions within the region and will form part of the National Executive.

The Regional Vice Chairman will act as a sounding board for his Regional Chairman and be prepared to step in in his absence. Regions, who feel that the Master-at-Arms is adequate to the position, need not necessarily have one.

The Regional Master-at-Arms will act as 2IC, and he will be responsible for increasing membership and for the drill, dress and discipline of the Region's Veterans.

The Regional Public Relations and Liaison Officer will act as the marketing officer for the region, and will be responsible for promoting the Region's activities and for lifting the profile of SAMVOA. He/she will also be the historian of the Region and ensure the correct recording of functions and activities at region level.

The Regional Welfare Officer will be a specialist officer responsible for researching the need for religious and/or psychological support to its members and for assessing SAMVOA's capability to meet this need. As a professional, he will liaise with organisations capable of delivering such support. In so doing, he will be responsible for developing SAMVOA's policy and capability in delivering this support to its members.

The Regional Treasurer will account for the good financial standing of the State and its members. He/she will be responsible for conducting fund-raising campaigns within the state to meet the cost of approved projects.

The Regional Quartermaster controls a local stock holding by requisitioning bulk stock from the National Stores and issuing out to members of that Region as required. He will see to payments to National and he will ensure payments are received from members and deposited into the Region's bank account.

The Regional Special Projects Officer will run specific projects in line with SAMVOA policy and guidelines. He/she will be responsible to the Regional Chairman for the success of the Region's projects and he/she will liaise with the National Special Projects Officer on National projects.

#### The National Executive:

The National Chairman will be responsible to all SAMVOA Veterans for the success of SAMVOA. He will have a line function upward to the SAMVOINT Chairman and a line function to the Regional Chairmen within his Zone. This will include lifting its profile and for the good standing, smooth running and effectiveness of the Organisation. He/she will be the official SAMVOA representative at functions at the highest level.

The National Vice-Chairman may be any member of the Executive and the National Chairman may choose his Vice Chairman based on who he/she deems as being the best person to support his/her chairmanship. The National Vice Chairman will be prepared to step in at any time to ensure the ongoing and smooth running of SAMVOA, should the situation arise. His/her primary concern will be to find ways and means to increase and retain membership.



All Regional Chairmen will form part of the National Executive and will be entitled to attend and raise issues at any National Executive meeting, which they attend.

The National Master-at-Arms will be responsible for membership policy in terms of drill, dress and discipline, as well as its implementation. Should the need arise, he/she will research, formulate and propose new or amending policy for consideration by the National Executive. He/she will have a staff function to the Regional and Club Masters-at-Arms.

The National Ambassador-at-Large will be an officer who is well connected within the Asia Pacific veteran community and who has strong personal contracts with the RSL and RSA structures. He has a COMOPS Local Pops function and can be called upon to represent SAMVOA, should the responsible level of SAMVOA leadership not be available, or as and when the occasion might demand or require.

The National Public Relations & Liaison Officer will handle all matters pertaining to membership satisfaction, public image and liaison with similar styled organisations and other South African support organisations within Australia and New Zealand. He/she will formulate and propose policy in this regard for consideration by the National Executive. He/she will have a staff function to the Regional and Club Public Relations and Liaison Officers. This officer will have specialist staff in line with the National requirements.

The National Treasurer will be responsible for the fiscal policy of SAMVOA and for its implementation. This will include ensuring that Clubs function within the law of the land and that absolute accountability and due diligence is exercised at all times. He/she will have a staff function to the Regional and Club Treasurers.

The National Legal Officer will be responsible for the legal standing of SAMVOA and its Regional and Club offices. He will also research, formulate and propose new or amending policy for consideration by the National Executive. He/she will have a staff function to the Regional and Club Treasurers.

The National Welfare Officer will be a specialist officer responsible for researching the need for religious and/or psychological support to its members and for assessing SAMVOA's capability to meet this need. As a professional, he will liaise with organisations capable of delivering such support. In so doing, he will be responsible for developing SAMVOA's policy and capability in delivering this support to its members.

The National Digital Strategist will be an experienced specialist in all aspects of digital strategy, with the responsible for researching global online best practise and implementing this in our "Always on business" organisation. His aim will be to eliminate any single points of failure within our digital/online systems and in any area of business within SAMVOA. He will propose and implement as required in order to mitigate risk and to ensure that our best practice, ongoing digital strategy is implemented.

The National Quartermaster will be a specialist officer responsible for identifying supply sources of approved SAMVOA kit and for negotiating purchasing prices and conditions from suppliers. He will be responsible for quality and there will be no compromise in this regard. In addition, he/she will liaise on bulk buying opportunities as well as quality with both the SAMVOZA and SAMVOUSA National Quartermasters.



The National Special Projects Officer will run specific projects in line with SAMVOA policy and guidelines. He will determine these guidelines and be responsible to the National Chairman for the success of all SAMVOA projects.

The National Museum Curator will act as the Historian of SAMVOA and he will, in conjunction with the International Museum Director, determine policy and procedures relating to maintaining effective and interesting museums of militaria.

Directors of SAMVOA Ltd., will be approached on their standing within SAMVOA as well as their legal standing in terms of the Australia Company Directors Act.

Each Director will be required to provide an interest free loan for the duration of their directorship.

In the event of a Director resigning as a Director of SAMVOA Ltd., he will need to do so in writing and his place on the Board should be offered to other members of the National Executive in the first instance. Failing which, the Board may direct that a non-executive member may be appointed, or that the position is not filled.

### **Guidelines and requirements for the appointment of members to official positions within SAMVOA**

The full guidelines are found within a document covering resignations; nominations, voting procedure and final appointment procedure and these are contained within this document.

#### In summary:

It is the absolute responsibility for every SAMVOA leader, down to Club level, to identify possible successors/leaders as part of their Succession Planning and for them to ensure that those potential leaders are trained accordingly and that they are given every opportunity to show their leadership skills. Participation within this process is open to Ordinary, Special Skills and Heritage Members within the Region or Club that they belong to.

#### Summary at Club level:

Every Club Chairman has a line function to the Regional Chairman

The Club Executive should serve for a minimum period of three years and they may offer themselves for re-election when the three year period for that post is up for re-election.

- The incumbent must be a member of good standing within the Club.
- He/she should have been an effective member of SAMVOA for a reasonable period of time – proposed 2 years.
- He/she should be qualified in that discipline. For instance, as an Accountant or a Bookkeeper or similar for the position of Club Treasurer.
- He/she should be fully conversant with the SAMVOA Constitution, SOPs and Guidelines.
- For the Club Chairman position, he/she should understand and accept their line function and responsibility requirements to the Regional Chairman.

#### Summary at Regional level:

Every Regional Chairman has a line function to the National Chairman

The Regional Executive should serve for a minimum period of five years and they may offer themselves for re-election when the five-year period of that post is up for re-election.

- Must be a member of good standing within his/her Club and within the Region.
- Should have been an effective member of SAMVOA for a reasonable period of time – example 3 years.





- Is qualified in that discipline. For instance, as an Accountant or Bookkeeper for the position of Regional Treasurer.
- Being fully conversant with the SAMVOA Constitution, SOPs and Guidelines.
- For the Regional Chairman position, he/she should understand and accept their responsibility requirements to the National Chairman.

#### Summary at National level:

The National Chairman will be responsible to all SAMVOA Veterans for the success of SAMVOA. He will have a line function upward to the SAMVOINT Chairman and a line function to the Regional Chairmen within his Zone.

- The National Executive is made up of specialist discipline leaders as well as all the Regional Chairman.
- The National Executive is therefore, mainly staffed by members who are specialists within their respective disciplines and they can only be replaced by a member who is trained in that same discipline. Other than the National Chairman and the National Vice-Chairman, they will have staff functions to the Regions within their respective disciplines and will not be subject to elections.
- In the event of a vacancy, a nominee must be a member of good standing within his/her Club and within SAMVOA.
- A nominee should have been an effective member and proven leader within SAMVOA for at least 5-years.
- A nominee is fully conversant with the SAMVOA Constitution, SOPs and Guidelines.
- A nominee understands and accepts their responsibility requirements to the International Chairman.

#### Resignation or Revoking Membership:

All SAMVOA members, no matter their position within SAMVOA, belong to a Club.

When a member comes into “disrepute”, or is, or becomes “not of good standing” within their Club, it is important that this is handled efficiently, fairly and in the correct manner.

Members, who may come into “disrepute” or “not of good standing” would, likely fall into the following categories:

- Disregard for SAMVOA Drill, Dress and Discipline requirements.
- Behaving badly or displaying a belligerent attitude or actions.
- Misrepresenting their service by either, wearing incorrect medals, or providing incorrect information or “big noting” by the exaggerated stories they tell.
- Breaking SAMVOA Rules or By-Laws.
- Other actions that detract from the service they did, or purported to have done.

When such a situation arises, which should arise at Club level, where every SAMVOA should serve; the following process will apply;



1. The Club Chairman or Club Master-at-Arms will, in the first instance, discuss the issue with the member, either face-to-face or by phone, and inform that member that there is a perceived behavioural issue and that he/she is being considered as “not being of good standing”.
  - a. They should inform the member with as much information as they have, explaining why they are being placed under review.
  - b. The member should be given the opportunity to make an acceptable rebuttal, or to accept the validity of the complaint and to promise to amend whatever needed amending, in order to correct the situation.
    - i. In some cases only an apology may be required.
    - ii. After which, there will be no further action taken and the event will remain confidential.
  - c. Should the member not show willingness to change or show remorse for his/her actions, the Club Chairman or the Regional Chairman will advise him/her that they are suspended with immediate effect, pending further investigation.
2. A sustained effort will be made to ensure that the SAMVOA Club or Region gains factual evidence to adequately support SAMVOA’s complaint against this member. The matter should be referred to the National Master-at-Arms.
3. An intense investigation will be carried out that **could** include other veteran organisations, or higher formations, depending on the nature of the issue. Any external investigation must be handled by the National-Master-at-Arms or the National Chairman.
4. Should all the evidence show that the member is out of order, and the member still refuses to correct the situation, the member’s membership will be “Revoked”, which will be the last resort.
5. The final decision will lie with the next senior person to the leader who has the issue to hand.
6. In the event of this complaint being in the category of “Military Impersonator”, that this information is communicated by the National Chairman or National Master-at-Arms to go onto the Wall of Shame when the CMVO will circulate that person’s name to all the other veteran or police organisations, as the case may be. Once on the list, these can never be removed.